

The Oneida Lake Bulletin



President's Report

Oneida Lake Association

APRIL 1993

As many of you are aware, this will be my last time addressing the OLA membership as the President. Although some of you would think that this would be an appropriate time to look back on the accomplishments of the OLA while I was President, I believe that it's a better time to look forward to the results of these past accomplishments. In fact the best opportunity for that overview to occur will be at the Oneida Lake Association Annual Meeting.

The annual meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 21, 1993 at Henninger High School located in Syracuse. The stage has been set for our members to be enlightened on a number of OLA accomplishments that should bring about favorable results pertinent to the future of Oneida Lake. First, you will hear from various OLA Directors on such topics as the association's sustaining membership enrollment, the organization's financial stability, the impact the directors' communication efforts have had on the regulatory community and Oneida Lakes' importance in getting its fair share of enforcement, funding and respect as a highly valued New York State resource. In addition, the OLA Director updates will be followed by presentations from: NYSDEC on the newly completed Walleye Hatchery which is prestigously located on the shores of Oneida Lake; Cornell University Research Station on what should be a promising season for our fishing community; Assemblyman Michael Bragman on the significant progress made towards securing funds for the Southshore Boat Launch as well as the actual funding and/or improvements at other Oneida Lake access points.

Yes, if you attend this meeting, you will hear for yourself that the Oneida Lake Association has progressed in many directions in the last few years and more importantly that our members and other lake users will begin to reap the rewards from those past success stories. If you are unable to attend this meeting I encourage you to read this bulletin from cover to cover so you can get a feel for the Organizations' past accomplishments or better yet, future rewards.

Since the OLA Directors have worked diligently on many of these issues, they deserve a great deal of credit for the successes. The current OLA Board structure and quality of the Directors makes my departure both easy and difficult. Certainly, it is easy to turn the reigns over to the next OLA President knowing that the organization is financially sound, has a decent membership enrollment and has a dedicated Board of Directors that brings various attributes to the table. However, it is equally as difficult in my letting go of the Presidency when knowing that the individual Directors' attitudes, fortitude and willingness to go beyond the norm to get things accomplished has the tendency to make the OLA President "look so good".

I personally anticipate that the OLA will continue to operate in a very similar, business type format which we have found to be effective. The next OLA President and I will work together, very closely, to ensure that the organization does not miss a step in the road leading to the ultimate objective of preserving as well as enhancing Oneida Lake and its environs.

In closing, I would like to thank the general membership for allowing me the opportunity to serve as President of the Oneida Lake Association. Without the support from our members the OLA would not exist, therefore, you must continue to encourage your friends to join. Also, as in the past, please remember that *ONEIDA LAKE* is your lake and it should not be taken for granted, as it is up to *ALL* of us not only to enjoy it, but to protect it and respect it as well. It is supporting the ideas and values of the Oneida Lake Association (*founded in 1945*) that will assure the future of this valued resource for many generations to come.

Patrick A. Leone, Jr.
OLA President

Meeting of County Lake Associations to be Held

by Russell Nemecek

The Onondaga County Water Quality Management Agency (WQMA) is organizing a County Lakes Association meeting which will be comprised of representatives from the active lake associations in Onondaga County. These

ONEIDA LAKE ASSOCIATION, INC. FOUNDED IN 1945

Published by Oneida Lake Association, Inc., that its members may be informed regarding the activities of the Association. Oneida Lake Association, Inc., was organized in 1945 to restore and preserve the natural resources of Oneida Lake and its environs.

OFFICERS

President.....Patrick A. Leone, Jr.
Vice President.....Arnold Armani
Vice President.....Robert Chabot
Vice President.....Joseph Mastriano
Treasurer.....Edwin Olmstead
Secretary.....Carl Preske
Asst. Secretary.....William Schriever

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Term: April 1990 - April 1993

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Walter Stewart Earl Pearson
Kurt Snyder

Term: April 1991 - April 1994

George Angeloro Robert Cote
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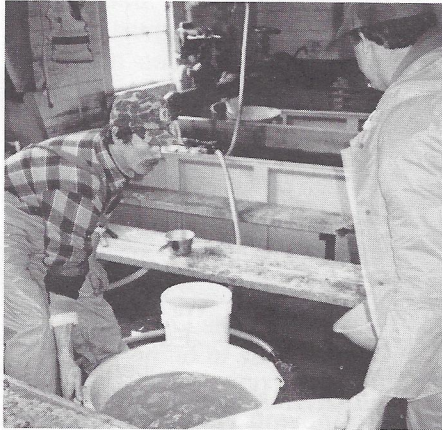
include, in addition to the Oneida Lake Association (OLA), include Cross, Otisco, Skaneateles and Otisco lakes. Intended to serve as a subcommittee to the WQMA, the Countywide Lake Association will provide an avenue to identify lake management concerns and issues that all of our County lakes have in common as well as those that might be unique to a specific lake. The exchange of non-technical and scientific information will be enhanced. Potential management and remediation projects and potential funding sources can be mutually identified. Formation of the Countywide Association will also foster communication and coordination with the eighteen county Water Resources Board which administers the Finger Lake

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Walleye Recruitment Excellent for mid 90's

by Captain Tony Buffa

Oneida Lake, New York's premier walleye fishery is in line to receive a new crop of young walleyes. The hatchery comes from the state's capital projects program and the walleyes are a gift of nature.



This spring, hatchery personnel at the Constantia site will take and process eggs for walleye production after a one year hiatus. In '92, while construction crews demolished the old hatchery the usual spring rite of walleye egg collection and production did not occur. This could have had a negative impact on the lake's supply of its most preferred predator (walleye) but it didn't. Fortunately natural spawning conditions and other factors necessary for good walleye survival, created the ideal environment for two very good year classes of up and coming walleyes.

The 1991 year class has had remarkable survival and growth. These walleyes are presently in the 12 inch range and will become 15 inches by 1995. The most impressive statistic is their quantity. They will add around 600,000 legal size walleyes to our already stable population of 450,000 walleyes which are 15 inches or greater. Imagine, by 1995 a walleye lode of 1,000,000 plus and an angling community poised for the pleasure it will provide.

If you think that's good news. Consider this-the 1992 year class has begun with equally as good a count of young of the year. They entered the winter season measuring 6 inches. The benchmark for excellent winter survival is 7 inches. There will probably be

some losses due to predation by older walleyes, but I expect this year class to come through with some solid recruitment as well.

It all looks so positive. Our walleye fishery is healthy and very stable through the 90's; and all at a time when other fisheries are experiencing problems with their forage supply and basic carrying capacity. Timing is so important; and it looks like we hit a homerun this time with the time delay between the demolition of the old hatchery and the construction of the new. It appears as though our walleyes haven't skipped a beat.

Does all this mean that we need to wait until the '95 or '96 season before experiencing good walleye angling opportunities. **Absolutely not! Forget the walleye opener of '92.** I'm sure we can all remember the frustrations fraught upon us by uncooperative walleyes. That was then, this is now. Considering that the fall fishery and winter fishery for walleyes was very upbeat, and that the catches were normal to very good, we should remain optimistic for opening day (May 1, 1993).

With 400,000 plus legal size walleyes available and a noticeable lack of gizzard shad we should have the "scales" (no pun intended) tipped in our favor. The walleyes I handled this fall and winter had a more normal fat content than what I saw last spring. At the beginning of last season, walleyes had an inordinate amount of fat for their body mass and really didn't need to feed as frequently as we would have liked. I expect to see walleyes aggressively feeding during the post spawn period. If we have an early spring with good warming factors, walleyes might even be more lake oriented.

Whether we have ideal conditions or not, I anticipate the Oneida Lake walleye opener with a special fondness born out of the love of a lake which has provided me and many others with countless hours of happiness and tranquility. See you there on opening day; and have a safe and successful season.

Amended New York State Navigation Laws

The New York State Navigation Law has been amended effective November 1, 1992 to address the following:

VESSEL NOISE

(1) A level of 90dB is set for vessels when subjected to a stationary sound level test. A second test limits vessels to 75dB while in operation. Operating, and giving permission to operate a vessel that exceeds these guidelines is now in contradiction to the law.

(2) It is illegal to operate a vessel with an altered muffler, or a muffler cut out and the sale or manufacture of vessels that cannot comply with the above guidelines is banned.

(3) Officers may request that vessels submit to a test at their discretion. If the vessel fails to meet the standards, the officer may order them to cease operation of the vessel until the deficiencies are corrected.

(4) Penalties provide for fines not to exceed \$50.00 for the 1st offense, not to exceed \$250.00 for each subsequent offense.

SPECIAL PROVISION FOR MUFFLING SOUND OF EXHAUST ON MOTOR BOATS OPERATED IN SALMON AND ONEIDA RIVERS AND ONTARIO BAY

Section 44-6 A person operating a vessel on Salmon River or on Ontario Bay within Oswego county, or on Oneida River within Oswego and Onondaga Counties, propelled by gasoline, naphtha or other substances, without having the exhaust from the engine run through a muffler so constructed and used as to muffle the noise of the exhaust in a reasonable manner, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

The penalty for a 1st offense shall be a fine of between \$100.00 and \$250.00, imprisonment of not more than 15 days, or both. A subsequent offense within a 24 month time period shall carry a penalty of between \$200.00 and \$350.00 and/or imprisonment of not more than 45 days. A third offense within a 24 month time period shall carry a penalty of between \$500.00 and \$750.00 and/or imprisonment of not more than 90 days.

RECKLESS OPERATION AND SPEEDING

Section 45 The penalties for reckless operation have been modified to include revocation of a persons privilege

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The New York State Navigation Laws

to operate a vessel, and that vessels registration.

Operators are also required to observe a reasonable speed at all times.

YOUTH OPERATION

Section 49.1 The minimum age at which someone may operate a vessel without having completed a safety course has been raised to 18 years.

BOATING WHILE INTOXICATED

Section 49-a 2 et seq.

ABILITY IMPAIRED No person shall operate a vessel while their ability is impaired by alcohol. Blood alcohol for impairment is between .05 and .09 percent.

The penalty for a 1st offense shall be a fine of between \$250.00 and \$350.00, imprisonment of not more than 15 days, or both. Subsequent offenses within a 5 year span shall carry a penalty of between \$500.00 and \$1,500.00 and / or 30 days. In addition the operators privilege to operate a vessel shall be suspended for six months.

INTOXICATION No person shall operate a vessel while in an intoxicated condition. Blood alcohol for intoxication is .10 percent or above.

The penalty for the 1st offense shall be fines ranging from \$350.00-\$500.00 and/or ninety days in jail. Subsequent violations within a 10 year period have escalating penalties.

The operator will also have his or her privilege to operate a vessel suspended for one year and up.

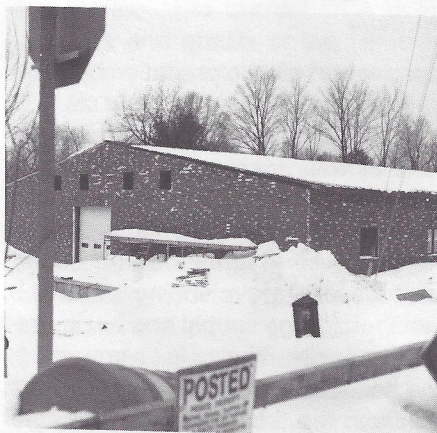
SECTION 79 ENFORCEMENT BY COUNTIES

Some changes are made in this section regarding eligibility for state aid. In addition, it provides for the creation of an "I Love New York Waterways" program which will include measures for boating safety, accident prevention, education, and the implementation of a BWI program.

All fines and penalties imposed for a violation of Article Four of the Navigation Law are to be deposited by the State Comptroller into the "I Love New York Waterways" fund. These funds will then be available for disbursement to assist eligible government entities with their boating safety programs.

Progress at the Oneida Fish Hatchery!

by Richard T. Colesante, Senior Aquatic Biologist



By the time this article is read, the first walleye egg take in the new hatchery should be complete. At the present time, early February, the building is enclosed and the roof is in place. Actually, brick panels are being put on the outside of the block building. Twenty four of the thirty two rearing units are in place. Major pieces of equipment, recirculation pumps, oxygen generators, boilers and filters are being installed. Air lines, brine shrimp distribution systems, and vacuum waste lines, are in place.



The expected completion date is between March 15, and April 1. As most of you know, the walleye run will begin around the last week in March if ice out is early. If ice out is late, (e.g. in April) the walleye spawning run will begin at that time. We expect hatchery crews to be working amid construction crews during this Spring. In addition, site work, including road grading and surfacing, will probably not be done by Spring. If these situations arise, we may have to deny visitors access to the site for safety purposes. Watch your local newspaper for information regarding visitor access

to the hatchery. Large numbers of small walleyes should be in the hatchery thru September. Visitors will be welcome when construction is complete. There should be a lot to see; so plan on a visit.

Election Of Officers

In accordance with By-Law Amendments passed at OLA's 1990 Annual Meeting, the Nominating Committee has nominated the following persons to serve as officers and directors.

OFFICERS

President.....Joseph Mastriano
Vice President.....Arnold Armani
Vice President.....Robert Chabot
Vice President.....William Schriever
Treasurer.....Edwin Olmstead
Secretary.....Robert Gang III
Assistant Secretary.....Carl Preske

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Term: April 1993 - April 1996

Richard Colesante Earl Pearson
Charles J. Engel, Jr. Kurt Snyder
Patrick A. Leone, Jr. Walter Stewart

Nominations for officers and directors will be held open until (3) days prior to the Annual Meeting - that is, until April 18, 1993. A petition, that is to be signed by at least fifty (50) OLA members in good standing, may state the name of a member or members the petitioners wish to nominate as officer or director. The petition must be served on any present OLA officer no later than three (3) days before the Annual Meeting. It will be mandatory that the names on any such petition be placed on the list with the persons nominated by the Committee, all in alphabetical order, for election at the Annual Meeting.

OLA's Secretary will make the membership list available for inspection by an OLA active member on request.

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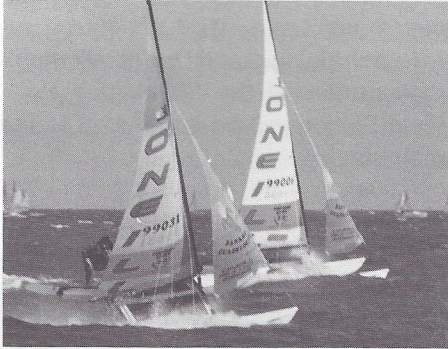
Meeting of County Lake Association

Aquatic Vegetation Control Grant Program. Formation of such a countywide lake association entity was also recommended in the County 2010 Plan produced by the Syracuse Onondaga County Planning Agency to serve as a guide for future development and infrastructure expansion in Onondaga County.

Fast Cats on Oneida Lake: Hobie Fleet 204

by Boat Works/South Bay Sails

Anyone spending time at the West End of Oneida Lake has noticed the colorful sails of *Hobie Cats* streaking across the water. More likely than not, the sailor and his/her catamaran are members of **Hobie Fleet 204**.



Calling Oneida Lake their home since 1975, this group of sailors consists of over 40 boats and 100 members.

Oneida Lake has proven to be an excellent training ground for one design Hobie racing. This evidenced by the Fleet's excellent racing record at all levels of competition. Local Hobie sailors have captured High Points Honors (*North American Hobie Class Div. 16*) in the highly competitive 16 foot class for the past five years. This level of sailing prowess is also carried into the other Hobie classes, such as the 17 foot and the 18-SX classes. *This past sailing season Oneida Lake Hobie Cat Fleet 204 sent two teams to the National Championships in Bear Lake, Utah and three teams to the World Championships in Guadeloupe, FWI.*

This racing camaraderie is best evidenced at The Fleet's Thursday evening race series. Every Thursday evening on South Bay Fleet 204 runs races for all local Hobies. This is a great opportunity for the new or less experienced sailors to take advantage of the knowledge of the A-Fleet Pros. Tips and encouragement flow freely on these evenings, a 6:00 pm start, racing and of course, apres-race socializing. Hobieing on Oneida is truly a family affair with crews age ranging from 3 to 69. Emphasis is on participation and learning. Hobie Fleet 204 has been hosting what has become one of the largest regattas in the Northeast, *The Madcatter*. This race and social event held at Oneida

Shores Park has become the favorite of many East Coast sailors. This year, the 1993 Madcatter was given the honor of being chosen as the Northeastern Championships, a National Qualifying Regatta. On May 23-25 one hundred plus Hobies of all classes will participate, with the first place boat in all A-Fleets qualifying for their respective National Championships. Some of the best catamaran racers on the East Coast will be on hand for this one. *Come on out and enjoy the FUN!!!*

Racing is not the only activity for Fleet 204. Get-togethers on Fisherman's Island, rallying the lake end to end (How about the length of Oneida Lake in one hour, in a SAIL BOAT! That's Hobie fast!) Cook-outs, trailering to some of the most beautiful sailing spots in the East. The list goes on and on!

Hobie Fleet 204 meets every second Tuesday of every month at Borio's Restaurant on Lakeshore Rd. These meetings plan social events, sailing instruction, putting the Madcatter together and a host of other activities. *Want more info? Call Boat Works/South Bay Sails 458-8523 or Tom or Susan 452-0273.*

Godfrey Point... Yesterday-Today-Tomorrow

by William Schriever

Oneida Lake has the distinction of being host to the first state owned boat launch site in New York State. **Godfrey Point is that site.**

In 1955, the State of New York purchased from Ellis and Edith Hamilton, 26.68 acres in the Town of Vienna, Oneida County, known as Godfrey Point. The purchase price was \$6000.00. In 1956 (*things moved a lot more quickly in those days*) a 30 car trailer boat launch facility was constructed. The cost to build it was \$9,000.00.

For 37 years the launch ramp, shore line, protected lagoon and picnic areas were used by thousands of boaters, fishermen and picnicker's each year.

In 1986, NYSDEC surveyed ALL New York State boat launch sites. The following quotation is taken from the report on Godfrey Point. "This very spacious facility serves the largest totally inland lake in New York State. It is only marginally adequate as is, but could be greatly improved. Given the lakes size its great significance as the states premier wall-

eye Fishery, and its history of extensive and intensive management, justification is very strong." Taken from "Strategic Plan for Modernization of DEC Access Facilities" 1987.

Now, after 37 years of service, DEC has embarked on a 3 phase \$687,000 rehabilitation program which will make Godfrey Point a premier recreational site.



Phase I reconstruction, which is NOW under construction by George F. Yager Construction Company, Inc., will include the ramp area development and stream diversion (to prevent silt build-up in launch area) and the installation of aluminum floating docks. The expanded bay will provide tie-up space for about eight boats and the choke point into the lake will be widened to 30' at low water. The ramp pitch below the low water line will be increased to 20% and extend sufficiently to prevent prop scour from becoming a problem. Instead of installing sheet piling on each side of the ramp, the East side will simply be graded back to accommodate the expansion and protected with heavy stone to the high water mark. Leaving one side sloping will serve to damper any wave action that may be directed toward the ramp or reflected off of the piling. Dredging would only be completed to the end of the new bulkhead at this time.

Phase II will include a breakwater to mitigate the heavy wind and wave exposure, shore protection, and extensive dredging to provide unobstructed access to Oneida Lake through season of use. The breakwater will also serve to maintain the dredged channel and provide additional tie-up space during peak use.

Phase III, the parking lot expansion will provide enough capacity to efficiently park 58 car and trailer units with a small additional area for cars only. Launch prep and tie-down areas are also provided. Either an aerobic-digesting toilet or port-a-john slab and enclosure will replace the existing vault type toilet.

The OLA Annual Meeting at Henninger High School

by Tony Buffa

On Wednesday, April 21, the OLA will hold its 48th annual meeting at the *Henninger High School* auditorium. **Note that this is a change of location from our usual meeting site.** Doors will open at **6 p.m.** Early attendance is encouraged so that you can enjoy our numerous exhibits.

This year's list of exhibitors will include **Jack Henke**, noted Oneida Lake historian. He will be on hand to collect data for his new book, so bring your Oneida Lake memorabilia for show and tell. He will also be selling books which he has authored. **Skip Wells** with Berkley products will be there, as will **Capt. Gerry Bresadola** and **Tony Noce** with Lowrance depth finding equipment. **Robbie Birchler** will have a display of Daiwa rods and reels along with an assortment of lures from Luhr Jensen.

Joe Prince, of Prince Mastercraft will be on hand with his display of Super Ski planer boards and accessories. **Dom Bello**, founder of Islander Lures will have his product line on display. **Fredon Sports Ltd.** of Syracuse will be on hand and provide you with an opportunity to buy at discount prices. **Capt. Daryll**

and **Connell Raate** will be demonstrating and selling the "Fisherman's Knot-Tying Tool". They will also be selling logo patches related to hunting and fishing. **Capt. Ray Brown** will represent Storm Lures and answer your questions regarding his proven walleye trolling techniques. **Bill Kirchbaum**, retired chief of Region 7 DEC will have information on procedures for securing shoreline alteration permits from both the Army Corps and the DEC.

While at the meeting, you will be able to register for the annual **Cicero Lions Club Walleye Derby**, which for the second time will include extra money prizes for those derby winners who are also members of the OLA. Association membership renewals and signups will begin at 6:15. **You need not be a member to attend, but only members will be eligible for the drawing of FIVE \$100.00 checks.**

This year's meeting will begin promptly at **7:00 P.M.** and a short business meeting will ensue. **Tom Chioti**, senior aquatic biologist with NYSDEC will give the "state of the lake" address detailing the status of Oneida Lake Walleye,

Yellow Perch and Gizzard Shad. **Dr. Ed Mills**, a senior research biologist at the Shackleton Point Field Station will provide an update on Zebra Mussel infestation in Oneida Lake. **Assemblyman Michael Bragman** will be in attendance and inform the membership on the progress and status of projects affecting Oneida Lake. **Dr. Lars Rudstam**, research biologist and *Dr. John Forney's* replacement at the Shackleton Point Field Station will be introduced to the membership.

We are sad to acknowledge that **Bill Merchant**, (a.k.a. "Granny Groove" or Bert Grumpis") will not be with us at this year's annual meeting. Bill died this past winter. He had been the master of ceremonies for the past consecutive 20 meetings, and we are surely going to miss him dearly. A "Tribute to Bill Merchant" will be a part of our meeting. The meeting will then close with the drawing for the cash and distribution of door prizes.

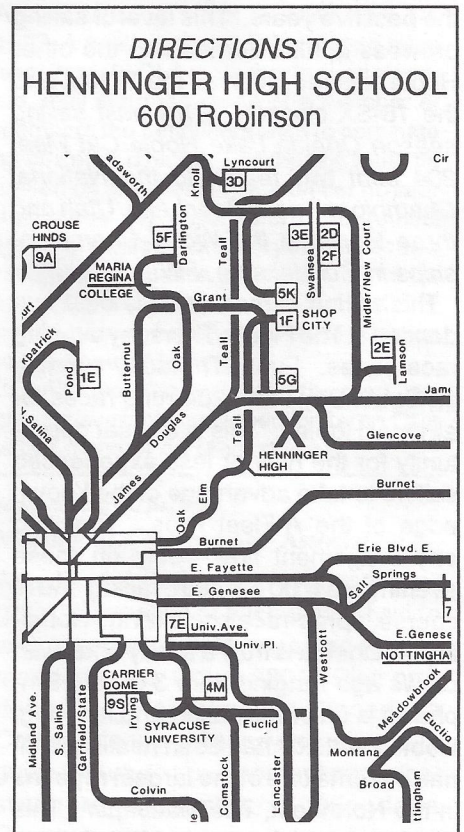
This year's meeting should be both fun and informative; so bring your family and friends.

OLA ONEIDA LAKE ASSOCIATION 48th ANNUAL MEETING APRIL 21, 1993

MEETING AGENDA

6:00 p.m.....	Doors Open.....	Exhibits on display
6:30 p.m.....	Membership renewals	
7:00 p.m.....	Call to order.....	Tony Buffa
7:05 p.m.....	BUSINESS MEETING	
	Treasurer's Report.....	Ed Olmstead
	Membership Report.....	Marsh Naumann
	President's Report.....	Pat Leone
	Election of Officers & Directors.....	George Angeloro
7:30 p.m.....	Tribute to Bill Merchant.....	Bob Ripberger
7:40 p.m.....	Introduction (Dr. Lars Rudstam, Biological Field Station, Shackleton Point).....	Tony Buffa
7:50 p.m.....	"Oneida Lake: Projects Update"	Assemblyman, Michael Bragman
8:00 p.m.....	"New Hatchery Operations".....	Richard Colesante
8:15 p.m.....	"Walleye, Yellow Perch & Shad Update".....	Tom Chioti
8:30 p.m.....	"Zebra Mussels-Muscling Their Way".....	Dr. Ed Mills
8:45 p.m.....	Lions Club Fishing Derby/OLA.....	George Angeloro
8:55 p.m.....	Drawing (FIVE \$100.00 checks).....	Bob Gang
9:00 p.m.....	Drawing for door prizes.....	Bob Chabot
		Bill Schriever
		Arnold Armani
		Walt Stewart

ANNUAL MEETING COMMITTEE.....Tony Buffa (Chairman) & Bob Ripberger



Terns, Gulls and Cormorants Compete for Space

by Kurt Snyder

Several species of birds and their habitat have been studied on Oneida Lake in recent years. One species in particular, the common tern (*Sterna hirundo*) is the focus of a joint program of the **New York State DEC, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Cornell University**. The purpose of the program is to study nesting competition and restore tern nesting habitat. Sites around the lake where the program is in effect are often marked with bouys that have black and white terns. The signs also caution visitors to avoid disturbing the birds during their spring and summer nesting periods.

Through the early 1960's the tern was the dominant bird in many of these sites. During the mid sixties, various species of gulls began to increase their nesting activity. And in the eighties, the competition for nesting space was dramatically increased by growing numbers of cormorants. The cormorant population on Oneida Lake probably results from the expanding number of birds in the Henderson area of Lake Ontario. Some sources estimate there are 100,000 cormorants around Gull and Galoo islands, nearly 40% of the entire U.S. population. No small surprise that Oneida Lake has a spring and summer group of 250 cormorants and a fall migrating group in excess of 1000 birds.

What a surprise to many is the dietary data on the Oneida Lake cormorants that was gathered during the 1992 tern study program. The data indicates that the **250 resident cormorants consumed 7.4 tons of walleye, preferring fish 7 to 8 inches long**. They also consumed **6.2 tons of 2 year old perch**. Yes, more than **65,000 walleye and 125,000 perch** were in the diets of the 250 resident cormorants during 1992.

The information has generated interest and questions from various groups of people. Of course, the OLA is staying involved and we expect to have more information on the tern rearing program, the resident and migratory cormorants and other wildlife species and how they impact the lake.

Three Mile Bay Wildlife Management Area . . . Wetlands

In excess of one hundred acres of flooded wetland was lost on the northshore of Oneida Lake when a longstanding beaver dam was removed (naturally or by man) three or four years ago. This occurred on the NYSDEC, Three Mile Bay Wildlife Management Area located on McCloud Road in the towns of West Monroe and Constantia.

Prior to dewatering, this area supplied extensive nesting and nursery habitat for waterfowl and other wading birds. In addition, many other creatures (frogs and turtles) resided here. During the fall and spring, thousands of ducks used this flooded area. Mallards, widgeon, gadwalls, blue and green wing teal, black ducks and ringnecks were common fall migrants. The natural setting and living creatures that used the area was astounding. Extensive recreational opportunities were also present in the area, including bird watching, big and small game hunting as well as waterfowl hunting.

The beavers have tried to re-establish this long standing dam but have been unsuccessful. Smaller dams have been established upstream, but they have not backed up enough water to re-establish the habitat that was lost.

This wetland, existing on New York State land, has been dewatered for a number of years. DEC recognizes the need to re-establish this wetland, but it is a low priority project on a state wide basis. The previous dam, maintained by beavers, lasted in excess of 15 years. We do not know the estimated cost of the project proposed by the Region 7 DEC unit. We suspect it is significant. We would like to suggest an interim measure (quick and cheap) to reflood this area, while waiting for a more permanent water control structure at some future date.

The Oneida Lake Association will continue to lobby in hopes of moving this project to a higher statewide priority. At that, it still may take years under the present governmental fiscal restraints. In the meantime, we hope DEC will examine this situation and possibly generate a short term, interim, solution.

BIRDS OF ONEIDA LAKE Habitat for Wildfowl

submitted by Robert J. Gang III

In the summer, children and adults enjoy feeding mama mallard and her brood of ducklings. When the ducks swim by for one of their daily visits, look out, as the kids will drop their toys and offer corn or any bread available in the house. Amid the peals of delight from the children, the ducks will cautiously swim towards the bits of white thrown their way, edging closer and closer to the short shots thrown by the children. Eventually the bigger, more aggressive ducklings will gobble up the lion's share as the smaller, more timid ones are left to fight over the occasional long throws that fall their way.

This is such a common occurrence, that it is hard to believe that not many years ago the mallard was just an occasional migrant seen only in the spring and fall on Oneida Lake. Historically, the most abundant duck species on the lake was the American Black Duck. This change of predominant species is a direct result of the change of habitat that has occurred on the lake over the years. While there are still black ducks on the lake, their numbers have steadily diminished. The black duck is a shy duck and does not thrive near the presence of man. As Oneida Lake's shoreline developed, the black duck population declined.

Back in 1900, about *26% of Oneida Lake's shoreline had been developed for residential housing. Fifty percent was still undeveloped forestland, 3% farmland and 21% was wetland.* Ducks breeding on the lake in 1930 included at least 6 species: The American Black Duck, Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, Wood Duck, American Merganser and the Red Breasted Merganser. It is interesting to note that the early records for our most common duck, the mallard, show sightings to be a rare occurrence.

By 1960, developed shoreline had increased to 39%. Forestland comprised of 33%, farmlands had increased to 12% and wetlands were reduced to 16%. It was about this time that the mallard started to replace the Black

(continued on page 8)

(continued from page 7)

Duck as the predominate species on the lake. In addition to a natural movement of wild mallards to the area, the species was introduced to the lake through stocking efforts of individuals and various sportmen's clubs such as the C.N.Y. Wildfowlers. The mallard proved to be much more aggressive and tolerant of man than the black duck. Able to nest in close proximity to shoreline dwellings, the mallard gradually increased in numbers to fill the void left by the declining black duck population. There are possibly 8 species of ducks and one of geese breeding on the lake today. According to the Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State, there is confirmed breeding of the Mallard, American Black Duck, Mallard x Black hybrid and the Wood Duck. The ornithologists who conducted the survey believe that there is probable breeding of the Hooded Merganser, Green-winged Teal, Northern Pintail and Canadian Geese. The Atlas also shows possible breeding of the Blue-winged Teal. In addition, evidence exists that the Old Squaw is nesting on the lake as a pair were sighted by naturalist, Doug Whitman on June 24th, off of Toad Harbor.

While we cannot do much for the black duck, we can help those species that do nest around the lake today. Like any other species, our ducks need cover from predators to successfully nest. Any stretch of shoreline where the grass is allowed to grow is a potential nesting site for mallards and mallard x black hybrids. You can help contribute to the ducks' nesting success along Oneida's shoreline by using one of these three methods:

1. Set out a three-sided wooden box in the grass or shrubbery far enough on shore to be protected from rough weather wave action.

2. Build a waterfowl nesting barrel made out of a 2 foot section of 12 inch stove or furnace pipe. Leave both ends open for mallards and blacks, enclose one end for wood ducks and mergansers. Paint the cylinder a dull color and bolt in a horizontal position to a post 6 foot high. You should protect your nest site against racoons and opossums by placing a predator guard 4 feet above the ground.

3. Set up a nesting tripod. Nesting tripods or platforms have the potential to be utilized by the most waterfowl species. They have also been recommended for use by the DEC along the shoreline of Big Bay. At the Tonawanda WMA, natural nest success rates were found to be as low as 4%. In comparison, ducks used 53% of nesting tripods deployed by the DEC. Of these 61% resulted in successful broods. While tripods can be placed on land, they are best placed over water from one and a half to three feet deep. On Oneida Lake, a nesting platform would have to be placed high enough above the water to be safe from waves. The bottom should be anchored to prevent the structure from falling over. If a tripod is used out in the open, a cover should be placed over them to protect the ducklings from avian predators.

For those who have property covered by low-lying woodlands near water, nesting boxes for wood ducks and hooded mergansers would be appropriate. All of the above described projects should be finished with a bed of tightly

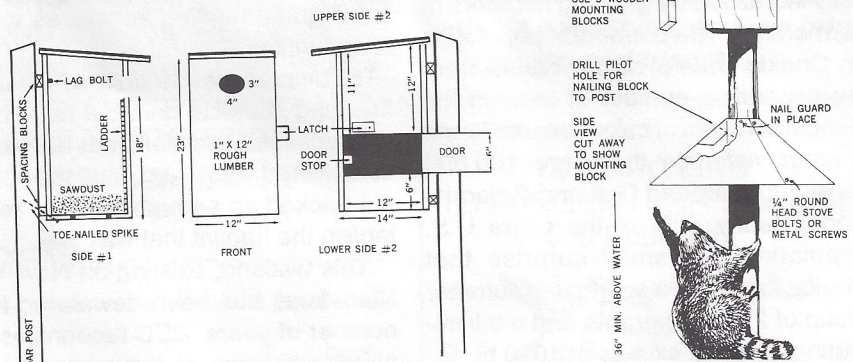
packed hay. Once a breeding pair successfully uses any of these nesting structures, there is a good chance that they will reuse it the next year.

Whatever your situation, if your shoreline or property is appropriate, consider putting up some nesting habitat. As the accompanying diagrams show, nesting platforms and boxes are easy to build from scraps. Your children will love you for the ducks you help. If you like to feed the ducks, please use cracked corn or special feed available at any feed store. While ducks love bread, it is not very nutritious for them. Corn is a natural food and better for the ducks.

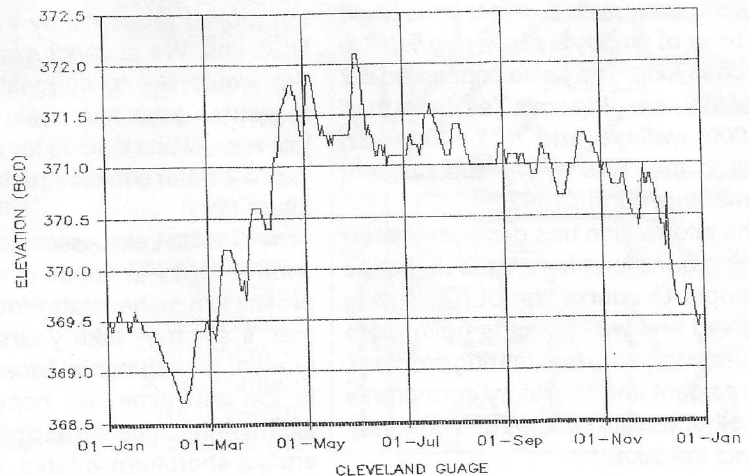
There will be additional nesting platform, wood duck box and blue bird house plans and literature available at the OLA annual meeting on April 21st.

Those of you who would like to build some nesting boxes but can't make the meeting, please send a self addressed shipping envelope with two stamps to:

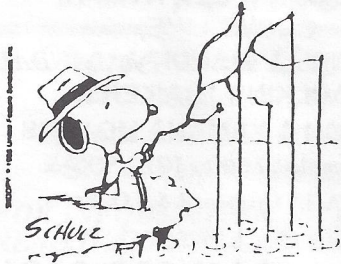
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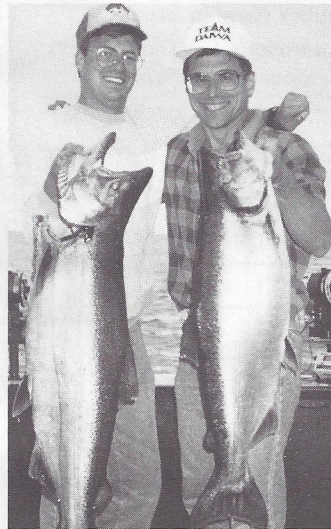
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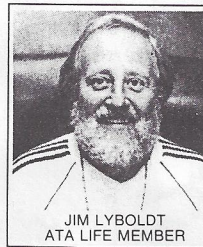
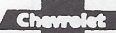
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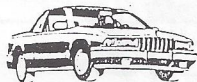
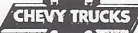
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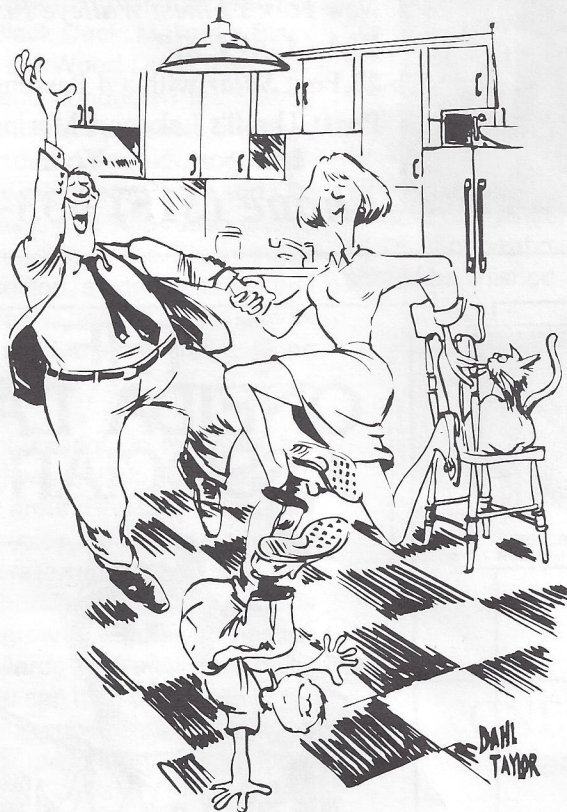
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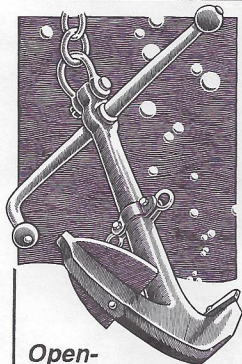
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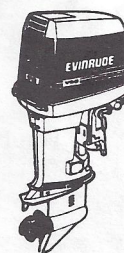
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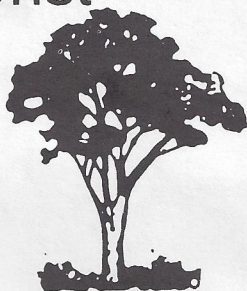
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Early Hours



A Calendar of Exciting Events at Oneida Lake Shores!

SYLVAN BEACH

May 1, 2 / "OLD FASHIONED WEEKEND"

At the Sylvan Beach Amusement Park. To kick off our new season, we offer 25 rides, 10 popcorn and 10 cold drinks. 1 p.m. to 10 p.m.

May 28, 29, 30, 31 / MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND CELEBRATION

Plan to spend all or part of this traditional "Kick Off To Summer" weekend with us, on the East Shore of Oneida Lake.

June 18, 19, 20 / GOOD OLD SUMMERTIME FESTIVAL

In the Village Park! Rides, Games, Great Food, Flea Market.

July 4 / COLOSSAL FIREWORKS SHOW!

On the lakefront after dark. Nighttime aerial extravaganza. Our **FAMOUS** style of Fireworks over Beautiful Oneida Lake. Come early and enjoy the whole day.

July 7, 14, 21, 28 / WEDNESDAY NIGHT BAND CONCERTS

Each Wednesday night at 7 p.m. Enjoy a variety of music at the **Old Time Bandstand** in the Village Park! Sponsored by the Village of Sylvan Beach.

August 4, 11, 18, 25 / WEDNESDAY NIGHT BAND CONCERTS

Every Wednesday night at 7 p.m. Village Bandstand in the Village Park.

August 15 / 18TH ANNUAL ANTIQUE CAR SHOW and FLEA MARKET !

11 a.m. in the Village Park. **Open show with cars from early in the century.** Cars 20 years or older are welcome. **FREE ENTRY, FREE ADMISSION !** Conducted by the Mohican Model A Car Club and O.L.E.S.M.A. Free dash plaque to the first 100 cars!!!

September 18, 19 / "THANK YOU WEEK-END"

At the Sylvan Beach Amusement Park. **We thank you for a great summer.** As a bonus to you, we offer 25 rides, 10 popcorn and 10 cold drinks. 1 p.m. to 10 p.m. Additional "Thank You" specials throughout the Park.

VERONA BEACH STATE PARK

June 13 / FROG FEST

Country Music Jamboree with live Country Music!

July 18 / 50's & 60's BEACH PARTY

Sand Sculpture Contest & Dance Contest !!!

August 14, 15 / THE GREAT SUMMER CRAFTS FAIR

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October 15 / HALLOWEEN PROGRAM

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WINTER WEEKEND (Date to be announced) Ice Fishing Derby, Weiner Roast, Cross-Country Ski Clinic, Snow Sculpture and Sleigh Rides!

ONEIDA SHORES STATE PARK

May 29, 30 / Beach Opens (Weekends Only).

June 5, 6 & 12, 13 / Beach Opens (Weekends Only).

June 19th thru August 15th / Beach will be **Open Daily.**

August 21 thru September 5 / Beach will **ONLY** be open on **weekends !** The Beach will be closed after Labor Day Weekend.

May 1 / Boat Launch Opens, \$5.00 per day . Season pass \$60.00.

May 23, 24, 25 / Hobie Fleet 204 hosts the 1993 **Madcatter Championship Regatta** - contact Barbara Castor at 699-6616.

June 26 / **YMCA Triathlon** - contact Walt Price at 474-6851.

July 17 / **NYS Volleyball Championships** - contact Steve Brace at 683-9814.

CICERO PARKS & RECREATION

The Town of Cicero Parks & Recreation Department is offering **permits** to allow fishing at Joseph F. Williams Memorial Park **after regular hours.** You must go to the Parks & Rec. office in Cicero Town Hall and show proof of a valid

fishing license. There is a small fee associated with a permit, but has not yet been confirmed by the Cicero Town Board.

June 28 thru Late August / **Learn to Swim** Lessons, will again be held at Joseph F. Williams

Memorial Park. Pre-Beginner to Swimmer level. Day and evening classes.

June 12 to August 29 / **Public Swimming**, 1 PM to 7 PM weekdays & 11AM to 7 PM weekends.

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