

# The Oneida Lake Bulletin

Spring 2004

## Cormorant Management on Oneida Lake: What's In Store for 2004?

By Rich Chipman

*Editor's Note – Your Board of Directors is pleased to report that cormorant control on Oneida Lake will be greatly intensified this year. Rich Chipman, Wildlife Biologist – New York State Director - USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services, details the program in this article.*

An expanded cooperative program to manage the impacts of double-crested cormorants on local fisheries and on the threatened common tern will be initiated on Oneida Lake in 2004.

This will be the seventh year that the United States Department of Agriculture-APHIS Wildlife Services Biologists has implemented a program in cooperation with the DEC, the OLA, and the New York Fish and Wildlife Research Cooperative at Cornell University.

In 1996 a DEC sponsored Citizens' Task Force, representing a wide range of interest groups, recommended action. Wildlife Services started a cooperative pilot project in 1998 to investigate methods for reducing predation by fall migrating cormorants on Oneida Lake's perch and walleyes. The project's goal was to shorten the birds' "stopover time" on the lake, thereby reducing predation.

A lake-wide non-lethal harassment and roost management program began in September 1998, and continued for several years. Pyrotechnics, propane cannon, mylar tape, human effigies, electronic guards (strobes/sirens) and boats are among the visual and noise deterrents used. The program was very successful. Surveys documented up to a 98% reduction in Oneida's fall cormorant population

from 1998-2003, as compared to counts during 1995-1997.

Another DEC-sponsored Citizens' Task Force met to discuss cormorant management goals for the lake during the summer of 2003. This group recommended limiting the number of cormorants using the lake during the breeding season to "100 resident birds" to reduce conflicts with fisheries and common terns.

Wildlife Services will implement an enhanced pilot program from April through July 2004 to meet this new cormorant management challenge. An adaptive management strategy will be used. A variety of techniques will be tested in combination to meet management objectives. The pilot program will include spring and summer hazing, aggressive nest management to limit reproduction and bird movement to new sites, expanded fall hazing, and enhanced documentation of cormorant populations' movement patterns and management techniques.

The hazing program this Spring and Summer will focus on reducing the number of cormorants using Oneida Lake during the northern migration and nesting seasons. Hazing methods will be similar to previous techniques. The program will begin as soon as the first cormorants appear.

The project will pause for approximately two weeks when common terns arrive on Oneida. A modified hazing



*Improved cormorant controls should enhance Oneida Lake's walleye fishing.*

program will continue this summer, as needed, to move excess cormorants off the lake, while minimizing impacts on terns.

Another component of the expanded program will be intensified nest management beginning in May, using a combination of nest and egg treatment to eliminate hatching. Monofilament grid systems and other experimental techniques will be used to reduce cormorant use of habitat important for other colonial water birds. The goal is to control expansion of the nesting population, while preventing birds from starting alternate breeding sites near Oneida Lake. However, the program's objective is not to eliminate cormorants entirely from Oneida. A minimum population of 20 nesting pairs will be kept on the lake as part of the overall management for a diverse population of colonial water birds,

*(Continued on page 9)*

**Annual Meeting - April 21 - CNS High School!**

## President's Message

Oneida Lake is currently receiving media attention regarding two critical issues.

The first is water level. This winter's heavy snowfall raised concerns for potential flooding. Fortunately, as is usually the case in early March, the gates at Caughdenoy have been open long enough to draw the lake down to its lowest levels, slightly under 369 feet. This reading means that Oneida can absorb a significant quantity of the upcoming thaw. Hopefully we'll have a typical spring, with a gradual melt down that doesn't tax our lake's capacity. If you're curious about water levels, call the Canal Corporation's hotline (315-438-2499) to receive updated information.

The second issue is the effect that cormorants have on our fish populations. Articles dealing with cormorants' impact often misrepresent the real picture by stating that cormorants and anglers take a similar number of Oneida Lake walleyes annually.

I don't think so. According to data from the Cornell Biological Research Station at Shackelton Point, cormorants consumed over 80,000 sub-adult walleyes in 2003. Sub-adult walleyes have almost no natural enemies – except for cormorants.

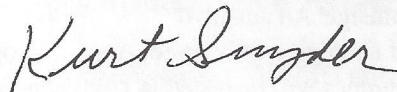
The sub-adults consumed in 2003 could have provided 27,000 limit catches during the 2005 and 2006 seasons!

I'd say that cormorants do a lot better than anglers. Don't buy that "similar number" baloney when you read it.

Controlling cormorants on Oneida Lake remains a huge priority. This year should witness more effective cormorant management. Your Board of Directors appreciates your support. In addition, we are grateful for the assistance we've received from elected officials and for the cooperation of local, state, and federal agencies.

Rest assured that the OLA stays vigilant on this critical issue.

Have a great spring.



Kurt Snyder  
President – Oneida Lake Association

## Hat's Off to the Post-Standard

The *Syracuse Post-Standard's* editors have recognized Oneida Lake's importance to Central New York. We commend these journalists for taking a stand and thank them for their support. The following piece appeared in the February 18<sup>th</sup> issue.

## Control of Cormorants In the Public's Interest

Animal welfare groups are trying to block rules granting the federal government broader authority to kill double-crested cormorants. But the voracious birds are a clear threat to the environmental stability of Oneida Lake and other waters. Federal and state wildlife agencies must be allowed to continue managing the cormorant population.

Cormorants gobbled up about 2.8 million of the lake's fish in 2001, according to the Oneida Lake Watershed Management Plan. The birds dive for the younger, smaller fish that have not yet had a chance to breed. All this tilts the lake, which already is threatened by foreign species of plants and animals, further out of ecological balance. In a sense, cormorants can be

considered a foreign species at Oneida Lake; they made their first appearance there just 20 years ago.

The state and federal government should not be blocked from thinning the cormorant population. Sound management promises to preserve all species.

## The Oneida Lake Association Inc.

Founded in 1945

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

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The size-creel limit on Oneida Lake's walleyes will be 18 inches – three fish per day when the season opens on May 1. However, the limit drops to 15 inches – three fish per day when next year's license season begins on October 1, 2004.

Your Board of Directors backs this move. Here's why.

The change is based on sound biological reasoning. John Forney, the Cornell Field Station's founder and an authoritative voice for walleye management nationwide, established recommendations for Oneida Lake's size-creel limits in 1978. Our lake's adult walleye population exceeds 350,000 and the robust class of 2001 has yet to mature. These numbers fall within the recommended parameters for

reducing the minimum length to 15 inches.

The 1990s witnessed a tremendous decline in Oneida Lake's walleye numbers. Cormorants were, of course, largely to blame for this disaster. We believe that new cormorant controls will alleviate the problem. Until this occurs, however, and until Oneida's walleye population stabilizes at healthy levels, it makes sense to keep the three fish per day restriction. More adult fish will remain in our lake because of this, and a solid breeding population is needed for long-term stability. Oneida Lake's recovery is our paramount concern and we believe that this renaissance should not be exposed to unnecessary risks.

The 15-inch limit will provide a needed fiscal boost for lake area businesses. It

should be far easier to catch 15-inch walleyes and the number of successful Oneida Lake anglers should multiply. Satisfied fishermen return to their favorite waters, enriching the region's economy. Merchants suffered during the 1990s because of poor fishing. The new limit should help reverse this trend.

Your Board of Directors asks the OLA membership to help the lake's anglers work with the revised regulations. Talk about the changes – keep your family, friends, and the anglers you meet informed. Strongly encourage cooperation. Report violators to the DEC.

We have experienced “the bad” on Oneida. Let's continue to do all we can to further the lake's rebirth.

## The OLA Fishing Corner



### Expect More in 2004

by Captain Tony Buffa

It might be a bit presumptuous, but I'm stepping out on a wave and predicting that 2004 will be a “walleye wonder” for Oneida Lake anglers. Just a mere extrapolation of catch per outing from 2003 to this year makes me eager to calculate a generous take of walleyes for 2004.

What impressed me the most about the 2003 season was the non-stop nature of the walleye bite. Action began in the tribbs on opening weekend and gradually migrated to the lake within a few weeks. It *never stopped* through spring, summer, and fall. Whether your pleasure was jigging, drifting night crawlers, trolling with spinners and worms, or prospecting the “cabbage” (heavy vegetation) with weedless worm rigs, the results were the same bounteous catches of walleyes.

Remember the night bite during October and November? It was perhaps the best I have experienced in years. There wasn't

a stickbait the walleyes wouldn't hit. I marveled that night angling was excellent along most of the lake's shore – it wasn't limited to a few choice locales.

Granted, most walleyes were in the 15 to 17-3/4 inch range. No complaints from my perspective! They provided great angling opportunities and gave me hope for a very good aggregate of 18 inchers for 2004. I saw more 20+ inch walleyes in catches last season than in previous years. Has Oneida Lake made a comeback? You can bet the farm it has.

If 2004's walleye angling prospects don't get your pre-season juices flowing then it's time to exchange the flippin' stick for the putter. I'm certainly not about to do that, especially having experienced the finest walleye season in a decade. Here are a few of the tactics that I will apply with enthusiasm and anticipation on opening weekend.

I use a basic approach - the drifted night crawler, rigged with a three-way swivel, #6 Mustad gold-plated hook, and appropriate weight to carry it just above bottom. Locate the areas where walleyes spawn and fish the water adjacent to those inlets. If your shallow passes are unsuccessful, venture out to bordering deeper waters in the 20 to 35 feet zone. Jig, drift, troll – it's your call.

If you prefer to jig, use combinations of black, brown, purple, white, green and yellow bucktails to tempt bottom dwelling “eyes.” Stinger hooks and Berkley FireLine will greatly enhance your jigging results. Remember, the water will still be cold, so use a slow, deliberate strokes. Walleyes will be exhausted from spawning. Consequently, stinger hooks increase the strike to catch ratio. I use stingers with all my jigs and tip the jig with a plump night crawler.

Have a positive attitude for 2004. Angling is all about attitude. Upbeat people make things happen even when the odds are pitted against them. That's not the scenario for Oneida Lake this year. The odds favor us – more walleyes translate to more strikes!

# Oneida Lake in 2004: A Biological Perspective

By Edward Mills, Randy Jackson, Lars Rudstam, and Jeremy Coleman

**Oneida Lake is one of the finest aquatic resources in New York's landscape and it is comforting to report that the state of the lake in 2004 gives us cause for optimism.**

## Walleyes, Perch, and Bass

During most of the 1990s the lake's walleye population hovered at historic low levels and daily harvest limits were consequently set at three fish with a length of at least 18 inches. These restrictions were designed to compensate for the impact of cormorants and smaller walleye year classes during that decade. The walleye population has increased greatly over the last four years, partly due to an exceptional year class in 2001, but also because of the added protection of harvest regulation changes. Management directed at limiting cormorant nesting and checking the impact of cormorants migrating from Lake Ontario in the fall has also helped. The 2001-year class should contribute about 160,000 fish to the lake's adult stock during the next three years. Thus, the current walleye situation is very positive and angling regulations will return to a 15 inch, three fish limit on October 1.

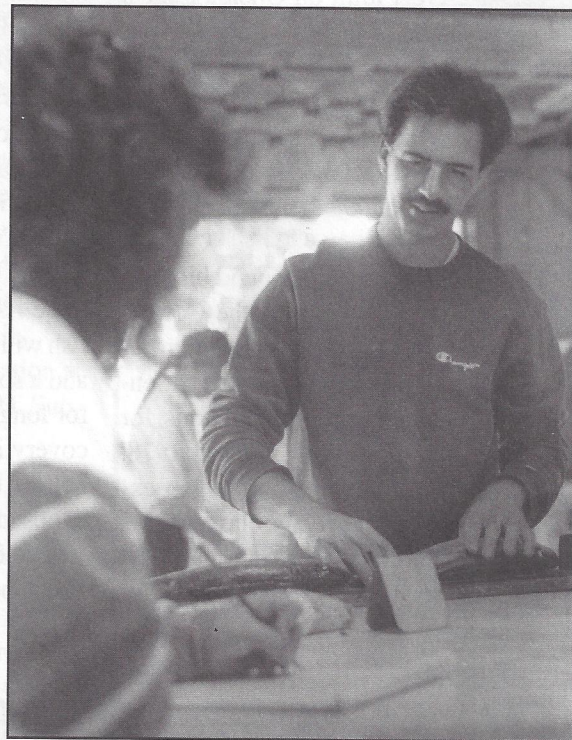
While walleye numbers have increased, the status of Oneida's yellow perch is not as bright. This fish's population has experienced a general decline since 1980. On the other hand, smallmouth bass numbers have been increasing over the past decade. Growth of young and sub-adult smallmouths has been outstanding and angling for them has improved tremendously. Largemouth bass continue to thrive. The impressive results achieved in several bass tournaments during the past two years underscore these points. Out of state anglers now recognize Oneida as a quality bass habitat and the lake's reputation should continue to soar.

## Lake Sturgeon Flourish

Successful reestablishment of native fish generally indicates a healthy environment. Readers of the Spring 2002 *Bulletin* may recall our update on the lake sturgeon restoration project in Oneida Lake. At that time all indications were that the program has been a resounding success. Recent data confirms that these fish are healthy and exhibit exceptional growth.

Many of the sturgeons from the initial 1995 stocking now exceed four feet and the largest collected in 2003 measured an impressive 52 inches! The sturgeons we measure regularly surpass 30 pounds, with the largest weighing in at 37. For the first time, spring nettings have yielded ripe male sturgeons (fish that are ready to spawn). While male sturgeons in aquaculture conditions can mature by age eight, it is unusual for wild fish to reach adulthood at this young age. Female sturgeons typically mature several years later than males but, with current growth rates, we may soon have a population in Oneida Lake capable of reproduction.

Last fall, the Oneida Fish Cultural Station produced another crop of young lake sturgeons and released 366 into the lake. All the sturgeons Cornell handles have a small yellow tag attached to the base of their dorsal fin. If you see a fish with a tag, please record the following – 1) the tag's number, 2) the fish's length, and 3) where the fish was captured. Call the



*Cornell biologist Tom Brooking guides Field Station students measuring walleyes.*

Cornell Field Station (315-633-9243) and report your findings.

Remember that sturgeons are a "threatened" species in New York and must be released. If you notice these fish in the tributaries or rocky shallows during the spring spawning season, please notify us of that location because our next challenge will be documenting reproduction.

## Other Oneida Lake Fish

White perch prosper in the lake. Recent gill nettings indicate that strong year classes of these fish hatched in 1995, 1997, and 1998. The number of white perch born in 1999 and 2001 was also above average. These combined statistics mean that the lake will boast a large population of these silvery scrappers. We encourage anglers to keep white perch. They're easy to catch,

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(Continued from page 4)

great “kid-pleasers,” and make for excellent table fare.

Oneida Lake’s pumpkinseed sunfish and bluegill populations are also thriving. These colorful panfish have benefited from the lake’s increased vegetation. They dine on aquatic insects and immature zebra mussels and have reached impressive “pie plate” sizes. The lake’s weed beds and shallow rock reefs provide habitat to large schools of these circular delights.

## Cormorant Research and Management

Our studies have documented significant impacts of double-crested cormorants on the Oneida Lake fish community. Management strategies have been imposed to restrict the growth of the cormorant colony and to limit predation by these birds on Oneida’s fish. Breeding pairs were limited to 100 from 1998 through 2003. An annual hazing program, begun around Labor Day weekend, was also initiated in 1998. This program removed most resident and migrant cormorants from September onward. We have analyzed the results of these practices and are preparing to observe the effects of the new management plan, scheduled to start in 2004.

Oneida Lake’s total cormorant population will be limited to 100 birds under this scenario.

Our studies of cormorant – walleye/perch interactions on Oneida Lake are some of the best in North America and serve as a guide for research and management worldwide. We have concluded that the declines in walleye and perch are caused by double-crested cormorant predation on the sub-adults of these species and the next few years will witness an important test of these conclusions.

## Exotics and Oneida Lake

In analyzing the state of Oneida Lake, we must consider biological pollutants – the introduction of exotic species into the ecosystem. Zebra mussels abound and, through their feeding, water clarity has increased. This, in turn, influences aquatic plant growth and abundance. Vegetation commonly occupies depths of 10 to 15 feet. Zebra mussels will help establish new invaders in Oneida Lake. When a foreign organism such as the zebra mussel successfully adapts to another ecosystem, creatures that live with and feed on that organism can survive easier in the new environment.

Round gobies are a perfect example. These fish consume zebra mussels. While

they are not yet found in Oneida Lake, gobies exist in Lake Ontario and in the western reaches of the Erie-Barge Canal. They will probably enter Oneida soon and should thrive by eating our lake’s zebras. Gobies will provide a good food source for bass. Only time will tell whether walleyes and other species capitalize on the young gobies. Unfortunately, outbreaks of fish and bird deaths caused by botulism bacterium may accompany gobies to Oneida Lake.

A new shrimp-like invertebrate commonly called a “sideswimmer” has recently been identified in the lake. This critter originated in Europe and was introduced into North America through ships’ ballast water releases. Sideswimmers will increase Oneida Lake’s invertebrate (aquatic insects) population and should pose no threat to the ecosystem.

## Conclusion

The state of Oneida Lake has improved since 2002. The lake, however, continues to change and we must learn from and cope with these alterations. Our hope is that the future Oneida Lake will be brighter still. We can help to insure this future by setting long-term goals dedicated to maintaining the lake’s health.



Biologist John Forney (left) investigates Oneida Lake during the 1960s.

# News From the Hatchery

by Mark Babenzien and Carl Rathje

The 2003 hatchery program was a resounding success. Ice out occurred on April 14 and 15 nets were set near Scriba Creek and along the shoreline. These nets captured over 21,000 adult walleyes during the following week. Crews collected about 320 million eggs from the walleyes and later stocked about 200 million fry in thirteen state waters. Stocking began during the first week in May. Oneida Lake received approximately 165 million fry.

This is an exciting time at the hatchery and an excellent opportunity to visit. We display many large fish in our tanks. Walleyes, catfish, bass, burbot, sturgeons, northern pike, and other Oneida Lake dwellers fill our tanks and aquariums. Children, especially, love to see these fish.

Our Fish Cultural Station produced about 175,000 large fingerling walleyes (4-5 inches) in 2003. We stocked about 100,000 in seven different state waters in the fall and reserved 75,000 for spring 2004 stocking. Last spring, the hatchery distributed about 100,000 fingerlings between Chautauqua Lake and several lakes near Watertown.

We raised about 800 paddlefish for the Allegheny Reservoir. These fish were about 13 inches long at stocking time. They are the fastest growing fish produced by the state's hatchery system. Paddlefish are stocked only in state waters where they had an historic presence. Until this program started, the last New York paddlefish caught by anglers was recorded near Jamestown in the late 1800s.

The sturgeon restoration program continues at our hatchery. We reared 2,500 finger-



*A hatchery employee mixes walleye eggs and milt to promote fertilization. The photo was taken around 1925.*

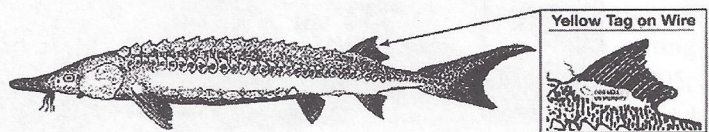
ling lake sturgeons last year. These fascinating fish averaged about nine inches at stocking time. Oneida Lake received 370 and the rest were distributed in three other state waters. Oneida's impressive sturgeon population can only improve through further stocking.

Hatchery crews are rearing fish from April through September. There are a lot of interesting activities occurring! We are open seven days a week, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sturgeons, paddlefish, and walleyes are always on display.

Keep an eye on the papers in early April for news about the walleye run. Don't hesitate to call us at 315-623-7311 for updated information. We hope to see you this spring!

## REPORT TAGGED STURGEON

Sturgeon in Oneida Lake and nearby waters may be tagged. Biologists at Cornell University and NYSDEC need your help to track these fish. Yellow tags may be attached at the base of the dorsal fin. If you catch a tagged sturgeon, please write down the number on the tag and length of fish, release the fish immediately, and call Cornell University at (315) 633-9243 or contact NYSDEC at (315) 785-2262 as soon as possible.



Cornell Field Station  
Bridgeport, NY 13030  
(315) 633-9243



New York State  
Department of Environmental  
Conservation

# Annual Meeting at Cicero-North Syracuse High School

April 21, 2004

By Tony Buffa

The OLA will hold its 59<sup>th</sup> annual meeting at the Cicero-North Syracuse High School auditorium on Wednesday April 21. Doors open at 6 p.m. Early arrival is encouraged so that you can enjoy our numerous exhibits.

You will be able to register for the annual Cicero Lions Club Walleye Derby at the meeting. Extra prizes are included for derby winners who are OLA members. Membership renewals and new sign-ups for the Association begin at 6:15. You need not be a member to attend the meeting.

This year's meeting will begin promptly at 7 with a short business session. Our theme is "Expect more in 2004." DEC biologists and Cornell Field Station staff will update the status of our fishery and the

walleye spawning data from the Constantia Hatchery. Field technicians from USDA-APHIS will present an overview of this year's cormorant control efforts.

A special presentation on biological invaders will provide us with a perspective on new exotic organisms and fish. This is a "must" meeting to attend. The OLA needs your support. Come and be a part of Oneida Lake's future. Your fishing future and the lake's welfare are constantly being challenged. Stay abreast on all the issues.

Mark your calendar – WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23 – 6 P.M. - OLA at CNS!

The Association will award its prestigious "Conservationist of the Year" plaque

to an outstanding supporter of local conservation. The meeting will close with distributions of door prizes and drawings for three Lowrance GlobalMap GPS units. One winner will be selected from an attendee, the other two from our membership at large.

We encourage you to join us for an evening of information and OLA solidarity.

## Directions to C-NS High School Route 31, Cicero

### From the Thruway

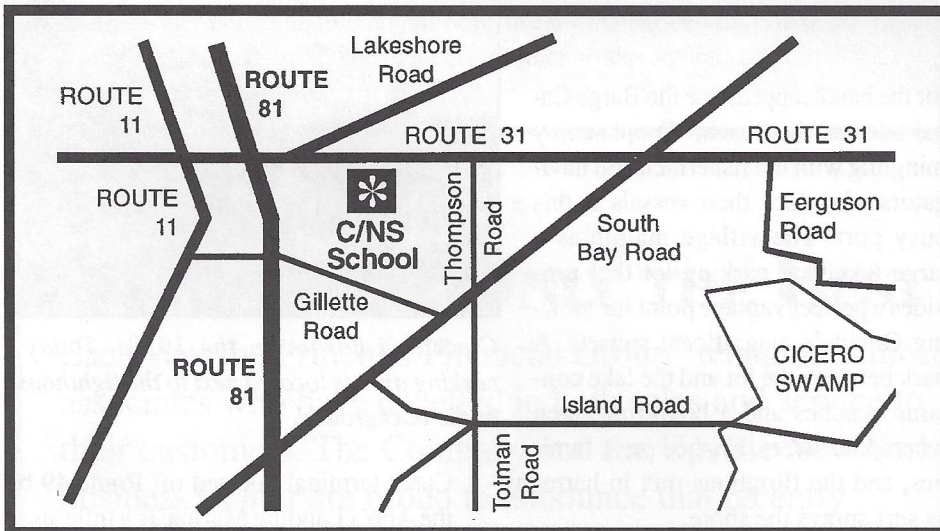
Take the Thruway to Route 81. Take Route 81 north to the Cicero exit. Turn right onto Route 31. The school is about 1/2 mile away on the right.

### From the East

Simply get to Route 31. Follow it west. The high school will be on the left just before you enter Cicero village.

### From the West

Get to Route 31, to Cicero village, continue east under Route 81's overpass, and the high school will be on the right, about 1/2 mile away.



## Nominating Petitions

Under the OLA bylaws, members may nominate officers and directors. A petition, that is to be signed by at least fifty (50) OLA members in good standing, must state the name of a member or members that 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 OLA Nominating Committee list with the persons nominated by the committee, all in alphabetical order, for election at the Annual Meeting.

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

The slate of officers nominated for 2004 reads: President – Kurt Snyder, Vice Presi-

dents – Thomas Pierce, Bill Schriever, and Richard Colesante, Secretary – Thomas Giufre, Assistant Secretary – Matt Snyder, and Treasurer – Edwin Olmstead.

The Directors nominated for terms beginning this year are Steve Rogers, Richard Percival, Bill Girvan, Marshall O. Naumann, Bruce Schantz, Parker J. Stone, and Robert Gang III.

## Water Chestnuts – Watch Out!

By Amy Samuels

Many people and organizations worked together in 2003 to reduce water chestnuts' infestations in Oneida Lake.

Eight acres of chestnuts at the lake's west end were chemically treated. The OLA, CNY Regional Planning and Development Board, Oswego County Soil and Water District, and the Onondaga County Department of Health worked hard to make this happen. The treatment eliminated 80-90% of the infestation.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County educated almost 500 people about water chestnut control through workshops and speaking engagements to many organizations. One of those groups, the Oneida Lake Rotary

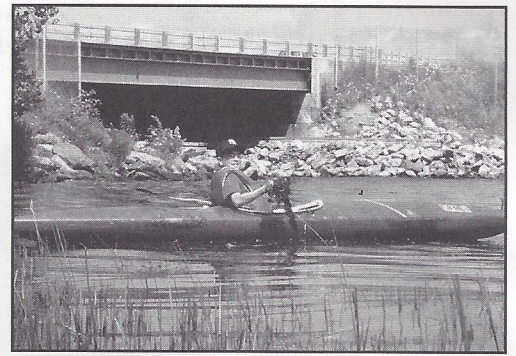
Club, mapped and pulled small, scattered chestnut growths in the west end.

Three thousand educational brochures were distributed to lake shore residents. As a result, a lone plant in Bernhard's Bay was discovered and pulled by an informed homeowner.

The Brewerton Boy Scouts pulled all the chestnuts from the Long Point area for the second year in a row. Their efforts are paying off. Plant quantities totaled less than half of last year's harvest.

Student interns, supervised by Drs. Ed Mills and Bernard Blossy, conducted chestnut monitoring and research at Shackelton Point.

Thanks to funding provided by Sena-



*A happy chestnut puller relaxes by Brewerton's Route 81 Bridge.*

tor Wright's office to the OLA, herbicide treatment, monitoring, and mapping will continue this summer.

Anyone interested in lending a hand to our successful anti-chestnut program are urged to contact Amy Samuels at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Oneida County, 315-424-9485, ext. 233.

## Let's Go Parking!

No, your *Bulletin* staff isn't endorsing the practices of *American Graffiti*. After examining past issues, we found that this newsletter concentrates on Oneida Lake's active life – fishing, boating, sailing, etc. We thought, "Why not publish an article for people who like to sit quietly by the lake and enjoy its marvelous vistas? Where can they go to savor their 'sport?'" Here's a few delightful public "parking spots" for Oneida Lake's motorist-aesthetes.

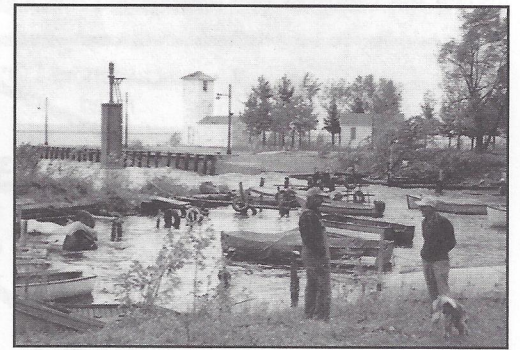
The state docks that border the Oneida River east of the Route 11 Bridge at Brewerton provide an excellent vantage point. You can park on a side street that borders the water. Anglers and sightseers often stroll along the docks. Boat traffic at the lake's outlet can be heavy. Also, a short walk to the Fort Brewerton Historical Society's blockhouse museum across the street provides a nice side journey into Oneida Lake history. The museum is open on Saturdays in summer and by appointment.

Sylvan Beach is a parker's delight. Numerous spots, including some reserved

for the handicapped, line the Barge Canal inlet at "the Beach." People enjoy mingling with the fishermen and navigators who dock their vessels at this busy port. The village maintains a large lakefront parking lot that provides a perfect vantage point for viewing Oneida's magnificent sunsets. A park between the lot and the lake contains benches and a bountiful green where kite flyers, Frisbee pros, families, and the flirtatious mix in harmony as surf sprays the shore.

The lake's two public boat launches offer neat parking opportunities. Sightseers can luxuriate at Oneida's expanse, back dropped by the Alleghenies to the south, from the Godfrey Point launch, on Route 49 east of Cleveland. Delmarter Bay and Dutchman's Isle dazzle the delighted at the South Shore Boat Launch, north of Route 31 between Lakeport and Bridgeport. The coming and going of anglers, boaters, and jet skiers on summer days adds to the natural entertainment these spots provide.

Cleveland's New York State Barge



*Cleveland harbor in the 1950s. Today's parking area is located next to the lighthouse in the background.*

Canal terminal, located off Route 49 by the App's Landing Marina, is a little-used parking spot that offers a touch of history. Here Black Creek, a rust-colored North Shore stream that powered Cleveland's 19<sup>th</sup> century industries, empties into the lake. The deteriorated canal facilities and breakwaters speak to the time when the village was an important port on this waterway. Drive carefully in the parking lot, however. Ruts and potholes sometimes punctuate its surface. New York State has a fine opportunity to restore a vibrant hub at Cleveland harbor and restoration could enhance the entire lake region's appeal.



## Offshore – Onshore

Fireworks viewed from the lake can be beautiful. Sylvan Beach's grand performance is scheduled for July 5, Brewerton's for July 3. Find a vantage point and enjoy.

The Fort Brewerton Historical Society is sponsoring "Remembrance Days" on July 2, 3, and 4 at the Blockhouse Museum on Route 11. The celebration honors World War II veterans. Displays, lectures, reenactments, and even a showing of soldiers' films are planned. It promises to be an excellent event. Call 676-3200 for more details.

Sylvan Beach's "Jazz at the Beach – Big Band Spectacular" runs from July 16-18. The prize winning Central NY Jazz Orchestra plays the great music of Miller, Goodman, Dorsey, Barnet and more. Concerts are held at the village bandstand, in the park.

The Sylvan-Verona Beach's Resort Association will sponsor its annual lecture series on summer Sundays at Union Chapel on Park Ave. Talks on various historical topics, including Oneida Lake history, are usually at 3 or 7 p.m. Details will be finalized by June 1. Call the Canal View Restaurant (762-5623) for information.

The Fort Brewerton Historical Society's annual arts and antiques show occur on May 28-30 at the museum grounds.

Other events will highlight Oneida Lake's warm seasons. Phone calls to town or village clerks or local merchants can usually reveal details. There's a lot of cultural enrichment around our lake in summer – take advantage of it.

## What's In Store

(Continued from page 1)

including common terns and several species of gulls.

A late summer-early fall cormorant hazing program will again occur on Oneida Lake. In addition, similar programs will be initiated on Onondaga and Cross Lakes. Biologists will disperse cormorants from early August to September 30, 2004.

Research scientists with the Wildlife Services – National Wildlife Research Center will oversee satellite telemetry and controlled studies of techniques to better document our program's impacts. In addition, a Cornell University graduate student will continue to study the potential impacts of cormorant hazing on common terns.

For more information on this cooperative wildlife damage management program, please contact the USDA, APHIS Wildlife Services program at 518-477-4837.

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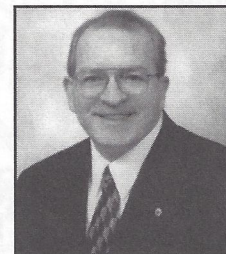
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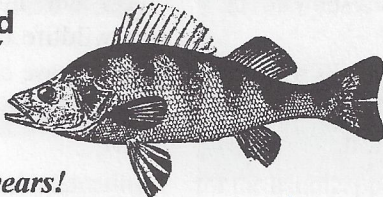
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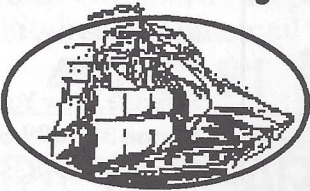
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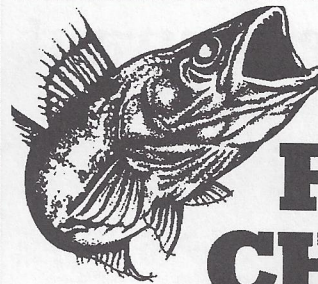
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