

# 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Issue

# Oneida Lake Bulletin

Spring 2005

## The OLA - 1945-2005: 60 Years of Achievement

by Jack Henke

The Oneida Lake Association was founded in 1945 by a group of environmental visionaries that included, among others, Dr. Benjamin Sauer, Eric Will, Richard Brown, Max Frey, and Ted Cramer. In 1947 Sauer, the OLA's first president, was asked what the Association had accomplished in its first two years. He responded, "We have built a strong, sound, militant organization of several thousand members, devoted exclusively to the preservation and improvement of Oneida Lake. This in itself is an achievement of major importance. Only through united action can our Association succeed."

And succeed it has. This article details some major Association achievements from the past six decades. These are *your* triumphs. You, our membership, *are* the Association so share these victories with your neighbors and friends. Get more Oneida Lake people to join the OLA. Increased numbers enhance political clout, enabling us to effectively confront future challenges.

The Association initiated a vigorous campaign in 1999 when Cornell released statistics that documented double-crested cormorants' devastating walleye and perch predation. Association directors researched the problem and spoke at Federal hearings. Hundreds of OLA members wrote letters, sent emails, and made phone calls to state legislators and the governor, demanding that effective checks be placed on these destructive fish-eating birds. The pressure paid dividends last year when the DEC agreed to limit Oneida's cormorant population to 100. An extensive harassment program, administered by APHIS personnel, now keeps the birds in check.

New York's walleye propagation program took a quantum leap forward when

the Oneida Fish Cultural Station opened in Constantia in 1994. Association lobbying prodded the DEC to build this modern educational-biological facility. Fingerling and fry walleyes from the hatchery enrich the ecosystems of many state waters. In addition, the station raises lake sturgeons and paddlefish, two endangered species. Sturgeon stocking that began in 1995 is beginning to restore the population of a once-depleted Oneida Lake treasure.

Banning the sale of walleyed pike was a major association goal in the 1950s. Commercial anglers once took thousands of pike. This factor, combined with several poor walleye year-classes, contributed to reduced harvests by sportsmen. Armed with John Forney's and Alfred Eipper's Cornell Field Station recommendations, the Association convinced the Conservation Department to support the ban. In 1961 the Assembly voted 110-23 and the Senate 48-9 in the Association's favor. When Governor Nelson Rockefeller signed the law, OLA President Millard Rogers declared, "The dollar sign has been removed from an important natural resource."

Preserving and enhancing public access to Oneida Lake has long been an Association priority. The Godfrey Point Launch was established in 1956 and upgraded in 1994. The South Shore Launch also took

form in 1956 and received a major facelift in 1997. The Brewerton Fishing Access Sites, on the north and south sides of the Route 81 Bridge, opened in 2001. OLA lobbying accelerated all three projects' construction.

In the same vein, the OLA pushed the DEC in the 1970s to upgrade and reopen a one hundred yard section of the Sylvan Beach fishing pier. When the department lacked the requisite financing, the Association initiated a fund-raising campaign and purchased the fencing necessary for the project.

Water chestnuts threatened to spread in Oneida Lake during the past five years. The OLA, working with other organizations, made the public aware of this potential hazard and spearheaded a program that virtually eliminated the plants. A photo of Association President Bill Schriever pulling chestnuts amidst a major infestation near the Brewerton Bridge highlighted a front page of the *Syracuse Post-Standard*.

These are a few of the many Oneida Lake Association achievements. In concluding his remarks in 1947, Benjamin Sauer wrote, "With the full cooperation of the membership, we hope to enable the Association to carry on to even greater accomplishments." Were the founders alive today, they would be justly proud of the results of the OLA's membership's united action.

A Hot Cold Weather Issue

By Steve Schilder

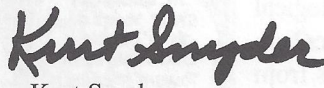


Post Standard cartoonist Steve Schilder captured the spirit that inspired the OLA's genesis in 1945.

## President's Message

This year marks the Oneida Lake Association's 60th anniversary and this *Bulletin* begins the celebration of this achievement. One of the many reasons that the OLA has been so successful as Oneida Lake's guardian for six decades is that the Association has consistently focused on issues that directly impact the lake. Staying on course by always doing what's best for Oneida will ensure another sixty years of success.

This month marks the end of my term as president and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the Board of Directors for their energy and support. I would also like to thank every Association member for joining and getting others to join our organization. *You* are the reason the OLA has been able to meet all the challenges that it has faced in the last few years. *You* are the Association's strength and, because of you, our lake will be preserved and protected in the future.



Kurt Snyder  
President – Oneida Lake Association

### Happy Birthday to the OLA! Our 60th Anniversary Issue

Historical material from past *Bulletins* enlivens the pages of this 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Issue of the *Oneida Lake Bulletin*. The paper includes two Steve Schilder cartoons, inspired by the OLA's genesis and published in the *Post Standard* around 1945. An angling report from 1957 parallels Tony Buffa's regular "Fishing Corner" feature. The ads before page 9 ran in the *Bulletin* during the 1950s and 1960s. Our masthead and "Fishing Corner" logos also came from those decades. The "Scoreboard" column contains current material, but we've used the format from a half-century ago. John Forney's piece about the lake in the late 1950s contrasts with the Cornell staff's contemporary analysis. Another article spotlights choice Association news items from 10-year intervals and an "OLA History Quiz" tops off the issue.

We hope that you enjoy our salute to the OLA's past.

### Nominating Petitions

Under OLA bylaws, members may nominate officers and directors. A petition, 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 an 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 - Richard Colesante, Vice Presidents - Kurt Snyder, Thomas Pierce, William Schriever, Lance Vella, Secretary - Matt Snyder, Asst. Secretary-Thomas Giufre, Treasurer - Edwin Olmstead.

The directors nominated for terms beginning this year are: Arnold Armani, Robert Gang III, Edward L. Mills, Scott Shupe, and Matt White.

### 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.

#### Officers

President ..... Kurt Snyder  
Vice President ..... Richard Colesante  
Vice President ..... Thomas Pierce  
Vice President ..... William Schriever  
Secretary ..... Thomas Giufre  
Asst. Secretary ..... Matt Snyder  
Treasurer ..... Edwin Olmstead

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*Term: April 2002 – April 2005*

Arnold Armani ..... Scott Shupe  
Edward L. Mills ..... Lance Vella  
Robert Gang III

*Term: April 2003 – April 2006*

George Angeloro ..... Robert Cote  
Anthony Buffa ..... Robert Ripberger  
Jack Henke ..... Bruce Schantz

*Term: April 2004 – April 2007*

Steve Rogers ..... Marshall O. Naumann  
Richard Percival ..... Parker J. Stone  
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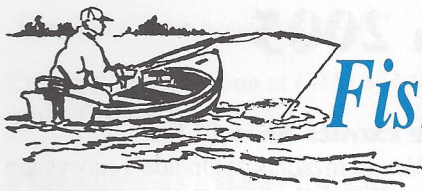
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# Fishing Corner



## Anglers' Report - 1957

by Old Tymar

### Walleyes: Sixty Years and "Still Counting"

by Captain Tony Buffa

Oneida Lake's fishing history is filled with tales of incredible walleye angling during the 1940s. It wasn't until the early 1950s that the lake's seemingly unlimited pike resource suffered from over-fishing and poor year-classes. In response, the New York State Conservation Department (predecessor to the DEC) contracted with the new Cornell University Field Station, headed by biologist John Forney at Shackelton Point. The department's message was clear: determine the causes of Oneida Lake's fluctuating fishing quality and recommend policies to maximize walleye angling opportunities.

Cornell's walleye information database is among the most recognized and referenced in the world. Combine that with the superb facilities at the Oneida Fish Cultural Station at Constantia and you have an impressive collaboration that has made and will make a difference in our lake's thriving walleye population.

Let me address the "still counting" part of this message. Do I expect any less in the future from the scientific research corps? Definitely not. I applaud them for a job well done, but theirs is a work in progress. Here's where you and I get involved. Every walleye caught in Oneida is considered a fish management success. One stocked walleye = one caught walleye. That balances the equation.

Where am I going with this? We can keep this equation working if we release some of the "keeper" walleyes we catch. "Catch and release" is a great philosophy that sustains a fishery.

The size limit for walleyes reverted to fifteen inches last October 1, after a four-year eighteen-inch restriction. The wisdom of the eighteen-inch rule got overlooked by many of us, but the proof is in the product. The quality and quantity of our

lake's walleye population increased considerably.

We now have a relaxed regulation of fifteen inches, with a daily limit of three walleyes per angler. How are you going to treat this?

If we all respect the fishery, and I trust that most do, there should be little change in angling quality. I encourage anglers not to keep fifteen-inch walleyes. Set your bar higher - sixteen, seventeen, even eighteen inches.

Do you want to quickly catch three walleyes and then quit? That makes for short outings.

Let's return to the equation. A stocked walleye = a caught walleye. Modify it. A stocked walleye = a caught or released walleye. Adopt this philosophy and we'll be "still counting" our walleyes for years to come.

*Captain Tony Buffa can be reached at (315) 427-2278 or (315) 633-2694.*

*If you would like to receive weekly fishing updates, email him at [capntony@twcny.rr.com](mailto:capntony@twcny.rr.com).*

Every so often Oneida Lake comes up with one of those years that baffle all fishermen. Those of us who have fished the lake for many years just take it in stride and figure that next year will be another year and fishing will probably be back to normal.

1957 has been an "off" year. The early pike fishermen found very few pike in a cooperative mood and, in the main, the fish have continued their independent ways all through the season. However, in June and before the bass season opened, these same fishermen had trouble keeping the bass off their hooks. Then, when the bass season opened, with high winds on July 1st, these same bass also became highly independent. They too have continued to frown upon the best efforts of the bass fishermen all through the season.

To further confuse matters this year - where have those great big yellow perch been hiding in the past? True, last year we caught some nice perch, but absolutely nothing to compare with what the boys have been doing this year. East of Maple Bay, Shacks Shoals, the Pancake, and many other spots have been highly productive all summer. Perch that run 11 and 12 inches and better have been present in great schools. They have been hungry about all the time and not in the least fussy about their diet.

Oneida is still a wonderful lake. It is one of the most productive waters to be found anywhere. Fish life goes through cycles. Remember just a few year back when resolutions were being adopted stating that, due to the construction of the Caughdenoy Dam, all the pike had left Oneida Lake? That year, when it seemed there was not a pike in the lake, was followed by one of the most productive years of pike fishing we have ever had.

It has been my experience on several occasions in the past that a year such as we are having now is usually followed by a year of wonderful fishing. Don't sell Oneida Lake short.

#### Pa, Please Don't Rock the Boat



*Boating safety was the theme of this Bulletin cartoon in 1956.*

# Beneath Oneida's Surface: The Lake in 2005

by The Cornell Field Station Staff

*Overall, Oneida Lake in 2005 is a healthy ecosystem. Anglers will enjoy excellent populations of walleyes and smallmouth bass. On balance, Oneida Lake and its rich biological life are doing extremely well.*

## Our Game Fishes' Status

Oneida Lake has long been a crown jewel of the Central New York environment. We are pleased to report that the state of the lake in 2005 is, generally speaking, very positive. We are optimistic that the near future will offer excellent fishing opportunities.

Anglers enjoyed outstanding fishing in 2004. Our creel records indicate that fishers logged nearly 300,000 hours pursuing walleyes, bass, and yellow perch, the highest effort observed in years. The 2004 walleye harvest approached 40,000 fish. Anglers also had good luck with the lake's other popular sport fish. More than 34,000 yellow perch and 48,000 smallmouth bass were creeled.

Oneida Lake's walleyes have a bright future. The 2001 year-class is expected to add 160,000 adults to the lake in 2005, while the 2002 class should contribute another 95,000 by 2006. Early indications reveal that the 2004 class may also be large and should help sustain quality fishing. The lake's walleye population appears to be rebuilding to its historic levels.

While walleye numbers have jumped, Oneida's yellow perch population remains a cause for concern. Perch totals have been in general decline since 1980 and have not been bolstered by any big year-classes. The adult perch population should remain around one million in the near future.

In contrast, smallmouth bass are thriving. Excellent year-classes and improved growth rates have boosted this population since the late 1980s. Bass fishing excels. Both local and out-of-state anglers recognize this, resulting in enhanced economic vitality for the lake region.

Some of you met our survey clerks on the lake or at the boat launches. We couldn't monitor angling trends without the input you provide these researchers. Many thanks for your help.

## White Perch Abound

White perch invaded Oneida Lake in the 1950s, but have become increasingly abundant since the mid-1990s. The 1997 through 2001 year-classes were all strong and the 2004 class appears robust as well. Expect to find a lot of these fish in Oneida in the future. Whites are an excellent food fish, coveted in places like Maine and Chesapeake Bay. Try them. You won't regret it.

## Lake Sturgeons Growing

Successful reestablishment of native fish generally reflects a healthy ecosystem. Lake sturgeons, stocked by the DEC since 1995, are thriving in Oneida Lake. Many sturgeons from the first stocking exceed four feet and the largest netted in 2004 measured 52 inches. Older sturgeons regularly break the thirty-pound mark and the heaviest we've recorded weighed 39 pounds. As in 2003, male sturgeons captured in spring were ready to spawn. This is an uncommon condition in a wild population. Female sturgeons typically mature several years later than males but, with current growth rates, we may soon have a sturgeon population capable of reproduction.

Remember, lake sturgeons are protected and must be released. If you happen to observe sturgeons in the lake's shallows or in the tributaries, please call us at (315)-633-9243 and report the location. Our next challenge will be to document the spawning of these impressive fish.

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## The Exotics Around Us

We call invaders of Oneida's ecosystem "biological pollutants." Zebra mussels continue to thrive and, through their filter feeding of algae, have increased water clarity and indirectly influenced the growth and abundance of other aquatic plants. Vegetation grows in depths up to 15 feet because of zebbras.

Round gobies are European fish that feed on zebra mussels. They have become abundant in the Great Lakes, but are not currently found in Oneida. However, in the summer of 2004, gobies surfaced in nearby Oswego Harbor. These small fish would provide a good food source for bass, but their use by walleyes remains undetermined. Unfortunately, large numbers of fish and bird deaths have been attributed to the botulism bacteria that often accompany gobies. We will have to monitor this fish closely after it becomes established in Oneida Lake.

The fish hook flea, an exotic aquatic insect, is found in the Oswego River system and Onondaga Lake, but luckily has not reached Oneida. This bothersome creature wraps around fishing lines, creating messes for anglers.

## Water Chestnuts

Areas in Oneida Lake infested with water chestnuts have been brought under control. Special credit goes to the hand-pulling efforts by local volunteers, the "Adopt A Shoreline" initiative through Cornell Cooperative Extension, funding from State Senator Wright, diligent efforts through the Oswego County Soil and Water Conservation, and the OLA-sponsored application of Aqua-Kleen in an area west of Route 81. Strong teamwork engendered success.

While this battle has been won, the chestnut war continues. Early detection and rapid removal are the keys to victory. Lake users and residents need to be proactive and report any water chestnut sightings immediately. Call Amy Samuels of Cornell

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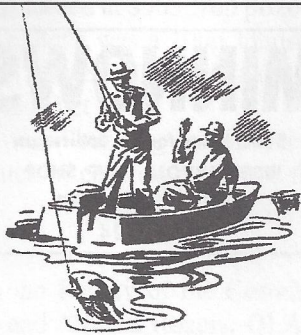
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Cooperative Extension at (315) 424-9485 or the Cornell Field Station.

### Phosphorous - Basis for Life

Remember last summer's heavy rains? More rain often results in more phosphorus runoff from the watershed. Phosphorus levels in Oneida Lake in July and August of 2004 were nearly 30 micrograms per liter, the highest level observed since the mid-1980s. Despite the increased runoff, Oneida's clarity continued to remain greater than the long-term average due primarily to zebra mussels' filtering.

This is a very healthy phosphorus level for the lake. We have determined that at least 20 to 30 micrograms of phosphorus per liter are needed to sustain Oneida's impressive fish populations.



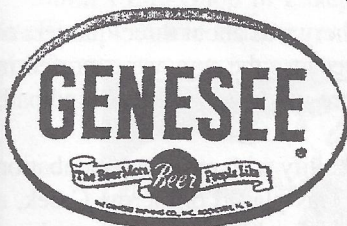
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## Oneida Lake in the 1950s

by John Forney

*John Forney was one of the Cornell Field Station's founders. We are pleased and honored that he agreed to share some of his memories of Oneida Lake's biology.*

Events in the 1950s were destined to have a long-term impact on Oneida Lake.

Three new fish joined the list of 65 species considered native to the lake. Two of the invaders, white perch and drum (sheepshead), had little immediate impact, but the appearance of vast schools of young gizzard shad in 1954 attracted the public's attention. Anglers caught few walleyes that summer and the following winter's ice fishery was a disaster. There was a simple explanation for the poor fishing. Young gizzard shad are a favorite walleye prey and, when abundant, make pike angling extremely difficult.

Gizzard shad numbers stayed high for only one or two years, but the abrupt decline in anglers' catches generated lasting concerns about the walleye fishery's future. In response, the Conservation Department funded a Cornell University study that evaluated angling's impact on the walleye population. Beginning in 1957, walleyes netted at the Constantia Hatchery were marked so that we could estimate their numbers. Creel surveys were conducted to gauge the quantity of walleyes caught by anglers.

The prevailing view in the 1950s was that hook and line fishing had little effect on the walleye population. Consequently, so the reasoning followed, liberal angling regulations that included commercial sale of walleyes were justified. A comparison of population estimates with numbers of walleyes caught, however, indicated that anglers in some years harvested nearly half the adults and, in most years, removed 20 to 30%. Evidence that the supply of Oneida Lake walleyes might need protection galvanized public opposition to commercial angling and the practice was banned in 1961.

Dense algal blooms turned Oneida's waters green each summer and often reduced water clarity severely during the 1950s. Oneida has always been a productive lake, but many lakeshore residents believed water quality was declining. With the support of the OLA and funding from the New York State Department of Health, Syracuse University conducted a study in 1961 to identify the factors contributing to the algae problem. Analysis of water samples revealed that the lake's tributaries were rich in nutrients that stimulated algae growth. Upgrading sewage treatment plants and domestic septic systems achieved nutrient reduction. By the 1970s there was a noticeable reduction in the lake's algae.

The arrival of dead fish on Oneida Lake's shores in early summer was a predictable event in the 1950s. Each year residents gathered rakes, buckets, and shovels and prepared to bury another onslaught. Careful examination of reasonably fresh specimens usually revealed a round wound about an inch in diameter. These marks were left by sea lampreys, parasitic fish that rasped through a fish's skin to feed on blood. Lampreys were considered more of a nuisance than a problem because most of the fish killed were of little interest to anglers.

Lampreys spawned in Fish Creek and several smaller tributaries and their young remained in the creeks for several years before migrating. In 1984, on the recommendation of the Lake Ontario Committee of the Great Lakes' Commission, Fish Creek and other tributaries were treated with a lampricide. Oneida's lamprey population tumbled within a year and periodic treatments further reduced it.

## The Score Board

Wildlife biologist Rich Chipman, the New York State Director for USDA - APHIS Wildlife Services, reports that last year's double-crested cormorant harassment program was very successful. Oneida Lake hosted an average daily population of 722 cormorants in 2003. That number tumbled to 122 in 2004. This year's results could be even better.

### *Catch and release makes sense.*

The harassment program involves all kinds of noises, so expect to hear loud sounds near the islands south of Constantia again this year. The Oneida Lake community will reap tremendous benefits from this program as angling continues to improve to pre-1990s levels. Many thanks go to Rich and his assistants, Kelly and Bridger Thompson, for their excellent work.

### *Sign up a friend with the OLA.*

If you're operating a jet ski, you've got to have a "New York State Boating Safety Certificate." You can earn this by attending a boating safety course and passing the class's final exam. Law enforcement personnel offer these courses in the spring. Check with newspapers for locations and dates.

### *Paid your '05 dues yet?*

OLA Director Tom Pierce landed a 29-inch 8-1/2 pound walleye last fall while shore casting near Cleveland. Tom, who claimed to have told few about the big fish, was surprised when President Bush and Governor Pataki called to offer their congratulations. Fish stories travel.

### *Happy anniversary to the OLA!*

The Cicero Lions' Club will again sponsor an opening weekend walleye derby. Entry stations will be located at Big Bay Marina, Brewerton; Gander Mountain, Cicero; Marion Manor, Upper South Bay Oneida Shores Park, Brewerton; and Spruce Grove Marina, Constantia. Stations are open from 8-5 p.m. on Saturday May 7 and from 8-3 p.m. on Sunday May 8. You can register for the tourney at the OLA's annual meeting.

## The Oneida Hatchery in 2004

by Mark Babenzien, Hatchery Manager and Carl Rathje, Assistant Manager

The most recent production season at our hatchery went very well. Nets were set on April 6 and the first eggs were collected on April 10. We took a total of 325 million eggs while handling 23,000 adult walleyes over the next six days. The adults were healthy and robust, with many in the eight-pound class. Eggs began to hatch on May 2 and around 170 million fry were eventually stocked in Oneida Lake. Other state waters received about 36 million fry.

About one million walleye fry were kept for rearing at the hatchery. This resulted in the stocking of over 300,000 fingerlings (bigger than 4") into sixteen state waters. In addition, nearly 800 paddlefish (each nearly 15") were reared and stocked in the Allegheny Reservoir near Jamestown. Over 4000 lake sturgeons were produced at the hatchery, with a portion of these being stocked into Oneida Lake. These numbers reflect a very successful production season.

Good news abounds regarding Oneida Lake's upcoming walleye year-classes. Survival of young walleyes has improved, starting with the 2001 class. Other years may also be large. The Oneida Hatchery will continue to do its part in maintaining Oneida Lake's walleye fishery.

The hatchery is open to the public from April through September. It is a great place to visit, especially during the egg-taking operation every spring. We hope to see you here!

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## The Hatchery and Its History

by Richard Colesante

OLA Director Richard Colesante, a retired Senior New York State Aquatic Biologist, served as the Oneida Hatchery's director for over twenty years. Colesante wrote this article for the Bulletin in spring of 1985.

The spectacular spawning run of walleyes into Oneida Lake's tributaries prompted the New York State Conservation Department to build a hatchery in 1897. Its major function was walleyed pike propagation for stocking in Oneida and other state waters.

The first hatchery was built on Frederick Creek, a tributary to Scriba Creek in Constantia. The two-story wood frame building had the capacity to incubate 150 million walleye eggs. Motorized equipment was limited then and adult walleyes were taken from nets and rowed to shore. Eggs were stripped from the fish and transported by foot to the hatchery building.

The distance from the egg-taking station to the hatchery was about three-quarters of a mile. Two men were needed to complete each trip because the eggs were carried in large wooden tubs. By the end of the spawning run there was a very well marked path leading to the hatchery.

The old hatchery was used until 1942, when a new facility with more egg incubation and fry holding space was constructed. This building was placed on Scriba Creek, a quarter mile from the lake, and could be reached by boat. Now, eggs were collected and incubated at the same facility and the old Frederick Creek footpath disappeared. The new hatchery could incubate over 400 million eggs.

One of the largest egg takes on record occurred in 1950, when hatchery crews gathered 744 million. During recent years the average has hovered around 300 million.

## OLA Bulletin Highlights From the Past 60 Years

We spent some time examining past Bulletins and extracted these excerpts of OLA history. Some are significant, others trivial, but all reflect integral parts of the Association's life. When thinking of our present and future, it often helps to study our past.

### 1955

The OLA Board of Directors passed a resolution asking the New York State Conservation Department to investigate why Oneida Lake's walleye fishing has been so poor. Additional resolutions petitioned the department to stop the sale of pike and remove carp from the lake.

Robert Landgraff, a longtime game warden who worked the Oneida Lake "beat," was named conservationist of the year.

Top prize for the biggest smallmouth bass in the OLA's annual fishing derby was the "Miss Learbury VII," a 16' Lyman boat donated by Learburys of Syracuse. The boat was valued at \$565. Top prize for the largest walleye was a 10hp Johnson motor, given by Merchants National Bank and Trust, valued at \$315.

June was "bursting out all over" as a huge hatch of eel flies blanketed the lake area.

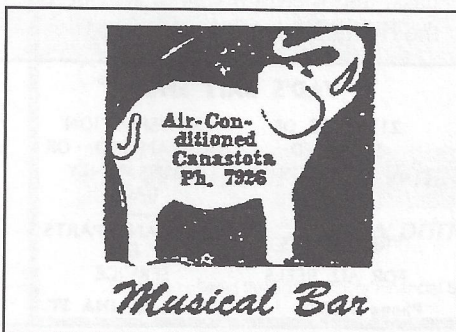
### 1965

Dr. John Forney of the Cornell Field Station and Millard Rogers, OLA President, reported at the annual meeting at Syracuse's War Memorial Auditorium that the lake's walleye population was "holding its own."

Annual dues cost \$1.

Richard Lehne, Oneida Lake Pollution Control Engineer, revealed the results of tests on water taken from the lake and its tributaries over a one-year period. Lehne stated that the condition of Oneida was "good in all respects."

Smith's Bait Shop in Lakeport billed itself as the "home of butter crabs."



### 1975

Several year class failures combined with large harvests dropped the lake's walleye population to 186,000 adults. The OLA supported a Conservation Department rule change that limited anglers to five fish with a minimum 15" length. Ice anglers were restricted to five tip-ups, attended at all times.

Fencing work on the intact part of the Sylvan Beach pier was reported to be on schedule.

Oneida Lake witnessed its first B.A.S.S. derby on the July 4th weekend.

Shan Bissell's homemade bucktail jigs were given to every person who attended the annual meeting.

Betty Aunkst, of Kirkville, won the OLA fishing contest with a 29" walleye. Blanche Miller, of Yorkville, took home the big perch prize with a 14" jack.

### 1985

A lead article in the *Bulletin* dramatized the "gizzard shad invasion" of Oneida Lake. Fishing has been poor.

Concerns were raised about the effect of marketing yellow perch on the overall jack perch population.

The OLA "sounded the cry" for a new hatchery at Constantia. The Association stressed that any new facility should contain an extensive visitors' center.

*Bulletin* articles raised the issue of restoring the Sylvan Beach pier and upgrading the South Shore Boat Launch.

Former OLA President Paul Cramer wrote about the colorful history of Frenchman's Island.

*Bulletin* readers learned how to cook "fish over hot coals" and "saucy fish fillets."



This Schilder cartoon shows that the OLA was still concerned about fish pirates in the 1940s.

### 1995

OLA Director Tony Buffa advised anglers to "go deeper" to find walleyes in a "new" Oneida Lake that had been clarified by zebra mussels' feeding.

Former OLA President Earl Pierson passed away. He was the only person to have been selected twice as conservationist of the year.

Cornell Field Station Director Ed Mills stated that Oneida Lake's valuable sport fishery had an "uncharted future" in the face of challenges from invading species like zebra mussels. Mills stated that the most consistent element within the lake's fishery during the past half-century has been "change itself."

The *Bulletin* contained a brief article about double-crested cormorants. Nothing alarming was reported.

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# Annual Meeting at Cicero-North Syracuse High School

April 27, 2005

By Tony Buffa

The OLA will hold its 60<sup>th</sup> annual meeting at the Cicero-North Syracuse High School auditorium on Wednesday April 27. Come and celebrate six decades of commitment to Oneida Lake's conservation. Doors open at 6 P.M. We recommend early arrival so that you can enjoy our numerous exhibits. You will also be able to enter the Cicero Lions Club Walleye Derby. We are pleased to announce that BassPro has agreed to help with this meeting.

Membership renewals and new sign-ups for the Association will begin at 6:15. You don't have to be a member to attend. We encourage you to join forces with us, however, and help continue our long tradition of being the largest and most active lake association in New York, and perhaps in the entire country.

This year's meeting will begin promptly at 7:00 with a short business session. Our theme is "Let Our Programs Thrive in 2005." Biologists from the DEC, researchers from the Cornell Field Station, and

field technicians from USDA Nuisance Control Unit will update the status of our fishery, the walleye spawning statistics from the Constantia Hatchery, and the cormorant and water chestnut control programs. Speakers will also discuss Oneida Lake's exotic "invaders."

This is a *must* meeting to attend. Come and celebrate our honorees, achievements, and history. Our annual meeting is an unequalled educational, political, and social event.

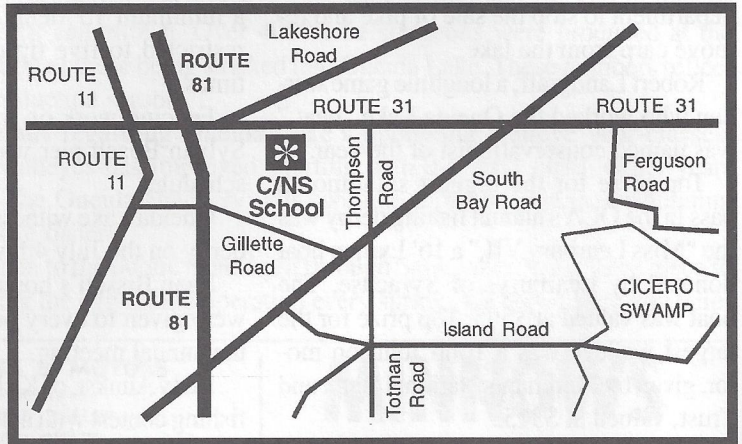
Lake historian and OLA Director Jack Henke will sell and autograph copies of his latest book, *From "The Beach" to Brewerton - Stories of Oneida Lake*.

The OLA needs your support. Come to the meeting. Oneida Lake's environmental integrity is constantly being challenged and a strong OLA is our lake's best defense. Be a part of our lake's past, present and future. Mark your calendars - WEDNESDAY APRIL 27 - 6:00 PM - CICERO NORTH SYRACUSE HIGH SCHOOL.

The Association will also award its prestigious "Conservationist of the Year" plaque to an outstanding supporter of local conservation. The meeting will close with distribution of door prizes and

drawings for three Lowrance iFinder ProPlus GPS units. One winner will be chosen from the audience, the other two from our membership at large.

Please join us for an informative evening of 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.

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## OLA Trivia Quiz

Here's an entertaining touch of OLA trivia for our 60th anniversary. All of the answers can be found in this *Bulletin*. Have fun!

1. Who was the OLA's first president?
2. One of the OLA's early directors was Syracuse newspaper writer John F. Cook. What pseudonym did Cook use?
3. Another OLA director, who also co-owned a sporting goods store, ran for the Assembly in the 1960s. Unfortunately, he lost. Who was he?
4. Name three places in the city of Syracuse that the OLA used for annual meetings.
5. What Syracuse newspaper outdoors writer served on the OLA Board of Directors and edited the *Bulletin*?
6. What was the first major issue that the OLA addressed?
7. The line, "the dollar sign has been removed from an important natural resource," referred to what OLA victory?
8. Name a Syracuse brewing company that regularly advertised in the *Bulletin*.
9. Name a New York State governor who went bass fishing with several OLA officers.
10. What former OLA director once owned W.O. Zischang Co. sporting goods store on North Salina Street?  
(Answers page 10)

## 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.



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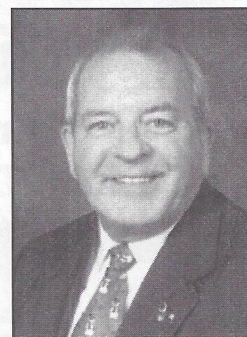
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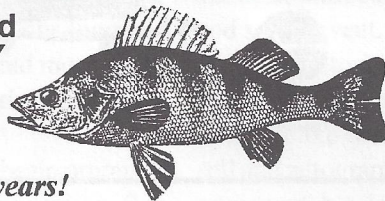
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## Answers

1. Dr. Benjamin Sauer
2. Joe Beamish
3. Millard Rogers
4. Lincoln Auditorium, the War Memorial, and Nottingham High School
5. Fred David
6. pollution
7. The New York State Legislature banned the sale of walleyes.
8. Haberle Congress Brewing Company
9. Nelson Rockefeller
10. Angelo "Juley" Angeloro

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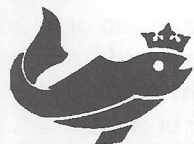
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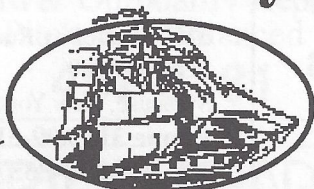
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