

# The Oneida Lake Bulletin

Spring 2011

www.oneidalakeassociation.org

## Cormorant Control Continues as DEC Organizes Volunteer Effort

Eleventh hour action by New York's Department of Environmental Conservation softened the federal blow to Oneida Lake's cormorant control last fall. Faced with Congressional abandonment of this cost-effective, economically vital effort, the OLA turned to the DEC for help and the agency responded by organizing and piloting a volunteer-staffed substitute program that targeted migrating cormorants and resident birds.

The OLA commends project coordinator David Lemon and his DEC staff for their timely, positive response to this critical situation. In addition, the OLA lauds the volunteers who donated their time (and, often, their vessels) to this invaluable effort at protecting Oneida Lake's rich fish community. We are especially grateful to local bass angling clubs and the Eastern Lake Ontario Salmon and Trout Association for turning out their members to support the effort.

Fall's migrating cormorants have historically brought tremendous depredations to the lake's fish populations and the DEC's primary concern was to address this potential loss. Previous autumns' flocks totaling from one to three thousand birds have been documented. Cormorants destroy about a pound of fish per day and quick math shows that these predators could eliminate in excess of a ton of Oneida Lake fish every twenty-four hours. Multiplying these projections by several weeks residency reveals the situation's potential gravity.

OLA publicity for the DEC's hazing training session at Shackelton Point last August attracted nearly sixty volunteers. Successful graduates signed up to harass cormorants in seven "zones" established by the DEC on a lake map. Volunteers hazed birds three days per week; DEC personnel took up the task on two (weekends were sacrificed to recreational boaters and anglers). Cornell Field Station and DEC staff counted cormorants to evaluate the program's effectiveness.

Volunteers recorded cormorant data in logs that DEC technicians tabulated. Biologist David Lemon, the project's coordinator, reported that "a total of 4,763 cormorants were hazed by volunteers for an average of eighty-eight per trip. The maximum number reported during any hazing effort was

350 on September 18." DEC personnel harassed around 1,000 birds during the month, averaging around 120 per outing.

Previous hazing by trained USDA-APHIS professionals involved techniques such as the extensive use of pyrotechnics, placing effigies on nesting islands, continuous daylight chasing, and eliminating more than 100 birds annually. Pyrotechnic "fireworks" have proven to be the most effective means for persuading cormorants to leave. Volunteers, however, fired

only eighty-one pyrotechnic "rounds" during the month-long program and harvested no birds (the DEC's staff removed twenty-three for diet analysis). Biologist Lemon stated that a shortage of pyrotechnics in early September affected the monthly total. A reluctance of volunteers to use the potentially dangerous devices may also have been a factor.

The Cornell Field Station's cormorant diet analysis was encouraging because gizzard shad comprised around 90% of identifiable matter. Oneida Lake produced vast numbers of these forage fish last year, the largest "hatch" since the 1990s. When shad are so abundant, they create a "buffer" that can protect walleyes and yellow perch from cormorant predation.

This natural shield couldn't have appeared at a better time, since peak cormorant migration occurred after the volunteer hazing program ended on October 4. Whereas September's daily bird counts averaged less than two hundred, cormorant numbers skyrocketed to well over a thousand in October. If the lake's shad buffer held, that "gizzard shield" protected walleye and yellow perch populations. If it didn't, we might expect the return of the recent past's horrific death tolls, when two-thirds of walleye year classes and hundreds of thousands of yellow perch fell victim to cormorants, ravaging not only this invaluable fish community but also the Oneida Lake region's angler-oriented economy.

Rest assured that the OLA's legislative efforts to restore the federal program that has worked so well in the past will continue unabated. As to the creativity and moxie shown by DEC and last fall's hazing volunteers, the OLA says, "Well done!"

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# President's Message

## To the OLA Membership:

Thank you - from the bottom of my family's hearts.

After looking back at my years as OLA president, two words immediately come to mind - "Thank you!" My gratitude runs deep and it's a family feeling as well. Appreciation flows from my young son Ben, the budding angler, and from his grandfather Kurt, who beams with pride at every fish Ben catches. And we know that our family shares this gratitude with every Oneida laker who cares about the future of our priceless body of water.

Budget crunches and inattentive government plagued the OLA during the past two years, but in the face of these challenges, I was mightily impressed with the hard work that you - the OLA membership - accomplished to preserve our lake. No one who understands the sixty-six year history of the Oneida Lake Association should be surprised by the caring and passion that our members regularly demonstrate.

This passion and power, however, certainly shocked a former Congressman, serving notice that we remain the lake's political, as well as environmental, guardians.

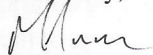
Cormorant control is a historically important issue for all of us. Our goal - the restoration of our federal control program - remains unfulfilled, but we have made progress and are starting to get the right kinds of attention from Albany and Washington.

In conclusion, to those who have written thousands of letters and emails and made thousands of phone calls - "thank you" from the bottom of my heart. To the OLA's greater community whose decisive actions at the ballot box spoke loudly and clearly last fall, a "thank you" to all. And to those special volunteers who burned gasoline and time for last fall's DEC-organized cormorant hazing, a further "thanks."

Daunting tasks loom in the immediate future. Thousands of people count on us to meet the challenges. Considering our members' accomplishments during these last two years, I am confident that the association's enduring vigilance will continue to guard Oneida Lake.

Have a glorious spring and summer. We'll see you on the lake.

Sincerely,



Matt Snyder

President, Oneida Lake Association

## OLA Takes Position on Bass Seasons

At press time, the OLA board of directors learned that the New York State DEC Region 7 administration is advancing a proposal on behalf of tournament bass angling groups that would open Oneida Lake to additional "catch and release" bass fishing from ice-out to the traditional May walleye opener.

When this regulation was introduced in 2006, the OLA supported a compromise that opened catch and release bass fishing at the same time as the walleye opener. We viewed any further liberalization as an unnecessary threat to walleyes, the fish that account for the vast majority of anglers' efforts on Oneida Lake.

Your OLA directors are bass anglers, too, and all of them appreciate that the regulation would add an additional one to four weeks to that season. However, these weeks fall *exactly* when walleyes spawn - when walleyes are *incredibly vulnerable* to being caught. The OLA does not believe that the benefits from a little more bass fishing outweigh the potential damages that heightened angling pressures can inflict on spawning walleyes.

Oneida Lake is New York's most special fishery, and it deserves special regulations. The DEC will be opening a public comment period soon and we encourage our members to voice their opinions.

## 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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## OLA Member Alert!

Governor Cuomo's proposed budget cuts marine law enforcement patrols on Oneida Lake - a negative move at a critical time. In response, the Oswego County Sheriff's office said that this loss of funds could constrict their Oneida Lake patrols. OLA members should call the governor's office at (518) 474-8390 to remind him how important these patrols are for the safety and enjoyment of the lake. Contacting our area's assemblymen and senators can also help the cause.

# The OLA Fishing Corner

## Walleyes for the Landlocked

by Jack Henke

Walleye fishing at Oneida Lake is far from a “boats only” proposition. Anglers enjoy consistently reasonable, and sometimes spectacular, successes at places that offer shore access. The following spots are time-tried producers in the Oneida Lake walleye game, every one worthy of consideration for those confined to land.

1. The Sylvan and Verona Beach “piers.” The concrete banks along the Barge Canal in this East Shore village attract thousands of anglers and opening day of walleye season finds large crowds lining the “piers.” Many arrive well before midnight to secure their favorite spots. Bucktail jigs, Sonars, and other bottom-bouncing lures are very popular, although night fishers often do well using Rapalas and similar “crankbaits.” Those preferring crawlers or dug worms regularly land jack and white perch in early May, as well as walleyes. You’ll see anglers moving along the wall as they “walk a worm” near the bottom. Some pier veterans net “sand pike” minnows along the concrete and iron walls and use these proven walleye-takers to great effect.

2. “Cozy Corner,” Verona Beach. New York State owns land on the south side of the Barge Canal, where it enters Oneida Lake. Anglers often park near the Verona Beach canal walls and walk west, following the canal. Chest waders afford access to shallow flats that parallel the canal. Jigs and crankbaits produce good catches of walleyes here. A word of caution, however - the canal’s bottom drops off and waders must be careful.

In case you’re wondering, the place name “Cozy Corner” originated decades ago when this spot was popular with teen-agers parkers.

3. Cove Road Bridge, Barge Canal, east of Sylvan Beach. Turn east on Oneida

Street by the Spaghetti Factory Restaurant. Drive about a mile until the road forks. Bear left and you’ll arrive at the bridge. Limited parking is available on each side of the canal. The walking, atop piles of dredging on the south side, can be tricky.

This area, near Fish Creek’s mouth, holds walleyes, panfish, and the occasional brown trout (the creek is amply stocked in its upper reaches).

4. Fish Creek. While no public access exists in the lower reaches of this major Oneida Lake tributary, landowners often allow anglers to fish on opening weekend. You’ll find the crowds as you drive along the stream. Jig fishing is most popular, but bait lovers often score well with perch.

Remember - you’re fishing here because of another’s courtesy. The saying “trash in, trash out” applies; if you find someone else’s mess, remove it. You’ll be welcomed on another day.

*Note - Fish Creek is closed to angling until opening day of walleye season to protect spawning fish.*

5. Godfrey Point, Route 49, east of Cleveland. Shore casters, fishing at night, experience success at this North Shore boat launch. Fall angling can be spectacular, but walleyes patrol the lake’s rocky edges in spring, too. Use floating or shallow-running crankbaits. Black/silver and shad finishes are proven attractors. A good pair of chest waders helps, but some anglers cast off the shore.

6. Cleveland Harbor, Route 49, Cleveland. The state maintains a small parking area at this bay, nestled by App’s Landing. The marina’s bait and tackle shop can

provide pertinent angling information.

7. Taft Bay Park, Town of Constantia, Route 49, east of Constantia. Night fishers enjoy this public area. Chest waders are highly recommended.

8. New York State Fish Cultural Station, Constantia. Walleye anglers fish Scriba Creek above and below the hatchery, and many try the pool by the creek’s dam, located a couple hundred yards north.

*Note - like Fish Creek, Scriba is closed to angling until walleye season opens.*

9. Three Mile Bay State Access Site, McCloud Road, West Monroe. Turn south on Toad Harbor Road and drive until you reach McCloud. Follow the latter to the public access site. Night fishing is most popular here, necessitating chest waders.

10. Brewerton Public Fishing Sites. Two spots permit access to the lake along the Route 81 Bridge. Ample parking exists at both. A lot off Bartel Road (the Brewerton exit of Route 81) serves the southern site, while anglers get to the northern spot from Oswego County Route 37 (“CORT 37” on the signs). Night fishing yields the most walleyes and you won’t need waders at either place.

11. South Shore Boat Launch, between Bridgeport and Lakeport, north of Route 31. A New York State sign, pictured with this article, marks the road to this public access site. Like Godfrey Point, the launch will be busy during daylight hours, but at night wading fishers casting crankbaits catch walleyes. Anglers, using worms on the bottom, often entice bullheads.

12. Chapman Park Pier, at the park, Town of Sullivan, Route 31, between Bridgeport and Lakeport. Sullivan opened this beautiful fishing pier last year and it will be popular on opening weekend. The park contains tennis courts, soccer fields, and a picnic area/pavilion. Call 315-687-3471 for information about hours and user fees.



# Oneida Lake in 2011

by the Cornell Field Station Staff

Oneida Lake has a long history of providing diverse opportunities to those fortunate enough to enjoy time on or near it. A recent survey conducted by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation found the lake to be second only to Lake Ontario in the amount of fishing effort it attracted – a testament to the quality of the lake’s fisheries. Direct expenditures on fishing bring more than twelve million dollars a year into Oneida Lake communities, proving the lake to not only be a natural treasure, but an economic asset as well.

Some 60-70% of the angling on Oneida is directed at walleyes, long the lake’s marquee fishery, but yellow perch and bass also provide excellent fishing and attract many to the lake’s waters. Scientists at the Cornell Biological Field Station have been monitoring Oneida Lake for over fifty years and appreciate the opportunity to share with readers of *The Bulletin* an update on the “state of the lake” in 2011.

## The Oneida Lake Education Initiative

The future of the lake lies in the hands of those who follow us, and through education we hope to ensure that Oneida will enjoy the appreciation and protection of future generations. Inspired by this philosophy, the Cornell Field Station staff started an outreach education program known as the “Oneida Lake Education Initiative” in 2008. The OLA, New York Sea Grant, Cornell Cooperative Extension, and the Central New York Planning and Development Board partnered with us in this project.

This effective program brings Oneida Lake into the classroom by using [www.oneidalakeinfo.org](http://www.oneidalakeinfo.org) and a teacher-training element to spread scientifically based information that enhances the understanding of the lake and its watershed. Our program reaches students and teachers in six districts from all the counties bordering the lake. Response has been enthusiastic

and we hope the program will help secure Oneida Lake’s place in the hearts of local communities’ future leaders.

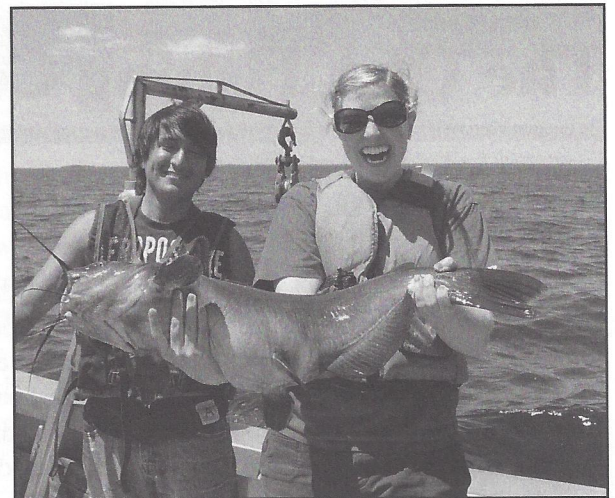
Access our website and savor the initiative’s offerings!

## Walleye Population Increases

In recent years, our surveys of adult walleyes indicated a population fluctuating between 350,000 and 450,000 fish. Last year, we conducted a mark-recapture population estimate that put the number of adult walleyes at just under 500,000. This number is well above levels observed from 1994 through 2003, when the population experienced severe declines.

While walleye numbers are still lower than in the earliest years of our studies, the population is capable of generating angler catch rates as high as they were when walleyes were more abundant. The quality of fishing on Oneida Lake has not suffered – it remains one of the premiere walleye lakes in New York State. This year’s walleye population should be able to sustain current harvest levels into the near future, but we are concerned with the poor survival of fish hatched from 2007 through 2009. On average, walleye year classes over the last decade contributed around 50,000 fish to the lake annually, roughly the same number as harvested in a good fishing year. We have seen consistently poor survival of “young of the year” walleyes for the past three seasons, so increases in anglers’ catches could lead to declines in walleye numbers.

In 2011, we will initiate an “angler interview program” at lake boat launches to monitor walleye catch and harvest rates. If one of our clerks approaches you, please take a few minutes to answer their



Cornell interns Jose Oyola and Katie Halpin enjoy a catfish.

questions because this helps us better understand current trends in the walleye fishery and helps ensure that quality fishing opportunities continue.

## Yellow Perch Numbers Constant

The yellow perch population continues to hover around 900,000 to 1,000,000 adult fish. These numbers, like the walleye population, remain below levels observed from the 1950s to 1980s. We suspect that changes in the lake associated with establishment of zebra mussels have reduced the survival of very young yellow perch, and for the immediate future we expect abundance to remain below long-term averages. Anglers can still enjoy good yellow perch catch rates, and “jacks” should continue to be a staple of the ice fishery.

## Smallmouth Bass Thrive

Our catches of smallmouth bass continue to indicate a population that is as much as three times larger than before the mid-1980s. Angler catch rates of bass are among the best in the state. The lake now hosts over sixty tournaments annually, many for out of state groups. Bass fishing in Oneida Lake attracts national attention and provides a welcome boost to the local economy.

**Don't Forget Annual Meeting - WEDNESDAY - April 20**  
**CNS High School**

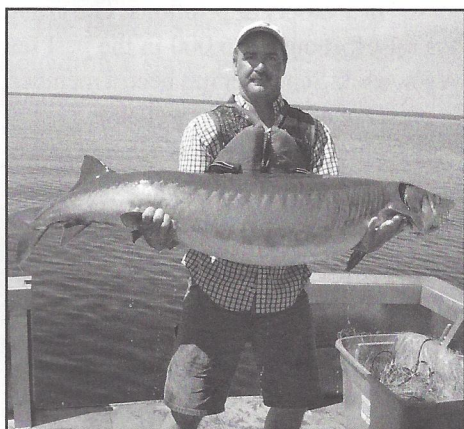
## A White Perch Abundance

These aggressive fish continue to be very plentiful. In two of the last four years, our catches of white perch in standard nettings exceeded those of yellow perch, suggesting that white perch are one of the most abundant fish in the lake. These delicious fish are easy to catch and provide an excellent additional fishing opportunity. Seek them out and take advantage of their abundance.

## Sturgeons Grow

Lake sturgeon stocked between 1995 and 2004 continue to thrive in Oneida Lake. In 2010, we caught an eighty-five pound sturgeon in our nets, the largest we have seen thus far. Sturgeons do not mature until fairly late in life, and we have only seen mature males to date. When the females start to mature, we hope to have the opportunity to assess the ability of Oneida Lake's sturgeons to establish a self-sustaining population.

Remember that the sturgeon is listed as a "threatened" species in New York State and must be immediately released if caught. We placed tags in many of these fish and encourage anglers to phone us if they land one. Please record the catch's location, the fish's tag number, and call 315-633-9243.



Biologist Tom Brooking lifts an eighty-five pound sturgeon.

## Other Fish

As shoreline vegetation spreads in the clearer water conditions brought about by zebra mussels, so have our catches of fishes typically associated with shallow, vegetated habitats. We continue to see more largemouth bass, pumpkinseed sunfish, gar, pickerel, and bowfins in our samples, all signs that the "near shore fish community" is expanding in response to the increase in their preferred habitats.

## In Conclusion...

As we enter the summer of 2011, the Field Station staff expects Oneida Lake to continue to offer diverse, high quality fishing and recreational opportunities for all who visit. The lake will remain a vital

part of our region's economy even while it adjusts to the changes that have occurred over the past decades. With clearer water, brought about by the establishment of exotic mussels, and expanding vegetation, Oneida is a different lake than in the 1970s and 1980s, but it endures as one of the area's most valuable natural resources.

While we rate the health of the lake as "very good," Oneida remains an ecosystem in the midst of major changes. Indeed, biological change has become the norm for this important regional asset. All who value Oneida Lake must work together to protect it and we will continue to monitor the lake's health in order to help reach that goal.

## Necrology: Charles "Chuck" Rogers, 1921-2010

The Oneida Lake Association joins the greater Brewerton community in mourning the passing of Charles "Chuck" Rogers, co-founder of the former Brewerton Bait (Sports) Shop and a recipient of the association's "Conservationist of the Year" award.

Chuck and his brother Millard established the Brewerton Bait Shop on the corner of Route 11 and Library Street in 1946. The store soon became an unequalled headquarters for serious Oneida Lake West End anglers. Tens of thousands of lake enthusiasts relied on the Rogers family for outdoor sporting supplies and, perhaps more important, fishing and hunting advice. Chuck and Millard and, later, Chuck's son Steve, fielded hundreds of inquiries every week with a refreshing honesty.

Born and educated in Brewerton, Chuck Rogers enlisted in the Army Air Corps during World War II. A community-conscious man, he served as chief of the Brewerton Fire Department and was a director of the Hiawatha Council of the Boy Scouts for twenty-five years. His love for the outdoors led him to active memberships in the Lake Forest Sportsmen's Club, the Central Square Rod and Gun Club, and the OLA. Chuck loved to talk about Oneida Lake and his rich memories of the lake's past were recorded for posterity by Fred David in the *Post-Standard* and by Jack Henke in *From the Beach to Brewerton*.

Chuck leaves his wife Gloria, his daughter Susan, and three sons: John, Don, and Steven. In addition, he leaves three grandchildren, one great-grandchild, and a sister-in-law, Ruth, who was Millard's wife.

Chuck Rogers' life embodied what some call the "greatest generation in Oneida Lake's history," a group of hard-working Upstate New Yorkers who toughed through the Depression, fought and won World War II and the Cold War, and built solid, middle-class communities for their families and friends. These folks respected the lake, lived their lives amidst its bounty, and preserved its riches for our generation today. Chuck Rogers' life's work gave our Oneida Lake lives a firmer foundation and for this every OLA member, every Oneida Laker, should be deeply thankful.

## Sylvan Beach Undergoes Dramatic Facelift

by Jack Henke

Around 1900, advertisements portrayed Sylvan Beach as an “inland Coney Island” with “five miles of the best bathing beaches in the world.” The sands elongated from Kyser Beach, between Upper South Bay and Oneida Creek, to Edgewater Beach, at North Bay. Photos clearly document a long, wide beach that became a powerful magnet for thousands of tourists who were flushed with cash from America’s gilded industrial revolution.

Time, however, witnessed that beach’s gradual erosion, largely brought about by the effects of New York State’s Barge Canal project. The situation fascinated Eugene Domack, professor of geology at Hamilton College, who studied Oneida Lake’s beaches and bottom sediments with his undergraduates. Domack concluded that, under current conditions, the lake’s East Shore beaches would not naturally replenish themselves (this regularly occurred prior to canal construction). The geologist maintained that any beach augmentation could materialize only through human efforts.

Acting on that advice, Sylvan Beach’s village government applied for and received a grant for around \$350,000 from the federal government’s “Local Waterfront Revitalization Program” (Title 11 of the Environmental Protection Fund for beach stabilization). Federal permits allow the village to rebuild its beach with sand taken from canal dredging deposited along Oneida Street and Cove Road in Verona Beach. The permits, which run from 2010 through 2015, limit beach work to September 15 through March 15. Oneida Lake’s annual fall-winter drawdown makes that a prime time for shoreline alterations.

Joseph Benedict, Sylvan Beach’s Village Administrator, told *The Bulletin* staff that the finished beach would measure about 140 feet wide and stretch from the bathhouse to just beyond 19th Avenue, a length of around 3,400 feet. When the project is completed, Benedict stated, the village would apply for permits to maintain the beach at the

restored dimensions.

The OLA applauds Sylvan Beach’s effort at enhancing the Oneida Lake environment.



Sylvan Beach in 2006, before the restoration project began.

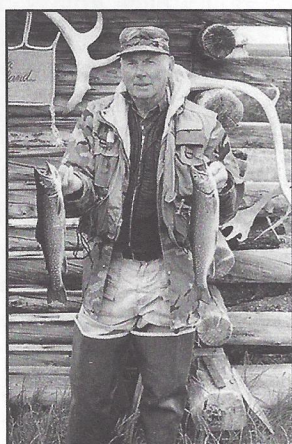


The beach in 2010, near the restaurant-amusement area.

## OLA Director Bill Schriever Honored

*The Bulletin* proudly reports that the *Syracuse Post-Standard* recently named veteran Director William “Bill” Schriever a “Central New York Hero of Conservation.” Dave Figura, the paper’s outdoors editor, characterized Bill as a “dedicated local individual who has made and continues to make substantial differences” in the Central New York environment.

Bill served as the OLA’s president when the cormorant crisis broke in 1999 and his steadying influence contributed mightily to the organization’s initial successes. He has chaired numerous OLA committees



and continues to make significant contributions.

Editor Figura summarized Schriever’s conservation life:

“William Schriever, of West Monroe, loves Oneida Lake and has given countless volunteer hours to prove it.

Schriever has been past president, vice president, and secretary of the more than 4,000-member Oneida Lake Association and serves on the

board of directors. In addition, he has volunteered as a guide at the DEC’s walleye hatchery in Constantia.

Schriever has also been an active member in the local Ducks Unlimited chapter (Oneida Lake North Shore), where he has

served in a variety of positions. The group has raised about \$125,000 in the past ten years, while Schriever has been a member, to preserve and enhance wetlands.

In addition, he served as a hunter safety instructor for twenty-five years, has volunteered many years to stock trout from the Carpenter’s Brook Fish Hatchery, has worked with the Boy Scouts, and is a longtime member of the Northshore Sportsmen’s Association.

Schriever is also certified as a ‘master forest owner’ by the Cornell Cooperative Extension and has assisted many forest owners in the sale of their timber.”

The OLA congratulates Director Bill Schriever on this richly deserved recognition.

# Annual Meeting at Cicero-North Syracuse High School

WEDNESDAY, April 20, 2011

OLA members - it's annual meeting time again and this year's event promises to be an excellent "evening with the lake." We scheduled it for Wednesday April 20, at 7 p.m. at the Cicero-North Syracuse High School auditorium. Try to get there early because we've booked some fascinating displays. In addition, membership desks in the lobby will process renewals and recruit new supporters for the OLA.

What can you expect at this year's annual meeting?

Anticipate experiencing some intriguing exhibits, chatting with very timely vendors, and...

Update your tackle box at the Gander Mountain, of Cicero, and Bass Pro Shops, of Auburn, tables. These outdoors' giants plan to market some of the latest walleye-fooling lures, and the technology to present them, at our meeting.

The Atlantic Salmon - Fish Creek Club's display plunges viewers into that group's attempt to restore these native fish to the Oneida Lake watershed. You can prep for this intriguing exhibit by visiting the club's website at [www.fish-creeksalmon.org](http://www.fish-creeksalmon.org).

The United State Coast Guard Power Squadron's show promotes their "safe boating through education" crusade. Even veteran Oneida Lake navigators can learn valuable "rules of the road" at their booth.

You can delve into Oneida Lake's past at Jack Henke's history table, which includes many photographic enlargements of vintage scenes. Jack also sells copies of his latest Oneida Lake history book.

The animals almost move and the fish swim at Rod Babowicz's "Creative Taxidermy" exhibit. You'll

enjoy the incredibly life-like mounts that Rod, from Oneida, creates.

Exhibits aside, the OLA's annual meeting is about *information* - relevant, current data about Oneida Lake's biological health. This meeting's speakers are there to serve you - our members - and answer your questions. This year's meeting's theme is "Oneida Lake: the Continuing Cormorant Challenge" and this topic will receive detailed attention. Our speakers' lineup includes:

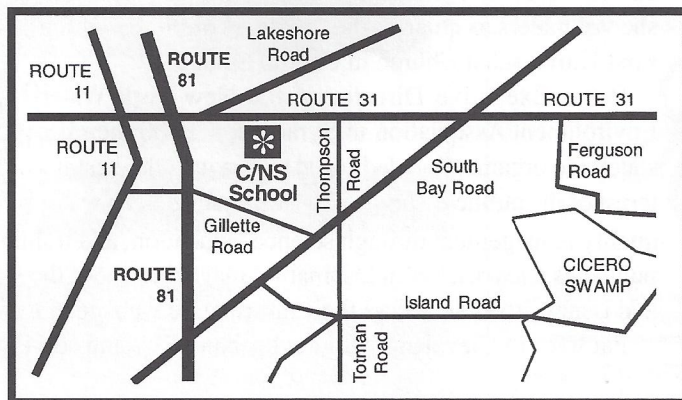
DEC officials, who will discuss last fall's volunteer harassment program and their plans to continue the effort through this season.

Dr. Randy Jackson of the Cornell Field Station, who will analyze trends in the lake's fish populations. Check out Cornell's fine article in this *Bulletin* for a preview.

Director of the Oneida Fish Cultural Station Mark Babenzien, who will report on this year's walleye "egg take" and the hatchery's summer program.

Dave White, who will present details about Cornell's Oneida Lake Education Initiative, a lively endeavor that brings the lake's biology into area schools.

Two drawings for GPS units will highlight the meeting's "door prize segment." Only attendees will be eligible for one drawing, while the OLA membership at large will be included in another. Among last year's donors to our door prize



potpourri were Gander Mountain, Bass Pro Shops, Mickey's Bait and Tackle, and River Rat Bait and Tackle.

OLA members - let's pack the CNS auditorium for this important meeting! And, while you're making plans to attend, ask one of your friends to accompany you. Let them know what the OLA does. Sign them up as a member. You'll reap a stronger friendship and a more powerful OLA as a result.

Your board of directors looks forward to seeing you at the meeting. Mark your calendars - April 20 - 6:00 - OLA - CNS.

## Notice of Board of Directors' Elections

Attention OLA members! Don't miss your chance to vote at the 2011 annual meeting, to be held Wednesday, April 20 at Cicero-North Syracuse High School auditorium. Members in good standing who attend the meeting will have the opportunity to vote on the following slate of seven OLA members who are seeking election to three-year terms on the OLA's Board of Directors: Paul Metot, Edward Mills, Richard Percival, Bruce Schantz, Scott Shupe, Parker J. Stone, Tony Van De Valk.

## 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.

## Oneida Hatchery Update

by Carl Rathje, Assistant Manager

Our hatchery is gearing up for another year of raising walleyes, paddlefish, lake sturgeon, and round whitefish. We've mended our nets and overhauled our outboard motors. We hired seasonal fish culturists to collect over 300 million walleye eggs. And now we await spring's thaw, which usually occurs in early April

Last year, our hatchery's staff netted 23,000 adult walleyes and collected 315 million eggs. We stocked over 173 million fry into Oneida Lake, and another thirty-two million into additional New York waters. We raised 260,000 walleye fingerlings and placed them in seven state lakes. Finally, we enriched the Black River's fishery with 20,000 advanced fall fingerlings.

We provided New York's South Otselic and Chautauqua hatcheries with fry and they reared about 300,000 two-inch wall-eye fingerlings for stocking in our state's



The annual walleye "run" crowds the hatchery.

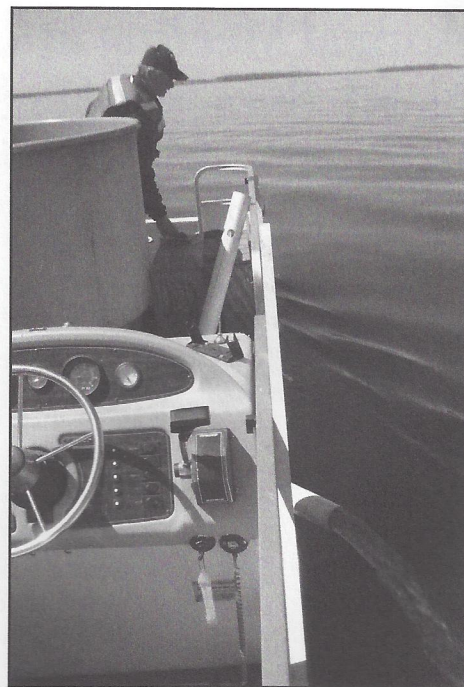
### Check Out the OLA On-Line

Visit the OLA's website ([www.oneidalakeassociation.org](http://www.oneidalakeassociation.org)) for the most comprehensive, updated information about current issues affecting the lake and its environs. You can read old *Bulletins*, share pertinent photos, and even ask questions at this excellent site. An OLA director will answer your inquiries or channel you in the right direction to research any lake-oriented curiosity.

waters. This effort will continue in 2011. No walleyes produced by our facility traveled to other states.

This year, our hatchery plans to collect around 300 million walleye eggs. From these, we intend to stock over 200 million fry, 350,000 two-inch fingerlings, and 100,000 advanced five-inch fingerlings. We are very proud of our stocking efforts' track records. Our lake sturgeon stocking has succeeded in Oneida Lake, the Finger Lakes, and the Saint Lawrence River. Our paddlefish program thrives in the Allegheny River system, while round whitefish now swim in several of their native Adirondack lakes. We continue experimenting with enriched fish foods to abet growth and survival of cool water species such as walleyes.

We welcome visitors to the hatchery. We're open seven days a week, from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., April 1 through September 1. Please call us in advance (315-623-7311) to check on our activities. Spring's walleye "run," in early April, brings the most action. You can often observe walleyes and other fish swimming in Scriba Creek from our observation deck. Our building's lobby



Hatchery technicians stock walleye fry in the middle of Oneida Lake.

contains vibrant visual and audio displays, as well as mounted Oneida Lake fish and waterfowl.

Indications point to an excellent upcoming fishing season for Oneida Lake anglers. We at the hatchery wish "tight lines" to all and remind *The Bulletin's* readers that, because of facilities like ours, "fishing is great in New York State!"

### Patricia Cerro-Reehil Named to OLA Board

The Oneida Lake Association warmly welcomes Patricia Cerro-Reehil as the newest member of its board of directors.

"Pat" graduated from Green Mountain College in Poultney, Vermont, and Empire State College. She is a former president of the Cleveland Historical Society and also serves on that group's board of directors. In addition, she volunteers as chair of the spiritual committee of the First Universalist Church in Central Square.

Pat is Executive Director of the New York Water Environment Association in Syracuse, a 2,500 member statewide organization dedicated to serving "the best interest of the public by promoting sustainable clean water quality management through science, education, and training." The organization publishes *Clearwaters*, a fascinating magazine about the state's water resources and issues. You can access their informative website at [nywea.org](http://nywea.org).

Pat lives in Cleveland with her husband Roy and son Ethan.

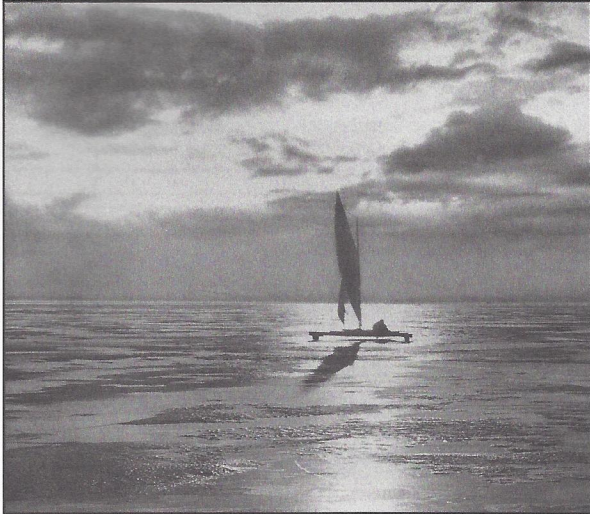




# Oneida Lake Photo History Quiz - Name That Oneida Lake Sport!

The sporting life on our lake has changed over time. Examine these photos from the lake's past. With what sport is each image associated?

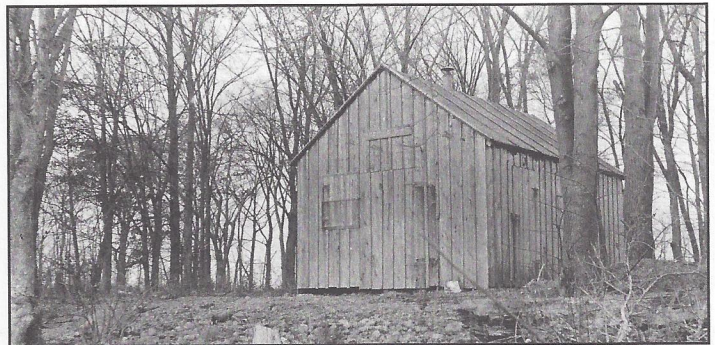
Answers are listed below.



1

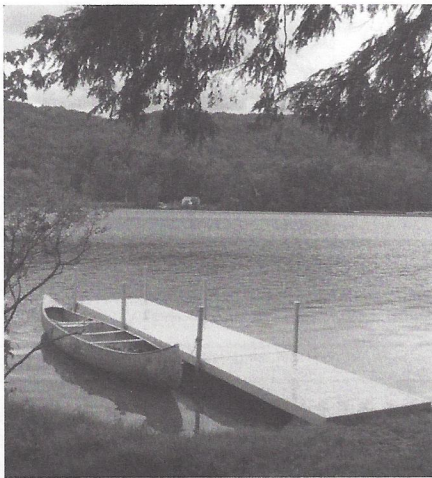


2



3

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### History Quiz Answers

1. Ice boating, west of Sylvan Beach.
2. Dog sled racing near Frenchman's and Dunham's Islands.
3. A duck hunter's cabin, Long Point.



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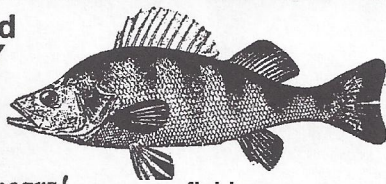
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New York State  
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Sturgeon in Oneida Lake and nearby waters may be tagged. Biologists at Cornell University and NYSDEC need your help to track these fish. Yellow tags may be attached at the base of 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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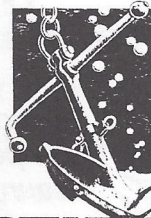
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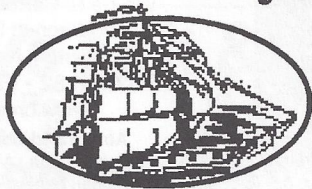
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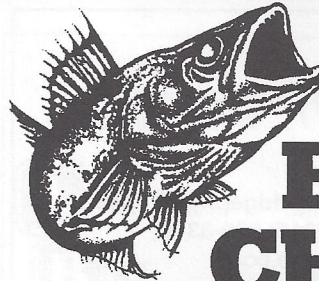
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