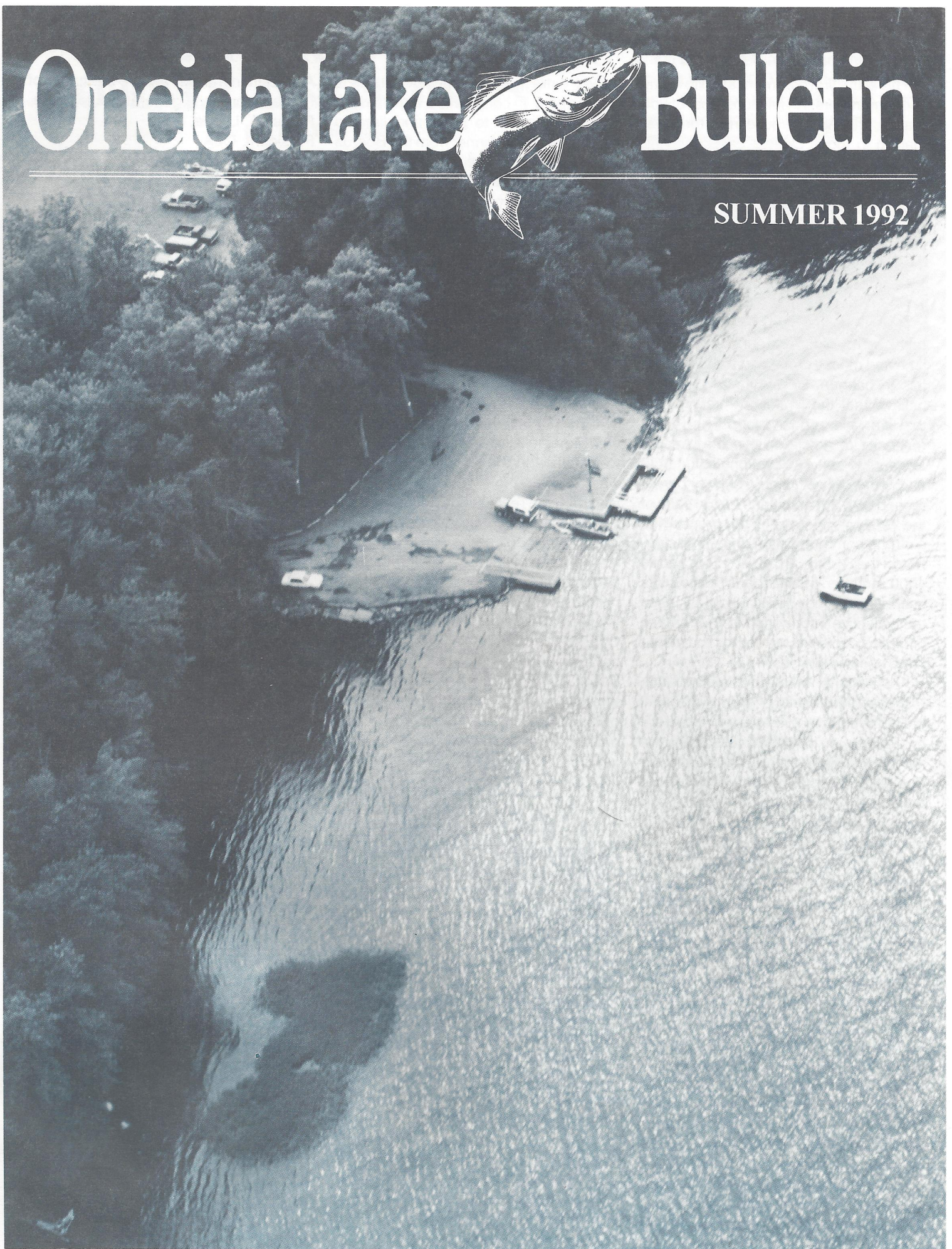


Oneida Lake Bulletin

SUMMER 1992



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This is the first communication to many of our members. As I'm sure most of you realize, the August bulletin is the first mailing to those Oneida Lake Association (OLA) members that joined for the 1992 calendar year. The next in the OLA series of mailings will be the "State of the Lake" message in December 1992. The third and final publication that the 1992 membership will receive will be the April 1993 bulletin which will coincide with the 1993 Annual Meeting.

Although we would like to do more in relation to mailings and publications, both time and money constraints will not allow this to happen. However, the directors believe that the limited communication that is in place does work. The recent response to articles within the bulletin, answers to survey questions at the boat and sport shows, along with the great response to the questions on the back of the 1992 membership cards proves that a strong communication does exist between the OLA Board of Directors and its 4000 members. The Board of Directors encourages your individual input and uses the collective information to try to make informed decisions in regards to Oneida Lake and its environs.

As a matter of information, we have published the results of the most recent environmental survey, as well as the overall responses to the questions on the back of the membership cards. I encourage all of our members to review these responses, as they will help you better understand your OLA Board's position on many of the issues affecting Oneida Lake. Again, our position has and will continue to be to support the direction that the MAJORITY of our members choose and hope that where some members oppose the Board's views that they understand that we, the OLA directors, are not supporting our own self interests.

Relative to the bulletin itself, many of our returning members have commented on the new bulletin style. For the new members, our bulletin committee, headed by James Scherzi has put in extensive hours trying to improve the quality of the OLA bulletin, while keeping the costs within the previously established budget. The last publication was the first released on the higher quality paper. Through suggestions from many of our readers, we have enlarged the type size and in-

serted extra pages. The new bulletins appearance, in conjunction with its ease of mailing, costs to print, and time to layout makes it a winner from the Board's perspective. With the members recommendations carried out, I believe we achieved the ultimate objectives and owe a great deal of gratitude to James Scherzi and the bulletin committee.

This particular bulletin was put together purposefully to carry a theme. It is centered on the enjoyment that Oneida Lake continues to bring to all of us. Whether we are young or old, the quality of enjoyment abounds within the waters and shorelines of this valued resource. As we continue our trek into the depths of summer, I hope all of our members are enjoying the lake in their own special way. Although the fishings been somewhat slow and the weekends half filled with rain, the real Oneida Lakers are still finding plenty of opportunities to relax and enjoy its splendors.

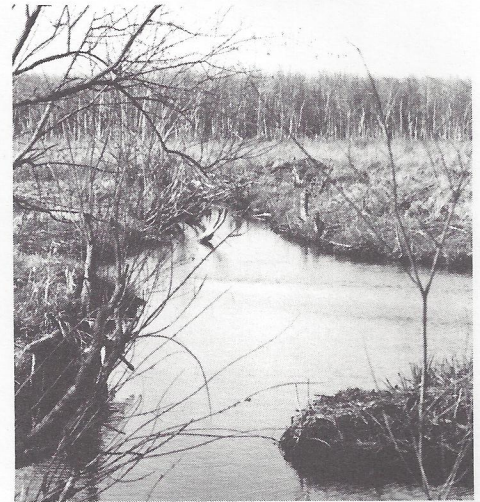
Between swimming, fishing, boating and sunbathing, literally thousands of people, every weekend, are utilizing Central New York's most valuable resources, ONEIDA LAKE. Certainly, as most of you have experienced, the holiday weekends brings about activities that double and triple the capacity of Oneida Lakers. Many of the "Oneida Lake Things To Do" are outlined for your convenience in this bulletin's various articles.

As you are out there harvesting that special type of fun Oneida Lake specifically offers you, please be careful and considerate. Remember, Oneida Lake should not be taken for granted, it's up to all of us not only to enjoy it, but to protect it and respect it. It is supporting the ideas and values of the Oneida Lake

Association that will assure the future of this lake for many generations to come.
Patrick A. Leone, Jr.
President, OLA

Toad Harbor Wildlife Management Area

by Joe Mastriano



Over the past year, the OLA has received several complaints regarding extremely low water levels in the Toad Harbor Swamp. A beaver dam that controls the water level of the swamp failed leaving the swamp essentially dry for the past two years. The condition of the wetland is of great concern to the OLA due to its importance in providing breeding habitat for waterfowl and northern pike. One of the few remaining wetlands that is contiguous with the lake (via the channel on the west side), the protection of this area is of prime concern. Earlier this year, your OLA president forwarded a letter to the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation to express our concern over this situation and our desire for remedial actions.

ONEIDA LAKE ASSOCIATION, INC. FOUNDED 1945

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

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ONEIDA LAKE WALLEYE OPENER...DISAPPOINTING

by Capt. Tony Buffa

What a difference a year makes! Just ask any Oneida Lake angler to compare the '91 and '92 walleye openers and you'll probably get a dissertation on the word "opposites". And that it was! How could two juxtaposed opening seasons be so different?



For starters, Spring forgot to arrive on time and when it finally appeared by mid-May someone had forgotten to tell the walleyes. An extremely cold March and April accounted for very late walleye spawning, which left myriads of walleyes in the tributaries on opening day. By comparison, the '91 opener would be the complete antithesis of the '92 debacle. And what a misfortune it was!

When NYS Department of Environmental Conservation considered the possibility of closing all Oneida Lake tributaries to fishing, until there was significant evidence that most of the walleyes had spawned, I breathed a sigh of relief. Unfortunately, the decision to leave the tributaries open was greatly influenced by warm weather, the week prior to the opening date, and the rest is history.

Very few walleyes had returned to the lake. The motherlode remained stream bound and had little chance of completing the annual rite of spring. The misfortune in all of this is only recognized when you look at the big picture and not just the snapshot of opening day.

Consider, that the usual egg take at the Constantia Walleye hatchery did not occur in '92 and that the probability of a natural hatch would be slim due to opportunities stream angling, and you have two negatives that don't make a positive. Add to this inequality, any delay in the construction of the new walleye hatchery, which would then preclude any egg taking in '93 and you have a problem of cataclysmic proportions.

Enough negative speculation for now, lets get on with the fishing season. So where are the walleyes now, and why are they so difficult to catch? Undoubt-

edly, the easy angling of '91 has been replaced by challenging angling in '92. There are fewer and definitely more stubborn walleyes than we've had in awhile. It is taking longer drifts to locate a few willing walleyes. Thus far, the deep water has yielded but a fraction of the overall catch, whereas last year at this time, the lion's share came from depths of 30 and 40 feet. Most of this season's walleyes appear to be scattered along the shoreline, inward of 8 feet. Some succumb to the jig, others to a trolled #7 Rapala in the black/silver finish.

Night fishing has been more productive than daytime angling. Most evening catches are coming from the shallows, 4 to 3 feet. Casting floating Rapalas in the chartreuse finish has been reliable. Lewis Point, Larkin Point, Shackletons Point and the mouth of Chittenango Creek are the most consistent locations to date.

Why are the walleyes so stubborn during the daytime? Even though most of the gizzard shad have died off, a mega-hatch of emerald shiners, (buckeyes) is keeping the walleye community well fed. Most feeding occurs nocturnally, and with enough success so as to minimize daytime foraging. So if you wish to maximize walleye catchability then flaunt your fervor at night.

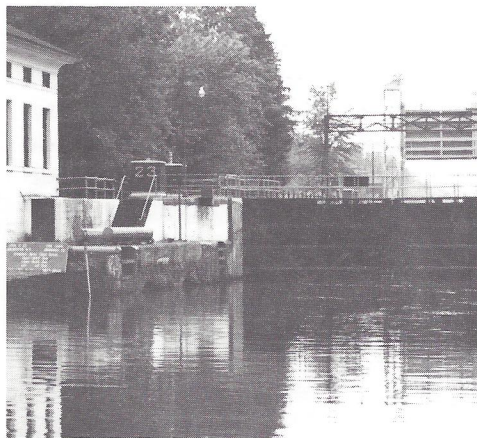
The period of time just before nightfall is certainly prime. Walleye movements occur regularly during that interval from low light to no light. Often times anglers will take their best shot, (I mean cast) during this time span and pickup after the lights go out. I have found that it usually takes another hour to an hour and a half before another bite occurs. It's as though walleyes need to adjust to night-light before they can effectively prey again. So next time, if the opportunity allows, wait till the midnight hour!

Canal Operating Hours Lock #23 in Brewerton

by Joe Mastriano

The New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) announced that Lock #23 in Brewerton will be operating 7:00a.m. to 10:00p.m. seven days a week, from May 4 through Labor Day weekend. After Labor Day weekend, the lock hours will be 8:00a.m. to 9:00p.m. This schedule is one hour longer than

last year's schedule. Assemblyman Bragman's office was instrumental in convincing the NYSDOT to extend the operating hours for Lock #23, which is the busiest lock on the canal system.



Although the increased operating hours were not extended to the entire canal system, Assemblyman Bragman has stated his position is to continue work to ensure that lock operation hours along the entire canal are eventually returned to the system's original schedule. ■

OLA Holds 47th Annual Meeting

by Tony Buffa

On April 22, the Oneida Lake Association held its 47th annual meeting at the Nottingham High School auditorium, in Syracuse, NY. Approximately 700 members were in attendance.

This year's meeting featured an update on the construction of the new Constantia Walleye Hatchery. Richard Colesante, regional director of hatcheries, informed the membership on the progress of the first stages of construction. It appears that the project is on schedule.

Tom Chiotti, a DEC senior aquatic biologist from region 7, gave a report on the status of Yellow Perch, Walleye and Gizzard Shad. He also indicated that buckeye minnows, (Emerald Shiners), have returned in big numbers and could influence walleye fishing.

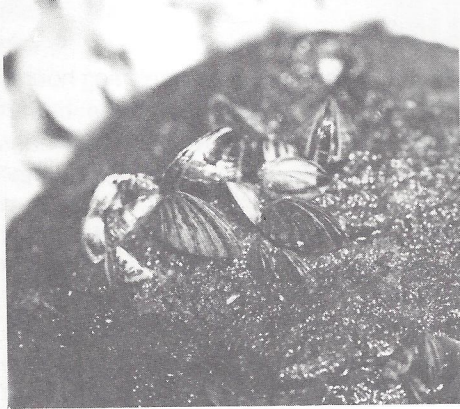
Dr. Ed Mills, from the Shackleton Point field station, addressed the implications of Zebra Mussels, BC zooplanktors, and Ruff fish for Oneida Lake. He indicated these exotics will pose serious challenges to the next decade.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank these speakers and all who helped make this annual event a success. ■

Onondaga County WQMA Zebra Mussel Subcommittee

by Russ Nemecek, WQMA

The Onondaga County Water Quality Management Agency (WQMA) Zebra Mussel Subcommittee continues to make both general and technical information on zebra mussels available to its representatives. The primary objective is to have the citizen lake association representatives make this information available to their respective association memberships. Updates on the dispersion and abundance of zebra mussels in nearby or county lakes are provided and solicited as well.



The current field season is thought to be of considerable importance as to whether zebra mussels will become established in Onondaga County's inland lakes. It will also be important to examine whether the established population continues to increase or stabilizes at some level in those lakes that it has already become established. As a result, the Zebra Mussel Subcommittee is establishing a volunteer lake association adult zebra mussel monitoring program to help identify new sightings and characterize any density changes in lakes where zebra mussels are already present. For Oneida Lake, information on dispersion as well as localized abundance changes would be of considerable help in tracking the impact of zebra mussels. Of considerable importance to the Subcommittee is at what point some level of impact upon the Oneida Lake fishery becomes noticeable and if shell build-up becomes a problem along beach areas.

For the fall, the Subcommittee is proposing to help county school districts develop a zebra mussel educational program. The Oneida Lake Association continues to be an active member of the WQMA Subcommittee. ■

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

1992 Questionnaire

by Joe Mastriano

During 1992, the Environmental Action Committee distributed questionnaires at the Power Boat Show (Jan. 16-19), the North East Sports Show (Jan. 22-26), and the Boat Show (Feb. 19-23). The purpose of this survey was to provide the committee with feedback from our membership regarding their level of concern over various environmental issues facing the lake. The information will be used by the committee to help prioritize the issues we should focus on in planning actions and providing educational information. The number of responses and the interest level shown by OLA members is encouraging. The committee intends to continue with surveys next year and is currently discussing ways to improve the method of information collection. The following is a brief summary of survey results.

1. Do you believe the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation should continue to allow the sale of angler-caught (using a fishing pole) panfish (sunfish, perch, crappie, etc...)?

30% Yes 70% No

2. Do you believe the Oneida Lake Association should pursue a ban (through the NYSDEC) on the sale of angler-caught panfish? 68% Yes 32% No

3. Do you believe that fish and game laws are adequately being enforced on Oneida Lake? 45% Yes 55% No

4. Do you believe that boating laws are adequately being enforced on Oneida Lake? 37% Yes 63% No

In addition to the questions listed above, OLA members were asked to identify the environmental issue of most concern to them. The four categories and the percentage of those who considered that particular issue most important are listed below.

Water quality (pollution).....	64%
Wetland and habitat concerns (water levels, spawning habitat).....	32%
Problem species (cormorants, gizzard shad).....	20%
Fish and game laws (adequate enforcement).....	19%

The Environmental Action Committee thanks all respondents for their time and efforts. As utilize the information gathered and make plans for future surveys, please remember that our efforts are aimed at getting your input. So, if you are at a show or some other function and see one of our surveys, please take the time to make your opinions known. ■

SUMMER OF '92

I set here now and it seems like a long time ago when I spent Summers on Oneida Lake. As a child I never knew how really lucky I was. My parents camp in lower South Bay was actually the place that shaped my life. There are so many good times on the lake that it would be impractical to talk here about them all in any detail. I would like to recant one special event though that comes to mind whenever I think of those great long lazy Summer days. It was our great adventure to Constantia *waaay* over on the North shore of Oneida. I was the youngest of five and one day my father announced we would travel across the lake. To my older brother and sisters it might not have seemed important but I looked at the voyage with awe as we all loaded into our small wooden boat with the old Johnson Seahorse outboard on back. I really don't remember how long the crossing took but it appeared to me we were crossing an ocean. We landed safely, visited the fish hatchery and I remember catching at least a frog or two before my dad bought us all ice cream. Now this may not seem exciting in today's fast moving world but as I look back on that trip nearly thirty five years ago it was a beginning. Actually it was the beginning of my love of boating and the great Oneida Lake. Now I have fished, swam, sailed, skied and explored Oneida Lake for years and yet I never tire of its beauty. Too many people take this fantastic resource for granted. My parents sold their camp and now I can only occasionally visit there but still whenever I launch my boat I remember all that I learned on the waters of Oneida Lake.... ■

In Memory of OLA

Conservationist of the Year

Earl T. Cooke, the 1992 OLA "Conservationist Of The Year," died on Sunday, May 31. Earl, a retired member of the Syracuse Police Department, was a dedicated sportsman. He served as president of the Angler's Association of Onondaga County from 1988-90. Earl was also involved with the OLA and prepared the video on the Constantia Hatchery that you may have seen at one of the various sports shows. Earl was a great sportsman and conservationist, and he will be sorely missed. ■

INADEQUATE ACCESS ISSUES SURROUND SOUTH SHORE LAUNCH SITE

Fishermen, for the most part, are a rather conservative lot -- well organized, methodical, law abiding, courteous -- then there are times when we see them get a little irritable and very creative. This phenomenon occurs on a nice day when the fish are biting (and sometimes when they are not) at the South Shore Boat Launch Site. It has been reported that there have been times when as many as 75 car/trailers have been parked on-in-and around the south shore boat launch site. That's creative in light of the fact that the official capacity of the is facility is 35 car/trailers.

The problems of "South Shore" have not gone unnoticed. New York State DEC conducted a statewide survey of DEC launch site users and "South Shore" proved to be the busiest DEC launch on Oneida Lake and the third busiest in New York State. In 1991 over 8,000 fishing trips originated at this site.

For those of you not familiar with "South Shore" it is located on the east inside corner of Shackleton Point on Eagle Bay.

The site is well protected from west winds but completely exposed to secondary winds from the East and Northeast.

When DEC first addressed the "South Shore" problems (shortage of parking, inadequate access road-limited ramps, shallow water, no lighting, no restrooms, etc.) their strategy was to provide "all things to all people." The renovation plan included:

- Expanding parking from 35 to 100
- Additional two lane ramp
- Restroom Facilities
- Lighting
- Dual breakwater protected channel 400 to 500 ft. long.

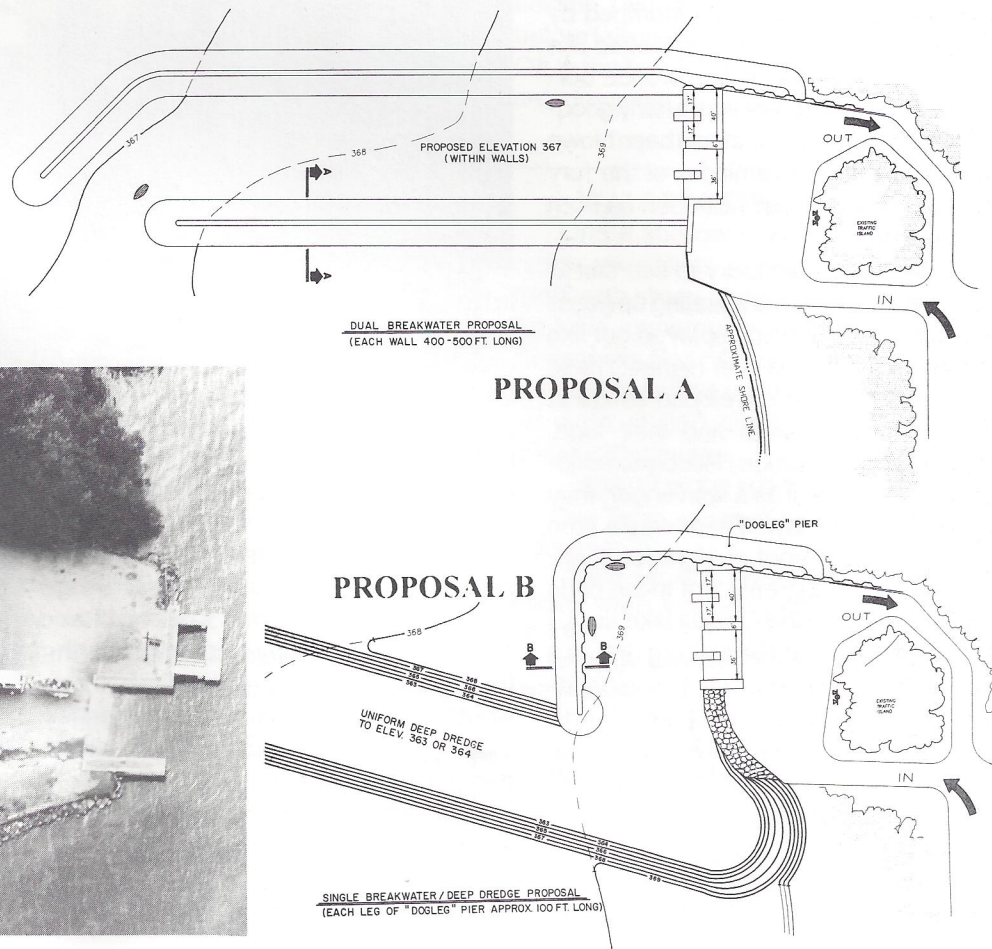
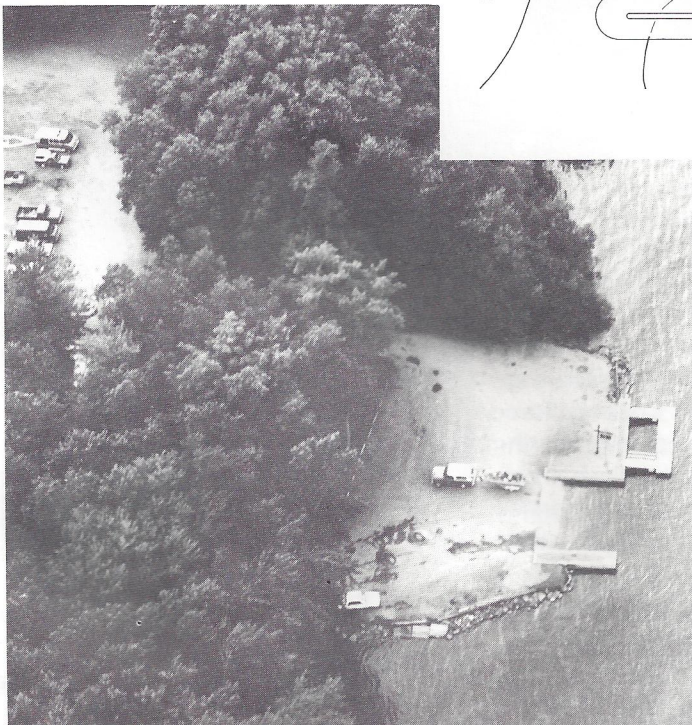
There was even some consideration given to making the breakwater into a fishing pier. As the dollars began to add up it became apparent that it was not feasible or physically prudent to try to make "South Shore" into something that it was not, a "naturally suited" deep water launch site. There is a crying need to accommodate the fisherman that use, or would like to use, "South Shore".

By increasing the parking capacity to 100; increasing the number of launch ramps to four; installing rest rooms and lighting; the needs of the sportsmen that use "South Shore" will be satisfied. No longer will it be necessary to do "creative" parking. "South Shore" development should begin in 1993 and depending on the availability of funds, be completed in three years.

The "South Shore Site" will never be able to accommodate more than 100 car/trailers because of space constraints. If money was allocated to develop a breakwater and channel the cost would be another \$600,000. We could still only accommodate 100 cars.

Research is now being done to develop a natural deep water launch site in the Sylvan Beach area. For less than \$500,000, the site under consideration could be developed into a deep water, 70 car/trailer, two ramp launch site. We think this is good and sound fiscal planning.

AERIAL VIEW
(Present)



Oneida Shores Wildlife Walk

On the evening of May 12th I took my family on a nature walk at Oneida Shores County Park. Located on the southwest corner of the lake off of Bartell Road and comprising 205 acres, it is a great place to enjoy the great outdoors.

We parked at the small lot at the east end of the park on Muskrat Bay where numerous anglers were trying their luck fishing from shore. The fishing was slow so we headed northwest along the edge of the woods to see what birds and wildflowers we could find. Armed with a field book on birds and a flower finder, we commenced our walk.

The boys (Matthew, age 11; Andy, age 9; and Travis, age 5) immediately ran off into the woods and nearby swamp. Amid calls of "Dad, look at this!" "Mom, look at that!" we quickly settled to the task of trying to identify the various plants and trees. The lapse of 16 years proved to be too long for me to remember the 2 years of botany that I took in college, so I wasn't able to identify many of the plants. I remembered the names of the cinnamon and bracken ferns but was stumped by the other green plants which looked like various arrowheads. In the woods bordering the swamp there was a fairly good-sized uprooted maple that had been blown over by a storm; a reminder of the fury that the elements can visit upon us from time to time.

High overhead, I felt lucky to see first 2, then 8, turkey vultures spiraling upwards on a thermal. Wing tips splayed out like fingers, they climbed ever higher. These birds have a highly developed sense of smell that helps them find their food, which is mostly carrion. Recognized today as being useful as a scavenger, they are protected by law. There was a time when they were shot at sight for sport. From 1896 to 1931 only 2 of these birds had been seen in the Oneida lake area. I have been told that Gettysburg, Pa. is a favorite gathering spot for this magnificent bird. They have made Gettysburg a stop in their migration ever since the great battle, perhaps hoping that history will repeat itself and provide another macabre feast.

Off in the shrubbery, Andy spotted a red-winged black bird. It was a breeding-

aged male with a characteristic red patch on its shoulder. We were pleased as he sang out "konkeree", perhaps defending his territory from other males. Once eggs have been laid the Red-wing black bird will aggressively defend the site against all comers. Having been buzzed a few times myself, I warned the kids to admire him from a distance.

In the swamp, Travis saw a bull frog. My little girl Betsy, age 7, went chasing after a leopard frog which had the good sense to dive into the mud on the bottom. The legs of both of these common frogs provide excellent table fare, though these frogs are much more valuable alive than dead because of the many insects that they eat. Back in the 20's frog legs were



in high demand by local clubs and restaurants around the lake. Froggers could earn from 50 cents to a dollar a pound for 24 to 26 frogs. Though we listened, we did not hear either the "jug-o-run" of the bull frog or the clacking "grunt" of the leopard. We did hear a peeper which we didn't see.

The wide open lawn had some dandelions with a robin here and there looking and listening for worms. Cocking their heads to one side they studied the earth for movement. Finally, with a flash, they would peck, grab and then commence the long tug-of-war which would ultimately mean the demise of the worm. Some of the dandelions had reached the seed stage. These were picked by Betsy and Travis and blown to the wind. Andy and Matt came out of the cattails with some



that had flowered. The loose stamens made the cattails look like cotton candy. These were quickly plucked by the boys and joined the dandelion seeds in the breeze.

Both the cattail and the dandelion are edible. The roots of the cattail are loaded with starch which can be dried and pounded for flour. Young stems up to about 18 inches minus the rind are said to be delicious. The fruit, when young can



be eaten as "Cossack asparagus". Dandelion leaves picked early in the spring make excellent greens for a salad. The flower of the dandelion when fermented makes a tasty wine. In the old days, the fluffy fruit that the boys spread to the wind was used to stuff pillows and for insulat-

caulking barrels or were dried and made into cords for making rush-bottomed furniture.

Betsy asked me what the small rose-purple flower was that grew in profusion throughout the grass. I took out my "flower finder" key and started the process of identifying the flower. Seeing that this could take a while, the boys went running off into the cattails to look for more frogs and adventure. Betsy soon tired and ran off to join the boys. Not wanting to fall too far behind, my wife Susie and I tentatively identified the flower as a spring cress. The flower finder is easy and fun to use but it does take a few minutes to work the key and study the flower. We will try again another year when the kids' inquisitiveness is tempered with patience for the task at hand.

When we caught up to the kids, they were watching a family of five playing baseball. The trees ahead were alive with hidden birds unnoticed but for their music. Among others we could hear the "swee-swee-swee-swee-te-te-te-swee" song of yellow warblers. This "summer yellow bird" was once one of the most common birds in the Oneida Lake region. I don't know why they are so seldom seen today as their preferred habitat is open areas bordered by willows or other trees which is still a common situation today. Perhaps being a favorite target of the parasitic cowbird has had some effect over the years. The cowbird will leave an egg in the nest of the yellow warbler. As the nestings grow the larger baby cowbird eats the lion's share of the food and eventually forces the young warblers out of the nest or causes them to starve to death. Alerting the children to keep an eye out for a flash of yellow among the green leaves of the maple trees, we were soon rewarded with seeing these flashy birds. Passing the binoculars around everyone got a good look when Susie noticed that we were again left behind.

The kids were chasing after some butterflies which were flying around the birch trees. These butterflies, a favorite of collectors, were another flash of yellow, bordered in black. They were tiger swallowtails which must have just emerged from their cocoons crisp in their colors to feast on the nearby grey birch tree leaves. Unlike the monarch which winters in Mexico, the tiger swallowtail larvae builds cocoon in the fall and winters in the pupal stage.

The birches were loaded with tassels or more technically, catkins which are long slender pale green pistillate flowers about one and a half inches long. Andy climbed right up into the tree to study the catkins and was soon followed by Travis. The scene reminded me of Robert Frost's poem "Swinging Birches" and of my energetic 60 year old Botany teacher at St. Lawrence University. Dr. Green amazed my class when he clamored to the top of a birch to show us what Frost was talking about. Talking all the while as the birch swung him down and deposited him on the ground, he immediately went on to identify some other plant. I can't remember hearing of anyone missing one of his field trips or lectures. Being more conser-



vative and possessing far less energy, I almost encouraged my sons to swing to a birch until I remembered where we were and told them to come down. Fortunately no harm was done beyond the dissection of a couple of catkins.

Above the road to the boat launch was a stand of tamarack trees which are unique in that they lose their needles in the fall. The emergent pale green needles made a pleasant contrast to the darker green of the spruce, red pine and white ash trees nearby. The smell of the newly mowed lawn added to the pleasure of the evening. There was a barn swallow flying unusually high over head. Normally feeding

relatively low in the air, it must have been hunting some-high flying insects. We passed a couple walking their dog and saw a few crows and a mourning dove. The boat launch was a busy place with jet skis coming and going with fishermen returning with a sparse catch of only a few fish. The overall scene and sensations were typical of why Susie and I love the lake so much. Scattered along the rocks were small family groups fishing off the shore. The gentle breeze of the lake smelled clean and fresh. Herring and ring-billed gulls flew overhead and swam in the water occasionally "kree-kree" which added to the magic of the moment. We headed across the beach towards the car. The horseshoe pits were open and there were a couple of hotly contested volleyball games being played. The Stevens family was enjoying the swings and about 10-15 feet above the sand flew some 7 or 8 tree swallows working over a cloud of insects. I got a kick out of seeing a killdeer which appeared out of no-where faking a broken wing. Matt and I searched for the nest until the killdeer flew off which meant that I wasn't any where near it. As we drove off I noticed a dragonfly, first I'd seen this season. I wondered how long it would last before falling prey to some purple martin. Off in the bay 3 mallards had their wings set, dropping...

WALLEYE PIKE FILLETS

Line a shallow baking dish foil. Arrange pike fillets in the dish. Dot the fillets with slices of margarine or butter. Sprinkle generously with McCormick Seasoning Salt. Cover with more foil and fold the sides up and over. Place in an oven at 350 degrees for approximately 20 minutes.

FISH OVER HOT COALS

One large sheet of tin foil place the following:

Slice up one large potato slightly thicker than a potato chip and arrange on foil

Arrange two fish fillets on the potato (walleye, perch, bass, etc.)

Add: Salt and pepper to taste

Add: Dash of paprika

Add: 2 pads of butter (1 tbsp. each)

Squeeze: 1 fresh tomato over top and cut up remainder and add to dish.

Add: 2 tbsp. of water

Fold up foil and seal completely. Place on charcoal grill and cook for 30-35 minutes.

Don't String Them Up

Have you heard the tale about cooking fish on a pine slab, then throwing away the fish and eating the board? Well, in many cases this is what should be done. Fish is the most difficult meat to keep fresh, yet freshness is the key to pleasant taste.

One of the villains contributing to bad fish flavor is the common metal stringer. An angler strings a freshly -- caught fish and forgets about it, assuming that it will be alive when he returns to the dock. What usually happens is that the fish dies from a combination of too much sunlight, too much warm water, too little oxygen, and extreme stress. When this occurs, there's no way the meat can be prepared for the table and be expected to taste good.

From experience, fishing experts recommend either keeping freshly-caught fish alive and out of stress situations, or cleaning them and placing them on ice. Live holding methods include the round, wire basket many crappie and panfish anglers use, and the built-in live well found in most new fishing boats. If used properly, both are successful.

The wire basket must be sunk in water deep enough to keep the fish cool and shaded from sunlight. Don't put too many fish in the basket or overcrowding will cause stress and result in bruising and general deterioration.

Some boats aren't suitable for live well installation, but if you have one it works best when water is pumped in and out continually. Also avoid crowding the fish in the well, as this causes stress and bruising.

The best way to retain fish flavor is to clean the fish immediately after it is caught. Remove the gills, intestines and all blood, and cover the fish with cubed or flaked ice. Remember to protect the ice chest from the sun. ■

OUR MEMBERSHIP RESPONSES

As most of you noticed on the back of your membership 1992 membership card there was four (4) questions that our law enforcement committee addressed to you, the members.

The questions were as follows:

- 1) Were you stopped in 1991 for a fish and game check on or around Oneida Lake?
- 2) Do you see a need for a greater fish and game law enforcement presence on Oneida Lake?
- 3) Do you see a need for speed limitation on Oneida Lake?
- 4) Do you see a need for noise limitations on Oneida Lake?

At this time we are proud to say we received a great response to our survey!!!! At the time of the survey our membership was 3725 people. 35% responded to the survey, that shows us that you care.

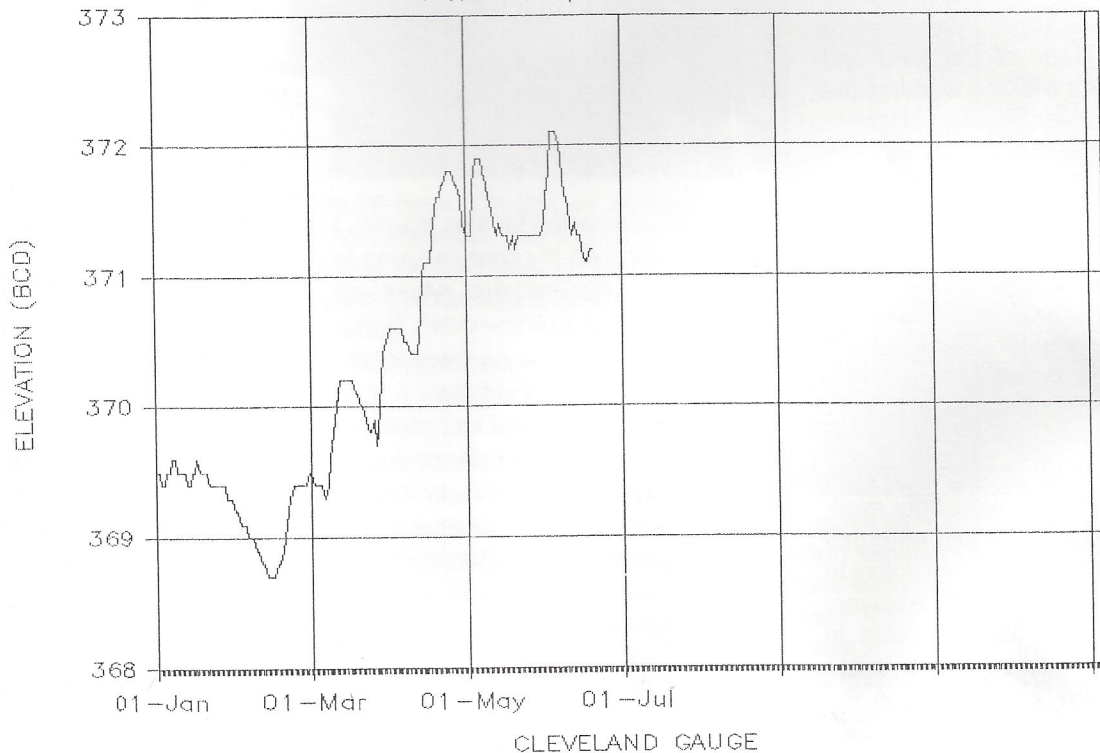
We plan to have a meeting with Assemblyman Bragman and Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) officials to discuss the membership response. We hope that with their help we can make Oneida Lake a safer, and more enjoyable environment for sport, recreation, and relaxation.

THE RESULTS WERE:

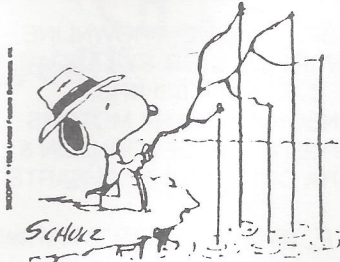
- | | |
|------------|----------|
| 1) 205 YES | 1,140 NO |
| 2) 876 YES | 389 NO |
| 3) 912 YES | 387 NO |
| 4) 797 YES | 494 NO |

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JANUARY 1, 1992 TO PRESENT



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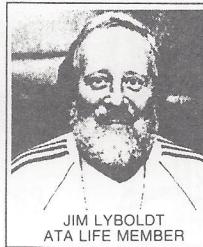
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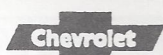
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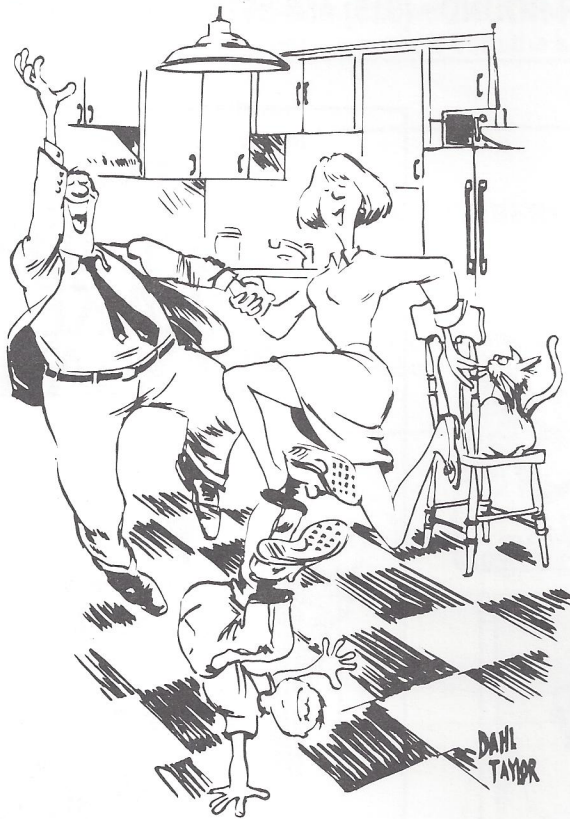
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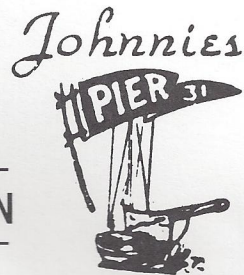
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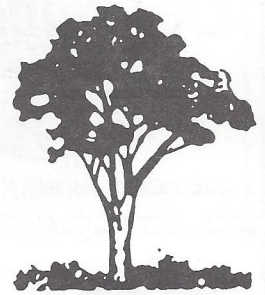
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Welcome New Members

For our many new friends who joined during this past winter/spring, this is your 1st communication from OLA for the 1992 year. If you forgot to re-up in 1991 or have not been a member lately and did join again for 1992, this would be your 1st communication as well.

Basically our "year" runs from Annual Meeting to Annual Meeting. That means your last 1992 Bulletin will actually come in the Spring of 1993. ■

Membership Chairman
Marsh Naumann

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