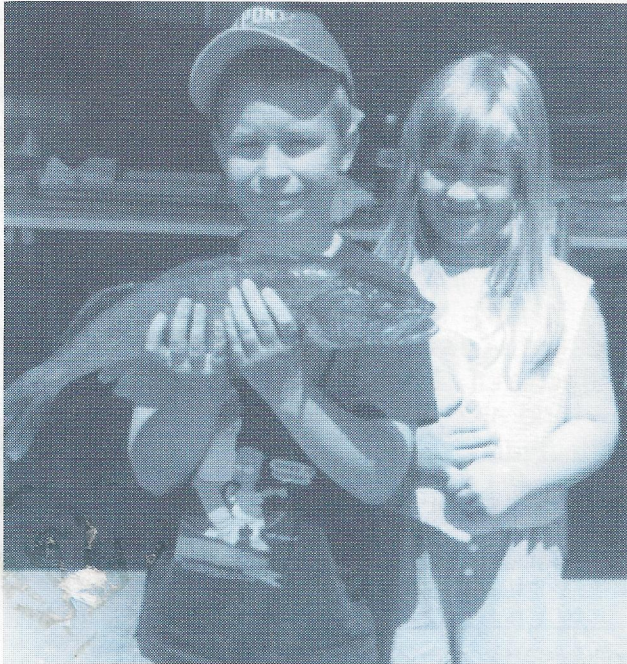


The Oneida Lake Bulletin

SUMMER 1998



Kyle and Erin Worden, of Canastota, heft their 20 inch plus walleye.

"Take a Youngster Fishing" a success!

Over 400 young anglers, all accompanied by adult sponsors, entered the OLA's youth fishing contest over the June 27th weekend. They landed some impressive fish, proving that even in lean angling years Oneida Lake produces much fishing happiness.

Gerry Randall's Marior Manor Marina was the headquarters for the derby at the east end of the lake. Among the nice fish entered there were Kyle Worden's 20 1/2" walleye, Mike Kurdziocek's 20" walleye, and Joseph Graham's 16 3/4" smallmouth bass. Amanda Spencer brought a 28" catfish into Marior Manor and Nick Monaco added a 14" bullhead to that category. Brandon Snyder's 10 3/4" yellow perch topped that grouping at Marior.

Steve Rogers' Brewerton Sports was the focus for activity on the lake's western basin. Among the lunkers entered there were John Zolik's 22" walleye, Andy Rumpf's 21" walleye, and Tom Larabee's 19 7/8" pike. Seth Boicourt added an 18 1/2" bass and Kelley Greco topped the perch category with an 11 1/4" jack.

(Continued on page 4)

Jet Skis

Jet skis (officially labeled "personal watercraft") are common on Oneida Lake. Scores of these fast, wave-running machines use the lake on weekends and on virtually any steamy summer day. They have had positive economic effects. Restaurants at Sylvan Beach and Brewerton cater to jet ski owners. Jet skis' sales have bolstered some lake area boat dealerships' business.

The machines provide quick, easy access to public spots such as Frenchman's Island and the Verona Beach State Park. Jet skis give their riders a unique, water-level perspective as Oneida flows over their feet at speeds that can exceed fifty mph. Ridden properly, they create tremendous fun for individuals and groups alike.

With this entertainment, however, comes responsibility. The United States Coast Guard office at Oswego

(Continued on page 4)

President's Report

Oneida Lake Bulletin
Summer 1998

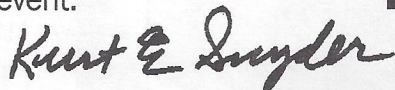
Your Association has the honor of representing members who use Oneida Lake in a multitude of ways. We proudly count among our ranks thousands of tourists, lake-side residents, and area businesspersons who relish the quality recreation time that Oneida provides. These people enjoy powerboats, sailboats, angling craft, canoes, and jet-skis. In winter, they ply Oneida's surface with snowmobiles, four-wheelers, sleds, cars, and even an occasional airplane.

Unfortunately, as the number of vehicles that use our lake grows, the incidents of thoughtless and reckless operation also increases. These events threaten the safety and basic rights of others and often jeopardize Oneida's environmental integrity.

Your Board of Directors feels that additional lake usage should not be coupled with an increase in personal risk. Therefore, the Association is launching a campaign that will focus on the "Three R's" of boating - Responsible operation, Respect for others' rights, and Rules of the road. Media coverage, Bulletin messages, and informational signs at launching areas are planned in the upcoming year to spread our message.

I am please to announce that the 1999 annual meeting is scheduled to be held at the Cicero-North Syracuse High School, located on Route 31, east of the Cicero Exit of

Interstate 81. Your Board of Directors hopes that this location will be more accessible to our members. The high school has a spacious auditorium, equipped with a great sound system. Other details concerning the meeting will be forthcoming, but please pencil in Wednesday, April 29, 1999 as the tentative date for next year's event. ■



Kurt Snyder
OLA President

Oneida Hatchery Summer '98

*by Richard Colesante and
Mark Babenzien*

Following a successful spring walleye "run," that culminated in the stocking of one hundred and forty million fry into Oneida Lake, your hatchery's staff have shifted to the summer's fish rearing program. At our June 15 inventory, we had about 600,000 fingerling walleyes (at least 1.5 inches long), 1,000 yearling sturgeon (4 to 5 inches long), and 30,000 young - of - the - year sturgeon (around 1/2 inch long). We expect to stock sturgeon and walleye fingerlings in September.

This has been an extremely busy year at the hatchery, highlighted by extensive experimentation with recirculation systems, disease treatments, and feeding studies. The research's objective is a reduction of the incidence of disease epidemics in our walleyes, thus improving survival during critical periods in the hatchery rearing process. We

are making progress in these areas.

The hatchery, located on Route 49 in Constantia, is open from 8:30 A.M. until 3:00 P.M., seven days a week, April 1 to September 30. We have a visitors' center and many interesting items to view. Stop by and immerse yourself in some fascinating freshwater biology! ■

ONEIDA LAKE ASSOCIATION INC., FOUNDED IN 1945

The Bulletin is published by the Oneida Lake Association, Inc., 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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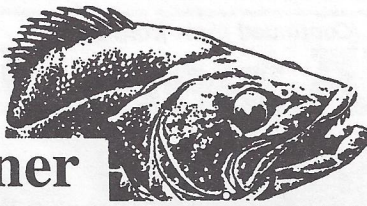
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The OLA Fishing Corner



Early Season Tips!

While the proliferation of Oneida Lake's baitfish this summer has slowed the walleye angling, both smallmouth bass and yellow perch have been biting with regularity. Bass have been feeding on minnows and crayfish in the lake's deeper, rocky shoal areas. Perch prefer minnows, dug worms, and tiny jigs. Waters adjacent to weed beds have been especially productive. Some anglers are taking perch in deep water by trolling small flutter spoons, using lead core line, and "jigging" the line by hand. The buoy line from #121 east to #109 has seen some decent perch action. Fishing should improve by late August, as cooling temperatures trigger fall's annual yellow perch feeding frenzy. ■

The Cornell Corner

Resurgence of Emerald Shiners in Oneida Lake

by *Lars Rudstam, Amy Hetherington,
and Tony VanDeValk*
Cornell Biological Field Station,
Shackelton Point

Emerald shiners are common shiners that thrive on sandy shoals of the Great Lakes. They probably entered Oneida Lake from Lake Ontario. Up until the early 1950's, emerald shiners were so abundant in Oneida that the lake produced most of the "buckeye minnows" (the fish's vernacular name) sold in bait stores in the Northeast. By the late

1950's, this population had collapsed.

The emerald shiner usually congregates in large schools and in clear, plant-free waters near the lake's shore. The shiner's dorsal surface is dusky toned, with green or blue iridescence. Its sides are silvery, paling to white on the belly. It is easily distinguished from other Oneida Lake minnows by its elongated, compressed body, with a broad subdued band on both sides. The band is more distinct behind the head. The emerald shiner also has a snout that is scarcely longer than its relatively large eye. Hence, it is commonly referred to as the "buckeye" minnow by Oneida Lake anglers.

Emerald shiners feed on a variety of zooplankton and also on some blue-green algae and diatoms. Protozoans are important in the diet of young-of-the-year shiners, and fish and insect larvae are eaten by adults. The emerald shiner spawns in late spring or early summer, sometimes as late as mid-August. Their eggs hatch in 24 to 32 hours. They rarely live through their third summer and their population fluctuates tremendously.

Last year, emerald shiners were abundant in Oneida Lake. Larger numbers were observed than in any year since 1993, when we started sampling the lake's open water fish population with small-mesh vertical gill nets. In 1997,

emerald shiners were the most numerous fish in these nets from August through October. Other fish species caught in the open water included blueback herring, yellow perch, white perch, and white bass. The herring, a new arrival to Oneida, entered through the Barge Canal. It resembles an alewife, but has a black lining on its stomach.

Our estimates of open water fish abundance are based on scientific echo soundings. These estimates were higher last year than during the previous years. Emerald shiners survived well over winter and one year old shiners are abundant this year.

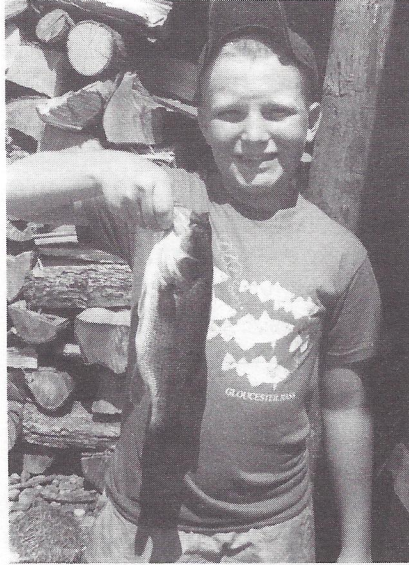
Anglers' catches of walleyes decreased after July, 1997. We believe that this was due to the large emerald shiner population, coupled with good numbers of young white perch and white bass. When the walleyes have sufficient forage fish to consume, catching them becomes a challenge. Walleye harvests were low during spring and early summer. This fact is consistent with the continued high numbers of buckeyes. Young perch are also common in 1998 and this will contribute to low walleye catch rates. An abundance of forage fish in Oneida Lake may engender poor walleye fishing for an entire season.

This summer we are paying close attention to the emerald shiner population. We will study their prey selection, their growth, and their abundance. We will also compare their effects on the lake's ecosystem to those changes brought about by young-of-the-year perch. ■

(Continued from front cover)

"Take a youngster fishing" a success!

Sean Calabria brought in a 22" sheepshead and Erick Maliszewski entered a 14 1/8" bullhead.



Andrew Pruitt, of Utica, displays his large-mouth bass.

Lots of kids and many hungry fish, coupled with tremendous weather, made for a fine day.

The OLA thanks Marion Manor and Brewerton Sports for their great generosity over this weekend. In addition, sincere appreciation go to Triple-S Sporting Goods, Buffalo, Mad River Rods, Canastota, Amchar Wholesale, Rochester, Faber Brothers, Chicago, Susser's Wholesale, Albany, 4-K's Bait, Constantia, Henry's, VMC Hooks, Mr. Twister, Inc., Cady Jigs, and Panhandlers Fish Fileters for donating prizes that helped to make this event a great success. Special thanks go to Joe Sacco, Fremont, and to the tremendous staffs of both Marion Manor and Brewerton Sports. ■

(Continued from front cover)

Jet Ski's



The increasingly crowded Oneida Lake scene - jet ski's, power boats, sail boats and sun worshipers pack Sylvan Beach

sent your *Bulletin* staff some regulations and tips about jet ski operation. These are well worth studying. Adherence to them can save lives - and enhance the enjoyment that jet skis provide.

1 - Your speed is limited to 5 mph within 100 feet of shore, docks, rafts, or anchored boats.

2 - PFD's must be worn while operating the craft. Bright colored ones are preferable since jet skis have less visibility than other vessels.

3 - You must have a horn or whistle on board, capable of a two second blast, audible at 1-2 miles.

4 - You must have a functional fire extinguisher with you.

5 - You must have an engine cutoff cord, attached to the craft's driver.

6 - You should have a visual distress flag on the jet ski.

7 - You may only operate the craft from sunrise to sunset.

8 - You should avoid wave-jumping, wake - jumping and

other "stunts."

9 - You should respect other lake users. Stay well away from anglers and sailors. Oneida is a big lake and you can find plenty of space, far away from those whose interests diverge from yours.

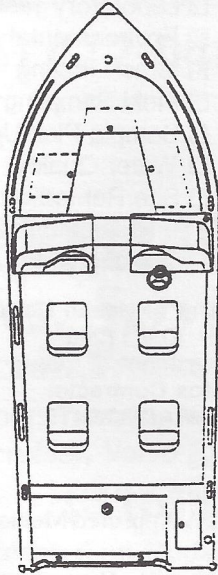
10 - When involved with boat traffic, obey all U.S. Coast Guard Rules of the Road.



Jet skis rest along the sands of Sylvan Beach.

Please note that this is only a partial listing. The *New York State Boaters' Guide*, available through the State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, or through the Coast Guard and the United States Power Squadron, contains a full account of regulations. ■

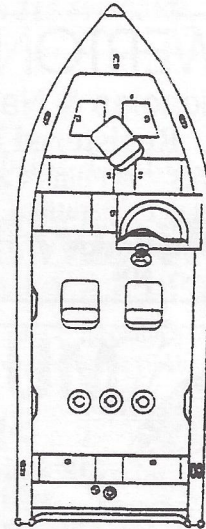
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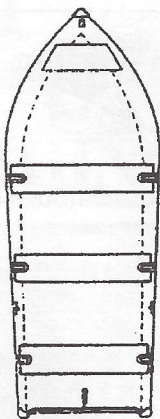
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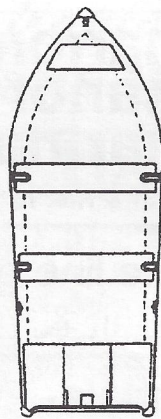


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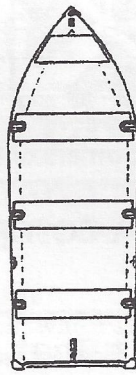
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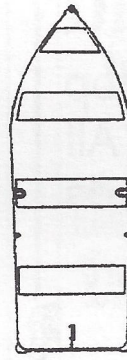
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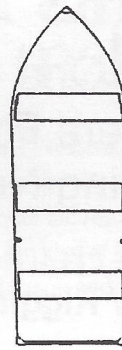
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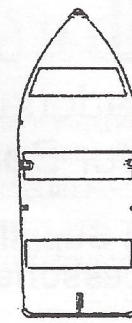
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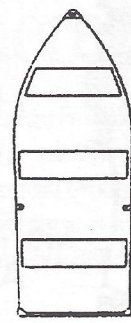
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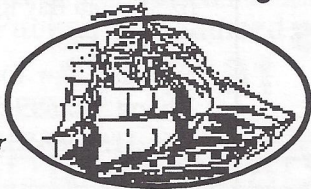
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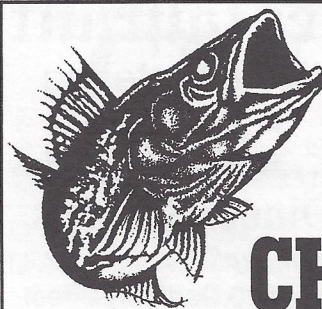
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