



Oneida Lake Association
PO Box 3536 Syracuse, NY 13220-3536
info@oneidalakeassociation.org



Greetings!

Water Quality Improvements in the Oneida Lake Watershed – 2019

The Oneida Lake Association Board of Directors regularly meets with the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) staff in March of each year following their annual training event, the Water Quality Symposium. One of the outcomes of the very first meeting was to develop a summary of the work completed by District staff in the Oneida Lake Watershed. The report is spearheaded by Onondaga County SWCD Manager, Mark Burger. In addition to serving as a terrific District Manager, Mark Burger is also an avid angler on Oneida Lake, one who understands the importance of maintaining this great resource that we are all blessed to enjoy.

Mark recently provided the Board with the 2019 Annual Report. In total \$932,000 was spent on a variety of projects aimed at “keeping soil on the land, nutrients in the soil, and to protect water quality.” The work included: flood mitigation, stream bank stabilization, cover crop installation, log jam removal, rotational grazing, silage leachate treatment and control, culvert improvement, manure storage improvements, and road ditch hydroseeding. Onondaga County SWCD completed 7.3 miles of road ditch stabilization in 2019 alone!

A full copy of the report can be found on our OLA website under the Oneida Lake Info tab. I encourage you to take a look at the full report. It includes a lot of excellent photos depicting the improvements. I want to thank all the SWCD staff for all the great work they do, year in and year out.

~Matt Kazmierski, OLA Director

**Large storm-water detention
pond, under construction.**



The pond will hold a large volume of runoff water during storm events and slowly release the water over time to reduce erosion.

What's Happening with the City of Oneida Wastewater Plant?

Previously we reported that the City of Oneida Wastewater Treatment Plant was experiencing treatment problems, and that Oneida Creek was significantly impacted by poorly treated effluent from the plant. Several miles of the creek were stained with poorly treated sewage starting around September 29, 2020. The Oneida Plant is located approximately 10 miles upstream from Oneida Lake. While Oneida Creek was significantly impacted, no visual impacts were observed in Oneida Lake. **The Board has been informed by DEC that the treatment plant has recovered and is now meeting effluent limitations.**

It is clear that this incident was not authorized and was a violation of the City of Oneida State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) wastewater discharge permit. There has been a lot of misinformation circulating that has indicated that this discharge and its impact on the creek was allowed or authorized in some way – this is not accurate!

On October 13, 2020, DEC issued a Notice of Violation to the City of Oneida. DEC is currently completing a full investigation and is monitoring the plant closely, including meeting with city officials, completing plant inspections, and daily monitoring of the plant's operational data. The Board has been pleased with DEC's follow up on this matter so far. Typically, DEC's response for significant violations includes a Consent Order, which is a binding legal agreement that is used to resolve a violation. Consent Orders usually include a fine and a schedule for corrective actions to prevent future violations. We expect that this matter will result in a Consent Order and fines. We will continue to monitor the situation and keep you updated on the outcome of this case.

Oneida Lake Clean-Up

On Saturday, November 7, a team of devoted OLA Directors and members ventured out to the shores of the lake to complete a clean-up project. Their target was the area where Route 81 crosses the outlet of the lake, as well as under the Brewerton Bridge. Ideal conditions allowed members to “fish-out” lots of debris that included a new waste stream: Face masks!



Other garbage included car parts (Including a tire and wheel!), cans and bottles, plastic bags, debris from Dunkin Donuts and McDonalds, and numerous styrofoam cups. One troubling find was great quantities of monofilament line, which is very dangerous to wildlife. The OLA Directors urge you to never leave any fishing line behind as you enjoy the lake!

Pictured here L-R: Tom Guifre, Lance Vella and Carl Ford.

Not pictured: Steve Drummond and Patricia Cerro-Reehil

Target Walleye

Target Walleye is an international online publication devoted to the pursuit of one of our favorite game fish--walleye! This publication is packed with articles and photos, all designed with the walleye angler in mind. For example, the site includes news, tips, and info on gear, maps, travel destinations, and much, much more. Recently, in their news section, *Target Walleye* featured a story on Oneida Lake, focusing on our recent achievement of one million adult walleyes! They even included a link to our recent OLA Bulletin. Check them out at targetwalleye.com.

Oneida Lake Signs

In my younger days, I recall my dad driving us around the lake on a sunny afternoon. I always enjoyed spotting the many Oneida Lake Association signs that dotted the shoreline roadways. These signs encouraged us to keep it clean, after all "It's **Y**our Lake," they told us. The upkeep of these signs was supported by local businesses.

In recent years our sign program had languished somewhat, but thanks to the efforts of two OLA Directors, George Reck and Greg Keener, the signs are back in business! These two Directors have revived the sign program, sprucing up older signs, and initiating newer ones, once again with the support of some longtime advertisers as well as some welcomed new comers. Great work, George and Greg!

If you would like to sponsor a sign, contact us at president@oneidalakeassociation.org.

How many of these signs can you spot?

Would you like to Help the Oneida Lake Association?

We are looking for dedicated volunteers to serve on the Board of Directors for the Oneida Lake Association. If you'd like to help us carry on the mission of the Oneida Lake Association and help us Preserve and Protect our beautiful lake, this is the time to

think seriously about stepping up.

The BOD currently has two Director vacancies. We need individuals who have people skills and an interest with interaction with the academic and government professionals. Good writing and technology skills are a bonus.

Directors serve 2-year terms, meet once a month, and may spend 3-6 hours a month on OLA business.

Each Director must serve on at least one standing committee, volunteer for special events, and anticipate advancement to an officer's position.

If you have an interest in serving OLA, please reach out to one of the Directors. Our contact info is at our website.

Write out your avocational resume, personal interests, and a professional background summary. Send them by snail or email to any OLA Director, or to

President@OneidaLakeAssociation.org

Member's **FISHING TIPS.**

Feel free to offer up some of *your* short hints, tips, and tricks.

Here are classic tips from H.G. Tapply writing in *Field and Stream*:

<https://www.fieldandstream.com/32-vintage-fishing-tips/>

MEMBER QUESTIONS?

Send your questions and opinions to President@OneidaLakeAssociation.org

Pay your dues, and HELP PROTECT ONEIDA LAKE!!!!

\$8 annually

Recruit your neighbors and friends TO JOIN US!

Donate

Memorials and contributions to our program are most welcome.

OLA is a 501(c)4 organization serving and protecting the Oneida Lake environment.





[Website](#) [Who We Are](#) [What We Do](#) [How to Help](#)

OLA is a 501(c)(4) not-for-profit organization.

The Oneida Lake Association is a member of the New York State Conservation Council <http://www.nyscc.com/> and the New York State Federation of Lake Associations <http://www.nysfola.org/>.

Please remember to obey all laws, rules, regulations, and codes of ethics as they pertain to boating, fishing, hunting, and the management of Oneida Lake and its tributaries.

Report environmental violations.

1-844-DEC-ECOS (1-844-332-3267)

Edited by John Harmon and Matt Snyder

Send us your notes and articles for use in future ENews!

