



Oneida Lake Association  
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Greetings!

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### **The Show Must Go On!**

Although this pandemic has caused tremendous hardship on all of us, your Board of Directors is determined to make sure that we re-instate our OLA Annual Meeting this spring. Unfortunately, because of the developing pandemic, we had to cancel our meeting scheduled for last April. That was particularly difficult for us because we had envisioned a terrific evening of celebration for our 75th anniversary as an organization. We are determined not to let another year pass without doing so.

We are pleased, therefore, to announce that we have made plans for our 2021 Annual Meeting on April 28 at 7:00 pm.

**Mark your calendars!**

Of course, that meeting will look different. Although declining infection rates and slowly rising vaccinations give us some hope for the future, we are not quite ready yet for a large, in-person gathering. Our current plan is to hold a Zoom meeting at that time. We will also simultaneously stream the meeting on a YouTube channel. Our goal is to make the event as accessible as possible for all of you. We will relay the technical details to you as they become available.

Although the format of the meeting will be different, the substance will remain familiar to our members.

Our goal for the evening's agenda includes reports and remarks on the following topics:

- Fish Hatchery Report
- Oneida Fisheries Report

- Law Enforcement on Oneida Lake
- Cormorant Control
- Proposed Regulatory Changes from DEC
- OLA's 76<sup>th</sup> Conservationist of the Year Award
- And, of course, the required reports from our Officers.

We will also include a drawing for a Kayak as well as a Go Pro Camera! Be sure to attend the event to become eligible!

Your Host for the evening will be Captain Tony Buffa, who promises that that the 75 +1 Celebration will be a great catch.

## Update from the Soil and Water Conservation District

OLA is pleased to present our members with an update from Mark Burger, Director of the Soil and Water Conservation District for Onondaga County

### Onondaga County SWCD

#### 2020-Accomplishments

- 13.5 miles *Hydroseeded*-road ditch
- 588 ac. *Cover Crops*planted/5 farms
- 1 *Stream Crossing & Access Control*
- 1 *Conservation Plan* -Dairy farm
- 3 *Conservation Plans* -Beef farms
- 18 tons/~1,240 *tires recycled*(including large ag tires)
- 1 rental *No-Till Drill*- 8 acres
- Removed 361 *ash trees*, Injected 109 trees against EAB, planted 146 *norash trees*
- 13.5 hrs- *Technical Assistance*-Stream erosion

#### 2021-Anticipated Workload

- Construct 2 *manure storages*
- Construct 3 *barnyards*
- Build 2 *grazing systems*
- Implement 1 *bunk silo leachate trmt system*
- Inject 145 *ash trees*– DeWitt
- More *tire recycling*
- Reimburse for *cover crops*planted in fall
- Plan, cost estimate, submit grant for high slope failure upstream of *Jamesville Reservoir*

## Oneida Lake's 9 Element Plan

In our last newsletter, we introduced our readers to the 9 Element Plan which is designed to provide recommendations for the continued improvement of Oneida Lake waters. For the past two years, the Board of Directors of the OLA has done whatever it can to keep this process moving forward, despite the challengingly slow pace so far. Kathleen Bertuch, of the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board, provided us with the latest updates in a recent Zoom call. She writes that:

“The Oneida Lake Watershed 9-Element Management Plan contract between the NYS Department of State and Madison County, the project sponsor, was executed in December. The CNY Regional Planning & Development Board will administer the

contract and serve as the project coordinator.

A project initiation meeting will be held on February 19, 2021 to clarify contractual roles, responsibilities and to ensure a clear understanding of the project's work scope. A follow up meeting will be held with project consultants to address any remaining questions about data collection, usability, the modeling process and an updated time frame for completing the 9-E plan.

CNY RPDB has expressed a desire **to work with the OLA** to ensure the public has a voice in developing the 9E plan. This will include helping to define a watershed vision and goals statement, identifying issues and areas of concern to be addressed in the plan, and providing opportunities to present and solicit feedback on the developing plan during OLA meetings and workshops.”

**The OLA Board is pleased to announce that one of its own Directors, Matt Kazmierski, attended a recent meeting that was held in order to order to clarify remaining questions about the plan and to assist in keeping the project moving forward.**

We will report back in our next newsletter.

## Re-imagine the Canal

**We are also pleased to announce that two of our Directors on the OLA Board have been chosen to represent our interests on two of the Reimagine the Canal Task Forces.**

**Director Dr. Ed Mills, a member of the Committee that is studying Invasive Species, reports that “We have had two Zoom meetings so far. One was essentially a round table discussion that centered on a hydrologic separation pilot project on the Oswego River.” Several agency heads were on the call. The goal of this separation plan is to protect Central New York waters (including Oneida Lake) from aquatic invasive species. Dr. Mills stated that on the call he explained that “the public has invasive species fatigue and that we must have some idea of what invasive enemies that are out there that we want to prevent from coming into CNY waterscapes. For example, is it Asian Carp, Hydrilla or some other species?” One result of the meeting is that lake stewards could have a more profound impact on prevention, although that is not as alluring as hydrologic separation.**

Director Matt Snyder also represents us on the Reimagine the Canal Central Region Task Force. Director Snyder states that “our organizational charge is to help the NY Power Authority and Canal Corporation get public input on how to implement the Reimagine the Canal plan that was approved in last year’s budget. At my task force meeting on Jan. 20, topics discussed included the Canal’s planned operational schedule and hours for the 2021 boating season; how they plan to comply with social distancing rules while maintaining and operating the Canal; the importance of canal navigation buoys for all users; maintenance of water level control infrastructure and procedures; exploring sites for new water tourism and recreation opportunities; and the economic impact of fishing across the Central Region.”

We are fortunate that these two highly qualified Board members will represent Oneida Lake as deliberations continue.



The New York State Assembly recently honored OLA President Bill Girvan with an official proclamation naming him a **2020 Person of Distinction.** Congratulations!

## Bald Eagles

Lately there has been some press and publicity regarding the several sightings of Bald Eagles on and around Onondaga Lake. Oneida Lake also enjoys its own population of Bald Eagles. We would love to hear



about your sightings! If you spot an eagle or two, please let us know by writing to us at [president@oneidalakeassociation.org](mailto:president@oneidalakeassociation.org). Tell us a little bit about this experience. What were your thoughts when you saw it? Did you share the experience with others? It would be great to hear what this sighting means to you personally. With your permission, we'll share your brief anecdotes in our future newsletters. And, of course, if you can snap a great picture, send that, too.

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### 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/>

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### MEMBER QUESTIONS?

Send your questions and opinions to [President@OneidaLakeAssociation.org](mailto:President@OneidaLakeAssociation.org)

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**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.





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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!*