



Oneida Lake Association
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Greetings!

Annual Meeting 2022

On April 27, the OLA Board hosted their first in-person meeting since 2019! We had a terrific crowd of about 110. We thank everyone who came out to participate. We tried to practice safe meeting by allowing for social distancing, hand sanitizers, and available masks. Out of an abundance of caution, we decided not to have hallway exhibits this year.

Next year, we hope to go all in, so be sure to join us!

We also know that the audio transmission of the live stream was not good quality. We apologize. We were using equipment from the school and trying to interface with some of our own equipment. We do have an archived copy with better audio quality. You can view that at https://youtu.be/V47_wQwF6Nw

We also thank Principal Jennifer Smolnik for hosting us that evening.

Many of our members have sent us notes about much they enjoyed the presentations. We heard updates from the fish hatchery, cormorant control, the Cornell Field Station, fishing regulation changes, and, of course, law enforcement.

Captain Boylan of the DEC Law Enforcement drew the toughest slot. He was greeted with several questions and comments regarding the recent spearing incidents in Scriba Creek. Although the questions were respectful, they were blunt and forceful, as we expected. I'm sure that the DEC folks went away knowing how strongly we feel about this issue. Perhaps the best question of the evening was: "How will you insure that this will never happen again?"

In a touching moment, Director Warren Darby was presented with the Conservationist of the Year Award.

We closed the evening with some drawings for door prizes. We gave away a

kayak and a wifi action camera. Both winners were present in the audience. Tow Boat US also donated four \$25 gift certificates to Bass Pro.

Stay tuned for announcements about next year's event. It will be even better!



OLA Conservationist of the Year, Warren Darby, flanked by Award Presenter Matt Snyder (left) and OLA President John Harmon.



Kayak winner!

At our recent Annual Meeting, OLA member Fred David won a kayak in our free raffle! The lucky winner poses with Director Greg Keener (left) and Linda Fuller (right) from Gander Outdoors. We thank Gander Outdoors for discounting this kayak for the OLA. We also thank Greg for making all of these arrangements.

If you see Fred on the water, wish him continued luck!

Scriba Creek

Your Board of Directors remains focused on the disturbing events at the fish hatchery last month. We have insisted that DEC keeps us in the conversation regarding future plans to avoid a similar situation going forward. DEC officials have invited us to participate in a conversation regarding their plans, as they relate to Oneida Lake. Directors Matt Snyder and Rip Colesante will join OLA President John Harmon in these discussions. We will let you know what progresses.



The Buoys are Back in Town!

It is always a great sign to see the navigation buoys take their positions for the summer.

Thanks to Rodney Jones for this great photo of the buoys stacked up and ready for placement.

Contact Update!

We are always pleased when our members reach out to us with a question or a comment. We welcome your continued contact. **We are writing to let you know that our info@oneidalakeassociation.org address is no longer viable.**

However, you can still reach us at our preferred address:
president@oneidalakeassociation.org

You can also write to us at oneidalakeassociation@gmail.com

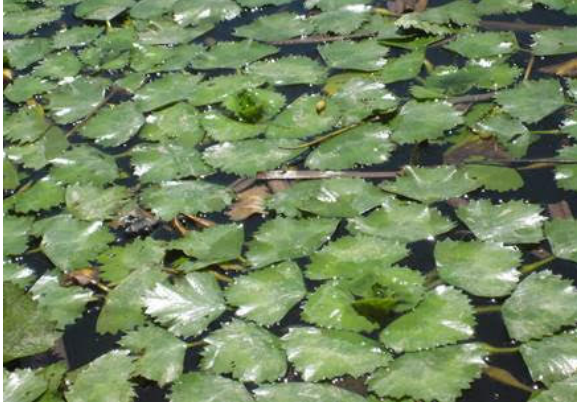
Keep the messages coming! We especially enjoy your photos!

Help us Make OLA Bigger and Better!

Our Buy One/Get One Campaign is going great! Thank you to everyone who signed up friends and neighbors--for free! As we have learned, a robust membership helps us to maintain a strong position when it comes to the many challenges that we face.

The crisis with the Hatchery has taught us that our strength lies in our numbers! When Albany hears that we have 2500 members, that helps them to pay attention!

**Call for Volunteers to
Help Pull Water
Chestnuts!**



As you know, water chestnuts are a highly invasive species in our lake. Left uncontrolled, they can quickly take over a large area of the shore line, choking it with weeds.

Once again, OLA Director Patricia Cerro-Reehil is heading up a team of volunteers to conduct a weed pull.

The OLA will hold the first of its seasonal Water Chestnut Weed Pulls on Thursday, June 30th @ 9 am. Bring your own boat/kayak, and meet at the Oneida Lake Marina.

For more information contact Patricia at:

pcr@nywea.org

There will be a second weed pull at Metzger's Pond, on the north shore of the lake. This pond drains into Oneida Lake at the Fish Hatchery, posing the threat of migrating chestnuts. Join us there, too! Saturday, July 9th @ 9 am. Meet at the corner of Kibbie Lake Road and Knapp Road in the Town of Constantia.



Spring Clean-Up!

On Earth Day, April 22nd, OLA Director George Reck organized and led a team of volunteers who cleaned up the roadside of the 81 on/off ramp at Bartell Road. The team extracted several large bags of litter and debris. We thank the many volunteers, including Steve Drummond and OLA Directors, Patricia Cerro-Reehil, Warren Darby, Bob Walczyk, and John Harmon. Director George Reck was also joined by his dad, George Sr, a perennial volunteer at 89 years old!



In memoriam

The Oneida Lake Association has recently received several donations "in memory of" friends or family members who valued our lake and its premier steward, the OLA. Of course, we are most grateful whenever someone thinks of us, even in their time of sorrow.

If you choose to include us in your bereavement planning, please take an extra minute to contact me at president@oneidalakeassociation.org. I would be pleased to pay tribute to your loved one in a brief announcement in our newsletter.

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!