



Oneida Lake Association
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Greetings!

Your Board hopes that you had a wonderful season on Oneida Lake.

OLA's Annual Networking Meeting for government officials and friends of the lake was a success.

On Aug. 7, the Oneida Lake Association hosted a meeting at Arrowhead Lodge at Oneida Shores County Park. Nearly 80 people, including members of law enforcement, the DEC and state, county and town legislators, such as State Sens. John DeFrancisco and Dave Valesky, Oswego County Legislator Roy Reehil and Cicero Town Supervisor Mark Venesky, were in attendance. Cornell, ESF, USDA Wildlife Services, Canal Corporation, the state DEC region 6 & 7 and fish hatchery staff, State Parks, and many other conservation-minded organizations were also represented.

This meeting provided an opportunity to network and discuss many topics related to the health and welfare of Oneida Lake. The first half of the meeting included an outdoor barbecue, providing attendees an opportunity to network and brainstorm ideas on ways to share in a commitment to preserving and enhancing the lake's environmental and commercial health. One of the highlights of this event was a fly-in by Air 1, the helicopter from the Onondaga Sheriff's Department. The Brewerton Fire

District also brought their rescue boats for close inspection.

The meeting then transitioned to the spacious lodge, where OLA's new President Warren Darby addressed the attendees. He and OLA Board Member Matt Snyder presented slides on the work and history of the OLA. A representative from the Brewerton Fire Department spoke about the dramatic rescue of four teenagers who were adrift on a jetski through most of the night of July 2. Deep diver Tim Caza then closed out the program with astonishing images of shipwrecks he has uncovered at Oneida Lake's bottom, including the only Durham boat ever discovered in New York state.



Old News

The scheduled weed pull in July was cancelled due to stormy weather. However, some members and staff from the Finger Lakes-PRISM and Onondaga County Cornell Cooperative Extension and Oswego County Soil and Water Conservation District independently scheduled their own time to remove water chestnut. The Big Bay Creek area of concern and the sheltered area east of Lewis Point were targeted. We appreciate the effort. Members are reminded that a 2018 water chestnut weed pull will again be planned in late July. Calendar it no and support OLA's goal to control invasive species.

PARTICIPATE IN THIS SURVEY

Is your lifestyle and business or household budget affected by invasive species? Not only are quagga mussel shells cutting my feet if I swim (so I have to now buy water shoes), but I get 'cut' if the crops I eat or the shade trees I use are infested; or worry for West Nile, Zika and Lyme; or the way I fish to avoid gobies has to change... lifestyle and wallet bleed each time a new invasive affects our government staffing and responses across the economy. What do you think?

Timothy Ives works for the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Jefferson County. He is helping to implement a Cultural Impact Survey in the St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario (SLELO) region to determine the effect of invasive species on the well-being and livelihood of the people. Please help spread the word on the survey in order to have the opinion in the Oneida Lake area can heard. They are looking to have as many people as possible take the survey in order to help get a bigger picture on the impact of these invasive species. The link to the survey page is: <http://ccejefferson.org/gardening/invasive-and-nuisance-species>. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Tim at tmi4@cornell.edu or at 315-788-8450 ext 235.



THE HOOK

(Scott Shupe)

Back in the day of Filson canvas coats, lead-filled paper shotshells, and knuckle buster outboards, November duck hunters lugged bags of wooden bluebills for the migration. One of these fellows pushed his luck a bit too far in the waters east of Dutchman's Island. Those of you using today's NYSDEC South Shore Boat Launch know the shallow bar encompassed by today's white spar and can buoys as placed by the State Parks staff. Neither the launch nor markers were there on this day when the hunter waded out too far to chase a downed duck. Presumably caught by a wave, his heavy wools and canvas became an anchor, pulling his struggling head beneath the waves.

The Brown family still owned the island and estate on Shackleton Point. There were only a few dozen fish camps and duck shacks in the 2 miles of shoreline east of Briggs Bay. Not too many were occupied this late in the season. Learning of the incident, Fred Fulmer, a night brakeman for the New York Central Railroad, stepped aside after his workday and fashioned this heavy wire hook. A couple of days after the fellow drowned, Fred rowed, against the subsiding whitecaps, his 20-foot Damon cedar strip boat a mile from George Marshall's camp. Trolling back and forth across the shoal, he had snagged the unfortunate duck hunter's coat by the collar. Stoically pulling the body from the lake, he hung this hook from

the rafter of the now-gone camp.

Fred Fulmer was my Grandpa, and his father-in-law was George Marshall, the General Store proprietor in East Syracuse (the bowling alley off Bridge Street replaced the original shop). I still have Grandpa's Baker duck gun, and still shoot over some of the wooden blocks used by him and his son Dr. Charles Marshall Fulmer. These are heirlooms to pass to my family, along with some stories of our family's century on the lake. A lot has changed since the pre-Depression camp was built.

But some things do not change. One of these is the tradition of duck hunting.

Oneida Lake's 2017 waterfowling season starts September 1. For 25 days properly licensed hunters can shoot at resident (nuisance) Canada goose populations from the half hour before sunrise and until the half hour after sunset. Then on September 23-24 (National Hunting and Fishing Weekend) mentored youth hunters have an advance opportunity to shoot ducks.

Traditional duck hunters will wait for the regular season opener on October 7. This season runs through December 10, with a short closed period between October 30 and November 3. Shooting hours are from the half hour before sunrise until sunset.

Properly licensed waterfowl hunters must have a NYS small game license, a \$25 Federal "Duck Stamp", and have registered for a HIP number from the USFWS. ALL BOATERS – INCLUDING WATERFOWLERS – **MUST WEAR PFD'S** AFTER NOVEMBER 1 WHILE WATERCRAFT ARE IN MOTION. This includes paddled kayaks and canoes, not just sail and powerboats. PFD's must be worn until May.

Lakefront homeowners and duck hunters must respect each other's position. Hunters can legally shoot from shore over water from any property for which they have the owner's permission. Elsewhere they must stand or be anchored below the mean high water mark, and direct their shots only over water. This means that a boat can lawfully set decoys only feet from an occupied dwelling. Prudent hunters should carefully consider their choice of locations and behavior so as not to raise the ire of lakefront residents.

Similarly, lakefront owners must respect the tradition of lawful waterfowling. Should a homeowner irately confront an otherwise legally set hunting party, or shouting or waving to scare incoming birds, the landowner could be ticketed by NYSDEC for hunter harassment.

Everyone, be careful out there as the weather changes and the waters cool off. Late season bass and walleye anglers should be mindful that some of the flocks of ducks that they see along the shore may be decoys. Give them a berth of a few hundred yards.

HELLO FROM THE ONONDAGA ENVIRONMENTAL INSTITUTE BOAT STEWARDS!

At this point in the summer, I'm sure some of you have seen Rachael and Rebecca out at the boat launch at Oneida Shores. They're doing an awesome job to help stop the spread of aquatic invasive species. You might've also noticed that they sometimes have some extra help with them!

Onondaga Environmental Institute is happy to announce that our newest volunteer recruits are at the launches at both Oneida and Onondaga Lakes. If you see them, please be sure to say hello! It's so nice to have people from the community out there that are so dedicated to protecting the health of our lakes.

Rachael, Rebecca, and our volunteers are most frequently out at the lake on the weekends. They often get to experience all the different fishing tournaments at the launches, and really enjoy getting to understand sport fishing from the visitors at the lake. Through the end of July, they've inspected a combined total of 785 boats at Onondaga and Oneida Lakes, 163 at Onondaga and 622 at Oneida. Interestingly, at each lake, we have been able to educate 53% of the boaters about importance of cleaning, draining and drying the boat in order to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. Some aquatic invasive species that have been found include frog-bit, Eurasian water-milfoil, curly-leaf pondweed, and quagga and zebra mussels. To everyone's great relief, we have not yet come across any hydrilla plants. For those of you have not heard of it, it makes all the ones currently in Onondaga and Oneida look like babies. More information about hydrilla can be found on OEI's facebook page.

Looking ahead to next year we would like to encourage more of you Oneida Lakers, including high school students, college students and retirees to volunteer at the launch. If interest is high enough we will try to expand to an additional launch on Oneida Lake. Additionally, those of you who live in Onondaga County, we may be able to hire a youth you know between the ages of 15-25. Please call Amy at 315 472-2150 to learn more.

The cormorants are back in migration. Flocks of 20-60 birds are now common on the lake. OLA is counting on NYSDEC to continue harassment measures.

A late algae bloom will likely happen if the days after Labor Day are hot and calm. OLA's BOD is discussing the relationship between erosion, sedimentation, and nutrient loading. These discussions may lead to a call for action by agencies and officials having a mandate or vested interest in our watershed's land management.

7 IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE FINE PRINT ON YOUR BOAT'S INSURANCE POLICY

What is in your boat's insurance policy could mean the difference between having to pay significant costs out of pocket for a claim or coming away from the claims experience in good shape. Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS) suggests taking a look at the fine print on seven of the most important coverages.

1. **THE CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGE FINE PRINT:** Half of all sinkings occur at the dock when some small part below the waterline fails. However, these parts that include such things as an rubber outdrive bellows, for example, most often fail due to "wear, tear, and corrosion" or a lack of maintenance, so the policy won't pay for a new bellows. But here's the rub: As a consequence of the failed bellows, your boat has now sunk and a total loss. Who pays for that? Check your policy now for "consequential damage" coverage that pays for these losses that often start with a failed part that may be excluded under the policy. In this case, the failed bellows may not be covered – but the rest of the repairs or total loss (sunk boat) will be. One caveat: This consequential damage coverage often applies only to major or total losses. It's typical, for example, to cover the immediate consequential damage resulting from any fire, explosion, sinking, demasting, collision or stranding.

2. **THE FUEL-SPILL LIABILITY FINE PRINT:** In addition to your policy's standard liability coverage for physical damage or bodily injury to a third party, fuel-spill liability protects you from claims for cleanup or third-party damage from the accidental discharge of oil or fuel that can occur in a sinking, fire, collision or grounding. Some policies just pay the costs associated with a fuel spill up to the policy's set limit of boating liability coverage.

3. **THE ON-WATER TOWING FINE PRINT:** Many boat insurance policies today offer some kind of on-water towing endorsement that provides a level of towing and assistance for routine breakdowns or soft ungroundings. Know how you will be able

to use that coverage including who provides the service and does the company have 24-hour dispatch service? Also know when you will have to pay for a tow out of pocket and be reimbursed.

4. **THE SALVAGE COVERAGE FINE PRINT:** When fires, sinkings, a marina shed roof collapse or running up on a shoal damages your boat, you end up with a salvage situation. If the boat is not a total loss and needs to be recovered and brought to a repair facility, costs can escalate quickly. Most boaters assume the cost of raising or moving the boat to safe location is covered by their policy, but some marine insurers will subtract salvage costs from the insured value of the boat, reducing the funds available to repair the boat or the amount paid in the event of a total loss. With some policies on a total loss you may receive a check for the boat's insured value, but only get a small percentage of that insured value – perhaps just 5 to 10 percent – to pay for salvage costs, again forcing you to pay more out of pocket.

5. **THE BOAT TRAILER FINE PRINT:** Not all boat insurance policies automatically provide boat trailer coverage so be sure to check. Also find out if there are geographic limits on where you may trailer the boat. Note that if you have an accident while towing, it is your boat policy that pays to repair or replace the trailer, but any third-party damage your trailer causes to property or injuries to people is covered under your auto policy.

6. **THE LIABILITY-ONLY BOAT POLICY FINE PRINT:** If you opt for a liability-only policy, ensure that it provides not only coverage for property damage and bodily injury to others, but also that it provides coverage for salvage and removal of a wreck, and that separate coverage is available for fuel-spill incidents.

7. **NOT A COVERAGE BUT A CONCERN:** Do you have the experience to be able to salvage your own boat? Most boaters do not, even for a simple salvage operation, let alone after a major catastrophe. Boaters deserve an insurance provider that can arrange for the salvage as quickly as possible, potentially negotiating with crane operators, truckers, storage facilities, local government officials, marina staff and more.

Help OLA function. Memorials and contributions to our program are most welcome. Donations help offset our non- mail expenses, and to offset a dues increase. OLA is a 501(c)4 organization serving protection of the Oneida Lake environment.

Donate

Don't tell fish stories where the people know you; but particularly don't tell them where they know the fish. Mark Twain

Will our fish get smaller? Warmer waters from climate change will leave fish shrinking, gasping for air:

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/08/170821111500.htm>

If that is not a sweet piece of news, maybe this is.

Blue-green algae are not algae, and they (like *Shewanella oneidensis*) may be a key to new biofuel sources.

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/08/170821135052.htm>



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

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/>.

Report environmental violations. Please remember to obey all laws, rules, regulations, and codes of ethics as they pertain to boating, fishing, hunting, and management of Oneida Lake and its drainage basin. Be civil.

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