



Oneida Lake Association
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Greetings!

WHAT'S UP?



A small work barge from an operation pushed by two tugs recently sank in headwinds off the north side of Frenchman's Island. The barge sank while were trying to cross Oneida Lake, heading East, on Friday morning. A very strong East wind causing larger rollers heading toward Brewerton Some debris scattered across the lake, so be careful boating. President Darby retrieved this railroad tie while fishing Saturday morning (September 1st) floating just below the water surface, out in the middle North of Frenchman Island. Others reported seeing a nearly submerged barrel floating east.

If anyone has the 'inside scoop' on the barge mission, its temporary demise, and 3-day recovery effort to refloat it, please consider writing an article for the ENews.

Friday September 14 at 0900 volunteers are needed to assist Director George Reck and a few others from the Board in our semi-annual trash pickup along the Bartel Road - Interstate 81 intersection, and along the adjacent angler access beneath the bridge over the river. If you can assist, please contact George *via* email gkger3474@yahoo.com

The OLA Board of Directors September Meeting was energized and productive as we continued to evolve our education, goal(s), and strategies to address **the lake sedimentation issue** (see below). Consequent to speakers we heard at our August

networking meeting, and in reviewing the report of our special committee, the BOD understands that curtailing erosion upland and reducing the volume, frequency, and duration of sediment entering the lake will take decades, if not generations, to better manage.

While infilling of the lake is a natural process over the course of tens of thousands of years, within a century or so development within each township around the lake has accelerated the demise of this waterbody. The scope of the problem is not known or recognized by most of the residents in the 1,364 square miles of land drained in parts of Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego, and Cortland Counties.

Few town leaders and state politicians recognize this as an issue warranting attention in local codes or agency funding. So, as part of its strategy, the BOD is preparing a Position Paper as a starting point for further action. From this Position we can begin education and outreach with those empowered to make change. We also look for the release of the Central NY Regional Planning Board's Nine Element Plan (NEP) as it relates to the concern for local development that is deleterious to Oneida Lake's health.

A note by OLA Past President and Director, Dr. Edward Mills:

In my mind, the Arrowhead [Networking] meeting [as highlighted in ENews #29] was an excellent dress rehearsal for a [possible future] workshop on Sedimentation and Oneida Lake: Causes, Consequences, and Corrections. It is clear, however, from the speakers that remediation of the sedimentation issue will take some time and that there are no easy quick fixes.

The tragedy of the commons is a term used in social science to describe a situation in a shared-resource system where individual users acting independently according to their own self-interest behave contrary to the common good of all users by depleting or spoiling that resource through their collective action... As a voice for Oneida Lake, OLA can sound some alarm bells to stimulate some action on the issue and not allow a 'tragedy of the commons'.

The issue has been lingering around for some time and I believe our membership and stakeholders in the watershed would welcome a workshop on the subject. Participants in a workshop must include local (especially [the planning and zoning,] code enforcement and highway folks), county, and state officials, anyone who contributes to soil disturbance in the watershed, and the public. Perhaps each county in the watershed could offer training credits to participants attending the workshop as a way to encourage attendance and participation.

One area that was touched only lightly in Tim Caza's talk was the impact sedimentation alone has [in] Oneida Lake (e.g. disappearing wrecks from sediment). The impact of sedimentation on Oneida Lake needs to be addressed in a workshop as well.... Impacts [on] Oneida Lake include loss of fish habitat, nutrient rich soil originating from the watershed act as a medium for nuisance plant growth, loss of recreational opportunities, impact on property values for homeowners in sediment prone zones etc.

One comment at the [meeting by Bill Kapell] was that lakes fill in eventually...this is true over time but we as humans must not allow acceleration of the sedimentation process...the loss of soil from the Oneida Lake watershed benefits no one ...it is a lose-lose situation.

---edited by Scott Shupe

What is a Nine Element Plan?

by Anne Saltman, 4/13/17

Nine Element Plans (NEP) identify and quantify sources of pollutants, determine water quality goals or targets and the pollutant reductions needed to meet them, and describe the actions (best management practices) that will improve water quality. NEPs are consistent with the EPA's framework to develop watershed-based plans and consist of nine key elements. The elements are intended to ensure that the contributing causes and sources of non-point source pollution are identified, that key stakeholders are involved in the planning process and that restoration and protection strategies are identified that will address the water quality concerns.

Elements of the EPA Nine Element Plan:

1. Identify and quantify sources of pollution loads in the watershed
2. Identify water quality target or goal and load reductions needed to achieve goal
3. Identify the best management practices (BMPs) that will help to achieve reductions needed to meet water quality goal/target
4. Describe the financial and technical assistance needed to implement BMPs identified in Element #3
5. Describe the outreach to stakeholders, how their input is incorporated, and the role of stakeholders to implement the plan
6. Estimate a schedule to implement BMPs identified in plan
7. Describe the milestones and estimated time frames for the implementation of BMPs
8. Identify the criteria that will be used to assess water quality improvement as the plan is implemented
9. Describe the monitoring plan to collect water quality data to measure water quality improvement against criteria in #8

Goals of the Oneida Lake Watershed Nine Element Plan (NEP):

The overall goal of the Oneida Lake Watershed Nine Element Plan is to protect and improve lake and tributary water quality through the identification of pollution sources, water quality goals, pollutant reductions that are needed, and specific actions that will meet the goals. The NEP involves community outreach and engagement, an analysis of the environmental setting, an assemblage of demographic, land use, and water quality trends, the documentation of local issues of concern, the identification and prioritization of management practices, and an estimation of implementation costs and agency responsibilities.

Agencies, organizations, businesses, and nonprofit groups throughout the Oneida Lake watershed are encouraged to participate in the NEP to ensure that water resources continue to be safe and enjoyable for people and wildlife. A quantitative evaluation of pollutant sources and loading rates in the primary tributaries will be developed as part of the NEP. Quantitative nutrient loading models will be applied in order to evaluate the source and impact of pollution from development, agricultural practices and other land use activities throughout the watershed. This will provide the necessary information to establish pollution reduction goals and the basis for recommendations of appropriate best management practices.

Current Issues of Concern in Oneida Lake and its Watershed:

Erosion, sedimentation, and nutrient loading are priority concerns in the lake and watershed. Stakeholders will be asked to document their impressions of additional lake and watershed issues in a survey that will be distributed at a later date.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: *Point source pollution* refers commonly to discharges from a pipe. These sources were the first to be addressed by regulation, and now all such discharges locations are supposed to be identified by actively maintained signage. *Non-point pollution* refers to overland flow into waterways. Examples include farm pond overflow or rainfall runoff that introduces sediment into streams. While many construction sites over 1 acre area required to secure a storm water permit, most of the runoff into streams from small ditches and swales is unregulated.]

VOLUNTEER WATER CHESTNUT PULL

Many thanks to the agency and cooperative folks who helped remove some of this pest to the lake this year and in years past. Vigilance and diligence might significantly curtail the rate of expansion of the invasive pest. Indeed, with such repetition we might even eliminate the seed sources within the lake and its tributaries.

A special shout out to Member Marvin Reed, his wife (Jo Ann Rogers Reed, daughter of Millard, former OLA President), and neighbors like Karen Spera who pull weeds each year. Alas, this year they found an infestation just east of Oneida Shores Park, and removed 59 bins by kayak and canoe in early August.

Marvin got started with a Rotary project about fifteen years ago: *I was president of Oneida Shores Rotary about then and we were looking for a 100th anniversary of Rotary project. The club met at Castaways Restaurant and we didn't have to look very far for something meaningful to do. While most clubs were installing park benches, we uninstalled WC. The worst mess was right across from Castaways on the south shore near Route 81. So Rotary and the Reeds worked with the [Onondaga County Cornell] extension service and neighbors to pull weeds at least annually. At first, it was by the boat and pickup truck load. That Rotary club has folded and now Jo Ann and I try to make an annual effort to scout the shoreline between Oneida Shores Park and Route 11.*



QUESTIONS ASKED OF THE BOARD:

None this month.

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

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

The BOD anticipates that there will be at least one Director vacancy in the next year or so. Directors meet once a month; each Director must serve on at least one standing committee, volunteer for special events, and anticipate advancement to an officer's position after serving for a few 2-year terms.

TALEWATERS:

In the past we have asked for anecdotes or stories regarding an Oneida Lake experience. This month we have one, not from Ed McManus or Mark Twain, but from

a new humorist and member: **Barry Stevens, relaying his Autumn Wading Trip:**

What an experience wading this fall. Not that the entire season was bad, but on one particular trip things didn't go quite the way I had intended them to. Looking back I see absolutely no humor in my recollection of events, but maybe some of you can. Here is what happened...

You see, where I generally waded out into the lake, the bottom ranges from goo to sand, with an occasional smattering of small rocks and a stray bolder. As a matter of fact, there is one stray bolder about one foot high and six feet around. Sort of like a submerged monster truck tire, except there is no hole in the middle. You get the idea. Well, remember that some of these features may come into play later in this story.

Well, on the night in question the wind was pretty strong from the north, with waves averaging over a foot, with an occasional two footer thrown in. Before venturing out too far from shore, I waded along the shoreline for a while, looking for stray lures washed up in the weeds and such. As luck would have it, I saw two of them tangled in a low branch extending out into the water.

Not being one to pass up on a six dollar lure, let alone two, I bent over to retrieve them. Now I forgot to mention that my waders are twenty years old. I also forgot to mention that they have two suspenders, one for each shoulder. At least they did have until I bent over. Perhaps in my haste to go fishing I had tightened the well-aged suspenders a little too snugly. I also learned just then that in all physics there is a point at which things just won't stretch anymore. Guess what? Sure they snapped, but in so doing one popped me in the mouth and the other in my right eye. Boy that wind sure was cold on my broken tooth. And it certainly got dark in a hurry in my right eye.

Now what to do? Being the ingenuous person that I am, I looked at the two lures, and figured the trip would not be entirely wasted if I could somehow hold up my waders. So there was the solution right in my hand. I simply and cleverly fastened the lower hooks of the lures into the top front of my waders and the top hooks into my wading jacket. I thought it would work.

By this time the magical crepuscular time of day was approaching, so I hurriedly force-marched myself out into the raging storm. Remember that rock about the size of a monstrous truck tire? I didn't! I waded full speed right into it. Which do you think gave way first, the rock or my left big toe? Boy did that ever hurt. It hurt so much that I instinctively reached for my left foot, grabbed hold of my ankle, and began hopping painfully around on my right foot.

Well once again I learned about old fabric stretching beyond a certain point. I should have been embarrassed, but in the gathering dark who would see the eight inch tear in my crotch. Boy that water was cold in a very sensitive area.

But not to be denied a fishing trip, I pushed my way out into the stormy seas. I actually felt pretty good, not having completely taken a header yet, and I could still see out of my left eye. And amazingly my old waders were staying up, although one particularly sensitive area of my body was getting mighty cold.

So with my face into the wind, I made my first cast, and of course under these conditions the fishing was great. I immediately had on a huge walleye, and started reeling it in. Once the fish got in pretty close, it was time to bend over and grab it. Get the idea? Bend over in water three feet deep with at least one foot waves? Bend over in waders up to my neck but no longer snug around the top? In my excited state of mind I didn't get the idea.

Before I knew what was happening my broken tooth was at water level and even as stupid as I am I knew that was not a desirable condition. In my panic I instinctively yanked up hard on my fishing rod hoping to pull myself back upright. I guess it must have worked, because I was now looking down on the walleye that came flying out of the water for about one foot right before the lure came out of the his mouth. With my dim senses I could not quite register what had happened when the fishing rod snapped back like a whip and slapped me right across my remaining good

eye. Before I could say "gosh darn" the sight in my left eye faded into total darkness.

Now I was in a state of panic. I couldn't see, the waves were steadily increasing, my waders were useless, and I was getting real cold. But survival instinct took over, and one remaining thought came to my chattering mind. Why not cast with the wind. My lure would be sure to snag onto something along the shore and I could reel myself back in. Pretty smart thinking on my behalf, huh? So in complete darkness I cast with all of my remaining strength along with the wind, and when the line stopped leaving the reel I tried cranking in the slack.

Do you know where and when a mouse nests develops in your line? Once again I found out. It happens at the exactly the worse possible moment and right at the reel. Well this had to qualify as just about the worst possible time. So I frantically tried using both hands to undo the tangle. Get it? Using both hands? Guess where the fishing rod went. I have no idea. At this point I was ten degrees below numb and dumb, so I simply gathered up all the line into a ball and started pulling myself in as the line became taught.

Remember the goo on the bottom that I had mentioned. Well my feet became mired in it just as a three foot wave knocked me over.

What to do? I simply started thrashing like a chicken without his head and started pulling myself forward along the taught line. By now the waders were open like the mouth of a beluga whale going after dinner. At this point things really happened in a hurry. My waders gave a last gasp and ripped apart, my feet came free, I surged forward and started surfing like a penguin on a surf board with a three foot wave pushing me right into shore. At least I thought it was shore. Once again, remember that rock I told you about?

Just as I thought things could not get any worse my head hit that rock like a baseball bat hits a ninety mile per hour fast ball. In fact I hit it so hard that it split right down the middle. My head that is. Or so it felt like. I must have passed out, because the next thing I knew I was laying on shore with all kinds of flashing red and blue lights around me.

What an experience. My losses totaled a big walleye, my still questionably serviceable waders, a good fishing pole and reel, three six-dollar lures, the cost of an ambulance ride and a three day hospital stay, and a new crown on my tooth. After three weeks my wife finally came back, but we had to enroll our kids in a different school.

So, anyone want to go wading with me?

See Ya! (After I take my eye patches off...)

If you are reading this ENews, then we have your correct email!

But if your neighbors or other friends who you know are members, but are **NOT receiving OLA emails** or the mid-month ENews it is likely that we do not have the correct email address *or* the communications are in their *Junk Folders*. Please check and let us know so that we can update and remove Constant Contact. 'suspensions'.

**Pay your dues, recruit your non-member neighbors and friends, and
HELP PROTECT ONEIDA LAKE!!!!**

Donate

**Help OLA function. Memorials and
contributions to our program are**



most welcome.

OLA is a 501(c)4 organization serving protection of the Oneida Lake environment.



[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) or 1-800-TIPP DEC (1-800-847-7332)**

*Edited by Scott Shupe and John Harmon.
Send us your notes and articles for use in future ENews!*