



Oneida Lake Association
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Greetings!

WHAT'S UP?

The Board of Directors hopes that you had a wonderful, safe autumn hunting and fishing season, a great Thanksgiving, and we wish you safe winter travels, a Merry Christmas and an extended holiday season. Short of gift ideas? Consider a membership to the Oneida Lake Association!

ICE UP

Oneida Lake froze over with a variable and unsteady complete ice cover overnight December 2021, 2019 under calm, clear skies and single digit temperatures.

A few (supply adjective) souls ventured out onto eastern lake ice Friday to report between 1 and 3 inches of slush over a thin glaze of ice. With warm, thawing weather predicted Christmas week, wise hard water anglers should spend safe holiday season simply preparing their gear, rather than risking a rescue call from one of the previously Bulletin-featured local volunteer fire-rescue corps.

OLA Directors will host a display and **membership table at these two 2020 shows:**

- January 24-26 NY Sportsman's Expo, NYS Fairgrounds Expo Center, Syracuse
- February 1, CNY Sportsman Show, Kallet Civic Center, Oneida
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If you attend, stop by to chat and to renew your membership.

SAVE THE DATE: The OLA the Spring Highway Cleanup on April 24, 2020.

While you are at it, write down the **Annual Meeting will be on April 28, a Tuesday.**

ADVOCACY

Last month ENews #42 included a pdf of a letter regarding NYS Canal Corporation's considerations regarding waterway invaders. Since Governor DeWitt Clinton [transferred two barrels](#) of Lake Erie water into New York harbor, the canal has been a vector for at least a score of plants and animals that harmed Oneida Lake.

Opening inland waters, *via* canals, to commerce is as old as human civilization. Arguably it is only since the origin of the Boomer generation that the dangers of noxious, alien, invasive species (NAIS) has been highlighted. However, our governments and general citizenry have remained oblivious to meaningful preventive and curtailment measures.

One would hope that the Gen-Xers, Millennials, and generations with future monikers will be more mindful and interactive in dealing with NAIS. There is cause for optimism. At one time the Corps of Engineers was known for building dams; it now tears some out! At one time it was 'right' to dredge the greater Cicero Swamp and realign Chittenango Creek; now muck lands and wetland restorations are 'correct'.

Future damage to the North American landscape and aquatic systems is inevitable. Once a NAIS is established, its range will expand and native species will be diminished or eliminated (absent very expensive and labor-intensive human intervention).

The OLA Board of Directors have positions supporting (or suggesting word-smithing of proposed regulations) many agency measures to retard or preclude new invaders to Oneida Lake. Our mission is to protect the fisheries and derived benefits of the Lake environment. It now appears that our concern and efforts are not without merit.

The effects of the newly arrived spiny water flea are but another example of need for the commercial citizenry of the USA to mindfully include NAIS curtailment in the Nation's policies. The economic cost to us - and the world - from neglecting the impacts of NAIS warrant advocating the nexus of Defense, Commerce, Interior, Education and other federal departments. We need to endorse candidates who have the broad needs of environment in their election platforms.

To the direct matter of fisheries, I would like all our readers to examine [this link](#). The Chicago River is an artificial canal originally opened to rid the city of sewage from its water source. Once opened the canal became a major national commercial transportation center for movement between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River drainage basin. and beyond. Asian carp are one current threat to the Great Lakes. Let's pray that Congress and Illinois act to preclude infestation of Lake Michigan, and further that Lake Erie waters do not contain new invaders that can migrate to Oneida Lake *via* the Erie (Barge) Canal!!

PLEASE SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS ABOUT OUR 75TH ANNIVERSARY!!!

The OLA would love to hear your thoughts about the Association and the lake. Send us your memories, your anecdotes, your photos, your ideas. What does Oneida Lake mean to you?

Note a new email address for you or family members to contribute to the OLA's efforts to collect historical anecdotes, names, and events in advance of the Association's 75 Anniversary in 2020.

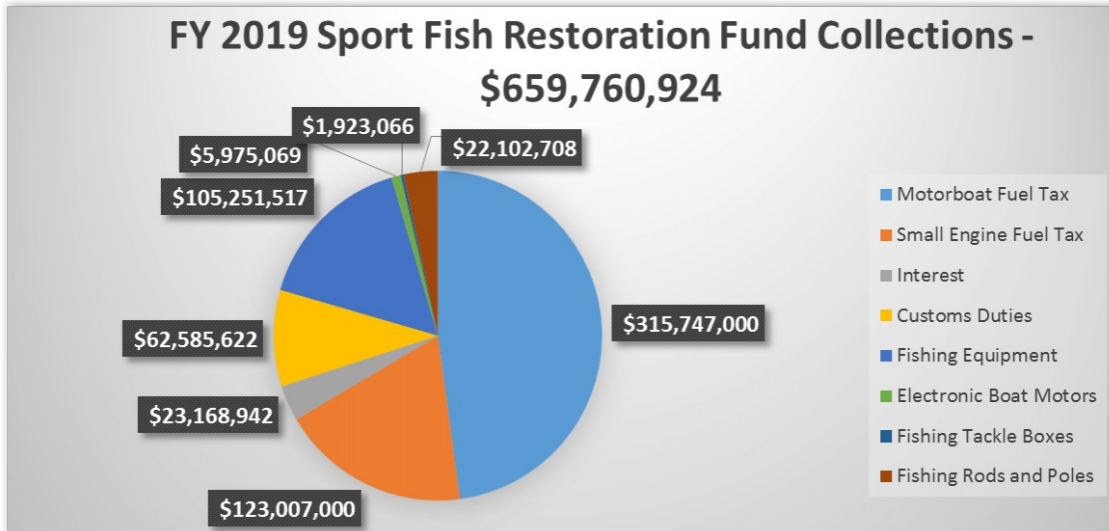
Write to OLA75th@gmail.com

OLA, with its concern related to the deleterious effects due to erosion and sedimentation entering the State's largest inland lake.

Steve Lorraine from Madison County SWCD said that they completed a nice project on Dyke Road in Chittenango that helps mitigate flooding and prevent loads of sediment from entering Chittenango Creek.

Madison County sets aside \$150,000.00/year to address areas with repetitive flooding issues, many times this work will address erosion as well like the Dyke Road project.

Steve said if there are areas with issues that we are aware of to let him know and he can add it to his list of areas in need of work. Can members identify problematic areas of erosion or overland sediment movement?



The Wildlife Management Institute (supported by a Multi-State Conservation Grant) provides you with this quarterly snapshot of the excise tax collections to help you understand the health of American System of Conservation Funding. This system of funding was established in the 1930s and expanded and perfected over the next 40+ years. This reliable source of annual funding for state fish and wildlife agencies represents a unique partnership between the agencies and the hunting, shooting sports, angling, and boating industries. In rough numbers, these excise tax deposits made by the partner industries represent about half of the state fish and wildlife agencies' annual budget. Therefore, it is imperative to conservation that agencies (from the Commissioners down to the field biologists) understand the industry trends and work with these industries to ensure a strong income flow going forward.

A NEW SEWER PROJECT WILL HELP THE LAKE

Two years ago West Monroe ran a sewer line across the lake bottom in the Toad Harbor - Big Bay area that was directed to the Fort Brewerton Waste Water Treatment Plant. Now Town of Constantia officials are waiting to hear about how much in state grants and loans the town will receive to help pay for its upcoming sewer project.

The new sewer district was formed in July and runs from the Cleveland village line along State Route 49 to the boundary with the town of West Monroe. It includes 1,159 equivalent dwelling units, mostly single-family houses. The project also includes a new and updated sewage treatment plant in the village of Cleveland, which is being paid for by Cleveland and residents of the new Constantia sewer district. The total cost of the project is \$39 million and the town is hoping for about \$10 million in grants from the state. The rest of the project would be paid with loans. If a 0 percent interest loan is made to the town, the cost per household would be

about \$850 a year — \$500 of that would pay for the construction costs and about \$350 is for water and treatment.

As cited in this [WDT article](#), *Oneida Lake is deemed a “stressed” lake by the state Department of Environmental Conservation and one of the things stressing the lake is too many items commonly found in sewage such as phosphorus and nitrogen making their way into the lake through faulty septic systems. Phosphorus and nitrogen in sewage are great when they are providing nutrients to soil through the spreading of manure. But when they end up in water, they provide nutrients for aquatic plant growth that can lead to algae and an overabundance of weeds and other growth that then chokes oxygen out of the water, killing fish and other creatures.*

There is a section between Cleveland and North Bay that is not currently served by sewers. Upgrading the Cleveland WWTP should also provide capacity to pick up this section at some point in the future.

Aside from the Cleveland-North Bay section, the only other portion of the lakefront that lacks sewers is in the Town of Sullivan between Hamilton Brown Road (Just east of the South Shore Launch) and Bushnell Shore Road (just west of Chapman Park).

As indicated by Cornell studies that show groundwater is a significant inflow to Oneida Lake, there remains concern that lake water quality (and homeowner stress) could be marginally improved by completing lake perimeter sewer districting. Once dominated by small seasonal camps, the lakeshore and service roads from Routes 49 and 31 have been built up with new, larger permanent residences. Many of these converted camps have aged, under-performing septic systems.

OLA’s long-standing mission to protect the lake includes urging local and state officials, Governor Cuomo, and our federal legislators to secure funding for prompt, cost-effective financing of engineering studies and construction of sewers. The lakefront tax assessments are some of the highest in these towns, and many residences are fixed-income. State and federal grants and 0 interest loans are essential to completion of sewer districting to protect this valuable CNY resource.

CLIMATE CHANGE - AGAIN!

In ENews #40 (September 2019) we summarized the work of SU-ESF researchers who are **studying Oneida Lake sediments**. Their work will reveal some geologic history of our lake. In that summary Nick Zaremba, Christopher Scholz, and Carl Guerreschi indicated that the glacial lake, following retreat of the Pleistocene ice sheet temporarily changed the **dynamics of the Atlantic Ocean!** Now read more

An ocean current critical to weather around the world is losing steam. The conveyor belt of ocean water that loops the planet and regulates global temperatures could be heading for a tipping point.

Read in National Geographic: <https://apple.news/ArNAwMKx3QmuBjePJeXCKgg>

Remember that past issues of the OLA ENews are archived on our website, along with many Bulletins. Hard copy of all Bulletins are on the shelves of the Syracuse Onondaga County Public Library.

We are looking for helpers to go to the library and to scan the older issues for posting on our website www.oneidalakeassociation.org and helping us prepare for our 75th anniversary meeting next spring.

Above we cited a study about invasive carp. NYSDEC - R7 Fisheries Manager David Lemon then sent along this note:

Thanks for sharing. This goes to what we try to tell people, like a farm field which can only produce so many pounds of a crop, so to a waterbody can only raise so many pounds of fish. I once read a journal article about pre and post estimates of fish densities in a lake that was drained for dam repairs. Common carp were present and dominated the fish community biomass prior to the drawdown, while afterwards they were excluded. Several years after refilling the lake, estimates of sunfish biomass were four times higher than they had been previously. Some years later carp got back into the lake and in a matter of several years sunfish biomass declined to the levels observed prior to dam repairs.

Take a look at this eye-opener. **Let's not flush goldfish and proverbial alligators!!!**
Giant invasive mussels eradicated from US ponds!
A colony of mussels as big as dinner plates has recently been wiped out from a New Jersey pond: <https://apple.news/AgoSDcYdUSN-C9cdokxIZLQ>

Another related concern A freshwater [mussel apocalypse](#) is underway—and no one knows why. Is it climate change, pollution, an unknown disease? A dedicated few are trying to crack the mystery.
More of concern, what is the health of Oneida Lake's mussels and snails? We know they took a hit subsequent to hitchhiking zebra and quagga mussels. Cornell folks: care to send us an article?

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.
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.

The BOD currently has two Director vacancies.
Write out your avocational resume and send it along with a brief note outlining your experience and interests 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.

It is time for ice fishermen to test their gear, vehicles, and to review safety measures.

MEMBER QUESTIONS?

Remember that many of the frequently asked questions about the lake are posted with responses on the website.

We had some interesting, albeit few in number, responses to last month's solicitation regarding perch limits. Given the number of anglers awaiting ice, we again ask you to convey your thoughts.

The current statewide limits for perch and sunfish is 50 per day. Although not as robust as it was decades ago, Cornell deems the Oneida Lake perch population as healthy. **Should Oneida Lake have a different, lower limit?**
We are not aware of many ECO citations for over-limit violations on Oneida Lake. **Are anglers effectively policing themselves? Is ECO coverage sufficient?**

Sale of perch is currently allowed. Should purchase and sale of sport-caught fish be regulated by DEC and/or Department of Health?

Sent your questions and opinion to President@OneidaLakeAssociation.org

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

\$8 annually

Recruit your non-member neighbors and friends TO JOIN US!



As part of OLA's 75th celebration, we are commissioning this fillet knife that will be emblazoned with the OLA anniversary logo. The Board authorized a price of \$20, or \$25 to also include an annual membership.



The Board wishes to thank members and friends of the late **John Robinson** who made donations to OLA on his behalf. Such remembrances take the edge off some of our expenses and preparations for our 75 Anniversary meeting next April.

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.



The Board of Directors has vacancies. If you or someone you know has a special avocation and interest in serving the Oneida Lake community, please contact us.

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

OLA is a 401(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/>.

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!*