



Oneida Lake Association
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Greetings!

GREETINGS FROM THE ONEIDA LAKE ASSOCIATION

While the Covid pandemic has affected all of us in so many ways, the Oneida Lake Association has continued to make progress on protecting and preserving our lake. The Board of Directors has been meeting regularly, through the use of the now all too familiar Zoom platform. On July 13, the Board met in person for the first time since the pandemic. Of course, careful social distancing and masks were part of our meeting protocols. We conducted a number of business functions, including welcoming a new member of the Board, Bill Lints. Bill brings a variety of experiences and knowledge to our OLA Board of Directors along with a passion for Oneida Lake. Besides being an excellent multi-species angler, his great-uncle was the owner of Labella's Pancake House in Sylvan Beach for many years. Bill spent his youth fishing and boating on Oneida Lake, pastimes he continues to this day. Bill has worked for the Department of Environmental Conservation and is presently is working in the field of cancer research advocacy. His volunteer roles include past President of the New York State Outdoorsmen Hall of Fame, a past board member of the Utica Zoo Society, the Dolgeville School Board, and is presently a board member on Muskie's Inc. Current OLA President, Bill Girvan, says, "I have known Bill Lints for the past forty years, and I have high expectations for him in the future as a member of our OLA Board of Directors." Welcome, Bill!

We are also pleased to report that we will continue our commitment to honor Dr. John Forney as the OLA 75th Anniversary commemorative recipient of the Conservationist of the Year Award. In the same year in which he is being inducted into the NYS Outdoorsmen Hall of Fame, Dr. Forney will be honored by OLA this August during a private, socially-distanced gathering at the Cornell Biological Research Station on Shackleton Point. President Girvan and other OLA Directors will be on hand to present a special plaque to Dr. Forney.

At our meeting, the Board also discussed the recent survey put forth by the DEC regarding the potential to raise the daily limit of walleyes on Oneida Lake. OLA has not yet taken a position on the issue, and we are continuing our Board's discussions with DEC and studying scientific data from Cornell about the health of the lake's fisheries. We thank our members who reached out to the Board and participated in DEC's survey to share their opinions.

Cove Road Fishing Access

(from Jana Lantry, Fisheries Manager for the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation)
NYSDEC Region 6 continues to work toward development of plans for the construction of a new boat launch on Cove Road. Survey information needed to finalize the plans was collected recently and provided to Division of Operations Bureau of Design and Construction in Albany. Final designs are anticipated soon.

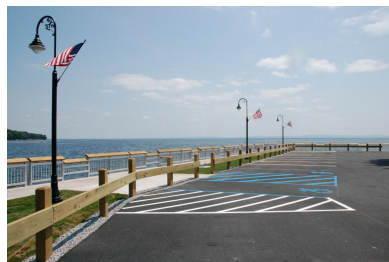
THE NEW CLEVELAND PIER!

With great anticipation for a terrific future, the OLA announces the completion of the north shore Pier, located in Cleveland. This impressive project allows for a number of recreational activities, including bird watching, fishing, and simply enjoying a spectacular view of the lake. OLA Director Rip Colesante says that the new pier is "a great asset for Oneida Lake and for Cleveland." He went on to say that "they did an excellent job, including providing a disability friendly fishing site."

OLA and numerous state agencies, including DEC and the Canal Corporation, have been working on this project for several years. Past OLA President and Director Emeritus, Tom Pierce, was a longtime champion of the project, both as a frequent fisherman and a tireless advocate of the repair of the Pier. Tom has continued to bring forward angler priorities that OLA has shared with the Canal Corporation and DEC, to make the finished project the best it can be.

Throughout the process of the restoration, the OLA participated in meetings with various agencies involved with the project--NYS DEC, NYS Parks and Rec, the Village of Cleveland, Oswego County, and the Town of Constantia. Dave Lemon, Region 7 Fisheries Manager for DEC, stated, "The Department appreciates the strong support that OLA provided over the years as we worked to find the funds and build the partnerships that ultimately allowed the completion of this project to become a reality."

Hats off and to everyone who helped restore the crumbling pier into a crown jewel of public access to Oneida Lake.



(Aerial photo by NYS DEC)

OLA Pitches in to Pull Water Chestnuts



A successful Water Chestnut Pull was coordinated by the Oneida Lake Association on Saturday, July 11th. A bright-eyed group of individuals from the Finger Lakes Institute at Hobart William Smith and SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry gathered early and came long distances to assist! Some traveled from as far away as Waverly, NY—a two-plus hour drive! Members of the FLI Hydrilla Team also participated. The team at Lewis Point removed about 250 pounds of Water Chestnuts, while an estimated 750 pounds of Water Chestnuts were pulled from another location on the South Shore. Altogether, twelve volunteers pulled over 1,000 pounds of weeds. Many thanks to all!

The ranks of weed-pullers included boat stewards Josh Neff, Erin Siebert, Emma Wilber, Azure D'Angelo, Matt Gallo, Lexi Mitchell, Josh Smith, Anna Kraai, Pete Highland, and Nick Ludwig. OLA Directors Carl Ford and Patricia Cerro-Reehil organized and coordinated the event. Many thanks to our volunteers!

How about this string of Oneida Lake beauties?



Would you like to Help the Oneida Lake Association?

We are looking for dedicated volunteers to serve on the Board of Directors for the Oneida Lake Association. If you'd like to help us carry on the mission of the Oneida Lake Association and help us Preserve and Protect our beautiful lake, this is the time to think seriously about stepping up.

The BOD currently has two Director vacancies. We need individuals who have people skills and an interest with interaction with the academic and government professionals. Good writing and technology skills are a bonus.

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.

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

Write out your avocational resume, personal interests, and a professional background summary. Send them by snail or email 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.

Here are classic tips from H.G. Tapply writing in *Field and Stream*:

<https://www.fieldandstream.com/32-vintage-fishing-tips/>

MEMBER QUESTIONS?

Sent your questions and opinions to President@OneidaLakeAssociation.org

ONEIDA LAKE SIGNS. There are 20 signs around the lake bearing advertising

support for the OLA's mission. At this time there is about a dozen firms of these advertisers who are no longer in business. If your company has interest in adopting one of these signs, and promoting both your business and OLA at a nominal expense, please contact an OLA Director or email President@OneidaLakeAssociation.org

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

\$8 annually

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



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.

Memorial remembrance\$ take the edge off some of our expenses.



[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/>.

Report environmental violations. 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.

1-844-DEC-ECOS (1-844-332-3267) or 1-800-TIPP DEC (1-800-847-7332)

Edited by John Harmon and Matt Snyder

Send us your notes and articles for use in future ENews!