Oneida Lake Association
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Greetings!

2016 ANNUAL MEETING: Calendar that CNY residents and members are invited to join the Board ofDirectors and speakers April 27. TheOneida Lake Association's Annual Meeting is held in **Cicero-North Syracuse HighSchool's auditorium. Doors open todisplays at 6 PM**. Meeting runs from 7-9PM. We will again have door prizes and time for questions from theaudience. The agenda appears at the bottom of this email.

The Board of Directors expresses gratitude to our speakers and donors for their respective contributions to this effort.

Attending Members should note that **there will be some school construction underway.** The layout of our entrance and tables will be different. **Plan on entering the school at the bus entrance.**

Anglers experienced their first year of major interactions with Oneida's latest invader. Come listen to the respective considerations as two PhD's describe how Eurasian round gobies will affect our traditions and ecosystem. Then get ready for walleye opening day May 7!

MEMBERSHIPS - If you are unable to attend the meeting, but wish to renew your 2016-17 membership, please use the PayPal-enabled format at our website **(click below)**. Be sure to indicate if you wish to receive the *Oneida Lake Bulletin* electronically, starting with the Fall 2016 issue.

Remember as well the **2016 Membership Challenge!** Each of you should bring in a new member! ***"A fin for a fin"*** is a great way to help the organization. Keep our messages strong, bring in your best buddy (and have him bring in his/her sibling!)

Current News

featured

Oneida Fish Culture Station Manager Bill Evans and his staff set trap nets

March 29 this year. Nine days later 284 Million walleye eggs were being incubated. Come listen to Bill speak on the 27th, and look at some videos posted to our Facebook page. The Oneida Lake walleye hatchery program supports nearly all walleye stocking in NYS.

NYSDEC announced that it will be holding anECO/Ranger Academy this summer. This isthe first class since 2013, and will have 37 conservation officer and 17 forestranger candidates attending. This 20thBasic School for Uniformed Officers will be held the training facility on theSalmon River. OLA always endorsed having a full complement ofofficers, especially assigned to Regions 6 & 7. OLA was founded on the premise of fightingfish pirates, and today maintains that poaching must stop. Protection of OneidaLake's walleyes needs a full complement - even borrowing many from other regions- of ECO's tomonitor anxious anglers especially each spring and fall when 'eyes' arevulnerable.
With the end of ice fishing, reports came in ofoverloaded coolers along the canal walls in Sylvan Beach, and anglers boatingmany tens of walleyes moving onto their spawning grounds - harassment atbest. Culling of walleyes to get a3-fish limit is prohibited.

The NYS Federation of Lakes (www.nysfola.org) annualmeeting starts April 29. A WatercraftInspection Steward Program Workshop will be held for those interested inlearning the details and developing programs for the new Part 576 invasivespecies boat launch decontamination requirements, how to start an inspectionprogram, current models, and funding mechanisms.

NYSCC installed the channel bouys April 18. Be sure to remain alert for navigation hazards. Use the form on the OLA webpage to report any new shoaled trees or other hazards. Download and laminate a copy of our Safety Map. Relate to our updated list of marinas and launch sites.

Old Boats Does anyone know of wooden rowboat plans ordetailed, dimensioned diagrams from the 1920's of Loren Damon and sons Leon,Ceylon and Raymond of Bridgeport? Amember, wanting to try to build one, asks for an email if you can assist inthis search. {Read about old boats in Jack Henke's 2004 book, *From 'The Beach" to Brewerton, Stories of Oneida Lake*.}

featured

Director Candidates: Ever considered being a Director on theOneida Lake Association's Board of Directors? The Oneida Lake Association hasvacancies on its BOD. We arelooking for people who are passionate about Oneida Lake and are willing to workto preserve and protect it for the future. If you have an interest in becoming a member of our Board, send us aletter telling us why you would like to be a member of the Board and of yourqualifications. Send a letter to theSecretary of The Oneida Lake Association, P.O. Box 3536, Syracuse, NY 13220.

A Developing Theme - water and algae

In the March Newsletter we posted some watershedand lake numbers as a basis for understanding the water. In recent years, media presentation of

algalblooms and beach closings has alarmed many new users of the lake. In the next few OLA Newsletters we willdevelop some background information for our membership. We will look a bit more into what influencesalgae blooms, and response considerations that may be more measured andbalanced than some past reactions that were inaccurately founded inmisconceptions. Social commentaries the'the lake is polluted' may not be factually represented in the media. So we hope that you will appreciate this developingtheme.

In this Newsletter issue we draw from thewonderful new book ***"Oneida Lake: Long-Term Dynamics of a Managed Ecosystemand Its Fishery"***, published by the American Fisheries Society, and authored bythe Cornell team. The Shackelton Pointresearch collective may be unique in the world, one for which our membershipshould be grateful and proud.

Allegedly early French explorers cited "**Lac Verde**" or Green Lake. In the1820's Governor Clinton noted Oneida's unusual 'lake blossom', speculating that theblue-green algae bloom was some form of *"vegetable putrefaction"* from theswamps and marshes swept into the lake.

In the drought years of the mid-1960's, the lake was so green that the *Hexagenia* mayfly disappeared (onlyreturning in the last 2 years) as a consequence of the high biologic oxygendemand (BOD) of decaying bottom sediments into which the insect burrows. So algae blooms are not new.

The last and next few newsletters will helpus fathom better alarmist, and perhaps inappropriate, opinions that Oneida Lakeis unhealthy and dangerous.

Starting with the geology, for soils are a sourceof nutrients, we know that stacked layers of shale, limestone, and sandstoneunderlie the region from Tug Hill south to and beyond Route 20. Above these sedimentary layers are relativelyimmature and fertile soils derived from glacial outwash. The shallow northern soils tend to be lessrich and a bit acidic in comparison with the thicker southern clays, unsortedsands and gravels, and limestone soils.

The five largest surface tributaries (representing 56%of drainage area) annually contribute 1.17 x109 cubic meters anddirect precipitation about 2.1 x108 cubic meters of water. Schneider's 2005 work indicates thatgroundwater is a significant contributor at the lake's perimeter, especially inspring and after rainstorms. Shespeculates that groundwater could contribute as much as direct precipitation,together 10-15% of lake's annual water budget, with the rest from tributaries.

Groundwater could be a significant source ofnitrogen, calcium, manganese and other nutrients, transported tens of miles inone of the 5-6 aquifers abutting or underlying Oneida Lake, and contributing toits surface water's alkalinity and buffering capacity. Groundwater flowpaths can also provide

connectionsbetween distant sources of contamination and the lake.

Recognize that contamination is notsynonymous with pollution. Salt added todistilled water is a contaminant in that water. Nevertheless, fertilizers, pesticides, sewerage, road de-icers, oils,and industrial solvents released decades ago from homes, farms, school yards,golf courses, factories, and city streets all can enter the current and futuregroundwater complex, and thus the lake. Once in the lake, contaminants may notbe flushed into the Oneida River for 239 days (a relatively short residencetime). Natural flushing of the lake isaltered by November cessation of canal operations, probably altering nutrientconcentrations from leaf litter decomposition. Moreover, groundwater may influence vertical temperature profiles,stratification, and bi-annual turnover – and the biologic processes during therespective periods.

Temporal variations in nutrients follow waterflow. Northern tributaries (65% of lakessurface input) have low dissolved oxygen (DO) and dissolve nutrients comparedto southern stream contributions. Nitrates are highest from the south,averaging about 4X higher than that of the lake. While greatly reduced since the mid 1970's(legislation) phosphate loading from southern tributaries appear tied tosuspended sediment. Dissolvedphosphorous (P) decreases following storms but total P increases. P increases in droughts due to conversion ofbottom sediments exposed to lower DO. Thus released, P contributes to algal blooms.

Dissolved nutrients are tied to algalabundance...more phosphorus, for example, is usually tied to more algae. However, the ratio of nitrogen to phosphorus,can dictate the type of algal blooms like cyanobacteria....so whethercyanobacteria/blue-green algal blooms are present can get messy to explain. As can the rationale and processes leading to beach closures. But we will try in future Newsletters.

Right now - April 20, 2016 - the lake is veryclear. Spring rains will warm the lake,and storm runoff will introduce eroded inland sediments to color thewater. Electrochemically many nutrientand metal elements will be affixed to those soil particles. Others will be dissolved in that 'new' water. Sunlight, bacteria, phytoplankton, and rootedmacrophytes will react in this brew that supports our fishery. Water claritywill decrease. As it has forgenerations. When the lake clouds up, forchange is constant, try to understand why that change is happening, and of whatsignificance and consequence we each may react.

Enjoy Oneida Lake.

OLA appreciates the support of donors who give more than their $5 membership dues.
We also greatly appreciate the support of family members and friends who donate in memory of departed friends of the lake.

Donate

Oneida Lake Association **71st Annual MeetingApril 27, 2016**
Cicero-North Syracuse High School
MEETING AGENDA

7:05	BusinessMeeting	
7:20	Oneida Fish Cultural Station Update	BillEvans
7:35	Oneida Fisheries Report	Dr. Randy Jackson
7:55	NYSDECCormorant Hazing Program	Dave Lemon
8:15	Oneida Lake “Goby Impact Speculation”	Dr. Chris Pennuto
8:50	Conservationist of the Year Award	V.P. Matt Snyder
	QUESTIONS, QUESTIONS, QUESTIONS	Captain Tony Buffa
9:00	Drawing for two Go Pro units and numerous Door Prizes	

Website Who We Are What We Do How to Help