



Oneida Lake Association
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Water Levels

In these newsletters you have been following the progress of New York State's **Upstate Flood Mitigation Task Force**. As you know, water levels on Oneida Lake affect every activity in the watershed. With a shallow lake like ours, it is an important challenge to maintain the delicate balance between high and low water levels.

The OLA has been an active participant in this Task Force. At the most recent meeting (June 14), OLA Vice-President John Harmon made a presentation outlining our concerns. He then offered into the record our recently adopted Position Statement regarding water levels. (please see below).

This meeting, like the previous three, was recorded in video. You can view the entire meeting at the link below:

October 2022 meeting

<https://www.youtube.com/live/4DKWBSaNSCk?feature=share>

April 2023 meeting

<https://youtu.be/mQTjTdTNw9g>

June 14 2023 meeting

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UZFJ_yFF6uo

For the next step, the Task Force will present a detailed report with recommendations to the Governor on July 1st. Members of the the OLA Board were invited to comment on the draft before its final publication.

We will let you know as soon as the final report becomes public.



Oneida Lake Association, Inc.—PO Box 3536—Syracuse, NY 13220
It's Your Lake—Help Us Preserve It!

Oneida Lake Association Position on Water Level Management

The natural resources, riparian property, and boating of Oneida Lake are irreplaceable and valuable assets. The people who value these assets have benefited greatly from **successful past practices in water level management** that the New York State Canal Corporation put in place since the mid-2000s.

Therefore, the Oneida Lake Association adopts the position that future water level management in the Oneida Lake watershed and the greater Oswego River basin should continue to abide by these same, successful strategies:

1. Water level management should promote the health of the Oneida Lake ecosystem and minimize spring flood damage by maintaining lake levels between 368.5' BCD (current winter draw-down level) and 373' (reported flood stage).
2. Strategies to manage Oneida Lake levels must not involve lowering Oneida Lake to any elevation less than 368.5'; must not involve removal of any natural shoals that may fix the winter water elevation in Oneida Lake; and must consider possible adverse effects on both Oneida Lake residents and residents downriver from the Caughdenoy Dam.
3. Water level management strategies should prioritize navigation (both inter-lake, via the Canal; and intra-lake, via trips from private docks and marinas on Oneida Lake). This should be accomplished by driving levels toward the high side of allowable levels from June through November, in particular by maintaining levels slightly above the maximum range of the current Oneida Lake rule curve during these months. This approach, which has been implemented since the mid-2000s, has proven to provide a buffer against drought during the summer and fall months without adverse effects. Going forward, summer and fall levels should continue to be managed toward the following targets:
 - a. 371.5' +/- .5' in June, July, and August;
 - b. 371' +/- .5' in September, October, and November; and
 - c. Natural winter draw-down levels, no lower than 368.5', starting Dec. 1.

These past practices in water level management have proven beneficial to summer and fall navigation, especially in October and November when anglers and waterfowl hunters are Oneida Lake's most numerous users. These practices have not caused adverse effects on people or properties on Oneida Lake or downstream.

Adopted unanimously by the Oneida Lake Association, Inc. Board of Directors and duly entered into the minutes of the Board's regular meeting of June 12, 2023.

Scholarships

We are pleased to announce that we have chosen the finalists for the OLA Scholarship Program! Directors Patricia Cerro-Reehil, Greg Keener, and Warren Darby, worked with Chairperson John Harmon to select the winners.

Katie Hite, a senior at Camden High School was awarded the OLA Scholarship in memory of Eugene Kadlubowski (\$1000). Katie was chosen for her commitment to sustainable landscape development. Katie writes:

*Dear the Oneida Lake Association,
I am honored that you have selected me for the Oneida Lake Association Scholarship in Memory of Eugene Kadlubowski. This award means a lot to me because I'm able to display how much the outdoors mean to me.*

Conserving and protecting our environment is very important to me, as I will be attending college at SUNY ESF this fall to study Landscape Architecture. Thank you again!

Once again, we thank Marcia Kadlubowski for fully funding this scholarship.



The Scholarship Committee also selected Julia Bognaski for the OLA High School Scholarship (\$500). In her application, Julia, a senior at Oneida High School, also displayed an interest and concern for the environment. Julia will attend RIT in the fall. She writes: For a long time RIT has been my dream school with all of the opportunities that they offer for their students. I will be majoring in Mechanical Engineering where I hope to eventually get a job helping the environment. I am so grateful for this Scholarship that greatly helps me attend my dream school, and major in something that I am passionate about.



Water Chestnut Weed Pull

In our last newsletter, we alerted you to our weed pull program for the summer. The time is here! Our first weed pull is scheduled for Friday June 30. Please see the poster below for details. We thank OLA Director Patricia Cerro-Reehil for organizing these events. **It's fun!**

WE NEED YOU!!!

**PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING!!
ASSIST THE ONEIDA LAKE ASSOCIATION (OLA)
WITH ONE OR MORE WATER CHESTNUT PULLS!**



It's Your Lake—Help Us Preserve It!

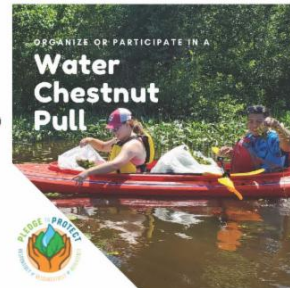


PHOTO CREDIT: SLELO PRISM <https://www.sleloinvasives.org/>

(Must bring your own kayak/canoe & lifevest)

- **June 30** – South Shore Oneida Lake Marina – **Arrive @ 8am**
- **July 6** – North Shore Shaw Road, West Monroe – **Arrive @ 8 am**
- **July 21** – Metzger's Pond, Constantia – **Arrive @ 8 am**

IF INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT:

PATRICIA CERRO-REEHIL: pcr@nywea.org

CHECK US OUT!!! OLA STRONG!!!



The New Cove Road Boat Launch

We are pleased to announce that several OLA Board members were recently invited to the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new DEC Boat Launch on Cove Road, near Sylvan Beach. Directors Mike Barretta, Bill Girvan, Lance Vella, and John Harmon joined former Directors Scott Shupe and Tom Pierce in welcoming this new launch site into service. After all, this project was 35 years in the making, with OLA leading the charge for several decades!

The site has a large capacity parking lot, Disability Access, and even a dedicated kayak launch area. Our OLA members on the east end of the lake finally have a free and accessible launch site to enjoy for years to come.

One important note: You must access this site on Cove Road from the north! If you come up Cove Road from the south, you will encounter a bridge that

has been out for several years. You will then have to turn around on this narrow road . . . with your boat trailer! That's no fun.



Assemblyman Brian Miller addresses the crowd.



OLA Directors Mike Barretta and Bill Girvan take a walk on one of the two launch docks.



Assemblyman Brian Miller (center) listens as Director Bill Girvan (pink hat) tells the DEC Commissioner what's what!

The Mission of the Oneida Lake Association is to protect the fisheries, wildlife, and natural resources of Oneida Lake by promoting science-based conservation and management through education and outreach, in partnership with our members and local communities.

Pay your dues, and HELP PROTECT ONEIDA LAKE!!!!
\$8 annually

Recruit your neighbors and friends TO JOIN US!

Donate

Memorials and contributions to our program are most welcome.

OLA is a 501(c)4 organization serving and protecting the Oneida Lake environment.





[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/>.

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.

Report environmental violations.

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

Edited by John Harmon and Matt Snyder

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

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