



Oneida Lake Association
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SAVE THE DATE!

The Board of Directors of the OLA will host their **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING** in just a few weeks. Mark your calendar for Wednesday, April 24 at the Millard Hawk School in Central Square. Doors open at 6:00 if you would like to visit our variety of exhibitors. The meeting itself starts promptly at 7:00. As always, we have a great line-up of speakers including representatives from the Fish Hatchery, the DEC, the Cornell Field Station, Law Enforcement, and much, much more!



It will be a great night of information, displays, answering questions, meeting with friends, and, as always, plenty of raffles, including a Go-Pro Camera and a Kayak! (You must be present to win.).

We hope to see you there!

Eclipse

There will be a total eclipse of the sun on the afternoon of April 8. Perhaps you've heard about it? (lol!)

It will be a great event to share with friends and family. It's also a terrific opportunity to observe how our wildlife reacts to this unusual occurrence. If you are out and about, especially those who might be on the lake, let



us know your observations. How did the birds react? What about the squirrels and chipmunks. If you were out on the water, what was that like? Did you notice anything unusual about the fishing? And if you caught a fish during totality, be sure to turn on your flash and send us a photo!

We'd love to hear your stories and observations. Write to us at president@oneidalakeassociation.org

Hatchery News

It was a great pleasure to volunteer at the Hatchery once again this year. And it's always great to see the many visitors come through to check out the work of the hatchery staff.



This year, however, presented a significant challenge for the egg collection process. First, the weather pattern at the end of March was highly unusual. The lack of rain, the early disappearance of the ice, and the warmer temps led to an early trigger for the walleyes to spawn. Scriba Creek was also extremely low. Hatchery Director Bill Evans explained that the low water prompted him to call the Canal Corporation to see what was happening. Evans reported that he was told that the water level gages were reading incorrectly so the Canal Corporation did not take the usual action that would have resulted in the proper water level for this time of year.

"That greatly impacted our collection process," Evans stated. The staff at the Hatchery quickly realized that the collection of spawning walleyes was down significantly. In response they set out four more nets than they usually do. Even with the increased nets, they observed that the number of "spent fish" was already increasing. Evans explained, "We are now on Day 13 of collection, and we will probably do two more." Typically, they wrap up the collection process in about seven days.

One indication of the low water came when one of the boats tending the nets saw that one of the anchors that hold the nets in position had come loose. They couldn't get the boat into position because of the low water. So Director Evans jumped into the cold water, waded out to the anchor, and reset it. "That's never happened before!" he stated.

On the brighter side, Evans assured us that they have at least 150 million eggs in process, and that they would probably harvest about 30-40 million more. He feels that the team will reach its target when the run is finally over. "This is the longest stretch of netting in at least two decades!" Evans stated.

Director Evans is one of our featured speakers for the 2024 Annual Membership Meeting. Join us on April 24th to hear about this year's egg collection in more detail.

New Fishing Regulations Published

An electronic PDF version of the new **2024 Freshwater Fishing Regulations Guide** is now available to download from the DEC website.

Hard copies of the guide are also available wherever sporting licenses are sold or can be requested by emailing fwfish@dec.ny.gov. (Be sure to provide your name and mailing address.)

[2024 Freshwater Fishing Regulations Guide](#)



Bass Tournaments

Be sure to see the latest edition of the *OLA Bulletin* for a discussion about our position on Bass Tournaments. We are also awaiting news from the DEC regarding an initiative that they are exploring.

The electronic edition of the *Bulletin* has already been pushed out, and the print edition should be arriving soon.

Scholarship Opportunity

Once again, the OLA is sponsoring a scholarship for students entering a field that supports our Mission (see below). To view the scholarship application and instructions, you may download it here.

April 15th deadline!

Click here for the application:
[High School Scholarship Application](#)

Spring Cleanup

OLA Director George Reck will head up our Annual Spring Clean Up on the stretch of roadway that the OLA has adopted. Mark your calendar for Friday, April 19. Plan to meet at the Bartel Road 81 North on-ramp at 9:00 am. Dress for the weather, and bring some gloves. George will supply large trash collection bags. We have a prize for the most unusual item bagged! Come join us in our mission to keep the lake area clean!

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.



[OLA Website](#)

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

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

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