

“Our Glimmerglass”

A Newsletter from the Otsego Lake Association



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Board of Directors: David Sanford, Paul H. Lord, Scottie Baker, Carl Good, Martin Tillapaugh, Joseph W. Zarzynski, Pati Grady, Emily Davidson, Michael Richtsmeier, Bob Sutherland, and Wayne Bunn. Directors represent the Towns of Middlefield, Otsego, Springfield, the Village of Cooperstown, a Student Director, and two At Large. **Officers and Support:** Mickie Richtsmeier (President), Scottie Baker (Vice President), David Sanford (Treasurer), Emily Davidson (Secretary), Joseph W. Zarzynski (Newsletter Editor), Kiyoko Yokota, Ph.D., CLM (Technical Advisor), Martin Tillapaugh (Legal Advisor), and Tim Pokorny (Webmaster)

From the OLA President:

It's been a busy winter for the Otsego Lake Association! Board Members have represented OLA at local events and committees, advocated for lake environmental issues with the Department of Transportation (DOT) and Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), and planned wonderful summer programs for 2014.

In addition to our hard working, veteran board members, we have recruited new board members and committee members who will contribute differing perspectives and expertise for the betterment of Otsego Lake. We are also delighted to welcome a new technical advisor and to have a wonderfully expanded website through the efforts of our Webmaster, Tim Pokorny. Please become acquainted with these talented individuals in this newsletter and on the web.

I hope you will share my enthusiasm for all the wonderful things that are going on at OLA by taking a minute to fill out the membership flyer in this newsletter and by sending it back with your check. Please also mark your calendars and bring your friends with you to support our activities this summer! Remember that the OLA is made up entirely of volunteers. We need and appreciate your support in preserving and protecting “Our Glimmerglass!”

Sincerely,
Mickie Richtsmeier, President



Cooperstown's Boat Launch Inspections, Report on Its Eleventh Year

By Carl Good (OLA Board Member)

Initially, there was a great deal of grumbling from the pleasure boaters and fishermen regarding these 2013 boat inspections and fees as well as the time delay in launching. Launch fees range from \$10 for a single launch, \$20 for four launches or unlimited launches within a week, and \$100 for the season. There has been no charge for "car tops," but that could change.

When "dirty" boats were turned away by inspectors and told they must be washed, there was a real increase in the volume of boater grumbling. More recently most boat owners have arrived with clean boats and expect to be checked. This seems to be the result of public education regarding the immense problem of invasive species as well as the expectation of inspections prior to launch.

The inspection fees and inspection times have not changed over ten years and 2014 will not be an exception. This year, inspectors will be on duty from 5:00 AM until 7:00 PM, seven days a week from mid-May until the end of October.

The cost of this program is not cheap, averaging between \$17,000 and \$18,000 per season. Approximately \$10,000 is raised to support this by the launching fees from about 1,250 boats. OCCA has generously provided a \$7,500 grant each year. This allows the Village of Cooperstown to virtually "break even" covering expenditures.

While weekend coverage has been sporadic in the past, this year with the help of the BFS, we have several graduate students who are available to help this weak spot.

A New Board Member "Bio"

Kiyoko Yokota, Ph.D., CLM is an Assistant Professor of Biology at SUNY-Oneonta and the new OLA Technical Advisor. She provided this "bio": "I grew up in northern Japan, in Akita Prefecture where we have a long coastline facing the Sea of Japan as well as a few major crater lakes, such as Lake Tazawa, Japan's deepest lake. I was educated in Japan until I was 18 and then attended Saint Cloud State University in St. Cloud, Minnesota. I graduated with a BS in biology with ecology emphasis and a minor in environmental studies and then I returned to Japan. I worked in Tokyo in the private sector, followed by a research technician job in Florida. I then started my graduate work at the University of Minnesota, in the land of 10,000 lakes (and I sampled 100 lakes and ponds myself). I earned my Ph.D. in Ecology, Evolution and Behavior with a thesis on how different species of phytoplankton (microscopic algae) compete with each other under different conditions. After postdoctoral training at the Netherlands Institute for Ecology, I taught biology and environmental science at the University of Tampa in Florida. I started work at SUNY-Oneonta in the autumn 2013 and am enjoying my return to the northern temperate climate with its four seasons." [We hope to add "bios" of other OLA board members in future newsletters.]

Please Renew Your OLA Membership



We are proud of the unique historical heritage of “Our Glimmerglass” and are devoted to preserving its waters for future generations. Therefore, we encourage you to renew your OLA membership using the attached membership form. Thank you for your financial support and participation! **At the September 2013 OLA Board meeting a change in the OLA membership was approved. Membership now runs from July 1-June 30.**

Lake Dates:

#1 Our OLA First Annual “We Love Our Lake” Boat Parade-**July 4, 6:00 PM**

#2 Lakes’ Festival (sponsored by the Otsego Lake Water Quality Coordinating Committee-**July 12, noon to 5:00 PM**, Lakefront Park, Cooperstown)

#3 OLA Annual Meeting-**August 9, 8:30 AM to noon**, Camp Minnetoska

*Slide presentation on Historic Boats on Otsego Lake by Dr. Cindy Faulk & students from Cooperstown Graduate Program (CGP)

*Dr. Will Walker & students will present excerpts from the CGP Oral History projects that include references to early boating on the lake. They will also set up a station to record oral histories from people willing to share their stories.

*Alton (Chip) Dunn & students (Laurens Central School) will report on their OLA supported project.

*Update from the dive team & BFS

Thank You OLA Boat Parade Advisory Committee!

Last fall, Elaine Bresee shared her expertise about the Goodyear Lake boat parade at a meeting with Mickie Richtsmeier, Scottie Baker, and “lake-minded” panel members: Wayne Bunn, Maryanne Dietz, Bradley Goodyear, Pati Grady, Susie Kingsley, and Jeff Reynolds (Tom and Kathy Chase are also “on board”). That meeting laid the foundation for our first annual Otsego Lake decorated July 4th boat parade! The event will honor OLA past president Wayne Bunn who was always encouraging unique and fun ways to get folks together on the lake. To that end, the theme, “We Love Our Lake,” will come to life on Friday, July 4th with a fun-filled, all inclusive, interactive, informal gathering of viewers on shore and boaters (power, paddle, row, or sail) on the lake. There are no rules, regulations, or fees! Rain or shine! We hope you will decorate your boat with a joyful or patriotic theme, wear costumes, perhaps treat us with live music, and take a picnic supper on your boat. All creative ideas are encouraged. It starts at 6:00 PM on the West side of the lake where lead boats will proceed from points North and South (to be determined) and gather participants along the route and converge at a point (to be determined) approximately midway where a committee boat will be present for announcements and prizes for various categories (to be decided; ideas are appreciated). The evening hopes to climax with a display of local fireworks. Boat parade details will be forthcoming on the OLA website. See you on the water!



Are you ready for our OLA First Annual "We Love Our Lake" Boat Parade on **July 4, at 6 pm?** (photo credit: Scottie Baker)

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