



# Our Glimmerglass

*Newsletter of the Otsego Lake Association*

## MESSAGES IN WATER



Inspiration

*"A master's hand  
hath painted all thy  
beauties..."*

Constance Fenimore Woolson  
(1840-1894)

"Inspiration"; Photo by Katie Sanford  
"Joy"; Photo by Tina Claiborne  
"Sanctuary"; Photo bt Natura Productions  
"Knowledge"; Photo by Debbie Creedon



Joy

### DID YOU KNOW?

The health of the Chesapeake Bay is linked to Otsego Lake. Otsego Lake is part of the northern headwaters of the 64,000 mile drainage basin of the Susquehanna River which ends in the Chesapeake Bay.



Sanctuary



Knowledge (Continuous Lake Monitoring Buoy)

### DID YOU KNOW?

There are approximately 120 billion gallons of water in Otsego Lake. Cooperstown uses roughly 350,000 gallons daily.

## PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Otsego Lake has been frequently described as our “local gem”. It is.

The lake is unique in New York State – for its water quality, diverse aquatic habitats, and for its undeveloped shorelines. Any time spent on or around the lake will confirm this.

While our lake is beautiful and unique, it is also fragile. Plant or animal invasive species found in as little as a cup of contaminated water have the potential to change the character of the lake forever. If some of these invasives were to be introduced into the lake there would be no turning back. In addition, our lake faces threats from ice-melting salt and chemicals, sewage, fertilizer, herbicides and pesticides, and erosion. Almost everything put on the land roads near the lake finds its way into the lake.

The Otsego Lake Association is working to educate, inform, and guide local leaders and citizens on all issues concerning the health, safety, and future of our lake. We sponsor scientific research and programs that address these concerns.

We all have a stake and role in preserving our “local gem”. We thank you for your interest, support and work.

*Jim and David*



Left: Scottie Baker and mayor Ellen Tillapaugh discussing Ellen's keynote presentation about the village parks around Lake Otsego, their history and anecdotes. Right: Attendees Photos by Bill Murdock.



## 2019 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

*by Scottie Baker*

A large group of enthusiastic lovers of our Otsego Lake gathered on a gorgeous August morning at Fairy Spring. Members and guests mingled over coffee and refreshments, enjoying conversation, purchasing merchandise, renewing memberships, bidding on silent auction items, and viewing displays.

The meeting opened with remarks from Co- Presidents Jim Howarth and David Sanford, who reviewed the many accomplishments of OLA. A brief business meeting was held, during which current presidents and board members were unanimously re elected. This year's Lake Citizen award, presented by Wayne Bunn, was given to Jane Clark for her stewardship of our Glimmerglass and its surrounds. Bob Sutherland accepted the plaque on her behalf.

The program followed, featuring village Mayor Ellen Tillapaugh's presentation, “Otsego Lake Parks: History and Amusing Anecdotes”. Her numerous photos, documents and humorous stories told the fascinating history of our four village parks.

“Safe Boating Regulations in New York State” by Kiyoko Yokota, “Walleye in Otsego Lake”, and European Frog Bit” by SUNY Oneonta students Haley Dower and Meg Keefe rounded out the program.

Many lingered long after with questions for presenters, to look over scientific posters, invasives samples, and exhibits, and quickly grab another t shirt or cap. All who attended spoke of an enjoyable and informative experience!

## OTSEGO LAKE ASSOCIATION

FOUNDED 2002

OUR MISSION is to educate, advocate and actively participate in protecting the health, beauty, and well-being of Otsego Lake by facilitating the implementation of the Otsego Lake Watershed Management Plan.

OUR MEMBERSHIP is open to any individual concerned with the health of Otsego Lake. Our membership consists of year-round residents, seasonal residents and local businesses.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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[www.otsegolakeassociation.org](http://www.otsegolakeassociation.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/Otsego-Lake-Association-Cooperstown-NY-1066851160050413/>



## EUROPEAN FROG-BIT

by Mary Keefe, SUNY Oneonta

European frog-bit is an aquatic invasive species that resembles a miniature lily pad. Its green leaves are typically rounded or heart-shaped, although the undersides have a purple hue. Frog-bit prefers open or calm waters and can grow to be 1-2 inches wide. Due to its rapid growth rate, European frog-bit can form thick, dense mats that can inhibit swimming and boating, as well as native plant growth. During the fall, dieback of this invasive can depress oxygen levels in the waterbodies it inhabits.

European frog-bit can spread to different waterbodies through water currents, or, more commonly, is transported to and from places via human activity. The best way to prevent the spread of this invasive is to remove any plant material or mud from your boat, along with Cleaning, Draining, and Treating your boat and equipment before traveling to another water body. Completing these tasks will help prevent the spread of this invasive (along with others!) and protect the health of Otsego Lake and the waterbodies downstream of it.



In July, European frog-bit was found in Clarke Pond by Otsego County Conservation Association's summer 2019 intern, Mary Keefe, along with Olivia Kuss, Otsego County Soil and Water Conservation District's 2019 intern. Together with Paul H. Lord from the Biological Field Station and several volunteers, they kayaked and waded through the pond, finding numerous Frog-bit plants hidden amongst the cattails and other vegetation. Thankfully, the clean-up was successful. However, monitoring will have to be continued in 2020 for Clarke Pond, the golf course inlet, and Otsego Lake to ensure that the invasive does not take up residence in Otsego Lake. So, for next summer, be on the lookout! The lake is home to many native residents, and we need to protect it.

Above: European frog-bit; Below: CRISP AIS Steward, Luis Suatoni, Pulls European Frog-bit from Clark Pond. Photos by Paul H. Lord.

THANK YOU to our OLA members who volunteered for this cleanup!



**DID YOU KNOW?** If you remove unwanted algae and aquatic plants from dock and swimming areas, they need to be composted away from the shoreline so that the nutrients do not flow back into the lake.

## "FORE" OLA - GOLF TOWEL



OLA microfiber, trifold golf towel with embroidered logo with handy carabiner to attach to golf bag. Use in boat or kitchen. Great gift idea! \$18 includes shipping; Pickup for \$15 (now through Dec. 31, 2019).

To order, contact: Scottie Baker: (607) 547-5356 or npscottieb@gmail.com.



**DID YOU KNOW?**  
Excessive salt use on streets and roads facilitates invasive species in Otsego Lake.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT INVASIVE SPECIES from CRISP

- Clean, Drain and Dry your watercraft, trailers and gear.
- Buy and burn local firewood.
- Use native plants in gardening and landscaping.
- Never release exotic pets into the wild.
- Report your findings of invasive species for the iMap Invasives online database.
- Get involved with organizations like OLA to prevent and manage invasive species in our area.



## BRIANNA'S LAW

by Kiyoko Yokota, Ph.D., CLM, OLA Technical Advisor

New boater safety law, called Brianna's Law (named after a girl killed in a 2005 boating accident) comes into effect as of January 1, 2020. This law mandates ALL New York State motorboat operators, regardless of date of birth, to have completed a NY Safe Boating Course or another NYS-approved boating safety course. (Previously only those born on or after May 1, 1996 were required to be certified.) A plastic card serves as a permanent certificate that you need to carry while operating a motorboat; alternately you can have a special icon printed on your NYS driver's license (Adventure License) so that you do not have to carry a separate card. The mandate will be phased in as follows:

Those born on or after January 1, 1993, will need a certificate when operating a motorized vessel in 2020.

Those born on or after January 1, 1988, will need a certificate when operating a motorized vessel in 2022.

Those born on or after January 1, 1983, will need a certificate when operating a motorized vessel in 2023.

Those born on or after January 1, 1978, will need a certificate when operating a motorized vessel in 2024.

All operators of motorized vessels, regardless of age, will need a boating safety certificate by January 1, 2025

Details of Brianna's Law, including provisions for personal watercrafts (JetSki™, Wave Runner™, etc.), non-NYS residents, and boat rentals as well as a list of approved classroom and online boating safety courses are available at <https://parks.ny.gov/recreation/boating/education.aspx>. Kiyoko Yokota is a certified instructor (#1985) of the NY Safe Boating Course (8-hour classroom course developed and administered by NYS Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation). While she does not currently have an upcoming course listed on the NYS Parks web page, if there is sufficient local demand for a classroom course she can schedule a fee-based course(s) in Cooperstown area. For details please contact Kiyoko at [otsegosafeboating@gmail.com](mailto:otsegosafeboating@gmail.com) or 607-435-9326.



**DID YOU KNOW?** The white foamy parallel lines on the surface of Otsego Lake, typically seen on windy days along the length of the lake, are called wind lanes, resulting from a process called Langmuir circulation. The foam is due to naturally occurring organic compounds and not a sign of laundry or dish detergent pollution.

*SUNY Oneonta Student Diving Training off 3-Mile Point, instructed by Paul H. Lord; Photos by S. Baker*



## BUOY UPDATE

by Kiyoko Yokota, Ph.D., CLM, OLA Technical Advisor

Our Continuous Lake Monitoring Buoy (CLMB) on Otsego Lake has been logging and streaming lake data without significant downtime since BFS Dive Team re-deployed it on 20 April 2019, mere 4 days after the complete disappearance of ice cover on 16 April 2019. Thanks to OLA members and community supporters watching out for our CLMB and educating our neighbors and visitors about what it is and its benefit to the community as well as scientific research, there has been no collision or vandalism so far. We are planning to keep our CLMB in water until we record complete disappearance of the thermocline (a transition zone between the warmer surface water and colder bottom water observed during warmer months). This is made possible by the steering system upgrade for two BFS jon boats, funded generously by OLA, which confers resistance to ephemeral surface freezing that may occur before the thermocline disappears completely. Timing as well as detailed processes of thermocline formation and disappearance are very important responses to changing climate as well as drivers of biogeochemical processes within lakes. We are fortunate to be able to collect from Otsego Lake the same type of high frequency data that are comparable to those from other Global Lake Ecological Observatory Network (GLEON) sites. There are currently four GLEON projects that Yokota Lab is involved in, and they are revealing previously overlooked regional and/or global patterns in dissolved oxygen, nutrient limitation types, etc. This fall I am able to participate in the annual GLEON "all-hands" meeting in Ontario, Canada and am very much looking forward to pushing forward the ongoing projects as well as generating new research ideas with GLEONites from all over the world. The degree of assistance, in various forms including but not limited to access and equipment deployment permission, volunteer hours, public relations, and funding, that OLA and its supporters provide to promote lake research and education is truly remarkable. I am grateful for being able to work with a lake community that shares my passion for advancement of lake science and look forward to another productive year for all of us.

# 2019 RIVER CLEAN UP

*“We came to this headwaters section of the Susquehanna River in 2018 and found a submersed trash dump full of debris. We left it this June cleaned and inviting recreational uses. This is a beautiful reach of river that should be widely enjoyed by all who treasure Otsego Lake. I can’t wait to show it to my grandkids.” Paul H. Lord*



2019 Susquehanna River Clean Up; Photos by John Rowley  
Special THANK YOU to the BFS Volunteer Dive Team and others who helped for the day!

**DID YOU KNOW?** Road salts are considered a major contributor to the widely observed salinity (saltiness) increase in many freshwater lakes, including Otsego Lake and Lake George. The amount of road salt used on private parking lots, driveways and sidewalks often surpass the amount used for public road maintenance. Lake George Association has a nice web page on this important topic, including what home and business owners can do to help:  
<https://www.lakegeorgeassociation.org/educate/science/lake-george-water-quality/trouble-winter-road-salt/>

## SIMPLE SOLUTIONS

by *Mickie Richtsmeier*

This summer Paul H. Lord and several Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP) boat stewards gave an informative, public demonstration of how it is much easier than people think to remove possible aquatic invasive species from our boats. Since many invasives are too small to be seen with the naked eye, it is crucial to decontaminate your boat if it has been in another waterway, even if nothing is visible.

In less than an hour we learned how to clean our boats with simple, inexpensive readily available solutions. The best of these is potassium chloride (KCl), which is nothing more than water softener, commonly available at hardware stores. By scattering some granules in the holds and cockpits where standing water may remain and wiping down the exterior and other surfaces of our boats with a concentrated solution of potassium chloride and water, we are able to effectively remove any pernicious invasives. We learned that we need not be worried about exacting preparations,

but that it’s fine to simply toss some of the salt into a bucket or tub of standing water until the salt crystals remain visible and no longer dissolve. It is important to decontaminate your accessories, especially water shoes etc. in the solution as well.

If your boat is varnished and you are concerned about using salt, apple cider vinegar from the grocery store is also an effective cleansing agent. (After using a 50% solution of vinegar, you must wait 15 minutes before handling.)

Pretty “simple” isn’t it? For more information go to [StopAquaticHitchhikers.org](http://StopAquaticHitchhikers.org), or [catskillinvasives.com](http://catskillinvasives.com). Better yet, look for an announcement on the OLA website for another free workshop by CRISP next season.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Under the ice, the warmest water is deeper in the lake.

BELOW: OLA Invasive Species Day at Brookwood; How to properly clean possible aquatic invasives from a non powered watercraft: shell, kayak, canoe. Photos by Bill Murdock





## ANNUAL OLA BOAT PARADE 2019 *by Wayne Bunn*



2019 Boat Parade Grand Prize Winner,  
"Pinwheels" by Ramsey & Nelson.  
Photo by Tim Pokorny.

The 2019 OLA "We Love Our Lake" decorated boat parade was held on Thursday, July 4th at 4:00 PM under near perfect weather conditions – sunny, warm, light wind, and no rain. Our theme this year was "Red, White, and Blue – It's the 4th of July". We had about 15 boats in the parade and everyone who participated had a great time. There were numerous spectators watching from shore at various locations plus many boaters on the lake were observing as we passed by. A new feature this year was the Blessing of the Boats by Cooperstown clergy Rev. Elsie Rhodes of the Presbyterian Church and Rev. Joseph Perdue of the Baptist Church. This year, we started the parade at the Lakefront Park in Cooperstown and proceeded northerly to Three Mile Point where the winners were announced and the prizes given out. Please check out the OLA website for photos of the winners and their theme. Bags of candy plus towels and floating boat key fobs with the message "Clean, Drain, & Dry" your boat were given to all boaters – both those in the parade and those watching. A big "Thank You" to all boaters who participated in the parade plus all those OLA members who helped plan and participate in the boat parade. A special thanks to the SUNY Oneonta Biological Field Station for the use of their barge, the *Anondontoides*, which served as our parade lead boat and judges stand.

The OLA Boat Parade Committee is already working on the 2020 boat parade so if you have any suggestions or ideas for next year, please pass those along to Committee Chairman Wayne Bunn at [bunnwayne@gmail.com](mailto:bunnwayne@gmail.com) or (518) 542-6630. We are considering having the boat parade on the north end of the lake and holding it on a weekend other than the 4th of July because of so many other activities that weekend plus many of the lake residents have family and friends staying at their camp that weekend. All comments and suggestions are always welcome and will be considered. All boats, large and small, are welcome – including antique or classic, human powered, wind powered, electric powered, jet powered, outboard powered, or inboard/outboard powered. You may decorate your boat anyway you wish – it can be unusually decorated, humorously decorated, patriotic decorated, joyful/party decorated, sports decorated, military decorated, etc. If you prefer, you do not even need to decorate your boat – just join in the parade and view the other boats up close. You can even join the parade at any time and any place along the route, especially for non-motorized boaters who might not want to travel the full route. There are no fees, registration forms, rules, or regulations except travel slowly, stay in line, and be courteous to other boaters. The parade is meant to be a fun filled family event for all boaters to celebrate our love for Otsego Lake – truly a local treasure. The upcoming holidays with your families will be a good time to plan your theme for the 2020 boat parade and allow you enough time to design and purchase any materials you might need. We look forward to seeing you in the boat parade in 2020.



### WHAT IS THIS FLAG?

*by Paul H. Lord*

### ATTENTION BOATERS!

### DIVERS BELOW.

Each year, the BFS volunteer divers report boaters ignoring the red and white divers'-down flag and approaching the site of ongoing scuba diving.

**In New York State, motor boats must remain 100 feet away from the divers'-down flag, and motorboats must not create wake (must drive 5 mph or less) if within 100 feet of the shoreline or any human-created fixture in the lake. (That state law is extended to 200 feet by Otsego Lake by municipalities to protect our artificially raised shoreline from erosion.)**

### KNOW THE LAW!



Boat speeding past dive buoy on Otsego Lake;  
Photo by Scottie Baker:



OLA is a Charter Sponsor of  
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November 7 - 11 • Cooperstown, NY  
**ADAPTATIONS**

**DID YOU KNOW?** The volunteer dive team works throughout the winter.



**“Helping to Protect a Local Treasure”  
Hurry! Support OLA Now!**

*Photo by Natúra Productions*

**[www.otsegolakeassociation.org](http://www.otsegolakeassociation.org)**

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**We Appreciate Your Support!**

Please complete the form below and mail along with your contribution to:

Otsego Lake Association  
PO Box 13  
Springfield Center, NY 13468.

*All donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law.*

**SUPPORT YOUR OTSEGO LAKE ASSOCIATION**

**MEMBERSHIP** *(expires August 2020)*

Annual Membership Dues (Check One):  Renewal  New Member  
 Individual (\$25)  Family (\$35)  Business (\$50)

**We have vital projects that need your support! Please consider making an additional donation.**

DONATION AMOUNT \$ \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If you are interested in volunteering with us, please let us know your preferences (check all that apply):  
 Serving on a Committee  Representing OLA at Community Events  Other  
 Working on the Board of Directors  Working with the Volunteer Dive Team

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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# A TALE OF TWO LAKES

by *Scottie Baker with Lorrie Slaby*

The role of OLA Merchandise Manager, though a fair amount of work, is interesting and fun. A case in point is receiving a phone call to purchase one of our custom denim shirts.

In my attempt to give directions from “Otsego Lake” to my “mini warehouse” here in Fly Creek for pick up, I was met with first, silence, then confusion, and finally the realization that the person on the other end of the phone and I did not live in the same part of the United States! She resided, for real, on the lake, but a different Otsego Lake in another Otsego County in Michigan! (She did buy the shirt, even though it had our own OLA logo on it, and upon my request, graciously agreed to assist me with this article.)

The “mistaken identity” peaked my curiosity. Since Michigan Otsego Lake folks have found us several times, I wanted to check out our “sister lake”. They also have an Otsego Lake Association. Their mission sounded familiar: “the preservation and protection of Otsego Lake, our area’s most important resource.” Good for them! They support activities including an annual triathlon and July fourth fireworks.

South of the city of Gaylord In N.W. Michigan, Otsego Lake is the highest elevation lake in Michigan, formed by glaciers. It is five miles wide, one mile long, and shallow, with an average depth of six to eight feet, and a maximum of thirty-five feet in some spots. It began as a logging center. At the South and North ends where mills were located, residual sawdust affects

## LIFE'S A PICNIC with the OLA Blanket - \$20



This lightweight and portable blanket is soft on the inside and water repellent on the outside. It rolls up with an attached elastic strap and includes self storage with a large zippered pocket. It is beautifully embroidered with the OLA logo and can be used as a stadium blanket, camping and boat blanket, and a pillow! This makes a great gift - only \$20.00!

To order, contact: Scottie Baker: (607) 547-5356 or [npscottieb@gmail.com](mailto:npscottieb@gmail.com).

oxygen levels, and “deadheads” (submerged facilities.

logs) are dangerous to boaters. There is periodic talk of dredging which is too costly. The bottom shoal is composed of sand and light gravel, full of underwater vegetation with very little floating to the top. This along with drop offs and holes supports a fishery of Muskies, Lake Sturgeon, Northern Pike, Walleye, Bass and the usual Blue gills, Perch, Sunfish and Rockies. As the shallows become too warm, a number of fish may not survive.

In 1874 the first vacationers came via train stops along the lake. Today, there are numerous cottages and homes around the lake. Otsego Lake had been the long time summer residence of Arthur Compton, a Physics Nobel Prize winner.

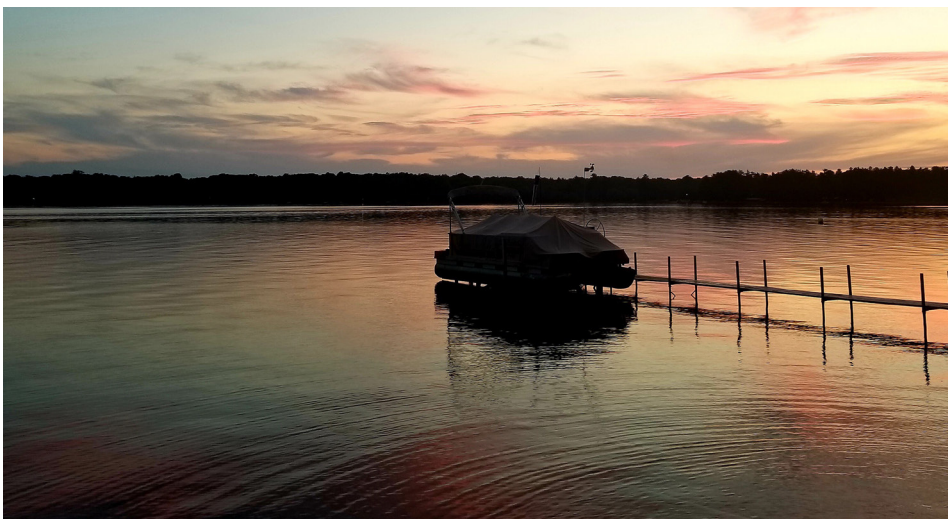
Known as an “all sports lake”, boating is abundant, “some a bit too well powered for lake dimensions”. Float planes are popular and enthusiasts have an annual fly in each summer.

Otsego Lake is home to two parks, state and county, each with extensive camping

I hope you Otsego Lake Association “Michiganers” continue to stumble onto our website to be inspired by the large body of good work by our OLA. Please wear our unique apparel proudly, and come to visit our gorgeous Glimmerglass!



T-shirts - \$15; Denim shirts - \$35;  
Caps - \$18; Tote bags - \$18;  
Contact Scottie Baker at (607) 547 5356 [npscottieb@gmail.com](mailto:npscottieb@gmail.com)



Otsego Lake, Gaylord, Michigan; Photo by Lorrie Slaby



OTSEGO LAKE ASSOCIATION

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