



Volume 2019-Issue 1
Spring 2019

Our Glimmerglass

Newsletter of the Otsego Lake Association

ONE WITH THE WATER



IMAGES: TOP LEFT - Otsego Annie by Elizabeth Walker; CENTER - Beginning of Summer by Elizabeth Walker; TOP RIGHT: - Sailing by Josie Rusk & Reed Porter; LOWER LEFT: Pretty female Bufflehead in last light by Kyle Dudgeon; LOWER RIGHT: Reflections by Natura Productions



One with the water

Sailing or rowing or paddling a canoe.

As old as time, yet each time it's new.

As anxious as ice in the winter

Waiting for the big thaw...

As sure as the spirit of Spring.

One with the water.

Poem/Song by Dan Berggren



PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

We thank all of our officers, Board members, members, and volunteers for their work in the past year. Our lake is a local treasure and the Otsego Lake Association's people contribute in many ways to its preservation and improvement. Those activities include funding scientific research and a boat inspection program, education, coordination with allied associations, and political advocacy.

Spreading the message of the lake's unique attributes and fragility is a key part of our mission. This newsletter, our website, and our annual meeting all work to that end. One goal over the next two years is to reach out to all property owners and stake holders on the lake. **You can help by passing this newsletter on to a prospective member – before it gets recycled!**

We need more people and organizations working with us to make sure Otsego Lake remains the unique asset it is for generations to come. **OLA is inclusive** for everyone who envisions and desires safe drinking water, clean swimming and boating water, abundant fisher water, and pristine viewing water. Your OLA is here for all of us who care about the future of our Otsego Lake.

We look forward to seeing you all on and around the lake this year.

Jim & David

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANKS Mickie Richtsmeier

Congratulations to the members of the **Fly Creek Philharmonic** for another wonderful production and heartfelt thanks for choosing OLA as the recipient of the 2019 donation from program proceeds. For those who have not had the fun of experiencing one of the Philharmonic's performances, it is something not to be missed! Each March this zany group of talented friends put together a great show. This year's theme was water. OLA board members provided refreshments for cast and attendees after Saturday night's performance and were especially delighted to congratulate performing fellow board members, Scottie Baker & Gary Kuch! Join us in thanking members of the Fly Creek Philharmonic for a fun night and for their most generous gift which will be used to preserve and protect our beloved Otsego's waters.

LUNCH!



SPECIAL
OLA CAP & APRON - \$35

INCLUDES:
OLA Cap and
Apron (blue or khaki).
To order, contact:
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(607) 547-5356
npscottieb@gmail.com

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.

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Susan O'Handley
Central NY Mobile Marketing

ADDRESS CORRESPONDENCE TO:

Otsego Lake Association
P.O. Box 13
Springfield Center, NY 13468

info@otsegolakeassociation.org

ON THE WEB:

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

LAKE MONITORING BUOY RE-DEPLOYED

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

We did it again! On 20 April 2019 (Sat), with dedicated volunteers braving the ice-cold water, we succeeded in re-deploying the Otsego Lake continuous lake monitoring buoy for the 2019 ice-free season. Last year, we had to seek help from the community for access to a shoreline or a dock with deep enough (> 6 feet) water to assemble the buoy. This year Paul Lord and Sarah Coney devised a clever plan to overcome the challenge and do it in-house at the Biological Field Station Boat House. The slight trade-off was that we needed six brave volunteers to wade into the ice-cold water. (They wore wet suits, but it was still cold!) They carefully rolled the lower buoy assembly on its side (as underwater cables were already attached to the buoy and stored in a kayak) until we reached deep enough water where the buoy could be floated in its normal upright position and secured to a 50 horsepower jon boat. The kayak strapped to the side of the boat had to stay close to the buoy as it had coiled cables and sensors on board which were only to be released into water at the deployment site.

Traveling 1.7 miles to the buoy site off Five Mile Point in two teams took ~40 minutes, a crawling speed only matched by leisurely paddlers, but it was necessary to avoid stress on the cables and for our safety, as the two motors, 50 HP and 90 HP, were providing locomotion for our 12-person crew plus various bulky and heavy equipment. We were blessed with calm water although it was raining most of the time. There, the BFS Volunteer Dive Team SCUBA dove to swap out the winter setup with the summer setup, which involved extensive underwater work loosening and tightening hardware attached to the anchoring system. The winter setup consisted of an array of sully stick buoys and a chain with temperature loggers that had been monitoring temperature under the ice. The summer setup is made up of the continuous lake monitoring buoy and two red mooring buoys.

At 1:30 pm on 20 April 2019, the day before Easter, the Otsego Lake Continuous Monitoring Buoy came back to life, transmitting the first data set for the 2019 season. Special thanks to Paul, Sarah, Riley Gyllenhammer and Kendra Kilson for their assistance in deployment preparation, including Sarah for SCUBA diving to create secure mooring points for the boats. Deployment day activities were made possible by the following volunteers who generously donated their time and effort for the buoy project: Lee Ferrara, Bjorn Eilertsen, Sarah Coney, Rachel Zeino, JeanMarie Russel, Jim Vogler, Pat McCormack, Jeff O'Handley, Ed Lentz, Wayne Bunn, and Paul H. Lord.

Otsego Lake **real-time water temperature and select weather data** from the monitoring buoy are available at <http://otsegolakeassociation.org/buoy-data.html> and <http://employees.oneonta.edu/yokotak/YokotaLimnoLab/>.



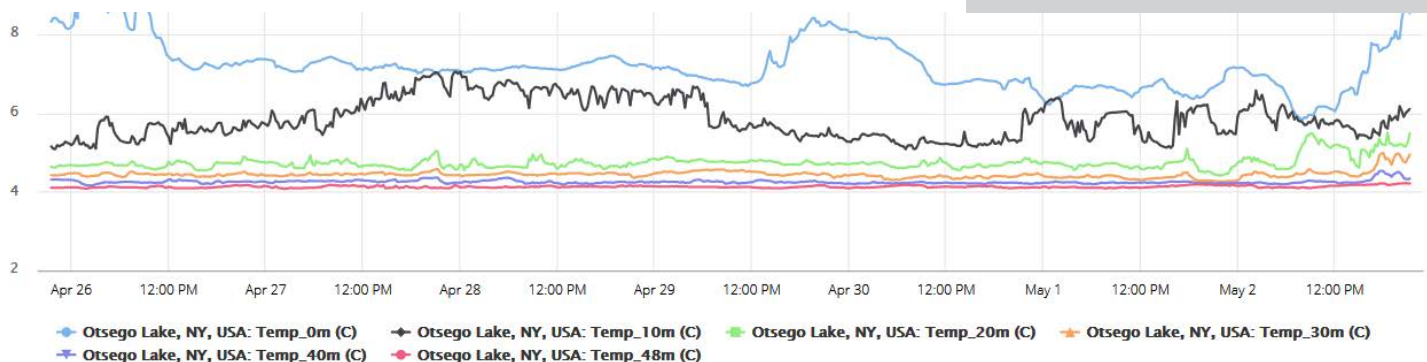
ABOVE: Lower buoy assembly and the kayak holding coiled cables and sensors were pushed simultaneously off the shore into deeper water to be secured to the 50 HP jon boat. Photo by Wayne Bunn



ABOVE AND BELOW: Final stage of the data buoy deployment occurring on the 90 HP jon boat - Anodontoides (large pontoon) complex. This year the upper portion of the buoy system, containing the weather station and solar panels, was secured on top of the lower portion at the deployment site rather than on shore. This reduced the risk of damage to the upper part in transit. Photos by Wayne Bunn



BELOW: Graph of Otsego Lake water temperature at 10 m intervals plus near the bottom (48 m ~ 157 ft), from 26 April 2019 to 2 May 2019. Note that the temperature has been fluctuating a lot at the surface (0 m) with air temperature (not shown), but water at 20 m (~66 ft) below or deeper just started to warm up on 2 May.



ANNUAL “WE LOVE OUR LAKE” DECORATED BOAT PARADE – THURSDAY, JULY 4th at 4:00 PM

by Wayne Bunn



Photo courtesy of Wayne Bunn

Plan to float your boat – rain or shine - in OLA’s Annual “We Love Our Lake” Decorated Boat Parade to be held at 4:00 PM on Thursday, July 4th, 2019. This year’s theme will be “Red, White, and Blue – It’s the 4th of July”.

NEW THIS YEAR – The parade forms off Lakefront Park in Cooperstown where the judges aboard the SUNY Oneonta Biological Field Station’s barge, the Anondontoides, will record the theme and owner of each boat for judging. The Anondontoides will then lead the parade slowly along the westerly shore of the lake to a point off Three Mile Point where an awards ceremony at the fishing dock will be held. Please stay around for a few

minutes at the end of the parade while the judges announce and give out the prizes. There will be five general prize awards plus a grand prize award - all as determined by the judges. We also plan to have a blessing of the boats by local clergy.

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. We encourage you to decorate your boat using the “Red, White, and Blue – It’s the 4th of July” theme but you may decorate your boat anyway you wish. It can be unusually decorated, humorously decorated, patriotic theme decorated, joyful/party theme decorated, sports theme decorated, military theme 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 or anywhere along the route, especially for non-motorized boaters who might not want to travel the full route.

If you are unable to float your boat, you can watch from shore at various points along the parade route including Lakefront Park, the Otesaga Hotel, the Country Club (for members only), Brookwood Point, and Three Mile Point. There are no fees, registration forms, rules, or regulations except travel slowly, stay in line, and be courteous to other boaters. In the past, we have had over 50 boats participate in the parade. The parade is meant to be a fun filled family event for all boaters to celebrate our love for Otsego Lake.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Wayne Bunn, Boat Parade Chairman, at bunnwayne@gmail.com or (518) 542-6630. You can also view photographs of past year’s boat parades at www.OtsegoLakeAssociation.org. We look forward to seeing you on July 4th!

THE GREAT HEALTHY YARD PROJECT

OLA encourages you to attend the Lake and Valley Garden Club presentation of The Great Healthy Yard Project featuring Dr Diane Lewis which will be held Wednesday July 10 at 10AM at Templeton Hall. The Great Healthy Yard Project is an environmental non-profit organization working to improve and protect the quality of our drinking water in order to help our families lead healthier lives. A 2013 study released by the United States Geological Survey found that the chemicals we’re putting in our yards are now in every stream, river, and lake, and half of our well water—all the sources of our drinking water. But what, exactly, are these chemicals, and what do they do to us? And how do they get from our yards to our taps? In The Great Healthy Yard Project, physician Diane Lewis describes in cogent, nuanced terms how we are polluting our drinking water and how it’s putting our children’s future at risk—and she offers a surprisingly easy way to chart a happier, healthier course forward, starting with changing the way we steward our yards.

BE ON THE LOOKOUT!

Jeff O’Handley, Otsego County Conservation Association

Last year, a small population of the invasive species *Aralia elata* (Japanese angelica tree, or devil’s walkingstick) was found on Route 80 in the Town of Springfield. Japanese angelica tree is a medium sized tree that grows rapidly and blocks native vegetation. It is characterized by enormous compound leaves, and has short, sharp spines found on every part of the plant. To see what it looks like, visit <http://occainfo.org/terrestrial-invasive-species/>. If you think you find it, send a picture to programdirector@occa.org. OCCA will be undertaking a removal effort beginning this summer.



The Fairy Spring!
 The Fairy Spring!
 On morning air
 would joyful ring.
 The Fairy Spring lay
 near the shore.
 To east ward half a
 league or more.
 The Fairy Spring
 was chosen shrine.
 Scarce a day in
 summer passed,
 The Fairy Spring
 was reached at last.
 The boats were on
 the beach made fast.

*From "The Mystery
 of Fairy Spring",
 James Pitcher 1899.*

OTSEGO LAKE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING



Drive, Bike, Paddle or Swim...
 TO THE ANNUAL SUMMER MEETING
 OF THE OTSEGO LAKE ASSOCIATION!
 SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 2019
 at The Village of Cooperstown's
 Fairy Spring Park!

Saturday, August 10, 2019

8:30 AM Coffee & Donuts, 9:00 to 11:00 AM meeting

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

We encourage you to bring photos of family events
 that occurred at Fairy Spring Park.

Presentation by Mayor Ellen Tillapaugh

Cooperstown Otsego Lake Parks: History and Amusing Anecdotes

Lake History - "The Mystery of Fairy Spring"
 Scientific Updates

Silent Auction, OLA Merchandise, Scientific Displays

Full program details: <http://www.otsegolakeassociation.org/>

FOR SHORT TERM LAKE PROPERTY RENTAL OWNERS

Excerpted from the NYSFOLA (New York State Federation of Lake Associations) Newsletter

Rental income can help pay the taxes as the value of lakefront property continues to climb. However, property owners have responsibilities to make sure renters protect water quality and are considerate of neighbors and other lake users. Property owners should provide renters with information about local boating laws, aquatic invasive species, harmful algal blooms and other related issues.

Solutions from several NYS Lake Associations:

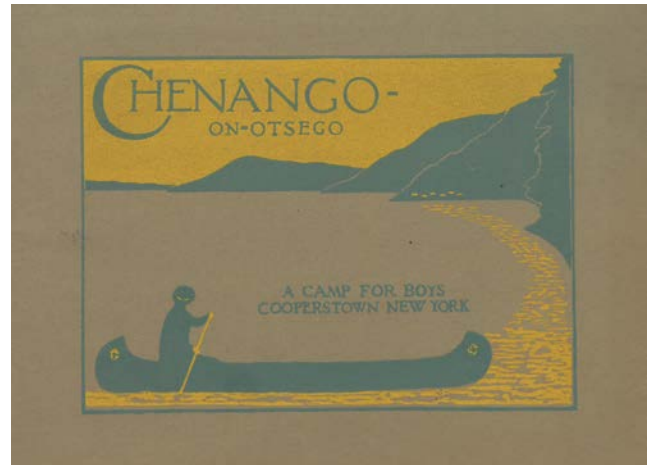
- Create an informational attachment on boating safety, requesting homeowners to display it in their rental property, along with distribution to local marinas.
- Create a "pull out" page in the newsletter that owners can post for renters about the rules and customs for lake use.
- Stress the need for renters to be educated about aquatic invasive species, issuing stickers to home owners to indicate that "guest boats" have been inspected.

Vacation rentals provide benefits to lake property owners who in turn, are accountable for educating renters about courteous, safe, and prudent lake use.

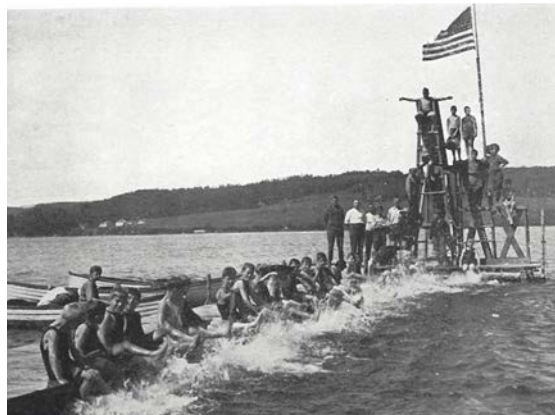
CAMP CHENANGO-ON-OTSEGO

Compiled by *Scottie Baker*

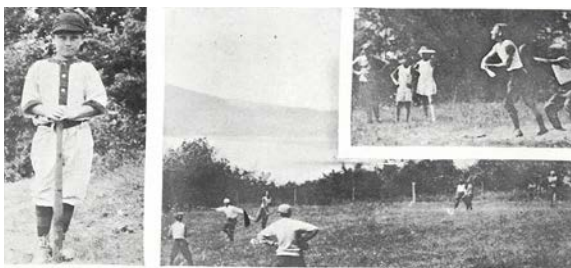
Camp Chenango-on-Otsego, a camp for boys ages 6 to 15, was founded in 1914 at Lake Chenango and moved the following year (later the site of Pathfinder Lodge). It occupied a "65 acre tract, fronting a mile on Otsego Lake, 1500' above sea level on the eastern shore of the lake 4 miles from Cooperstown. The camp commanded a beautiful view of the lake and surrounding hills".



The cost of an 8 week camp season was \$250.00. The camp offered: manual training, gardening, woodcraft, nature study, field days, horseback riding, health, seamanship, swimming. The camp farm supplied fresh milk, eggs, poultry and vegetables. The cost of a meal for visiting parents was \$1.00!



"Swimming at Camp Chenango, because of clear pure water was naturally a major sport."

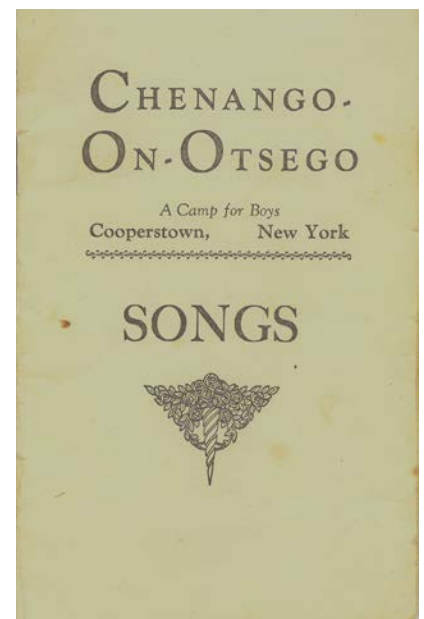


Boys participated in music, reading, study and indoor games.



Every Boy Likes Baseball and Tennis

"...comfortable beds, boats, canoes, sports fields, assembly room....all the equipment a camp should have for comfort, health, and happiness"



Brochure and Image Credits: This historic booklet was donated to OLA by Ross Sweeney, Niles, Illinois. It was then donated by OLA to the Fenimore Art Museum Library.



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

Photo by Natúra Productions

www.otsegolakeassociation.org

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We Appreciate Your Support!

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PO Box 13
Springfield Center, NY 13468.

All donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

SUPPORT YOUR OTSEGO LAKE ASSOCIATION

We have vital projects that need your support:

UNDESIGNATED DONATION \$ _____ TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

I would be interested in volunteering by (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

MEMBERSHIP *(expires August 2020)*

Join now and get two extra months free membership! If you are already a member, pass this form along to a friend.

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

Name: _____ Email Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

OUR INNATE CONNECTIONS WITH WATER

Susan O'Handley, Newsletter Editor

Earlier in my career, I worked for the organization Save the Sound (formerly Long Island Sound Taskforce). Our offices were based in Stamford, CT with a satellite office in Glen Cove, NY. I worked with an amazing group of people, each of whom was dedicated to working towards long-term protection of this important ecosystem through activities in education, research, advocacy and legislative input.

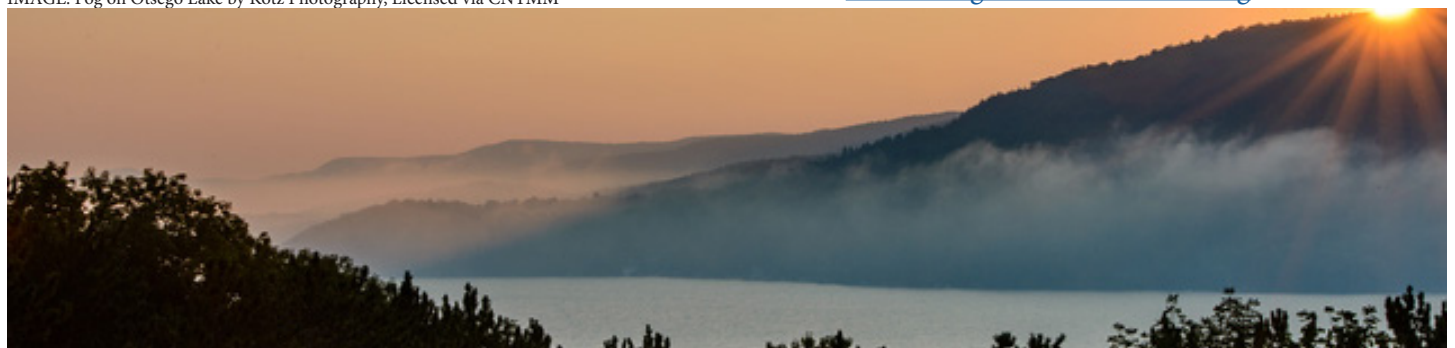
One of the unique things I remember from my time there was that all of our staff ate lunch together every day (this is actually quite rare). We would meet in a room at the end of the hallway at the armory building that donated space to accommodate our offices. This small thing gave us the opportunity to talk - about all sorts of things, both work and personal in nature.

Our staff often traveled throughout the region in both Connecticut and New York, but the I-95 corridor along the southern coast of Connecticut was often the one that was the most difficult. One day during lunch, we were talking about how traveling through the New Haven area was the worst. Even though there were something like ten or twelve travel lanes on the highway in that area, traffic always bogged down and practically came to a standstill - in the best of weather, all times of day, even when there never seemed to be much traffic on the roads. And then we realized...this is the one area along that entire route where drivers have an unobstructed view of the Long Island Sound.

I think that we all have an innate need for and appreciation of open water. Our eye is drawn to it and somewhere in our hearts we find connections within it. Whether it is a vast ocean horizon, a lakeshore, a rushing stream or even a quiet bog, we seek out these beautiful places and discover self-awareness and perspective.

Although our theory is not able to be proven, I offer the challenge to try it sometime for yourself. When you find yourself driving on I-95 through New Haven (or along Otsego Lake where the view opens up), do you look? I'll bet you do - even if you try not to!

IMAGE: Fog on Otsego Lake by Kotz Photography, Licensed via CNYMM



Got Water? YES!



OLA T-Shirts - \$15

T-shirts come in 5 colors and 5 sizes!
(Youth shirts 2 colors and 3 sizes)

To order, contact:

Scottie Baker

(607) 547-5356

npscottieb@gmail.com



OTSEGO LAKE ASSOCIATION

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SPRINGFIELD CENTER, NY 13468

www.otsegolakeassociation.org