



Our Glimmerglass

Newsletter of the Otsego Lake Association

WADE IN THE WATER



*"Ease yourself up to
your waist, and grit your
teeth against the cold"...*

by Leigh

ABOVE: Family Float; Photo by Bob Sutherland
LEFT: Great Blue Heron; Photo Scott Younkin
RIGHT: Kayak Intro; Photo by K. Wayne Bunn
BELOW: Eldred Point; Photo by NYSHA
BELOW: Buoy Launch; Photo K. Wayne Bunn



PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

This Spring has been one of the most challenging and difficult of our lives. The Covid-19 pandemic has affected every aspect of daily life – our jobs, our families, and our recreation.

The primary driver of the changes that we have lived with for almost four months is a need to distance one's self from others. This separation has been both physical and virtual. Not only did we not congregate and interact – we have avoided places and settings where we might come in contact. The results have been a slowing of the variety and pace of life and – for many – isolation.

We are, however, fortunate to live near Otsego Lake. Our lake provides the perfect safe get-away for individuals or families. Events on the lake, such as sailboat racing, kayaking, or water skiing are “distanced”. We will even be able to hold our Boat Parade this July 4th – with modifications. Life has changed on and around the lake, but not as much as elsewhere.

So, this summer enjoy the lake and make a resolution to help our lake through the Otsego Lake Association. While our lake is beautiful it is fragile. Invasive plants and marine life, pollution from adjoining properties, and careless boating behavior threaten the safety and future of the lake. OLA supports the protection of the lake in many ways.

Our thanks to the officers, directors, and members of OLA for all your dedication and hard work.

*Jim Howarth
& Dave Sanford*

CONNECTING THE DISTANCE

JOIN US FOR OUR
(VIRTUAL) ANNUAL
GATHERING

- Welcome from our board presidents
- 2019 out like a lamb
- 2020 in like a lion
- Looking to the future
- Poster Presentations of the Status of Aquatic Invasives in Otsego Lake

Instructions and links to email for follow-up questions:
otsegolakeassociation.org

DR. TED PETERS, JR. - 2020 LAKE CITIZEN AWARD

“Dr. Ted Peters was a board member of the Cooperstown water and sewer board where he was the go to person for chemical questions. I was privileged to serve on the water board with Dr. Peters for many years. His knowledge and leadership for me will always be cherished. The quality of the water of Otsego Lake is largely due to his stewardship.”

David Sanford, Co President

Dr. Ted Peters, Jr. is recognized for his decades of leadership and commitment in preserving and protecting Otsego Lake first as chairman of OCCA's original Otsego Lake Committee including a boat census, the lake awareness bumper sticker contest (“solo”) and helping to formally establish NYS recognition of the mean lake level (14 year process). Encouraging the village to install flash boards at the dam to maintain the mean lake level, prompting the state park to install a state of the art wastewater system and delete a proposed boat launch. Volunteering to do things on the lake for numerous years that paid staff now does, serving for decades on the village's water and sewer boards, representing the village for many years on the watershed supervisory committee overseeing on-site wastewater systems around the lake, testing and monitoring of stormwater runoff around the village, serving on the town of otsego planning board, and, most importantly, for his genuine interest and dedication to ensure the health, well being, water quality, and future of Otsego Lake - truly a local treasure we all love!

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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“PIGGING” OF COOPERSTOWN’S WATER TREATMENT PLANT INTAKE PIPE

by K. Wayne Bunn with input by Dennis Elliott, WTP Operator, & Paul H. Lord, OLA Board

The zebra mussels in Otsego Lake, first discovered in 2007, have impacted the Village of Cooperstown’s Water Treatment Plant’s Intake Pipe. The zebra mussels cling to, and build upon, the inside of the 14-inch diameter cast iron pipe that runs from a point under the lake and along the bottom of the Susquehanna River to the treatment plant located below Bassett Hospital. Initially, the Village had to physically scrape the inside of the pipe, by a process known as “pigging”, about 3 to 4 times a year. However, since the Village started adding EarthTec QZ (a molluscicide which is EPA-registered and NSF-certified to ANSI Standard 60 for drinking water for prevention and control of zebra mussels) at the entrance of the intake pipe, it is now only necessary to “pig” the pipe about once or twice a year. The liquid molluscicide is added from June through October each year at the water treatment plant and is pumped into a small diameter chemical feed line which is attached to intake pipe and runs all the way to the entrance point where it is discharged. EarthTec QZ is very effective in killing the zebra mussels within 48 to 96 hours since it is rapidly dispersed and immediately bioavailable plus the zebra mussels do not detect EarthTec QZ as a threat and readily ingest it. The SUNY Biological Field Station’s (BFS) Volunteer Dive Team assisted the Village in installing the chemical feed line some years ago.

The “pigging” operation requires a coordinated effort between the Village’s Water Department personnel and the BFS Volunteer Dive Team which is headed up by Dive Master Paul Lord, an OLA Board member, and assisted by OLA Board members Sarah Coney (diver), Wayne Bunn (boat driver/dive tender), and Peter Regan (dive tender). The Village will contact Paul when the pipe needs to be “pigged” and he sets up the scheduled dive.

The dive team, on board the BFS’s Anodontoides barge, locates the entrance of the intake pipe via GPS coordinates and then sends two divers down to open the metal grate on the end of the pipe. The grate exists to keep any large debris from entering the water intake pipe and, possibly, blocking the intake. At the same time, Village personnel shuts down the water treatment plant and opens a section of the interior piping in the water treatment plant to “launch” the pig. The pig is a 14-inch diameter x 36-inch long foam type device that resembles a large marshmallow but with heavy wire bristles on the outside (see attached photo). Once the pig is securely placed into position, Village personnel turns on a booster pump which propels the pig through the intake pipe by water pressure. Village personnel calls the dive team to let them know that the pig is underway. It then takes about 35 to 45 minutes for the pig to travel through the intake pipe, depending on zebra mussel numbers and pig bristle length. Just after the pig exits the intake pipe, there is a large “mushroom” type of water boil over the end of the intake pipe. The pig then “pops out” of the water and floats freely on the surface of the lake until the crew on the barge retrieves it. The divers then go back down and close the metal grate on the end of the intake pipe.

The dive team then drops off the pig at the dock next to the Village boat launch on Fair Street and calls the Village personnel to let them know that the pig has been retrieved and is ready for pick up. Village personnel then places the water treatment plant back into service. A video depicting the process can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/safxeLaTFfw>. It is a very interesting process!

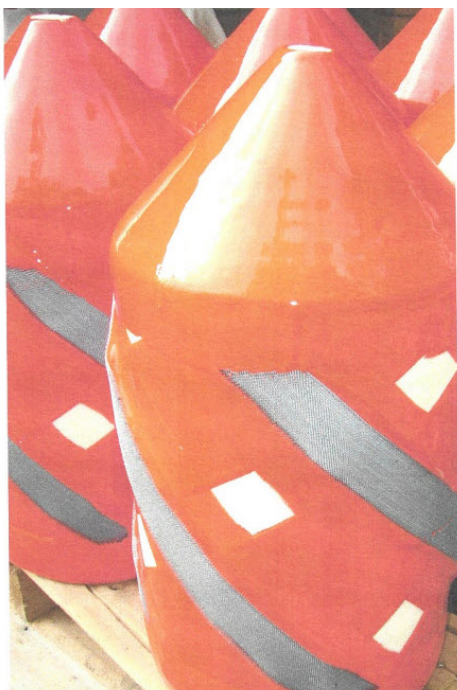
“NEED A LITTLE HELP IN THE KITCHEN”?

OLA Apron



OLA Apron; Photo by Mickie Richtsmeier

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



“Pigs”; Photo by K. Wayne Bunn.

DID YOU KNOW? Lake Whitefish (Otsego Bass) were once plentiful in Otsego Lake, but are now rare due to the introduction of invasive species.

STYROFOAM PIECES ON OTSEGO LAKE

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

On the morning of Monday, December 9, 2019, my colleagues and I were taking two SUNY Oneonta Biological Field Station (BFS) Jon boats out of water for the season, one at the Springfield boat launch then at another at the Lakefront boat launch. We were able to navigate the boats with much more ease and confidence thanks to the newly installed ice-resistant steering system, funded by OLA last year.

We had just completed winterization of the Continuous Lake Monitoring Buoy over the



Paul H. Lord pointing out styrofoam in lake at boat ramp. Photo by Kiyoko Yokota.

weekend, and Otsego Lake was dark, cold and very quiet as we were taking out the second Jon boat at Lakefront boat launch to wrap up the work. There was little sign of any human activities on the lake, and it felt like we may be looking at the lake as it stood few hundred years ago.

Paul Lord, then, pointed out something that brought us back to the Anthropocene – pieces of Styrofoam in water. The issue of blue, pink, tan and white Styrofoam pieces floating around

Otsego Lake has been discussed by the OLA members in the past, and their possible sources have been identified as deteriorating docks, improperly disposed coolers and containers for food, beverages and bait, and sunken watercraft (which often has foam-filled compartments inside the hull for buoyancy).

Much of drifted Styrofoam debris on seashores are the result of long-distance transport and often can be identified as pieces of buoys for nets and containers used in commercial fisheries. In the case of Otsego Lake, however, it is unlikely that all these pieces came from the streams, which are typically narrow and winding. This is more of a local, in-lake pollution, and your help will make a difference.

Open (bare, non-encapsulated) Styrofoam blocks used for dock flotation have been identified as a source of lake and river pollution and contribute to the global plastic pollution in our water resources, both freshwater and marine. Plastic wastes in water are known to be mistakenly ingested by various animals and interfere with their normal growth, behavior, and reproduction. There are increasing evidence that tiny pieces of plastics (microplastics) also negatively affect planktonic (microscopic and suspended) organisms that are important food source for larger animals and critical for recycling of nutrients in water. These plastic pieces themselves can release toxic chemicals used in manufacturing (e.g., benzene and styrene in Styrofoam) into their surroundings as well as collect and transport hydrophobic (water-hating or oily) contaminants such as PCB.

Pasco County, FL, for example, adopted a new law last year that new docks are to be constructed only with encapsulated flotation materials. Owners of deteriorating docks with non-encapsulated flotation are responsible for surrounding the structure with a floating boom

DID YOU KNOW? Otsego Lake is unique in our part of the state in that it supports a substantial cold water fishery, including trout.

to prevent the spread of foam pieces (<https://www.abcactionnews.com/news/region-pasco/environmental-engineer-says-styrofoam-docks-pose-big-threats-to-the-environment-and-our-health>).

North of the border, there is a grassroots effort in Ontario, Canada, to ban the sale of open Styrofoam billets for dock flotation. They experience a similar problem as we do in Otsego County – beavers and muskrats chewing up dock flotation materials. Below are photos of a dock on Otsego Lake taken out of water last fall. Note the difference in the degree of chewing and scratching by animals between the mesh covered and bare sections. While the wire mesh covering does not make the foam billets “encapsulated”, this could still be a helpful method to reduce damage to existing open Styrofoam billets.

If you are considering a new or replacement dock, US Army Corp of Engineers has an easy-to-follow report titled Flotation Analysis for Boat Docks on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Projects, available at <https://apps.dtic.mil/dtic/tr/fulltext/u2/a508398.pdf>. Chapters 4 and 5 cover environmental impacts of flotation products and best management practices, both of which are applicable to household docks. This 2009 report as well as a 2017 newspaper article contributed by Camden Conservation Commission of Town of Camden, Maine (with lakes and rivers similar to ours), indicate that while encapsulated flotations cost more upfront, they tend to last longer and are better investment in a long run (<https://www.penbaypilot.com/article/problem-un-encapsulated-polystyrene-styrofoam-dock-floats/85080>). If your property is going to change hands in future, the new owners will appreciate encapsulated flotation under the dock. One of the challenges in Otsego Lake is attachment of zebra mussels to the underside of docks (black dots on blue Styrofoam above are clusters of them), which weigh down the docks over time. Encapsulated flotation with a hard, smooth surface discourage attachment of the mussels, and they can be removed easier by regular scraping, without damaging the Styrofoam.

And finally, please prevent accidental release of disposable coolers and other containers into the lake, especially in light of more takeout containers in use nowadays. If you find abandoned Styrofoam and other plastic items on shore or while boating, please try to retrieve them if it can be done safely. Thank you for your help in keeping Otsego Lake beautiful.



Dock out of water with chew & scratch marks; Photo by Kiyoko Yokota.

WHAT IS THAT CONTRAPTION IN THE MIDDLE OF THE LAKE?

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

It was the talk of the town, at least on Facebook, in mid-May when recreational boaters started to notice the “contraption” above. This is not new - we have had it for the last three winters, but it is usually taken away and swapped with our Continuous Lake Monitoring Buoy (CLMB) in early April, before most recreational boating starts. The COVID-related SUNY campus closures, including SUNY Oneonta Biological Field Station, delayed the swap this year.

People’s imaginations ran wild – suggestions spanned from an upside down dock



and pool floats to a fallen UFO or satellite, “Otsie” (a local version of Nessie, I guess), an octopus, ribs of a huge fish, killer whales taking a smoke break, breeding narwhals and an alien observation post. These are spar buoys/sully sticks holding up the anchoring system for our CLMB and the winter temperature logger array below. These long buoys are specially designed to withstand ice.

Usually we switch this winter setup with the data buoy and two red mooring buoys soon after ice out in April, so local boaters are probably more familiar with our “summer” setup below:



We also use single, shorter spar buoys (below) to mark anchor locations for the no wake zone buoys (NWZBs) around Otsego Lake over the winter, as NWZBs would be damaged by ice. Although we use heavy

chains and shackles, spar buoys can still become separated from the anchor chain when shifting and colliding ice sheets near shore put too much stress on them. If you find a spar buoy floating or washed up on shore, please contact Paul.Lord@oneonta.edu or Kiyoko.Yokota@oneonta.edu. They can be identified by 2 or 3 horizontal orange stripes and location name and “SWCD” (Soil and Water Conservation District), written on them. Otsego County SWCD supports the NWZB program along with OLA and BFS Volunteer Dive Team.



LAKE CLEAN UP

Debbie Creedon

This event is for homeowners/small businesses that own lakefront. The Biological Field Station’s Barge, John Boats and OCCA Canoes will be collecting debris found in/on the lake shore such as old tires, pieces of old docks, old pipes etc.

The barge will go up the West side and the John Boats will go over to the East side to collect the debris and then dropped off at Fish Rd. in Cooperstown.

All debris should be placed at the end of the homeowners/small business docks to be picked up.

This is a great activity for all members of the family to chip in and do their part!

Should circumstances change due to COVID 19, you will be able to find that information on our website and our Facebook page. Stay well everyone!

DID YOU KNOW? In NYS all motor boat operators regardless of age will need a NYS boating safety certificate beginning in 2025, following a 5-year phase-in period for those born in 1978-1996.

ANNUAL “We Love Our Lake” DECORATED BOAT PARADE - SATURDAY, JULY 4th at 3pm

by K. Wayne Bunn



2019 Boat Parade Grand Prize Winner “Pinwheels” by Ramsey & Nelson. Photo by 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 3:00 PM on Saturday, July 4th, 2020. This year’s theme will be “Let’s Celebrate – It’s the 4th of July”. The parade will form off Three Mile Point, then proceed slowly along the westerly side of the lake, and end at Lakefront Park in Cooperstown. The parade will be led by the SUNY Oneonta Biological Field Station’s barge, the Anondontoides, but due to the Covid-19 situation, there will be no judging and no prizes or candy given out to the boaters this year. OLA encourages all boaters, either in the parade or just observing, to self-regulate all people in their boat including the wearing of face masks. We also encourage all spectators on shore to practice social distancing and wear face masks. 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 “Let’s Celebrate - It’s the 4th of July” theme but you may decorate your boat any way 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. 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 Three Mile Point, Brookwood Point, the Country Club (for members only), the Otesaga Hotel, and Lakefront Park. There are no fees, registration forms, rules, or regulations except travel slowly, stay in line, be courteous to other boaters, and practice social distancing. 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!

DID YOU KNOW? No objects may be moored in the lake without a permit from the Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, except one orange and white swim buoy. There is an application form for a floating object permit.



ABOVE: Distancing on the Susquehanna; Photo by Jane Howarth Vogelsberger. BELOW: A Snowy May 9; Photo by Mickie Richtsmeier.



DID YOU KNOW? Wake Action from fast motorboats too close to shore causes erosion which adds to phosphorous in the lake.



OLA NEEDS YOUR HELP!

www.otsegolakeassociation.org

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Directors Town of Middlefield: Peter Regan & John May
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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 (Please renew by 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: _____

Mailing Address: _____

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

SOCIAL DISTANCING



Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation



DID YOU KNOW? NYS Parks has a series of safe boating videos at their website, including a reminder on Brianna's Law. Find the links below!

Safe Boating Videos: <https://www.youtube.com/user/nysparksandsites/videos>

Brianna's Law:

<https://youtu.be/sMb9WG934p4>



BOAT LOCAL

Stay close to home. Keep your trip short. Avoid high-traffic destinations.



BE SAFE

Always wear your life jacket. Dress for the water temperature. Be prepared.



KEEP YOUR DISTANCE

Avoid crowds, groups, rafting up and beaching your boat right next to others. Keep a distance of 6 feet or more from others. Only boat with those in your immediate household.



BE COURTEOUS

Please wear a face covering while in public areas. Dispose of single use masks and gloves properly.



STAY HOME

If you're not feeling well, stay home. Anyone **70** and older or with a compromised immune system should postpone their trip.

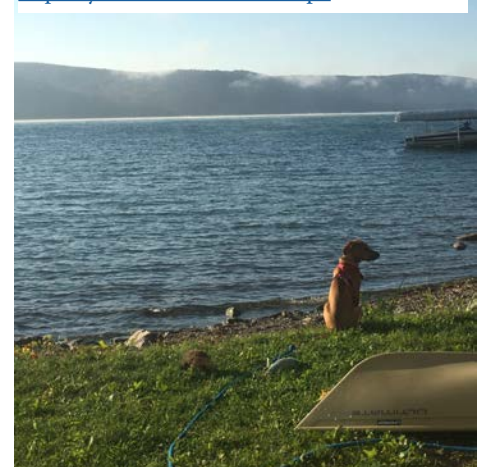


BE ADAPTIVE

Depart marinas and launch boats quickly - do not congregate. If crowded, choose a different location or time to visit.



For alternative state boat launch locations, visit <https://parks.ny.gov/recreation/boating/launch-sites.aspx>



Ziggy on Otsego Lake; Photo by Sarah Coney



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

BELOW: Distancing on the Lake: Photo by Peter Regan. BELOW: Canoe with Kids; Photo by Bob Sutherland



OTSEGO LAKE ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 13 • SPRINGFIELD CENTER, NY 13468

www.otsegolakeassociation.org