



Volume 2021-Issue 2  
Fall 2021

# Our Glimmerglass

*Newsletter of the Otsego Lake Association*

*We Love Our Lake*



*Image Credits*  
Top: Tina Claiborne  
Bottom Row: Reed Baker; Deb Creedon

*"NATURE GIVES TO EVERY TIME AND SEASON UNIQUE BEAUTY."*  
*Charles Dickens*



## CLMB Update

by Paul H. Lord and Kiyoko Yokota



On Sunday, May 16, 2021 the SUNY Oneonta Biological Field Station (BFS) Volunteer Dive Team successfully deployed the Continuous Lake Monitoring Buoy (CLMB). The water surface temperature was still around 49 °F, and the COVID-related social distancing and masking requirements made this work extra

challenging, as the passenger capacities for the boats were greatly reduced. As we retrieved the winter setup, we realized that we had lost the majority of the temperature logger pendants due to the shifting ice sheets that freed the line from the anchor and tore the cable ties. We are thankful for a generous donation from a couple of OLA members that enables us to replace the lost loggers and improve the setup so that it is more ice-resistant for this coming winter.



Top: CLMB - Image by Kiyoko Yokota  
 Left: Retrieval in progress - Photo by Kiyoko Yokota  
 Above: Underwater Navigational Hazard & Retrieved Buoy - Photos by Peter Regan

## Outboard Motor just “Popped Off” the Boat

by K. Wayne Bunn

One summer, while we were vacationing at Aalsmeer Cottages and Motel, our good friends from Syracuse and their two teenage boys were also staying at Aalsmeer. The father had borrowed his father-in-law’s fishing boat which had a 10 horsepower outboard motor. One day, the two boys and their friends took the boat to go “fishing” at the north end of the lake. About two hours later, as we sat on the beach with our friends, we saw the boys coming back but rowing the boat instead of being under power – no outboard motor in sight! The father jumped up and started yelling at the boys and asking where the outboard motor was! The boys’ answer was “we don’t know what happened, the motor just “popped off” and fell into the lake”. The father hired a local diver but the outboard motor was never found. Who knows if the real story of what happened was ever told beyond the boys in the boat!

## 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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ADDRESS CORRESPONDENCE TO:

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

info@otsegolakeassociation.org

ON THE WEB:

[www.otsegolakeassociation.org](http://www.otsegolakeassociation.org)  
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# Lake Swim - Done!

by Kristin Gheen

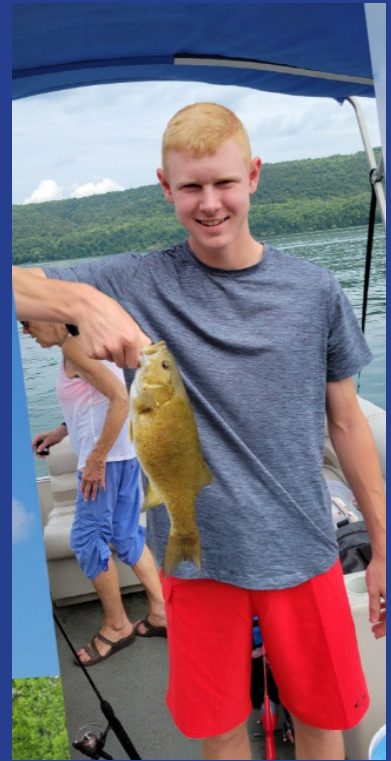


Armin Sommer lives on Badger Lane (near the Hickory Grove) with Nancy Sommer (Shults). They've enjoyed Otsego Lake their entire lives, having family history here and are Hartwick College grads. My great-grandfather, Clyde Shults, purchased "Camp Champion" and property back in 1941...he fell in love with Otsego Lake as a youth, worked as a bellboy at the Otesaga around 1920, etc. He and much of my mother's family are buried in VanHornesville. Just some fun history.

Anyway, Armin made the long swim north to south on August 4th, fighting some rough waves most of the way from a steady south wind, but persevered! Nancy and I shadowed him and he did beautifully but was so exhausted afterwards (understandably so). It was pretty inspirational to watch. Angus Mackie confirmed that he met the necessary criteria, and his name is going on the plaque at Clarks this fall. What an accomplishment!



# Fish!



Left: Lake Swim - Images by Kristin Gheen  
Above/Below: Bass - Images by Andrew Claiborne  
Bottom Left: Carp - Image by Peter Regan

MORE FISH

It's a Keeper!



## More Than a Beautiful Garden

### Cooperstown's Lakefront Buffer Strip Garden - Part 1

by Mickie Richtsmeier



*In the Beginning - Image by Suzanne Kingsley*



*Phase 2 - Image by Suzanne Kingsley*



*Flooding - Image by Suzanne Kingsley*



*Paul Teaches - Image by Suzanne Kingsley*



*Rip Rap Restoration - Image by Peter Regan*

#### What is a Buffer Strip?

The job of the Lakefront Buffer Strip and any buffer strip is multi-faceted. It is an important tool in preventing shoreline erosion and sedimentation. (The main cause of erosion on the lakeshore is wave action caused naturally or by boat wakes that eventually wear away unprotected soils.) Erosion of the soil into the water impacts water quality and has a significant impact on the entire lake ecosystem. Sediments from the soil can cover aquatic plants and release pollutants that affect water clarity and potability making feeding difficult for fish and other wildlife. Another deleterious effect of unimpeded runoff is enhanced plant growth and algae blooms that often come when phosphorus is washed into the lake from lawn fertilizer and road salting.

Modern groomed lakeshores have been a major contributor to these problems by clearing lakefronts of natural vegetation and replacing it with lawns that are mowed to the shoreline. This has deprived most woodland and aquatic species the basic habitat that they need for survival and left lakes without any natural buffer to filter out pernicious chemicals and potential pollutants. Many lakeshore problems can be solved with the planting of a buffer zone. A buffer zone's deep rooting plants stabilize shorelines and banks and can replace shoreline wildlife habitats. This also has the added benefit of being a natural deterrent to nuisance animals such as Canadian geese, ducks, and muskrats.

#### The History of the Lakefront Buffer Strip

Over 15 years ago OLA helped to introduce the concept of the lakeside buffer strip to the Otsego Lake community through the establishment of the Lakefront Park Demonstration Buffer Strip. The initial phase at the foot of Pioneer Street was funded by OLA and included a small grant awarded by the New York State Federation of Lake Associations. (This area was chosen because of the unimpeded runoff into the lake from Pioneer Street and the significant erosion along the existing seawall.) Soon after, the Lake and Valley Garden Club became actively involved in the planning and planting, and with the support of the Village of Cooperstown, the buffer strip garden was expanded from Pioneer Street to Fish Road and included a handicapped accessible boardwalk built by students from the Otsego Area Occupational Center.

#### Rewards

National recognition was given to the Lakefront Park Buffer Strip in 2008 when the Lake and Valley Garden Club won the prestigious Garden Club of America's Founders' Fund Award. This award came with a substantial monetary grant which was consumed in finishing the boardwalk, signage, stone infiltration material, and boulders. Additional plantings and

maintenance expense was mainly underwritten in subsequent years by Lake and Valley. Far less well known, however, were the many special times at the garden each year such as the spring openings that brought together Lake and Valley gardeners and students from the Occupational Center. A productive day of weeding and mulching always also included an introduction to lake ecology and buffer strips from Paul Lord. Throughout the years both local residents and tourists walked the boardwalk enjoying the plantings and the lake views. People stopped to read the instructional signage. Gardeners from throughout the state visited the garden to see how a buffer strip could be practically designed. The garden grew and grew. It was doing its job.

**Challenges - The Garden Grew and Grew!**

Weeding, mulching, boardwalk repairs, shoring up the seawall with rip rap took hours of man power. Plants that were chosen because of their low profile grew twice as large as expected, and neighbors complained about their size. Also, additions were made to the Village boat docks that modified foot traffic patterns, and financial constraints limited the support that could be given to assist maintenance by the Village crew. Then there was the tremendous impact of the pandemic that caused major interruptions in attention to the garden. After all this, it became obvious that it was time to step back and to make some modifications to preserve accessibility to the lake view and to accommodate manageable maintenance.

The Lakefront Park buffer strip is a beautiful garden, but it's important to remember how much more it is than that! The Lakefront Park buffer strip has been working hard to protect Otsego Lake for over 15 years. Through years of flooding, ice assault, and draught it has survived as a model of community collaboration and good lake management. It continues to be a living, learning environment for us all. OLA is grateful for the hard work given over the years by Lake and Valley, the Village, BOCES students, and OLA volunteers. We remain committed to its welfare.

To learn more about the buffer strip concept and to explore native appropriate plantings, an excellent book, *Landscaping for Wildlife and Water Quality*, published by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is available through OLA.

**Stay tuned for Part II, Lakefront Park Buffer Strip, LOOKING TO THE FUTURE, in our Spring newsletter.**

**Otsego Lake Trivia**  
 Can you name three steamboats  
 that ran on Otsego Lake?



*Phase 1 - Overgrown - Image by Suzanne Kingsley*



*Didn't they say there was a lake out here?  
 Image by Suzanne Kingsley*



*Nice - Image by Suzanne Kingsley*

**With Unlimited Money...**

*by K. Wayne Bunn*

...I would provide a NYS/Coast Guard recognized Safe Boating Course each month from May through September and open to all boaters.

## Annual “We Love Our Lake” Decorated Boat Parade - 4th of July

by K. Wayne Bunn

Wow - another great boat parade on the 4th of July! We estimated that between 40 and 45 boats of all types actually participated in the parade plus many more observed from the lake or from shore. This year’s theme was “**Here Comes The Sun**” (a song by the Beatles and appropriate for the ending phase of the Covid-19 pandemic). We had the right combination of things this year – the 4th of July was on a Sunday, the weather was nearly ideal (sunny, warm, very slight breeze, no rain or threat of a lake again this year, and we were basically “the only game in town” that day due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic (no Springfield parade, no community band concert, no on-site chicken BBQ, no concert at the State Park, no opera, no fireworks, and no Dreams Park).

The parade, led by the *Anodontoides*, the BFS Barge with Paul Lord at the controls, started at 3:00 PM at Three Mile Point, proceeded slowly down the westerly shore of the lake, and ended at the Lakefront Park in Cooperstown at about 3:45 PM. Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, we were again unable to award and hand out prizes or hand out candy this year. Go to the OLA website ([www.otsegolakeassociation.org](http://www.otsegolakeassociation.org)) for photos of this year’s boat parade plus past years.



Above: Image by Peter Regan  
Below: Image by Deb Creedon



We wish to express a big “**Thank You**” to everyone who helped with the boat parade in any way, especially the BFS for the use of their barge plus The Freeman’s Journal and The Daily Star/Cooperstown Crier for some great publicity and coverage. Although the boat parade was originally scheduled for July 3rd, it was re-scheduled at the last minute to July 4th due to a predicted all day rain on July 3rd. It was a very difficult decision on whether or not to hold the boat parade on Saturday (we normally say “rain or shine”) or to re-schedule it to Sunday but it all worked out. However, we are glad that we did re-schedule the boat parade because, again this year, we all needed some “normalcy” and fun during these very trying times. And fun it was!

We look forward to another family-oriented, fun-filled “**We Love Our Lake**” Decorated Boat Parade in 2022.

## Otsego Lake Rules and Regulations

by D. Sanford

Otsego Lake is the sole source of drinking water for the residents of Cooperstown. The water is filtered and has minimal chemical treatment as specified by the Department of Health. The Village of Cooperstown Water Board has jurisdiction of the watershed of Otsego Lake [Rules and regulations of New York, 10 NYCRR part 170].

[a] Prohibitions: **1.** Use of soap or detergents while bathing in the lake or any watercourse. **2.** Herbicides and pesticides shall not be applied or allowed to enter the lake or watercourses. **3.** No sewage shall be deposited or allowed the escape into the lake or watercourses.

[b] The Village Water Board must approve any new or changes to sewage disposal system within the watershed.

[c] Refuse from boats: No excreta, garbage, slops, nor decomposable matter of any kind, nor any bottles or metal cans of any kind shall be thrown, discharged or allowed to escape or pass into the lake from any boat.

These are just some of the rules and regulations that may apply to properties along Otsego Lake. The Village has the authority to inspect properties for violations and enact enforcement. [Sec. 1103, public health law] The Village Water Board currently inspects existing sewage waste systems, within the proximity of the lake and watercourses, every five years.

# Head for the Lake!

And we did, in record numbers during this Covid pandemic! Otsego Lake's pristine water and unmatched surrounds provided solace and comfort.

OLA'S major fundraiser, the annual August gathering, diminished to zoom for two years (view on our website) has caused financial hardship. We depend on your attendance, in person, to bid on silent auction items, take home a shirt or two, remain informed, connect with like-minded neighbors, and renew your memberships.

Although our funds are low, our good works not only continue, but we are busier than ever as threats to the health of our lake are persistent.

It has been easy to become distracted during this time, and if you have forgotten OLA, please stay with us. Renew your membership today for the only 100% volunteer group working tirelessly 100% to protect Otsego Lake.



Above: Top/Middle - Images by the Baker Family  
Bottom - Image by the Grady and Chase Families

Above: Top/Middle - Images by the Claiborne Family  
Bottom - Image by Betty VanHeusen

**OLA Merchandise**  
 T-shirts - Short Sleeve \$15 Long \$20  
 Visors \$18 Caps \$18  
 Denim Shirts \$35  
 Swim/Bath Towels \$35  
 To order, contact: Scottie Baker:  
 (607) 547-5356 or npscottieb@gmail.com.

**JOIN US!**

**JOIN US!**

## SUPPORT YOUR OTSEGO LAKE ASSOCIATION

**MEMBERSHIP** (Missed the August renewal? Please renew by December 2021)

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

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

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

Your payment by cash or check guarantees no extra fees or card charges.  
100% of your tax deductible donation goes 100% toward our Otsego Lake!

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

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail completed form along with total payment to: Otsego Lake Association, Box 13, Springfield Center, NY 13468

**WE LOVE OUR LAKE!**

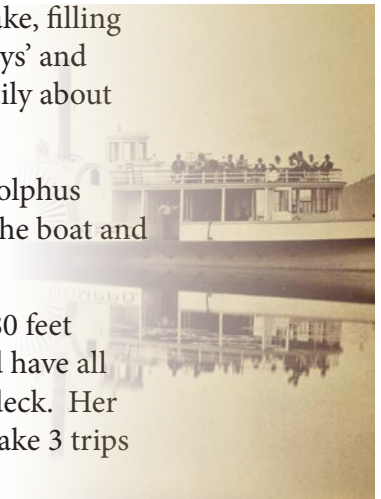
## Full Steam Ahead

from "The Badger and Freeman's Journal", compiled by Scottie Baker

"On the 4th of July 1905, the good ship Mohican began its long career on Otsego Lake, filling the void left by steamship Natty Bumppo. The big boat slid gracefully down the 'ways' and kissed the water of Otsego Lake. There was a big splash and the craft rode out jauntily about 50 feet, bringing taught the line."

"Miss Marie Anheuser Busch, daughter of August. A. Busch, granddaughter of Adolphus Busch, and Miss Osborne, daughter of the builder broke a bottle of champagne on the boat and spoke the words 'I christen thee Mohican.'"

"The Mohican makes a fine appearance in the water. She is a double deck steamer 80 feet long and 19 feet wide carrying capacity of 400. She will be lighted by electricity and have all the modern sanitary conveniences. A searchlight will be operated from the upper deck. Her speed is about 12 MPH. Her cost was between \$7,000 and 8,000 dollars. She will make 3 trips around the lake each weekday". Quite a ride indeed!!



## OCCA AIS Report: Good News, Bad News

by Jeff O'Handley, OCCA



Frog-bit crew at Clarke Pond, June 2021 (OCCA)

This summer OCCA Invasive Species Intern, Christian Brashear carried out surveys on more than 40 Otsego County waterbodies in search of two high priority aquatic invasive species: European frog-bit (*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*) and water chestnut (*Trapa natans*). It was a case of good news, bad news.

The good news? European frog-bit has still only been found in two locations: Silver Lake, in New Berlin, and Clarke Pond in Springfield Center. Thanks to the efforts of many volunteers and the CRISP Watershed Stewards, removal efforts in these two locations yielded approximately 30 pounds of plant material total, most of which came from Silver Lake. The

Clarke Pond population is currently mostly hiding in the cattails, and the combination of dense vegetation and thick mud makes it a difficult plant to remove. Christian also surveyed the creek mouth between the dam and the lake (in 2020 we found four or five plants in that area), as well as the lake shore from the golf course down to Goodyear Swamp and found no frog-bit at all.

The news is not so good for water chestnut, however. Four new water chestnut sites were found this year, including a single plant in Otsego Lake off Cooperstown in August. An extensive search of the southern portion of the lake following this yielded no additional plants. Meanwhile, the north end of the lake may be threatened by the large water chestnut population found in Springfield's Shipman Pond. Christian and a volunteer team pulled over 400 plants from that pond. Follow-up surveys up and downstream of the pond and in the northern end of the lake found no other water chestnuts. Finally, though it doesn't directly impact Otsego Lake, the water chestnut population in Goodyear Lake rebounded significantly this year and will require increased control efforts in 2022.

OLA members play an important role in halting the spread of invasive species. Inspect and clean your watercraft and gear every time you enter or leave the water and if you have out-of-town guests, make sure they do the same. For 2022, OCCA is looking for volunteer to help with removals and surveys. Keep an eye on our website calendar at [occainfo.org](http://occainfo.org) for news, or email me at [programdirector@occainfo.org](mailto:programdirector@occainfo.org) if you'd like to help.



OTSEGO LAKE ASSOCIATION

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

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