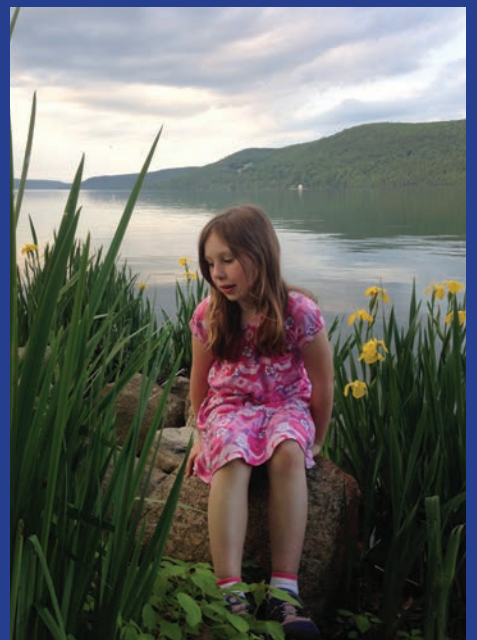




Our Glimmerglass

Journal of the Otsego Lake Association

We Love Our Lake



**A CLEAN,
SAFE LAKE
FOR THE
NEXT
GENERATION**



Photos Left: Canoe Launch - Bob Sutherland; Swimming Boy - Scottie Baker; Dock Distancing - Bob Sutherland; Kayak Training - K. Wayne Bunn
Center: Fish! - Peter Regan; Sailing Pleasures - David Ainsworth;
Right: Beginning of Summer - Elizabeth Walker; Sand Play and Fishing Net: Natura Productions; Reeling One In: Brent Murdock;

President's Message

We like to say that Otsego Lake is unique – and it is in many ways. We are blessed with a natural wonder with many miles of undeveloped shoreline. And that property will remain undeveloped. But, one of the ways that our lake is not unique is its vulnerability to invasive plant and animal species. These invasives can – and have - driven changes in our lake.

This year Otsego Lake and hundreds of other bodies of water in the Northeast experienced a Harmful Algal Bloom. The HAB was disquieting in many ways. We regard our lake as “pristine” and have not experienced similar problems in the past. The causes of the HAB are under study, but changes to the water caused by invasives such as the quagga mussel are certainly a factor.

Going forward, the Otsego Lake Association will take a leadership role in working with civic authorities and scientists to study the HAB. We will also continue our ongoing scientific research and funding, lake maintenance , boat inspections, and education. Please join, support, and work with us. As always, our sincere thanks go to our members, officers, Board members, and patrons for your commitment and work.

Jim Howarth

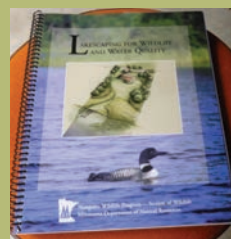
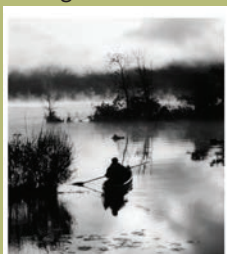
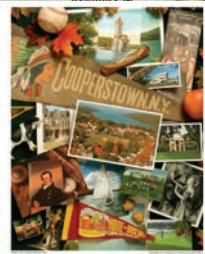
Your OLA Board of Directors discussing important lake issues.

Wayne Bunn (left) and Jim Howarth (right) at the OLA August Board Meeting; Photos by Bill Murdock.



\$20 Challenge - Posters, Prints and Book

- Otsego Lake Posters with 20 lake images combined- \$20 EACH
- Frameable Print - \$20
- *Lakescaping for Wildlife and Water Quality* - Ideas and designs for lakeside landscaping - \$20



To order, contact: Scottie Baker: (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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jim Howarth, Co-President
David Sanford, Co-President
Scottie Baker, Vice President
Wayne Bunn, Secretary
Betty VanHeusen, Treasurer
Brian Hefferon, Student Director

Debbie Creedon

Gary Kuch

Paul H. Lord

Bill Murdock

Robert Nelson

Peter Regan

Mickie Richtsmeier

Martin Tillaupaugh

Doug Willies

POSITIONS

TECHNICAL ADVISOR:

Kiyoko Yokota, Ph.D., CLM

WINTER UPDATE EDITOR:

Ginny Hastings

LEGAL ADVISOR:

Martin Tillaupaugh

MERCHANDISE MANAGER:

Scottie Baker

WEBMASTER:

Timothy Pokorny

OUR GLIMMERGLASS NEWSLETTER

COORDINATOR: Scottie Baker

EDITOR: 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-](https://www.facebook.com/Otsego-Lake-Association-Cooperstown-NY-1066851160050413/)

[Lake-Association-Cooperstown-](https://www.facebook.com/Otsego-Lake-Association-Cooperstown-NY-1066851160050413/)

[NY-1066851160050413/](https://www.facebook.com/Otsego-Lake-Association-Cooperstown-NY-1066851160050413/)

2022 OLA Annual Gathering IN PERSON, AT LAST!

by Mickie Richtsmeier



The 2022 OLA Annual Gathering was held at the Otsego Sailing Club Pavilion on Saturday morning, August 13. We enjoyed an informal coffee hour before the meeting where we got a chance to view student research poster presentations, shop for OLA merchandise, bid on the silent auction, buy raffle tickets, and catch up with OLA board members and neighbors.

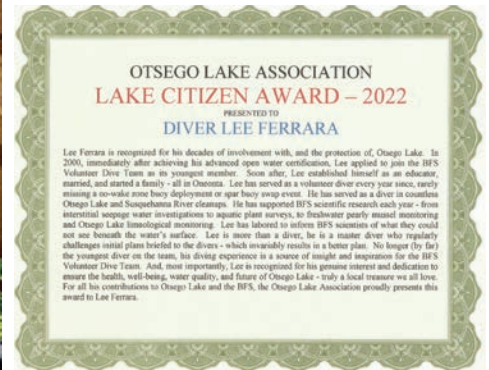
The meeting was called to order by OLA Co-President, Jim Howarth. OSC Commodore, Drew Porter, welcomed OLA members and gave us a short history of the club. After a brief business meeting, the guest speaker, Holly Waterfield from the Cooperstown Biological Field Station, gave a presentation on Otsego Lake, Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow. This was followed by a scientific update on the lake and CLMB (Continuous Lake Monitoring Buoy) by Dr. Kiyoko Yokota. Kiyoko also reported on the volunteer dive team and no wake zone buoys for Paul Lord who was lecturing in Japan.

Bethany Shaw and Mary Keefe who have worked in many substantial capacities on issues affecting Otsego Lake while SUCO students, gave informative presentations regarding AIS threats and steward actions to thwart their spread. Students also shared their findings with regard to the Otsego Lake fishery and research regarding lake mussels. The meeting was adjourned by Co-President, David Sanford. Many people remained to continue conversations with the presenters.

The topic that was on everyone's mind during and after the meeting was the current algae situation and Cyanobacteria in Otsego Lake. Both Dr Yokota and Holly Waterfield graciously answered many questions on this subject. We were grateful to be provided with an outstanding opportunity to become better informed and to interact with scientists who are directly involved on a daily basis studying the state of Otsego Lake.

Awards & Recognitions

OLA Lake Citizen Award 2022 was given to BFS Diver, Lee Ferrara for his 22 years of service to the dive team.



The first Presidential Award, created by Jim Howarth and the board of directors was presented to Scottie Baker for her long time dedication to OLA and our lake. Presented by past president, Mickie Richtsmeier to Scottie Baker in August.



Recognition for the NYSFOLA Newsletter Award was given to the OLA Board, Scottie Baker and Susan O'Handley, Central NY Mobile Marketing for their collaborative work in developing each issue of 'Our Glimmerglass'.

Raffle Winner!

OLA raffled off a special Florida vacation rental to help raise money to purchase a new waterproof weather station to support data monitoring. The drawing was held on Monday, September 5, Labor Day, at 12 noon. OLA member, Donna Sawyer was the winner. She will share the Florida resort with her family! Thank you to our amazing community for donations and financial support.



Above: Debbie Creedon shows winning ticket; Photo by Peter Regan;
Below: Donna Sawyer and family members. Photo Contributed by the Sawyer Family.



Memorial Donations, Dedications & Bequests

Please consider Otsego Lake Association with a bequest in your will, or a donation as a dedication in remembrance of a friend or family member. We cherish our lake, and your generosity preserves its health and beauty.

Scientific Updates

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

The spring deployment of the Otsego Lake Continuous Lake Monitoring Buoy (CLMB) by the SUNY Oneonta Biological Field Station (BFS) Volunteer Dive Team occurred on April 23, 2022, which was made possible by Chuck Hascup's team and their work barge in the absence of BFS's 37-foot pontoon *Anodontoides*, which is still under repair. We are very thankful for Chuck's help this fall again in the CLMB and no-wake zone buoy winterization work. The sensors for wind direction and barometric pressure on top of the CLMB failed this season. It was only 2 years old, after the original unit that came with the CLMB system had to be replaced in 2020 due to internal corrosion. But OLA stood up to the challenge - a huge thank you goes to Vera Talevi for her generous donation of a vacation package, which OLA BOD and members turned into a successful raffle campaign to fund a simpler yet waterproof weather station, which will restore the missing weather parameters. The new weather station will be installed on the CLMB when it is on the shore and will be ready for the next season.

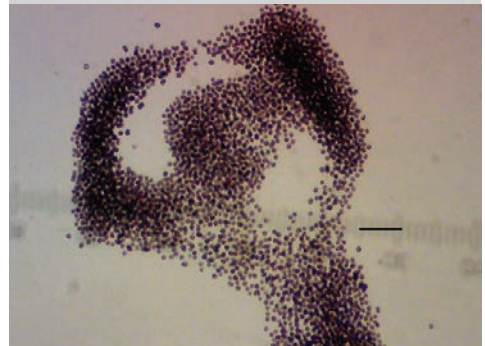
The recurrent harmful algal blooms (HABs) caused by cyanobacteria (photosynthetic bacteria) this summer was the first in the modern history of the lake. I had seen some localized and diffuse cyanobacterial blooms on Otsego Lake since my arrival in 2013, none of which compared to the 2022 blooms. The first confirmed bloom was reported at Glimmerglass State Park on July 27, 2022, followed by multiple reports throughout the rest of the summer into early October. The blooms were caused by *Microcystis aeruginosa*, which can produce toxins (cyanotoxins). Tim Pokorny (OLA webmaster) quickly created the HAB



April 2022 CLMB deployment; Photo by Sarah Coney



Above: The new waterproof weather station that will restore wind direction and barometric pressure data collection. Photo by Kiyoko Yokota
Below: A *Microcystis aeruginosa* colony from Otsego Lake, NY & an example of a diffuse-looking *Microcystis* bloom (Sept 17, 2022, BFS Boathouse dock). Photos by Kiyoko Yokota



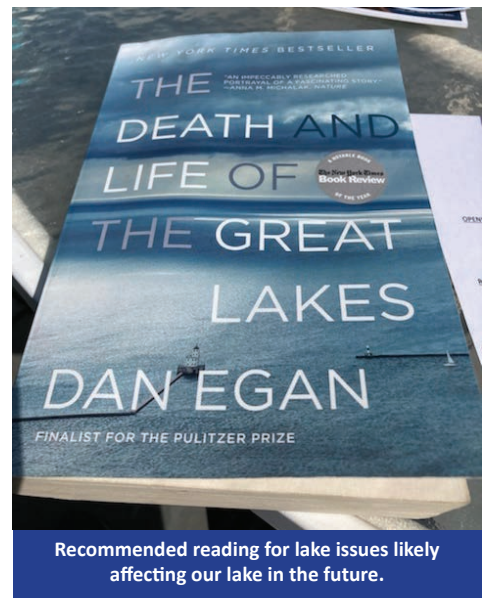
(continued from page 4)

...page on the OLA website (<https://www.otsegolakeassociation.org/habs.html>), which is designed to serve as a clearinghouse for reliable HAB information from NYS agencies and other credible sources. My presentation slides on Otsego Lake HABs from the 2022 OLA Annual Gathering are also available under “Presentations” at <https://www.otsegolakeassociation.org/publications.html>.

So what’s ahead? It is a big question that thousands of researchers studying cyanobacterial HABs all around the world are asking. In Otsego Lake, we need to conduct more studies that are beyond the scope of conventional lake monitoring to test multiple hypotheses on the identities of the main factors driving the blooms and their relative contributions. Only then we can start planning how to effectively manage and prevent future blooms.

The Otsego Lake community has learned a lot over the last few months about its HABs – particularly that they do NOT look like typical cyanobacterial HABs which resemble pea-soup or green paint. Ours are paler in color and more diffuse in appearance yet at times accompanied by significant concentrations of microcystins (a class of cyanotoxins). Accumulation of the cyanobacterial cells as visible surface streaks and scum is driven by the wind and water current and can change within minutes, and some blooms can be hidden below the water surface. It is impossible for anyone to define “unsafe” and “safe” areas with any certainty. We are all individually responsible for watching out for signs of the blooms and making our own risk assessments based on the age and health conditions of the people in your party and how you plan to use the water. Pets warrant special considerations as they can be very vulnerable to cyanotoxin poisoning. OLA is strategizing for effective long-term management of Otsego Lake and its watershed in response to the 2022 HABs. Meanwhile, if you use a deicing system for the protection of your lakefront structures, please be mindful of the fact that *Microcystis* is known to overwinter in the sediment. Optimize your system for the level of protection needed and avoid unnecessary stirring up the lake bottom. Artificial resuspension from sediment to water column gives *Microcystis* access to sunlight and warmer water that may occur at the water surface on sunny days and can improve their viability through winter and give them a head start in spring. Use thermostats and timers so that the de-icing devices run only when needed. Lake Hopatcong Foundation in NJ has a nice article on this at <https://www.lakehopatcongfoundation.org/news/ice-retardant-systems-options-safety-and-regulations>.

Thank you for your continued support for scientific research on Otsego Lake, and have happy holidays!



Beaver Lodge on Otsego Lake *by Paul H. Lord*

We have observed bank beavers around Otsego Lake in the past. This includes one that borrowed into a floating dock. Beavers have occasionally cut down trees on the west side of Otsego Lake and started assembling lodge building materials — only to see their building materials scattered or removed from the lake by their human landlords. This lodge, on the east side of the lake, is well constructed with an extensive underwater tunnel which apparently provides access from under the winter ice.



Photos by Paul H. Lord



\$20 Challenge - Caps and Visors







Cap it off with an extra 2, Otsego Lake will be thanking you!
Caps in 4 colors; Visor in 2 colors; all one size. \$18, donate 2.00 to OLA= \$20.00.

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



In barn where first seen.

Historic Wooden Boats of Otsego Lake - Finding the Way Home Again

by Walter "Jim" Hogan

This is part one of a series about historic wooden boats that sadly left Otsego Lake, but found their way back home, sometimes as a result of extraordinary events. Scottie Baker

Return of the 1898 Naphtha Launch "Susquehanna", Life's Unexplained & Intertwined Events

I am certain most people have events that have occurred to them during their life for which they have no understanding why. This is the story of a series of such unexplained events that have returned the "Susquehanna, a 30' Naphtha Launch to Lake Otsego, the only lake it has ever been on in its 124 year existence.

In 1985, I purchased a 13' 6", boat, also called a launch, built by the Atlantic Boat Works in Amesbury Mass from its 85 year old owner who stated the boat had been in the family before she was born which dates its age to circa 1900. The launch was complete except for the motor which the owner said was used as an anchor in a lake in the Adirondacks when it would no longer run.



With deck removed during restoration.

My research discovered the Atlantic Boat Works built the engines for its launches, thus I began my search for one of their motors. After 15 years, no luck so I put an ad on the Old Marine Engine website. I received a reply in 2001 from Bruce Hall of Kings Ferry (Finger Lakes region with no connection to the Halls of Cooperstown and was a major player in my obtaining the Susquehanna.). He invited me to look at his motor collection to see if any would work in the Launch. Unfortunately, no luck. He then asked if I wanted to go visit a friend who had a 30' launch, felt to be an ELCO Electric, named the "Susquehanna" that he had salvaged from Sam Smith's boat yard in 1975. Out of curiosity to see such a boat I agreed. His friend, Mr. Morrison, proudly showed me the launch stored in his barn for the last 25 years saving it from destruction. He had photographs from 1906 at a dock in Cooperstown and on the lake in the 1970's when it belonged to the Rousselot family. It is unknown when the original enclosed cabin had been removed and replaced with plywood. He was very assured he would restore it. **Unexplained event, why would I come in contact with someone I had just met who knew about a 100 year old boat from Cooperstown?**



Exterior nearing completion.

Over the years, I continued my engine search, keeping in touch with Bruce along the way. After another 15 years, Bruce contacted me in 2015 with contact information of a gentleman in Maine who had a 6 HP Atlantic Boat Works engine he was willing to sell. He had a collection of over 50 antique boat engines and this was the first one he was willing to sell. **Unexplained event, why now would this be the 1st engine he would sell.**

As my conversation with Bruce about the Atlantic engine was concluding, I suddenly and for a reason I cannot explain, asked, **"Whatever happened to that old launch in the barn?"** He replied the owner had passed away and it was for sale. One offer had been made with plans to take it to Florida and have the ELCO company help restore it. I made a counter offer that was accepted as I felt the launch should be brought back to Lake Otsego, its home. In 2015, the Susquehanna was returned to Cooperstown. **Unexplained event, why did I suddenly ask about a boat I had not thought about for 15 years?**

Before the restoration, I wanted to learn as much as I could about the Susquehanna as the photo from 1906 was pretty conclusive it was the Susquehanna. A friend recommended I try Old Fulton New York Post Cards, a web site with 51,000,000 pages of newspaper pages. I learned the Susquehanna was not an ELCO Electric but a Gas, Engine and Power Co, Naphtha powered Launch, commissioned to be built by the Bowers Family of Cooperstown in 1898 and launched on Otsego Lake in 1899.



Bower family winning race.

The Naphtha engine is an external combustion engine, similar in appearance to a small

steam engine. The working fluid is naphtha, which is also used as a liquid fuel to power the boiler. It has 3 vertical cylinders and a small vertical boiler. It was built to replace steam engines which often exploded and required certification to use.

I do not know how long the Susquehanna stayed in the Bowers family but have a photo of them winning a race in 1906 and a newspaper article taking Sunday school children for a boat ride in 1914. I also cannot find any information as to when the Naphtha engine was replaced with a gasoline engine or when the original cabin was removed and at some point replaced with plywood.

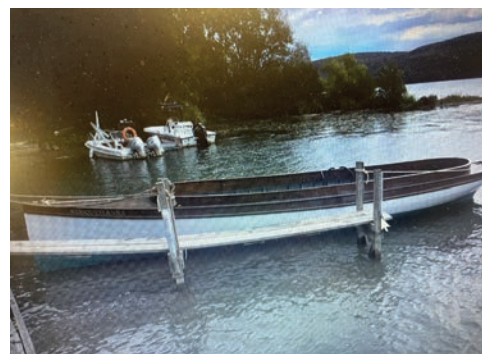
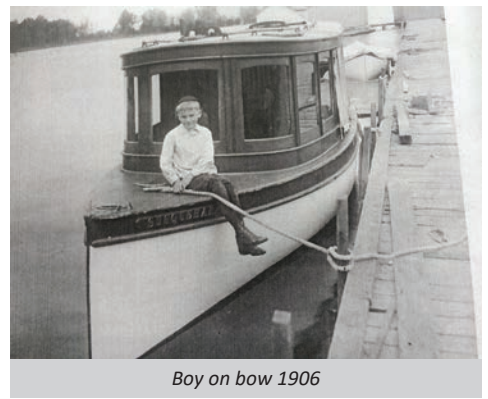
The next documentation of ownership was from an article published in 1934 when Levi Wood, former captain for 17 years of the "Mohican", a Lake Otsego Steam Paddle Boat, was using the Susquehanna from 1934 -1941 as a tour and charter boat selling it in 1941 to Valerie Deucher of Pathfinder Lodge.

Following this sale, I no longer found any written information. In discussion with several Cooperstown residents, I was told the Susquehanna was owned at one point by Frank Goddard who had just returned from WWII. One story which I find fascinating was for winter storage which came from one resident who helped him in this process. He would remove the engine and hardware from the launch and sink it in water deep enough to protect it from the ice. This was to keep all the wood tight to prevent any leaking in the spring when it was raised for its use. Raising it required getting it as high as possible in the water and bailing rapidly with large pails until it began to float.

Another unexplained event was Jane Clark entering the picture to help save the Susquehanna. She and I were in the same store one day and something told me and I cannot explain what it was, she would be interested in learning the Susquehanna was back in Cooperstown. When I informed her, she was very pleased to hear this as she remembers it on the lake when she was growing up and asked what my plans were. When I stated I hoped to do a restoration she asked me to get together with her to discuss. The end result was her becoming half owner and excited about the restoration project.

Working with Tom Krieg, whom we felt should lead the restoration, we repaired the hull in 2017-18 and were able to launch the Susquehanna and leave in the water for several weeks at Sam Smith's boatyard. Then COVID put the project in mothballs through last year. We are now preparing to start the inside restoration with completion anticipated for 2023. The enclosed cabin will not be included, rather will be replaced with a surray top which was not uncommon for G,E,&P launches's.

On a side note, when Ms. Clark visited my garage to see the Susquehanna, she noticed the Atlantic Sea Skiff, my original little launch and expressed an interest in it. She explained she had been looking for something to put in the foyer of the new addition being constructed at the Clark Sports Center and thought it would be wonderful to have it on display above the registration desk. I had never envisioned this boat being on display but the idea was exciting that it would be visible for all to see. This was a complete surprise, the little launch that started the events that brought the Susquehanna back would end up on permanent loan to the Clark Sports Center.



\$20 Challenge - Long Sleeve T's

Color as shown, light heather gray, 4 sizes \$20;

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

Annual “WE LOVE OUR LAKE” Decorated Boat Parade, SUNDAY, JULY 3rd, 2022

by K. Wayne Bunn

Wow – another great boat parade on July 3rd! We estimated that about 40 boats actually participated in the parade with many more just observing. This year’s theme was “Our Lake’s A Treasure”. We had the right combination of things again this year – the parade was on a Sunday and the weather was nearly ideal with no rain, warm temperature, sunny skies, and a stiff breeze. Bagged candy was given out to each boat in the parade and an OLA logo beach towel was given out to the top 6 boats (Batista family, Reese family, Leahy family, Hennigan family, Tyler family, and Cooperstown Rotary Club) as determined by our judges. The parade was led by OLA Board member Robert Nelsen in his creatively decorated pontoon boat since the BFS barge, the “Anodontoides”, was out of service.



2022 Boat Parade;
Photo by Tim Pokorny

The parade started at 3PM and proceeded slowly down the westerly side of the lake and ended at Lakefront Park in Cooperstown at about 4PM with many people observing from various locations along the shoreline. Go to OLA’s website (www.otsegoassociation.org) for more photos of the parade.

We thank The Freeman’s Journal, Allotsego.com, and The Daily Star for their wonderful coverage and photographs – both before and after the parade. We also thank the Otsego County Sheriff Department’s Marine Patrol Boat for observing the parade for safety issues.

We look forward to another family-oriented, fun-filled “We Love Our Lake” Decorated Boat Parade in 2023.

Lakefront Park Buffer Strip Update by Mickie Richtsmeier

After 15 years of doing its job buffering run off and fending off erosion along the Cooperstown shoreline, the Lakefront Park Buffer Strip was given a much deserved rejuvenation this summer. (Please refer to Fall 2021 OLA Newsletter for antecedent article, otsegoassociation.org)

In preparation for the renovation, a small committee from Lake and Valley Garden Club (two of whom are also OLA members) spent hours last winter consulting with landscape designer, Carmen Brose and the Village Parks Board, planning a design revision that would continue to provide buffering and aesthetic benefits while responding to existing lakefront modifications, plant size imperatives, and maintenance demands. This was presented to the Village Board by the Parks chairman, and Lake and Valley was given the “go ahead”.

Keeping a long tradition, work began in early June with the opening of the garden by gardeners from LVGC, OLA volunteers, and students from the Otsego Area Occupational Center (Milford BOCES). The students’ participation was underwritten by a grant from CFES Brilliant Pathways whose liaisons also rolled up their sleeves and participated in the gardening! This year in addition to an educational presentation by Paul Lord and the usual weeding and pruning, spent plants were removed, and the soil was prepared for new plantings. A few weeks later, new plantings for this project were installed by Mount Vision Garden Center and some existing plantings were arranged for greater impact.

We were delighted with the results and thrilled to hear positive reviews and encouragement from neighbors and park visitors. That said, the work is not done. Plans are underway to finish the job, and the area adjacent to the Fish Road boat ramp will be tackled next spring. Maintenance issues remain a major concern. Possibilities for student internship/ scholarships for college students in related areas of study are being discussed as are expanding volunteer opportunities in the buffer strip.

Great progress has been made, but there is more to be done! OLA is most grateful for the support of the Village of Cooperstown and for the major practical and financial support of Lake and Valley Garden Club which has made the expansion of this beautiful, working garden possible. If you would like to help, donations are welcome as is assistance in the garden itself. Please email Mickie Richtsmeier with suggestions/questions. (mickierichts@gmail.com)

**\$20 Challenge
Short Sleeve T's**

Only 15 bucks, it's a steal. Add an extra 5 for OLA, still a deal! \$20.00

5 Colors, 5 Sizes - To order, contact: Scottie Baker: (607) 547-5356 npscottieb@gmail.com.



OTSEGO LAKE ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 13 • SPRINGFIELD CENTER, NY 13468
www.otsegoassociation.org