

OTSEGO LAKE ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Saturday, June 25, 2011 at Biological Field Station

Welcome and Start of Meeting-

OLA President, Wayne Bunn, welcomed all in attendance and introduced the Board of Directors. In addition to himself, Scottie Baker, Mary Crouthamel, Carl Good, Paul Lord, Mickie Richtsmeier, David Sanford, Burr Southworth,, and Treasurer, Carrie Southworth were in attendance. Directors Tom Horvath, Martin Tillapaugh, and Suzanne Kingsley were absent. Wayne also introduced Jeff Reynolds who has been actively working on membership and business issues for OLA.

Carrie presented the Treasurer's Report which was voted upon and accepted by the membership. (See detailed report on website.)

Election of President & 4 Directors

Nominated: President – Wayne Bunn
 Director (Otsego) – Scottie Baker
 Director (Springfield) – Suzanne Kingsley
 Director (Middlefield) – David Sanford
 Director (Cooperstown) – Martin Tillapaugh

Wayne opened nominations from the Floor. There were none, and a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed for the secretary to cast one ballot for the nominated slate.

The following Special Announcements were made by President, Wayne Bunn.

OLA Website: www.otsegolakeassociation.org
OLA E-Mail: otsegolakeassoc@hotmail.com
OLA Merchandise was available for purchase
Membership Applications to join OLA were Available
Annual OLA Informational Meeting - Sat. August 20th

Program

“Boater Safety and NYS Navigational Laws” presented by Otsego County Sheriff Richard Devlin. Sheriff Devlin explained that the road patrol division under which the marine patrol falls is a non-mandated function of his department. He detailed the recent history of the marine patrol. (In 2010 it was cut from the county budget and narrowly restored. In 2011, the patrol was in the budget but then taken removed at the last moment. This year the Scriven Foundation is contributing some funding for the boat patrol, but part-time help for the boat patrol is not in the county budget so officers from the road patrol must be pulled to man the patrol.) According to Sheriff Devlin, safety is his number one priority. There are many tourists who use the lake. This complicates informing boaters of important safety, fishing, and environmental issues. Sheriff Devlin answered questions

from the floor and directed us to his website: www.otsegocounty.com (scroll down to sheriff's department section) for updated information.

Wayne thanked Sheriff Devlin for his excellent presentation and before introducing our next speaker, acknowledged the coffee which had been donated by Mt. Wellington Market. Wayne also reminded everyone to sign up for the drawing of three \$10 gift certificates for the Mt. Wellington Market.

“An Update on Non-Native Invasive Species in Otsego Lake” was presented by Holly Waterfield of the Biological Field Station. Holly gave a comprehensive history of invasive species in Otsego Lake. She explained how data had been pulled together from ice on/ice off records dating from the 1840's, DEC biological surveys from 1935, historical documents from local papers, BFS surveys, and SUNY Cobleskill information on Lake Otsego fisheries. Holly discussed the impact of the dam built by the Village in 1954 that raised the lake level by 18 inches and dramatically changed the shoreline and plant life in and around the lake. We learned that between 1900 to 2010, twenty three species were introduced into Otsego Lake and fifty three were lost. Holly also discussed existing threats. These included: Fish/ white perch, round goby, Eurasian ruffe, tubenose goby, tench, blueback herring, gizzard shad, and snakehead. Invertebrates/ quagga mussels, fishhook waterflea, spiny waterflea. Aquatic Plants/ European frog-bit, water chestnuts, yellow floating hearts. Holly reminded the group about the importance of being careful with bait buckets and that when we encounter an unknown species to bring it to the BFS for identification. A question and answer sessions followed, and Wayne thanked Holly for her outstanding presentation.

Conclusion and Adjournment

Wayne thanked everyone for attending and door prize tickets were drawn. Members were invited to tour the new BFS facilities. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mickie Richtsmeier