

Lake Citizen Award 2007-2023

Given each year to an individual or organization that works to
protect and preserve Otsego Lake.

2007

At the annual meeting Paul Lord introduced the four individuals who had been designated as outstanding Lake Citizens by OLA. They were **Bryant Kolner** for his work identifying the mud plume effect in the lake, **Vera Talevi** for her persistent advocacy for a lake sewer district, **Suzy Kingsley** for designing and securing approval for the buffer strip, and **Lynn Marsh** for providing technical advice and plantings for the buffer strip. Certificates of appreciation were presented, and the recipients were acknowledged.



2008

At the annual meeting Wayne Bunn announced the awarding of the Lake Citizen Award to the **Lake and Valley Garden Club** for its' work in establishing Lake Front Buffer Strip Garden. Wayne detailed the history of the project which was culminated by the granting to the Lake and Valley Garden Club of the \$25,000 Founders' Fund Award by the Garden Club of America. Lake and Valley President Jean Johnson and former Presidents, Suzy Kingsley and Elaine Bresee accepted the Lake Citizen Award for the Club.

2009

At the annual meeting Wayne Bunn announced the **Biological Field Station Volunteer Dive Team** as this year's Otsego Lake Association's Lake Citizen Award recipient. For their ten years of personal time, hard work, & dedication in helping to protect & preserve Otsego Lake plus their participation in the on-going research projects of the Biological Field Station.

2010

At the annual meeting Wayne Bunn proceeded to announce that our annual e Citizen Award was being awarded to **Robert Busse** for his efforts in installing and maintaining the buffer strip at Lake Front Part. Wayne asked Suzy Kingsley to elaborate on Mr. Busse's contributions. Mr. Busse was not able to be present to accept the award.

2011

At the annual meeting Wayne Bunn announced that **Burr and Carrie Southworth** were recipients of the Lake Citizen award this year. He thanked them both for their years of service. Wayne noted Burr's work as charter and longtime director and creator of our web site and Carrie's service as OLA Treasurer.

2012

At the annual meeting Wayne Bunn announced **Lynn Marsh** of Roseboom was the recipient of the Lake Citizen award this year. She was thanked for her time, talent, and design in the creation of the Springfield Landing Buffer Strip.



2013

At the annual meeting Wayne Bunn presented the Lake Citizen Award to **Doug and Donna Greene** for the design and construction of wetlands for storm water run-off at their home in Pierstown.



Photo credit: Pati Grady

2014

At the annual meeting Mickie Richtsmeier presented the Lake Citizen Award to **The Village of Cooperstown** (Mayor Katz was present to accept the award) for the support & Maintenance of the lakefront buffer strip, installation of the stormwater sediment traps on lower Pioneer St., stormwater runoff sidewalks on Main St., boat inspection station, boat wash facility and working with NYSDOT to encourage a safer herbicide along Route 80.



Photo credit: Timothy Pokorny

2015

Wayne Bunn presented the Lake Citizen Award to the group known as “**Friends of Otsego Lake and Route 80**” for their work in saving and protecting the shoreline of Otsego Lake north of Five Mile Point by preventing NYSDOT’s original plan to replace an old wood retaining wall by demolishing two camps and one boat house and then dumping tons of heavy crushed stone rip-rap in the lake similar to what they have done near Three Mile Point; NYSDOT eventually constructed a concrete retaining wall and landscaping plants to blend in with the area plus the two camps and boat house were saved.



Photo credit: Scottie Baker

2016

Wayne Bunn presented the Lake Citizen Award to **Lt. Col. Paul H. Lord** (USMC - Retired) FOR HIS WORK AS DIVE MASTER OF THE BFS VOLUNTEER DIVE TEAM, COORDINATING THE ANNUAL INSTALLATION AND REMOVAL OF THE 23 NO WAKE ZONE BUOYES, ANNUAL TRAINING OF THE BOAT INSPECTION ATTENDANTS, TEACHING THE ANNUAL INVASIVE SPECIES COURSE, ANNUAL MAINTENANCE OF THE LAKEFRONT BUFFER STRIP, SETTING OUT THE SIGNS FOR THE BOAT PARADE AND OLA MEETINGS, ARRANGING FOR AND DRIVING THE BARGE FOR THE BOAT PARADES, SERVING AS OLA’S REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE NEW BOAT WASHING STATION, AND SERVING AS PAST PRESIDENT OF OLA AND LONG TIME DIRECTOR – ALL FOR HIS GENUINE CONCERN TO ENSURE THE HEALTH, WELL BEING, WATER QUALITY, AND FUTURE OF OTSEGO LAKE - TRULY A LOCAL TREASURE WE ALL LOVE!

2017

Wayne Bunn presented the Lake Citizen Award to **Dr. Willard “Bill” Harman** FOR HIS 50 YEARS OF CONTINUOUS RESEARCH AND REPORTING ON THE CONDITION OF OTSEGO LAKE, BEING DIRECTOR OF THE SUNY ONEONTA BIOLOGICAL FIELD STATION SINCE 1968, EDUCATING HUNDREDS OF BIOLOGY STUDENTS AND INTERNS IN THE FIELD OF LIMNOLOGY, WORKING WITH AREA FARMERS TO IMPLEMENT LAKE FRIENDLY AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES, OVERSEEING CONSTRUCTION OF THE BOARDWALK AND MAINTAINING THE GOODYEAR SWAMP, DEVELOPING THE THAYER FARM AND BOATHOUSE FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES, STARTING AND RUNNING THE MASTERS DEGREE PROGRAM IN LAKE MANAGEMENT, 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!



Photo credit: Paul Donnelly

2018

At the Otsego Lake Association’s 25th annual meeting Saturday at the Glimmerglass Festival, Paul H. Lord, Biological Field Station dive master, left, congratulates Master Scuba Diver **Dale E. Webster**, who received the OLA’s 2018 Diver Commendation Award. In the center is **Leslie Orzetti**, executive director, Otsego County Conservation Association, who received the Lake Citizen Award. The program, “Winter on Otsego Lake,” was presented by Tom Heitz. (Paul Donnelly photos for AllOTSEGO.com)



2019

At the Otsego Lake Association's 26th annual meeting Saturday at Cooperstown Fairy Spring Park, **Jane Forbes Clark**, received OLA's 2019 Lake Citizen Award. JANE FORBES CLARK IS RECOGNIZED FOR HER LEADERSHIP AND COMMITMENT IN PRESERVING AND PROTECTING THE EASTERN SHORELINE OF OTSEGO LAKE FROM DEVELOPMENT, SUPPORTING A VARIETY OF LOCAL CONSERVATION PROJECTS INCLUDING THE LONG-TERM MONITORING OF OTSEGO LAKE BY THE BFS, REDUCING STORMWATER RUNOFF INTO OTSEGO LAKE FROM THE OTESAGA HOTEL, FARMERS MUSUEM, FENIMORE ART MUSEUM, AND LEATHERSTOCKING GOLF COURSE, SUPPORT OF BEAUTIFICATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION PROJECTS IN THE VILLAGE AND AROUND OTSEGO LAKE, GENEROUS SUPPORT OF OLA BY ALLOWING US TO USE CAMP MINNETNKA FOR ANNUAL MEETINGS AND PARTICIPATION IN OUR BOAT PARADE, ANNUAL SUPPORT OF THE BFS, OCCA, OLT, AND O2000 WHICH WORK TOGETHER FOR THE CONTINUED PRESERVATION OF OUR NATIVE ECOSYSTEMS - BOTH TERRESRIAL AND AQUATIC IN THE OTSEGO LAKE WATERSHED, AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, OLA HONORS JANE FORBES CLARK FOR HER GENUINE INTEREST AND DEDICATION TO ENSURE THE HEALTH, WELL BEING, WATER QUALITY, AND FUTURE OF OTSEGO LAKE - TRULY A LOCAL TREASURE WE ALL LOVE!

2020

The Lake Citizen Award was presented posthumously to **Dr. Ted Peters**, Jr. for his decades of leadership and commitment in preserving and protecting Otsego Lake and, most importantly, for his genuine interest and dedication to ensure the health, well-being, water quality, and future of Otsego Lake. Dr. Peters passed away in March of 2020, so his son Ted and his daughter Melissa accepted the award in his honor. They mentioned that OLA was one of Dr. Peters favorite organizations and that he loved Otsego Lake.

2021

K. Wayne Bunn is recognized for his decades of involvement with, and the protection of, Otsego Lake. He started fishing for Otsego Bass and lake trout on the lake at age 10 with his Dad, spent summers at his neighbor's camp while growing up, enjoyed Fairy Spring and Three Mile Point while in high school, rented a cottage at Aalsmeer on the lake for many years, owned and kept various boats on the lake over the years, and now owns a year-round camp on the lake and spends the entire summer season there each year. Wayne joined OLA as a charter member in 2002, was appointed Director at Large in 2004, elected President in 2008 through 2013, appointed Director at Large again in 2013, appointed Secretary in 2015 (continues to serve in both positions today), started and produced the original OLA newsletter for the first several years, planned and conducted the OLA twice a summer membership meetings for several years, originated the OLA boat parade many years ago and still serves as Chairman, and represents OLA at the annual conference of the NYS Federation of Lake Associations each year. He has conducted engineering reviews of various projects and subdivisions in the lake watershed for the Town of Otsego planning board, serves with the SUNY Oneonta BFS Volunteer Dive Team as a dive tender and boat driver, assists Dive Master Paul Lord with the training of new divers, continues to fish for lake trout and monitor conditions on and around the lake, promotes the mission of OLA to non- members and e n c o u r a g e s them to join. And, most importantly, Wayne is recognized 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.

2022

Lee Ferrara is recognized for his decades of involvement with, and the protection of, Otsego Lake. In 2000, immediately after achieving his advanced open water certification, Lee applied to join the BFS Volunteer Dive Team as its youngest member. Soon after, Lee established himself as an educator, married, and started a family - all in Oneonta. Lee has served as a volunteer diver every year since, rarely missing a no-wake zone buoy deployment or spar buoy swap event. He has served as a diver in countless Otsego Lake and Susquehanna River cleanups. He has supported BFS scientific research each year - from interstitial seepage water investigations to aquatic plant surveys, to freshwater pearly mussel monitoring and Otsego Lake limnological monitoring. Lee has labored to inform BFS scientists of what they could not see beneath the water's surface. Lee is more than a diver, he is a master diver who regularly challenges initial plans briefed to the divers - which invariably results in a better plan. No longer (by far) the youngest diver on the team, his diving experience is a source of insight and inspiration for the BFS Volunteer Dive Team. And, most importantly, Lee is recognized 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. For all his contributions to Otsego Lake and the BFS, the Otsego Lake Association proudly presents this award to Lee Ferrara.

2023

The **Otsego Lake Watershed Supervisory Committee** is recognized for its decades of involvement with, and the protection of, Otsego Lake. The Otsego Lake Watershed Supervisory Committee (WSC) was established by the Village of Cooperstown Board of Water Commissioners in 1985 as a means to administer Section 1100 of the NYS Public Health Law on behalf of the Water Board. It was established for the purpose of protecting Otsego Lake as a public water supply and, ultimately, was guided by the Plan for the Management of the Otsego Lake Watershed in carrying out its responsibilities. Membership consists of two members from the Village of Cooperstown and one member each from the Towns of Otsego, Springfield, and Middlefield with each member serving a two-year term unless re-appointed. The WSC meets monthly with a duty to develop and promulgate management regulations for all on-site wastewater treatment systems that lie within 500 feet of Otsego Lake or 100 feet from any of its tributaries, the so-called Zone of Protection. The WSC also addresses herbicide and pesticide use, erosion, and sediment run-off, and, since 2022, has taken a leading role in studying and addressing harmful algal blooms. And, most importantly, the Otsego Lake Watershed Supervisory Committee is recognized for its genuine interest and dedication to ensure the health, well-being, water quality, and future of Otsego Lake - truly a local treasure we all love. Congratulations!