



# “Our Glimmerglass”

**Otsego Lake Association Newsletter**

P.O. Box 13, Springfield Center, NY 13468

“Helping To Preserve A Local Treasure”

Vol. 3 – Issue 1      [www.otsegolakeassociation.org](http://www.otsegolakeassociation.org)      Spring 2011

**Board of Directors: Wayne Bunn (President), Burr Southworth, David Sanford, Paul Lord, Scottie Baker, Mickie Richtsmeier, Suzanne Kingsley, Carl Good, Martin Tillapaugh, Tom Horvath, and Mary Crouthamel. Directors represent the Towns of Middlefield, Otsego, Springfield and the Village of Cooperstown plus two At Large. Treasurer: Carrie Southworth**

## **IMPORTANT 2011 DATES TO NOTE**

EARTH FESTIVAL (MILFORD SCHOOL 11 AM – 4 PM) – **APRIL 9<sup>th</sup>**

OTSEGO LAKE ASSOC. ANNUAL MEETING - **JUNE 25<sup>th</sup>**

OTSEGO LAKE APPRECIATION DAY - **AUGUST \_\_ (TBD)**

OTSEGO LAKE ASSOC. INFORMATIONAL MEETING - **AUGUST 20<sup>th</sup>**

ALL OLA MEETINGS START AT 9:00 AM AND END BY 11:00 AM

JOIN US FOR COFFEE, DOUGHNUTS AND CONVERSATION AT 8:30 AM

A SEPARATE ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE SENT OUT PRIOR TO EACH MEETING

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Dear Friends of Otsego Lake,

As the President of the Otsego Lake Association (OLA), I would like to encourage all of you to **either renew your membership in OLA (if you have not already done so) or join us for the first time**. Please use the Application below. We are a very active group of "lake minded" citizens, both lakeside property owners and those interested in the lake, who are very concerned about the present and future health and condition of Otsego Lake. Our basic mission is to implement "A Plan for the Management of the Otsego Lake Watershed" which was initially adopted in 1998 by the four municipalities that surround Otsego Lake – namely, the Towns of Otsego, Springfield, and Middlefield and the Village of Cooperstown. The Plan's major goals include: (1) ensuring the quality of drinking water drawn from the lake, (2) preserving the lake's natural beauty and its viability as a tourist attraction, (3) protecting the lake's fishery, (4) ensuring the safety of recreational users of the lake, and (5) preserving the lake as a recreational facility. Much has been accomplished since OLA was founded in 2002 and even more will be accomplished in the future but we need your help and cooperation.

We are primarily concerned with educating the general public and the municipalities surrounding the lake about the various issues that affect Otsego Lake. These issues include sediment and nutrient loadings (mud, road salt, phosphorous, wastewater, etc.) being discharged into the lake, non-native invasive plant and animal species (zebra mussels, milfoil, water chestnut, etc.), no-wake zones (boat speeds less than 5 miles per hour within 200 feet of the shoreline), buffer strips along the shoreline (to reduce erosion), and "hydrofracking" for natural gas.

Another concern for those who love Otsego Lake is the fact that there will be no Otsego County Sheriff's Boat Patrol in 2011. The Otsego County Board of Representatives cut the funding for this service at the very last moment so there was no time to lobby for funding as we did in 2010. We encourage all OLA members to contact the County Representatives and request that funding be included in the 2012 budget.

You can help Otsego Lake by joining OLA, coming to our general membership meetings (see dates elsewhere in this Newsletter), and volunteering to help with our various projects. We even have some fun activities planned so you can meet your friends and neighbors. I look forward to meeting you this summer.

K.

K. Wayne Bunn, OLA President

**If you are not a current member of OLA, please consider joining or renewing now.**

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**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - OTSEGO LAKE ASSOCIATION - 2011**

Please complete this application whether you are renewing or joining for the first time.

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PREFERRED MAILING ADDRESS:**

**E-Mail Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

(Only Used For OLA Announcements)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(City/Town)

(State)

(Zip)

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES** (Check One):       Renewal       New Member

Individual \$25.00       Couple/Family \$35.00       Business \$50.00

Annual Endowment \$75.00 and Up       Additional Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make your check payable to Otsego Lake Association and mail to:**

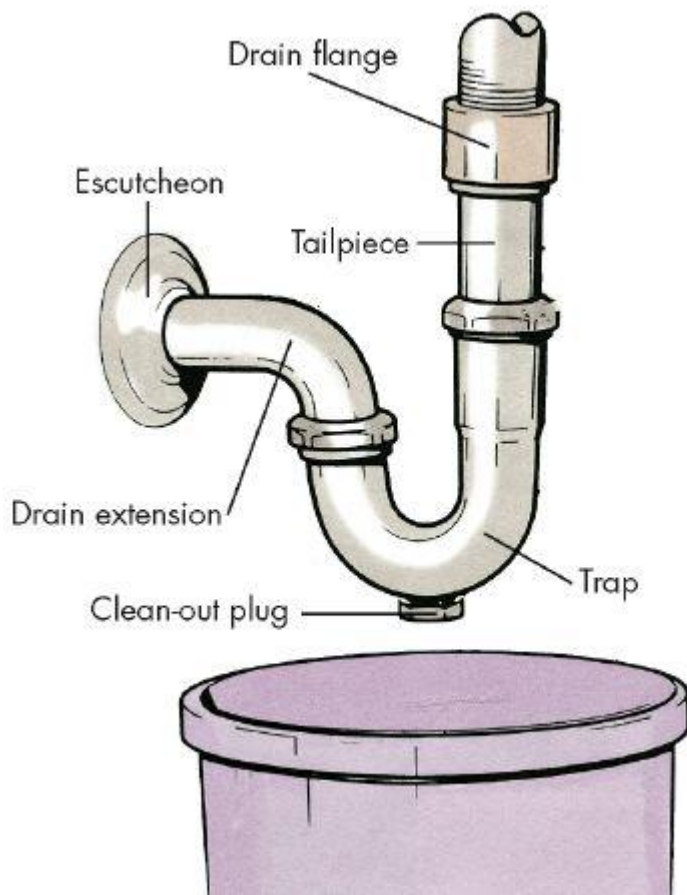
Carrie Southworth, OLA Treas., P.O. Box 13, Springfield Center, NY 13468

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**Sediment Traps**

Our lead article for this issue is not a very sexy one. It is one which everyone with a house or camp on a 15% grade (which covers most of the dwellings around the lake) should read carefully. Many of us have seen mud running into the lake and wondered where it was coming from. This will tell you what to do so it won't be you.

Plumbing traps in our homes don't garner much attention, but we all appreciate their presence. Such traps regularly capture expensive jewelry that would otherwise be lost, keep hair from plugging our plumbing, and prevent obnoxious odors from permeating our living spaces. Sediment traps provide equally valuable services for the protection of our Lake and OLA has invested in some of these sediment traps.

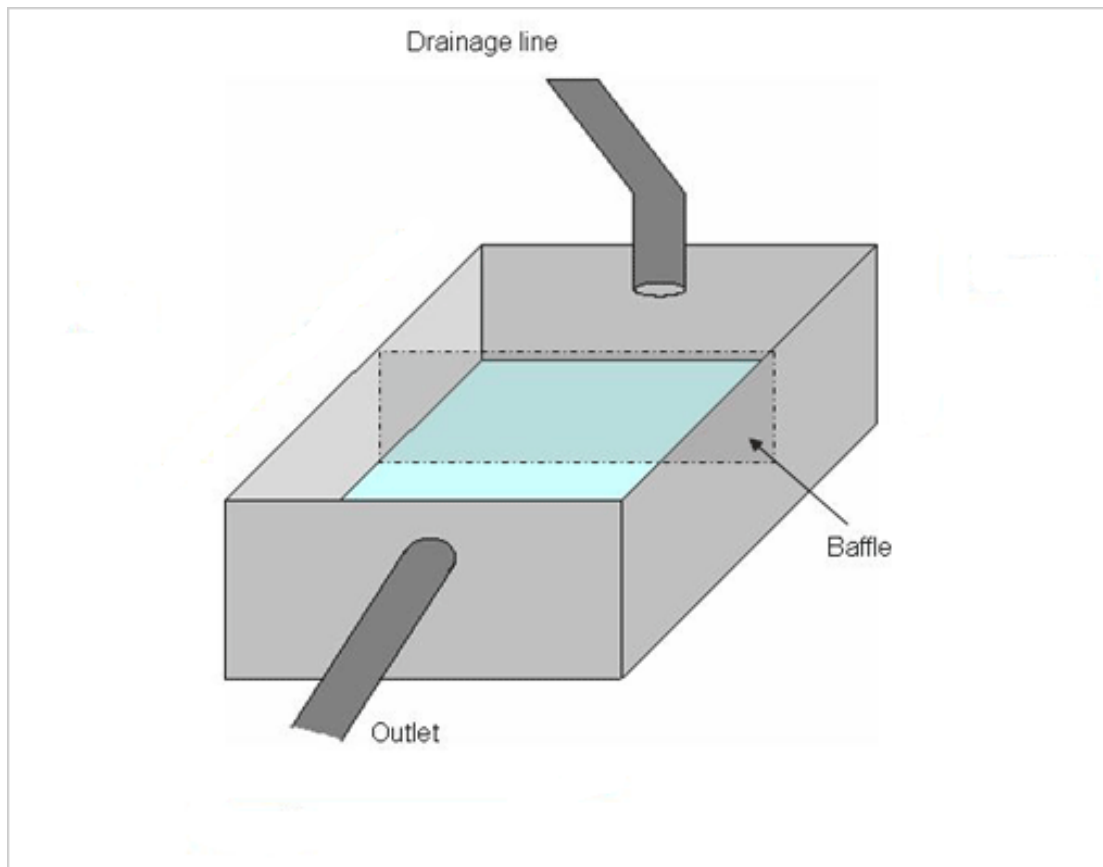


Common sink trap.

Brown water continues to head downhill into Otsego Lake. This happens even with modest rains. The Biological Field Station estimates more than 18 million pounds of sediments enter the Lake each year smothering lake trout eggs and bottom animals such as native pearly mussels and facilitating the growth of obnoxious exotic plants. These sediments are also laden with nutrients prompting algae blooms which reduce the transparency of Glimmerglass.

Just as the sink trap pictured above can be opened to extract accumulated hair and soap scum unclogging a drain, sediment traps can trap eroded soils, sand used on icy driveways and walkways, and the muddy, nutrient rich contents of waters flowing towards the Lake.

Sediment traps provide a location for the water to rest a bit allowing sediments to settle into a catch basin. This process clarifies the waters continuing on their way to the Lake. At some time, when water flow is reduced, the accumulated sediments can be removed and used in a location where they are needed. Sediment traps are depicted in the following figures and pictures.



Schematic of a basic sediment trap. Not illustrated is the grated top of the trap which can be removed to recapture the accumulated sediments.



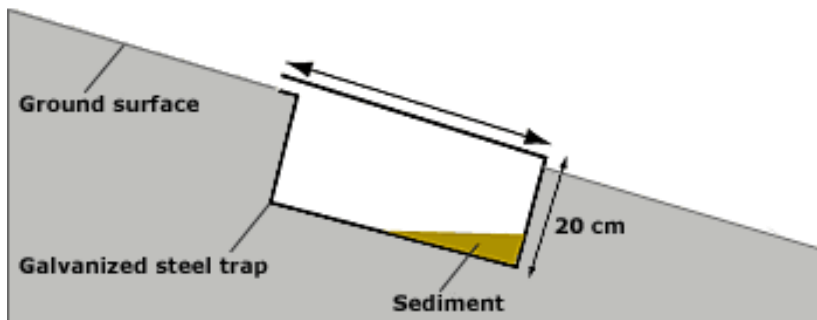
Concrete catch basin with removable grated top similar to the ones OLA provided the Village of Cooperstown for use on Pioneer Street.

Cooperstown's Pioneer Street drains a wide swath of the Village's impermeable surfaces. The result is often a torrent of water filled with street debris including the abrasives used for traction during winter weather. OLA used sediment traps to protect the buffer strip at the base of Pioneer Street from those muddy waters. We didn't install them. We provided them to the Village for installation, and the Village maintains them by sucking the accumulated debris out of the catch basins as they fill.

Most (but not all) Lakeside homeowners have little sediment flowing off their property into the lake. A challenge is the driveway, especially if it is used during the winter. Abrasives on driveways add to the estimated 18 million pounds of sediments flowing into Otsego Lake each year. Depicted below is a system designed for driveway use which can, if needed, be supplemented by a deeper catch basin on the downslope side of this long basin extending across the driveway.



Sediment trap recommended for use at the base of a driveway directed towards the Lake.



Schematic diagram illustrating the operation of the above driveway spanning sediment trap.

Any device which captures water accumulating off of impervious surfaces reduces erosion and compliments the positive impacts of sediment trap use. They reduce the amount and force of the waters headed downhill which minimizes erosion keeping sediments out of the Lake. Gutters directed to rain barrels or rain tanks capture water for later use in gardens or for other household uses. Rain gardens allow us to cultivate wetland plants. Property infiltration systems, often referred to as dry wells, not only capture water but slowly release it

recharging ground waters which provide us well water, cleansed by its filtration through the soil. Some of this ground filtered water also makes its way into the Lake.



Rain barrels retain water for drier weather while avoiding erosion.





Stormwater infiltration systems allow stormwater to drip into the soil joining groundwater.

As good stewards of the Lake, we can use the above technology to limit sediment flow, but what about the muddy waters coming from roads and ditches around the Lake? OLA is seeking local municipality interest in using sediment traps. We are interested in providing initial sediment traps to the municipalities for use in the locations of their largest sediment flows. Contact Director Scottie Baker for more details: [scottieb@telenet.net](mailto:scottieb@telenet.net) .