



Our Glimmerglass

Newsletter of the Otsego Lake Association

OLA and SUNY Oneonta BFS Deploy a Water Quality Monitoring Buoy

By Kiyoko Yokota (SUNY Oneonta)

The Otsego Lake Association (OLA), in cooperation with SUNY Oneonta Biological Field Station (BFS) researchers, have installed an automated water quality monitoring buoy on Otsego Lake.

The majority of the new system was installed by the BFS Volunteer Dive Team, lead by Paul Lord and Jim Vogler (Lecturers of Biology, SUNY Oneonta) and assisted by SUNY Oneonta undergraduates Zach Piper and Alex Sessions. After the system is completely configured by Kiyoko Yokota (Assistant Professor of Biology, SUNY Oneonta), it will continuously collect water temperature and light intensity data at 15-minute interval at various depths, 24/7. This data set will complement the existing biweekly manual water quality monitoring program carried out by BFS staff and enables the researchers to more closely monitor and predict biological productivity of the lake water, which is strongly influenced by temperature and light availability. The collected data are planned to be publicly available through the Global Lakes Observatory Network (GLEON, www.gleon.org).

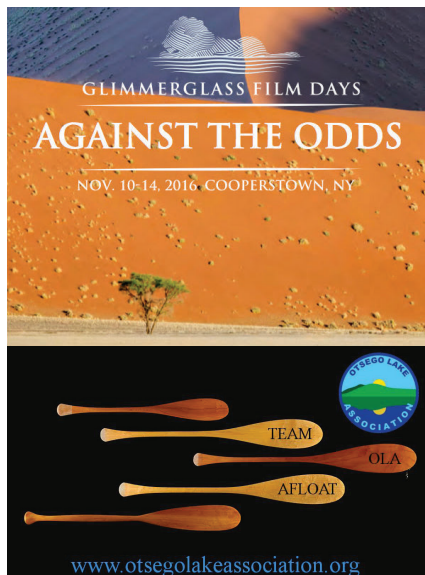
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Paul Lord deploying the water quality monitoring buoy.
Photo credit: Paul Lord.

FALL NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

OLA is a Proud Sponsor of Glimmerglass Film Days



NEW MISSION STATEMENT

The Otsego Lake Association mission statement was modified by unanimous vote of the members at the 2016 Annual Meeting. This was done on the recommendation of the OLA board after intensive study, and with the assistance of a committee of faculty and students from the Cooperstown Graduate Program. The mission statement was modified in order to make OLA's mission more clear and universally understandable.

“The mission of the Otsego Lake Association 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.”

Dot your i's and Cross your t's off your Holiday List for your Children & Grandchildren!



Front: Full Color OLA Logo
Back: Blue Otsego Lake Map
Children's Sizes: S, M, L
Colors: Kiwi, Blue
Kids T-Shirts - \$15.00
(Ordering information on Page 3)

Message from the President

Dear Friends of the Otsego Lake Association:

Once again, another great summer season has flown by! Our boat parade was a terrific opportunity to get out on the lake and have some fun. It was wonderful to see generations of families enjoying the beautiful day and the friendly waters. The annual meeting gave us a peek into yet another fascinating venue on Otsego's shores and reminded us how lucky we are to be living in such special spot. Your support has been important in making these events successful! Thank you!

Perhaps my greatest thanks, however, should go to you for your response to membership renewals and donations to underwrite the new boat wash at Cooperstown's lakefront. This has been a crucial step forward in efforts to keep invasive species out of Otsego Lake. Despite our DEC grant, we have been challenged with unforeseen expenses, but we are proud to announce that the Carl Good Boat Wash facility has finally been completed and is operational. We look forward to welcoming the 2017 Boating Season next spring with its dedication. We anticipate this as a great opportunity to raise community awareness of the challenges facing our lake and to underscore why it is important to support the boat wash effort.

Over the winter, we'll be working on plans for the dedication and next summer's events. Our board members will be attending local committees and monitoring developments in and around the lake. We will continue our support of the Biological Field Station Volunteer Dive Team and will be working on a new educational effort about safe boating on our lake.

I close with thanks, but also by asking your continued support. We have made the first step by installing the boat wash, but we need to continue our support for the stewards who man the launch sites, inspecting and cleaning affected vessels.

The OLA Board joins me in thanking you again and wishes you and your family a wonderful fall and holiday season.

Warm regards, Mickie Richtsmeier



Annual Meeting 2016 - Photo by Tim Pokorny.

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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Water Quality Monitoring Buoy *(continued from p.1)*

The buoy and the anchoring system were provided by OLA, the monitoring equipment was funded by the SUNY 4E Grant, and other supplies were procured with the SUNY Oneonta Faculty Research Grant. A National Science Foundation grant proposal is pending, which, if awarded, would enable an upgrade to a fully automated system that will monitor a dozen parameters (including phytoplankton density) simultaneously, not just temperature and light.



Water quality monitoring buoy (right) and an existing no wake zone buoy (left). Photo credit: Paul Lord.

The Otsego Lake Association is grateful to the following organizations for their support of this project: BFS, OCCA, Glimmerglass Condominium Association, Otsego County Sheriff’s Office, and NYS Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

Kayla Johnson (right) and Connor Lewis March Sr. (left) from Laurens Central School completing sensor installation as BFS interns. Photo credit: Kiyoko Yokota.



OUR AWESOME BUOY TENDERS & DIVERS

By Paul H. Lord, OLA Director Town of Otsego

I never tire of bragging on the capabilities of our BFS Volunteer Divers, and yesterday (October 23) we had ample evidence of their skills, but I want to tell you about our tenders in this report of our activities. We were under a wind advisory, with winds out of the NNW at 15 to 30 mph and gusts of up to 45 mph. I had reservations about pulling buoys in such conditions, particularly on the east side of the lake which was most exposed to such winds. I decided we had better attempt what we could since the BFS barge, The *Anodontoides*, was scheduled to be provided to Sam Smith’s Boatyard for winter servicing.

The tenders made it look easy. They kept their boats as dry as possible and approached the buoys keeping the waves to their bows. We pulled all no-wake zone buoys (NWZBs) except the ones at Springfield Landing and Lake Front which we will swap out with spar buoys on the weekend preceding Christmas Eve. Additionally, we are working with Kiyoko to establish a winter tolerant buoy set to support her monitoring equipment. Her water monitoring buoy remains off of 5-Mile Point.

(continued at right)

GLIMMERGLASS SPECIAL



Thank you for your commitment to the good works of OLA. Save 20% on shirts, caps, and bags now through December 31.

T-shirts - \$15.00 • Denim shirts - \$35.00
Caps - \$18.00 • Tote bags - \$18.00

WARM UP YOUR “CORE”



Front: Embroidered OLA Logo; Back: Blank
Sizes: Adult XS, S, M, L, XL, 2XL
Colors: Ladies-Deep Sea Blue; Men’s-River Blue
Vests - \$50.00

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

Proceeds from OLA merchandise help to support our programs, including the Lakefront Boat Wash.

... BUOYS

TENDERS

Brian Benjamin
Ronny Pleban
Tim Pokorny

DIVERS

Zach Piper
Jim Vogler
Lee Ferrara
Kevin Ridarelli
Paul Lord

We continue to experience losses of NWZB lights and expect more will fail while in storage over the winter. We didn’t swap out any chains this summer because of the funds diversion to the Lake Front Boat Wash, and we had our first loss as a result. We will need 107’ of heavy chain, anchors & hardware for it by Spring 2017. We finished maintenance and clean up and enjoyed the OLA sponsored pizza, wings, and pop.

3RD ANNUAL "WE LOVE OUR LAKE " DECORATED BOAT PARADE



"Grapeful"; Photo by Tim Pokorny



"Narrah Mattah leading the group"; Photo by Tim Pokorny



"Viking Ship"; Photo by Tim Pokorny

On the calm waters of Otsego Lake, under blue skies, over 50 decorated boats enlivened the day and delighted onlookers with their imaginative, colorful decorations. The unexpected participation of antique and wooden boats added a classic flair to the event which OLA sponsors for fun and enjoyment of our Glimmerglass.



Some of our Boat Parade Judges



**“Helping to Protect a Local Treasure”
Hurry! Support OLA Now!**

Photo by Natúra Productions

www.otsegolakeassociation.org

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President: Mickie Richtsmeier
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We Appreciate Your Support!

Please complete the form below and mail along with your contribution to:
 Otsego Lake Association
 PO Box 13
 Springfield Center, NY 13468.

All donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

SUPPORT YOUR OTSEGO LAKE ASSOCIATION

We have vital projects that need your support:

BOAT WASH DONATION \$ _____
 UNDESIGNATED DONATION \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

I would be interested in volunteering by (check all that apply):

- Serving on a Committee Representing OLA at Community Events
 Working on the Board of Directors Working with the Volunteer Dive Team

MEMBERSHIP

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

Name: _____ Email Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

OTSEGO LAKE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL

MEETING *By Bob Sutherland, OLA Director, Town of Springfield*

The annual meeting, held this year at Mohican Farm or The Spaulding Estate as many still refer to it, was well attended. Over 90 people came to hear the presentations. Cindy Falk and Will Walker from the SUNY Oneonta Graduate Program of Museum Studies gave an interesting presentation on the farms/farming that used to operate in our region. Their presentation featured many historic photos and oral histories. Otsego Lake updates were presented by Paul Lord and Kiyoko Yokota (SUNY Oneonta) and Tim Pokorny (NYS DEC). A tour of the historic Ellen Biddle Shipman Garden which is undergoing extensive restoration work followed the main presentation.

Thanks to all who came and a special thank you to all who shared Mohican Farm photos from their family albums for all to enjoy. Mark your calendar for August 12, 2017 (second Saturday of the month) for next year's meeting. The location will be Glimmerglass Festival, topics to be determined. Let us know what you would like to hear about!!



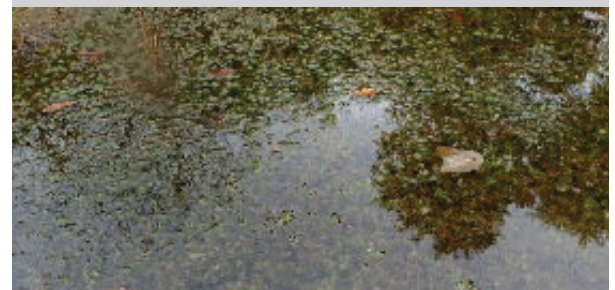
Hydrilla verticillata CONFIRMED in TIOGA COUNTY *Reprinted with permission from Finger Lakes PRISM*

Hydrilla verticillata (known as Water Thyme), a highly invasive aquatic plant, has recently been confirmed in a small, dammed pond off the Little Naticoke Creek in Owego, NY. The plant is characterized by its ability to dominate a waterbody and alter the physical and chemical features. The plant blocks sunlight due to the growth of thick mats which displaces native vegetation (nyis. info). The Finger Lakes region has just four other confirmed sightings of Hydrilla- the first is located in an isolated pond in Broome County, two managed populations occur in Cayuga Lake (Tompkins County and Cayuga County) and finally, a managed infestation is located in a small pond in Monroe County.

Native to Korea, Hydrilla can be found invading freshwater lakes, ponds, rivers, and canals. It has pointed, bright green leaves that grow in a whorl along the stem. Typically in New York, there are five leaves per whorl. The margins of the leaf are serrated and at the base of the stem is a small, potato-like tuber which grows in the sediment. The tubers allow Hydrilla to overwinter in our NY climate. According to the Chesapeake Bay Program, Hydrilla is common in the upper Chesapeake Bay and most freshwater tributaries, although this is the first observation in the Upper Susquehanna watershed in NY. The infestation in Owego, NY is located ½ mile north of the Susquehanna River where Hydrilla has great potential to spread to downstream. Further survey is needed in this area. FL-PRISM and partners are working together to develop a rapid response implementation plan for control, outreach, and coordination of this newly discovered infestation in an important watershed.



Zach Piper cleaning Bill Elsey's Boat at the Boat Washing Station on Fish Road, Cooperstown



Hydrilla in Tioga County, NY. Photo by Dylan Hurd

Help #StoptheInvasion!

Volunteers are asked to DOCUMENT any suspicious invasive by taking multiple pictures and marking the area with GPS points. REPORT your finding to FLPRISM@gmail.com or in iMapInvasives. STOP THE SPREAD by knowing what to look for. Check out the fingertlakesinvasives.org website or <http://nyis.info> for more information on this organism or other invasives.

ASIAN CLAMS EXIST IN LAKE GEORGE - IS OTSEGO LAKE NEXT?

By K. Wayne Bunn, OLA Director at Large

Asian Clams, an aquatic invasive species, have become firmly established and are spreading in Lake George, a very large and popular lake about 100 miles from Otsego Lake, in the southern Adirondacks. Could Otsego Lake be next? The following information was taken from an E-News Report from the Lake George Association dated September 30, 2016 and from a newspaper article by reporter Stephen Williams in The Daily Gazette Newspaper (Schenectady) on October 10, 2016.

The Asian Clam is native to China, Korea, and other Asian countries and was first reported in the United States in the 1920s. They have since spread across the country. A single clam (a dime-sized bivalve) can self-fertilize and produce more than 100,000 offspring in its lifetime. It is likely that a boat coming in on a trailer from another body of water introduced the Asian Clam into Lake George (first discovered in 2010), where they prefer shallow and sandy areas. In their larval stage, Asian Clams are microscopically small, making them impossible to detect during a routine boat inspection. The Lake George Association is asking boaters to ensure that they clean their anchors and anchor ropes after anchoring anywhere on the Lake, since that appears to be a primary transport vector for Asian Clams.



Asian clams, adult - Shawn Liston - Audubon of Florida - Invasive.org.

In conjunction with the Lake George Park Commission and other volunteers, Lake George Association staff participated in the 2016 Asian Clam Lake-wide Survey – four days of scouring the 176 miles of shoreline looking for the invasive species in every sandy spot. Three new locations were identified plus an increase in density was reported at almost all of the established locations. There are now 19 known colonies around the Lake covering an area of about 100 acres. Eradication can cost up to \$80,000 per acre. Various local and State agencies have already spent about \$2,000,000 in eradication efforts. In a worst-case scenario, the continued spread of the Asian Clam could litter beaches with sharp shells and consume plankton that fish rely on for food plus forms of algae that take advantage of nutrients from clam waste could cloud the lake water.

At this point, the long term impact is unclear. In previous winters, officials concluded that the frigid water killed as many as 90 percent of the clams, thus helping to slow their spread. However, the mild winter of 2015-2016 did not have the same impact and the lack of winter die-off is believed to be a major factor in their spread this year. The primary strategy for fighting the clams has been spreading plastic benthic mats on the lake bottom to suffocate them. However, the mats are not effective in areas where docks or other obstacles are present and they are not practical to use over a wide area. The challenge is that a 99 percent die-off is a failure because they come right back. Only one clam has to survive for an entire new colony to grow.

The Lake's Asian Clam Rapid Response Task Force is ending intensive efforts to eliminate the clams and is hoping to monitor and manage the population instead. The Darrin Fresh Water Institute (a multidisciplinary environmental research center of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute) in Bolton Landing continues to conduct research on new ways to eliminate the clams but one basic strategy is just hoping for a return of hard-freeze winters. Officials said the clam situation, plus other known aquatic invasive species in the Lake, reemphasizes the need for inspection and decontamination of boats, trailers, and equipment coming into the Lake from other bodies of water. Lake George has had a mandatory boat inspection and decontamination program in place since 2014.



OTSEGO LAKE ASSOCIATION
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www.otsegoassociation.org

Otsego Lake Area Birds 2016

By Becky Gretton

As I look at my birder's journal for the past year, a number of entries may be of interest to those in the Otsego Lake area. They are as follows:

- Jan. 11- A healthy red morph E. Screech Owl is spotted in the road in Springfield Center, and our terrific network of area birders quickly springs into action, with the bird being safely flushed into nearby conifers.
- Late February - "Our" eagles are acting "nesty" with suspected incubation by the end of the month.
- April 12- Waterfowl trip finds Gadwall and American Wigeon on Clarke Pond, which is completely open. Also seen on Otsego Lake are American Coot, Bufflehead, Common Merganser, Cormorant, Hooded Merganser, Wood Duck, Ring-necked Duck, Great Blue Heron and Mallard. The Eagles are feeding young. Three eaglets are observed by the end of the month. They remain in the area all summer, making lots of noise and being well trained by their parents.
- Mid June- Loons in breeding and non-breeding plumage are observed from the east side of the lake, along with Barred Owls in the same area.
- July 31 through Aug.11- Great Egrets are at Clarke Pond, the first fairway of the Otsego Golf Club, and McRorie Swamp.
- August 1- Merlins are observed near the eagle area. A total of three birds remain in the area for a week.
- September through mid October- Barred and Great Horned Owl conversations and calls are heard in the Mohican Farm and Mount Wellington areas.



Ring-necked Duck (Aythya collaris) - CCO

Good birding to all!!