



Volume 2024-Issue 2

# Our Glimmerglass

*Journal of the Otsego Lake Association*

*We Love Our Lake*



*If there is magic on this planet,  
it is contained in water.*

*– Loren Eiseley, The Immense Journey*



Loren Eiseley, was an American anthropologist, educator, philosopher, and natural science writer.  
"The Immense Journey" is a collection of natural history essays and was his first published work. Photos by Peter Regan.

## President's Message

While looking through some old papers I came across an OLA bumper sticker from about fifteen years ago with our logo and the words "Helping To Preserve A Local Gem". I was reminded about how some things have changed in this decade and a half – and how some things have not.



Otsego Lake is still "a local gem" and unique in many ways.

Most unique for a lake in central New York State is our lake's lack of development. By my calculation over half of the lake shore is undeveloped – and will remain so. This part of the shore looks much as it did in Cooper's time.

Our lake also sees less boat traffic than other lakes. Many mornings a solitary rower or paddler will find her or himself the only water craft of the lake. Conflicts between different kinds of boats are rare, while on many lakes motor boats make rowing or paddling difficult.

What has changed is the occurrence of so-called harmful algal blooms – HABs – in the last few years. While concerning, we have not been affected to the degree that the Finger Lakes have. In fact, Glimmerglass State Park did not lose one day of beach access this past summer.

True to the OLA bumper sticker of fifteen years ago, OLA is in the forefront of working to preserve the lake by helping to understand HABs. Our members have led the Citizen's Statewide Lake Assessment Program – CSLAP – sanctioned by the NYS DEC for two years. OLA has also allocated our largest financial contribution in its history to help fund the development of a Comprehensive Lake Management Plan.

Your membership, contributions, and work are vital to our continuing to preserve our "Local Gem" and we thank you.

*Jim Howarth, President*

## 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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 EDITOR: Susan O'Handley  
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ADDRESS CORRESPONDENCE TO:  
 Otsego Lake Association  
 P.O. Box 13  
 Springfield Center, NY 13468

info@otsegolakeassociation.org

### ON THE WEB:

[www.otsegolakeassociation.org](http://www.otsegolakeassociation.org)  
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**NEW OLA MERCH**  
 (JUST IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS!)

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# Cleanup 2024 - OLA Hits the Shores

by Debbie Creedon

Our annual Lake Clean Up Day was held this year on Saturday, August 11. We were able to clear debris from both the west and east shore areas and had good participation from the community in putting out their debris on the edges of their docks where it was picked up by boat for disposal. Thank you to our OLA volunteers who help keep our lake clean!



The image credit for this photo on our Spring 2024 issue cover was incorrect. CORRECTED ATTRIBUTION: Ripples: Photo by Tom Moore.



ABOVE & RIGHT: 2024 Lake Clean Up; Photos by Debbie Creedon



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## Annual “WE LOVE OUR LAKE” Decorated Boat Parade SATURDAY, JULY 6TH - Dedicated to Scottie Baker

by K. Wayne Bunn



OLA's Annual “We Love Our Lake” Decorated Boat Parade was held at 3:00 PM on Saturday, July 6th, 2024 - forming off Three Mile Point (weather was ideal). This year's boat parade was dedicated to Scottie Baker with the theme of “Let's Celebrate Scottie Baker”. Scottie, a long-time and very active member of the OLA Board of Directors and pillar of the boat parade and OLA, passed away in April of 2024. Scottie always provided the decorations for the barge, organized the prizes, and served as one of the judges each year for the boat parade. She was also the long-time editor of Our Glimmerglass Journal and created the theme and content for each issue. Scottie was very passionate about the health and welfare of Otsego Lake and worked for decades to preserve and protect it. She was well known for her collection of classic wooden canoes and her posters of Otsego Lake. Scottie will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Unfortunately, the boat parade this year did not feature the “flying boat” as the grand finale that we had for the first time last year. A local pilot, who owned the “flying boat”, sold it this past winter while in Florida. It certainly added some excitement last year and we greatly missed it this year. The SUNY Oneonta Biological Field Station's barge, *Anondontoides*, once again was our lead boat where the judges on board recorded the theme and owner of each boat for judging. *Anondontoides*, captained by OLA Board member Paul Lord, then lead the parade slowly along the westerly shore of the lake to a point off Lakefront Park in Cooperstown where a brief awards ceremony was held. There were four general prizes awarded - all as determined by the judges. The winners included Camp Mohican (Violin family), Barbara LaCorte, the Melissa Barry family, and the Tom and Kathy Chase family.

All boats, large and small, were welcomed including antique or classic, human powered, wind powered, electric powered, jet powered, outboard powered, inboard/outboard powered, and, of course, any other “flying boats”. Participants were encouraged to decorate their boat using the theme of “Let's Celebrate Scottie Baker” but they could decorate their boat anyway they wished. Many were unusually decorated, humorously decorated, patriotic theme decorated, joyful/party theme decorated, sports theme decorated, military theme decorated, and, of course, several were decorated to honor Scottie Baker. Several boats were not decorated but just joined in the parade while other boats



Boat Parade Highlights - Super Hero, Posters through the Years; OLA, Scottie Love; Photos by Tina Claiborne.



just observed up close. Many people watched from shore at various points along the parade route including Three Mile Point, Brookwood Point, Cooperstown Country Club (members only), Otesaga Hotel, and Lakefront Park.

There were no fees, registration forms, rules, or regulations except travel slowly, stay in line, and be courteous to other boaters. This year, we had between 35 and 40 boats participate in the parade. The parade is meant to be a fun-filled, family event for all boaters to celebrate our love for Otsego Lake. You can view photographs of this year's boat parade plus boat parades from past years at [www.OtsegoLakeAssociation.org](http://www.OtsegoLakeAssociation.org).

## Dive Team Fall 2024 Updates

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



SUNY Oneonta Biological Field Station (BFS) Volunteer Dive Team, with support from Otsego Lake Association, Cooperstown, NY (OLA) and Otsego Soil and Water Conservation District, successfully completed the winterization of all but two of the 17 no-wake-zone buoys (NWZBs) around Otsego Lake shoreline on October 20, 2024 (Sun).

These buoys are important for the safety of swimmers and paddlers as well as preventing shoreline erosion that washes sediment and associated nutrients into the lake, which can fuel harmful cyanobacterial blooms. SCUBA divers remove these large marker buoys and re-attach the underwater anchor chain to cone-shaped winter spar buoys, which are designed to withstand ice.

The last two NWZBs at Springfield Landing and Lakefront will be winterized in December.

The winter spar buoys are less visible than the summertime marker buoys - if you are still boating, please watch out for them.

Thank you for watching out for the NWZBs for the 2024 season!



ABOVE: Loading up the boats with equipment; Photo by Ellie Vogl.



Kari and Cassidy, two SUNY Oneonta students who volunteered as SCUBA divers; Photo by Ellie Vogl.



Getting the location-specific spar buoys ready; Photo by Ellie Vogl.



Checking in with another team on a larger boat; Photo by Ellie Vogl.

***Did you know? ... Otsego Lake is one of New York's deeper lakes, recorded with a maximum depth of 166 feet.***

ONE FOR YOU,  
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## 2024 Annual Gathering

by Mickie Richtsmeier

The Summer of 2024 Annual Gathering was held on Saturday, August 10 at the Otsego Sailing Club pavilion on the shores of Otsego Lake. The sun came out in time to dry things off and allow the festivities to spill over onto the surrounding lawns. As usual, members and guests were able to enjoy their coffee and breakfast goodies while mingling and perusing the OLA merchandise, silent auction, and student poster presentations. A slide presentation of lake scenes also hinted at the upcoming "Reflections" photo contest, the winners of which will be featured at next year's annual gathering.

OLA President, Jim Howarth, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. He also thanked the Otsego Sailing Club members for their hospitality in hosting us again this year. OSC Commodore Finn Jensen was introduced and given a thank you gift. After a brief business meeting, including the treasurer's report and election of officers, Wayne Bunn presented the Lake Citizen award posthumously to Scottie Baker. Wayne also shared the New York State Federation of Lake Associations Award which was awarded to OLA Journal for the third year in a row. Wayne acknowledged the great work of all contributing, but in particular that of Scottie and Susan O'Handley.

This year's program was kicked off by presentations by student interns. These were followed by an introduction of our guest of honor, Dr Florian Reyda, who had been named Director of the SUNY Oneonta Biological Field Station, succeeding Dr Harman. Dr. Reyda presented a comprehensive explanation of ongoing work and future plans for the BFS. He entertained questions from the floor and shared his scientific perspective of the lake and its study.

After a brief intermission and last chance to participate in the silent auction, our scientific advisor and SUNY Oneonta faculty member, Dr Kiyoko Yokota, gave us an update on the state of the lake and the HAB situation. As always, there were many questions and discussion continued after adjournment.

This year's gathering continued our tradition of a relaxed, but very informative and interesting sharing of ideas and knowledge.



2024 Annual Gathering;  
Photos by Betty VanHeusen.

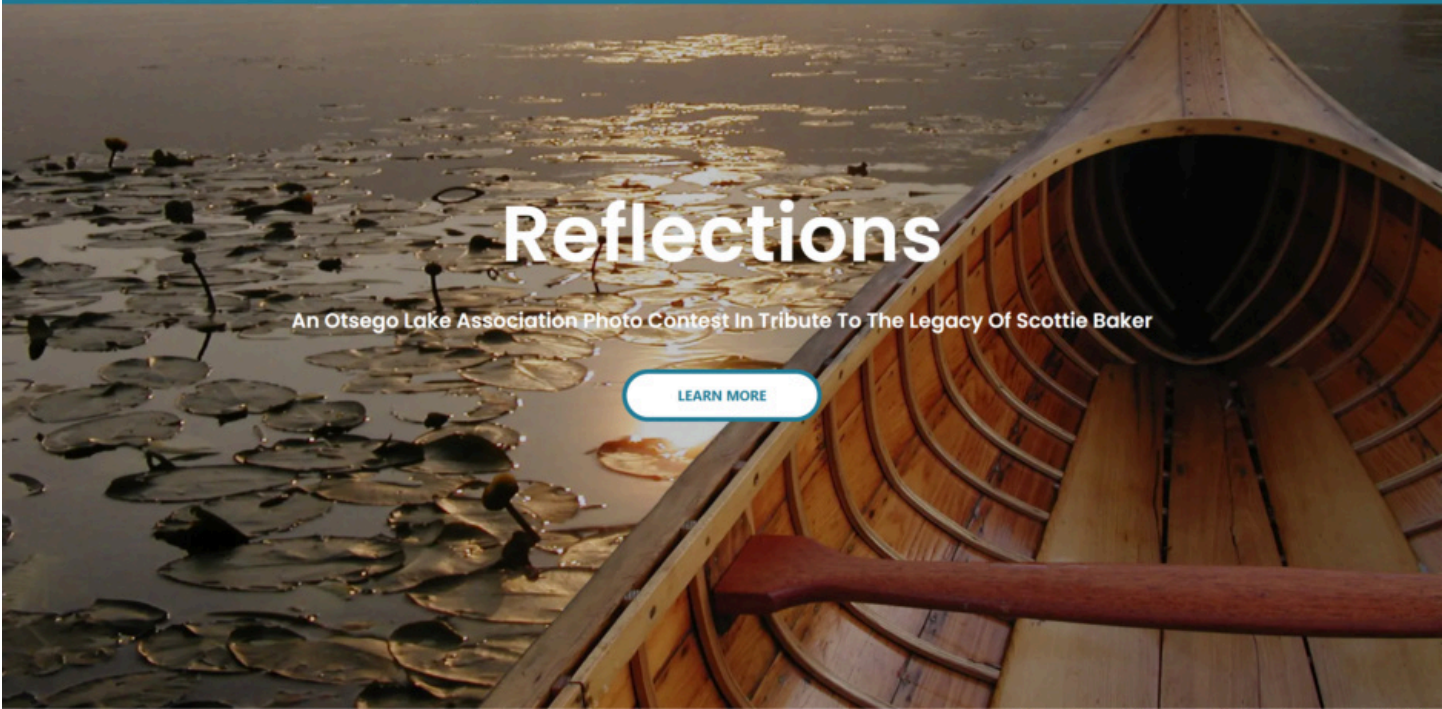


# ANNOUNCING - FIRST ANNUAL 'REFLECTIONS' PHOTO CONTEST

## Otsego Lake Association, New York

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*Photo: Canoe on Misty Dawn by Natura Productions, Scottie Baker*

## Reflecting on a Legacy



*Revel in the intense, relax in the serene...enjoy.*  
Scottie Baker  
7-27-1944 \* 4-10-2024

Scottie Baker, a former teacher and entrepreneur, was an avid conservationist and active member of the [Otsego Lake Association \(OLA\)](#). Through her business, *Natura Productions*, she produced spirited graphics, photographs, prints, and posters celebrating our essential connection to wilderness and water.

To carry on Scottie's legacy, OLA has established the "Reflections" photo contest, a metaphor to showcase the natural beauty of our pristine lake, document conservation efforts, and portray the intergenerational connection to this body of water. Photo entries can include landscape/scenery, people, wildlife, watercraft, conservation and do not need to show a reflection.

Photographers are invited to consider the significance of lakes in our environment and heritage. Winners will gain recognition and awards for their stunning interpretations of Otsego Lake.

### **Share your favorite photos of Otsego Lake!**

*Submissions may be featured in upcoming issues of the Journal.*

**\$100 Cash Prize** for first place in each category.

Entries for this year are being accepted now through July 20, 2025.

**VISIT [PHOTOS.OTSEGOLAKEASSOCIATION.ORG](https://photos.otsegolakeassociation.org) FOR FULL DETAILS!**

**SPECIAL INSERT FOR ALL RESIDENTS from the Otsego Lake Watershed Supervisory Committee (WSC)**



*Brilliant Sky over Otsego Lake in mid-fall;  
Photo by Mickie Richtsmeier.*



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**[www.otsegolakeassociation.org](http://www.otsegolakeassociation.org)**

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We have vital projects that need your support. We operate 100% through the dedication of our volunteers and we rely on Memberships & Donations to help fund our work.

***OLA is a tax exempt 501(c)3 not for profit organization.***