

The Oneida Lake Bulletin

Spring 2022

www.oneidalakeassociation.org

Oneida Lake's Bass Fishery

By John Harmon, OLA President

One warm evening this past August, my four-year old grandson, Ezra, was at the end of our dock with a fluorescent green garage-sale Zebco rod and reel in his hand. Wriggling on the Number 8 hook was a garden "squirm." Although the water is only three feet deep at the dock's end, I knew there were some game fish he just might hook into – some five-inch perch, a few eager Rockies, and just maybe that smallmouth that lives in the dark shadows beneath my boat. Sure enough, it was the bass that tested the strength of the decades old fishing line, and soon enough Ezra had the smallie flopping around on the dock. After a quick photo, we slipped the catch back into the waters, and off we went to tell the story.

A few days later, I couldn't help but smile as I watched an \$80,000 bass boat wind its way around my dock, with a pair of smartly dressed anglers deftly swinging crankbaits in and out of the dark waters below the dock and my hoisted boat. I marveled at the skillful footwork, as they traced the outline of my dock using their silent, electric tolling motor mounted at the bow. After about twenty casts, they moved on to my neighbor's dock.

This scene repeated itself several times throughout the summer. I was often awakened on a sunny 6 am, hearing the drone of dozens of bass boats roaring away from Oneida Shores. They scattered throughout the lake, each looking for the hotspot that will send them to the winner's circle. "Another bass tournament," I reflected. And yet another indication that our lake is one of the finest fisheries in the country. The Oneida Lake Association

is proud of its 76-year stewardship of the lake. Over many years, we have worked closely with the Directors of the DEC, the researchers at the Cornell Field Station, and the managers of the Fish Hatchery in Constantia. One result of this unswerving commitment to our lake is its continued growth in popularity among bass anglers. The many tournaments held throughout the summer range from small events developed by local organizations to major tournaments positioned on national television. The OLA is pleased that our lake provides yet another dimension of recreation.

These several tournaments, however, have also raised some concern among our OLA members. We are hearing reports that bass are becoming scarcer and more difficult to catch. Although catch rates of any species are the result of a complex web of many factors, some anglers point to over-fishing, a higher population of bass anglers, and the increased pressure from the many tournaments. For example, one OLA member recently wrote: "Someone should seriously consider limiting Bass tournaments until July 1 and consider a size increase to 15 inches and reducing the limit to 2 Fish. I have fished Oneida Lake for 30 years and realize there is a Big Bass problem. My fellow fishermen think the same way. The Bass are under tremendous pressure from Fisherman like never before."



Brothers Ryan and Nick land some bass as a by-catch while fishing for walleyes with Captain Tony Buffa. Click and released!

Of course, the OLA Directors welcome reports and insights from our members. Rather than follow-up with a knee-jerk response, we try to take some time to study the issue. This process has served us well with a variety of challenges, including invasive species, water levels, sedimentation, walleye limits, water quality, etc.

The Board of Directors, therefore, has decided to look into this issue. As always, we begin with the facts. We look for unbiased data to help us understand the issue. Doing so, we often find that seemingly simple issues often have complex factors. As I like to say: *For every complex question, there is always a very simple wrong answer.* Fortunately, we have an excellent relationship with the Cornell researchers at Shackleton Point. We reached out to them to get some empirical data. Two renowned scientists, Dr. Randy Jackson

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President's Message

Well, that was some year, wasn't it? Although the preceding year gave us an unprecedented pandemic, we could not have anticipated such challenges as an ultra-contagious covid variant, a Russian invasion of Ukraine, and runaway inflation. We sincerely hope that you were able to withstand those withering headwinds in your own home.

Perhaps Oneida Lake provided you with some respite from those unwelcomed headlines. I remain proud that the Oneida Lake Association continues to act as the principal steward of this magnificent resource. Boating, swimming, sailing, fishing, bird watching, hunting, snowmobiling, hiking, and many more activities all contribute to our sense of enjoyment, throughout all eight or so seasons that we have here in Central New York.

The OLA, too, saw its share of challenges. In August we had flooding that tested centuries-old highwater marks. Once again, our OLA members pitched in to lend a hand to those folks who struggled with the flooding. Around Thanksgiving time, the Board of Directors was alerted to a bill put forth in the NYS Senate that could have threatened one of the core values of the OLA. This bill contained enough vague provisions that it could have allowed for the sale of walleyes from our lake. It would also have allowed our First Nation neighbors to hunt and fish the lake without regard to some of the laws and regulations that have been carefully implemented by the Department of Environmental Conservation. As much as we value our partnership with our friends in the Native American community, the Board immediately leaped into action, sending a strongly worded letter to Governor Hochul. Many of our OLA members did the same. Thankfully, two weeks later, the Governor vetoed this misguided bill. Once again, our robust membership exercised some clout at the state level. This

outcome was one of the many bright spots in the past year's history.

The OLA looks back on other highlights, as well. For example, the 9 Element Plan designed to study our lake has finally inched forward. Ditto with the Cove Road Boat Launch which should gain momentum soon. The pollutants from the City of Oneida Wastewater plant gave us all great concern for a few months. Now, after a fine and a rehabilitation plan, we can cross Oneida Creek off our list of major concerns.

Perhaps one of the most positive outcomes for the year was our award of a substantial grant from the Fenech Foundation. This Foundation, funded by the owner of Barletta Pontoon Boats, encouraged a local boat dealer, Meyer's RV of Syracuse, to choose a local entity to receive a \$16,000 grant. We are so grateful that Meyer's chose the OLA! Not only did they put forward our name, Meyer's also kicked in a matching \$16,000, for a total award of \$32,000! We thank the folks at Meyer's RV for their generosity. This grant will allow us to pursue one of our long-standing goals, to establish a scholarship program for students entering environmental or conservation programs in college.

This windfall also allows us to mount our current membership campaign. We all know that our strength lies in our membership. With that in mind, we are offering a membership deal that allows you to sign up a friend or a neighbor at no extra cost! We are hoping to double our membership rolls with this campaign. Soon you will be getting a letter from us explaining all the details. Please help us out by signing up new members.

Finally, with the long-awaited decline in Covid transmission, we plan to resume our always popular Annual Membership Meeting as an in-person event. Although we will still have an on-line component,

we hope that you will join us for the special reunion. Please see page 6 for more details.

Once again, the Board of Directors thanks you for your continued support of the OLA!

John Harmon

John Harmon, President OLA
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The Oneida Lake Association, Inc.

Founded in 1945

The Bulletin is published by the Oneida Lake Association, Inc., so that its members may be informed regarding the activities of the association. The Oneida Lake Association, Inc., was organized in 1945 to restore and preserve the natural resources of Oneida Lake and its environs.

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Terms Expiring April 30, 2025

Patricia Cerro-Reehil Michael Scanlon
Warren Darby Kurt Snyder
John Harmon Matt Snyder
William Lints, Jr. Lance Vella

Bass

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and Tony Van De Valk responded by providing the OLA Directors with a detailed report.

Catch Rates

One fundamental measure of fishing quality is the Catch Rate. This rate provides a clue about how easy or how difficult it is to catch a specific species of fish, in this case bass. Often, when anglers find it difficult to catch a certain species, they assume that it is because the population of that species has gone down. However, the researchers at Cornell explain: “Catch rates are **not** generally directly explained by the abundance of the fish sought. The rate varies with many factors unrelated to abundance, including season and availability of natural foods. In Oneida Lake, walleye catch rates have been statistically confirmed to vary with availability of prey, but **not** walleye abundance. We do not have the data to test this relationship for bass due to the difficulty of measuring the availability of all the components of their more diverse diets (e.g., crayfish); however, data collected from 1954-1958 by Dr. John Forney suggested food availability may in part explain changes in angling vulnerability of smallmouth bass. Tag returns were high in years when adult growth increments were small, and vice versa.

“We estimate catch rates with creel surveys. We have conducted two types of creel surveys: a *full* survey that involves

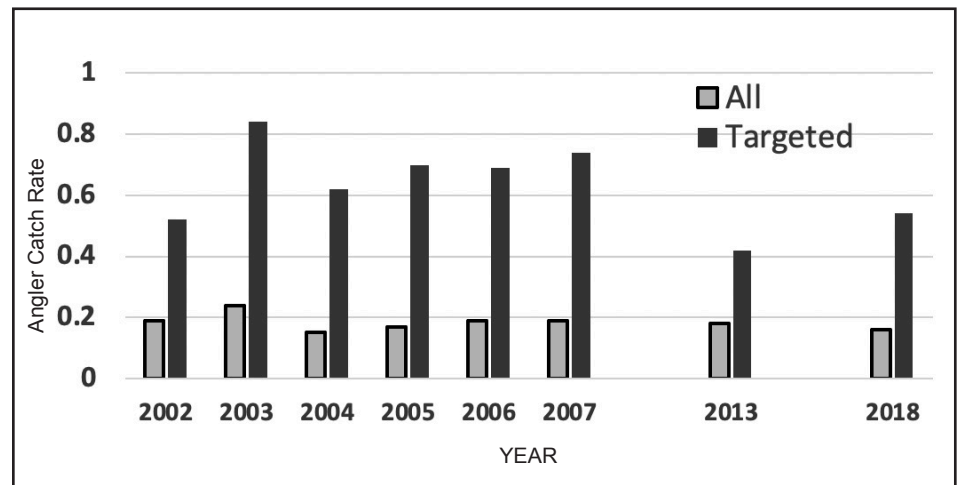
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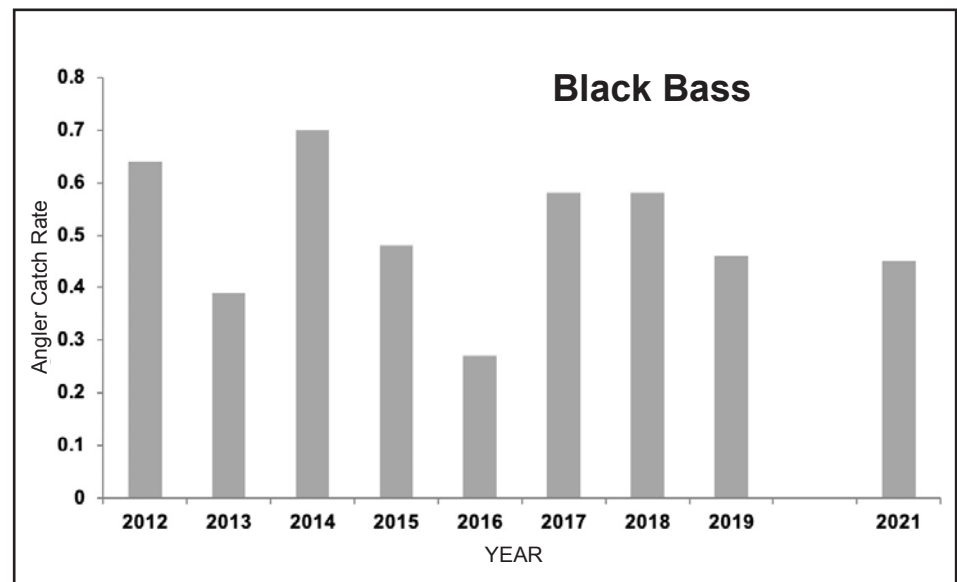
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a clerk circuiting the lake and interviewing anglers as they fish...throughout the entire fishing season, and an *abbreviated* survey which is comprised of interviews of anglers returning to boat ramps during the months of June and July. The full creel design was used from 2002-2007 as part of assessments of cormorant impacts. We repeat it every five years, most recently in 2013 and 2018.”



This graph shows the catch rates for black bass for anglers who are targeting that species (bass fishermen), as well as all anglers who may be targeting another species, such as walleyes, but happen to catch bass. Clearly, those targeting bass do a better job of catching them. Readers can also see that although the catch rates vary over time, there does not seem to be a strong trend downward. The strongest catch rate on the chart is slightly over .8 bass per hour of fishing (2003), while the lowest rate is about half that in 2013. Yet the rate from 2002 is nearly identical with the rate from 2018.

The researchers then provided us with a graph that helps us to visualize these catch rates, based on the creel surveys.



This graph shows similar data for the years 2012 to 2021. This graph represents only those anglers who are targeting bass. Once again, although there is some variability in the catch rates from year to year, there does not seem to be a strengthening downward trend.

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The researchers provided an additional note that will help our readers understand these data. They explain that “it is worth noting that the full survey is conducted on the water by a clerk interviewing anglers while they fish and the abbreviated survey by a clerk at boat ramps after anglers have left the water.” The OLA appreciates the time and information that these anglers provide for the clerks conducting the survey. Our members can see how the data helps all of us to make science-based decisions on how to best protect our bass fishery. Naturally, tournament anglers are more likely to decline to be interviewed on the water than recreational anglers. However, the clerks have found that they are more inclined to discuss their catch once their boats are on the ramps. Dr. Jackson reports: “When full and abbreviated surveys were conducted in the same year (2013 and 2018) ramp interviews produced higher targeted black bass catch rates in both years and a higher catch rate for all anglers in 2013.”

Other Sampling Methods

The researchers from Cornell also use a variety of other methods to sample fish abundance. One tool is the mark-recapture method, often used for gathering walleye data. Another method is gill net surveys. Dr. Jackson explains: “Catches...can exhibit high variability even when abundance is stable, so we mainly assess indices for consistent trends and large persistent changes to guide us to potential changes in lake conditions or community structure.” In other words, it is best not to focus on large swings from one year to the next. Only long term, significant trends provide us with enough data that we can only be confident in drawing conclusions. Cornell has been able to provide such long-term gill net surveys (15 nets/year). Jackson explains that “While the gill net survey was designed for walleye and yellow perch, smallmouth bass utilize some of

the same habitats and changes in catches seem to reflect changes in the lake. Smallmouth bass are also indexed by catches in spring electrofishing surveys initiated in 2011 and conducted two of every three years (not conducted in walleye mark-recapture years). Electrofishing surveys are comprised of 1.5 hours of effort at each of eight sites around the lake. For largemouth bass, which occupy nearshore areas not sampled by gill nets, we have only the electrofishing survey.”

The researchers further report that “Gill net catches show a persistent increase beginning in the late 1980s and leveling out at rates 3x historical rates in the 2000s. These trends are consistent with a period of clearer water beginning with international water quality agreements and magnified by the arrival of zebra mussels. Both bass species are sight feeders and are benefited by clearer water, unlike the walleye which is well-adapted to murkier waters. Additionally, clearer water resulted in expansion of vegetation to deeper areas of the lake, benefiting both bass species but especially largemouth bass. The higher abundance of bass also correlates with more forage as consistent gizzard shad year classes became the norm and arrival of the typically abundant rusty crayfish took place during this time. Additionally, warming trends in summer water temperatures are good for both bass species, which have been shown this far north in their range to produce bigger year classes in warmer years.”

Proportional Stock Density

It is important to keep in mind that bass anglers value not only the abundance of the species, but also the quality of the fish they catch. This quality is not measured by size alone. One simple metric used by scientists is Proportional Stock Density (PSD). Dr. Jackson explains that “PSD looks at the proportion of bass over a defined *stock* length that are also over a defined *preferred* length. Stock length is the length at which fish normally mature and are available to sampling, while preferred length is angler defined and is defined

as the minimum length anglers prefer to catch. Stock and preferred sizes are 8 and 12 inches for largemouth bass and 7 and 11 inches for smallmouth bass. PSD values centered around 50% are considered representative of a balanced population. The presence of both smaller and larger fish implies that there is a) reproduction resulting in recruitment of smaller fish into the adult population and b) growth and survival of adults allowing fish to recruit to larger sizes. In general, PSD should not bounce up and down dramatically, as the processes being measured are mostly generational, not annual. Large changes can occur due to events like a large adult die off (could lower PSD), an unusually large year class (could lower PSD), or multiple years of failed recruitment (could raise PSD), but one would expect recovery from these changes to take place over years and not to correct in a single year. Similarly, high mortality due to overharvest or catch and release mortality of larger fish could result in consistent low PSD values. Erratic PSD values might result from variability in sampling conditions as described above.” The following chart provides some data for PSD values for bass on our lake.

For smallmouth bass, PSD values are in the range considered desirable for the years 2011-2014 and 2018-2020. Largemouth show a similar pattern through 2018, with multiple years of desirable values.

Recommendations

In order to best understand all of these data, the Board of Directors established a sub-committee to study these bass issues. This committee was chaired by Director Richard Colesante, who is also the chair of our Fisheries Committee. This committee reviewed the reports from the Cornell researchers, as well as anecdotal evidence from a variety of sources, including our own Board members, such as fishing guide Tony Buffa, BassMaster member Bill Alexander, and long-time angler, Warren Darby. We also put out a call

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Bass

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for input from our members, using our monthly e-newsletters. One particular response from the membership caught our attention. This angler writes regarding the weigh-in practices during the tournaments: *“Thank you. One more thought: No putting fish in live wells. Weigh them immediately and release Immediately. It is not a good idea to keep fish in a live well. There are Many reasons for this statement. I can elaborate if need be. The smallmouth bass population is in Big trouble and needs extreme measures. Thanks again.”* Other members reported that for the national tournaments, bass are transported to the Bass Pro Shop in Auburn for a publicity weigh-in. They are then brought back to the lake and released. Clearly, this practice raises concerns about the mortality rate of the bass.

Speaking for his sub-committee, Richard Colesante writes: *“It is well known that fish mortality occurs during catch and release fishing activity. The amount of mortality depends on factors such as water temperature, length of time fish are in holding tanks, and injuries to fish during harvest. To transport angler-harvested bass via truck from the waters of Oneida Lake to Auburn and back for the purpose of publicly weighing a fish is simply putting too much additional stress on an already stressed fish.”*

After considerable discussion the Board has developed two recommendations. In a further effort to gather accurate information, we will be asking the NYS DEC to track the number of Bass Tournaments on Oneida Lake. That way we will have accurate data on which to base future decisions. Second, the Board of Directors unanimously supported the position of the Bass Sub-Committee.

It is well known that there is mortality associated with catch-and-release fishing activities. The magnitude of that mortality is variable, depending on many factors, including, but not limited to, water

temperature, injuries to the fish during harvest, water conditions, and length of time in holding tanks.

On Oneida Lake, many anglers employ the catch-and-release practice for smallmouth and largemouth bass. This activity is especially common—and often required—during competitive bass tournaments that occur frequently during the spring, summer, and fall.

Typically, tournament anglers immediately release their catch on site, or they put fish into a live well for transport to a land location for official weigh-in. Although most tournaments seem to locate their weigh-in sites on the shores of Oneida Lake, for some tournaments bass are transported over land as much as forty miles for a publicity weigh-in.

If bass do not survive this transport process, the angler is penalized points; therefore, there is an incentive for the anglers to keep these fish alive through good handling and holding procedures. Even with this incentive, however, there can be considerable fish mortality associated with these tournaments. Fifteen to twenty percent loss of fish during tournaments can occur in normal situations; it can be higher under severe conditions or if fish are kept in live wells for longer periods of time. In addition, delayed mortality is very difficult to measure because it can occur days after the release of the fish.

To be clear, the Oneida Lake Association is not opposed to bass tournaments. We recognize that the superb quality of our bass fishery attracts both recreational and tournament anglers. With that in mind, we continue to support the tournament community and the role they play in enhancing the health of our fishery.

However, we are concerned about the practice of some tournaments in which harvested and stressed bass are transported



OLA Director Rip Colesante gets a bass lesson from his grandsons!

overland to a remote location (away from Oneida Lake) for weigh-ins or other tournament purposes. The Oneida Lake Association Board of Directors voted unanimously in favor of a motion to oppose this type of activity.

Specifically, the Oneida Lake Association Board of Directors has moved to oppose any overland transportation of live bass harvested from Oneida Lake to another location away from the shores of Oneida Lake for any tournament purpose, including live weigh-ins.

In conclusion...there is not yet a conclusion! The OLA will continue to work for the benefit of all of the game fish in our lake. In addition to supporting the anglers who target walleye, and perch, we certainly support the enhancement of the bass fishery. We also welcome the many tournaments on our lake, for a variety of species. These tournaments are a testament to the superb quality of our fishery. We look forward to the continued input of our members on these important topics.

Chittenango Lions

Walleye Derby on Oneida Lake

May 7-8, 2022

Entry Ticket: \$20

3 Tagged Fish: \$5000, \$2000, \$1250

Prizes ranging from \$2000 to \$100

For details, visit www.lionswalleyederby.org



OLA Annual Meeting

A Bigger and Better OLA - April 27, 2022 • 7 p.m.

The OLA Board of Directors is pleased to announce that we will host our Annual Meeting this spring, despite the continued challenges of the Covid pandemic. Join us at 7 p.m. at Millard Hawk Elementary School in Central Square. We will also have an on-line component. Check our website, Facebook, and our e-newsletters for details.

Agenda

7:00 p.m.	Welcome	
7:05 p.m.	Business Meeting	
	Treasurer's report	Lance Vella/Kurt Snyder
	Membership report	Bruce Schantz
	President's report	John Harmon

Presentations - Questions will follow at the end of each presentation (speakers subject to change.)

7:20 p.m.	Oneida Fish Cultural Station Update Manager – Bill Evans
7:35 p.m.	Shackleton Point Field Station Fisheries Report Coordinator of the Oneida Lake Fisheries Program – Tony Van De Valk
7:50 p.m.	Law Enforcement on Oneida Lake Update from 2021 and expectations for 2022 DEC Division of Law Enforcement Region 7 – Captain Jim Boylan
8:05 p.m.	Introduction: DEC Region 7 Fisheries Manager Scott Prindle
8:20 p.m.	Current Status of Cormorant Control and results from 2021 DEC Bureau Wildlife Chief – Jim Farquhar
8:35 p.m.	Oneida Lake Fishery Regulation changes DEC Chief of the Bureau of Fisheries – Steve Hurst
8:50 p.m.	OLA 77th Conservationist of the Year Award – Matt Snyder
9:00 p.m.	Drawings for Kayak and AKASO WiFi Action Camera One from members in attendance, the other from membership at large.

Notice of Elections

By recommendation of the Oneida Lake Association Board of Directors Nominating Committee and unanimous assent of the full Board of Directors, the following OLA Directors are nominated for re-election to terms expiring April 30, 2025: Patricia Cerro-Reehil, Warren Darby, John Harmon, William Lints, Jr., Michael Scanlon, Kurt Snyder, Matthew Snyder, and Lance Vella. In accord with OLA bylaws, the election will be conducted by voice vote of members in good standing, who are present in person at the Annual Meeting. Additionally, members present at the annual meeting will be asked for a voice vote on the re-appointments of the other slates of directors listed on Page 2 of this Bulletin.

Annual Meeting Committee

Tony Buffa MC, John Harmon, Rip Colesante, Ed Mills, Warren Darby, Matt Snyder, and Ryan Asmus

The Oneida Lake Business Profile

Whaley's Marine Services

The Oneida Lake Business Profile is a regular feature in the Oneida Lake Bulletin to showcase businesses that serve Oneida Lake Association members. For this issue, OLA Director Matt Snyder interviewed Matt Whaley, the owner of Whaley's Marine Services.

Whaley's Marine Services

Address: 43 Saunders Drive

Bernhard's Bay, NY 13028

Phone: 315-529-6554

Email: mwhaley5@twcny.rr.com

Online: Facebook: Whaleys-Marine-Services

Opened: 2018

Employees: 2

Founders/Proprietors: Matt and Sarah Whaley

What does your business do, and whom do you serve?

We started and grew the business to provide a full-service marine repair shop, right in the middle of the lake's North shore. We help boaters by taking care of the majority of their service needs: maintenance, repair, storage, transport, winterizations, shrink wrap, and a retail shop with all kinds of necessities for boaters on Oneida Lake. We have everything from oil to tune-up parts to trailer parts to safety equipment, as well as common parts for outboard and inboard power boats, and we can order parts to work on almost any brand. Because our hours are seasonal, we recommend that people call us at 315-529-6554 to make sure we can take care of them the best we can.

What is your main connection to Oneida Lake?

The oldest connection is that Matt's father, Don Whaley, worked at the Constantia Hatchery in years past. One really nice thing about this business is that now we know our customers by their first names, with a mainly local customer base. We've lived in Bernhard's Bay since 2004, and we always fished and boated on the lake for many years prior to that. Oneida Lake accounts for at least half of the business, and it's a great body of water that draws people to enjoy fishing and boating with their families.

Tell us about the history of your business.

Matt: I started in the industry in Orlando, where I graduated from the



Marine Mechanics Institute in 1999. I went to work for multiple dealers, and before opening Whaley's Marine Services I was the outboard mechanic for R.C. Congel Boats in Cicero, where I got certified by Mercury, MerCruiser, and BRP, specializing in outboards and stern drives. It's been a dream for many years to work for myself, to be able to talk to people one-on-one, and to help them out directly to get them back on the water as soon as we can. I always really enjoy working one-on-one with customers and making them happy.

Are you seeing any changes, trends, or issues on Oneida Lake?

Since the onset of Covid-19, everyone seems even more interested in getting out on the water in a boat, whether it's to go out and fish or to enjoy all the other activities that Oneida Lake has to offer.

Business has been really brisk, and we've been running the shop flat-out, with a lot more new boaters coming in. And we've been able to help people with quick demonstrations and coaching on basic operation principles, safety, and even things like helping them understand how to use their fish finders and other fishing equipment. We've even been able to take a few folks out on the water to show them how to use a boat, and how to get them started in the right direction, instead of letting them learn the hard (and expensive) way!

OLA extends its thanks to Whaley's Marine Services for participating in the Oneida Lake Business Profile.

Do you have an idea for a business to feature? Let us know by e-mailing snyder.matthew.r@gmail.com.

Oneida Lake's Secrets: What Lies Deep Below?

By Christopher A. Scholz and Nicholas J. Zaremba

We are all aware of the rich environment of Oneida Lake, its amazing wildlife and wonderful recreational opportunities. But do you ever wonder what lies beneath, that is, what's below the bottom of the lakebed? Syracuse University researchers have been using sound waves to understand the thickness and nature of sediments below the bottom of the lake. In 2019 we reported here on preliminary sediment core sampling we carried out to understand past environments, when a vast sheet of glacial ice retreated from our landscape.

The formation of Oneida Lake goes back 18,000 years, to the time when parts of North America were covered by a sheet of ice many thousands of feet thick, not unlike what is found in Greenland or Antarctica today. At the end of this ice age, as the ice sheet shrank, its edge shifted northward, from as far away as Long Island, and eventually passing through the Oneida region. As the ice melted, and the ice sheet backed up into Canada, vast lakes were set at the ice edge, including one known as Glacial Lake Iroquois, fed by enormous amounts of ice sheet meltwater. It covered an area much larger than modern day Oneida Lake and Lake Ontario combined. The drainage of cold meltwater from Glacial Lake Iroquois into the Atlantic Ocean likely disturbed ocean circulation, which in turn caused short-term stutter-steps and cold climate reversals in the natural, gradual warming event that was underway around the globe.

How do we know this history? It comes from many researchers in different scientific fields investigating various places and using many methods over decades. In addition to direct observations from around North America and from the Atlantic Ocean, computer modeling of ice sheets, oceans, and the atmosphere helps us understand these changes, their global connections, and the driving

forces causing the changes. At Syracuse University just one way we contribute to this broader understanding is to use sound energy, an extension of sonar technology, to see beneath the bottom of Oneida Lake. The method known as seismic reflection profiling is analogous to the telescopes astronomers use to see into outer space. We use directed sound energy to reflect off sedimentary layers to show us ancient deposits and landforms laid down when the area was covered by ice or the time just after the ice retreated. Just as astronomers prefer large telescopes with big lenses or mirrors to capture faint light from deep space, we use long cables of sensors (underwater microphones) to capture sound signals set off from our sound sources. The sound sources can be underwater speakers or devices that set off small compressed-air pulses.

Our research has led to several important discoveries below the bottom of Oneida Lake. These include clearly observing different sets of sedimentary layers from the different stages of Glacial Lake Iroquois and Oneida Lake; features formed directly by the ancient ice sheet such as moraines which indicate short-term halting of glacial ice flow; and con-

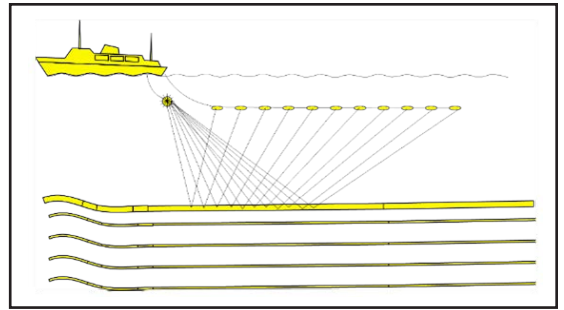


Figure 1. Diagram illustrating the seismic profiling technique.

firmed that an “ice stream” was present in the area that is now Oneida Lake, a zone of fast flowing ice in a narrow corridor helped to reduce the mass of the ice sheet. Perhaps most importantly, the seismic profiling shows that the eastern end of the basin at one time held a lake that was more than 300 feet deep, and was bounded by the ice sheet or an ice shelf that delivered large icebergs onto the lake. The new results also indicate where we should carry out additional coring to sample the thick glacial-age sediments in the eastern part of the basin. New sediment cores will allow us to age-date the samples and put precise ages on the various past environmental changes in the Oneida Lake basin.

Look for us on the ice in winter 2023 when we hope to carry out our long-coring program!

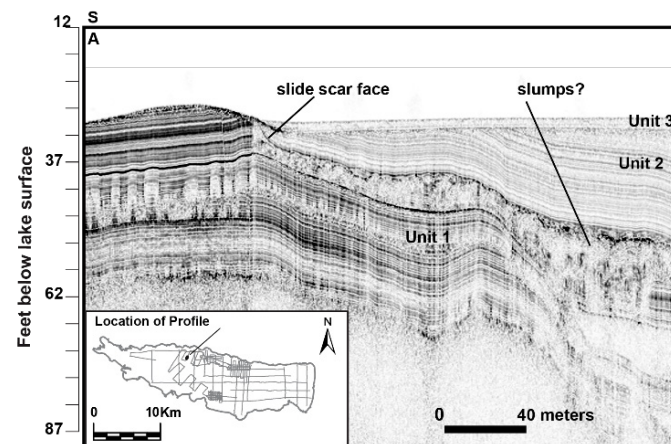


Figure 2. Seismic reflection profile from beneath north-central Oneida Lake showing complex sediment layering below Oneida Lake. Units 1 & 2 are from late ice-age phases of the basin.

Introducing Boyce Murtaugh

By OLA President John Harmon



We are pleased to introduce you to one of our newest OLA members, Boyce Murtaugh.

I met Boyce out on the ice about 400 yards offshore from Williams Beach. At the time, he was conducting a workshop for Ice Fishing Beginners. About a dozen or so interested anglers showed up ranging from five years old (my grandson!) to about 60 years old. They all shared an interest in the same question: What in the world are people doing out on the ice all day?

It was actually Linda Adams, Recreation Program Director for the Town of Cicero, who anticipated that question. She and her team had recently moved their headquarters from the Town Hall to an office space at Williams Beach. She is one of the lucky few who goes to work with a view from her office that faces our beautiful lake. This view prompted the question: “Wouldn’t it be great to offer an intro to ice-fishing for our residents?” She put out a call for an experienced ice angler who would be willing to offer his or her wisdom and experience. Boyce Murtaugh answered the call. He said that he had one condition... that he would do it for free, rather than take the stipend that the Rec Department offered. Boyce explained that “I cared about people’s safety much more than the money offered.”

Boyce comes to the sport with over 40 years of experience. He called upon a couple of ice fishing buddies, and together they put together enough gear to outfit over a dozen newbies. This gear ranged from simple fishing rigs with the minnows he supplied to plenty of high-tech look-see gadgets. Boyce even put together a packet of printed material intended to help these newcomers understand the basics of ice fishing, especially the safety aspects. In fact, Boyce even brought along a case of icepicks (which he purchased himself) to hand out to the kids and their parents. Safety first is clearly his motto.

The OLA is pleased to welcome Boyce to its ranks. And we thank him for sharing his wealth of knowledge with the next generation of ice fishermen.

New Fire Extinguisher Regulation Effective April 20, 2022

As we get ready to re-commission our boats for another season, we need to add another item to our checklist.

Last year, we had to comply with the new engine cut-off switch regulation. This year, the U.S. Coast Guard has recently released its latest regulations regarding fire extinguishers on board powered vessels. Beginning April 20, 2022, **all disposable fire extinguishers must have a 12-year expiration from the date of manufacture.** The manufactured date will be stamped on the bottom of the bottle or near the UL label. (You might only find two digits such as 13. This means 2013). Your extinguisher, no matter what the make or model, must not be older than 12 years from that date. This newly added expiration mandate does not change the rest of the fire extinguisher regulations, regarding size and number, based on the length of your boat.

Here are more details from Boat U. S.: “This is the result of phasing out older B-I and B-II labels for newer 5-B, 10-B, and 20-B extinguisher classifications. The number in this new rating refers to the size in square feet of the potential fire the device is suitable to extinguish and not the exact weight of the dry chemical inside the bottle.”

“Vessels on the water today that are **less than 26 feet and model year 2017 or older may continue to carry older, dated or undated, B-I or B-II disposable extinguishers.** However, when they are no longer serviceable or have reached 12 years of age since manufacture, they must be replaced with newer class 5-B or greater extinguishers. **Boats less than 26 feet and 2018 model year or newer must carry unexpired 5-B, 10-B, or 20-B fire extinguishers.** Having older B-I and B-II types do not meet the new requirements.”

For more information on the new requirement, go to www.uscgboating.org and click on the fire extinguisher graphic.



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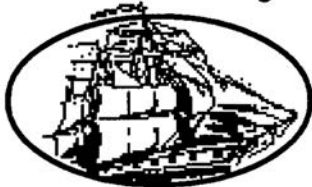
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