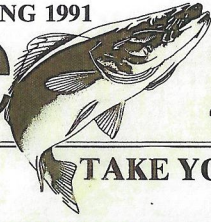


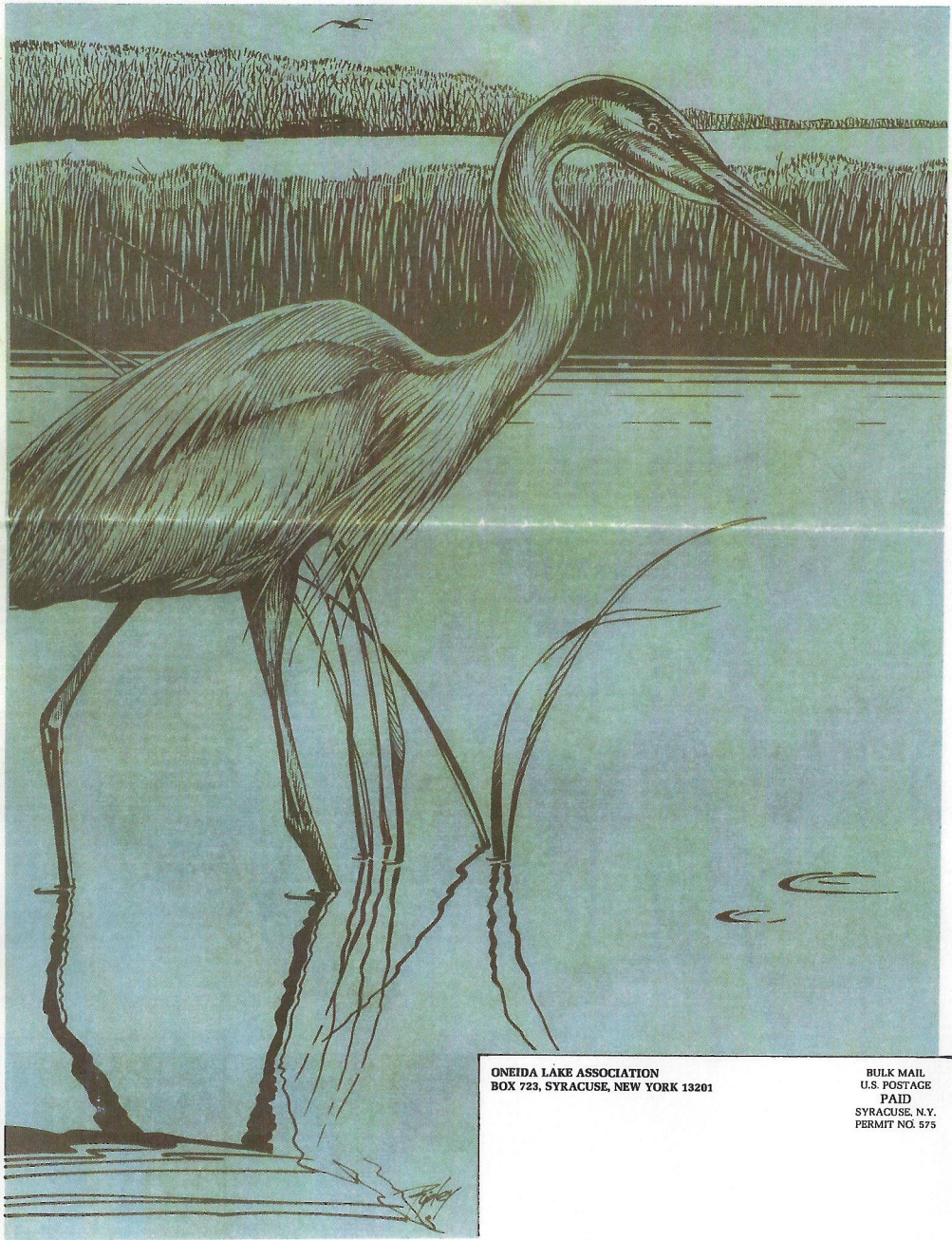
# Oneida Lake Bulletin

SPRING 1991



ANNUAL MEETING APRIL 17

TAKE YOUNGSTER FISHING



ONEIDA LAKE ASSOCIATION  
BOX 723, SYRACUSE, NEW YORK 13201

BULK MAIL  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
SYRACUSE, N.Y.  
PERMIT NO. 575

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By James Scherzi

# OLA ANNUAL MEETING APRIL 17

This will be my final report to you as President of the Oneida Lake Association (OLA). It has been an honor and privilege to serve as the President of this fine organization.

At this time, I would like to thank my Board of Directors that served with me for the last two years and especially those who served on committees that watched over individual issues that involved our Lake.

The annual meeting is April 17th at Nottingham High. Doors open at 6 p.m. The agenda for the meeting is going to be very interesting this year. I hope to see all of you there. See following article.

During my administration, the OLA has inducted six new Board members. The six new directors represent three out of the four counties that surround Oneida Lake. They are all specialists in their field, and each one has a sincere concern for Oneida Lake.

... The "Take a Youngster Fishing Derby" this year is going to be held June 15th and 16th. The grandfather of the winner of last year's derby wrote us a letter and said that the smile that was on his grandson's face when he found out he won couldn't be replaced. He also donated a \$200 U.S. Savings Bond for this year's winner in keeping with Kirchner's Fishing Camp donation of last year. I find this very surprising since he lives in New Jersey (see letter page 6). George Angeloro is the Committee Chairman for the derby. Please read his article on page 3 for all the exciting details of this year's derby.

In the area of lake law enforcement, a considerable amount has happened. In early December, Assemblyman Bragman helped us set up a meeting with the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) in Albany. In that meeting, the OLA asked for "our fair share of law enforcement for Oneida Lake." DEC was very helpful in that meeting, explaining that we needed a direction from us to help them relocate existing Conservation Officers around the region.

We were asked to meet with the Oneida Lake Advisory Committee and jointly come up with helpful suggestions for DEC. This meeting took place in late February. A joint committee was appointed at that time. The DEC Director of Law Enforcement, George Firth, has offered to come to Syracuse, with both Captains from Regions 6 and 7, and will meet with us on our law enforcement concerns. At this time, that is the most up-to-date information I have to tell you on law enforcement.

As President, I received several letters from members after the "State of the Lake Message" with interests about too little or too much law enforcement on Oneida Lake. What the OLA is asking for is a relaxation of existing manpower, not an increase in DEC staff. I hope this law enforcement committee meeting with DEC will help satisfy most everybody's concerns on law enforcement.

As the Constantia Hatchery funding is secure for the moment, and our job now is to monitor its progress and help in any way we can to keep it on track. In the "State of the Lake Message" you received, the funding is secure that we asked you to sign and send to the Governor

supporting funding for the hatchery. We feel this letter had some impact on the decision to keep the hatchery money in the budget.

I know that the several people signed these letters at the three sports shows that OLA attended. Other sportsmen clubs asked us for copies of this letter because their membership was asking them if they could sign this letter also. All and all, it was possible that up to 7,000 letters were sent to the Governor. The Oneida Lake Association Board is proud of the membership's support on this hatchery issue that we have been working on for over seven years.

If you haven't sent the letter you have received, it is not too late to still write the Governor and thank him for including the money in the 1991-92 budget and ask him to release funds for the hatchery as soon as the budget has final approval.

The Governor can be reached as follows:  
Hon. Mario M. Cuomo, Governor, Executive Chamber, State Capitol, Albany, N.Y. 12224

Water quality has become a very important issue for all of us around the lake. We are constantly monitoring any issue that may affect the water quality of Oneida Lake or any of its tributaries. One such issue is the Oswego River Watershed Advisory Committee. The Oneida Lake Association has been appointed a position on this committee and will make sure that Oneida Lake's water quality concerns are heard.

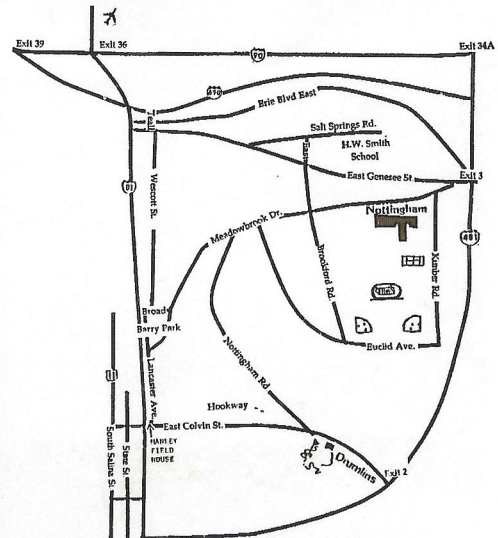
Recently, we invited a DEC official to talk to the Board on "The Upper West Branch of Fish Creek." It was brought to our attention that this area supplies Oneida Lake with about 75 percent of its water. To ensure the upmost water quality for the lake, we are watching this area very closely. We will stay in close contact with DEC on this issue and support them any way possible.

What I have seen during my term as President is that with "Progress," new demands are stressing our lake every day. What the OLA has done in my term as President is take the hands-on knowledge of the sportsman and the strength of the business community and combined them to approach each issue as a business would. With this knowledge, we have gained respect and a powerful voice for the concerns of Oneida Lake. So many times we have been approached by professional groups or organizations. Because we have usually been able to make accurate assessments of the situations and the best decisions for Oneida Lake. All of you can be very proud of the Board of Directors of the Oneida Lake Association.

In closing, I would like to say that the Oneida Lake Association is a concerned group of people who understand how important our lake is to us, and we will continue to watch over it and make sure that the extraordinary natural resource that it is, for generations to come.

Thank you all.

James M. Scherzi  
President, OLA



## BY TONY BUFFA

On Wednesday, April 17, the OLA will hold its 46th annual meeting at the Nottingham High School auditorium. Doors will open at 6 p.m. Early attendance is encouraged so that you can enjoy our numerous exhibits.

This year's list of exhibitors will include Capt. Connell Raate and his Stren Line booth. He will be offering line at below retail prices, in bulk and individual spool quantities. Skipp Wells with Berkley Rods and Lindy Little Lures will be there. Capt. Gerry Bresadola and Tony Nocz will represent Lowrance depth finding equipment.

Joe Prince of Prince Mastercraft will be on hand with his display of Super Ski planer boards and accessories. Don Bello, founder of Islander Lures, will have his product line on display, and since he is the regional director of Crappietion U.S.A., he will also have information available on the local tournaments. Fredon Sports Ltd. of Syracuse will be on hand and provide you with an opportunity to buy at discount prices. The "Take a Youngster Fishing Contest" committee will promote this year's event at the meeting with a display of information from previous contests.

Bob Gang, recognized as the resident expert on "Purple Martins" will have an exhibit displaying the key Purple Martin colonies around Oneida Lake. He will also provide general information about attracting and maintaining your own Purple Martin houses.

While at the meeting, you will be able to register for the annual Cicero Lions Club Walleye Derby. Association membership renewals and signups will begin at 6:15. You need not be a member to attend, but only members will be eligible to win the 1991 Force 9.9 hp. outboard engine.

This year's meeting will begin promptly at 7:30 and we will be honoring Dr. John Forney for his 34 years of service and dedication to Oneida Lake. A short business meeting will ensue, after which we will be informed on the status of the Constantia Hatchery by Bruce Shupp, chief of the Bureau of Fisheries. Tom Chioti, senior aquatic biologist with NYSDEC, will deal with the status of Oneida Lake walleyes and the concerns related to the Yellow Perch population. Dr. Ed Mills, a senior research biologist at the Shackleton Point field station, will give us an update on the Zebra Mussel invasion into Oneida Lake.

Our resident parliamentarian, "Granny Groove" (Bill Merchant), will be our master of ceremonies. The Association will award its coveted "Conservationist of the Year" plaque to an outstanding supporter of local conservation. The meeting will then close with the drawing for the outboard engine and distribution of door prizes.

This year's meeting should be both fun and informative, so bring your family and friends.

## Election of officers

In accordance with By-Law Amendments passed at OLA's 1990 Annual Meeting, the Nominating Committee has nominated the following persons to serve as officers and directors:

- President - Patrick A. Leone, Jr.
- Vice President - Arnold Armari, Robert Chabot, Joseph J. Mastriano
- Treasurer - Edwin Olmstead
- Secretary - James Scherzi
- Asst. Secretary - William Schriever
- Directors (Term of Office: April 1991 - April 1994) - George Angeloro, Anthony Bilia, Richard Carello, Robert Cote, Robert Ripberger, Carl Preske.

be held open until three (3) days prior to the Annual Meeting - that is, April 14, 1991. A petition, that is to be signed by at least fifty (50) members, must be filed with the state the name of a member or members the petitioners wish to nominate as officer or director. The petition must be served on any present OLA officer or less than three (3) days before the annual meeting. It will be mandatory that the names on any such petition be placed on the list with the persons nominated by the Committee, all in alphabetical order, for election at the Annual Meeting.

OLA's Secretary will make the membership list available for inspection by an OLA active member on request.

## ONEIDA LAKE ASSOCIATION, INC.

Founded 1945

Published by Oneida Lake Association, Inc. that is members may be informed regarding the activities of the Association. Oneida Lake Association, Inc. was organized in 1945 to restore and preserve the natural

### TERM EXPIRES DIRECTORS

- 1993 - Richard Colesante, Charles J. Engel Jr., Chris Palmino, Joseph Mastriano
- 1991 - Earl Pearson, Kurt Snyder
- 1992 - Carl Preske, Richard Carello, Robert Cote, Anthony Buffa
- 1992 - Robert Ripberger, George Angeloro
- 1992 - John C. Bronk, Robert Chabot
- 1992 - John Guifford, William Howard Jr.
- 1992 - Parker J. Stone, Marshall O. Naumann

- 1993 - Richard Colesante, Charles J. Engel Jr., Chris Palmino, Joseph Mastriano
- 1991 - Earl Pearson, Kurt Snyder
- 1992 - Carl Preske, Richard Carello, Robert Cote, Anthony Buffa
- 1992 - Robert Ripberger, George Angeloro
- 1992 - John C. Bronk, Robert Chabot
- 1992 - John Guifford, William Howard Jr.
- 1992 - Parker J. Stone, Marshall O. Naumann

### ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

- W. Wallace Ainsworth
- Paul Cramer
- Angelo Angeloro
- Fred Davoli
- Richard Brown
- Irving Gunning
- Ned Cookingham
- Frank Downwald
- James Coccia

- James Heilmann
- Anton Kreuzer
- Herbert McElroy
- William Nass
- Roy Ploski
- Millard Rogers
- John Stanczyk
- Anthony S. Stanczyk, Jr.

## Annual Meeting Agenda

Oneida Lake Association  
46th Annual Meeting  
April 17, 1991

- 6 p.m. - Doors open - Exhibits on display.
- 6:30 p.m. - Membership renewals.
- 7:30 p.m. - Call to order, Tony Buffa.
- 7:35 p.m. - Business meeting.

Fraser's Report, Ed Olmstead.  
Membership Report, Marsh Naumann.  
President's Report, Jim Scherzi.  
Election of Officers and Directors,  
George Angeloro.

- 8 p.m. - Presentation: Honoring Dr. John Forney, Dr. Paul Cramer.
- 8:05 p.m. - Hatchery Update by the Chief of the Bureau of Fisheries, Bruce Shupp.
- 8:15 p.m. - "Walleye and Yellow Perch Update," Tom Chioti (DEC).
- 8:30 p.m. - "Zebra Mussels in Oneida Lake?," Dr. Ed Mills.
- 8:40 p.m. - "Take a Youngster Fishing Derby," George Angeloro.
- 9 p.m. - Conservationist of the Year, presentation by Bob Ripberger.
- 9:10 p.m. - Introduction of new OLA Presi-

dent (Patrick Leone), Tony Buffa.  
9:10 p.m. - Drawing (Outboard Motor), Bob Chabot.  
9:15 p.m. - Drawing for door prizes, Bob Chabot, Bill Schreiber, Arnold Armari, Walt Stewart.

Annual Meeting Committee - Tony Buffa, Chairman; Bob Ripberger.

# SUPPORT YOUR OLA!

# Birds of Oneida Lake

BY ROBERT J. GANH III  
OLA DIRECTOR

Early in April, I like to put out a few sections of my dock and at dusk, try the bullhead fishing in front of my house. I seldom catch more than one or two because the lake bottom there consists mostly of small stones and cobbles and is poor for bullheads. There is, however, a certain amount of satisfaction to be gained from fishing off of one's doorstep. Besides, fishing at this time provides me with the chance of a visit from a far better fisherman, the Great Blue Heron.

There may not be many bullheads in front of my house, but there are a lot of minnows and crayfish. Usually not very long after dusk, a Great Blue Heron will come along out of the gathering darkness, and by braking and rapidly flapping its wings make an awkward landing in the shallow water by gingerly dropping down on its feet. If I'm lucky, he lands close to and I get to observe him minutely. The Heron will slowly walk a short distance taking silent steps, keeping a keen lookout for the silver reflection from the moonlight of a school of minnows. When in close proximity to the school, he'll start with stiff-legged and motionless. Sometimes he will rake the bottom with a leg to flush his prey, or if a minnow swims into range, he'll slowly stretch his long neck, then, like a rocket his head will dart to the water, returning with a fish. Smaller minnows are caught lengthwise, larger fish are sometimes speared with the Heron's bill. Either way, the fish is flipped into position as he straightens his neck and swallows the whole, head and tail.

Perhaps because of the activity of our four children, we seldom see the Great Blue Heron during the daytime. Maybe they have better fishing spots during the day. Whatever the reason, they do their work in the area at dusk and at dawn. Great Blue Herons are very shy, and will seldom let anyone get very close. If disturbed, the Heron will emit a low pitched "crunk," in alarm, sounding and looking much what I would imagine a Pterodactyl to have been like.

The Great Blue Heron is one of our most easily identifiable birds. This Heron stands about four feet tall, with a wing span of about six feet wide. It has a long neck and long legs with a slender body. Both sexes are very similar in appearance. The only difference being that the males are slightly larger than the females. Its general color is blue-gray, with a white crown and throat. This heron has a four-inch long bill with a black patch at the base. Black scythes accentuate yellow eyes and above the head is a long slender black plume. When in flight, it has slow lumbering wingbeats. Legs extend stiffly behind, with its neck folded in an "S" curve back above its shoulders.

Great Blue Herons nest in colonies called heronries, or rookeries, which consist of from a few to hundreds of pairs. They migrate individually in the spring, usually one of the first to arrive in this area. They usually arrive a few days before the females. These heronries consist of many large nests that are placed high in mature hardwood trees in swamps or other low lying areas. There can be dozens of nests in the same tree. The nests are large loose bulky affairs of sticks and twigs. These nests can grow into platforms up to four feet across as the Herons will return on the same pile as the year goes by. The immediate area of these heronries are said to be unpleasant because of the stench from the large volume of excrement from the concentrated numbers. This "white-washing" from above will eventually kill the trees.

The males will pick and defend the best nest site they can find. Courtship displays often include large groups of males who will fight amongst themselves, pecking at each other with their beaks while the females look on. Eventually the females will pick a mate based more on the qualities of the nest site than of the male himself. The male then starts bringing nest materials to the nest site where the female waits for him. She will closely inspect and utilize some of these materials which range from mud to sticks. The male then starts sticking up to a half an inch in diameter. Eventually, she will build a nest topped with a shallow depression lined with grass, moss and other fine, soft materials.

Usually by May, or early June, three to four greenish blue eggs are laid which need 28 days of incubation. Both sexes handle the incubation chores. These eggs require constant attention from the mother every two to three hours to prevent the embryos from getting cold.

When the nestlings hatch, the gray downy chicks have trouble regulating their body temperature and need to be kept warm by the parents for about 12 days to help them to keep warm. These chicks also need to be constantly fed, which the parents do by regurgitating par-

tially digested food. The nestlings stimulate the adults to do this by nudging and tugging on their beaks. Later on, as the young grow older, small fish, crustaceans, frogs, small rodents and aquatic insects will be offered. The adults make no effort to feed any individual young bird so each feeding results in a free-for-all, with the runt often going hungry if the fishing is poor.

After four or five weeks, the nestlings will get ready to fly and practice by holding onto a perch and vigorously flapping their wings. Eventually they will make their hazardous first flight. If this flight results in a poor landing in a lower branch where the young Heron becomes entangled or falls over, the bird can die. Being such a large bird, the weak youngsters have trouble righting themselves by forcing their way upright through the branches of the tree. If the nestling ends up on the ground, it will be fed by its parents, but it may fall prey to a predator before it is able to fly. Often, the only way for the young bird to get off the ground is to climb up to a perch where it can successfully take off.

Today's Great Blue Herons are quite common throughout New York State. There was a time, however, when their numbers were dangerously low. Around the turn of the century and before, Great Blue Herons were rigorously persecuted by man. Fishermen felt that they were depleting game fish populations. Others sought Great Blue Herons for their plumage. Still others found the Great Blue Heron, lumbering along in flight, much too easy a target to let go by.

While the Great Blue Heron will eat some game fish, it is overall highly beneficial to man and worthy of every protection. Most of the minnows and fish eaten are non-game species. The aquatic insects that it feeds on are known to eat the eggs of game fish so the Great Blue Heron's pluses far outweigh its minuses.

Though once endangered, Oneida Lake has always been a stronghold for this magnificent species. In 1910, E.H. Eaton reported that "Breeding colonies formerly existed in every large swamp in the state, but constant persecution and the destruction of the large trees which furnished their nesting sites have greatly reduced the number of heronries. The largest remaining colony, on the Ontario County, Oswego County, still had about 500 pairs of Great Blue Herons early in this century. At that time other colonies were located in the Tonawanda Swamp, Orleans County; the Clyde River, Wayne County; and several Adirondack localities, but most others had passed into history within the last two decades."

In 1922, D. Stoner wrote that the Great Blue Heron was "one of the ever present and most conspicuous birds of the Oneida Lake region ... The famous nesting colony in the Constantia swamp and also the one in the Big Bay swamp continue to exist, but in considerably reduced numbers as compared with their status 25 years ago." During the summer of 1928, Dr. Stoner reported, on numerous occasions, seeing from 12 to 19 Great Blue Herons around Shaw Point, Potter Bay, Wanbury Island, Long Island and other areas of the lake.

Today, J.M.C. Peterson writes in "The Atlas of Breeding Birds of New York State," that "The Great Blue Heron has been clearly recovered from the killing and habitat loss that occurred at the turn of the century. The atlas shows that the Great Blue Heron is "a local but fairly common species throughout most of Upstate New York during the breeding season."

While perhaps not as abundant as in 1910 or 1928, there are numerous Great Blue Herons using the Oneida Lake region today. While I have sighted several at a time along the shores of Frenchman's Island, Long Island at Lower South Bay while out boating. They may still be as numerous as they were in 1928 along the north Shore, though I suspect not. On the occasions when I have been there, I have seldom seen more than two or three at a time.

In addition to the reported heronries in Big Bay and Three-Mile Bay, which are undoubtedly still in use, there is a heronry in the McGary marsh by Rattlesnake Gulch of Cicero Swamp. Another heronry is located along the north shore of the Oneida Lake at the second North Brewerton. As the Great Blue Heron is a shy bird with excellent sense of sight and hearing, it is best that photographers and others avoid these areas. If you are in 1928 and you have individual visits may be inobtrusive and harmless by themselves, one never knows how many other people are visiting the area also. If you are in 1991, you should not go to desert their nestlings, so please resist the urge if you get it and stay away until the nesting season.

# Constantia Hatchery Update

BY BOB RIPPERGER

This is an update as to the status of the new Oneida Lake hatchery. In the State of the Lake message, we told you that the hatchery plans were completed, but that everything beyond that had been stopped by the Governor due to fiscal problems.

We asked that you write the Governor and request that the hatchery program be kept active, and that he put the necessary funding in the new budget. The D.E.C. administrators, from the commissioner on down, have strongly supported the new hatchery and had included it in the D.E.C. request to the Governor. In addition, Assemblyman Michael Braman had made a "strong pitch" for the hatchery, emphasizing the fact that the hatchery was not a necessary item for Oneida Lake but rather a program plan to establish the walleye fishery in some 45 to 50 other bodies of water across the state.

The hatchery must be on Oneida Lake so as to furnish an adequate source of eggs for propagation purposes. And, as soon as there are walleyes in many other bodies of water, fishing will soon increase, more licenses will be sold, more people will enjoy the "best fish in the state," and maybe the fishing pressure on Oneida Lake will lessen a bit.

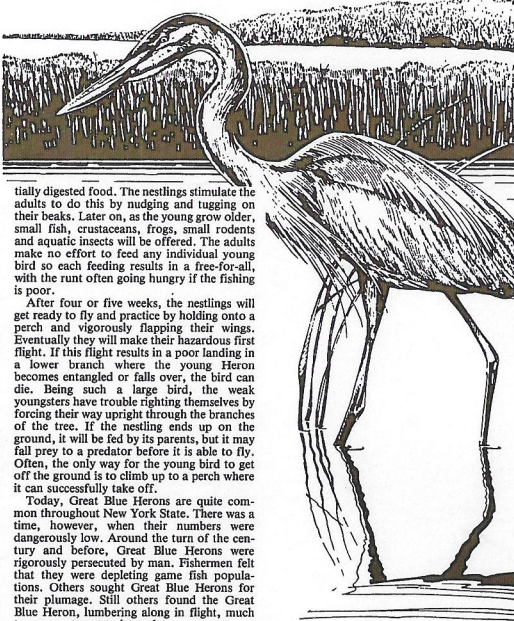
Well, the Governor has put funding in the new budget! It is in the form of phase number one for \$235,000 and in phase number two for \$2.85 million. This is the first step. Now we have to convince the legislators, both Senate and Assembly, to keep these funds in the budget. This means more letters!

Once we have convinced them, and they leave no stone unturned, it will be up to the Governor again. He must decide to leave it in the final budget and, most important, the Governor must advise the State Budget Department that it must release this money for the construction of the new hatchery!

Much as I hate to ask this again, PLEASE write to the Governor, thank him for putting the funds in the budget that has been sent to the State Legislature, and then STRONGLY advocate to him that he should advise the Budget Dept. to immediately release the funds to get the hatchery program under way, since we have already lost over two years on this project, and since New York State fishing is a proven source of state revenue, the hatchery should be constructed as soon as possible!

We have started the project again, and it can succeed this time, if all you O.L.A. members will get behind it and WRITE, WRITE, WRITE, OR IF YOU PREFER, MAKE CALLS TO YOUR LEGISLATORS AND THE GOVERNOR!

The balloon has been patched, and now it is time to blow it up again!



# Take a Youngster Fishing Derby 1991

The month of June is especially inviting to Central New Yorkers and Oneida Lake enthusiasts. Summer officially begins, school is getting out and the swimming, fishing and boating season is in full swing.

This year, June 1991 will also include one of Oneida Lake's favorite summertime fun activities, the annual "Take a Youngster Fishing

will be awarded in the following categories: Walleye Pike, Bass, Perch, Panfish and Northern Tiger Muskie. There will be four entry stations located around the lake, which operate from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. -- on the south shore at Barbaro's Restaurant on Lakeshore Rd., Brewerston at the Brewerston Pier, the north shore at Kirchner's Fishing Camp at Cleveland and at Sylvan Beach on the Sylvan Beach Pier. An important point to remember is that no pre-registration is required.

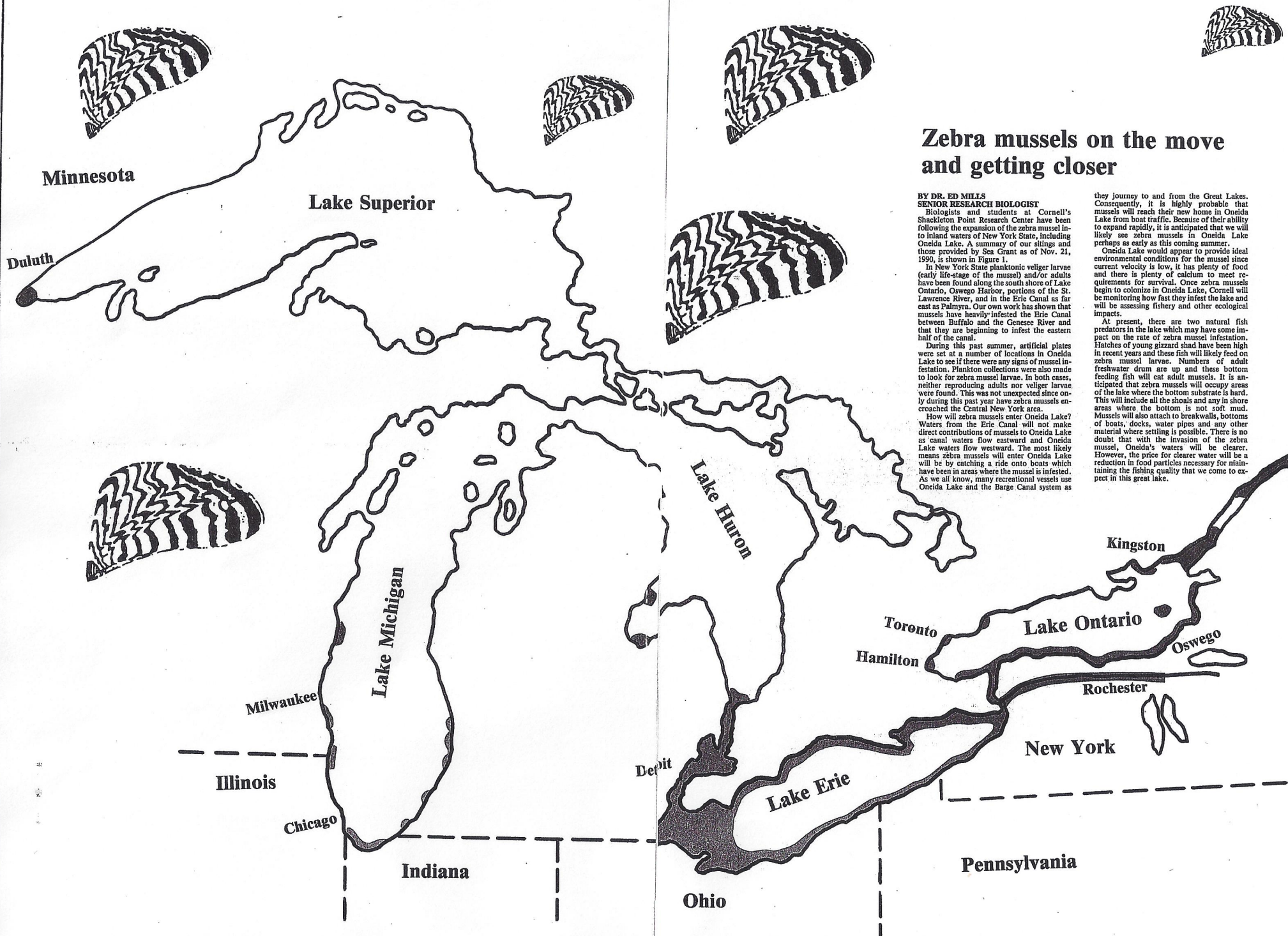
Every youngster that enters the derby will receive a prize. First prize winners will receive rods and reels donated by Zebco. Tackle boxes are given to second place winners and trophies are awarded to winners in each category. Last year, Bill Kirchner of Kirchner's Fishing Camp generously donated a \$500 Savings Bond which was awarded to Michael Wisniewski of Hackettstown, New Jersey. He was the lucky winner of the random drawing which took place after the annual awards presentation for the fishing derby. In an effort to keep a tradition going, this year Michael's grandfather, Edward Wisniewski, has very generously donated the annual awards presentation. He will be awarded by random drawing of all derby entries. The OLA would like to thank Edward Wisniewski and his family for their support and continuing interest in the "Take a Youngster Fishing Derby." The Wisniewski family and friends have been fishing Oneida Lake for 27 years, and in a letter to OLA President Jim Scherzi, Mr. Wisniewski states, "I'm enjoying the Derby. I see you on a youngster's face when he or she is catching a fish."



Derby" sponsored by O.L.A. So grab your fishing gear and prepare to have a fun-filled day of "quality time" with your son/daughter, grandchild, neighbor or friend on the lake.

This year's derby will be held on the weekend of June 15th and 16th, which is also the weekend of the bass opener. The derby is open to all youngsters ages 15 and under that are accompanied by an adult. As in past years, there are two age categories, the first is children 9 years and under and the second is children ages 10-15. First and second prizes

The OLA is encouraging every member to get out on Oneida Lake with a youngster on the weekend of June 15th and 16th and participate in the fishing derby. We are hoping for great weather, plenty of fish and a record number of entries in the fifth annual "Take a Youngster Fishing Derby." See you on Oneida Lake for a safe and fun-filled summer.



## Zebra mussels on the move and getting closer

**BY DR. ED MILLS  
SENIOR RESEARCH BIOLOGIST**  
Biologists and students at Cornell's Shackleton Point Research Center have been following the expansion of the zebra mussel into inland waters of New York State, including Oneida Lake. A summary of our findings and those provided by Sea Grant as of Nov. 21, 1990, is shown in Figure 1.

In New York State planktonic veliger larvae (early life-stage of the mussel) and/or adults have been found along the south shore of Lake Ontario, Oswego Harbor, portions of the St. Lawrence River, and in the Erie Canal as far east as Palmyra. Our own work has shown that mussels have heavily infested the Erie Canal between Buffalo and the Genesee River and that they are beginning to infest the eastern half of the canal.

During this past summer, artificial plates were set at a number of locations in Oneida Lake to see if there were any signs of mussel infestation. Plankton collections were also made to look for zebra mussel larvae. In both cases, neither reproducing adults nor veliger larvae were found. This was not unexpected since only during this past year have zebra mussels encroached the Central New York area.

How will zebra mussels enter Oneida Lake? Waters from the Erie Canal will not make direct contributions of mussels to Oneida Lake as canal waters flow eastward and Oneida Lake waters flow westward. The most likely means zebra mussels will enter Oneida Lake will be by catching a ride onto boats which have been in areas where the mussel is infested. As we all know, many recreational vessels use Oneida Lake and the Barge Canal system as

they journey to and from the Great Lakes. Consequently, it is highly probable that mussels will reach their new home in Oneida Lake from boat traffic. Because of their ability to expand rapidly, it is anticipated that we will likely see zebra mussels in Oneida Lake perhaps as early as this coming summer.

Oneida Lake would appear to provide ideal environmental conditions for the mussel since current velocity is low, it has plenty of food and there is plenty of calcium to meet requirements for survival. Once zebra mussels begin to colonize in Oneida Lake, Cornell will be monitoring how fast they infest the lake and will be assessing fishery and other ecological impacts.

At present, there are two natural fish predators in the lake which may have some impact on the rate of zebra mussel infestation. Hatchets of young gizzard shad have been high in recent years and these fish will likely feed on zebra mussel larvae. Numbers of adult freshwater drum are up and these bottom feeding fish will eat adult mussels. It is anticipated that zebra mussels will occupy areas of the lake where the bottom substrate is hard. This will include all the shoals and any in shore areas where the bottom is not soft mud. Mussels will also attach to breakwalls, bottoms of boats, docks, water pipes and any other material where settling is possible. There is no doubt that with the invasion of the zebra mussel, Oneida's waters will be clearer. However, the price for clearer water will be a reduction in food particles necessary for maintaining the fishing quality that we come to expect in this great lake.

## A grandfather says

# THANK YOU

Dear Mr. Scherzi;

My Grandson Michael Wisniewski  
was the Fortunate Youngster  
that won the \$100,000 Savings  
Bond, graciously Donated by  
Mr. Bill Kirnberg.

I would like to Donate A  
\$200,000 Savings Bond to some lucky  
youngster at the 1991 Youth  
Fishing Derby.

There is nothing that can  
replace the smile on a  
youngster's face when he or  
she is catching fish.

Thanking you in advance for  
mutual conservation & cleanliness  
of Oneida Lake.

Our Family & Friends have Fished  
Oneida Lake for the past 27 years.

Sincerely  
Edward Wisniewski Sr.

## Jack Henke talks about 'The Only Happiness'

Oneida Lake fishing guide and author Jack Henke will talk about his book, "Oneida Lake, The Only Happiness," from 12:15 to 12:50 p.m. Wednesday, April 24, at the Oneida County Central Library's "Books Sandwiched-In."

The books looks at Oneida Lake as a whole — its history, topography and importance as a source of commercial and sport fishing. Henke, also a studies teacher at Brookfield Central School, is working on a

book of collected and edited stories about the lake. His guiding activities are based at Oneida Lake Marina, Upper South Bay.

"Books Sandwiched-In" is a free program which takes place in the Curtin Auditorium of the Central Library at The Galleries in Syracuse, 447 S. Salina St. The auditorium can be entered from S. Salina St. next to the bookdrop or from the library by taking the left or center elevator to Level A.

## Oneida Lake's 'Mr. Walleye' retires

BY DR. ED MILLS  
SENIOR RESEARCH BIOLOGIST

Dr. John Forney, known to many of us as "Mr. Walleye" of Oneida Lake, plans to retire from the New England Wildlife and Fisheries Unit at Cornell University after 34 years of service.

Dr. Forney is best known for his work on the ecology of walleye of Oneida Lake. John began his work on Oneida Lake shortly before he received his doctorate at Cornell University in January of 1957. From 1963 to 1969, he was an assistant professor in the Department of Natural Resources at Cornell University.

Since that time, Dr. Forney has been a Senior Research Associate in the Department of Natural Resources, and director of the Warm-water Fisheries Unit, and director of Cornell's Shackleton Point Research Center. During his career, John has published over 30 scientific papers related to fish ecology and walleye management. His research on Oneida Lake and its fish community is recognized

worldwide and his work has been instrumental in developing strategies for managing warm-water fisheries throughout North America.

In 1972, his research was recognized by the American Fisheries Society when he received the "Most Significant Paper Award" for that year. Between 1972 and 1984, Dr. Forney was an advisor to the Scientific Protocol Committee for management of walleye in Lake Erie. In 1980, John was appointed as the United States representative to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission's Board of Technical Experts dealing with Great Lakes' fisheries. John has had a distinguished career in the fisheries profession and has been recognized for his service to fisheries by both the New York and the Northeast Division of the American Fisheries Society.

While John plans to retire from his New York State position, he will continue to remain at Cornell in an emeritus position at the Shackleton Point Research Center and will devote most of his time to further analysis of the Oneida Lake fisheries data.

## ONEIDA LAKE: A WALLEYE WONDER

BY CAPT. TONY BUFFA

As I ponder the past and reflect back on the Oneida Lake walleye fishery — it's history, the magnitude of the walleye population and the recreation it has provided — eclipse any other thoughts affiliated with this precious piece of water, weaving its way through Central New York. Anglers near and afar have appreciated this walleye wonder and will continue to do so through the years.

The present stock of walleyes, measures 14 inches or larger, is the largest the lake has supported in the last 34 years of this fishery's management. The biological field station at Shackleton Point, on the south shore, manned by senior aquatic biologists from Cornell University, has maintained a research data base on fluctuations in the walleye population since 1957. The estimate of the present crop of 14-inch or larger walleyes is well into the one million range.

A mother lode of this proportion should insure good productivity through the '90s and a sustained fishery for the walleye migrant. The size of this population has influenced a regulation change in effect through October '91. The size limit for possession of walleye has been reduced from 15 inches to 12 inches, for all waters of Oneida Lake proper. This does not include its tributaries or outlets.

On Oct. 1 of 1991, the size limit will revert back to 15 inches. The intent of this regulation was to purge the overall population of three-year old walleyes which was unusually high. Early reports from the Shackleton Point field station indicate that the goal of down-sizing the 1987 hatch of walleyes will be achieved by October of 1991.

With a forecast as promising as that, I want the opener (May 4th) to have been yesterday. The first fillet finally made it. However, Mother Nature has her way of controlling this dream, but making it that much more desirable. Preparations for this opener are already occurring with a greater tempo and anticipation.

My tackle box has undergone a severe scrutiny, far worse than any military inspection. My fishing map of Oneida Lake has been opened and rolled more times than a sponge has holes. Be that as it may, this opener for walleyes on Oneida will rank among one of the best in decades. Interest is keen, the numbers are encouraging and the fraternity of walleye wumpers is ready for an open water treat.

My approach will be basic. The drifted nightcrawler, rigged with a three-way swivel, No. 4 Eagle Claw gold plated hook and appropriate weight to cast to two-thirds of the depth, will take the lion's share of my party's catch. Locate the areas where walleyes spawn and simply fish the lake water adjacent to those streams and rivers. In very shallow passes are unsuccessful, then venture out to the not-so-distant deeper water in the 25 to 35 feet zone.



If you prefer to jig fish, use combinations of black, brown and white bucktail to lure an unsuspecting walleye to the table. Remember, the water will still be quite cold so use a deliberate stroke to your presentation. These walleyes will be exhausted from their spawning effort and metabolically slow because of the cold water. If the bucktail jig has been more a frustration than a walleye weapon, then I would suggest that you learn the techniques of jigging by beginning with a Heddon Sonar, model No. 431. This metal lure has three holes at the top. Connect a number 12 swivel to the center hole and present the lure in a vertical jigging fashion. It is best used in deep water, by letting it fall to bottom and then lift a good 4 to 5 feet and letting it fall again. Do this repetitively, and if walleyes are present, you will have had your first lesson in jigging. As an alternative to jigging the Heddon Sonar, it can be fished quite effectively in the casting and retrieving mode in the shallows.

Whatever you choose as opening day strategies, remember, safety first. Oneida is a shallow lake, open to the northwest and southeast and can build a nasty chop in minutes. If it is the type of day with unsettled weather, don't wander far from your port of entry. It's a long season and it will be a good one!

## Brewerton Pier update

The OLA and the Fort Brewerton Chamber of Commerce have worked hard to replace the collapsed section of the concrete Brewerton Pier with a new floating wood dock. To date, New York State has made available, with the sponsorship of Assemblyman Mike Braganam of Cicero and Senator John McHugh of Watertown, \$50,000 which will cover the original study, bid specifications and engineering work required during the entire project, expected to cost a total of \$495,000 for 1,400 feet of dock.

The first \$100,000 of construction money, appropriated in 1990, has escaped the budget reduction axe and according to Assemblyman Braganam's and Senator McHugh's staff, the legislators are "hopeful" and "optimistic"

respectively that the funds will soon be available despite these most difficult fiscal times. Both of them will work to add another \$100,000 to the 1991 State Budget to pay for the next construction phase.

According to Jean Harris of the Fort Brewerton Chamber, who has acted as liaison between the community and Messrs. Braganam and McHugh, the first \$100,000 will buy the roller ramp that is the connection between the undamaged concrete and the new wooden docking, plus the first 200 feet of dock. More will be added as money becomes available until the entire 1,400 feet is complete.

Your Directors have taken every opportunity to put the full weight of OLA behind this project.

## Membership, Help!

BY MARSH NAUMANN JR.

Every year, we send out a re-up letter for members to renew for the coming year. Each member is sent an extra card along with a request to sell it to someone who should be a member. For a member to sell one card a year — it's not much to ask!

This then was a built-in way to increase our members. It worked. We increased our membership 300 to 600 each year up to and including 1989. When we counted up for 1990, we had slipped back 800 members. This was due to the lack of sales of the extra card included in the 1990 re-up letter.

When we look at the property owners, fishermen, boaters of all kinds, swimmers, people out on the ice — users by the thousands — we wonder why the support of the OLA isn't

three or four times the membership we now have. The OLA is the only enduring voice that supports Oneida Lake and its watershed.

Others have come and gone, but OLA endures. The reason that bureaucrats and politicians listen to our requests for a clean, safe lake is our MEMBERS. That's why we ask both husband and wife to each be members, because they vote. Children, member, become voters, too!

People in power listen to voters, especially large groups of voters. So it follows that the larger we are, the better the response we get to our requests, which are the members' requests.

Over the past 44 years, we have made a difference, thanks to our members. Let's make a bigger difference in the coming years!

## Bids open for Cleveland Treatment Plant

BY BILL SCHRIEVER  
OLA DIRECTOR

Bids for the pipe system for the Cleveland sewage treatment plant have been opened and Will Kirk, a contractor from the Cleveland area, was the low bidder.

Bids were forwarded to HUD and FHFA for final approval. Work will begin as soon as an approved bid is returned. The discharge pipe which will extend into Oneida Lake 1,000 feet, will be buried. The contractor is hoping for cold weather and thick ice in order that equipment can be positioned on ice rather than a floating barge.

Bids for the sewage treatment plant and grinder pumps were due to be opened Feb. 15. These bids will also require final approval by HUD and FHFA. The present concern is that the bids be within the budget.

The total cost of the Cleveland sewage treat-

ment plant is \$1.5 million, of which \$850,000 has been funded by HUD and FHFA. The balance of \$650,000 is covered by a bond that is to be paid off in 40 years.

Estimated construction time of the project is 260 days, which means that by the end of 1991, the sewage treatment plant should be in operation, and individual "hook-ups" will be complete.

The plant is going to be constructed under present DEC regulations which are the most stringent ever. Cleveland will have the most effective and efficient sewage treatment facility on Oneida Lake. A sand filter is included in the process which will reduce the acceptable phosphate level in the discharge effluent to one-third of what the Big Bay sewage treatment plant, built in 1990, was required to meet.

SPECIALIZING IN  
SEAFOOD

*Johnnie's*

**OPEN DAILY AT NOON**

Serving Ocean Fresh Clams  
As Well As Other Delights  
From The Sea

**BOAT PACKAGE AVAILABLE**

ENJOY OUR GENEROUS  
COCKTAILS WHILE  
OVERLOOKING BEAUTIFUL  
ONEIDA LAKE

ONLY A GALLON AWAY  
THRUWAY EXIT 34, CANASTOTA  
1/4 MILE WEST RTES. 13 & 31  
Phone: 697-7007



RESTAURANT & MARINA  
(CLOSED MONDAYS)

**BREWERTON  
PHARMACY**

Nicholas & Nancy Chervinsky  
REGISTERED PHARMACISTS  
Cosmetics - Film - Cameras  
Bathing Supplies  
Suntan Preparations  
Sunburn Remedies  
Next to the Bridge  
BREWERTON, NEW YORK  
Phone: 676-4441



**MULLIGANS  
SPORT SHOP**

212 State Fair Blvd.  
Syracuse, N.Y.

LIVE BAIT  
DISCOUNT PRICES  
FISHING TACKLE  
477-8739

**FREMAC MARINE  
SALES & SERVICE**

CELEBRITY, LOWE,  
SEASWIRL

Calkins Trailers  
Johnson Motors  
Complete line of  
Johnson Outboard Parts  
Rt. 31, Lakeport, N.Y.  
Phone 633-2661

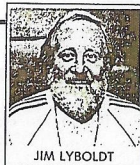
**HARDTER  
Welding Supply**

PROPELLER  
SERVICE & REPAIR  
Inboard & Outboard  
Repaired & Pitched  
& Balanced

204 Salina St., Liverpool, NY  
Phone: 457-3181

**Palmer's** SERVING YOU SINCE 1913  
**Chevrolet-Buick-Geo**

A Tradition For All Your  
Automotive Needs



JIM LYBOLD

**Headquarters For  
America's #1 Selling Truck**



We've Got the Hottest  
Line of Trucks Built  
In America

**WHATEVER TRUCK YOU NEED...**

• 1/2 TONS • 3/4 TONS • BLAZERS • 5-10'S 4x4's

**CHEVY TOUGH IS TAKING CHARGE**



BUICK

• Roadmaster • Park Avenue • Riviera  
• Electra • LeSabre • Regal • Century • Skylark

CHEVROLET

• Beretta • Corsica • Cavalier • Camaro  
• Caprice Classic • Lumina  
• All "GEO" Products

Heart of NEW YORK CHEVY DEALERS

**Palmer's Chevrolet-Buick-Geo**

Rt. 481, Fulton, N.Y.  
315-598-2215

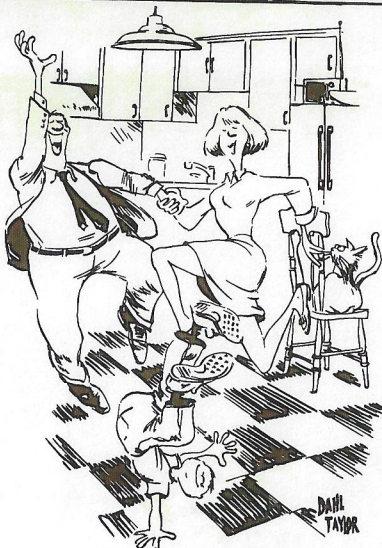
"Traditionally  
Since 1913"



**THE  
ONEIDA  
LAKE  
ASSOCIATION,**



**A REEL  
ADVENTURE.**



DAN TAYLOR

**When it means a lot to you  
—it means a loan from us.**

Brewerton Office  
676-5512

Camden Office  
245-2020

Central Square Office  
676-2121

Sylvan Beach Office  
762-4424

Constantia Office  
623-7261



Member FDIC

# A.A. Tackle

FISHING • HUNTING • LIVE BAITS

PONDEROSA PLAZA  
LIVERPOOL, N.Y. 13088

315-457-3559

Headquarters for all your fishing needs!



**CHRYSLER  
MOTORS & TRAILERS  
DURANAUTIC ALUMINUM BOATS  
MARINE SUPPLIES, SERVICE & BROKERAGE**

**BREWERTON BOATYARD, INC.**

Bennett Street, Brewerton, N. Y. 13029

Edward Carroll

Ph. 676-3762

## Bersani's Sport & Marine

(ON ONEIDA LAKE)

- Evinrude Motors
- Peddle Boats
- Quick Repair Service



7047 Lakeshore Rd.

**699-4853**



Campsites - Boat Launch - Storage  
On Site Campers to Rent  
Fishing - Fun  
Oneida Lake

Hosts - Ivan & Inez Fuller  
315-245-1489

East Lake St., North Bay, NY 13123

## SALINA BODY CO.

SINCE 1947

### TRUCK BODIES

- Holland 5th wheels
- Perfection Dump Bodies
- Stake Racks
- Conversion Hoists
- Walco Tailgates
- Western Snowplows
- Salt Spreaders
- Truck Cranes
- Emergency Vehicles
- Pickup Accessories
- Fiberglass & Aluminum Vans
- Stahl Utility Bodies
- Winches-Wreckers
- Truck Mounted Loaders
- Handicap Van Conversion
- Newlon Racks - Shelving
- Air Scoops
- Crysteel/Dump Bodies

DICK PERCIVAL, Pres.

**422-0787 or 422-2480**

1525 SALINA STREET, SYRACUSE

## EDWIN L. OLMSTEAD



AEGIS Group of Central New York Inc.  
Eller-Essa Agency  
P.O. Box 3580  
6250 South Bay Road  
Syracuse, New York 13220  
(315) 699-5195

## ECONOMY BOOK AND STATIONERY STORE INC.

Maps - Charts of N.Y.S. Waterways

A Complete Selection of Boating  
and Fishing Reference Books

317 S. Saline St., Syracuse 471-8106  
Shoppingtown, Dewitt 446-2640  
Penn Can Mail, Clay 458-8835

CALL MARILYN CARR  
FOR RESERVATIONS AT  
315-633-8015



## DOUG'S RENT A BOAT

PALMER DRIVE, BRIDGEPORT, N.Y. 13030

CLEAN CABINS  
BOAT - MOTOR - CANOES

"WE WELCOME"

"TRAVEL TRAILERS & TENTS"

"HUNTING &  
FISHING LICENSES SOLD"

## BORIO'S RESTAURANT

OVERLOOKING ONEIDA LAKE  
6 Min. From PENNACAN MALL  
OFF LAKESHORE RD.  
LUNCHES - DINNERS  
RECEPTIONS - BANQUETS  
CLOSED MONDAYS  
**699-2249**



Capt.

## Tony Buffa's FISHING CHARTERS

LAKE  
ONTARIO

ONEIDA  
LAKE



"THE BANDITO"  
30 Foot SPORTCRAFT  
10 foot beam -  
6 passenger capacity  
PORT:

- Oswego Marina
- Downtowner by:
- FREDON'S LTD.

"MY GAL CAL"  
23 Foot Solar  
PORT:

Thrall's Lakeport Marina

### CAPT. TONY

- Luhr Jensen, Rebel, Speedrol
- Garcia, Islander, Impulse
- LOCA (Member)
- Oneida Lake Assoc. (Director)
- N.Y.S. Outdoor Writer (Member)
- For Information Phone Capt. Tony  
(315) 633-2694



## BOAT WORKS LTD SOUTH BAY SAILS

312 S. MAIN ST.  
(RT. 11)  
NO. SYRACUSE, N.Y.  
13212

AUTHORIZED DEALER FOR:

- Hobie Cat/Catamarans
- Hobie One/Monohulls
- Contour Paddle Boats
- Sea Rogue

SAILBOATS-FROM 9 TO 21 FOOT-DINGHYS  
ALL YOUR BOATING NEEDS EVERY DAY  
AT DISCOUNT PRICES

COMPLETE SELECTION OF  
PAINT • HARDWARE • RIGGING  
• MARINE ELECTRONICS • ROPE  
• CLEANING SUPPLIES AND  
SAFETY EQUIPMENT FOR YOUR  
POWER AND SAILING NEEDS...

The BOATING STORE That's Not Just For Boaters

OPEN YEAR ROUND

(Route 11)  
312 S. Main St.  
N. Syracuse

**458-8523**

## FREDON SPORTS LTD

1912 TEALL AVENUE, SYRACUSE, NEW YORK 13206

FISHING, MARINE & CAMPING EQUIPMENT

315-463-0464

