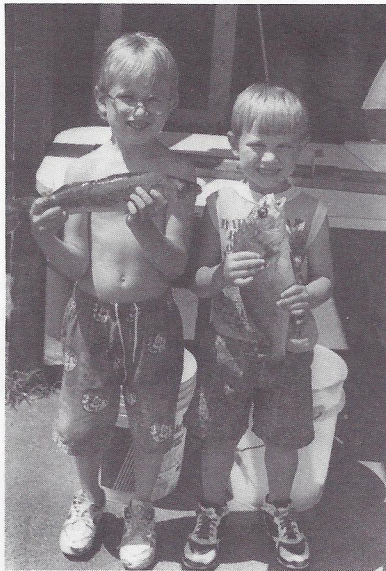
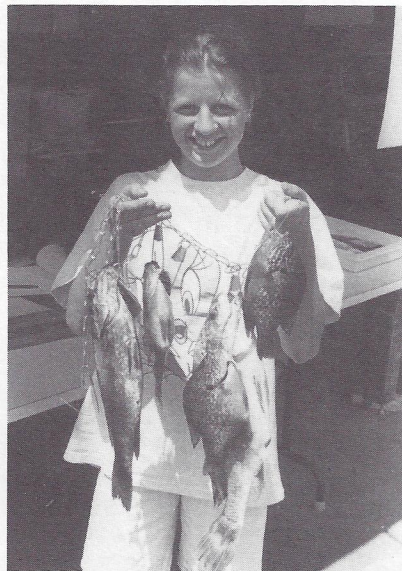


The Oneida Lake Bulletin



Kevin (left) and Andrew Lisak, of Owego, smile about their walleye and sheephead.



Kelly Baker, of Oriskany, proudly displays her winning bass and some jumbo sunfish.

Over 650 Children Enter OLA Derby!

Smiling kids, biting fish, and sunshine galore - what a glorious combination for a summer weekend. A record number of young fisherpersons participated in this year's "Take A Youngster Fishing" Contest, held on June 28 and 29. Hundreds of fish were entered and the beautiful weather made for a perfect time. In special drawings, Meg Beacham of Fayetteville won a Captain Ray Brown's fishing trip and Melanie Haynes of Chittenango received the sponsor's prize, a Browning rod and reel combination. Television channels WTVH, of Syracuse, and WKTU, of Utica, covered the event. OLA Director Steve Rogers coordinated the western entry station at Brewerton Sports and Director Gerry Randall handled affairs on the east at Marion Manor. The efforts of these derby co-chairmen brought a lot of fishing happiness to Oneida Lake's junior anglers.

We would like to acknowledge the generosity of several sponsors, among whom are Triple-S Sporting Goods, Amherst, Islander Wholesale, Baldwinsville, Mad River Sports, Canastota, and Captain Ray Brown's Fishing Charters, Upper South Bay.

The Association considers all those who entered to be "winners" and praises their efforts. Children who landed the largest fish in each age group category are listed on page 4.

The Cornell Corner

-by the Field Station Staff

Some interesting biological events are happening within and around Oneida Lake this year.

Cold spring water temperatures can have a detrimental impact on the survival and growth of yellow perch. Our early prognosis is that the 1997 perch hatch is the third lowest on record and the freshwater drum (sheepshead) hatch is, by far, the largest even seen. Drum are now numerous in the lake and, because of their long life span, will probably be commonly caught by anglers for a long time. They are of concern to us because of their population and the fact that they compete with walleyes, bass, and perch for food. We can only hope that drum survival is poor and that most of these fish will not add to the adult stock.

This spring we set a record for water clarity. This is a function of the zebra mussels' feeding on lake algae. Bottom was clearly visible in many parts of Oneida.

During the 1960's the mayfly (locally called "eelfly") disappeared from the lake. This invertebrate indicates high water quality. Recently, an Oneida Lake angler brought us an eelfly that he found on his camp, which raises the possibility of this insect's return.

(Continued on page 4)

President's Report

Oneida Lake Bulletin
Summer/Fall 1997

Summer on Oneida Lake - what a great life and what a superb place to be!


Yes, we enjoy the lake in winter. Snowmobiling, ice-fishing, and just being near family and friends around a warm fire are all treasured parts of the Oneida Lake experience. Sometimes, just sitting back and watching nature's powerful winter forces at work by the lake can be enough to satisfy us during this chilled season.

Then comes spring, and nature's balancing act can turn scary. Occasionally there's so much snow or rain that we worry about potential flooding. At other times, there's so little precipitation that concerns about low water levels arise. And then years like 1997 occur, when the primary trouble in March, April, and May was cold, dreary weather. But this is Central New York, not California or Florida. We don't have their earthquakes and hurricanes to endure and this

thought can make our late spring a lot more tolerable.

Summer has arrived and most consider this to be the best of times on our lake. We can enjoy the abundance of wildlife, savoring the company of species as unusual as white pelicans or as common as dragonflies. We can luxuriate in the beautiful yards and flower gardens, in the sight of fields of ripening corn and in the smell of fresh-cut hay, baled in farmers' meadows. We can swim, water-ski, boat, and fish on virtually any day. Or we can just relax and watch the lake's magnificent summer scene unfold before us.

This is my first message as President of the Oneida Lake Association and, with it, I invite all of you to join us and enjoy this great lake, this marvelous resource that has so much to offer. There is only one Oneida and, thankfully, it is ours.


Kurt Snyder
OLA President

Oneida Fish Cultural Station Report

-by Richard Colesante and Mark Babenzien

Summer activities at the station include raising walleye and sturgeon fingerlings. Nearly 700,000 walleyes, each about 1.3 inches long, were in the rearing units on July 1. These fish will soon be placed on a formulated diet and nurtured until they reach a length of four to six inches.

In June, we received about 100,000 lake sturgeon eggs from the St. Lawrence River. The eggs hatched in about four days and the resulting sturgeon fry are now living off their yolk sacs. We will begin to feed these fish brine shrimp in July. Sturgeon grow rapidly and will be about six to eight inches by fall.

Our hatchery has had a very productive year and our added improvements should help us meet future production goals. Stop by and visit our facility - there's always much to see and learn at the Oneida Fish Cultural Station.

ONEIDA LAKE ASSOCIATION INC, FOUNDED IN 1945

The Bulletin is published by the Oneida Lake Association, Inc., 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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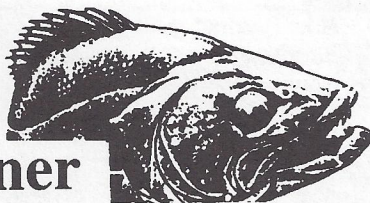
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The OLA Fishing Corner



Late Summer Hot Spots and Tactics

We asked four veteran Oneida Lake fishermen to share their knowledge of the lake's August and September fishing. In response to the question, "If you had to recommend a spot and a technique for late summer to an angler today, what would you say?", we received the following answers:

Captain Tony Buffa, fishing guide: "During August and September, for a change of pace from trolling, I enjoy casting for walleyes in shallow water. Forget the shoreline - look for shallow water in the offshore environment. During late summer days walleyes will often suspend in the lake's channel, from Buoy 125 east to Buoy 113. By nightfall they will be moving to adjacent shallow shoals such as Shackelton's, Dakin's, or Messenger's. Weed edges on these reefs are particularly productive spots. Start fishing about one hour prior to darkness. Set anchor on the edge of the weeds, in six to eight feet of water - no deeper. Fish one rod vertically with live bait. Crayfish, nightcrawlers, and minnows are all effective. With your other rod, cast along the weeds' edge with your favorite stickbait. Mine is the Junior Thunderstick in the blue/silver color. Many people prefer various types of Rapalas. Your baited pole will take perch and bass, while your casting outfit should attract foraging

walleyes, especially at dusk and later. And remember to try several places, if the first spot yields nothing. As wise fishermen say, "To set the hook, you gotta go look."

Richard "Red" Devan, former owner of the (Upper) South Bay Bait and Tackle Store: I've always liked to troll with lead-core line and work flutter spoons during this time. I use a 30 foot leader on the end of the lead line and attach the spoon to a swivel on the leader's tip. Lead-core line is color-coded and each color is 30 feet long. At the slow speed that I troll, a color sinks about seven feet. I try to keep the lure about five feet above the bottom. If I'm in 40 feet of water, I'll let out five colors, which will get the lure down about 35 feet. As I'm trolling, I grab the lead line and, with my arm acting like the pendulum of a clock, swing the line back and forth. This makes the spoon dart quickly ahead and, then, flutter backward. A fish usually takes the spoon as it goes back. Thus, when I pull the line forward I'll feel the fish on. I usually fish for walleyes, but big jack perch love flutter spoons and I often land 10 to 20 of these great eating fish during a morning's fishing. In August there will be lots of walleyes and perch in the area between Buoys 111 to 119 and the north shore. I'll use from 4 to 7 colors of lead line here, depending on the depth. Lead

lining isn't the most sporting technique, but it's effective.

Captain Ray Brown, fishing guide: If I had to choose one spot to fish in August, I'd go to the lake's deeper water, off Godfrey Point at Cleveland. I'd troll with downriggers and use lead-core line off my planer boards. I use 10 pound test Trilene XT line and 27 pound test lead-core, with a 50 foot leader spliced on. I'd run a #5 perch-colored Shad Rap until the sun came up and then I'd switch to either rainbow trout or blue/silver colored Junior Thundersticks. If these didn't work I'd try other lures - you must be flexible on Oneida Lake. Once I located walleyes on my fish-finder, I'd run the lures about five feet above them. The action can be fast and furious in the deep water during this time.

Jerry Randall, owner - Marion Manor Marina: The coming of fall brings with it two of my favorite events: SU football and some of the best perch fishing of the year. The big schools will show up somewhere around mid-September and, if I had to guess, I would bet that the first solid action will come in deeper water, around 30 to 35 feet. The fish will then move into shallow water, where the angling should be best throughout the month of October and into November. Generally, as the weather turns cold, some good late-season fishing can be found back deeper, especially along the buoy line (the area around Buoy 109 is especially good). Jigs, worms, crabs, and trolled stickbaits will work well at some point during the fall, but the majority of the fish will be taken on either buckeye or fathead minnows.

Your Environmental Voice for Over Five Decades

Fishing Contest

Continued from page 1

West End - At Brewerton Sports

Overall Open Class

(Carp, Catfish, etc.)

- 1- Paul Young, Constantia
- 2- Jeremy Bogan, Mexico
- 3- David Bryant, Cleveland

Age 5 and Under

Walleye

- 1- Adam Sacco, E. Syracuse

Bass

- 1- Jennifer Helinski, Brewerton

Panfish

- 1- Kelly Greco, Central Square
- 2- Kyle Jones, Cicero
- 3- Hunter Jones, Cicero

Ages 6-8

Walleye

- 1- Andrew Armani, Syracuse
- 2- Chaz Sheffer, Mallory
- 3- Bill Acre, Bridgeport

Bass

- 1- Marrisanna Sonnachio, Parish
- 2- Jacob Pfeifer, Central Square
- 3- Ashley Millen, Central Square

Panfish

- 1- Kevan Smith, Cicero
- 2- Katie Carrick, Cicero
- 3- Anthony DePaolo, Fulton

Ages 9-10

Walleye

- 1- Jessica Zolik, Brewerton

Bass

- 1- Charles LaDue, Jr., E. Syracuse
- 2- Brian Babenzien, Constantia

Panfish

- 1- Bryan Smith, Cicero
- 2- Shane Carrick, Cicero

Ages 11-12

Walleye

- 1- Mike Poindexter, Parish
- 2- Rebecca Roach, Mexico
- 3- John Zolik, Brewerton

Bass

- 1- Alton Taber
- 2- Kristi Shaler, Parish

Panfish

- 1- Kevin Dodge, Brewerton
- 2- Alena Coelho, Brewerton

Ages 13 - 15

Walleye

- 1- Matt Kadlubowski, Liverpool
- 2- Paul Young, Constantia
- 3- Breanna Dillabough, Brewerton

Bass

- 1- Tom Scott, Altmar
- 2- C.W. Erler, Constantia
- 3- Josh Young, Constantia

Panfish

- 1- Mike Harrington, Brewerton
- 2- Rich Townsend, Hastings
- 3- Chuck Prichard, Brewerton

East End - At Marion Manor

Age 5 and Under

Walleye

- 1- Erin Worden, Canastota
- 2- Joey Button, Verona Beach
- 3- Kevin Lisak, Owego

Bass

- 1- Cassie Hammerline, Sauquoit
- 2- Brandon White, Oneida

Panfish

- 1- Bob Pertell, Cleveland
- 2- Steve Karpenko, Columbia, Tenn.
- 3- Chris Wickham, Rome

Open Class

- 1- Nick Monaco, Frankfort
- 2- Cassy Butler, Sherrill

Ages 6-8

Walleye

- 1- Josh Bush, Binghamton
- 2- Coner Randall, Central Square
- 3- Joey Desens, New Hartford

Bass

- 1- Tish Bryant, Bernhards Bay
- 2- Mandi Deneski, Chittenango
- 3- Andy Lisak, Owego

Panfish

- 1- Mike Hammerline, Sauquoit
- 2- Samantha Tarnecki, North Bay
- 3- Mitch Glaha, Cleveland

Open Class

- 1- Kyle Worden, Canastota
- 2- Frank Butler, Sherrill
- 3- Tom Bloom, Herkimer

Ages 9-10

Walleye

- 1- David Desens, New Hartford
- 2- Lauren Ogborn, Chittenango
- 3- Lindsey Kurtz, Sherburne

Bass

- 1- Josh Stuper, Chittenango
- 2- Bryan Vreland, Cazenovia

Panfish

- 1- Dan Curtis, Crugers

Open Class

- 1- John Ariola, Liverpool
- 2- Chris Simpkins
- 3- John Bush, Clockville

Ages 11-12

Walleye

- 1- Brandon Snyder, Brookfield
- 2- Jason Fox, Verona
- 3- Will Dupre

Bass

- 1- Mike Shulties, North Bay
- 1- Mike Lamascula, Rome (tie)
- 2- Mario Martinez, Chittenango

Panfish

- 1- Shawn Collins, Sylvan Beach
- 2- Danielle June, Chittenango
- 3- Dave Smith, Chittenango

Open Class

- 1- Mitch Fox, Verona
- 2- Katrina Kloss, Canastota
- 3- Ryan Phillips, Marcellus

Ages 13-15

Walleye

- 1- Josh Worden, Canastota
- 2- Robbie Fox, Blossvale
- 3- Todd Worden, Canastota

Bass

- 1- Stan Jarosz
- 2- Shane McCarthy, Utica
- 3- Kelly Baker, Oriskany

Panfish

- 1- Josh Snyder, Brookfield
- 2- Andy Didus, Harrisville
- 3- Andy Devendorf, Chittenango

Open Class

- 1- Steve Monaco, Utica
- 2- Dusty Lisak, Owego
- 3- Paul Czajhouski, Munnsville

Congratulations to all who participated in the 1997 tournament!

The Cornell Corner

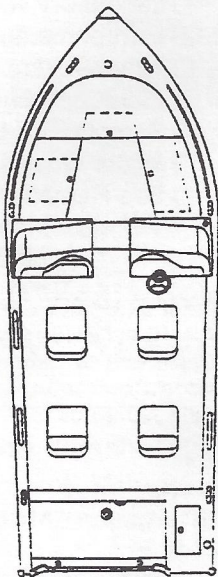
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Mayflies are making a tremendous comeback in Lake Erie and it may only be a matter of time until we see their population increase in Oneida.

If you see a great white bird, with a nine foot wingspan, flying by your boat it can only be a Pelican! Oneida Lake has had pelicans visit for three summers in a row. This year, we observed an American White Pelican, more common to the Midwest, on Long Island. It appears to use the isle for resting. You also might view the Caspian Tern, a bird that looks like a giant tern, passing through our lake en route from its Lake Ontario nesting colony. Oneida Lake is home to thousands of colonial waterbirds who depend on the lake for a refuge, much as we use the water as a retreat from the hustle of daily life.

Your Environmental Voice for Over Five Decades

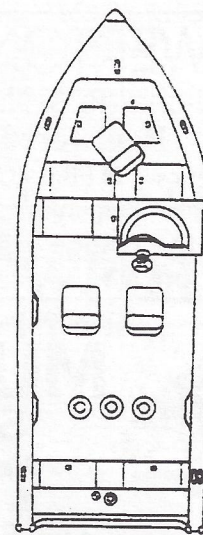
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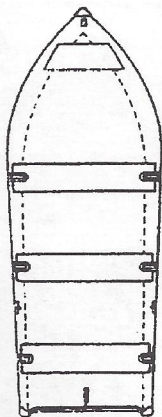
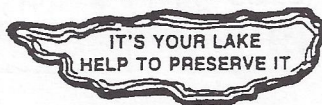
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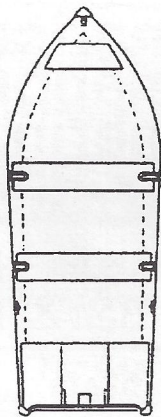


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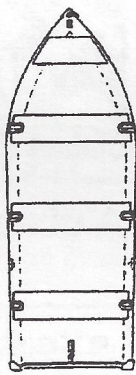
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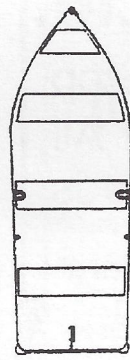
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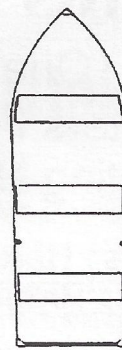
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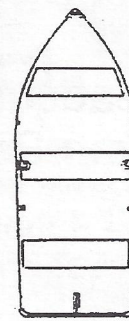
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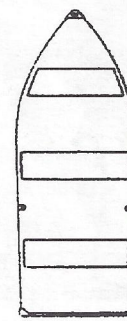
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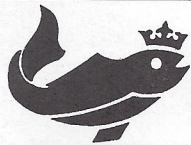
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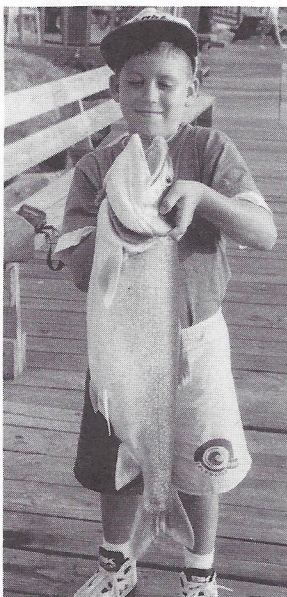
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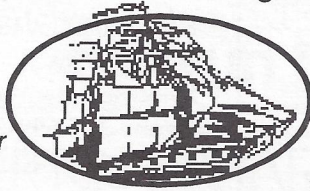
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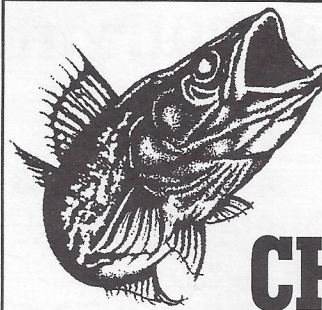
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