



**Oneida Lake Association**  
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## **Thank you!**

We are thrilled that over 100 of our members joined us in person for our Annual Membership meeting on April 26. We had a terrific line-up of speakers who provided our audience with plenty of useful information. Our emcee for the evening, Captain Tony Buffa, kept the program moving forward with just the right lively tone.

One highlight of the night was the pre-meeting session in the lobby where visitors mingled with a variety of vendors showcasing fishing gear, travel possibilities, safety updates, science exhibits, upcoming festivities, and much, much more. The "vendor vibe" was sparkling!

Over 80 new members signed up or renewed, as well. At the close of the meeting, we gave away a trove of prizes, including a kayak which was provided to us at discount. The winner was Mary Ellen Dodge of Constantia.

Thank you to all who attended!

For a complete video recording of the meeting, check out our Youtube channel:

<https://youtu.be/v8Ccn-hU7bU>

Mary Ellen poses with her new kayak and a rep from Gander Outdoors.



Matt Snyder (right) receives the Conservationist of the Year Award from Director Tony Buffa.

Congratulations!



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## Roadside Clean-up

On April 21st, OLA Director George Reck headed up a team of volunteers to clean up the highway on ramp to Route 81 off Bartell Road. As our slogan states: **"Oneida Lake Association. It's your lake. Keep it clean!"**

**We thank George and his crew for their great work!**

OLA Directors George Reck and Rip Colesante  
with OLA member Steve Drummond





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## Weed pull

As you know, water chestnuts are a highly invasive aquatic plant that plagues many waterways in Central New York. So far we have been quite successful in keeping the spread of this plant in check. But that takes work! OLA Director Patricia Cerro-Reehil is organizing three opportunities to participate in eradicating this species. Please join us in that effort. **It's fun!**

# WE NEED YOU!!!

PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING!!  
ASSIST THE ONEIDA LAKE ASSOCIATION (OLA)  
WITH ONE OR MORE **WATER CHESTNUT** PULLS!



*It's Your Lake—Help Us Preserve It!*

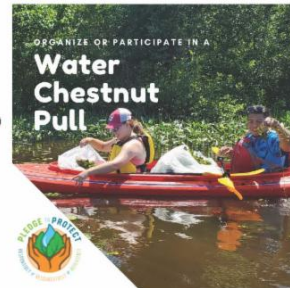


PHOTO CREDIT: SLELO PRISM <https://www.sleloinvasives.org/>

**(Must bring your own kayak/canoe & lifevest)**

- **June 30** – South Shore Oneida Lake Marina – **Arrive @ 8am**
- **July 6** – North Shore Shaw Road, West Monroe – **Arrive @ 8 am**
- **July 21** – Metzger's Pond, Constantia – **Arrive @ 8 am**

**IF INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT:**

**PATRICIA CERRO-REEHIL: [pcr@nywea.org](mailto:pcr@nywea.org)**

**CHECK US OUT!!! OLA STRONG!!!**



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## Lake Water Levels

As you read in our Spring issue of the *OLA Bulletin*, a truly important challenge facing our lake is maintaining the delicate balance of water levels throughout the seasons. Changes as little as a foot in either direction can cause serious problems for boaters and shoreline residents. (Please review the Spring *OLA Bulletin*).

The OLA has been an active participant in New York State's **Upstate Flood Mitigation Task Force**. Directors John Harmon and Rip Colesante have both made presentations to this Task Force, outlining the importance of keeping the concerns of Oneida Lake at the forefront of their deliberations. It is anticipated that there will be one more public meeting in June before the panel makes its final recommendations. You can visit the Canal Corporation's website for a complete video recording of the latest meetings.

October 2022 meeting  
<https://www.youtube.com/live/4DKWBSaNSCk?feature=share>

April 2023 meeting  
<https://youtu.be/mQTjTdTNw9g>

## Meeting with Senator John Mannion

Recently, OLA Directors John Harmon and Matt Snyder scheduled an in-person meeting with Senator John Mannion. In that meeting the directors outlined the mission of the OLA and the many positions that we take on issues that affect our lake. For example, we spoke extensively about the poaching incidents in Scriba Creek. Although Senator Mannion co-sponsored the ill-conceived bill that would have opened our lake to unrestricted harvest by Native Americans, we believe that he now has a better understanding of the importance of following the science-based regulations that protect our walleye population. We explained that our stance is in no way anti-Native American. In fact, Director Snyder pointed out that many of these regulations came about during over-harvest by people of European descent.

We also spoke about our interest in carefully regulating the water levels on Oneida Lake.

The OLA Board will continue to engage with Senator Mannion and other elected officials to maintain the high quality of lake life that we now enjoy.

## So Many "Firsts!"

As the lake warms, and as fishing seasons open up, many of us enjoy that very special moment of introducing kids to their first boat ride, their first sailing lesson, their first attempt at water skiing, and, of course, catching their first Oneida Lake fish.

If you have a special youngster who caught his or her first fish from our lake, don't forget to head to our website ([www.oneidalakeassociation.org](http://www.oneidalakeassociation.org)) and download the "My First Oneida Lake Fish" certificate.





## **OLA Scholarship in Memory of Eugene Kadlubowski**

You recently read about OLA's newly inaugurated scholarship program. We are pleased to announce that this program has expanded to include a \$1000 scholarship in memory of Eugene Kadlubowski. His daughter, Marcia Kadlubowski, is fully funding this scholarship to honor her father, who enjoyed Oneida Lake so very much. We thank Marcia for her enormous generosity.

We would like to share her memories of Gene:

Eugene F Kadlubowski was a resident of Constantia NY for over 50 years and an avid Oneida Lake fisherman for even longer than that. The lake was his muse. You could find Gene perched on a bucket while ice fishing with his son or grandson. Or he might be spotted in the back of his boat patiently untangling the massive knots his left-handed daughter made of her fishing line.

Often Gene would be out on the lake alone, enjoying the peace and quiet, trying a new lure, reeling in another walleye or perch.

In 2020, though 87 years old, Gene was in good health - still a full-time employee at Lockheed Martin! - and decided to have knee-replacement surgery. Unfortunately the recovery proved to be too much and he slowly began to fail. In his final days, Gene was not always lucid. He often didn't recognize his own children. But as he sat in bed, his hands were in constant motion as he relived the best days of his life. Like a game of charades, he appeared to be holding his fishing rod; cast out the line...reel it in...cast out the line...reel it in. Every now and then he would direct whichever family member sat next to him, "Pull up that anchor", then a minute later "Drop the anchor here."

Although it was difficult for the family to lose Gene, it gave them comfort that he suffered little and he spent his final days reliving his happy memories on the lake. It only seems fitting that a scholarship be set up in remembrance of him to help a student who can understand his love of the lake and hopefully get involved in a career that will protect it for future generations.

~Marcia Kadlubowski

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**The Mission of the Oneida Lake Association is to protect the fisheries, wildlife, and natural resources of Oneida Lake by promoting science-based conservation and management through education and outreach, in partnership with our members and local communities.**

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Pay your dues, and HELP PROTECT ONEIDA LAKE!!!!

\$8 annually

Recruit your neighbors and friends TO JOIN US!

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Donate

Memorials and contributions to our program are most welcome.

OLA is a 501(c)4 organization serving and protecting the Oneida Lake environment.



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[Website](#) [Who We Are](#) [What We Do](#) [How to Help](#)

OLA is a 501(c)(4) not-for-profit organization.

The Oneida Lake Association is a member of the New York State Conservation Council <http://www.nyscc.com/> and the New York State Federation of Lake Associations <http://www.nysfola.org/>.

Please remember to obey all laws, rules, regulations, and codes of ethics as they pertain to boating, fishing, hunting, and the management of Oneida Lake and its tributaries.

Report environmental violations.

**1-844-DEC-ECOS (1-844-332-3267)**

*Edited by John Harmon and Matt Snyder*

*Send us your notes and articles for use in future ENews!*

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