

**OTSEGO LAKE ASSOCIATION
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Saturday, August 20, 2011 at BFS Main Bldg.**

OLA President, Wayne Bunn, called the meeting to order and welcomed the membership.

Wayne introduced the Board of Directors and reminded everyone about our OLA Website: www.otsegolakeassociation.org Wayne also informed the group about the OLA Membership Campaign that is in progress and pointed out that membership applications and OLA merchandise were available at the meeting.

Lake Citizen Award for 2011 - Wayne announced that Burr and Carrie Southworth were recipients of the Lake Citizen award this year. He thanked them both for their years of service. Wayne noted Burr's work as charter and longtime director and creator of our web site and Carrie's service as OLA Treasurer.

Main Program

Biological Field Station's Volunteer Dive Team

“Who Are They And What Do They Do For Otsego Lake?”

Presented by Paul Lord – Dive Master

Paul gave a comprehensive presentation explaining the importance of the all-volunteer diver team in supporting the work of the Biological Field Station. (The BFS is part of SUNY Oneonta that focuses on local ecology and Otsego Lake by educating undergraduates, facilitating local research, educating the community, and performing public service.) The dive team works to support research, maintain the no wake zone buoy program, and keep the Cooperstown Village water intake free of zebra mussels. Paul stressed that the volunteers make a 12 month commitment and illustrated this with pictures of the volunteers diving year round in all conditions. He explained that the volunteers come from a wide variety of occupations and give many hours of their personal time with no compensation. Paul reminded us that despite being composed of volunteers, the program still has many expenses such as the purchase of dive equipment, diver training, diver medical insurance, and dive equipment maintenance. Paul explained that the Volunteer Dive Team is supported by three organizations: OLA (by underwriting direct costs and safety equipment), the Otsego County Soil and Water Conservation District (by funds management and procurement support), and SUNY Oneonta (by providing facilities, boats, fuel, compressors, and liability insurance). Paul noted that oxygen for nitrox gas is currently not funded and requires approximately \$350/year. Paul also noted the challenges faced in maintaining the dive team such as conflicting priorities and continuing expenses. Expenses include travel, equipment maintenance, and the divers' medical insurance. Paul responded to questions from the floor and was then thanked by Wayne for his excellent presentation. Wayne also reminded everyone that when the dive flag (a red flag with a diagonal white stripe) is out, boaters should stay 100 feet away.

Otsego Sailing Club

Presented by John Ford – Commodore, Otsego Sailing Club

John told the group that the sailing club is a not for profit organization with a fifty year history. At this time the club has 80 to 90 family memberships. The club has traditionally been interested in racing, but in the past 5 or 6 years, is also accommodating cruisers. John stressed that the club is all about safety, providing many classes for both adults and youth. The club sponsors weekly races on Saturdays and Sundays from May through October. A large regatta is planned September 17 and 18 with boats from all over the northeast participating. John also said that the club is growing with 35 boats in the water and 35 dry sailed. John indicated that an area that the club is developing is sponsoring safe boating classes. Twenty of the club's members have taken these

classes through the sheriff's department this year. The club hopes to sponsor in-house trainers and provide classes which would be open to the public. (John indicated that there is a strong probability that these classes will become mandatory for motorized boats in NY State.) John responded to questions from the floor and accepted Wayne's thanks for such an informative talk.

Open Discussion Period

Retirement and Board/Treasurer Vacancies- Wayne announced that Burr and Carrie have announced that they plan to retire from their respective positions. Wayne thanked BOD member, David Sanford, who volunteered to take over the treasurer's duties.

Suggestions for Fun Activities - Wayne asked if there was any interest in OLA sponsoring some fun/community building activities on or around the lake. Suggestions by Wayne and from the floor were: a boat parade, a "poker run", a picnic, and a boat show at Sam Smith's. It was suggested that we should take advantage of the opportunity when many boats are in the water such as the day of the Fourth of July Fireworks or the day of the Summer Solstice Sail. Wayne said that the BOD would take these ideas into advisement.

Wayne again thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting. He encouraged people to take advantage of tours of the BFS.