

“Our Glimmerglass”

A Newsletter from the Otsego Lake Association

Vol. 2 – Issue 2

www.otsegolakeassociation.org

Spring 2010

Board of Directors: Wayne Bunn (President), Burr Southworth, David Sanford, Paul Lord, Scottie Baker, Mickie Richtsmeier, Suzanne Kingsley, Carl Good, Martin Tillapaugh, Tom Horvath, and Mary Crouthamel. Directors represent the Towns of Middlefield, Otsego, Springfield and the Village of Cooperstown plus two At Large. Treasurer: Carrie Southworth

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

SATURDAY, JUNE 19, 2010 at 9:00 AM

(Coffee & Donuts at 8:30 AM)

Meeting Location

Town of Springfield Community Center

County Route 29A – Springfield Center – Just East of Fire Station

Special Program

“Steep Slope Development Around Otsego Lake – Different Perspectives”

Speakers

Paul Lord – Town of Otsego Planning Board

Jon McManus – McManus Engineering Group

_____ – Developer/Landowner

Ronald Higgins – Clark Estates Forester

Matt Albright – Biological Field Station

Panel Discussion & Questions From Audience

Ellen Pope - Otsego 2000

Erik Miller - Otsego County Conservation Association

Peter Hujik - Otsego Land Trust

Harry Levine - Advocates for Springfield

Scott Fickbohm - Soil & Water Conservation District

Other Agenda Items

Election of President & 4 Directors - Announcements - Door Prizes

Members & Non-Members Are Welcome To Attend

For more information, please contact OLA President Wayne Bunn by telephone at 518-542-6630 or by e-mail at otsegolakeassoc@hotmail.com.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As the President of the Otsego Lake Association (OLA), I would like to encourage all of you to **either renew your membership in OLA (if you have not already done so) or join us for the first time.** Please use the Application below. We are a very active group of like minded citizens, both lakeside property owners and those interested in the lake, who are very concerned about the present and future health and condition of Otsego Lake. Our basic mission is to implement "A Plan for the Management of the Otsego Lake Watershed" which was initially adopted in 1998 by the four municipalities that surround Otsego Lake – namely, the Towns of Otsego, Springfield, and Middlefield and the Village of Cooperstown. The Plan's major goals include: (1) ensuring the quality of drinking water drawn from the lake, (2) preserving the lake's natural beauty and its viability as a tourist attraction, (3) protecting the lake's fishery, (4) ensuring the safety of recreational users of the lake, and (5) preserving the lake as a recreational facility. Much has been accomplished since OLA was founded in 2002 and even more will be accomplished in the future but we need your help and cooperation.

We are primarily concerned with educating the general public and the municipalities surrounding the lake about the various issues that affect Otsego Lake. These issues include sediment and nutrient loadings (mud, road salt, phosphorous, wastewater, etc.) being discharged into the lake, non-native invasive plant and animal species (zebra mussels, milfoil, water chestnut, etc.), no-wake zones (boat speeds less than 5 miles per hour within 200 feet of the shoreline), and buffer strips along the shoreline (to reduce erosion). OLA is a 100% volunteer organization.

You can help Otsego Lake by joining OLA, coming to our general membership meetings (see dates elsewhere in this Newsletter), and volunteering to help with our various projects. We even have some fun activities planned so you can meet your friends and neighbors. I look forward to meeting you this summer.

K. Wayne Bunn, OLA President

If you are not a current member of OLA, please consider joining or renewing now.

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - OTSEGO LAKE ASSOCIATION - 2010

Please complete this application whether you are renewing or joining for the first time.

NAME: _____ **Date:** _____

PREFERRED MAILING ADDRESS: _____ **E-Mail Address:** _____
(Only Used For OLA Announcements)

(City/Town) (State) (Zip)

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES (Check One): ___ Renewal ___ New Member
___ Individual \$25.00 ___ Couple/Family \$35.00 ___ Business \$50.00
___ Annual Endowment \$75.00 and Up ___ Additional Donation \$ _____

Please make your check payable to Otsego Lake Association and mail to:
Carrie Southworth, OLA Treas., P.O. Box 13, Springfield Center, NY 13468

OTSEGO LAKE ASSOCIATION – “HELPING TO PRESERVE A LOCAL TREASURE”
Volunteer Dive Team – Biological Field Station

Many OLA members and the Otsego Lake community may not know that a Volunteer Dive Team from the Biological Field Station (BFS) even exists or what they do for Otsego Lake. The team was formed in 1998 when Master Diver Dale Webster made a request to become involved with the BFS's research projects through diving. Since that time, the team has grown to include about 12 divers who volunteer their time throughout the year including ice dives in the winter to maintain their proficiency. During the early spring and late fall, the team sets out and retrieves some 20 No Wake Zone buoys from around the lake. During the summer months, the team assists the BFS with their on-going research projects and also assists the Village of Cooperstown in cleaning out (“pigging”) any zebra mussels inside the Village’s water intake line which runs under Otsego Lake and the Susquehanna River. The dive team also stands by on site as an emergency crew for the annual Goodyear Lake Polar Bear Jump in February. In addition, the team is available to assist the local fire departments in water rescue emergencies.

The dive team consists of highly trained, experienced, dedicated, and hard working members from all walks of life. The dive team has two Dive Masters (Master Divers with dive team leadership training), several Master Divers (requires several diving specialties), and Open Water Divers. The Master Divers all have advance and rescue training and are trained in at least five specialty diving areas. The Master Divers are all ice, deep, and night trained plus their other specialties include a mix of search & recovery diving, drift diving, multilevel diving, altitude diving, dry suit diving, wreck diving, boat diving, buoyancy diving, and equipment specialist. The divers purchase and maintain their own equipment which includes expensive diving vests and air tank, weight belts, wet or dry suit, mask, fins, gloves, and assorted other safety equipment.

Current members of the dive team include Paul Lord (Instructor and Dive Master), Jim Vogler (Dive Master), Dale Webster (Master Diver), Brian Benjamin (Master Diver), Lee Ferrara (Master Diver), Ed Lentz (Rescue Diver), Bjorn Ehlertson (Rescue Diver), Amanda Barber (Rescue Diver), Cyndi Benjamin (Open Water Diver/Tender), and Antonio Carrasquillo (Open Water Diver/Tender).

The dive team was awarded the Otsego Lake Association's Lake Citizen Award in 2009 which is given each year to an individual or organization that works to protect and preserve Otsego Lake. Congratulations!!

Next time you see the 40 foot BFS barge on the lake with the dive team on board, toot your horn, wave, and thank them for the great job that they do for Otsego Lake. However, please stay at least 100 feet away from the barge since the divers may be underwater performing their work. The "divers in the water" flag is a red square flag with a white diagonal strip.

Otsego Land Trust

The Otsego Lake Association (OLA) would like to introduce our members to the Otsego Land Trust (OLT) if you are not already familiar with the organization. You may recall that OLT Executive Director Peter Hujik gave a brief presentation about OLT at the OLA informational meeting in August of 2008. Following are some frequently asked questions about OLT that Peter provided for this Newsletter.

Who Is Otsego Land Trust?

Otsego Land Trust, founded in 1988, is a private, non-profit organization, established under the 501(c)3 rules of the IRS and governed by an independent Board of Directors. Our mission is to protect the open, expansive landscapes that define the Otsego region

by securing lands and waters of significant scenic, historic, and ecological value, including forests and farmlands. We take a collaborative, solutions-oriented approach to our conservation mission, working to identify the vision of conservation-minded landowners, along with relevant financial incentives. Otsego Land Trust is professionally staffed and has to date worked with over 50 landowners to protect almost 6,000 acres in the Upper Susquehanna River watershed.

How Does Otsego Land Trust Protect Land?

Otsego Land Trust collaborates with landowners using a variety of innovative and flexible land protection tools. Conservation easements are currently the most frequently used method. Otsego Land Trust also collaborates with the State of New York and other organizations to purchase development rights (PDR) from farmers who would like to convert some of their land value to cash, yet retain ownership of their farm and continue operating it. Otsego Land Trust may protect land through land purchases, bargain sales, and outright land donations, including bequests.

What Is A Conservation Easement?

A conservation easement is a voluntary, legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust that permanently protects the natural character of the property by setting clear limits on the uses of the land in order to retain its conservation values. Conservation values refer to the natural, agricultural, forestry, recreational, scenic, and historical attributes of the property. Most simply, a conservation easement may designate natural areas for special protection and limit subdivision or the number of additional structures that can be built. Conservation easements are flexible and can be tailored to meet the specific needs and desires of each individual landowner as long as the basic criteria for permanently protecting conservation values is met.

Public access is not a requirement of conservation easements, and conservation easements do not prevent landowners from selling their protected property. The land trust assumes the long term stewardship responsibility of monitoring and enforcing the terms of the easement.

What Are The Benefits Of Working With Otsego Land Trust?

Many landowners are concerned with what future landowners may do to the property they treasure. Crafting a conservation easement ensures that a cherished property will remain a legacy for generations to come. Reducing subdivision and fragmentation helps maintain the rural character of our area and sustains clean watersheds and wildlife habitat. Other benefits to the community at large include supporting rural practices such as farming and forestry, and protecting important rural historic and cultural sites. Conserving open space helps protect the quality of life we enjoy in the Otsego region. Many reports have shown that conserving open space in communities attracts jobs, encourages tourism, and enhances property values.

In addition, there may be income and property tax benefits for donating a conservation easement, donating land, or selling property below market value through a bargain sale. If the donation benefits the public by permanently protecting important conservation resources and meets other federal tax code requirements, it can qualify as a tax-deductible charitable donation. When passing land on to the next generation, limiting

the development potential of land may also reduce estate taxes. The amount and type of tax benefits depends on a variety of factors, including the legal tool used to protect the land, the value of the donation, and the donor's income level.

Otsego Land Trust works with you every step of the way from helping you develop your vision to the details of identifying conservation values. You should always consult with a financial advisor and/or an attorney to fully understand the tax implications.

How Can I Help?

Your support is very important to Otsego Land Trust. If you are a landowner and interested in protecting your property, we are here to help you make that dream a reality. You can help us by introducing those landowners who may be interested in protecting their land to Otsego Land Trust. Also, contact us for volunteer opportunities, such as participating at outreach events. Most important, your financial support is vital to successful, sustainable land protection. Working with easement donors, the perpetual stewardship of easements, purchasing development rights, and all the other conservation activities of Otsego Land Trust require a professional staff and considerable expense that is made possible by active and enthusiastic conservation-minded people like you!

For more information, contact us at (607) 547-2366 or info@otsegolandtrust.org or stop by our office in Cooperstown on Pioneer Alley.

Reminder: Personal Watercraft Operator Rules

Effective January 1, 2009, no one under the age of 14 is allowed to operate a Personal Watercraft (PWC). Personal watercraft are sometimes referred to "jet skis". Previously, youths between the ages of 10 and 13 could operate a personal watercraft if they obtained a boating safety certificate and were accompanied by an adult. This new tougher law only affects the operation of personal watercraft. Anyone over the age of 10 that holds a boating safety certificate can still operate a motor boat.

Zebra Mussel Control Devices Available Locally

Zebra mussel control devices for lakeside property owners' water intake lines and systems are available locally at Bruce Hall Corporation, Haggerty Ace Hardware, and M.A.R.K. Lake Services. The representatives at each of these establishments can advise you on the best solution for your particular water system. It is better to prevent the zebra mussels from entering your water system in the first place rather than trying to remove them later.

Chuck Hascup Purchases M.A.R.K. Lake Services

Chuck Hascup, owner of Hascup Plumbing, has purchased M.A.R.K. Lake Services from previous owner Mark Capozucco. Both Chuck and Mark provided OLA with some very useful information on the zebra mussels at the OLA informational meeting in August 2009. Many of our members already use Chuck and/or Mark for their camp plumbing and/or lake facilities so we are providing this information as a service to our members. The following is a letter dated January 2010 that Chuck provided for this Newsletter.



M.A.R.K Lake Services
Chuck Hascup, Owner-Operator
113 GULF RD
HARTWICK NY 13348

Email: hascupplumbing@stny.rr.com ** Telephone: (607) 293-6426

docks* *moorings* *lifts* *floats* *water lines* *zebra mussel filtration

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to the members of the Otsego Lake Association. My name is Chuck Hascup and I am the Owner-Operator of Hascup Plumbing, and recently became Owner-Operator of MARK Lake Services. Many of you are already regular plumbing customers, and we are acquainted. However, many of you may not be aware that I have recently purchased MARK Lake Services from Mark Capozucco.

I had the pleasure of doing extensive work with Mark over the 2009 year, and was honored to take over his business when he moved on to other endeavors. I would like everyone who was a past customer of Mark's to know that I intend to do everything in my power to continue to provide you with the quality of service you have come to expect.

I look forward to providing each of you with services ranging from plumbing, docks, moorings, boat lifts, floats, water lines, zebra mussel filtration, or any other project that I can. Please call or email me with any work you need done, and I will do my best to accommodate your specific needs.

I thank each of you, in advance, for the opportunity to work for you.

Chuck Hascup

Annual Reminder: Don't "P" In The Lake

When you purchase lawn fertilizer and/or dishwasher detergent for your camp or lakeside home, please think about Otsego Lake and buy phosphorus free fertilizer and dishwasher detergent sold in local garden

supply stores, super markets, and health stores. Phosphorus (chemical symbol “P”) is a huge food source or nutrient for the algae and weeds in the lake and OLA encourages everyone to do their part to reduce the amount of phosphorus that ultimately may end up in the lake. You can still have a beautiful lawn by using phosphorus free fertilizer or simply not using fertilizer at all. You can also have clean dishes by using phosphorus free dish washer detergent.

OCCA’s “Wally” Will Benefit Walleye Stocking In Otsego Lake

In 2009, the Otsego County Conservation Association (OCCA) dedicated \$6,000 in support of the Biological Field Station’s management plan for stocking walleye in Otsego Lake. Walleye stocking has proven to be an effective means of controlling the alewife, an invasive aquatic species which threatens the ecological balance of Otsego Lake. To help offset costs, and to raise public awareness of the program, OCCA is introducing “Wally” the walleye. “Wally” is a 10 inch long stuffed fish with a plush washable surface and can be purchased through OCCA at a cost of \$20 each, the proceeds of which will go directly toward walleye stocking of Otsego Lake. To order “Wally”, contact OCCA via e-mail at admin@occainfo.org or call (607) 547-4488. During the summer of 2009, the BFS released a total of 40,000 walleye fingerlings into the lake at several locations. The program is schedule to continue in 2010.

New Life Jacket Law In Effect

A new law in New York State now requires all boaters on recreational watercraft less than 21 feet in length (including motorboats, canoes, kayaks, rowboats, and sailboats) to wear a securely fastened, U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device (PFD) of the proper size from November 1st to May 1st while on New York State waters. New York State law already required PFDs for all children younger than 12 years old on boats less than 65 feet - with life jackets on board for all others. They must also be worn by anyone in tow, including water skiers and tubers, and by all riders on personal watercraft. It is reported by New York State that immersion in water colder than 40 degrees Fahrenheit can lead to hypothermia and passing out within 15 minutes.

Search & Shop Websites To Raise Money For Otsego Lake Assoc.

Thanks to the efforts of OLA Director Carl Good, the Otsego Lake Association is now registered with **goodsearch.com** and **goodshop.com** which will enable OLA to receive \$0.01 each time that you search and to receive a percent of the purchase price when you buy something through those websites - powered by Yahoo! These two websites currently have over 76,000 non-profits registered with 100 joining each day. Please consider OLA and use these websites whenever you need to search or buy something.

OLA Merchandise For Sale

If you are looking for some gift ideas, please consider buying OLA's ever popular but inexpensive, high quality and stylish short sleeve tee shirts (lake map on the back), long sleeve denim shirts, caps, and tote bags which proudly show your support of Otsego Lake and it helps OLA to raise money. We also have a 175 page lakescaping book to help you design your own buffer strip. Call Scottie Baker at (607) 547-5356 to order.

OLA Membership Renewal

A Membership Application is included on page 2 of this Newsletter. We encourage all present OLA members to renew their membership and for all non-members to join.

Upcoming 2010 Dates To Keep In Mind

Springfield 4th of July Parade: Monday, July 5th at 11:00 AM, Springfield Center (Please join us in marching with OLA's entry - line up at south end of Smith Road)

Otsego Lake Festival: Saturday, July 10th at Cooperstown Lakefront Park at 11:00 AM

OLA Informational Meeting* - Saturday, August 21st at 9:00 AM (Coffee at 8:30 AM)

(Topic: Natural Gas Drilling in Otsego Lake Watershed)

* Separate announcement will be sent.

OTSEGO LAKE ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 13

Springfield Center, NY 13468

OLA Annual Membership Meeting – Saturday June 19th – Details Inside

OLA 2010 Membership Application Inside

