



“Our Glimmerglass”

Otsego Lake Association Newsletter

P.O. Box 13, Springfield Center, NY 13468

“Helping To Preserve a Local Treasure”

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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 Coopers-town plus two At Large. Treasurer: David Sanford

The next Board of Directors meeting will be February 4 at the Village Board Meeting room. Please consider yourself invited to attend.

Buffer Strip News

Following the success of the Buffer Strip at the Lake Front Park, some other organizations have asked for our help to construct buffer strips, namely at Public Landing (Town of Springfield) and The Fenimore Art Gallery (The New York State Historical Association).

Springfield Public Landing Buffer Strip

Last spring, Lynn Marsh, a landscape designer, along with Mickie Richtsmeier and Suzanne Kingsley representing the Lake and Valley Garden Club met with Bill Elsey, Springfield Town Supervisor, Scott Fickbohm, District Manager of Otsego Soil and Water Conservation District, Paul Lord, representing OLA, a DEC representative and Matt Albright, Assistant to the director of the Otsego Biological Field Station.

Mickie and Suzanne are on the LVGC buffer strip committee and along with Lynn comprise the Buffer Strip Design and Planning Committee. All three are members of OLA. The scope of the project was discussed and it was agreed that the committee would come back to the Town with a plan for approval before any work was to begin.

Mickie and Suzanne, residents of Springfield, presented the plan twice to the Town of Springfield Board and it was approved. The town would provide preparatory work such as minor excavation, bringing in some suitable soil and some interesting boulders. Work would commence in the fall. But everything was put on hold due to a hurricane and endless rains. The town crews have to devote their energies to more pressing concerns.

New York State Historical Association Buffer Strip

The third Buffer Strip Garden along Lake Otsego is in the early planning stages. Suzanne Kingsley and Joe Siracusa, VP of Operations at NYSHA, walked the shoreline at Fenimore House to assess the topography of the site and to designate areas for possible Buffer Strip Garden planting.

Budget and time constraints will make this Buffer Strip a phased project with a target start date in the Spring of 2012 for phase I. The Lake and Valley Garden Club and Otsego Lake Association will both be involved in the planning and execution of this project and will also be helping defray the cost of the project by donating funds and plant material. As much as possible, the Buffer Strip will use plantings that are native and non invasive.

County Highway 31

According to Kate Gray, (A History of Springfield) the road down the east side of Otsego Lake was built by public subscription in 1795. I remember when it consisted of two dirt tracks with a strip of grass in between. There was a narrow steel bridge by Pathfinder. There was no winter maintenance. When the road was paved after the war (World War 2, that is) that bridge was replaced. It was replaced again not many years ago. The county drove pilings to shore up another bridge. Outside of that the road lasted until Irene and Lee happened by.



1. Nothing like this has happened in the last 216 years.
2. When will the county fix it?
3. How will the county fix it?
4. Who will clean up the mess?

Photo by Paul Donnelly

President's Message

First of all, I would like to say "WELCOME" and "THANK YOU" to all the new members of the Otsego Lake Association who joined for the first time as a result of our recent membership campaign led by OLA member Jeff Reynolds. Jeff did a wonderful job putting on paper what we all feel and love about Otsego Lake. Thanks Jeff! I would also like to thank everyone who renewed their membership in OLA. We look forward to your participation in the coming months.

For those members who are new to OLA, we are primarily a group of full time local and part time summer residents helping to protect and preserve Otsego Lake – truly a local treasure! Our two general membership meetings each summer usually focus on Otsego Lake related issues in keeping with our mission to implement "A Plan for the Management of the Otsego Lake Watershed", a document originally prepared in 1998 by the former Otsego Lake Watershed Council (comprised of representatives from the Towns of Otsego, Springfield, Middlefield, and the Village of Cooperstown) and updated in 2007 by the Otsego County Water Quality Coordinating Committee. A copy of this document is posted on the OLA website (see address above).

Please feel free to contact me (Wayne Bunn) if you have any questions or need additional information. My e-mail address is kwbe@hotmail.com and my cell phone is (518) 542-6630. I always welcome your comments and suggestions. Thank you.

A plea for help! OLA is in desperate need of a new Webmaster. The one we have is getting old and his work is not up to snuff. I can say that because I am it. A replacement is the only answer. Signed: Burr Southworth. Contact Wayne Bunn if interested.