

# Our Readers' Opinions

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Cooperstown Crier

Thanks to all who made day special

The Otsego Lake Association's board of directors appreciates the many people and organizations who contributed to the success of our recent annual meeting on Saturday, Aug. 17.

The Clark Foundation generously provided use of the venue, historic Camp Minnetoska (a former Girl Scout Camp), which was a big draw. We lucked out with good weather and early morning timing (allowing people to enjoy the rest of their day on the lake).

The Cooperstown Graduate Program's (CGP) contributions were outstanding. Professor Cindy Falk produced a clever arrangement of images of early camps juxtaposed against contemporary views recently shot by noted photographer Richard Duncan. Professor Will Walker shared an overview of his oral history program, including stories from local residents about memories of past lake experiences.

The New York State Historical Association (NYSHA) also played an overarching role in making the event special. The NYSHA library staff generously allowed access to their files. Freelance Curator Sue Friedlander found a treasure trove in NYSHA's special collections to bring to life her research on overnight children's camps on Lake Otsego. The large photographic panels (also shot by Richard Duncan) from the exhibit, "Lake Otsego, Past & Present" (which originated from NYSHA and generously loaned to OLA from the Otesaga Resort Hotel), added a special touch and created instant ambiance.

Dr. Paul Lord and Joseph Zarzynski from the SUCO/Biological Field Station's Volunteer Dive Team shared video footage of recent wrecks found at the bottom of Lake Otsego and displayed diving equipment and maps.

The meeting was also supported by local businesses and individuals, who contributed refreshments (Chobani Yogurt, Price Chopper, Stagecoach Coffee) and to the silent auction (Cooperstown Gift Bags, Cooperstown Wine & Spirits, Doubleday Cafe, Firehouse Market Gourmet, Ann Kiehm, David Kiehm, Lake Classic Outfitters/Blue Mingo Grill, Mount Wellington Market, Natura Productions/Scottie Baker, Otesaga Resort Hotel, Otsego Golf Club & Joseph Zarzynski.)

OCCA, Otsego County Conservation Association, provided assistance with logistics.

As an all volunteer organization, OLA depends on a dedicated and hard-working board of directors who roll up their shirtsleeves to get things done. Joining us on the annual meeting committee were OLA board members Mickie Richtsmeier, Carolyn Mook and Paul Lord. Board

members Scottie Baker, Mary Crouthamel, Carl Good and David Sanford worked hard both before and during the event.

Saturday's turnout (approximately 100 people) proved to the OLA board that there is substantial local interest in hearing more about Otsego Lake history. There were many suggestions that OLA plan future meetings to focus on specific locations around and activities associated with the lake (such as the two hotels at 5 Mile Point and the mail steamboat dock at the north end, now Otsego Golf Course). OLA would be very supportive of continued partnerships with other community organizations to encourage collecting, preserving and sharing the rich local history of beautiful Lake Otsego.

Wayne Bunn, Immediate Past President and Pati Grady, Annual Meeting Chairwoman of the Otsego Lake Association