



Our Glimmerglass

Newsletter of the Otsego Lake Association

Finally, A Useable Otsego Lake Boatwash

We need a boat wash facility on or near Otsego Lake to protect the Lake and to comply with New York State Law. The law in New York State, since late 2014, is that no boat or boat trailer may drive on New York State public roadways if it has not been cleaned to prevent the transportation of organisms from one waterbody to another. This is to thwart the introduction of additional aquatic invasive species into our lakes. OLA has been working with other green organizations and the Village of Cooperstown to install a permanent boat wash station in Lake Front Park in Cooperstown. The Village has consented to construction, but has not provided funding. OLA has pledged \$8,500 for the boat wash, and the Otsego County Conservation Association has committed to \$7,500. Talks continue with others to ensure the estimated \$23,000 necessary to install the wash station is available by April when construction is expected to begin. We are asking OLA members to contribute what they can to install this protective system on our lakeshore.

The boat wash facility to be constructed takes advantage of the high pressure, high temperature system provided the Village by the Clark Foundation more than 10 years ago. It will be located alongside the restrooms in Lake Front Park and connect to the Village's water system and waste water treatment system through pipes already in the restrooms. Jon McManus has graciously provided engineering services on this project. These factors have kept the cost of this boat wash facility down to an estimated \$23,000 which contrasts starkly with the higher costs of similar systems being installed elsewhere. Canadarago Lake is looking to use a portable system, similar to those used in the Adirondacks, on their boat launch. That system will cost \$29,000 with a maintenance cost of at least \$3,500 per year. Our system's maintenance costs should be less than \$400 per year.



Otsego Lake Association sponsored the 2nd annual fourth of July boat parade this summer. Photo by Scottie Baker.

While we do know what the boat transport law is intended to achieve, we don't know exactly how it will be implemented. At the end of the last night of the 2014 legislative session, our New York State legislators passed and sent to the governor a bill prohibiting the transport, over NYS roads, of boats not cleaned to prevent moving organisms from one waterbody to another. The bill was signed in autumn 2014 by Governor Cuomo. The law leaves it up to the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the governor to design and implement regulations to enforce the law. Since this time last year, NYSDEC rulemaking to specify implementing regulations has been ongoing. As of 16 October 2015, the draft regulations are undergoing review in the Governor's office. We will let you know as soon as those draft regulations are made public so that we can all review them and offer comments.

- Paul H. Lord

Otsego Lake Buoys

Four divers and five tenders, dealing with balky boats, ice, snow, and slush blowing across our boat bows, retrieved all of our Otsego Lake no-wake zone buoys this October, except for those at Springfield Landing and Lakefront which will be retrieved the week prior to Christmas Eve. Two of the tenders were OLA directors Wayne Bunn and Tim Pokorny. Others participating were Pat and Mike McCormack, Bjorn Eirlertsen, Lee Ferrara, and Dale Webster. No one was bored with the challenge of retrieving buoys in the weather presented. The divers & tenders appreciated the pizza and pop provided by OLA. No significant damage was noted on the no-wake zone buoys which are now in our BFS Thayer Boat House buoy locker.

- Paul H. Lord



Message from the President

Dear Friends of the Otsego Lake Association:

After the busy summer season, Fall is usually a quiet time for OLA....not so this year! We are continuing to work hard on many projects, with our most pressing goal being to bring a permanent Boat Wash to the Village of Cooperstown. This will accomplish much in preventing the introduction of invasive species to Otsego Lake and will provide a convenient, accessible site for boaters to comply with the recently enacted New York State boat wash regulations (see Paul Lord's article on page 1).

After much hard work, the groundwork has been laid. Permission has been obtained from the Village Board, a site plan has been generated, and bids are being solicited for a boat wash at the Cooperstown lakefront. This is an expensive project that will require a large financial commitment on our part and support from our like-minded organizations as well. Our goal is to see this project completed in time for next year's boating season. We are proud that OLA has taken the leadership role in this project and are committed to seeing it through to completion!



OLA 2015 annual meeting at the Otsego Golf Club on the north end of the lake. Photo by Timothy Pokorny.

As always, it is your confidence in our good works and generosity that enables us to move forward. We welcome your donations to support this important

boat wash effort whether they be in merchandise sales, new memberships, or tax deductible contributions sent to our post office box. Most importantly, I urge you to spread the word and encourage you to educate others about the significance of these efforts in preventing the contamination of our waters and their importance in preserving our most precious natural resource, Otsego Lake. Thank you for your support and for your commitment to preserve and protect "our Glimmerglass".

Warm regards, Mickie Richtsmeier



OLA is a proud sponsor of the November 7 screening of *Rara Avis: John James Audubon and the Birds of America*.

Join Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society at noon at the Fenimore Art Museum patio for a free bird walk before the film!

OTSEGO LAKE ASSOCIATION

FOUNDED 2002

OUR MISSION is to support and further the implementation of the "Plan for the Management of the Otsego Lake Watershed".

OUR MEMBERSHIP is open to any individual concerned with the health of Otsego Lake. Our membership consists of year-round residents, seasonal residents and local businesses.

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Harmful Algal Blooms in Otsego County

I have received several inquiries over the last part of the summer regarding possible harmful algal blooms in our area. The widespread purple bloom on our neighbor Canadarago Lake was the one that received the most attention from the area residents. It was caused by a filamentous cyanobacterium (= blue-green alga) *Planktothrix rubescens*. This species is very similar to *Planktothrix agardhii*, which was responsible for the 2014 algal bloom at Gilbert Lake State Park and in other lakes and ponds in central NY this summer. The only notable difference between the two is that *P. rubescens* produces red pigment (phycoerythrin) in addition to the regular green pigments (chlorophyll); size and shape of the cells and filaments are otherwise virtually identical. Published research on *P. rubescens* collectively suggest that it tends to flourish in the middle of the water column during the

growth season, and certain environmental conditions may bring them up higher in the water column, in which case it is recognized as a bloom.

Paul Lord first alerted me of the Canadarago bloom on August 25, 2015 and brought me a sample in a bottle. It is still sitting in my office and actively growing, despite the very limited aeration in the narrow-necked bottle (picture from Oct. 7, 2015). I have not stirred the sample or added any nutrients. The sample in the bottle is mimicking what



8-25-2015 sample of the Canadarago Lake algal bloom, collected by Paul Lord, kept in the original bottle with no nutrient addition or mixing for over one month. Photo taken on 10-7-2015 by Kiyoko Yokota.

happens in the middle and lower portion of a eutrophic (nutrient-rich) lake; there is sufficient nutrient to sustain the algal population in the water for a long time, and apparently the alga is not adversely affected by limited gas exchange with air or sunlight. Even in Otsego Lake we have had localized bloom of *P. agardhii* in the past which manifested as fine green flakes. Otsego Lake, however, is not as eutrophic as Canadarago Lake, and the dilution effect keeps these blooms localized and to the level where we do not have to close beaches and issue water usage advisories. It however is important that we try to keep our lake in this condition by monitoring water quality continuously and minimizing nutrient input into the lake.



Photomicrograph of *Planktothrix rubescens* (thinner purple filaments) along with a filamentous green alga (*Zygnema* sp.) for color comparison. The purple filaments were 5-7 microns wide. Photo by Kiyoko Yokota

In addition to the watershed-level management plan, every citizen can help by adopting “lakescaping” (landscaping techniques that help reduce nutrient runoff – many examples if you search the word online), properly maintaining septic systems, and generally paying attention to what goes down your drain pipe, whether it is hooked up to a sewer or septic system. For example, I only recently learned that latex paint, even when diluted with water as when you rinse off your paint brushes in a sink, is not good for your septic system. USEPA has a nice brochure on this topic at http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/septic/upload/SepticSmartLongHomeownerGuide_English508.pdf (or Google “EPA septic do your part”). We all need to do our part to keep Otsego Lake beautiful!

- Kiyoko Yokota (OLA Technical Advisor and SUNY Oneonta Biological Field Station researcher)

Have a 'VESTED' Interest in OLA!

Proceeds from OLA merchandise help to support our programs, including funding of the Lakefront Boat Wash.

Ward off those chills with a stylish OLA vest and support our efforts to protect Otsego Lake!

See Membership insert page for complete product list and ordering information.





OTSEGO LAKE ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 13
SPRINGFIELD CENTER, NY 13468
www.otsegolakeassociation.org

Fall Bird Migration Report

Mickie got in touch yesterday about a fall article and the timing was perfect! You see, I have gotten out there recently, looking for waterfowl and songbirds and had just hit the jackpot. In the hills slightly northwest of the lake, white-throated sparrows, ruby- and golden-crowned kinglets, and blue-headed vireos were easily spotted. I can't imagine how many more of these hungry migrants were busily feeding around the lake during our rainy days, in preparation for a long flight.

As I approached Clarke Pond there was a virtual cloud of gulls over the golf course and after seeing mallards, wood ducks and a kingfisher at the pond, I wandered towards the clubhouse. The first fairway was white with gulls! Something large was on the ground by the first sharp curve: immature bald eagle. Scanning across the area yielded two more balds on the fairway, and shortly after another flew into the white pine nearby. Another scan upwards revealed one more bald for a total of five birds. All were immature, of varying colorations (ages) with some interaction evident but no aggression. I visited the area today and there were three immatures in a tree at the pond outlet, with tons of geese and gulls on the water below. "Our" two immatures are still in the area, so migrating birds are visiting for sure.

On Public Landing Road, I watched a downy woodpecker peck at a gall on a mustard stalk for a protein rich meal. I am told by a very reliable source that loons are on the lake. We are indeed fortunate. - Becky Gretton



Top: Ruby-crowned kinglet - Photo CC Cheepshot; Bottom: Golden-crowned kinglet Photo: CC Dan Pancamo.



“Helping to Protect a Local Treasure”
Hurry! Support OLA Now!

Photo by Natúra Productions

www.otsegolakeassociation.org

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We Appreciate Your Support!

Please complete the form below and mail along with your contribution to:
Otsego Lake Association
PO Box 13
Springfield Center, NY 13468.

All donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

SUPPORT YOUR OTSEGO LAKE ASSOCIATION

We have vital projects that need your support:

BOAT WASH DONATION \$ _____

UNDESIGNATED DONATION \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

I would be interested in volunteering by (check all that apply):

Serving on a Committee Representing OLA at Community Events
 Working on the Board of Directors Working with the Volunteer Dive Team

If you missed the spring membership renewal, here is another opportunity to join!

Annual Membership Dues (Check One): Renewal New Member

Individual (\$25) Family (\$35) Business (\$50)

Name: _____ Email Address: _____

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OLA MERCHANDISE

HAVE A 'VESTED' INTEREST IN OLA!

NEW! Soft, cozy, four season fleece vests made especially for OLA by Eddie Bauer and Tradewinds (our merchandise provider).

TAKING ORDERS NOW:

12oz. 100% poly fleece
zippered pockets with
embroidered OLA logo:
mens S-2XL River Blue
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Price: \$50.00

Proceeds from each vest sold will go toward funding the Lakefront

*Boat Wash. **Ward off those chills with a stylish OLA vest and support our efforts to protect Otsego Lake!***



IT'S IN THE BAG!

CARRY IT ALL IN OUR HANDY TOTE - Sturdy canvas, gusseted bottom, embroidered OLA logo on front, Otsego Lake map on the back.

Color: natural
Size: 17" X 20"
Price: \$18.00



WHERE CAN I BUY THE T-SHIRT WITH THE OTSEGO LAKE MAP ON THE BACK?

FROM YOUR OTSEGO LAKE ASSOCIATION!

Adult sizes : S- 2XL

Adult colors: medium blue, butter yellow, sage green, sable brown, sand dune.

Children's sizes: S-L

Children's colors: lake blue, lime green

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LONG SLEEVE, BUTTON FRONT, SOFT, DENIM SHIRTS with OLA embroidered logo.

Color: light blue wash
Price: \$35.00



TOP IT OFF!

WITH OUR 3 SEASON OLA WASHED TWILL CAP

Embroidered logo, khaki price: \$18.00



REMEMBER, Christmas is coming soon, so get your shirts, caps and bags, and order your vests while

supporting OLA!! To place an order, contact: Scottie Baker, (607) 547 5356, npscottieb@gmail.com.