



Volume 2021-Issue 1
Spring 2021

Our Glimmerglass

Newsletter of the Otsego Lake Association

We Love Our Lake

*"I DO NOT BELIEVE
THERE IS A FAIRER OR
MORE ATTRACTIVE SPOT
ANYWHERE IN WHICH TO
LIVE THAN THE CLASSIC AND
ROMANTIC SHORES OF LAKE
OTSEGO"*

Edward Clark 1873



Image Credits

Top Row: Wayne Bunn, Paul H. Lord

Center Row: Peter Regan, Bob Murdock Jr.

Bottom Row: Micky Richtsmeier, Peter Regan

*"WHEN THE WIND DROPS
AND THE WATER IS STILL, THE
LAKE IS A PERFECT MIRROR...
THE GLIMMERGLASS"*

Henry S.F.Cooper Jr.



PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

We are all happy to be finally coming out of the over year-long Covid-19 pandemic. That crisis changed almost everything in our lives and resulted in damages to society beyond those medical.

One of the few things that remained fairly normal was our access and use of Otsego Lake. Some lakeside businesses reported record business. In the height of the pandemic individuals and families could swim, fish, and boat safely. This summer promises to be even better and we all look forward enjoying all the lake offers.

With the enjoyment comes a responsibility to safeguard the lake's beauty. One way to do that is by maintain your membership in the Otsego Lake Association and become active in it. The best way to learn more about the lake and the OLA is to attend our annual meeting. This year it will again be virtual. While restrictions have greatly eased, getting a venue and planning the meeting is a months-long process. The meeting will Saturday August 14 at 9:00 am. Information concerning the meeting will be available at our website - www.otsegolakeassociation.org.

Once again, thanks to all those who join, participate, support, and volunteer in OLA. Together we can help assure that future generations can enjoy this gem of nature.

Jim



2021 OLA Annual Gathering

by Mickie Richtsmeier

The Otsego Lake Association's 2021 annual gathering will be held virtually on Saturday, August 14 beginning at 9 AM. A link to the zoom video conference will be found closer to the event on OLA's website, www.otsegolakeassociation.org.

Please mark your calendars for a jam packed hour which will include scientific updates on the threats of new invasive species in the lake as well as exciting news about Otsego's sophisticated research buoy (CLMB) and how its data are helping scientists to understand the impact of climate change on lakes around the world. *The names of those who join the meeting will be in a drawing for OLA limited edition, limited quantity swim towel (pictured above).*

For the historical portion of the program, Professor Cindy Falk will give an overview of Otsego Lake's steamboat era complete with vintage visuals and original sources. A fun on line auction and prizes are also being planned. Hopefully this will be the last year that we won't be meeting in person, so let's continue to stay informed and stay in touch via zoom!

OTSEGO LAKE ASSOCIATION

FOUNDED 2002

OUR MISSION is to educate, advocate and actively participate in protecting the health, beauty, and well-being of Otsego Lake by facilitating the implementation of the Otsego Lake Watershed Management Plan.

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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Glimmer Glass

by Lisa Drake, aka Glassy Lady

Several years back while kayaking along the west shoreline of Otsego Lake I made a discovery that has changed not only the way I view and approach my lake outings, but it also changed the materials in which I create and repurpose items into new craft forms.

Otsego Lake holds and produces "Lake Glass" along its shorelines. Who knew? Here are just a few of my collections I have found along the Shorelines.



Over the past 10 years I have been an avid collector of sewing buttons and I have learned that I can follow history through the materials that buttons are made from. Similarly, my love of collecting Lake Glass has grown and I have learned that I can also trace history through the variety of colors and the thickness of the glass. Some of the more unique items that I have found have stimulated conversion at our camp Lakeview. Perhaps you will agree?

Just a few creations that I have made from Otsego Lake Glass. I look forward to the 2021 season to see what new treasures await me.



DID YOU KNOW?

Wake Action from fast motorboats too close to shore causes erosion which adds to phosphorous in the lake.

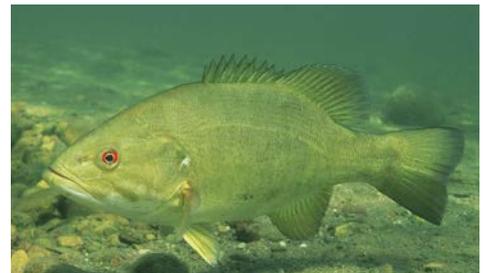
Otsego Lake, Susquehanna goes south — figuratively, literally

Degradation of the Susquehanna begins only a few miles from its source: Dams, farm pollutants, septic tank leakage and other ecological assaults.

Jeff Platsky, Binghamton Press & Sun-Bulletin

Read the full article at <https://bit.ly/3o8J0bJ>

Big Fish!



Smallmouth Bass - Public Domain Imagery

From last fall, Oct 17, 2020, results of a bass tournament on Otsego Lake: The winners put together a two -day limit of 10 smallmouth bass which combined for a weight of 32.33 pounds. the biggest fish of the tournament was a smallmouth bass measuring 20.25 inches and weighed 4.42 pounds. Second , third and fourth place pulled in smallmouth bass with a a combined weight of 73.32 pounds !

OLA TRIVIA

Where was Muskrat Castle Located?

Can you name 3 steamboats that ran on Otsego Lake?

What year was Kingfisher Tower built?



Glimmerglass - Spring 2021; Photo by Jim Howarth

"GENERATIONS OF AMERICANS HAVE CHERISHED AND PROTECTED THIS LAKE AND ITS SURROUNDINGS."

Henry S. F. Cooper Jr.

Full Circle



Tom Krieg and Scottie Baker in "SERENA"

"Serena", an electric powered boat was custom built in Camden, Maine in the mid 1980's. She was used on Otsego Lake for over a decade when recreational electric boating was a novel idea, yet her electric power is up to date. Her hull is a 20' replica of turn-of-the-century "fantail" style electric and steam launches. After residing in various parts of the U.S., Serena is now back on Otsego Lake where she spent many pleasant hours in the past. Here, she joins a growing camaraderie of electric boat enthusiasts!

ANNUAL "WE LOVE OUR LAKE" DECORATED BOAT PARADE - SATURDAY, JULY 3rd, 3PM

by K. Wayne Bunn

Plan to float your boat – rain or shine - in OLA's Annual "We Love Our Lake" Decorated Boat Parade to be held at 3:00 PM on Saturday, July 3rd, 2021. This year's theme will be "Here Comes The Sun", a song by The Beatles. Google the words and you will see a correlation with the, hopeful, ending of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The parade will form off Three Mile Point, then proceed slowly along the westerly side of the lake, and end at Lakefront Park in Cooperstown. The parade will be led by the SUNY Oneonta Biological Field Station's barge, the Anondontoides, but due to the Covid-19 situation, there will be no judging and no prizes or candy given out to the boaters this year. OLA encourages all boaters, either in the parade or just observing, plus the spectators on shore to practice social distancing and wear face masks.

All boats, large and small, are welcome – including antique or classic, human powered, wind powered, electric powered, jet powered, outboard powered, or inboard/outboard powered. We encourage you to decorate your boat using the "Here Comes The Sun" theme but you may decorate your boat any way you wish. It can be unusually decorated, humorously decorated, patriotic theme decorated, joyful/party theme decorated, sports theme decorated, military theme decorated, etc. If you prefer, you do not even need to decorate your boat - just join in the parade and view the other boats. You can even join the parade at any time or anywhere along the route, especially for non-motorized boaters who might not want to travel the full route.

If you are unable to float your boat, you can watch from shore at various points along the parade route including Three Mile Point, Brookwood Point, Fenimore Art Museum, the Country Club (for members only), Otesaga Hotel, and Lakefront Park. There are no fees, registration forms, rules, or regulations except travel slowly, stay in line, be courteous to other boaters, and practice social distancing. Last year, we had our largest boat parade ever, between 45 and 50 boats participated in the parade plus many more just observing. The boat traffic on the lake last year was the most in anyone's memory due to the Covid-19 pandemic and people were enjoying being out on the lake while still practicing safe distancing.

The parade is meant to be a fun-filled, family event for all boaters to celebrate our love for Otsego Lake. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Wayne Bunn, Boat Parade Chairman, at bunnwayne@gmail.com or (518) 542-6630. You can also view photographs of past year's boat parades at www.OtsegoLakeAssociation.org. We look forward to seeing you on July 3rd!

Emerging Contaminants in Otsego Lake and Susquehanna River

A summary of Dr. Antoinette Kuzminski's Cooperstown Library Speaker Series

by Peter Regan

Dr. Kuzminski presented a program via Zoom as part of the Friends of the Village Library Speaker Series. Dr. Kuzminski presented the findings of an initial study on emerging contaminants in Otsego Lake and in the Susquehanna River. The study tested two 'panels' on lake water, village drinking water and at various points along the waste stream through the village, wastewater treatment plant, wetlands and in the river. The 'pharmaceutical' panel included over 100 pharmaceuticals and personal care products. The 'pesticide' panel checked for over 100 pesticides, herbicides and fungicides.

The highly sensitive assay found small amounts of only three substances in the lake (atrazine, metolachlor, metformin). Drinking water for the village met NYS standards, which do not require measurement of metformin. "Multiple pharmaceuticals and persistent atrazine were tracked through the village waste stream and all the way into the river, with minimal clearance by waste water treatment plant, and slightly superior clearance by the wetlands". While the amounts found were "within guidelines" these guidelines were, "derived by methodologies which do not take into account features of the endocrine systems in humans and animals, thus missing the potential for endocrine disruption by very low dose exposures".

Dr. Kuzminski states that emerging contaminants are hard to detect and are not contained or mitigated by current septic tank and wastewater treatment plant technology. Much is still unknown about the potential for endocrine disruption, making the work of the Biological Field Station and scientists such as Dr. Kuzminski critical for developing our understanding of emerging contaminants and their effects on humans and other organisms. Dr. Kuzminski suggests the use of a charcoal filter on home drinking water and upgrading the wetland that is used in conjunction with the wastewater treatment plant.

We should understand that Otsego Lake remains a high quality water source that requires the vigilance of all citizens to protect its relatively pristine character. It is a well studied body of water which goes a long way towards ensuring a positive, healthy future for the lake.

Willie Thayer "Rescues" Lost Boaters *by K. Wayne Bunn*

Otsego Lake Legend Willie Thayer, who used to rent boats and sell gasoline on the lake, was a big raccoon hunter who always allowed his three coon dogs to roam freely around his business site (now the Thayer Boathouse of SUNY Oneonta's Biological Field Station). Willie's dogs liked to ride in his boats on the lake so, many evenings, he would put them in one of his 14 foot aluminum rental boats and set them adrift in the lake where they would float around until Willie retrieved them after closing time. One evening, perhaps an hour or so before closing time, a couple of boaters came into the business "all excited and nervous" about seeing three coon dogs in a boat but with no people on board. They told Willie that the people had fallen over board and may be in trouble. Willie, in his normal low key manner, looked at his watch and told the boaters that he would go out and look for the people after he closed up for the evening and not to worry about them. Who knows if Willie ever told the concerned boaters about his evening ritual with his coon dogs!

Divers Break Ice



Image by Paul H. Lord - December 19, 2020 - taken when pulling OLA No Wake Zone Buoy at Springfield Landing.

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(607) 547-5356 or npsscottieb@gmail.com.

CLMB Recovered for Winter

by Paul H. Lord

The Volunteer Dive Team and tenders recovered the Continuous Lake Monitoring Buoy and deployed the winter temperatures recording array in early December. The weather was better than it was last year and we improved our procedure while incorporating social distancing into our work. Tenders: Wayne Bunn, Peter Regan, David Turner, Dawson Wilsey, & Professor Kiyoko Yokota. Divers: Lee Ferrara, Sarah Coney, Jim Vogler, & Paul H. Lord.



The Lake's Masked Defense

by Carol Markham, Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy Conservationist

All our lives have drastically changed. COVID-19 has been with us for more than a year now. Who would have thought that the activities we do daily would ever have been affected in so many ways? Not traveling (even locally), spending more time at home, social distancing, washing and sanitizing hands constantly, and wearing face masks...all new and different daily routines that we now do to stay healthy and stop the spread.

We have all probably wondered at some time...how does a face mask actually protect us? A COVID face mask is intended to trap respiratory droplets that are released when the wearer talks, coughs, or sneezes. It also acts as a barrier to protect the wearer from inhaling droplets released by others. The most effective cloths masks are made of multiple layers of tightly woven fabric, like cotton. A mask with layers will stop more droplets from getting through your mask or escaping from it.

This oddly sounds familiar when thinking about our Chautauqua lakeshore area. As a lakefront homeowner or someone who enjoys and values the areas in and around the lake, you have probably heard once or twice about the importance of lakefront buffers or vegetated lakeshores. Sometimes it's difficult to understand the importance of and science behind certain things. To the unknowing eye, tall shoreline grasses and plants around the lake may seem like an unnecessary nuisance that impedes views of the water, but this vegetation actually serves an important purpose.

Simply put, a lakefront buffer is a lake's COVID face mask. Read the full article at www.otsegolakeassociation.org.

Above: December Tenders; Image by Paul H. Lord.

Cooper's hybrid pondweed: Impact on Otsego Lake 2020

by Mary Keefe

Over the past several years a noticeable and increasing proliferation of a new hybrid pondweed has emerged in Otsego Lake: Cooper's hybrid pondweed. Residents became concerned due to dense beds of the plant which impacted recreational activities and the ecosystem. This project was conducted in the summer of 2020 to better determine and comprehend its impact on Otsego Lake. The following report includes background information, methods, results, and provides suggestions for future research regarding this hybrid. READ FULL ARTICLE and Other 2020 Reports at www.otsegolakeassociation.org.



Image by Mary Keefe - Plant samples after separating for data collection.

We Love Our Lake 8th Annual Decorated Boat Parade



Here Comes the Sun



JOIN US!



Starting at 3 Mile Point

Sat., July 3, 3:00PM

SUPPORT YOUR OTSEGO LAKE ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP (Please renew by August 2021)

Annual Membership Dues (Check One): Renewal New Member
 Individual (\$25) Family (\$35) Business (\$50)

We have vital projects that need your support! Please consider making an additional donation.

DONATION AMOUNT \$ _____ TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

If you are interested in volunteering with us, please let us know your preferences (check all that apply):
 Serving on a Committee Representing OLA at Community Events Other
 Working on the Board of Directors Working with the Volunteer Dive Team

Name: _____ Email Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Quagga Mussels Covering Vast Sections of Otsego Lake Bottom

by Paul H. Lord



In late November, I made a dive off a property adjoining Wayne & Joan Bunn's camp. The dive was to work with a new volunteer and to test my repaired dry suit before the Continuous Lake Monitoring Buoy (CLMB) retrieval scheduled for next Saturday. We made our way down the slope to 73', with my attention more focused as we went deeper. The cause of my focus was the explosion of tiny Quagga mussels across the bottom, particularly in silty areas. I estimate the populations at between 300 - 600 per square meter. We saw countless examples of incredibly small Quagga mussels (1 - 2 mm) crawling across the top of the sediments leaving what appeared to be snail tracks behind them. I dove this area repeatedly early in the summer. These Quagga mussels were not present at that time. There appeared to be no reduction in Quagga mussel density at the depth at which we turned around. Please recall that Zebra mussels only occasionally settle below 40' and, then, only on hard surfaces. This enormous population explosion portends more change for Otsego Lake.

On April 4, Professor Yokota, three students, and I did some work in the water around the BFS Boathouse. The pictures below show what is found over large silty areas of Otsego Lake's bottom now. You can see thousands of young Quagga mussels across the silt singly and attached to each other.



Images by Paul H Lord. Top: Diver, Jared Strauss.
Above: BFS Boathouse Silt Bottom Covered with Quagga Mussels; Below: Main Lab Docks at BFS.

BFS Main Lab Docks Damaged in Ice-out by Paul H. Lord

The unlucky alignment of nearly melted ice and high winds on March 26 caused damage along Otsego Lake's shoreline yesterday including the Biological Field Station's Main Lab docks.



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