



Volume 2022-Issue 1
Spring 2022

Our Glimmerglass

Newsletter of the Otsego Lake Association

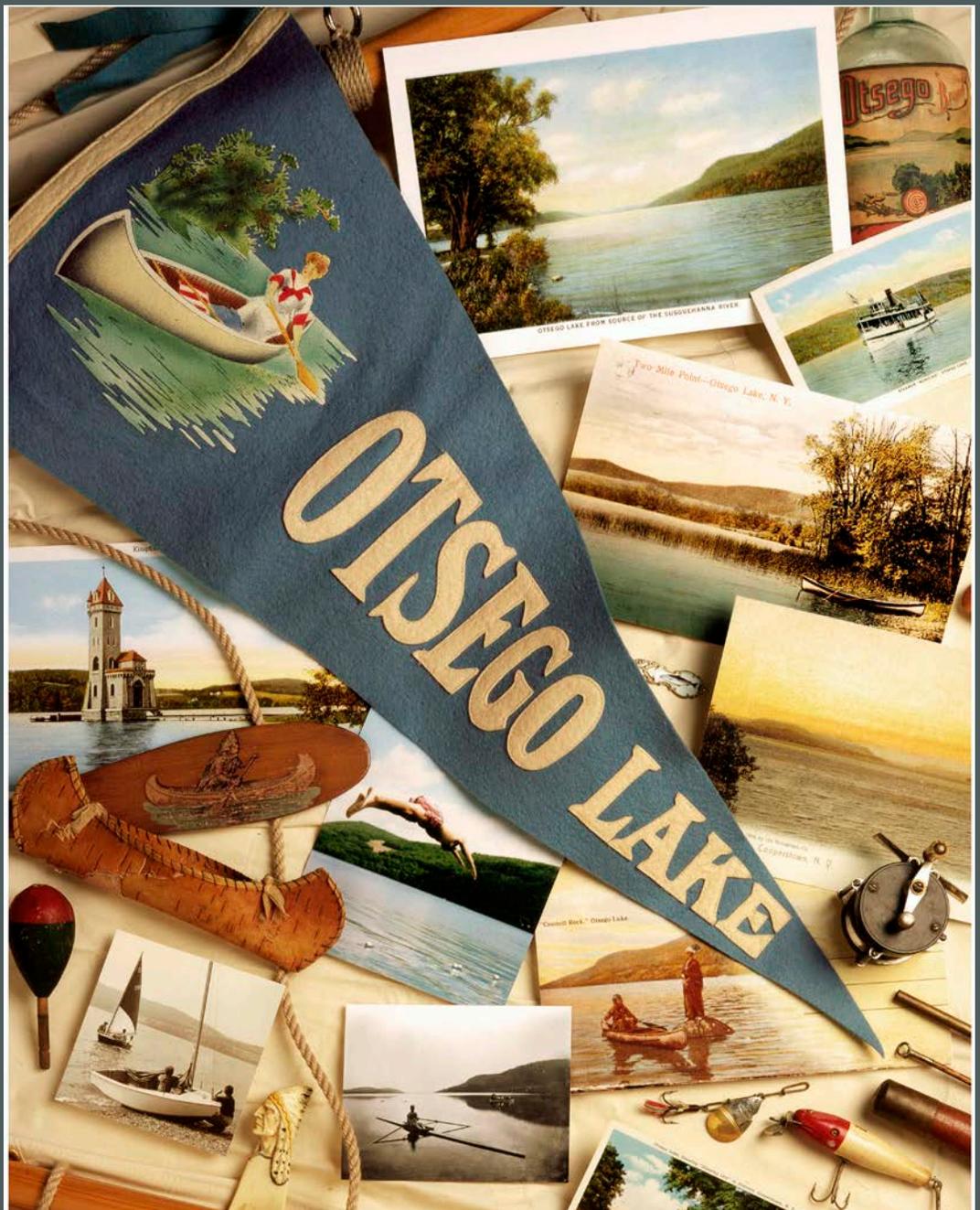
We Love Our Lake

OTSEGO LAKE HOLDS A SPECIAL PLACE IN THE MEMORIES OF BOATERS, CAMPERS, FISHERMEN, AND SWIMMERS, ARTISTS, SCIENTISTS, WRITERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS.

OTSEGO LAKE HAS BEEN ONE OF COOPERSTOWN'S MOST INTRIGUING PLEASURES FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS.

HISTORY AND PICTURESQUE FEATURES HAVE SHAPED OTSEGO LAKE.

from "Otsego Lake, Past and Present", by Richard S. Duncan



Special Thanks to Fenimore Art Museum

Photography and Arrangement by Richard and Elizabeth Walker

Poster by Natura Productions available for purchase: \$20. To order, contact: Scottie Baker, (607) 547-5356 or npscottieb@gmail.com.

President's Message

by *Jim Howarth*

Many articles in the OLA Newsletter have discussed the threats to Otsego Lake from invasive aquatic plants and animals. We are reminded of those threats often, most recently with infestations of Eurasian watermilfoil and curly-leaf pondweed in Lake George.

Supporting measures to prevent the introduction of invasives – such as boat inspections and washes – are key missions of the Otsego Lake Association. There are, however, more common and mundane threats to our lake. Run-off from yards and farms, salt from road deicing, shoreline erosion from speeding boats, and unpermitted or careless development of the waterfront are just a few.

There are people and organizations dedicated to policing these threats, including the Department of Environmental Conservation, the Watershed Supervisory Committee, and the zoning officers of the towns that border the lake. While these and other organizations do great work, enforcement is always a challenge.

One other way to combat these threats is to take individual responsibility and action. Talk to your neighbors, let political leaders know your concerns, attend permitting hearings, and join and participate in the Otsego Lake Association.

OLA is THE voice for educating, advocating, and working for the preservation and improvement of our lake. Please help us - renew your membership and be sure to attend our Annual Membership Gathering Saturday August 13th at 9:00 am at the Otsego Sailing Club. *Jim*

Back Together for the 2022 OLA Annual Gathering

by *Mickie Richtsmeier*

After two long years of meeting virtually, we are looking forward to welcoming everyone in person to our annual gathering on **Saturday, August 13**. The meeting will be held at the Otsego Sailing Club's open pavilion at Brookwood Point, so there will be plenty of fresh air and opportunities to catch up with lake neighbors as well as a terrific program with updates on the state of the lake, its evolution over time, and opportunities to find out more about the Otsego Sailing Club.

So please come out, bring a friend, and join us. Coffee and snacks at 8:30, business meeting and presentations begin at 9.



Photo by *Scottie Baker*

Happy 25th Anniversary...

by *Scottie Baker*

...to the Otsego Lake Watershed Management Plan! The Plan was designed by the three municipalities around the lake and implemented by using the BFS database which was created by a broad monitoring program of the ecology and water quality of Otsego Lake. The Plan was developed for the benefit of the public and for the common good of Otsego Lake and its surrounding watershed, with the goals: to protect the quality of the drinking water drawn from the lake; preserve the lake's natural beauty; protect the lake's fishery; ensure the viability of a tourist attraction and the safety of its recreational users. 2

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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OUR GLIMMERGLASS NEWSLETTER

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Goodyear Swamp Sanctuary Boardwalk: Movement at Last!

by Jeff O’Handley, Program Director, Otsego County Conservation Association

Goodyear Swamp Sanctuary is a 5-acre wetland tucked into the shore of Otsego Lake behind the Glimmerglass Festival. Home to over 200 species of vascular plants, plus mammals, fish, reptiles and amphibians, and innumerable invertebrates, the sanctuary is an exceptional ecosystem, a place of great beauty, and a valuable research and education site that has been owned by the SUNY Oneonta Foundation and managed by the Biological Field Station since 1982.

Unfortunately, the boardwalk trail that provides access to the sanctuary for visitors, school groups and researches has been closed for a number of years. In 2018, Otsego County Conservation Association applied for a grant through the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation (OPRHP) that would improve access to the outdoors for Otsego County residents and visitors. The proposal focused on improving trails in Basswood Pond State Forest, Arnold Lake State Forest, and Harry Bilderbeck County Forest; however, the biggest piece of the proposal was to remove and replace the collapsed portion of the boardwalk at Goodyear Swamp Sanctuary.

OCCA was thrilled when the state announced in December, 2018 that our project would receive funding, and we immediately got to work pulling together the trove of documents needed to go from “approved project” to “executed contract”. Unfortunately, two things occurred that slowed the process down: first, OCCA underwent a change in leadership, with Amy Wyant taking over as Executive Director shortly after the award was announced. The bigger impact, though, came from the pandemic. Executing a contract with the state is a slow process at the best of times; COVID brought it to a near standstill.

Ultimately, we all found our footing and the gears of bureaucracy began grinding forward again. During the delay we found that some documents had expired and needed to be redone. That meant new signatures, new notarizations, new authorizing resolutions. It seemed for a while that every time we sent a pile of documents to our program officer at the state, the response would be, “This is great, but...” It was quite the process.



Goodyear Swamp Sanctuary Boardwalk: I♥NY

We’re happy to report that the actual fun part is finally near. In mid-May, Amy Wyant met with SUNY BFS Director, Bill Harman and a lake services consultant to reassess conditions at the sanctuary and update the project’s scope of work. Once that is finalized the project will go out to bid. Construction work is expected to begin this winter, which will result in minimal disruption to the Sanctuary’s plant and animal life (not to mention the Glimmerglass Festival!).

This has been a long process that has been drawn out far longer than any of us expected. OCCA appreciates Bill Harman’s tireless efforts spearheading this project, along with all who have generously contributed funds to match the state grant. While we can’t give a grand re-opening date, we are looking forward to being able to venture out into the swamp once more!

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Image by the Grady and Chase Families

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OLA LAKE CITIZEN AWARDS

- 2007 BRYANT KOLNER, VERA TALEVI,
SUZY KINGSLEY, LYNN MARSH
- 2008 LAKE AND VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
- 2009 BIOLOGICAL FIELD STATION (BFS)
VOLUNTEER DIVE TEAM
- 2010 ROBERT BUSSE
- 2011 BURR AND CARRIE SOUTHWORTH
- 2012 LYNN MARSH
- 2013 DOUG AND DONNA GREEN
- 2014 VILLAGE OF COOPERSTOWN
- 2015 FRIENDS OF OTSEGO LAKE AND
ROUTE 80
- 2016 PAUL H. LORD
- 2017 DR. WILLARD ("BILL") HARMAN
- 2018 OTSEGO COUNTY CONSERVATION
ASSOCIATION
- 2019 JANE FORBES CLARK
- 2020 DR. TED PETERS
- 2021 WAYNE BUNN
- 2022 TO BE ANNOUNCED AT THE
AUGUST 13 ANNUAL GATHERING

Well Deserved Recognition - A History of OLA's Lake Citizen Awards*by K. Wayne Bunn*

Each year since 2007, the Otsego Lake Association has awarded the Lake Citizen Award to an individual(s), an organization, or a group that has done something special to help protect and preserve Otsego Lake. The recipient of the award, presented each year at the Annual Membership Gathering (formally known as the Annual Membership Meeting) is decided by the OLA Board of Directors after receiving nominations from various sources. Previous awards have recognized efforts or projects that have occurred within a relatively short period of time or over many years or even decades. A history of previous awards is contained on the OLA website under Who We Are, then Awards.

The initial awards in 2007 were presented to Bryant Kolner for identifying mud plumes on the lake, Vera Talevi for advocating for a sanitary sewer system along the upper west side of the lake, Suzy Kingsley for designing and obtaining approvals for the Lakefront Buffer Strip Garden, and Lynn Marsh for providing technical advice and plantings for the Lakefront Buffer Strip Garden.

The Lake and Valley Garden Club was recognized in 2008 for its work on the Lakefront Buffer Strip Garden and the recipient of a large grant from the Garden Club of America.

The Biological Field Station (BFS) Volunteer Dive Team was recognized in 2009 for their installation and removal of the no wake zone buoys each year and for assisting with on-going research by the BFS on the lake.

Village employee Robert Busse was recognized in 2010 for his efforts in maintaining the Lakefront Buffer Strip Garden.

Long time OLA members Burr and Carrie Southworth were recognized in 2011 for being charter members of OLA with Burr serving as a long-time Director/Springfield and creator of the OLA website while Carrie served as Treasurer.

Lynn Marsh was recognized in 2012 (for a second time) for helping create the Springfield Landing Buffer Strip. Doug and Donna Green were recognized in 2013 for their design and construction of wetlands for storm water run-off at their home in Pierstown (part of the Otsego Lake watershed).

The Village of Cooperstown was recognized in 2014 for support and maintenance of the Lakefront Buffer Strip Garden, installation of stormwater sediment traps on lower Pioneer Street and stormwater run-off sidewalks on Main Street, assistance with the boat inspection and boat washing station on lower Fair Street, and working with NYSDOT to encourage a safer herbicide along State Highway 80.

A group called the Friends of Otsego Lake and Route 80 was recognized in 2015 for saving and protecting a portion of the lake shoreline just north of Five Mile Point when the NYSDOT had planned to demolish three camps and place large stone rip-rap in their place.

Paul Lord was recognized in 2016 for being a charter member, a long-time Director/Otsego, past OLA President, member and Dive Master of the BFS Volunteer Dive Team, conducting annual training of boat inspection stewards, teaching the annual aquatic invasive species course, overseeing annual installation and removal of the no wake zone buoys, maintenance of the Lakefront Park Buffer Strip Garden, and representing OLA on the boat washing facility committee.

Dr. Willard ("Bill") Harman was recognized in 2017 for his 50 years of continuous research and reporting on the condition of Otsego Lake as Director



Wayne Bunn presents the 2015 OLA Lake Citizen Award to Friends of Otsego and Route 80.

(continued from page 4)

of the BFS, educating hundreds of biology students in limnology, working with area farmers to implement lake-friendly agricultural practices, overseeing construction and maintenance of the boardwalk in the Goodyear Swamp, and starting and overseeing the SUNY Oneonta Master's degree program in lake management.

The Otsego County Conservation Association was recognized in 2018 for its decades of helping to preserve and protect Otsego Lake.

Jane Forbes Clark was recognized in 2019 for her decades of leadership and commitment in protecting and preserving the eastern shoreline of Otsego Lake from development, reducing stormwater run-off from the various Clark properties and businesses on Otsego Lake, and generous support of various environmental organizations (i.e. BFS, OCCA, OLT, & O2000) that help protect and preserve Otsego Lake and its ecosystems (both terrestrial and aquatic) in the lake watershed.

Dr. Ted Peters was recognized posthumously in 2020 for his decades of leadership and commitment in protecting and preserving Otsego Lake by volunteering to conduct early testing and reporting on the condition of the lake, serving as Chairman of OCCA's original Otsego Lake Committee (forerunner of OLA) which created the Save Our Lake Otsego ("SOLO") bumper sticker contest, working with NYSDEC to formally recognize the mean lake level (14-year process), encouraging the Village to install flashboards on the Mill Street dam to maintain the mean lake level, prompting the State Park to install a state of the art wastewater system and delete a proposed boat launch, serving for decades on the Village Water and Sewer Committee, and representing the Village on the Otsego Lake Watershed Supervisory Committee.

Wayne Bunn was recognized in 2021 for his decades of involvement with Otsego Lake, joining OLA as a charter member, serving as a Director at Large, President, and Secretary of OLA, creating the original OLA newsletter, originating the OLA boat parade, representing OLA at the NYS Federation of Lake Associations each year, conducting engineering reviews of various projects within the Otsego Lake watershed for the Town of Otsego Planning Board, and volunteering with the BFS Volunteer Dive Team as a dive tender and boat driver plus assisting with the training of new divers.

All of the past recipients have had, and continue to have, a genuine interest in, and dedication to, protecting and preserving the health, well-being, water quality, and future of Otsego Lake – a local treasure we all love.

Join us at the Annual Gathering on August 13 to learn about our 2022 Award Recipient. If you would like to nominate a person or an organization who is deserving of consideration of this award in the future, please email OLA at info@otsegolakeassociation.org with details.



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Annual “WE LOVE OUR LAKE” Decorated Boat Parade SUNDAY, JULY 3rd at 3:00 PM

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 Sunday, July 3rd, 2022. **This year’s theme will be “Our Lake Is A Treasure”.** 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. At this point, we are not sure what the lead boat will be since the SUNY Oneonta Biological Field Station’s barge, the Anondontoides, is currently out of service until at least the fall. After a pause due to the Covid-19 pandemic, there will again be judging of the boats and awarding of prizes plus candy will be given out to the boaters this year.

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 theme “Our Lake Is A Treasure” 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, and be courteous to other boaters.

Last year, we had one of our largest boat parades ever, between 45 and 50 boats participated in the parade plus many more just observing. 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 years’ boat parades at www.OtsegoLakeAssociation.org. We look forward to seeing you on July 3rd!



2017 Boat Parade, Photo by Tim Pokorny.

Remember 3-3-3! July 3rd at 3:00 PM at 3 Mile Point

OLA Wins 1st Place in NYSFOLA’s 2022 Newsletter Contest by K. Wayne Bunn



The Otsego Lake Association’s Newsletter, “Our Glimmerglass” (Fall 2021 edition), won 1st Place in the Medium Size lake associations category in the 2022 Newsletter Contest sponsored by the New York State Federation of Lake Associations (NYSFOLA) of which OLA is a member. There are three lake association categories for the newsletter contest - Small Size, Medium Size, and Large Size.

A total of roughly 240 lake associations (some have more than one lake in their association) from across NYS are members of NYSFOLA. There was a total of 7 newsletter entries in the Medium Size category. OLA has entered the newsletter contest in past years, but this is the first time that we have won. This award is a great honor and recognition for the members of the OLA Board of Directors and other OLA members who contribute articles and photographs for each semi-annual edition. It is also a wonderful achievement for Susan O’Handley of Central NY Mobile Marketing who actually produces the layout, prints, and mails the newsletters.

Congratulations to everyone involved with Our Glimmerglass. The accompanying photographs show Prof. Kiyoko Yokota, OLA Board Member and Technical Advisor, accepting the award at the NYSFOLA Annual Conference in Lake George on April 29th.



Professor Kiyoko Yokota accepts the OLA Award;
Photo by K. Wayne Bunn

Anodontoides Undergoing Refurbishment

by Paul H. Lord

The Biological Field Station (BFS) educational and research workhorse, the Anodontoides, has been taking on water in its pontoons the last couple of years. The problem worsened in 2021. The Anodontoides is unavailable for classes, research, and for our OLA Boat Parade this summer until the problem is rectified. Regular use, over the 30+ years since the Anodontoides' pontoons were last replaced, has stressed the temper of the aluminum pontoons resulting in new cracks each time identified cracks are welded. The current plan is to fill the pontoons with nonabsorbent closed-cell foam insulation. At the time of this writing, the pontoons are being removed for that work. Other upgrades are planned to coincide with the work on the pontoons. We hope to see the Anodontoides back on the lake by midsummer. If the foam insulation does not perform satisfactorily, the BFS will seek funds to replace the existing pontoons.



Photo by Paul H. Lord.

Otsego Lake Association Annual Gathering

Saturday, August 13, 2022

8:30 AM Coffee & Donuts

9:00 to 11:00 AM Meeting

at the Otsego Sailing Club

5992 NY-80, Cooperstown, NY 13326
(in the pavilion)



- History, programs, and membership of the Otsego Sailing club.
- Learn the latest on invasive species in Otsego Lake and other scientific updates including news on Otsego's sophisticated research buoy (CLMB).
- Silent Auction, OLA Merchandise, Scientific Displays

This is the place and time to renew your OLA membership!

Full program details:
<http://www.otsegolakeassociation.org/>

JOIN US!

SUPPORT YOUR OTSEGO LAKE ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP (Please RENEW or JOIN TODAY!)

Annual Membership Dues (Check One): Renewal New Member
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Food for Thought: Soft Plastic Fishing Lures aka Rubber Worms - Good or Bad?

by Peter Regan

Some members of the Otsego Lake Association have inquired about the use of soft plastic baits for fishing and whether these rubber baits pose a threat to fish populations in Otsego Lake and beyond. The opinions expressed herein are mine and not necessarily those of OLA members or Board. The opinions expressed herein are those of a fisherman.

The use of soft plastic baits (aka Rubber worms) for fishing has exploded in the last 10-15 years. These baits are very effective and popular with fishermen. So the questions are, does the use of these materials cause an increase in mortality in fish and what are the environmental impacts of using these baits? Whether one is for or against sportfishing is not the topic of this article. Certainly the battle to remove lead shot from the environment has been a heated topic among hunters for years. The evidence against lead is certainly more damning than any of the current studies on the use of soft plastic baits. The evidence against soft plastics is less clear and still an open question to a large degree.

There have actually been quite a few studies and articles addressing this topic over the years. A 2018 article by Patrick Durke in USA Today Wisconsin had the provocative title, "Are Soft Plastic Fishing Lures a Menace or Simple Littering?". No surprise that in Wisconsin, a big sportfishing state, the author would conclude that it amounted to littering. I have used various soft plastic baits for years and have always felt that fish mortality has been lessened and the rise of catch and release fishing has been helped by the introduction of soft plastic baits. This as opposed to the use of live bait which tends to be swallowed by fish resulting in deep hooking, bleeding and presumably higher mortality rates. Although I have read a Texas study that concludes that the use of live bait is no more harmful than the use of soft plastics I cannot agree based on my experience. Another Texas study had fish that ingested these baits pooping them out most of the time! Using soft plastics and a circle hook greatly reduces the possibility of deeply hooking a fish. The circle hook is a fantastic innovation that has transformed catch and release fishing in both freshwater and saltwater sportfishing. In my opinion the circle hook used in conjunction with a soft plastic bait is an infinitely better way to practice catch and release fishing. The circle hook virtually guarantees a lip hooking as opposed to a deep hooking.



All this being said there is no doubt that many of these baits are lost while fishing and left in the water. As with many human activities one must weigh the environmental effects of one's actions. Certainly fishermen discarding fishing line and trash in the water seems to be a much larger threat and widespread problem. One need only think about the entanglements suffered by wildlife, turtles and birds, which are all too commonly seen. I think about those awful pictures of the dead sea birds whose stomachs were full of all manner of plastic debris to the point that they starved to death.

As sportsmen and responsible lake users of all persuasions we must work to reduce our impact on both freshwater and marine environments. I don't agree with the term, "simple littering." All littering is to be condemned. The somewhat sad reality of modern life is that many human activities tend to negatively affect the environment. The introduction of plastics (and micro plastics) into the environment, whatever form the plastic takes, is a huge problem to which we all contribute. We are fortunate that Otsego Lake is a jewel that many people care deeply about. I, for one, always look for trash, floating or along the shoreline and, Heaven knows, at the boat ramps to pick up. My hours and hours on the water give me lots of opportunities to tidy up our lake. It's all about offsetting our environmental footprint.

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