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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Otsego Lake Assn. and SUNY Oneonta BFS Deploy a Water Quality Monitoring Buoy

Dateline: Cooperstown, NY -- The Otsego Lake Association (OLA), in cooperation with SUNY Oneonta Biological Field Station (BFS) researchers, have installed an automated water quality monitoring buoy on Otsego Lake.

The majority of the new system was installed by the BFS Volunteer Dive Team, lead by Paul Lord and Jim Vogler (Lecturers of Biology, SUNY Oneonta) and assisted by SUNY Oneonta undergraduates Zach Piper and Alex Sessions. Two BFS interns from Laurens Central School, Kayla Johnson and Connor Lewis March Sr., completed installation of the sensors under supervision by Kiyoko Yokota (Assistant Professor of Biology, SUNY Oneonta). The system will continuously collect water temperature and light intensity data at 15-minute intervals at various depths, 24/7. This data set will complement the existing biweekly manual water quality monitoring program carried out by BFS staff and enables the researchers to more closely monitor and predict biological productivity of the lake water, which is strongly influenced by temperature and light availability. The collected data are planned to be publicly available through the Global Lakes Observatory Network (GLEON, www.gleon.org).

The buoy and the anchoring system were provided by OLA, the monitoring equipment was funded by the SUNY 4E Grant, and other supplies were procured with the SUNY Oneonta Faculty Research Grant. A National Science Foundation grant proposal is pending, which, if awarded, would enable an upgrade to a fully automated system that will monitor a dozen parameters (including phytoplankton density) simultaneously, not just temperature and light.

The Otsego Lake Association is grateful to the following organizations for their support of this project: BFS, OCCA, Glimmerglass Condominium Association, Otsego County Sheriff's Office, and NYS Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

Photo (below) which may be downloaded for publication, should include the following Credit Line: *Courtesy of Paul Lord (two pictures on top) / Kiyoko Yokota (bottom)*

About Otsego Lake Association

The mission of the Otsego Lake Association (OLA) is to support and further the implementation of the "Plan for the Management of the Otsego Lake Watershed" issued in 2002.

The membership of OLA consists of individuals who have a particular interest in the health of Otsego Lake. The majority of members own or rent property on the lake. The OLA is not a fund-raising organization although some organizations and individuals contribute funds for specific projects. The association's primary goal is to draw attention to the Lake Management Plan and to support efforts to achieve these goals. The organization encourages those interested to become members.

For more information, please visit <http://www.otsegolakeassociation.org/>

