



Oneida Lake Association
PO Box 3536 Syracuse, NY 13220-3536
president@oneidalakeassociation.org



Roadside Cleanup

On the chilly, but sunny, morning of October 25, five members of the OLA Board took on our biannual task of cleaning up the roadside on the on/off ramp of Route 81 near Bartell Road. Working under Crew Chief George Reck, Warren Darby, Lance Vella, Rip Colesante, and I spent an hour or so gathering up debris into large trash bags.

As I was busy plucking trash, it occurred to me that the debris field was a portrait of our guilty pleasures. While not quite the Seven Deadly Sins, there was a similar theme along the roadside.

1. For example, the single most common trash items were discarded coffee cups. And a deeper dig into the anthropology of the morning revealed that there were no examples of upscale Starbucks cups (I refuse to participate in that culture), but, rather, mostly McDonalds and Dunkin. And, yes, though I love a good cup, I would never toss an empty out the window.
2. The next most common items were those little plastic bottles from the liquor store. And the number one brand, by far? Fireball! Really??
3. Coming in a close third were numerous empty packs of cigs. Mostly they were brands I had never heard of. (Why would I? I don't smoke). Again, I think this is another indicator of the economy. Smokers can't seem to kick the habit, but they're buying the least expensive smokes they can find.
4. Of course, the list of guilty pleasures would not be complete without candy wrappers. All sorts of them.
5. And here's one that makes sense—soda cups. If it's not caffeine, then it's gotta be a 24 ounce blast of sugary carbonation. Interestingly, it looks like these cups are downed somewhere between the nearby drive-thru and the on-ramp. That's a big gulp!
6. Finally, though not as common, but certainly represented—discarded scratch-offs. I guess the thinking is: "If I win, I'm headed south to the airport. If I lose, I'll head north to work."
7. OK, I know what you're wondering. Did I find any of those? Nope. I'm not surprised, though. After all, that would be a trick while speeding onto the highway.

We invite you to join us on our next clean-up in the spring.
Or better yet, let's stop throwing trash out the window and just meet for coffee!

~John Harmon, OLA Vice-president



Speaking of Keeping it Clean!

OLA Director Bill Girvan is a frequent user of the newly developed Cove Road Launch Site. At our last Board meeting, Bill reported that during his many visits to the launch he has seen NO TRASH! Keep up the great work anglers and boaters!

And let's try to keep that going during our visits to the ice fishing sites this winter.

Oneida Lake Water Levels

It's that time of year. We're all awaiting the seasonal draw down of the water level in the lake. I know that there are still a number of November enthusiasts who still have their boats and docks in, especially you duck hunters.

This morning I spoke with my contact at the Canal Corporation. She reported that "We will be lifting the Caughdenoy Dam on 11/20." She went on to explain that the process will take a week or so. They like to plan for a gradual draw down in order to minimize bank-side erosion.

So plan accordingly!

Shore Fishing for Oneida Lake Walleyes

(from DEC)

Fall can be a great time of year for anglers to target walleye from the shores of [Oneida Lake](#). As the water begins to cool, large schools of gizzard shad move into the shallow areas near shore, and walleye follow this abundant food source. Anglers can either stand on shore or don chest waders to go out into the water. The best fishing usually occurs about an hour before and an hour after sunset.

[Learn how to fish for walleye.](#)



Fall Boating Safety

Just a reminder that from November 1 - May 1 everyone aboard a boat less than 21 feet (including canoes and kayaks) must wear a life jacket while underway.



Youth Fishing Derby Reminder

The OLA First Annual OLA Youth Fishing Derby is still live!

Entry deadline is December 31, 2024

Eligibility:

Up to 15 yrs old

Must be child or grand child of OLA Member

Rules

1. Fish must be caught on Oneida Lake east of Route 81 Bridge and tributaries up to first impossible barrier
2. Fish must be caught during the regular season for each species.
3. The longest fish in the following categories will receive a trophy and fishing prize package: walleye, yellow perch, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, pickerel, non-gamefish (carp, drum, catfish, etc..)

Entries must submit the following information to

president@oneidalakeassociation.org :

- One photo of the fish with the child and one with the fish on a ruler with the length clearly visible
- Date of catch, length of catch, species.
- Name and age of child, name of OLA member.
- Entries must be submitted by an adult 18 years or older.
- All Entries must be received by December 31, 2024.

Check our website and Facebook page for updates.

The Mission of the Oneida Lake Association is to protect the fisheries, wildlife, and natural resources of Oneida Lake by promoting science-based conservation and management through education and outreach, in partnership with our members and local communities.

Pay your dues, and HELP PROTECT ONEIDA LAKE!!!!

\$8 annually

Recruit your neighbors and friends TO JOIN US!



Memorials and contributions to our program are most welcome.

OLA is a 501(c)4 organization serving and protecting the Oneida Lake environment.



[OLA Website](#)

OLA is a 501(c)(4) not-for-profit organization.

The Oneida Lake Association is a member of the New York State Conservation Council <http://www.nyscc.com/> and the New York State Federation of Lake Associations <http://www.nysfola.org/>.

Please remember to obey all laws, rules, regulations, and codes of ethics as they pertain to boating, fishing, hunting, and the management of Oneida Lake and its tributaries.

Report environmental violations.

1-844-DEC-ECOS (1-844-332-3267)

Edited by John Harmon

Send us your notes and articles for use in future ENews!

Oneida Lake Association | P.O. Box 3536 | Syracuse, NY 13220 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!