



The Oquaga Lake Improvement Association

Deposit NY 13754

May 2015

Dear Fellow Oquaga

Who's ready for summer? For those of us that stayed north, this winter was a doozy which is great for ice fishing!

Speaking of fishing, we have heard from a number of sources that people have been accessing the Lake for fishing over the winter and spring. Cars bearing out of state license plates have been observed so it appears we have non-members using the Lake. Please post no fishing signs on your property to discourage trespassers. We pay to stock the Lake each year. It is unfortunate non-members are taking advantage during the off season.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: LAKE LOWERING

The Lake will be lowered this fall as is the case every five (5) years. If you plan to have work done on your dock or waterfront, permits may be required. The application and review process can take time. To avoid a hardship later this year, now is the time to make application. Depending on the nature of the work, permits / approvals may be needed from the Town of Sanford, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and/or the US Army Corps of Engineers.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Enclosed is the Schedule of Events for the 2015 season. Last year we tried several new activities such as the Boat Parade, Ice Cream Social and Talent Show. These were well received on Fourth of July weekend, so we have included them again this year. There will be an opening reception Friday evening, July 3rd at Scott's Lakeside Room. That same evening the popular local Binghamton band Rooster plays at Scotts.

Saturday, the Fourth of July will be a busy day with the J Elmer Crowley Fishing Tournament in the morning, followed by the Boat Parade and Ice Cream Social in the afternoon and the Ring of Fire will be in the evening. This is an opportunity to meet new members and to reacquaint with our neighbors.

The Annual Family Day will be held on Saturday August 1 with the field events in the morning and the water sports after lunch. The Family Picnic at the Lookout Cookout will start at 5:45.

See the enclosed Event Calendar for details and more information will follow in mailed reminders.

LAUNCHING YOUR BOAT

Scott's will allow Lake residents and their guests access to the Lake through their boat launch area. The Scott's have requested that we follow a few simple rules:

1. Please stop at the lobby of the hotel to pay the launch fee, pick up the key to the launch and sign the launch log book.
2. Bring your boat and trailer to the launch by going along Playhouse Road and backing into the launch.
3. The gate must be locked when you finish launching your boat.
4. Exit the launch area by driving by the farm house to the main road.
5. Please stay off the grass on either side of the launch access.
6. Do not leave your trailer in the launch area.
7. Return the key to the lobby of the hotel.

Mailing Address • 799 Oquaga Lake Road • Deposit NY 13754 • Phone: 607.725.7087

Website: Oquaga.com • General Mailbox: OLIA@oquaga.com

President: Mark@oquaga.com • Treasurer: Marie@oquaga.com • Secretary: Barbara@oquaga.com

LAKE CLEANUP DAY

July 11 is Lake Clean Up Day! We will be meeting at Gieskes's (48 Hanson Road) for a walk around the Lake to pick up litter and trash from along the road. Please meet at Koen's house at 10:00. Gloves and trash bags will be provided.

INVASIVE SPECIES

If your boat has been on another water body it is extremely important that the boat and trailer be cleaned and free of any vegetation, zebra mussels, etc., before launching. This includes cleaning the bilge. Remember, it only takes one person failing to properly clean their boat to introduce an invasive species to the Lake.

LAKE MONITORING

The 2015 water quality monitoring program is approved for funding under the Citizen's Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP). Oquaga Lake has participated in this program since the early 1990s. See Mark Millspaugh if you are interested in sampling. Water Quality Reports are available on the OLIA

BOAT STICKERS

Don't forget to place your orange stickers on all your watercraft for identification. If you need new stickers contact Barbara Marko at 467-1897 and she will assist you. We will also have stickers available at all official Lake events.

COMMITTEES

At the last Annual Meeting we discussed the need to involve more of the Lake Community through the committees and activities. A list of Committees is on the website. Call any Board Member to volunteer.

TICKS, BEARS, OH MY!

Please carefully check children and pets. The New York State Department of Health website is a good source of information about how to protect your family from ticks and Lyme disease.

<http://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/lyme/>

THE BEARS ARE BACK!

Please recognize that we live in bear habitat. Last summer, some bears literally invited themselves to late afternoon family barbecues. They are attracted to food and garbage so please keep all food and garbage indoors and secured. Clean up outdoor eating areas and barbecues. And be particularly attentive to any small children or furry friends of whom you are particularly fond. A copy of the There Are Bears annual mailing is enclosed. Laminated copies, suitable for posting, are available from Barbara and at any official event.

FRIDAY NIGHTS

The Friday night tradition of gathering for a social hour of fun and frivolity continues at Scott's or River Run at 5pm until whenever. There will be a message on Barbara's answering machine (467-1897) with this week's venue, and you can find it at the top of the NEWS page on the website: Oquaga.com. Come and join with your Lake Friends and Neighbors for an hour or two of fun.

DUES

Enclosed with this letter is the invoice for your Lake Association dues. Your prompt attention to this invoice will help to control expenses and insure our financial security. Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Where do my dues go? Excellent question!

The Oquaga Lake Improvement Association, made up of property owners, businesses and interested individuals, promotes the interests of the entire Lake community. The Association needs full participation from the Lake community.

Your dues allow the association to focus on protecting the Lake environment, preserving water quality and assuring our continued enjoyment of the Lake. The organization is concerned with much more than parties and picnics. Accomplishments of the OLIA include:

- Promoting safe boating.
- Working with the Town to implement zoning and creation of the Lake Overlay Zone.
- Protecting water quality through implementation of the sewer project.
- Performing annual monitoring of Lake water quality.
- Maintaining and repair of the outlet structure
- Arranging for trapping and removal of beaver
- Conducting annual fish stocking.

Over the last three years the OLIA helped steer the Sewer District to consider an enhanced maintenance program rather than pursue the large capital construction project recommended by the Town's consultants. This saved every property owner in the sewer district thousands of dollars annually.

These efforts help maintain your property values and hold down the expense of the sewer system.

Everyone benefits, everyone should pay their dues.

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

For the Board of Directors
Mark Millspaugh
President