



# The Oquaga Lake Improvement Association

Deposit NY 13754

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May 2002

Dear Fellow Oquaga Lakers,

The season of 2002 is upon us and summer is about to begin. Based on the recent weather at the lake, 2 inches of snow on May 18<sup>th</sup> with temperatures in the low 30's, we've got a whole lot of warming up yet to do! But that won't slow down the Association's plans for the summer. Attached to this letter is the schedule of events for this summer season.

The first activity of the season will be the annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Ring of Fire. The Ring of Fire is scheduled for 9:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 4, 2002. Flares are available to be purchased from Alice Spach weekends prior to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

On Sunday, July 7, 2002, we will have our opening adult social event at the Chestnut Inn from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Last year's event was an overwhelming success and Gary Kurz has assured us that there will be plenty of food for all. Each property owner member of the Lake Association can purchase, for \$10.00 per ticket, up to two adult tickets to the party. The ticket price includes two tickets for drinks at the bar. Guest tickets will be \$20.00 per person and includes two drink tickets also. After use of the two drink tickets, there will be a cash bar. We look forward to a great turnout and party. Please make your reservations with Barbara Marko at 467-5303 no later than July 1. We need to confirm a number to the Chestnut Inn.

The fishing at the lake ought to be great this year! The Fish Committee has arranged for 1000 new visitors to our waters: 900 rainbow trout and 100 brown trout. I can personally confirm that the delivery was accomplished on a very cold Sunday morning in May under the supervision of Koen Gieskes. I witnessed Koen returning from the task in his John Deere convertible with his hair frozen straight up, a red nose, and shivering uncontrollably.

This year we have had a large number of people fishing on the lake without the permission of any property owners. The Board felt it was unfair to pay to stock the lake for the benefit of people poaching on the lake. The Board unanimously agreed to post signs around the lake reminding people that the access to the lake is across private property only. Therefore, people who fish, without property owners permission and entry access, are trespassing. If you give permission to any guest to fish at the lake, remind them to enter the lake properly and insure that they know that they must have your permission.

The Association will be posting 4 signs around the lake which state: "Access to Oquaga Lake is by permission of property owners only."

The folks at Scott's have graciously allowed lake residents and their guests access to the lake through their boat launch area. The Scott's have requested that people using the launch follow a few simple rules:

1. Please stop in at the lobby of the hotel to pick up the key to the launch and sign-in on the launch log.
2. Bring your boat and trailer to the launch by going by the Playhouse Road and backing into the launch.
3. Exit the launch area by driving by the farm house to the main road.
4. Lock up the launch area and return the key.
5. Please stay off the grass on either side of the launch access.
6. Do not leave your trailer at the launch area.

The above steps will help manage the launch access better.

During the past winter/spring, the lake was home to a band of marauding beavers. The damage done was quite extensive. Several of our neighbors engaged beaver trappers to remove the beavers from the lake. To date, we have 5 beavers reported to have been removed from the lake. Unfortunately, the population is larger than we first thought and we do not believe we have them all. Trapping will continue through the end of May, but then will be discontinued for the summer. If you are bothered by beavers, let a Board member know and we will try to assist you in arranging for the capture and removal of the beavers. Beavers are creatures of habit and tend to return to where they find the trees they enjoy. So let us know if you have a continuing problem.

I am happy to report that we have a young man, Andrew Millspaugh, who has volunteered to institute a water quality sampling and monitoring program sponsored by Citizens Statewide Lake assessment Program (CSLAP) managed through the New York State Federation of Lake Associations (NYSFOLA). Andrew is going to be taking 8 bi-weekly samples and sending the samples off for testing as part of a multi-year science program he is engaged in for a school program. Andrew's reports from CSLAP will assist in evaluating the long-term trends and cycles of the lake. Thank you, Andrew!

I'm sad to report of the loss of long time friend of Oquaga Lake, Elmer Crowley, who passed away in March of this year. Mr. Crowley was part of the Oquaga Lake community for over 80 years and loved the lake dearly. At the wishes of his family, donations to Oquaga Lake Improvement Association in lieu of flowers was requested to honor Mr. Crowley. The Board of Directors is working on plans to properly use the funds to honor the memory of Mr. Crowley. If you have any suggestions, please let any Board member know your thoughts.

The Lake Association's by-laws require that we elect four people each year to the Board of Directors to fill the expiring terms of four current Board members. The Board is asking for your nominations for Board seats which expire in 2005. Please submit your nominations in writing to the Board of Directors Nominating Committee no later than July 15, 2002. You may give your nominations to any Board member.

As you know, Friday nights are special at the lake. Friday night features the weekly meetings of the Lake Association "Singing & Drinking Society". The Society meets at the Chestnut or Scott's on alternating Friday nights, according to the following schedule. The cannon firing at 5:00 p.m. signals the start of the activities. Plan to join your friends every Friday night. We look forward to seeing you.

<b>May 31</b>	<b>Scotts'</b>	<b>August 9</b>	<b>Scotts'</b>
June 7	Chestnut	August 16	Chestnut
<b>June 14</b>	<b>Scotts'</b>	<b>August 23</b>	<b>Scotts'</b>
June 21	Chestnut	August 30	Chestnut
<b>June 28</b>	<b>Scotts'</b>	<b>September 6</b>	<b>Scotts'</b>
July 5	Chestnut	September 13	Chestnut
<b>July 12</b>	<b>Scotts'</b>	<b>September 20</b>	<b>Scotts'</b>
July 19	Chestnut	September 27	Chestnut
<b>July 26</b>	<b>Scotts'</b>	<b>October 4</b>	<b>Scotts'</b>
August 2	Chestnut	October 11	Chestnut

Have a great summer!

For the Board of Directors,

James B. Bennett III  
President