



## OQUAGA LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Oquaga Lake – Deposit NY 13754

May 2010

### **Dear Fellow Oquaga Lakers,**

The trees are blooming, leaves and flowers are coming out for the season, so it signals it's time for all the Lakers to start another season on beautiful Oquaga Lake. It promises to be a great year and a quiet summer.

There will be no gas drilling in the area of the lake in New York as the State still hasn't come to grips with all the requirements to allow the drilling. We will keep you posted as events change. There is, and will continue to be, drilling over the border in Pennsylvania.

As promised at the Annual Meeting, the Board of Directors has approved a letter to the Broome County Highway Supervisor, and others, requesting their attention to the care of the roads and the safety of walkers on the roads surrounding our Lake and the general area. So we look forward to a quiet summer.

### **THE CHESTNUT INN**

We have sad news to report about the Chestnut Inn. The Chestnut will not open this summer. The Inn has been closed and the owners are looking to sell the facility. The Inn is being offered for sale or for long term lease, but the owners do not plan to run the Inn this season. It's sad that something as vibrant as the Chestnut was in the life of the lake, it is closing. We can only hope that new owners or operators can be found and that the Chestnut will live another day.

### **THE FOURTH OF JULY**

This year, the Fourth of July is on Sunday and will mean our activities will be on both Saturday and Sunday.

### **ELMER CROWLEY MEMORIAL FISHING DERBY**

The Eighth Annual Elmer Crowley Memorial Fishing Derby will be held on Saturday, July 3 starting at 7am at the Fishing Master's dock. That is the Koen Gieskes dock. The old master himself will be there to judge the fish and award the prizes. Remember there are both adult and child categories with world class prizes for the winners. We are looking for someone to unseat Skip and Gunther as reigning (eight years in a row) champions.

Please call the old fishing master himself at 467-4969 if you have questions.

### **OPENING PARTY**

The Adult Opening Party will also be held on Saturday, July 3 at Scott's on the waterfront starting at 1pm.

Each paid property owner of the Lake Association may purchase, for \$12 per ticket, up to two adult tickets to the party. The tickets will cover the cost of the meal and two drink tickets for beer, wine, or soda.

Guest tickets will be available at \$22 per person. Please make your reservations with Barbara Marko at 467-1897 one week prior to the event.

## **RING OF FIRE**

The Ring of Fire will be held on SUNDAY, July 4. The excitement of the Fourth will culminate with the Ring of Fire at 9:30pm. Flares will be available from KOEN and ANNELIE GIESKES this season. Our old friends Herb and Alice Spach won't be here in time this year to be sales reps so Koen and Annelie have stepped up to be sales reps this year. Flares will be \$6 a piece or three for \$15. Koen and Annelie are at 48 Hanson Road (better known as Yellow Bird) and the flares will be by the garage.

## **ANNUAL FAMILY DAY: FIELD AND WATER SPORT, AND FAMILY PICNIC**

The Annual Family Day and Family Picnic is scheduled for Saturday, August 7th. As usual we need volunteers for the morning and afternoon events. Please call Barbara Marko to volunteer for the days activities at 467-1897, and contact Jim Bennett to assist with the family picnic at 467-5575.

## **LAUNCHING YOUR BOAT**

Again this year, the folks at Scott's have graciously allowed Lake Residents and their guests access to the lake through their boat launch area. The Scotts have requested that the people using the launch follow a few simple rules.

1. Please stop at the lobby of the hotel to pick up the key to the launch and sign the launch log.
2. Bring your boat and trailer to the launch by going to the Playhouse Road and backing into the launch.
3. There is a new gate that must be locked up 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.

## **BOAT STICKERS**

Don't forget to place your orange stickers on your boat for identification. If you need new stickers contact Barbara Marko at 467-1897 and she will assist you. We will have them available at the Opening Party.

## **BUILDING ON THE LAKE**

The Town of Sanford has passed a zoning ordinance with regard to construction on the lake. Please check with the Town to get approval for your project. Work between June and September has been restricted, so please check with the Town.

## **NEW BOARD NOMINATIONS**

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 the Board seats that will expire in 2013. Please submit your nominations in writing to the Board of Directors Nominating Committee no later than August 15th. You may submit your nomination to any Board member.

## **BEAVER WARNING**

There has been evidence that we may have an uninvited guest visiting our Lake. Beavers can do much damage to property and cause danger to boaters. If you see a beaver or have evidence of beavers, please call a Board member and we will arrange for an animal control officer to capture and remove the critters.

## **POACHERS**

We have also had some uninvited fishermen. Remember, crossing private property to access the Lake is trespassing and against the law. We stock the Lake at our expense for the benefit of the Lake Association, not poachers who fish illegally. Check for boat stickers and ask violators to leave.

## **SEWER DISTRICT**

The Town of Sanford is continuing the project of pumping sewer tanks on our individual properties. This is a four-year project and you may be contacted this summer. Please give any assistance you can when approached to do your tanks.

## **WATER TESTING**

Again this year we are continuing our project to test well water around the Lake. Mark Millspaugh is our project leader and is coordinating the results. Mark is compiling the results (good and bad) so that we can determine if there is any pattern around the lake. Please forward test results to [mark@sterlingenvironmental.com](mailto:mark@sterlingenvironmental.com) or mail a copy to 800 Avon Crest Blvd., Schenectady NY 12309.

Barbara Marko and Jim Bennett have sample kits available. You can use the sampling lab of your choice, or take your samples to:

BEACON WATER EQUIPMENT  
Route 12A  
Chenango Bridge, NY

Samples must be processed within twenty-four hours of being drawn to be acceptable. The fee is \$21 with check made out to Beacon Water Company.

Barbara Marko has offered to drop off your sample at Beacon on her way to work any day Monday to Friday. Please contact her to make arrangements in advance: phone 467-1897 or 725-7087.

## **FRIDAY NIGHTS**

As you know, Friday nights are special on the Lake. Friday night is the weekly meeting of the Lake Association's "Singing and Drinking Society." Scotts is available to us some Fridays; however there are also some wedding weekends where they will not be available. A social hour schedule will be mailed as soon as the schedule is finalized. **But we will start the Friday of Memorial Day at Scotts.** Watch for an update on this summer's schedule, coming soon.

## **LOWERING THE LAKE**

You will remember that our Lake is lowered every five years so that maintenance can be performed on your waterfront. The Lake will be lowered for thirty days commencing the first of October. This is your chance, so plan now to use the time effectively. A reminder: some construction and modification of docks and waterfronts may require Site Plan Approval by the Town Planning Board, and if excavation and fill placement is involved, a NYSDEC permit may be needed. Please make yourself aware of the regulations and comply accordingly.

## **DUES**

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

**Have a great summer!**

For the Board of Directors,

James B Bennett III  
President