



Droplets

Our Mission: To preserve the health, beauty and welfare of our lake, not only today, but for future generations.

Volume V—Number 1

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Prez' Perspective

Another spring is upon us, although slightly delayed by April showers in the form of a nor'easter. But as the snow fades away, we look at it the glistening lake and look forward to the summer ahead.

The pandemic limited projects and thoughts as we all hunkered down and isolated from the virus. The virus will eventually move to something we live with. We need to get back to protecting our Lake!

Other things we're starting to live with include the **rains** that have come not as light sprinkles, but as deluges that wash the hills into the lake.

This year, we are focusing in on runoff and controlling the sediment that slowly fills in our streams. We hope to get the streams opened again, with populations remembered of spawning fish swimming in the cold, clear runoff from the hills.

Pat Koloski of Hillside Gardens in Marcellus will be speaking on how to change our open front

lawns into ecologic protectors, preventing runoff and protecting the lake from the silt and fertilizers that helps the weeds that clog our summers to flourish.

As part of this event, there will be a **small tree giveaway** sponsored by OLPA of trees that with their root systems protect the soil's cover for runoff. The native species to be distributed will not spread and harm the natural environment. **Mark down the date, May 18th.** See the flyer included to this edition.

Also...Please set aside

time for our **Earth Day Cleanup** coming up this **Saturday, April 23rd.**

We will meet at the Otisco Lake Community Center at 9:15am and then go out along our streets, picking up winter road trash. Our friends at **Sissy's Pizzeria** will sponsor a pizza lunch at 11:30am after the road pick up. **OCRRA** will take the trash and dispose of it.

We appreciate everyone's time in this effort to help our friend, the lake!!



Earth Day Cleanup



Saturday, April 23rd

9:30am to 11:30am

Meet at the Community Center

2223 Amber Rd.

Pizza Lunch provided

Seeking Otisco Lake volunteers to monitor for algae blooms and water quality

OLPA is joining with the DEC to increase the available pool of data regarding water quality, especially harmful algal blooms, in Otisco Lake. The name of the DEC program is **Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program** or commonly referred to as CSLAP.

We are recruiting volunteers who would be willing to be trained by CSLAP experts and commit to taking weekly samples and visual inspections in July and August. Volunteers report each week, and collect a water samples at their lakeshore location. A local sample collection point will be in Amber, and all equipment and materials will be provided at no cost.



Please express interest by contacting us at olpawebste@gmail.com.

Get Involved with Citizen Science

Where we are with **weeds!!**

OLPA was founded in 2010 by a group looking to control the weeds that had choked certain areas of the lake. Our grant a couple years ago did identify **curly-leaf pondweed** and some milfoil as being our only two invasive species. We have directed surface weed harvesting for the last several years targeting specific species during crucial stages of the life cycle.

Curly leaf pondweed is particularly thick and prolific in the narrows and along the north west shoreline up to Lader's Point. Pondweed is an early emergent invasive species that reproduces with protruding flowers in early June. **Harvesting** removes the top of the plant and flower so that the cycle can be interrupted and large amounts of plant mass are removed from the lake to prevent it from decaying and dropping to the lake bottom.

Clean, drain and dry is the theme to boaters to remind them to clean off their boat before putting it into our lake as well as when it comes out. We have utilized OLPA as well as grant funds to institute a **steward program** on the lake. I'm sure those of you who had launched your boat at one of the marinas or the DEC boat launch have seen the stewards and listen to their encouraging words about controlling new species getting into the lake. This year that program will be financed by our partners at the **Finger Lakes Institute**, continuing to be the most important control mechanism for protecting our lake. We appreciate their efforts on our behalf!

The DEC, recognizing the importance of controlling these species especially as relates to fish population, will be installing at their cost a **boat wash station** at the public launch on the southwest end of the lake. This piece of equipment will allow boaters to blow off any weeds that may be attached to the boat or trailer as well as to suction out bait compartments. Stewards, staffing the 2 launch sites, will continue to educate boaters to wash their boats both before and after motoring around Otisco lake. **Fishing boats** will be instructed to dump bait wells and clean boats of all potential contaminants

Controlling invasive fish species, including the **Round Goby** is an important focus for us in the upcoming year.
We appreciate DEC support in this important intervention.

Clean, Drain, Dry is important regardless of where you launch your boat. **PROTECT THE LAKE!**



Lake Friendly Living FOR WATERSHED RESILIENCY

MAY AWARENESS MONTH
WEDNESDAY, MAY 18TH, 6:30 - 8PM

PROTECT YOUR WATERSHED: EFFECTIVE HOME GARDEN & LAWN PLANTINGS

Pat Koloski of Hillside Gardens will lead a discussion about simple practices that residents can adopt to help minimize runoff. He will also present hands-on techniques for native landscaping as well. Attendees will not go home empty handed- each will choose a new Red Oak or American Sweetgum!

LOCATION

Otisco Lake Community Center

2223 Amber Road,
Marietta, NY 13110

PRESENTER

PAT KOLOSKI

Pat works with Hillside Gardens, a family owned garden center located in Marcellus, NY specializing in annuals, perennials, and nursery stock.



EVENT SPONSORED BY:

Otisco Lake Preservation Association

TO REGISTER, VISIT:

WWW.FLRWA.ORG/LAKE-FRIENDLY-LIVING

Event Schedule

April 23rd - Earth Day Clean-up Event -

Otisco Lake Community Center - 9:30am

May 11th - OLPA Meeting - OLCC/ZOOM - 6:30pm

May 18th - LFL May Awareness Talk & Tree Giveaway

OLCC - 6:30pm - 8pm

June 8th - OLPA Meeting - OLCC/ZOOM - 6:30pm

June 18th - Dumpster Day I - RJ Frost - 9am-4pm

July 7th - Annual Meeting - TBD - 6:30pm

July 9th - Watershed Shuffle - Otisco Lake Park - 9:00am

August 7th - Water Chestnut Pull - Otisco Lake Park - 9:00am

August 10th - OLPA Meeting - OLCC/ZOOM - 6:30pm

August 20th - Dumpster Day II - RJ Frost - 9am-4pm

September 14th - OLPA Meeting - OLCC/ZOOM - 6:30pm

All meetings are open!!

ZOOM Link Available for all meetings!

Questions & Concerns addressed as open agenda item!

