



# Droplets

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

Volume V—Number 1

## Our Board

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[Oticolakepreservation.org](http://Oticolakepreservation.org)



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## Prez' Perspective

### Happy Spring!.....Finally

We are waking up the lake slowly but surely. Ice is gone, fishing boats are back & an occasional kayak floats by. All good signs that summer will soon be here.

We have a lot of great projects started. Our DEC Grant should be kicking into high gear, some work being discussed at the south end of the lake to look at run off controlling run off and our continuing our efforts on monitoring harmful alga blooms (HABS). Page 2 has lots of info on these activities. Check it out!!

Each year we have a theme. Partners & what we have a were previous focus. This year we look to a very special group...YOU!! The theme for 2018 is "What can I do?"

We look this year to begin to educate about exactly what individuals can do to protect the lake & watershed. We are distributing tip sheets (Droplets plus, by name) to

focus on the little things we can do that add up. Page 2 of this edition has opportunities for residents to help us in the efforts to reverse some of the lake trends & issues that we have found in the studies of last year.

I have kept the meetings on the first Wednesday of each month with the exception of May. These are open to all. Come and give us your thoughts on lake issues and we will do our best to address them. Our partnerships with OCWA, Onondaga County Soil & Water, the DEC hub & the Finger Lakes Institute all give us avenues to assist. Also we have our annual events happening including our Dumpster Days, the Annual Meeting on July 5th and the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Watershed Shuffle. We look forward to a great year!

We are very pleased that Anita Williams has agreed to assist us as our political liaison. We have found, with the action on HABS in Skaneateles lake and the lakes west of us, our political standing needs focused attention. Anita, having been successful with the political system in the past, has agreed to help us out. We are very excited and welcome her efforts!

Another friend, Linda Kelly, has agreed to be our webmaster, coordinating the website and re-doing what will needs to be a valuable interface. Anyone with thoughts about the website, please contact me so everyone's ideas can be represented at [olpawesite@gmail.com](mailto:olpawesite@gmail.com)

More to come as we begin an exciting year! Talk to us & then... get involved!



## Dumpster Day!!

**Saturday, June 16th**

9am to 4pm

**R.J. Frost, Co**

**2388 Otisco Valley Rd., Amber, NY**

*No electronics, tires or hazardous waste*

**Mattresses & Couches - \$20/ea.**



# **HABs Monitoring Program is back for 2018**

Once again we are participating in the **DEC Harmful Algae Bloom** monitoring program. After a short training in June, volunteers are given specimen bottles and online access to the reporting sites for DEC. Volunteers around the lake make weekly observations of the surface in their area of shoreline looking for evidence of blooms ever Sunday morning to Monday afternoon. If no evidence is seen, an online report is submitted by the volunteer. If a suspicious bloom is seen, a set of digital photos are taken and submitted online. A sample of the water also is taken and dropped off in Amber. The program is officially beginning in July and will continue into September depending on the weather.

We appreciate anyone who is willing to watch for this phenomenon, and due to the demands placed upon us for so many of the initiatives were working on we require that a volunteer have the technology for the following:

- Send and receive emails
- Go to a website online to submit a report
- Take digital photos and be able to send those electronically

It's perfectly fine if a neighbor or relative helps you with these tasks, we just need to know that you can perform them in order to add you to our list of volunteers. For more information or to volunteer your skills, please contact **Jen Griffin** at 315-415-1390 or [jennifersmithgriffin@gmail.com](mailto:jennifersmithgriffin@gmail.com)

## **INVASIVE SPECIES DETECTION AND RESPONSE GRANT**

In June we will begin site work to detect the invertebrate invasive species Bloody Red Shrimp. A group of 11 scientists and will be working at night setting out equipment to detect the potential presence of the species and also doing laboratory work with Otisco Lake water. By next summer they will be able to determine through eDNA testing whether the species has ever been in the lake, and if so set out traps to capture them. It is new and cutting edge science we are excited to participate with. Also in June the first divers will begin the mapping and surveying of our plant population, targeting identification of invasive weeds. A pontoon boat with the divers and equipment will be out during week days using sonar and GPS and other methods to give us a specific map of what we have and where it is. There are a few species we are focused on detecting, if we have them, and then immediately responding to their population. Milfoil and Pondweed are abundant and we will harvest those along with any others we find. We will be marking areas for harvesting and removal with plastic milk jug homemade "buoys". They will be weighted down but not permanent or very strong. Please avoid the buoys with your watercraft or if you are swimming. As we harvest we will remove the buoys.



## **Events Schedule**

May 16th—OLPA Meeting—Amber Inn—6:30pm  
June 16th—Dumpster Day I— Frost Hauling —9am-4pm  
July 5th—Annual Meeting—Marietta House—6:00pm  
July 21st—Watershed Shuffle—Otisco Lake Park—9:00am  
August 1st—OLPA Meeting—Amber Inn—6:30pm  
August 6th—Water Chestnut Pull—Otisco Lake Park—9:00am  
August 18th—Dumpster Day II— Frost Hauling —9am-4pm  
September 6th—OLPA Meeting—TBD—6:30pm

**All meetings are open!!**

**Questions & Concerns addressed as open agenda item!  
Email to us through the website your thoughts & ideas for how to make  
the lake a better place!!**