

The Grapevine

Newsletter of the HONEOYE VALLEY ASSOCIATION

VOL. 30

Fall 2013

Fishing Diaries Report from the Past Year For Honeoye Lake

By Pete Austerman Aquatic Biologist

During the 2012-2013 fishing season, 22 diary cooperators reported 1,766 hours of fishing from 472 fishing trips. A total of 3,141 game fish and 277 panfish were reported caught. On average, anglers took 0.7 hours to catch one legal game fish (1.4 per hour). This is a very good catch which was largely driven by excellent largemouth bass fishing.

Black Bass

Largemouth bass continue to make up most of the game fish catch, representing 90% of all game fish caught. A total of 2,833 largemouth bass were caught and 324 were harvested. Anglers who were specifically targeting largemouth bass had an outstanding catch rate of 2.2 bass/hour. One individual angler diary cooperator was responsible for reporting 56% of the largemouth bass catch. Even when excluding this angler's catch, the average catch rate was still very high at 1.3 bass/hour. Honeoye Lake continues to have one of the best catch rates for largemouth in the entire state.

Eighty-five percent of the largemouth bass caught were legal size (12 inches or larger). This is much higher than in past years. Largemouth bass in the 8 to 12 inch size range were considerably less numerous than in previous years. The average length of largemouth bass with reported lengths was 13.1 inches, which is identical to last year. Fifteen largemouth bass over 20 inches in length were

reported, indicating that there is the occasional opportunity to catch a trophy bass in Honeoye Lake.

The number of smallmouth bass reported was down from last year. A total of 170 smallmouth bass were caught and five were harvested. Similar to last year, one angler was responsible for most of the smallmouth bass catch, accounting for 92% of the reported catch. The average length of smallmouth bass with reported lengths was 12.1 inches.

Walleye

This year 72 walleye were caught with 55 harvested. This is an improvement compared to last year. Anglers who were specifically targeting walleye had a catch rate of 0.43 walleye/hour. This catch rate is much higher than last year and well above the target for New York State waters (0.25 walleye/hour). This catch rate is inflated by a few anglers who caught a good number of walleye in a relatively short amount of time. Although this catch rate compares very well to past years, it is based on only 91 total hours of fishing in which anglers were targeting walleye.

Last year we reported that 20% of the angler diary walleye catch consisted of sub-legal walleye (< 15 inches). It appears that some of those previously sub-legal walleye grew to legal size and supported much of the walleye fishery during the 2012-13 season. Over 55% of the walleye catch was in the 15 to 18 inch range. Unfortunately, only 6% of the catch consisted of sub-legal walleye, so there is some concern about the quality of walleye fishing in upcoming years.

Fishing Diaries (Con't.)

About Your HVA...

The Honeoye Valley Association is a not-for-profit volunteer organization that works in a variety of ways to protect and preserve the environmental quality of the Honeoye Lake watershed.

To become a member (and receive this newsletter regularly), send \$20 to the HVA, PO Box 165, Honeoye, NY 14471.

To contribute articles, letters or opinions for this newsletter, send them to the above address. Visit us on our website at www.hvaweb.org.

The HVA Board of Directors meets at 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month, March through November. We meet at the United Church of Christ on Main Street. All meetings are open.

The HVA Board of Directors:

Hugh Turner	367-3522
Frank Powell	367-2927
Kay Luther	229-2315
Helen Johnson	229-2273
Terry Gronwall	367-3000
Jack Starke	367-2079
Don Bennett	229-2003
Jerry Clearman	229-5498
Don Cook	367-9293
Ed Jackson	229-1090
Amrut Patel	671-1484

The lack of sub-legal size walleye suggests that recruitment has been poor in recent years. Our spring sampling in 2012 also indicated that the walleye population was substantially lower than it was in the early 2000's. Stocking of 8.7 million walleye fry has continued each year. We are considering changing the walleye length limit from 15 to 18 inches in Honeoye Lake and will be soliciting comments on this possible change in the near future. We feel that this would help build up the adult population by protecting walleye in the 15 to 18 inch size range. Honeoye walleye can reach 15 inches rather quickly but are relatively slow growing once they hit legal size. An 18 inch size limit could allow multiple successful year classes to

build up the population to levels more typically seen in the past on Honeoye Lake.

On a positive note, the conditions for walleye fry survival have been good for the past two years with gradual water temperature increases in the weeks following stocking. If fry survival is good for 2012 and 2013, these fish would have the potential to contribute to the fishery in about 3 to 4 years.

Chain Pickerel

Catch of chain pickerel increased was very similar to last year and was the sixth highest catch since the program began in 1989. The average length of harvested pickerel was 21.3 inches.

The data you provide is extremely helpful in tracking trends in the fishery on Honeoye Lake. We are always looking for additional diary cooperators. If you know anyone that is interested, please have them contact our office at 585-226-5343. Enjoy the rest of the fishing season.

HVA Supports and Participates in the Honeoye Lake Watershed Task Force

The Honeoye Valley Association is a voting member of the HLWTF and as such would like our members to become better acquainted with the make up and functioning of this important group. Therefore on the following pages we are reprinting their newsletter.

If you have any concerns or questions about this committee, please contact one of us.

Upcoming Nature Talks

Join Elaina Burns, on Saturday, November 23 from 7:00-8:30 PM for a program on **A Non-invasive Approach to River Otter Monitoring in the Finger Lakes Region of New York** at the FLCC Muller Field Station, 6455 County Road 36, Honeoye, NY 14471

To make a reservation, please contact Nancy Lawson at 585-785-1257 or lawsonnk@flcc.edu

Honeoye Lake Watershed Task Force Newsletter

Summer 2013



Photograph: Terry Gronwall

Honeoye Lake and the Honeoye Lake Watershed are a beautiful backdrop for the residents, anglers and boaters who enjoy the local waters.

Algae and weed growth have impaired water quality and recreational uses in Honeoye Lake. Various measures have been taken over the years in an effort to reduce inflow of sediment and nutrients as well as circulation of nutrients within the lake. These efforts must continue in a planned, organized, efficient manner if they are to be effective.

The ultimate goal of long-term management of land and water resources is the protection and improvement of Honeoye Lake. Reducing nutrient and sediment loading from the Honeoye Lake Watershed through enactment of recommendations outlined in the Honeoye Lake Watershed Management Plan will improve conditions for all who enjoy the lake and the natural surroundings of the watershed.

Honeoye Lake Watershed Task Force

Honeoye Lake Watershed Task Force was formed in 1998 by the Honeoye Valley Association, the Towns of Canadice, Richmond, Bristol, South Bristol and Naples to protect and improve the water quality of Honeoye Lake.

Voting members include:

Steve Barnhoorn, Councilmember Town of Richmond
Bill Hershey, Councilmember, Town of Canadice
Dan Marshall, Supervisor, Town of South Bristol
Al Favro, Councilmember, Town of Bristol
Mark Adams, Representative, Town of Naples
Terry Gronwall, Honeoye Valley Association
(Chairman)

Permanent professional support is provided by:

P J Emerick, Bill Hershey, Edith Davey, Ontario County Soil and Water Conservation District
Dr. Bruce Gilman, Finger Lakes Community College
Tom Harvey and Betsy Landre, Ontario County Planning Department

Other professional support is provided by:

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
Finger Lakes Institute
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ontario County
Ontario County Water Resources Council
Princeton Hydro Consulting Services

Further information may be obtained by contacting:

Chairman Terry Gronwall at
(585) 367-3000
tgronwall@taurusgroupllc.com
or
P J Emerick, Ontario County SWCD
(585) 396-1450
ontswcd1@rochester.rr.com



Honeoye Lake Watershed Management Plan

The Honeoye Lake Watershed Management Plan (HLWMP) is a document that identifies major action items needed to protect and improve the water quality of Honeoye Lake.

The specific objectives of this plan are to:

- Improve the water quality of Honeoye Lake.
- Protect the Honeoye Lake Watershed's natural resources.
- Identify challenges and barriers to water quality protection and to suggest means to overcome them.
- Protect the high quality of life enjoyed by residents of the Honeoye Lake Watershed.
- Improve water-dependent recreational opportunities.
- Retain and attract business and improve local economic development opportunities.
- Consider economic, social, and other incentives for water quality protection.

Protection and Management Issues

- Wetland Restoration
- Riparian Zone Management
- General Watershed Education and Outreach
- Point and Nonpoint Source Management and Control
- Excess Nutrients
- Onsite Wastewater Treatment (Septic) Systems
- Forestry
- Streambank/Shoreline Erosion
- Development
- Recreational Uses
- Agriculture
- Pesticides
- Salt Usage and Storage
- Spills
- Bulk Storage Facilities
- Landfills, Dumps, Inactive Hazardous Waste Sites
- Mined Lands

Examination of watershed lands to determine impacts and remediation options of problems associated with these issues will remain an ongoing task for Honeoye Lake Watershed Task Force and its partners. **Lake protection and enhancement is long-term work.**

Lake-Friendly Living: Lawn and Garden Maintenance

- Use fertilizers and pesticides sparingly, especially near waterbodies.
- Use only phosphorus-free fertilizers on established lawns.

Established lawns can not use the phosphorus.

- Select native plants and grasses that are drought tolerant and pest resistant.
- Native plants are adapted to local climate, soils and pests, and provide valuable habitat for native birds, butterflies and amphibians.
- Compost yard waste.
- Cover piles of dirt and mulch to prevent them from washing into storm drains.

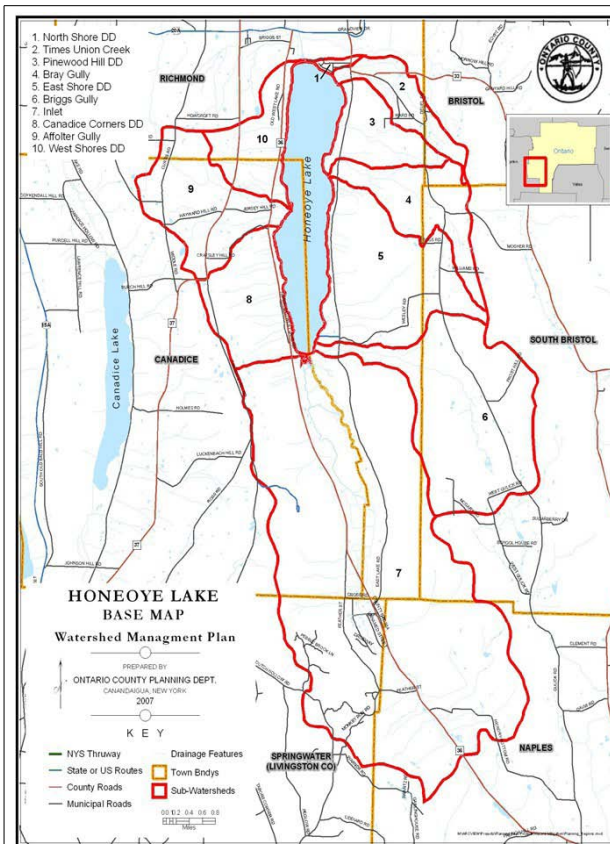


Look for the middle number: The three numbers on a fertilizer container lists its percent of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium content, in that order. A zero in the middle means it is phosphorus-free fertilizer.

- Leave grass clippings on the lawn (they decompose quickly, provide nitrogen and reduce the need for fertilizer).
- Sweep clippings from driveway and sidewalks rather than hosing areas. Never dump/blow/sweep grass clippings or leaves into the lake.
- Plant grass or vegetation where soil is exposed.

Keep pet waste from entering the lake. Dog waste carries twice as much bacteria as human waste and may harbor parasites that infect humans. It also is a source of nutrients – nitrogen and phosphorus that encourage weed and algae growth.

1 pound of phosphorus entering Honeoye Lake supports the growth of 500 pounds of algae/water weeds.



Honeoye Lake Facts

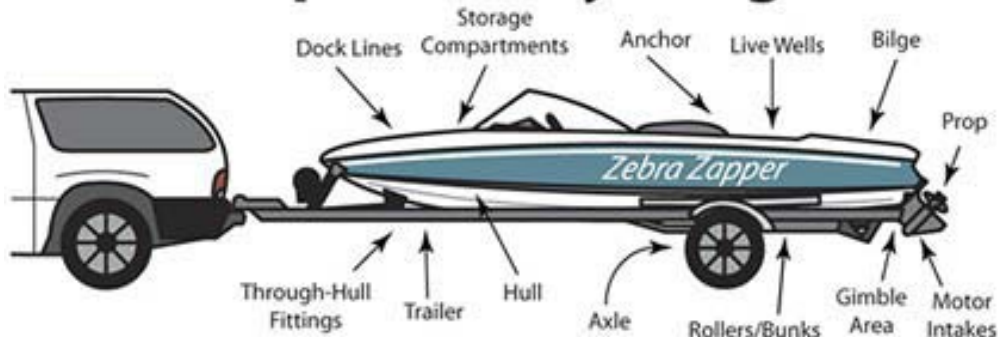
Surface Area:	2.72 square miles
Length:	4.7 miles
Width:	0.67 miles
Depth:	30.2 feet
Mean Depth:	16.1 feet
Shoreline:	8.5 miles
Hydraulic Retention:	292 to 352 days
Volume :	9.20 billion gallons
Classification:	Eutrophic, nutrient rich Ontario County, Towns of Richmond and Canadice

Honeoye Watershed Facts

Area:	37.7 Square Miles
Location:	<u>Ontario County:</u> Towns of Bristol, Canadice, Naples, Richmond, South Bristol, Hamlet of Honeoye <u>Livingston County:</u> Town of Springwater
Land Use:	Forest (85%) Agriculture (9%) Open (4%)
Land Ownership:	Residential(2%) Private 91.84% Public 8.16%
Precipitation	30-35" annually

Clean, Drained And Dry

Before leaving and before launching...
inspect everything!



How important is it to inspect before launching your boat or when leaving a water body? **Essential!**

There have been many unwanted introductions of plant and animal life into Honeoye Lake in the past. A host of other organisms have entered the lakes with human assistance. None have enhanced the environment, improved fishing or recreational activities or helped homeowners.

The threat of *Hydrilla verticillata* entering Honeoye Lake has increased the risk. The list of hydrilla characteristics is a template of successful invasive attributes: rapid reproduction and high dispersal ability, tolerance of a wide range of environmental conditions, and association with human activities. Hydrilla is a submersed herbaceous perennial that forms extremely dense stands of very long stems (25- 35 ft.) in the water. It reproduces mainly by regrowth of stem fragments; but also reproduces by growth of axillary buds (turions) and subterranean tubers that can remain viable for more than 4 years. A single tuber can grow to produce more than 6,000 new tubers per square meter.

Hydrilla can grow in almost any freshwater: springs, lakes, marshes, ditches, rivers, tidal zones. It can grow in only a few inches of water, or in water more than 20 feet deep. It can grow in oligotrophic (low nutrient) to eutrophic (high nutrient) conditions and in 7% salinity seawater. Hydrilla is somewhat winter-hardy; its optimum growth temperature is, 68-81° F; its maximum temperature is 86°F. Southern populations overwinter as perennials; northern populations overwinter and regrow from tubers. In Russia, hydrilla grows to 50° N latitude-- equivalent to the US/Canadian border. It can grow in only 1% of full sunlight.

Boaters in many states are obligated to have their boats inspected by trained authorities before launching. For example, this list of procedures is required in Idaho:

- *Inspect all exposed surfaces.*
- *Wash the hull thoroughly, preferably with hot water.*
- *Remove all plant and animal material.*
- *Drain all water and dry all areas.*
- *Drain and dry the lower outboard unit.*
- *Clean and dry all live wells.*
- *Empty and dry any buckets.*
- *Dispose of all bait in the trash.*
- *Wait five days and keep watercraft dry between launches into different fresh waters.*

Pictured: Hydrilla



Although these measures are not required in New York, the threat of hydrilla infestation should prompt boaters to inspect their craft before entering and after leaving the water. A few plant fragments are all that would be necessary to infest Honeoye Lake.

19TH ANNUAL NEW YORK STATE FEDERATION OF LAKE ASSOCIATIONS REGIONAL MEETING

AT MOONWINKS NEAR CUBA LAKE, NEW YORK

OCTOBER 19, 2014



Dave O. Brown presented his photos and videos of fascinating landscapes, plants and creatures from around the world. He will be presenting at 2014's HVA Annual Meeting.



Dr. Sid Bosch presented on the improved conditions at Conesus Lake.

Over 50 people attended from lakes/watersheds in Western New York and the Finger Lakes. 11 Honeoye Valley residents attended. Next year's conference will be at Moonwinks near Cuba Lake on October 18, 2014.

Your 2013-2014 HVA Membership Renewal

Please renew your 2013-2014 HVA membership today. The HVA can only accomplish its mission of enhancing the quality of the environment and life experiences in and around Honeoye Lake through both your personal and financial support as a member.

If you have already renewed your membership, we greatly appreciate your support for all of the HVA's initiatives.

The Honeoye Valley Association is dedicated to protecting, preserving, and enhancing the quality of the environment and life experiences in and around Honeoye Lake. Through your membership the HVA can support activities like monitoring the lake water quality, supporting new water quality research activities, annual litter clean-up of over fifty miles of area roads, Finger Lakes Community College Environmental Conservation student scholarships, boat safety courses, signs displaying local boating laws, publishing the Grapevine, and serving as an advocate to other agencies for lake and watershed issues.

A large, diverse membership offers more viewpoints and assistance to various committees and projects. The membership year runs from July 1 through June 30 and the annual dues are \$20 per membership.

If you have membership questions, suggestions, or need additional forms, please contact any Board member listed in the Grapevine, or write to us. More information is available at www.hvaweb.org. Thank you.

Detach and mail with your check:

Date: _____

Individual (\$20) New Member Renewal Extra donation for water quality projects \$____

Lake		Mailing	
Name :		E-Mail:	
Address:		Address:	
City:		City:	
State:	Zip:	State:	Zip:
Phone:		Phone	

I would also like to be involved with the committees circled below:

Aquatic Vegetation
Boat & Safety
Stream Monitoring

Membership Drive
Publishing
Litter Control

Board of Directors
Fish & Wildlife