



# Oneida County Lakes and Rivers Association

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*Vice President*  
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*Secretary*  
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March 2024

Dear Friends of Our Lakes and Rivers:

OCLRA is gearing up for another busy and successful year working on behalf of our county's water resources. Now is the time to show your support and commitment by joining our organization or renewing your individual or lake group membership. Here are some of the past year's accomplishments made possible by support from members like you :

- Helped generate powerful grassroots support for state legislation and local ordinances to protect our waters from enhanced boat wakes (400+ attendees at legislator listening sessions).
- Began work on a Lake Steward program designed to encourage and reward property owners for adopting basic best practices in natural shoreline protection.
- Collaborated with many groups supporting successful efforts to secure a conservation easement for the Pelican River Forest.
- Worked with the Vilas County Lakes and Rivers Association to plan and conduct the 2024 Northwoods Six County Lakes Meeting, which drew record attendance of 183.
- Backed Oneida County's aquatic invasive species prevention program and the DNR's Clean Boats Clean Waters initiative.
- Established OCLRA's first social media presence in the form of a Facebook page.
- Updated and improved the OCLRA website ([www.oclra.org](http://www.oclra.org))
- Continued monitoring county Planning and Development Committee activities as they relate to lake and stream protection

Meanwhile, board member and secretary Beckie Gaskill launched the Wisconsin Conservationist online magazine (visit [https://issuu.com/beckiejjoki/docs/wi\\_conservationist\\_jan\\_2024](https://issuu.com/beckiejjoki/docs/wi_conservationist_jan_2024)).

On a sad note, we said farewell to long-time board member, past president and treasurer Rob Hagge, who passed away in January. Rob was essentially president for life of the Lake Katherine Association and was responsible for the donation of 451 acres and 4.85 miles of that lake's shoreline to the Northwoods Land Trust. He will be sorely missed.

OCLRA looks forward to much more productive work in the year ahead – with your help and support. We remain dedicated to our mission to educate, advocate and collaborate in protecting our waters, natural shorelines, scenery, and waterfront property values. We welcome your comments and suggestions. You can share your thoughts and ideas by email to [oclra100@gmail.com](mailto:oclra100@gmail.com). You are also welcome to attend our board of directors meetings, generally at 9 a.m. on the second Monday of each month, at the ADRC building in Rhinelander (across the parking lot from Trig's).

Meanwhile, please use the attached form or visit [www.oclra.org](http://www.oclra.org) to establish or renew your membership.

All best wishes,

Ted Rulseh  
President, OCLRA

***Our Mission: To protect Oneida County waters and habitats through:***

***\* Education \* Collaboration \* Advocacy***