

ELA Division Newsletter

LATIHWY^TYSANIKO·LALE? they protect the earth



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Environmental Welcomes New Staff



Nathan Pelkey
Invasive Species Specialist

Welcome to Oneida enrolled member, Nathan! Nathan is our new Environmental Specialist for Invasive Species and began in May. With three years as a Soil Conservationist and prior experience as a Botany Technician with the US Forest Service in Oregon, Nathan's passion for plants shines through. An enrolled member of the Oneida Nation, he aims to make a positive impact on the lands he cherished growing up. He holds an associate degree in Natural Resources Technology and a bachelor's in Environmental Science.



Jaryd T. Wilber
Nonpoint Technician

Welcome Jaryd! He joined the Environmental Team as a Nonpoint Technician! Primarily field-based, his office is at Little Bear Development Center. A Menominee enrolled member and father of two girls, he graduated from Haskell Indian Nations University and previously worked for seven years in the Lac Du Flambeau Tribal Natural Resource department. Please greet him warmly if you see him in the community!

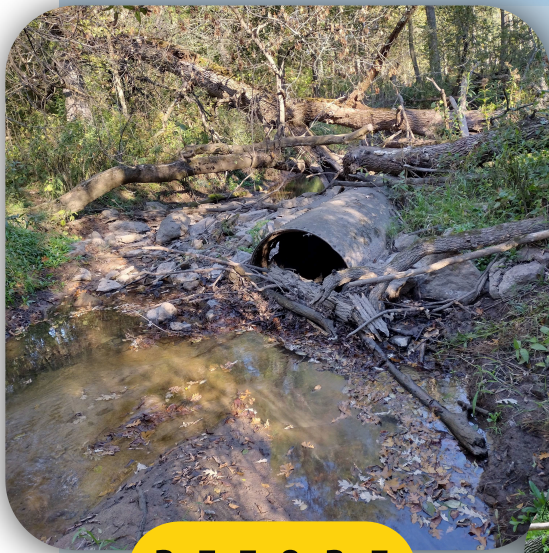


Jennifer J. Jordan
Sanitarian II

We are thrilled to welcome Jennifer to ELA, an enrolled Oneida member. With a rich background as a Senior Internal Auditor, and degrees in Community Health, Education, and Public Health, she is also a Certified Health Education Specialist. We are eager for her to take her RS exam and help Brittany to promote the health and safety of the Oneida Nation!

Environmental Update

Improving water quality



BEFORE

The disturbed areas were replanted with Native Riparian Seed Mixes of grasses, forbs, winter rye, sedges & rushes along the project entrance and stream bank. The seeds were covered by erosion control matting, specifically coconut roll, known for being more animal and environmentally friendly. Today, less than a year later, the seeds are established, and the stream corridor is flowing clear for wildlife passage.



AFTER



For Questions: Project Manager - Alaina Noll, Water Resources Specialist anoll@oneidanation.org.

Environmental Update

Summer Intern - Chante Red Hail



This summer we are excited to welcome a high school student scholar, Chante Red Hail, who will be shadowing Oneida Environmental and UWGB teaching staff. Chante is going to be a Senior at the Seymour Community High School. This program is funded through the Freshwater Collaborative of Wisconsin. Job duties include working with the Oneida Bird Monitoring Project and helping Oneida staff with various projects that ensure a healthy environment. He plays La Crosse for Oneida Nation High School and for the Green Bay Snappers Box La Crosse league. Please say Shèkoli and welcome Chante when you see him!

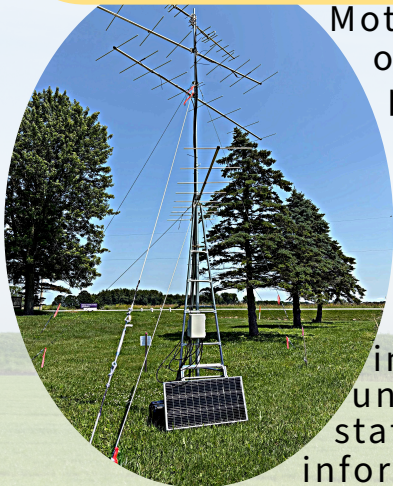
Habitat Update

This Black Margin Purple Loosestrife beetle, alongside its species, was cultivated with the Green Bay Botanical Gardens last year to combat the invasive purple loosestrife plant threatening wetland biodiversity. The beetles were released along Hwy 54 and Trout Creek Headquarters on July 3rd and 14th this summer. For details on invasive species, and plants or the release please contact Nate at npelkey@oneidanation.org.



Small beetle on Purple Loosestrife flower

MotusTower



Motus is the Latin word for movement, and it is also the name of a receiving station that is “listening” for birds. In partnership with the Lake Michigan Bird Observatory, we are tracking the movement of migratory birds using a MOTUS tracking system. This research is focused on the Lake Michigan migratory flyway. Birds are fitted with tiny radio transmitter's and the MOTUS stations listen for them as they fly past on their seasonal journey. The information gathered provides valuable insight on their movements and is fundamental understanding their habitat requirements. The Oneida MOTUS station is located at our Conservation Department. For more information please visit the link.

<https://gl.audubon.org/birds/tracking-migratory-birds>

For more Information contact Anthony Kuchma at akuchma@oneidanation.org

Environmental Update

Stream Maintenance Projects



Sediment buildup in a water way

In the last decade we have seen more frequent high intensity storms which can lead to extended flooding in areas that don't usually flood. During these high intensity storm events, agriculture fields with exposed soil can lose their sediment and nutrients to downstream waterways. Over time as the sediment settles in the waterway, it changes the hydrology in a negative way, increasing the flooding area.

Three locations in Oneida will be receiving stream maintenance soon. This involves excavating the excess sediment and returning the stream to a grade that allows for positive flow and reduces upstream flooding. These areas will be seeded down with rye grass and covered with an erosion control blanket.



Example of grassed water way in Oneida.

To reduce flooding, the Nonpoint Program has installed Best Management Projects (BMPs) such as buffers and grassed waterways to reduce nutrient and sediment loss. Bi-annual mowing maintenance or harvesting keeps the woody vegetation from growing and allows for positive drainage.

For more Information contact
Wes Johnson at
wjohnson@oneidanation.org

Environmental Update

Youth Outreach

On May 22, 2025, the Oneida Nation Youth Enrichment Services (Y.E.S.) Program partnered with the Oneida Nation's Environmental Area to plant the inaugural wild rice at the wetland known as 'Headwaters of Trout Creek,' located at the intersection of County Line Road and Reformatory.



The Y.E.S. program primarily supports American Indian students in nearby schools by offering academic, social, and cultural assistance. The wild rice, sourced from Mole Lake Tribal harvesters, facilitated experiential learning for students. After they cultivated the rice in the classroom, they took steps to plant the rice in Oneida.



In order to safeguard the germinated seeds from Canadian geese and other waterfowl, the seeded area was enclosed with fencing materials. This project allowed students to engage with indigenous seeds, the concept of food sovereignty, explore the habitats required for wild rice and learn the traditional and modern techniques involved in its harvest and processing. Later, students and staff had the opportunity to sample both hearty and sweet wild rice.



For more Information contact Alaina Noll at : anoll@oneidanation.org or Tony at: akuchma@oneidanation.org

Environmental Update

Planning for a Safe and Sustainable Future for the Former Fox Valley Greenhouse

The Oneida Nation bought the old Fox Valley Greenhouse property in early 2024. It is located at the corner of County Road H and Town Road near historic Chicago Corners. The property had been used as a commercial greenhouse since the 1970s. It includes greenhouses, storage buildings, and houses on 59 acres. During its operation, the commercial greenhouse used a lot of chemicals to control plant pests and diseases, and for fertilization. It also has exceptionally large and complicated watering, electrical and ventilation systems that are at the end of their useful life. Due to its past use the Nation has identified this property as a brownfield site due to the likely presence of environmental contamination. To do this, Oneida's Environmental, Land & Agriculture, Nation Planning and Public Works teams are working together to evaluate the land and buildings.



Fox Valley Green House Property

Ensuring Safety for Future Use

The Oneida Nation's teams are carefully inspecting the greenhouse property and its buildings for any potential hazards to people and the environment. This includes checking for contamination from oil, pesticides, and fertilizers. This is a critical first step toward making the land and buildings safe for future use. The findings from these assessments will help guide the development of a cleanup plan to protect the community and ensure the site is safe for redevelopment.

A Vision for the Future

Community members are excited about the opportunity to reuse the site. The environmental team has committed to keeping the community informed and involved throughout the planning process. While environmental concerns remain, this project is seen as a chance to create a safe, sustainable space that benefits everyone.

Benefits for the Entire Community

The Oneida Nation is dedicated to transforming the property into a safe and useful space for all. By identifying and reducing risks such as soil and water pollution, the Nation is working to protect both human health and the environment. Future redevelopment will focus on community-centered, sustainable development, economic opportunity, and environmental stewardship. This project also offers a unique opportunity to educate and engage the community and gather their input. Though it will take time, the property is expected to become a valuable resource for future generations. The Nation will continue to update the community and involve them in upcoming planning efforts.



*For more information contact
Mickenna Beach at:
mbeach@oneidanation.org*

Land & Conservation Area

Land Acquisition Update

The acquisition process begins with the initial contact from a seller, followed by these steps:

- Land Management (LM) Review: LM gathers relevant information.
- This information is forwarded to the Land Commission (LC).
- Should additional details be required, LM continues to compile them.
- If there is no interest, a denial is issued.
- If interest exists, LC establishes the parameters for the offer.
- The offer is then presented to the seller.
- The seller may accept, counter, or reject the offer.
- In the case of a counter, the details are returned to LC for further consideration.
- Once an offer is accepted, preparations for closing commence.
- Inspections, appraisals, and title reviews are conducted for approval.
- Upon successful completion of all reviews, the property closing occurs, and LC and GIS is updated accordingly.

For more information contact Nicole Rommel at nrommel@oneidanation.org

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Conservation

Natural Resources Tech Supervisor

**LOUIS
MEHOJAH**

"I joined the Oneida workforce in 1996." Louis remarked, highlighting his nearly 30-year journey in the Natural Resources sector. "Our commitment is to take pride in serving the elderly, preserving the trails, and working alongside various departments."

**2025-2026 Sportsman
regulations [click here](#)**

2025 Oneida Nation Land Purchases

19 Acquisitions - 123 total acres. Scan the QR code to view the Recently Purchased Parcels map.



Land & Conservation Update

Oneida Lake Important Notice



The Environmental Area has replaced the old damaged flags and installed new signage at Oneida Lake.

Any untreated body of water contains microorganisms including bacteria. Oneida Lake and Norbert Hill Center Pond, local swimming areas, are tested regularly for E. coli bacteria, an indicator of the presence of disease-causing bacteria in the water. An advisory for swimmers or closure notice would be issued if bacteria levels become too high. Currently, the water quality at Oneida Lake corresponds with the green flag, indicating that the levels of E.coli in the lake fall below EPA standards. The water quality notice, and flag system are posted on the bathhouse wall next to the flag. Please swim cautiously and remain informed by staying attentive to flag color.

WATER QUALITY NOTICE	FLAG SYSTEM
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Oneida Lake is an open, untreated body of water that contains microorganisms including bacteria. Oneida Lake is tested regularly for E. coli bacteria, an indicator of the presence of disease-causing organisms in the water. ➤ Oneida Nation uses a flag system to indicate the level of E. coli bacteria in the Lake based on the latest test results. ➤ Always swim at your own risk. Do not swallow lake water, do not swim with open cuts or wounds, wash after swimming, and wash hands before eating. ➤ Please visit https://oneida-nsn.gov/beach-water-quality-results/ for more information on the most recent swimming water monitoring results. 	<p>OPEN</p> <p>The most recent water monitoring test indicates a level of E.coli bacteria that is at or below the U.S EPA's standard of 235 cfu/100mL. The swimming beach is open.</p> <p>ADVISORY</p> <p>The most recent water monitoring test indicates a level of E.coli bacteria that is above the U.S EPA's standard of 235 cfu/100mL. The swimming beach is open, but there may be an increased risk for illness. Swim with caution.</p> <p>CLOSURE</p> <p>The most recent water monitoring test indicates a level of E.coli bacteria that is above the U.S EPA's maximum standard of 1000 cfu/100mL. Oneida Lake is closed for swimming because there may be a high risk for illness.</p>

For concerns, call the Oneida Sanitarian at 920-869-4554



Also at Oneida Lake this year, the Conservation Crew planted 10 Hackberry trees, 4 Service Berry trees, and 1 Horse Chestnut tree as part of the NFL draft donation initiative.

For the latest beach water quality monitoring results, go to:

<https://oneida-nsn.gov/beach-water-quality-results/>

For questions on Beach Water Quality Brittany Nicholas at email bnichola@oneidanation.org

Agriculture Update



The new construction at Oneida Nation Farm is now finished. However, the staff office and shop are facing some technical difficulties. The hours and location for the Beef & Buffalo shop remain unchanged.

Beef & Buffalo Shop hours

Mon-Thurs

9:00am - 4:00pm

Friday

8:00am - 11:30am

920-833-7952

*For more information contact
Oneida Nation Farms Manager
Thomas Swiecichowski
tswiecic@oneidanation.org*

Oneida Nation Orchard Shop hours

Summer marks the peak season, leading to weekly changes in our shop hours. Occasionally, we have had to close for an entire month. Also due to limited staffing, we must prioritize fieldwork. For the latest shop hours, please visit the [Oneida Orchard Facebook page](#).

920-869-2468

*For more information contact
Oneida Nation Orchard
Manager Heather Jordan
hjordan@oneidanation.org*



Agriculture Update

Cannery Construction Begins



Long overdue, the Oneida Community Cannery project is on pace to begin construction in late summer. The facility looks to expand the current production, services, and programming offered by the Oneida Cannery Department. This facility will be just under 11,000 square feet and will be located at the corner of Red Willow Parkway and Water Circle Place, directly across from the Oneida Emergency Food Pantry. Featuring a state-of-the-art processing center, the facility will enable an increased level of production of our indigenous foods and other value added products and meals.



A unique and exciting feature of the facility also includes two “learning kitchens” that will be utilized for workshops, courses, and other community needs. The goal of the Cannery will be to continue to connect our community to our food pathways, increase access to nutrient dense foods, and educating and empowering our community in eating to beat disease and LIVE!

To stay up to date on this project, follow the Oneida Cannery on Facebook or call the cannery at 920-869-4379.



Oneida Nation Environmental, Land & Agriculture



Environmental hosted a Members Only Harvest event on 7/31/25. Participants learned how to ID and gather Bergamot and Sweetgrass.



Coming Soon...

ELA Division

NEWSLETTER-

Release Dates

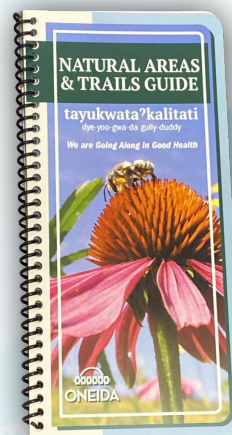
November 1st

February 1st

May 1st

August 1st

- Watch for New Signage Coming to Oneida Trails.
- See highlights of trails on our FB page coming this fall!
- For a free copy of the Guide email apowles7@oneidation.org



Visit us on Facebook!
facebook.com/OneidaEHSD

