

LEAF

LAND, ENVIRONMENTAL, AG & FOOD AS MEDICINE

Division Quarterly Newsletter

Palm Warbler at
Where the Water Birds Nest

LEAF Updates



Please welcome Gavriella Van Boxel (Oneida), our new Communications Outreach Specialist! Gavriella earned her degree in Communications & Media Studies from St. Norbert College and brings two years of communications experience to the role. Having previously served as a postgraduate employee with Oneida Nation Services, she offers valuable organizational insight, strong cultural knowledge, and a passion for transparent, accurate communication. We're excited to have her on the team - welcome aboard, Gavriella!

Staff Highlights



Some of the ladies of the Environmental team attended the Nation Services Women's Day Event on March 5th, 2026!

Jennifer Jordan

Congratulations to Jennifer Jordan (Sanitarian II) for receiving her Registered Sanitarian credentials from NEHA in May!



Congratulations Nathan & Jaryd on becoming official FAA drone pilots!



Environmental Area

On June 1st, 2026, 38 preschoolers from Three Sisters and Norbert Hill Center attended the annual Small Tracks Tour. The kids traveled along the winding trail behind Norbert Hill Center to visit multiple stations hosted by Environmental and Conservation staff. They encountered wildlife (i.e. frogs, bugs, fish), watched a drone fly, took class pictures on the ARGO, and even planted trees!



Left: Alaina and Jim at the water station.



Right: Students discovering water landscapes through EnviroScope Model.



Habitat Restoration News



Nathan Pelkey contributed drone footage showcasing the active flood channel.

This summer, Wisconsin State Representative Joy Goeben stopped by for a tour of the South Branch of the Suamico and Silver Creeks within the Oneida Nation to investigate local strategies for managing floodplain restoration. She learned about the collaborative initiatives with the federal government and partnerships facilitated by Audubon Great Lakes and UW-Green Bay that support these restoration efforts. Joining the tour was re-elected BC member Jonas Hill.



In May, we welcomed students from the Oneida Youth Enrichment Services Program (YES).

Students learned about environmental stewardship, conservation, wild rice cultivation and career opportunities. Their visit provided a chance to connect with our staff, and gain a greater appreciation for the work being done to protect the land, water and natural resources.



Land & Conservation Area

Oneida Lake Pier Revitalization:

Revitalization of piers at Oneida Lake is aimed to enhance safety and fishing experiences. The project involved relocating existing piers and removing floats to enable permanent placement. Contractors installed 4-1/2" steel piles—9-11 per pier—to secure the structures, ensuring levelness for visitor safety and improved fishing enjoyment. Funded by a \$34,000 BIA ARPA grant, the project was completed in May and included two piers. A third is slated for completion in winter 2026-27.



Permanent pier installation at Oneida Lake.

All Trails OPEN

- Duck Creek Trail reconstructed after April flood damage
- Can now safely use the Duck Creek Trail from Red Willow to the One Stop

Oneida Lake: OPEN

- Hours: 6am-9pm Monday-Sunday
- Reminder: Gates will shut at 9pm; please plan accordingly
- Flag system in place for beach water quality
- Beach Results available at

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



- email: oneidaenvironmental@oneidanation.org to receive your physical copy of the trails guide!

Q3 Acquisition Update

- New acquisitions: 17.57 acres

Agricultural Area



Oneida Nation Farm

Planting complete:

28 acres of white corn, 1860 acres of field corn, 1950 acres of soybeans and 305 acres of alfalfa/grass were planted in 8 days in May. This was the fastest and shortest planting period ever. This will help increase yields and allow the crops to mature and grow at a better rate ensuring a successful harvest.

Orchard Update

Join us in welcoming Shawn Jordan to the LEAF team under Oneida Community Integrated Food Systems (OCIFS)! With a background in aquaponics and plant medicines, Shawn draws inspiration from his grandmothers and nature. He enjoys foraging, gardening, cooking and camping. We are excited for the knowledge he will contribute to our community.



Food as Medicine Area



Oneida Farmer's Market

The Oneida Farmer's market kicked off its season on Thursday, June 18 with sunny skies and beautiful weather. We had 36 vendors and 1,450 customers come out to enjoy the weather and see the new OFM structure. Over the first couple of weeks, we averaged 2,453 customers. That is a 27% increase from the customer numbers in 2025. We are still working on getting the proper set up, because while the structure is very nice it has totally changed the dynamics of the vendor layout. We presently have over 30 new vendors that want to come in, and we are hoping by mid-July to be ready to invite them to join us. You can always find weekly updates at our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/OFMWI

New Route Beginning August 14th!

Upcoming Dates:

August 14th & 28th;
September 11th & 25th;
October 9th & 23rd;
November 6th & 20th;
December 4th & 18th.

Please note:

Food provided is for Tribal members aged 55+.





LEAF Division Director's Corner

Common Merganser and Painted
Turtle share a log at Where the
Waterbirds Nest.

I would like to dedicate this month's Director's Corner to a wonderful volunteer who worked with us for many years and sadly passed away in June.

Joe Torres was a dedicated volunteer and staff member with the Oneida Bird Monitoring Program. I always enjoyed hearing his bird stories and was fortunate enough to spend time with him just two weeks before he passed. We rode together on a National Audubon Society tour, where he shared stories about the many birds he had observed in Oneida and spoke about the knowledge and experience he had gained through his years with the Monitoring Program.

Having grown up with Joe in Oneida, we reflected on the positive environmental changes that have taken place over the past 50 years. We talked about how those improvements have contributed to a remarkable increase in the bird populations that live on or migrate through the reservation, as well as other wildlife species. Joe spoke enthusiastically about spotting a bobcat for the first time and how exciting that experience was for him.

Joe's dedication, passion for nature, and commitment to conservation left a lasting impact on our community. He will be deeply missed by his family, friends, and all of us who had the privilege of witnessing his volunteer work and listening to his stories.

On behalf of the Land, Environmental, Agriculture, and Food as Medicine Division, we extend our heartfelt condolences to Joe's family and honor his many contributions to the Oneida community. His legacy will continue through the work he helped support and the knowledge he shared with so many.

Stay Updated

Eric McEster

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