

Area trails guide reprinted, available locally

The Otsego County Conservation Association has reprinted 3,000 copies of its outdoor guide, "Otsego Walks & Paddles." The guide, originally published in 2004, features twelve trails in the area and three canoe routes on the Susquehanna River. Since its publication, OCCA has distributed approximately 10,000 copies free of charge.

"We are very grateful to the sponsors who made the reprint possible, especially in this economically challenging time," said Teresa Winchester, OCCA assistant director.

Copies of the guide are available through Otsego County Tourism, Wilber National Bank, Otsego 2000, the Otsego Land Trust, Canoe and Kayak Rentals and Sales, and the Otsego County Chamber.

"Some sponsors will be distributing the guide to their employees," Winchester said.

Those sponsors are G.W. Canfield & Son Lithographers, Mead Westvaco Corporation and the Sustainability Team of A.O. Fox Memorial Hospital.

"Bill Ralston Furniture Reproductions graciously allowed his sponsorship allotment to be distributed through Sport Tech on Main Street in Oneonta," Winchester also said.

Copies are also available through OCCA by calling 547-4488 or emailing admin@occainfo.org.

OCCA is the steward of Basswood Pond Trail, one of the trails found in "Otsego Walks and Paddles."

"This is a very beautiful and peaceful location," Winchester said. "I would encourage everyone to visit it either as the leaves are turning or for cross-country skiing this winter."

The trail is located off County Route 16 in the Town of Burlington.

Other trails mapped out in the guide are Arnold Lake State Forest, Mud Lake Trail (Hartwick College Pine Lake Campus), Susquehanna River Park Trail, Emmons Pond Bog, and more. OCCA often organizes nature walks on "Walks and Paddles" trails, and a walk will take place on the trail in Arnold Lake State Forest this coming Sunday at 2 p.m.," Winchester said, adding that the trail head parking lot is on the south side of County Route 46, off Joe Cornell Road.

"The guide is very attractive, well-researched and well-presented," Winchester said. According to Winchester, Joe and Nina Gunzenhauser Hart of the Audubon Society were key contributors to its design, content, and publication.

"The guide would not exist without all the time and effort they voluntarily put into "Walks and Paddles," Winchester said.

Winchester also said that OCCA hopes to expand the guide in the near future, adding trails in the Robert V. Riddell State Park and others as well.

The Otsego County Conservation Association is a non-profit environmental organization serving the county since 1968. OCCA promotes the enjoyment and sustainable use of Otsego County's natural resources through education, advocacy, resource management, research and planning. More information on OCCA is available at www.occainfo.org.