



E-BULLETIN FROM OTSEGO COUNTY CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

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COOPERSTOWN NATIVE JOINS OCCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Jim Patrick of Ipswich, Ma. and Cooperstown is the newest member to join the Board of Directors of the Otsego County Conservation Association. He brings to the organization an appreciation for the natural features of the Cooperstown area as well as skills in financial management. The geography of his personal history has given him a sense of watershed stewardship. **“I grew up in Cooperstown in various locations but always close to or on Otsego Lake, so I bring a rooted appreciation for the watershed. I attended the University of New Hampshire and also spent a lot of time in Maine guiding on the Allagash River. I now live near a river in Ipswich, but we are so fortunate to be able to spend summers on the lake in Cooperstown,”** Patrick said. Patrick initially got involved with OCCA when he was approached by its Fundraising Committee. He liked what he learned about the organization’s mission and initiatives and began to work more with OCCA in fundraising efforts. **“I was really impressed with the collegial nature of the Board, despite the high level of productivity and accountability in a volunteer organization. It's clear everyone is really passionate about their participation, so when I was asked if I would be interested, I was thrilled to help.”** He wants to lead by example through volunteering, fundraising, helping with Board involvement, and promoting awareness in the community. For a number of years, Patrick worked in New York City and Boston in the financial services industry. He intends to apply his expertise in finances to OCCA’s needs for investment oversight, asset allocation and funds management. Patrick, who currently works as a consultant, spent this winter as a ski patrol at Sugarloaf, Me. He and his wife, Stephanie, hope to pass on a love of the local natural surroundings to their three children, Kyle, 11, Elizabeth, 7, and Margaret, 4. OCCA is a private, non-profit environmental membership organization dedicated to promoting the enjoyment and sustainable use of Otsego County's natural resources through education, advocacy, resource management, research, and planning. For more information about OCCA, or to donate in support of its mission, call 547-4488 or visit www.occainfo.org.

WORCESTER STUDENTS “LIKE’LL TO RECYCLE”: Worcester Central School sixth-graders have created a short musical film documenting their recycling efforts. Click on the following link to see what they have accomplished: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NglbdPIRwBg&feature=related>.

VOLUNTEERS, DONATIONS NEEDED FOR OCCA GARAGE SALE, APRIL 25 AND 26: OCCA will hold its annual garage on Saturday, April 25 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on Sunday, April 26 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Cooperstown Farmers’ Market. **Donations of sale items will be accepted from April 17-23 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the market space** (please note that the donation period has been shortened due to lack of volunteer help). All donations are tax deductible, and OCCA will provide a donation voucher to any donors so requesting. **Volunteers are needed both the week before and on the days of the sale to help with set-up, pricing, putting up posters, assisting shoppers, working check-out, and other miscellaneous tasks.** To volunteer, please contact OCCA at 547-4488 or admin@occainfo.org.

EARTH FESTIVAL ATTRACTING A LOT OF INTEREST, PARTICIPATION: The lineup for Earth Festival 2009 is beginning to take shape as exhibitors continue to register for the April 18 event. Among the exhibitors at the festival this year are: Andela Products, Bassett Healthcare, CADE, Cooperstown Farmers' Market, CR Solar, Delaware Otsego Audubon Society, Friends of Glimmerglass Park, Gibson's Native American Crafts, Great Brook Enterprises, Oneonta Federated Garden Club, Otsego 2000, Otsego County Conservation Association, Otsego County Natural Resources Conservation Service, Otsego County Soil and Water Conservation District, Otsego Electric Cooperative, Otsego Lake Association, Otsego Land Trust, The Farm, United Methodist Church Women's Green Team, and Wildlife Learning Company. There will be student exhibits by Milford BOCES and Franklin Central School. **Throughout the day, Otsego resident Sy Lloyd will overview adaptations, natural history and forensic findings through his amazing display of animal skeletons, which he began collecting as a child. Wildlife Learning Company will again end the festival with a presentation titled "Birds of Prey," featuring live birds, from 3-4 p.m.** As in past years, the Earth Festival will feature the EcoArt/Trendy Trash Contest with prizes to the winners in several categories including "Best of Show," "Judges Choice" and "People's Choice." Eight entries have been received thus far, but it's not too late to enter. Call 547-1858 for details. **As festival goes work up an appetite, they can look forward to hamburgers hot off the grill. CADE will serve up local grass-fed beef burgers from Sunset View Farm at a reasonable price.** Sunset View, located just five miles up the road from the school, is known throughout the area for its fine belted Galloway heritage breed cattle. Many attractive items have been donated for the Silent Auction that will take place throughout the day, including books ("Low Carbon Diet – A 30 Day Program to Lose 5000 Pounds," "The Noble Wilds," and "Crank From Cooperstown: 50 Bike Rides in Central New York"), calendars, wind chimes, and bluebird houses. Silent Auction donations are still being accepted. Call 547-4488 to learn more. **Earth Festival 2009 will offer opportunities for recycling, so bring your Styrofoam, bubble wrap and broken Christmas lights. Clean Styrofoam packaging material, meat trays, mushroom boxes, and egg cartons will be collected and delivered this year to Meyda Tiffany, along with bubble wrap. ConfiData, a division of Empire Recycling, will provide a free document shredding service for disposal of confidential papers. A plastic bag recycling container, provided by Wal-Mart for the event, will also be on-site for collecting plastic shopping bags.** Earth Festival 2009 will be held on Saturday, April 18 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Milford Central School. The free shredding service will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Earth Festival 2009 is sponsored by Wildlife Learning Company, in cooperation with Otsego 2000, Otsego County Conservation Association, the Cooperstown Chamber of Commerce and Cooperstown Art Association. For more information about the many activities and opportunities associated with this exciting environmental education event, go to www.eenoc.com or call 293-6043.

USDA TREATS NEW YORK, NEW JERSEY TREES AGAINST INVASIVE ASIAN LONGHORNED BEETLE: According to an April 7, 2009 press release issued by the United States Department of Agriculture, its Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is treating 66,854 trees susceptible to the Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) with the insecticide imidacloprid in New York and New Jersey this spring. To read the full article, click on <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/content/2009/04/alb09tre.shtml>. **APHIS and its cooperators undertake eradication by imposing quarantines, conducting visual inspections around confirmed sites to determine the scope of infestations, removing infested and high-risk exposed trees, and chemically treating host trees as part of an area wide integrated pest eradication strategy.** The goal is to eliminate this destructive insect from New York City, Long Island, New Jersey and Massachusetts before it can establish itself elsewhere. The public can assist the eradication effort by allowing program officials access to their property to evaluate susceptible trees for any signs of ALB infestation and/or to treat trees that are susceptible to beetle infestation. The ALB Eradication Program is a cooperative effort among various federal, state and local agencies in New York and New Jersey, including, USDA's APHIS, Forest Service and Agricultural Research Service; the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets and Department of Environmental Conservation; the New Jersey Department of Agriculture and

Department of Environmental Protection and the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation. **For more information on the treatment effort, or to report signs of infestation call 1-866-265-0301 or 877-STOP-ALB.** For more information about the ALB Cooperative Eradication Program call or visit the APHIS Web site at www.aphis.usda.gov/ALB.

“BIKE TO WORK DAY” SET FOR MAY 13: The Otsego County Conservation Association has convened a standing committee, Otsego Region Cycling Advocates, to promote bicycling in Cooperstown and Otsego County as an enjoyable, healthy, safe, and environmentally friendly activity for people of all ages and abilities. ORCA’s initial task is to organize a local Bike to Work Day on Wednesday, May 13. The object is to encourage alternative “green” transportation to work. **Everyone is encouraged to bike or walk to work in general, and on May 13 in particular. Check-in locations, which will be announced in the future, will be staffed from 6:15-10 a.m. and again from 2-6 p.m. Snacks and a beverage will be provided to all participants.** Competition between local businesses for the most employee participation is encouraged. To join ORCA or to obtain more information about Bike to Work Day, call Martha Clarvoe, OCCA president, at 607-547-4020 or e-mail martha.clarvoe@mail.occainfo.org.

OTSEGO COUNTY RECYCLING EFFORTS TAKE BIG STEP FORWARD: Plastic containers labeled #1, #2, #3, #4 and #5 are now recyclable in the Otsego County recycling program. This means all yogurt containers, garden pots and plastic bottles with these numbers on the bottom are now recyclable.

RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES, CELL PHONES RECYCLED LOCALLY: The Otsego County Conservation Association is putting out the word that opportunities exist locally to recycle rechargeable batteries and cell phones. **Through the Call2Recycle Program, batteries are recyclable at many local stores, including Radio Shack, CVS Pharmacy, NAPA, Oneonta Cellular, Verizon Wireless and Home Depot.** OCCA president Martha Clarvoe first learned of this service when she came across a rechargeable battery recycling box at Radio Shack, located inside the Bruce Hall Home Center in Cooperstown. She later learned that the Cooperstown CVS also participates in the Call2Recycle program. To confirm a recycling location, area residents may visit www.call2recycle.org or simply ask a local establishment if they participate. The website contains other information on rechargeable batteries, including a diagram showing where rechargeable batteries are likely to be found in a household.

OCCA IN THE NEWS: **OCCA’s efforts to educate area residents about zebra mussels and how to protect their property against them were lauded recently in Utica’s “The Observer-Dispatch.”** To read the article, titled “Zebra mussels may cause problems in spring,” click on <http://www.uticaod.com/archive/x844655771/Local-lakes-impacted-by-zebra-mussels>. For information on control of zebra mussels in residential water systems and fire control equipment, visit the OCCA home page at www.occainfo.org. **During this past week’s natural gas drilling forums presented by Sustainable Otsego, OCCA’s map of parcels in Otsego County currently under lease for natural gas drilling was one of the featured resources.** “The map shows the impact visually of gas leasing on a community. We produced it as a tool for local governments to be able to really see what’s going on in their territory and to consider drafting land use regulations or modify existing ones to address concerns,” Erik Miller, OCCA executive director, said of the map in an article published in Tuesday’s Oneonta “Daily Star.” To read the full article, click on http://www.thedailystar.com/local/local_story_076041546.html. To view the map, visit the OCCA home page at [www.occainfo](http://www.occainfo.org) and scroll down to “Current Issues: Natural Gas.”

FUNDS GENERATED BY SEARCH ENGINE COULD BE DESIGNATED TO OCCA: GoodSearch is a search engine which donates 50-percent of its revenue to the charities and schools designated by its users.

GoodSearch is used exactly as you would any other search engine. Because it's powered by Yahoo!, users get proven search results. The money GoodSearch donates to each cause comes from its advertisers – the users and the organizations do not spend a dime. **It is estimated that each web search will generate approximately \$0.01 for the designated charity or school (image, video and site-specific searches are not included), which quickly adds up!** Many thanks to Vince Stayter of the Goodyear Lake Association for bringing our attention to this opportunity. To learn more about GoodSearch and how it works, visit www.goodsearch.com. Please consider selecting OCCA as your designated cause.

WQCC SEEKING GRANT WRITERS: The Otsego County Water Quality Coordinating Committee is currently seeking experienced grant writers to help secure funding pursuant to the organization's mission. The WQCC is a coalition of government agencies and private organizations working to ensure that Otsego County residents enjoy the benefits of clean water. Grant subject matter may include, but is not limited to: water quality education; riparian buffers; watershed management; agricultural projects; invasive species. **To view the RFP, scroll down on to the "Miscellaneous" category on the home page of the OCCA website, www.occainfo.org**

OCCA ADDS INFORMATION TO WEBSITE: If you haven't navigated OCCA's website in a while, please visit us. **In addition to our revised gas lease map and recent press releases, we have added a number of new informational links** (Heat Smart, New York; Low Carbon Diet; "A Consumer's Guide to Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy). There's also new information on control of zebra mussels in residential water systems, and links to a number of mission-related and partner organizations. For a comprehensive outline of OCCA's current projects, visit <http://www.occainfo.org/currentproj.htm>

ECO-FRIENDLY TIP: Do you need your microwave oven to tell you the time? If not, turn it off completely when you're not cooking with it. The average microwave, in active employment for only a tiny fraction of the day, uses more energy to power its digital clock than to heat food.
From the book "1,001 Ways to Save the Earth," by Joanna Yarrow.

OCCA NEEDS YOUR HELP TO KEEP FIGHTING THE THREATS TO OUR NATURAL RESOURCES. Got a minute? Visit our website and look at everything else OCCA is doing – and please consider an online donation whenever you can. Visit www.occainfo.org and look for the Network for Good logo at the top right of the home page.