



E-BULLETIN FROM OTSEGO COUNTY CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

April 6, 2009: Vol. 2, No. 10

SENATE PASSES BIGGER BETTER BOTTLE BILL: As announced in a recent press release from the New York State Senate, The FY 2009-10 Environmental Conservation State Budget which passed the State Senate on March 31 “includes a number of sensible environmentally and economically sound policies that will remove recyclable goods from the waste stream, create additional revenue for the state, and help create thousands of new ‘green’ jobs in a targeted way to maximize results.” Under the legislation, 80 percent of unclaimed deposits go to State environmental cleanup programs which is expected to generate \$115 million in new revenue for the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF). **Under this plan, water bottles will now be returnable like the current system for carbonated beverages. Water bottles account for approximately 70 percent of bottles entering our waste stream.** For more on the Bigger Better Bottle Bill, click on <http://amhersttimes.wnymedia.net/2009/04/03/senator-liz-krueger-praises-senate-for-passing-expanded-bottle-bill-as-part-of-the-budget/>

EARTH FESTIVAL 2009 TO OFFER SHREDDING, RECYCLING OPPORTUNITIES: In keeping with the earth-friendly theme of Earth Festival 2009, a number of items will be collected for recycling. Event organizers invite attendees to drop off Styrofoam, bubble wrap and broken Christmas lights. In addition, a free shredding service will be provided by ConfiData, a division of Empire Recycling, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Earth Festival 2009 will be held on Saturday, April 18 at Milford Central School from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Now in its fourth year, Earth Festival is an environmentally-focused, interactive event featuring exhibits, activities, vendors and entertainment. Financial contributions are most welcome, and an open invitation to earth-friendly exhibitors, food and retail vendors is extended. **Clean Styrofoam packaging material, meat trays, mushroom boxes, and egg cartons will be collected and delivered this year to Meyda Tiffany, along with the bubble wrap.** According to Meyda Tiffany President Robert Cohen, the Styrofoam and bubble wrap will then be converted into packing materials that can be reused when the firm ships stained glass lamps, lighting fixtures, and stained glass windows to customers across the nation. Volunteers will deliver collected materials to the 55 Oriskany Boulevard Meyda location in Yorkville. **As they did last spring, Empire Recycling will provide a document shredding truck for disposal of confidential papers.** Staples and paper clips need not be removed. The truck will be parked in the school’s circular driveway, and the actual shredding process may be viewed through an onsite camera. Broken and used Christmas lights will be sent to HolidayLEDs, where they will be shredded and the plastic, glass, and copper recycled. A donation of \$1 is requested, to cover shipping costs. To prepare the lights, remove only threaded bulbs and wind each strand into a compact loop. There will be a collection box available for the wrapped up light strings. Earth Festival 2009 is presented by the Environmental Education Network of Otsego County and sponsored by Wildlife Learning Company, in cooperation with Otsego 2000, the Otsego County Conservation Association and Cooperstown Chamber of Commerce. To learn more about the many ways you can participate in or support Earth Festival, visit www.eenoc.org or call 607-293-6043.

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.

ECO-FRIENDLY TIP: Choose ugly veggies. Odd shapes and unusual pigments generally have no impact on the flavor of produce, but by insisting on strict uniformity, supermarkets force farmers to waste huge amounts of food, and limit the variety sold. This also cuts the farmers' profit margins, driving them to more intensive methods. Let retailers know you'd be delighted to eat varied veggies and funny fruit, and enjoy the diversity in shape, color, and size that nature intended.

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? 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.