



E-BULLETIN FROM OTSEGO COUNTY CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION
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**2009 OCCA ANNUAL FUND: OUR ENVIRONMENT.
OUR HOME. OUR CHALLENGE.**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR WATER CHESTNUT HAND-HARVESTING AUGUST 6-8: For the past three years, the Otsego County Conservation Association and the Goodyear Lake Association have been vigorously battling an invasive plant, the water chestnut, as it spreads throughout the northern part of Goodyear Lake. It has been estimated that without this initiative – made possible by an invasive species eradication grant from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation – the northern portion of the lake (the stump lot) would have been completely covered by water chestnut in less than five years. **This season, OCCA and GLA have already organized two hand-harvesting efforts, and the third and final session will take place this week, Thursday through Saturday, August 6-8. Anyone interested in volunteering should call and leave contact information with Bruce Shultis, Goodyear Lake Association, 432-8698, or with Executive Director Erik Miller at OCCA, 547-4488.** Volunteers will meet at the Route 28 pull-off in Portlandville, just south of the former Blue Bonnet Antiques, at 9:30 a.m. each day. Gloves and tools will be provided and canoes and johnboats are available. Those in need of a boat are asked to call to register so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Lake area residents who would prefer to boat over to the stump lot are encouraged. 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, call (607) 547-4488 or visit www.occainfo.org

ARE YOU READY TO LIVE SMARTER? OCCA President Martha Clarvoe has brought to our attention the “Climate Culture” website. **According to the site, Climate Culture is the first fun and personal utility to help you make smarter choices that reduce your impact on climate change and save some cash.** “Climate Culture guides you through the process of saving money and reducing your carbon footprint using our proprietary, patent-pending carbon footprint calculator and reduction service. For the first time, you can receive accurate and personalized advice on the amount of carbon, energy, dollars and other resources you expend from hundreds of lifestyle choices, daily actions and purchasing decisions.” Climate Culture is free and easy – visit the site by clicking on <http://www.climateculture.com/>

MOVEMENT OF FIREWOOD IS THE MOST COMMON METHOD OF LONG-DISTANCE SPREAD OF THE EMERALD ASH BORER: The first occurrence of emerald ash borer (EAB, *Agrilus planipennis* Fairmaire) in New York State was confirmed by the NY Department of Agriculture and Markets and Department of Environmental Conservation on June 17, 2009 in Randolph, NY (Cattaraugus County). **An invasive beetle native to eastern Asia, EAB kills all species of ash trees in North America, and has the potential to cause severe economic and ecological damage.** First detected near Detroit in 2002 it has now spread to 13 states, the District of Columbia, and two Canadian provinces. Ash mortality is 100% near Detroit and is widespread in all the affected areas. With establishment of EAB in New York

State we can expect tremendous economic impacts in forests where ash is a common timber species and in urban areas where ash are frequently planted as street trees. EAB will impact a wide range of stakeholders from homeowners and small woodlot owners to municipal governments and large timber companies. Horticultural and specialty industries that rely heavily on ash, such as baseball bat and tool handle manufacturers, will be severely impacted by necessary quarantine regulations and the potential complete loss of ash. Ecological effects of EAB will be greatest in areas where ash is most abundant, such as along streams and rivers, in northern wetlands, in second growth woodlands of abandoned agricultural fields, and in the extensive upland forests of New York's southern tier. Do not move firewood! Movement of ash firewood is the most common method of long-distance spread. Current DEC firewood regulations (www.dec.ny.gov/animals/28722.html) limit the transportation of untreated firewood to less than 50 miles from its source and prohibit the import of firewood into NY unless it has been heat treated to kill EAB. Compliance with these regulations by the public is critical to slowing EAB spread in New York. To view photos and get more information, visit: www.emeraldashborer.info or www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7253.html. **If you detect EAB or EAB damage, call your county Cooperative Extension, Regional NYSDEC office, or NYSDEC at (866) 640-0652 or (518) 402-9425.**

OCCA IN THE NEWS – NATURAL RESOURCES SURVEY: At a recent regional legislative conference on natural gas, **environmental attorney Kimberly Rea stressed the importance of recording critical environmental areas with particular environmental and historical significance so as to identify places that need protection and trigger site-specific reviews in the case of development proposals for these areas.** Affected municipalities need the information that such a Natural Resources Survey provides to protect water quality and supply, soils, unique natural areas, and forestland, as well as to plan thoughtfully for use of existing roads and any construction of new ones. No such document currently exists for Otsego County. OCCA has recently resumed work begun in 2004 associated with its Natural Resources Survey Workshop – collecting and evaluating inventories from diverse sources, identifying gaps in our knowledge, and seeking local input regarding the county's flora, fauna, and unique natural areas. **To read more about these efforts, see the article in today's "Daily Star" by Tom Grace, titled "OCCA seeks to map Otsego's resources," by clicking on the following link** http://www.thedailystar.com/local/local_story_217040049.html

If your agency or organization is a repository for information outlined in the survey categories (<http://occainfo.org/documents/NRSOutline.pdf>), or you can direct us to sources and/or partners you believe would be integral to this project, please e-mail OCCA Administrative Director Darla M. Youngs at admin@occainfo.org.

SONGS RAISE AWARENESS OF NEED TO REDUCE CARBON FOOTPRINT, AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES: "Research shows music can influence how people respond to messages, influencing memory and recall, emotion, information processing, attitudes, and even behavior," according to the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Department of Life Sciences. OCCA President Martha Clarvoe's visit to the Climate Culture website brought our attention to this video, titled "Save Your Energy" (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N5w9AmtUVnY>). Earlier this year, thanks to Carl Good, we discovered music with a message concerning aquatic invasive species. **"To explore how music can help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species, Environmental Communication Specialist for UW Extension and Assistant Professor in the Department of Life Sciences Communication, Bret Shaw, worked with a group of singer/songwriters to produce these songs to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species in Wisconsin and beyond.** The songs have been vetted by natural resource professionals to assure they are scientifically accurate and recommendations are consistent with current laws. Listen to these songs and share with others to promote simple behaviors that can protect the quality of our lakes and rivers for future generations." **To hear the song "Clean Boats, Clean Waters" by James T. Spartz, click on** http://www.uwex.edu/erc/music/song_clean_boats.html. To visit the UW website, click here <http://www.uwex.edu/erc/music/>

OCCA ASSISTS SUNY-BFS WITH FISH STOCKING PLAN: On July 6, approximately 10,000 walleye fingerlings were introduced into Otsego Lake at Three Mile Point. **For 2009, the Otsego County Conservation Association dedicated \$6,000 in support of the SUNY-Oneonta Biological Field Station's six-year management plan for walleye stocking in Otsego Lake.** This summer the BFS will release a total of 40,000 walleye fingerlings into the lake at several locations. According to BFS officials, the fingerlings are released in water about 15 feet deep over weed beds where they can hide to escape predators. The walleye is a game fish historically popular in Otsego Lake. By the 1970s it had disappeared due to the accidental introduction of the cisco, a fish which preys heavily on walleye fry, in the 1950s. In the mid-1980s the alewife, a non-native forage fish, was illegally introduced to the lake. The program to re-establish walleye in Otsego Lake got underway in 2000. Since that time, between 40,000 to 80,000 walleye have been stocked each year, including several thousand advanced fingerlings in the fall. OCCA also contributed \$2,000 to the initial stocking effort. Apart from OCCA, funding has been provided by the Gronewaldt Foundation and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. **Evidence suggestive of the success of the program was found when, in cooperation with the BFS, the DEC set out gill nets in the fall of 2002. "We were astounded at the numbers and size of the walleye," said Matt Albright, assistant to the director of the BFS. According to Albright, not only were the walleye unexpectedly long (16 to 19 inches), they were also fat, and their bellies were full of alewife.** "The abundance of larger zooplankton has increased substantially, and their mean size is larger," said Dr. Willard Harman, director of the BFS, adding that "transparency and deep water oxygen declines are also somewhat improved after 15 years of gradual decline."

OCCA CREATES FACEBOOK PAGE: Please visit the Otsego County Conservation Facebook page, **become a "fan" of OCCA and invite your "friends" to become fans of OCCA as well!** It's a great way to keep in touch with the organization and keep track of what's going on.

OTSEGO LAKE WATER QUALITY DATA AVAILABLE ONLINE: **With support from OCCA, the SUNY-Oneonta Biological Field Station has introduced a new feature on its website.** Otsego Lake water quality data for the month of July and details on the monitoring performed by the BFS can be accessed at <http://www.oneonta.edu/ACADEMICS/BIOFLD/otsego%20lake%20info/OL%20Data%20Page%20Jul%2009.pdf>. The BFS monitors the water quality, algae community and zooplankton community of Otsego Lake bi-weekly from May through October. The next monitoring event will take place Thursday, August 6.

REVISED OCCA WEBSITE TO BE UNVEILED SOON: Over the past several months, OCCA staff members have been working to revise the organization's website. **The new site, which will go "live" later this month, will be a more useful and user-friendly tool for the community at large including expanded information on aquatic invasive species, natural gas drilling, the Low Carbon Diet and recycling among other topics.** There will also be new sections on Otsego Regional Cycling Advocates – a committee convened by OCCA to promote bicycling in Otsego County as an enjoyable, healthy, safe, and environmentally-friendly activity for people of all ages and abilities – and the Otsego Lake Challenge.

ECO-FRIENDLY TIP: Avoid burning trash in your yard: it can release clouds of harmful chemicals and carbon dioxide. Limit bonfires to wood, leaves and other organic waste if you really can't keep your hands out of the matchbox. But it's much easier and more beneficial to dispose of organic matter on a compost pile.

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.