

OCCA, Village Library recycle a ton of books

For the sixth consecutive year, volunteers for the Otsego County Conservation Association have assisted the Friends of the Village Library to divert left over books from the library's annual book sale from the landfill. Each year well over 2,000 pounds of books have been recycled. This year was no exception, with 2,819 pounds of books being recycled. Efforts are made on all fronts to find new homes for the leftover books, pulled from the piled-high tables.

This year OCCA president and special projects manager Martha Clarvoe delivered books to the Otsego County Correctional Facility and to the Cherry Valley Children's Center while volunteer Dotty Hudson took books to Oneonta Job Corps. Hudson has also sent books to American soldiers in Iraq. In 2005, facilitated by Barbara Harman, hundreds of books were sent to African countries and in 2006 the Oneonta Rotary Club sent books to Pakistan.

Besides Clarvoe and Hudson, volunteers participating in this year's recycling effort included: Dick Kelly, Pam Hascup, Bill Ralston, Leigh Connor, Andrew Hudson, Sally Goddard, Stephanie Bauer, Bobbie Bauer, Benny Bauer, Quinn Hoffmann, Jeremiah Ford, Rodman Carter, Tom Selover, and Rich McCaffery.

"I'd like especially to thank Ann Brown with the Friends of the Library for finding extra volunteers this year," Clarvoe said. "It's a big undertaking and we need all the help we can get."

According to Clarvoe, "This year the library did an outstanding job finding new homes for the books. Judging from the number of books I saw the first day of the sale, I thought the tonnage remaining would be much higher. It's good to recycle, but it's even better to see that the books are re-used because re-use is second to reduction in the recycling mantra of 'reduce, reuse, and recycle.'"

Anyone wishing to help with next year's effort or anyone with information on other sources for re-use of books should contact OCCA at 547-4020 or director@occainfo.org.