



E-BULLETIN FROM OTSEGO COUNTY CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION
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STUDY OF DRILLING WASTEWATER UNDERWAY: The “Bay Journal,” published by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, reports in an article in its February 2009 issue that Pennsylvania environmental protection officials are studying the wastewater from natural gas exploration activity to determine whether it is hazardous to human health. The full article, titled “PA studies wastewater left over from drilling,” can be viewed by clicking <http://www.bayjournal.com/article.cfm?article=3520>

BOTTLED DOESN'T MEAN BETTER: According to a recent newsletter released by the Legislative Commission on Water Resource Needs of New York State and Long Island, the environmental impacts of bottled water far outweigh the convenience. According to the newsletter, only 20 percent of plastic bottles purchased in New York are recycled; massive amounts of greenhouse gases, which contribute to global warming, are produced in the plastic bottle manufacturing process; the energy required to make water bottles in the United States is equivalent to 17 million barrels of oil annually; millions of dollars of fuel are used each day to transport bottled water; it requires three times as much water to make the bottle as it does to fill it. An alternative to individually packaged containers of water are clean glass or stainless steel bottles that are filled at home.

FORUM SERIES FOCUSES ON NATURAL GAS DRILLING IN OTSEGO COUNTY: Sustainable Otsego will sponsor a series of forums in Cherry Valley, Cooperstown and Oneonta in mid-March for local citizens concerned about the possible consequences of proposed widespread development of the natural gas industry here. The first event in the series will be held on Friday, March 13 at 7 p.m. in the Cherry Valley Old School gym, followed by a presentation in Cooperstown on Sunday, March 15 at 2 p.m. at Templeton Hall. The third and final event of the series will be held on Monday, March 16 at 7 p.m. at St. Mary's Parish Center in Oneonta. For more information, contact Adrian Kuzminski at 547-8586.

DONATIONS SOUGHT FOR EARTH FESTIVAL, SILENT AUCTION: Earth Festival organizers have announced that the Silent Auction will be conducted again this year as part of that event, which is set for Saturday, April 18. Earth Festival 2009 will be held at Milford Central School from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Silent Auction items are now being accepted, and all proceeds go toward the cost of producing the event. Those interested in making a donation should contact organizer Susan O'Handley at (607) 293-6043 or visit www.eenoc.org for further details. Now in its fourth year, Earth Festival is an environmentally-focused, interactive event featuring exhibits, workshops, vendors and entertainment, all with a fun, earth-friendly twist. Financial contributions are most welcome, and an open invitation to earth-friendly exhibitors, food and retail vendors, and workshop presenters is extended. The application form is attached to this e-mail. 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 the Cooperstown Chamber of Commerce.

TASK FORCE RELEASES FINDINGS ON DRILLING: The Sullivan County Gas Drilling Task Force has released an 84-page report. The document is a compilation of findings based on numerous interviews and

research with local, state and out-of-state officials and agencies. Based on both positive and negative information gathered, the Task Force has made 21 recommendations for Sullivan County legislators to consider. The full report will be available at www.scgnet.us, or by calling the Division of Planning at (845) 807-0527.

ECO-FRIENDLY TIP: Newspaper is one of the easiest materials to recycle. Every time you recycle a pile of papers a yard high, you save a tree from the chop.

From the book "1,001 Ways to Save the Earth," by Joanna Yarrow.