



E-BULLETIN FROM OTSEGO COUNTY CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

March 19, 2009: Vol. 2, No. 8

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR OCCA GARAGE SALE, APRIL 26 AND 27: 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.

REGISTRATION FOR LOW CARBON DIET ECO-TEAM TRAINING SESSION NOW UNDERWAY: Otsego County Conservation Association has scheduled its first training session for Low Carbon Diet Eco-Team leaders on Wednesday, April 8 at 7 p.m. at the OCCA offices. The program focus is on energy conservation and how associated changes will save money. The Eco-Teams are designed to provide a venue for citizens to get together with their neighbors to discuss ways in which they can reduce energy use, save money and therefore reduce their "carbon footprint." The evening's program will be geared to educate all attendees as to the best steps to take toward home energy conservation. **OCCA is partnering with Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) on this particular workshop. The instructor will be Debbie Wojehowski, Program Educator for CCE. To pre-register, leave your name, phone number and e-mail address with Martha Clarvoe at OCCA by calling 607-547-4020.** "Low Carbon Diet" books can be purchased at the OCCA offices (Pioneer Alley, behind Doubleday Café) for \$15. More information about the Low Carbon Diet program can be found at www.occainfo.org.

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."

NATIONALLY-RECOGNIZED ARTIST, ENVIRONMENTALIST SHOWS WORKS IN CONJUNCTION WITH ECOART CONTEST: Ferdinand "Fred" Breglia is bringing his one-man show to the Cooperstown

Art Association April 3-17 in conjunction with Earth Festival 2009 and the EcoArt/Trendy Trash Contest. Fifteen large-scale works by Breglia are complemented by his personal perspective/overview of global warming. **Breglia, who will speak at the CAA's opening reception on April 3 about his work, recycling and the environment, will be showcasing a diverse array of large-scale acrylic-on-canvas offerings, including:**

- "Stuck," a three-dimensional hanging sculpture showing distressed faces in plaster;
- "Global Warming," the title piece of the show depicting the iconic Great Oak at the Arboretum, in deep distress;
- "Dave Yarrow," an homage to the environmental activist, who has been a major influence on Breglia; and
- "A Requiem for the Trees," a 16" x 20" painting illuminating a beautiful forest of trees as imagined on a ghostlike, moonlight night.

Entries for the EcoArt/Trendy Trash Contest are still being accepted, to be displayed concurrently at the CAA with Breglia's exhibit. Local artists and all those with imagination are encouraged to create their own works of art using cast-off items such as old furniture, kitchen utensils, plastic containers, cardboard, glass and fabric. These discarded and/or recycled objects can be combined with an artistic flare and entered into the competition. Winners of "Best in Show," "Judges' Choice" and "People's Choice" awards will receive cash prizes, with Special Merit and recognition in several other categories. For two weeks prior to being displayed at Earth Festival 2009, this year's EcoArt/Trendy Trash entries will also be featured in this special exhibition at the CAA. The exhibition's opening reception will be held on Friday, April 3 from 5-7 p.m. at the CAA galleries at 22 Main Street. Registered entries may be dropped off at the CAA on April 2 between 11 a.m.-4 p.m. or by special arrangement (contact Holly Hren at 607-547-1858 or hollydazebed@yahoo.com). Presented by the Environmental Education Network of Otsego County (EENOC), Earth Festival is sponsored by Wildlife Learning Company, in cooperation with Otsego 2000, Otsego County Conservation Association and Cooperstown Chamber of Commerce. Earth Festival 2009 will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday April 18, 2009 at Milford Central School.

OCCA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR APPOINTED TO NORTHEAST SARE POST: Erik Miller, executive director of the Otsego County Conservation Association and Fourth Ward Alderman for the City of Oneonta, has been chosen to join the board of the Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program. The mission of this organization is to diversify agriculture in the Northeast and make it profitable while providing healthful products to customers. "I sought this appointment because of my long-standing and ongoing interest in agriculture, combined with my belief in regional planning and sustainability," Miller said. **Miller's qualifications to sit on the SARE board include working as a planner in the Otsego County Planning Department, where he became familiar with the county's Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan and worked toward its implementation.** He also organized the county's agricultural district program so as to increase its efficiency, which resulted in a 15 percent increase in participation in the program's first year. Miller was also instrumental in reviving Otsego County's Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board. After three years of involvement with rural planning at the county level, he accepted a position with New York state as a land-use training specialist, working with more than 1,600 municipalities throughout the state on planning issues, including conservation subdivision, open space protection, agricultural district participation, and alternative energy options. He joined OCCA in 2005 and became its executive director in 2006. "I am very interested in

supporting sustainable agriculture through my personal endeavors, from collaborating to initiate the Village of Milford's first Farmers' Market to establishing urban forestry programs," Miller said.

ECO-FRIENDLY TIP: Buy local and seasonal. Do you really need to eat mangoes in midwinter if you live in Montana? Resist the supermarket "all-year-round" mentality and get back in tune with local, seasonal produce. You'll reduce the amount of air freight emissions associated with your meal, and support local farmers.

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.