

2011 Nature Walks

OTSEGO TRAILS ARE CALLING!

sponsored by OTSEGO COUNTY CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

Since 2001, OCCA has organized nature walks on local trails.

This year's schedule includes three trails featured in the OCCA publication, "Otsego Walks & Paddles," and seven hikes on other area trails. Come walk with us! You'll like what you see!

BEAVER POND TRAIL HIKE AND CLEAN-UP: Sunday, June 4 at 11 a.m. Friends of Glimmerglass State Park will kick off OCCA's 2011 Nature Hike Series with a trail hike and clean-up led by Ryan Hudyncia and a number of free activities in celebration of the American Hiking Society's 19th annual National Trails Day®. For more information, contact Friends of Glimmerglass at friendsofglimmerglass@gmail.com or 547-8662.

EVENING WALK AT THE ROBERT V. RIDDELL STATE PARK: Sunday, June 12 at 6:30 p.m. Patricia Riddell Kent and Steve Kent (the donors of the state park land) will lead a walk of the 200-acre field and creek portion of the park. This is a fairly easy walk over mostly flat terrain. The walk should take about 1-1.5 hours. Meet at the park's entrance at the Robert V. Riddell Rd., located off State Hwy. 28, to the right, just after taking I-88 Exit 17 or, if heading south on State Hwy. 28, the park entrance is on the left of State Rte. 28, just past the DOT gravel lot and tourist area at Lifgren Rd., located on the right. Walkers will see the old homestead and beautiful scenic vistas. For more information, contact OCCA at admin@occainfo.org or 547-4488.

A MID-SUMMER'S EVE BIKE OR HIKE OF NEW ISLAND: Wednesday, June 29 at 6 p.m. Enjoy an evening hike or bring your bicycle to New Island, taking advantage of the longer days. Walkers will be led by OCCA Board member Donna Vogler to the Oneonta dam and the old rail trestle bridge. Bikers will ride with OCCA Board member Mark Davies over the many trails in the floodplain woods (mountain bike and helmet recommended). Bug spray or protective clothing advised. **DIRECTIONS:** Meet at the Catella Park parking lot off James Georgeson Drive in Neahwa Park, Oneonta. For information, call 436-9234.

WOODLANDS AND WETLANDS WALK AT LORDSLAND PRESERVE: Saturday, July 2 at 10 a.m. Richard deRosa and Connie Tedesco will lead a hike at The Nature Conservancy's Lordsland Preserve, located near Roseboom. The mildly strenuous hike will take 1-2 hours, crossing through some of the preserve's woodlands and wetlands. Ferns and unusual wetland plants will be identified along the way. Participants should meet at the parking area on Doc Ahlers Road. **DIRECTIONS:** From the intersection of State Hwys. 166 and 165 in Roseboom, drive 0.3 miles southeast on State Hwy. 165. Follow signs to Belvedere Lake. Bear left to Stannard Hill Rd. at 0.4 miles and left again on Gage Rd. at 0.7 miles. To access the east trailhead, continue on Gage Rd. at 2.6 miles and turn right. Cross the valley and climb the hill. The east trailhead is on the right at 3.0 miles. For information, call 547-9553. For more information, contact OCCA at admin@occainfo.org or 547-4488.

HIKE HOOKER MOUNTAIN STATE FOREST: Saturday, July 9 at 9 a.m. Terry Bliss will lead a walk on trails in the Hooker Mountain State Forest. Meet at the trailhead near the intersection of Hooker Mountain Road and Dog Hill Road, Westford. Those interested may follow Bliss from the parking lot of Jackie's Restaurant, Milford when he leaves there at 8:30 a.m. Call 547-4225 for more information.

SUMMER BIRDS AND NEO-TROPICS AT MILFORD STATE FOREST: Saturday, August 6 at 9 a.m. The Milford State Forest has been carefully managed since enduring a tornado in May 1998. The result is varied habitat for both flora and fauna, with scenes of quiet morning beauty. Led by Dave Kiehm, hikers will meet at 9 a.m. sharp at the DEC warehouse on Kelly Corners Rd. (about 1/2 mile south of its intersection with State Land Rd.) for a walk of 2 hours. Participants will look for the summer birds and neo-tropics that frequent the area. Bring binoculars if you have them and choose footwear appropriate for tall, wet grass. For more information, contact Dave Kiehm at dave@deadriftstudio.com.

SLEEPING LION TRAIL AT GLIMMERGLASS STATE PARK: Saturday, August 13 at 2:00 p.m. The Sleeping Lion Trail, uphill and down through the forest at Glimmerglass State Park, affords peek-a-boo views of Otsego Lake while walking through majestic white pines, hemlocks and hardwoods. Participants should meet at the parking area next to the westerly pavilion at the base of the hill leading up to Hyde Hall. This moderately difficult 2-1/2-mile hike, led by park staff, is jointly sponsored by OCCA and Friends of Glimmerglass State Park. **DIRECTIONS:** The entrance to the park is on County Hwy. 31, 4.3 miles south of U.S. Hwy. 20 and 8 miles north of the center of Cooperstown. For information, call 547-8662 or e-mail friendsofglimmerglass@gmail.com.

AN AUTUMN WALK AT BETTY AND WILBUR DAVIS STATE PARK: Saturday, September 10 at 3 p.m. Joe Ritton of Glimmerglass State Park will lead this fairly easy 2.7-mile hike on "Andy's Trail," which includes wooded areas, meadows and panoramic mountain-top views. Participants should meet at the Sunset Pavilion parking lot. The walk is jointly sponsored by OCCA and Friends of Glimmerglass State Park. Located in Westford, Betty and Wilbur Davis State Park is a satellite facility of Glimmerglass State Park. **DIRECTIONS:** I-88, Exit 18, Rte. 7 W, County Rt. 34N, County Rt. 36A W to park entrance; Rte. 166, County Rte. 35 S, County Rte. 36A E to park entrance; I-88 E. For information, call 547-8662 or e-mail friendsofglimmerglass@gmail.com.

ROBERT V. RIDDELL STATE PARK HIKE TO MUD LAKE: Sunday, October 23 at 12:30 p.m. Patricia Riddell Kent and Steve Kent, who donated the land for this park, will guide a 4-hour walk on the 800-acre portion of The Robert V. Riddell State Park. Participants should meet at the Pine Lake Campus of Hartwick College. From there, they will carpool to The Robert V. Riddell State Park and proceed 4.5 miles through the park, to Mud Lake, and back to Pine Lake parking lot. If time permits, walkers will take a detour to a beautiful waterfall. Bring sufficient water and a snack. **DIRECTIONS:** From I-88 exit 16 or State Hwy. 7, take County Hwy. 47 east to West Davenport, 2.8 miles. Turn left on Charlotte Creek Rd. The entrance to Pine Lake is on the right, at 1.8 miles. Drive in the main entrance and park on the left, opposite the Robertson Center. From the traffic signal at Pindars Corners on State Hwy. 23, turn north on County Hwy. 11 and turn right on Charlotte Creek Rd. Continue 1.8 miles to the Pine Lake Campus and follow the directions above. For details, contact OCCA: admin@occainfo.org or 547-4488.

WINTER/SNOWSHOE HIKE AT THE ROBERT V. RIDDELL STATE PARK: Sunday, January 15 at 11 a.m. Patricia Riddell Kent and Steve Kent (the donors of the state park land) will lead a leisurely winter excursion to Mud Lake and back. This hike, on moderate grade terrain up South Hill and then back down to the starting point, will take about 3-1/2 hours to complete, with the option to return to the parking lot at any time. Snowshoes are optional if the snow is not too deep and participants are comfortable walking. Highlights of the hike are waterfalls along the way and Mud Lake, a sphagnum bog, at the top of South Hill. **DIRECTIONS:** Meet on Gersoni Road, just south of I-88's Exit 17. If taking Exit 17 traveling east, make a right at the off ramp stop sign onto Gersoni Road. When taking Exit 17 traveling west, make a left and go under the I-88 overpass to access Gersoni Road. Parking is available on the shoulder of Gersoni Road just south of I-88 – watch for small green signs that read "State Park Lands." For information, contact OCCA at admin@occainfo.org or 547-4488.

*Other delights may pall, but the joy of the open never;
The charm of the silent places must win and hold us forever;
Bondage of walls we leave with never a glance behind us.
Under the lucent sky the delights of the rover shall find us.*

"The Rovers," Lucy Maud Montgomery (1874-1942)



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