



PRESS RELEASE

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OCCA Member Steps In To Direct Garage Sale Fundraiser

COOPERSTOWN – In answer to an appeal issued last spring by the Otsego County Conservation Association, Fly Creek resident Elizabeth Susman has signed on to spearhead this year's garage sale fundraiser. OCCA's Board of Directors had considered discontinuing the garage sale after 2009, due to the extensive drain on staff time and energy, unless volunteers could be recruited to take over event organization.

Susman, an OCCA member, will assume the bulk of the hands-on direction of the garage sale in 2010, with guidance and administrative support from the OCCA Board and staff. This year's sale will take place on Saturday, April 24 and Sunday, April 25 in the Cooperstown Farmers' Market building.

"We need OCCA to continue to educate people as to what could happen in our lovely area when outside developers come in – they do not care what happens to our environment, but we must," Susman said. "So by assisting with the running of this garage sale, I feel I am helping in a small way by freeing up OCCA staff to concentrate their efforts on education and the more pressing environmental issues."

Susman is a graduate of Russell Sage College and a native of Cooperstown. A practicing nurse who enjoys her calling, she is an avid garage sale shopper and antiques aficionado.

OCCA's garage sale is more than just an annual fundraiser, said Board President Martha Clarvoe.

"The garage sale began as a fundraiser," explained Clarvoe, "but it fits well with our mission. We really love the fact that these items are finding a new home, staying out of the landfill, and reducing the purchase of brand new items. Reuse is a mainstay of good environmental stewardship."

The official collection dates for the OCCA garage sale will be April 17-23. All donations are tax deductible: OCCA will provide a donation voucher to any donors so requesting. Those interested in dropping off materials sooner, or who would like more information about volunteering to assist with the event, should call 607-547-4488 or e-mail admin@occainfo.org for further details.

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 on OCCA, or to donate, call (607) 547-4488 or visit www.occainfo.org