



**E-BULLETIN FROM OTSEGO COUNTY CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION**  
**October 8, 2008: Vol. 1, No. 1**

## **OCCA celebrates fortieth year, honors local forestry expert**

The Otsego County Conservation Association will be commemorating forty years of environmental vigilance at its 2008 annual dinner, to be held at The Otesaga in Cooperstown on October 15.

“We have been trying to contact as many people as we can who were associated with OCCA in its earlier days,” said Teresa Winchester, OCCA assistant director, who is organizing the event.

“We would like for as many of those people to contact us with information about their involvement and their memories and, of course, to come to the dinner,” she said.

In particular, Winchester said that OCCA would like to receive information on Frederick V. Mecklenburg, Irene Mozolewski, and John New, all of whom made important contributions to OCCA in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

The deadline for receiving reservations is October 10. Reservations may be made by calling 547-4488.

At the dinner, OCCA will recognize as its 2008 Conservationist of the Year Henry Kernan, an international forestry consultant who has managed 1,200 acres of forest land on his South Worcester property since 1947. Kernan is being honored for his knowledge and love of trees and forestry, for his public education efforts, and especially for the annual tree give-aways he has held for the general public since the mid- 1990s. Over the years, more than 50,000 white spruce seedlings have been transplanted from the Kernan property to other locations in Otsego County and beyond. His tree give-away is always held the first Saturday in May, rain or shine, from dawn until dusk.

Kernan received an undergraduate degree from Harvard University in 1938 before doing post-graduate work at the Yale School of Forestry. After purchasing land in South Worcester, he worked for what was then called the New York State Conservation Department. Later, his forestry expertise led to employment in Canada, South Carolina, Idaho and Bogota, Colombia. As an independent forestry consultant, Kernan also worked in Iran, Spain, Korea and Vietnam.

Kernan has published nearly 400 articles on trees and forestry and has written scholarly pieces and editorials for publications such as "American Forest," "New York Forest Owner," The Baltimore Sun and The Daily Star.

“From going through early newsletters, I see that OCCA was initially more involved in forestry matters than we have been of late,” Winchester said. “So I think it’s fitting that we ‘come back to our roots’ in this way for our fortieth anniversary.”