



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Otsego County Students Win Prizes for Earth Festival Eco-art**

MILFORD – Although the Eco-Art/Trendy Trash Contest component was originally omitted this year from the Earth Festival 2010 itinerary, popular demand prompted organizers to accept entries after all. Projects completed by Otsego County students – including a large contingent from Cooperstown Middle School – were displayed and juried on Saturday, April 10 by a panel of judges who awarded “Best in Show,” “People’s Choice” and “Judges’ Choice” honors.

Contest participants cleverly used cast-off objects such as old hardware, plastic containers, kitchen utensils, cardboard, glass, and fabric in this trash-to-treasure challenge, transforming discarded materials into things of beauty and new purpose.

Two out of the three awards were won by students of science teacher Amy Parr, who spearheaded eco-art efforts at Cooperstown Middle School. “People’s Choice” went to Noah Mickels for his imaginative Recyclosaurus, while Sarah Heneghan was named “Judges’ Choice” for her whimsical yet utilitarian Boot Planter. “Best in Show” was awarded to Danielle Kiser of Cobleskill-Richmondville High School for her folk-art painted salvaged chair. Hall, Mickels, and Heneghan will be awarded cash prizes of \$25, \$15, and \$10, respectively. Jeremiah Parr received special mention for his work manning the eco-art booth.

“We were excited to see what the kids had done,” said Darla M. Youngs, Otsego County Conservation Association administrative director. “Our Steering Committee made the decision to drop the eco-art contest so we could concentrate our efforts on the seminar series. The call from Amy Parr to say her students were interested in participating again this year was unexpected and a pleasant surprise. It’s a great feeling when someone remembers what you did a year ago and asks you to please do it again!”

Also exhibiting on behalf of Cooperstown Middle School were: Jacob Russell, Re-Baggums; Dylan Snyder, Jean Bag; Helen Powers, Recycled Glass Wall Hanging; Elizabeth Russo, Recycle Do-Right Basket; Johnny Hage, Bug Catcher; Rachel Stone, Retro Centerpiece; Lucas Busse, Woven Mat; Grace Heneghan, Princess Purse; Bella Anania, Junk Pants; Jeremiah Parr, Recycled Tent Parachute; Alicia McArdle, Earth Centerpiece; Robert Iverson and Schyler Gann, Eco-Energy Can; Emily Murphy, Shutter Fireplace Cover; and Ryan VanDeusen, Relight Your Night Lighthouse.

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