

## **OCCA invites walkers to Bear Swamp**

The Otsego County Conservation Association announces its fifth nature walk for 2009, to take place on August 22. Terry Bliss will lead a walk to Bear Swamp, located in the Cherry Valley State Forest. Participants wishing to meet for breakfast beforehand should meet promptly at 8 a.m. at the Country Kitchen in Roseboom on the corner of State Routes 166 and 165. Others should arrive at the same location at 9 a.m., from which point all will proceed to the trailhead.

The length of the walk will be approximately five miles. A short side-trail will lead to a 75-acre pond where waterfowl and herons may be observed. Bear Swamp will be the second body of water visited and the ultimate destination of the walk.

Bear Swamp is an area of 1,759 acres of mature softwood and hardwood stands. It is traversed by several miles of seasonal gravel roads that provide comfortable walking in summer and cross-country skiing in winter.

“Those who have already hiked to Bear Swamp will certainly want to come again, and those who have not yet done so should also make an effort to visit this beautiful, serene spot,” said Teresa Winchester, OCCA assistant director. She added that despite its name hikers were not likely to see bear.

OCCA is a non-profit environmental organization serving the county since 1968 and promoting the enjoyment and sustainable use of Otsego County’s natural resources through education, advocacy, resource management, research and planning. For information on OCCA visit [www.occainfo.org](http://www.occainfo.org).

For more information on the walk, call 607-547-4488.