

Clarvoe to take over OCCA presidency from McIntyre

At its July 10 board meeting, Martha Clarvoe assumed the presidency of the Otsego County Conservation Association, taking over from Win McIntyre, who has served in that capacity since September 2006, having joined the OCCA board of directors in 2005. McIntyre will remain on the board.

A retired engineer from Procter & Gamble, McIntyre has worked on Otsego Lake issues since 1999. His involvement with issues and action plans for Otsego Lake has included working with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service as an Earth Team volunteer, serving as watershed manager to the now defunct Otsego Lake Watershed Council, and watershed consultant to OCCA. He is currently the watershed coordinator for the Otsego Lake Watershed Supervisory Committee.

McIntyre's overall focus was implementation of the Plan for the Management of the Otsego Lake Watershed, adopted by the towns of Middlefield, Otsego and Springfield and the Village of Cooperstown in 2004. In particular, he worked with the Army Corps of Engineers to restore wetlands in the watershed and procured over \$500,000 in grant funding to dredge Clarke Pond and repair its dam. He is currently supervising the implementation of Otsego Lake's septic system management plan, procuring a \$76,000 water quality improvement grant from the New York State Department of Conservation for six demonstration waste water treatment systems on Otsego Lake.

At OCCA's 2006 annual meeting, McIntyre stated that he intended to increase the organization's financial stability. To this end, he fostered the Otsego Lake Challenge Campaign, launched in 2007. The fundraising effort, endowed with \$150,000 from the Lou and Susanna Matching Challenge Grant, met its ultimate goal of \$300,000 two years ahead of schedule.

"With the expedited success of this campaign, I now feel that OCCA is in a position to move forward boldly in regard to stewardship of Otsego Lake," McIntyre said. "I'm ready to pass the baton to Martha. She has been a dedicated volunteer and board member for a number of years and I know she will do a good job."

Clarvoe, a resident of Hartwick, joined the OCCA board in 2000 and became involved in OCCA programs and administration on a regular basis shortly thereafter. Besides assisting with routine office work, she played a key role in researching and organizing information for OCCA's light pollution and making presentations to municipalities on this issue. Her efforts in recycling include compilation of OCCA's recycling alternatives brochures, research and promotion of recycling alternatives for agricultural film wraps, constructing container recycling bins for the Village of Cooperstown and managing a seasonal recycling program for the Village's Main Street for four years, recruiting volunteers for Otsego County's annual household hazardous waste collection day, and, with the Cooperstown Central School Leo Club, helped with the cafeteria recycling at Cooperstown Middle and High School.

In 2000, Clarvoe was appointed by the county board of representatives to serve on the Otsego County Burn Barrel Education Committee, all of whose members received recognition from OCCA as Conservationists of the Year in 2002.

Clarvoe also brought information concerning Cities for Climate Protection to the Village of Cooperstown and the City of Oneonta. Both municipalities subsequently signed on to the program, which assists cities to adopt policies and implement quantifiable measures to reduce local greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality, and enhance urban livability and sustainability. In July, at Clarvoe's urging, the county solid waste and environmental concerns committee received a directive from the county board to participate in CPP as well. Clarvoe intends to make county involvement in CCP an educational focus for OCCA in the immediate future.

"Otsego Lake will always be a focus for OCCA because it is one of the county's most important natural resources, and the lake challenge campaign reinforces our ability to protect it," Clarvoe said. "With a major thrust of the campaign behind us, I would like to see OCCA direct its attention to practical means of environmental sustainability. Of course, any local efforts will have broader repercussions, and that should be a positive thing," she said.

Clarvoe is a long-time member and former president of the League of Women Voters of the Cooperstown Area and a member of the board of directors of MOSA.

"Win has been a very effective president," said OCCA executive director Erik Miller. "He has gotten the board involved in fundraising to a degree never before experienced by this organization. We will miss his leadership, but we are also confident that Martha's dedication to environmental concerns will serve OCCA well."