

## **Foundation grants OCCA monies to promote biodiesel use**

The Otsego County Conservation Association has received a \$5000 grant from the Norcross Foundation Grant towards the purchase of a diesel pickup to be converted to run waste vegetable oil.

“We hope this vehicle, with its biodiesel-run engine, will serve as a model for others to implement,” said OCCA executive director Erik Miller.

Besides serving as an example of environmentally-friendly technology and being demonstrated at local environmental events, the vehicle will also be put to practical use.

“Having the diesel truck will make hauling the six or so canoes we use for water chestnut eradication a lot easier,” Miller said.

OCCA is in the second year of a three-year program aimed at eradicating this aquatic invasive species from Goodyear Lake.

The truck will facilitate coordination with a number of volunteers willing to donate their time to help with manual eradication. The organization is committed to eliminating the water chestnut from the lake without applying herbicides.

The truck will also be useful when it comes to transporting the harvested plants to the Town of Milford’s green yard so that seeds will not be redispersed at the removal site.

“Over the years, there have just seemed to be miscellaneous occasions when OCCA needs a truck. On occasion, we have had to deliver tons of unsold books from the Cooperstown Library’s annual book sale to the transfer station for recycling. Intake from our annual garage sale, which is an important fundraiser for us, should also be augmented by having a truck available for pickup, and possibly deliveries,” Miller said.

The Norcross Wildlife Foundation, located in Wales, Mass., was established in 1965 by Arthur D. Norcross, founder of the Norcross Greeting Card Company. Norcross demonstrated an avid interest in nature and wildlife that grew out of his outdoor experiences in Tupper Hill – the woods, fields and swamps on and around his family’s 100-acre woodlot and pasture. He also sponsored several Arctic expeditions on which he collected botanical and zoological specimens for museums including The Smithsonian. In 1916 Norcross inherited Tupper Hill from his father and decided to turn his interests in flora and fauna to the task of ensuring the permanent protection of the family parcel.