



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: June 14, 2010

Two OCCA-Sponsored Nature Walks Scheduled This Weekend

COOPERSTOWN – Otsego County Conservation Association has organized two nature walks this weekend, beginning Saturday morning in the Town of Hartwick and moving Sunday evening to the Robert V. Riddell State Park.

Botanist Connie Tedesco will kick off the Otsego County Conservation Association's 2010 nature walk series on Saturday, June 19 at 10 a.m. with a "Waterfall to Waterfall Walk" in the Town of Hartwick. This walk was originally scheduled for June 12, but was cancelled due to inclement weather. Tedesco will lead hikers to the top of Rainbow Falls and across field and forest to East Hill Falls, enjoying and identifying wildflowers along the way. The mildly strenuous excursion will take approximately 2 hours. Participants should meet at 9 a.m. at Horace and Hazel Tabor Drive, across from John Bush Used Cars on County Route 11.

On Sunday, June 20 at 7 p.m., Patricia Riddell Kent and Steve Kent will lead a Father's Day Evening Walk of the 200-acre field and creek portion of the Robert V. Riddell State Park. This is a fairly easy walk, mostly flat terrain. The walk should take about 1 to 1.5 hours. The Kents, donors of the state park land, will meet participants at the park's entrance at the Robert V. Riddell Rd. (located off State Hwy. 28, to the right, just after taking I-88 Exit 17 or, if heading south on State Hwy. 28, the park entrance is on the left of State Rte. 28, just past the DOT gravel lot and tourist area at Lifgren Rd., located on the right). Walkers will see the old homestead and beautiful scenic vistas.

For more information on either walk, contact OCCA at admin@occainfo.org or 547-4488.

Since 2001, OCCA has organized nature walks on local trails. This year's schedule is comprised of nine trails throughout Otsego County – including four state parks – several of which are featured in the OCCA publication "Otsego Walks & Paddles." Other dates, venues and hike leaders for 2010 are: July 7, A Mid-Summer's Eve Plant Walk – River Plants Along the Susquehanna with OCCA Board member Donna Vogler; July 17, Walk to Bear Swamp with Terry Bliss; July 25, the Sleeping Lion Trail at Glimmerglass State Park with Joseph Homburger; August 7, Summer Birds and Neo-tropics at Milford State Forest with Dave Kiehm; August 15, A Walk in the Clouds at Betty and Wilbur Davis State Park with Joe Ritton; September 11, Nature Walk at Lordsland Preserve with former OCCA Board member Dick deRosa; and October 24, Robert V. Riddell State Park Hike to Mud Lake with Patricia Riddell Kent and Steve Kent. For complete details on each of the walks, including start times and directions, visit http://occainfo.org/documents/NatureWalksposter2010_000.pdf. For more information, e-mail admin@occainfo.org.

OCCA is a private, non-profit environmental membership organization dedicated to promoting the enjoyment and sustainable use of Otsego County's natural resources through education, advocacy, resource management, research, and planning. For more information on OCCA, or to donate, call (607) 547-4488 or visit www.occainfo.org