



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release: April 2013**

### **OCCA Welcomes Environmental Planner**

Cooperstown – Peter Manning has joined the staff of the Otsego County Conservation Association as the Environmental Planner. He will work with the county’s communities through the OCCA Circuit Rider Planner Program to assist in comprehensive planning, the development of land use tools, and to help integrate environmental concerns within local decision making.

Manning comes to the position with 15 years’ experience in land use planning at the county, regional and state levels. Most recently, as Regional Planner with the Catskill Center for Conservation and Development, he coordinated inter-municipal planning efforts, including the Mountain Cloves and Catskill Mountains Scenic Byway projects, and a six-county land use training program.

At the state level, he worked in the Department of State’s Division of Local Government, managing the Quality Communities and Land Use Training Programs, and assisting communities in the New York City Catskill-Delaware Watershed. Prior to state service he worked in the Delaware County Department of Planning and Economic Development, serving municipalities through the county’s circuit rider program.

Manning has a bachelor of arts in geography from the State University at New Paltz and a master of landscape architecture from Cornell University.

“I’m really happy to join the OCCA team,” said Manning. “Otsego County is obviously a beautiful area, and the communities are fortunate to have all the programs that OCCA offers.”

OCCA Executive Director Darla M. Youngs added, “Peter has demonstrated his passion for the nature of the work, and his skills in communication, education and research – as well as in planning – will be of great benefit to OCCA’s mission.”

In addition to leading the Circuit Rider Planner Program, Manning will be responsible for developing reports and policies on environmental issues, grant writing and fund raising, and acting as liaison between community groups, government agencies, developers, and elected officials as needed.

Manning looks forward to building new relationships in the county and he encourages people to contact him at the office as he begins his new position.

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