



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: August 19, 2013

OCCA Seeking Nominations for ‘Conservationist of the Year’

The Otsego County Conservation Association is seeking nominations for its annual Conservationist of the Year award. The award will be given to an individual, citizens’ group or grassroots organization, governmental body, non-profit organization with 501 (c)(3) standing or a business that has made a positive difference in environmental protection, preservation or education in Otsego County.

Nominations must be submitted by October 4. The award will be presented at the OCCA Annual Dinner and Meeting, date and location to be announced.

In regard to nominations of individuals, preference will be given to nominees residing in Otsego County. Environmental professionals are not eligible to be nominated based on achievements accomplished for their compensated employment. Businesses cannot be nominated for a profit-making enterprise. Areas of interest for nomination are water quality protection and improvement, wetland preservation, stream improvement, stream, lake or river clean-ups, riparian buffer or tree plantings, recycling efforts, non-motorized open-space recreation enhancement, land-use planning efforts, or soil conservation efforts. Other areas of environmental endeavor may also be considered.

Nominations may be made by individuals, citizens’ groups or grassroots organizations, governmental bodies, non-profit organizations with 501 (c)(3) standing or businesses.

A special OCCA committee will review nominations and designate the OCCA Conservationist of the Year. The decision of the committee will be final.

No monetary award will be given to the recipient of the award; however the recipient(s) will be the guests of OCCA at its annual dinner and will be publically recognized at this event. A press release will be issued announcing the recipient, and an announcement will appear in “The Lookout,” OCCA’s quarterly newsletter.

“Conservation efforts often go unrecognized,” said OCCA Executive Director Darla M. Youngs. “This is a great opportunity to draw attention to good works recently completed or underway countywide.”

To obtain a nomination form, contact OCCA at 547-4488 or e-mail admin@occainfo.org. Forms may also be downloaded from the OCCA website at <http://occainfo.org/documents/COYGuidelinesandApplication.pdf>.

Otsego County’s oldest environmental conservation membership group, OCCA is a private, non-profit 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 donate, visit www.occainfo.org