



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release: May 27, 2013**

### **OCCA Offers Two Hike Options This Weekend**

OTSEGO COUNTY – On Saturday, June 1 the Otsego County Conservation Association will sponsor two hikes at separate venues as part of its 2013 Nature Walk Series.

At 10 a.m., OCCA Program Director Travis Sauerwald will celebrate National Trails Day with a hike through Basswood Pond State Forest on both the blue and yellow trails to form a figure 8 for a total of approximately 5 miles. Trail difficulty ranges from easy to moderate. Hikers should meet at the parking lot off of Basswood Road on the corner of Route 16 and Basswood Road and are asked to dress appropriately for the weather and trail conditions.

Later in the day, Leatherstocking Golf Course Superintendent Bernie Banas will lead a hike on the golf course from 2-4 p.m., during which he will talk about Leatherstocking's integrated pest management program and about the "greening" of the course management. Participants will meet in the golf course parking lot, north of the Cooperstown Country Club. The entrance is approximately 200 feet north of The Farmers' Museum church on State Route 80 – look for the opening in the stone wall and drive toward the lake, taking the left fork up the hill to the parking lot. Walkers are asked to meet at this location at 1:45 p.m.

Both events are free and open to the public, but pre-registration is preferred by Friday, May 31 at (607) 282-4087 or [programdirector@occainfo.org](mailto:programdirector@occainfo.org).

Since 2001, OCCA has organized and/or co-sponsored nature walks on local trails. Other confirmed dates, venues and hike leaders for 2013 are: June 8, Betty and Wilbur Davis State Park, Joe Ritton; July 9, New Island, Donna Vogler; July 13, Glimmerglass State Park (Lake Appreciation Day); July 14, B&B Ranch; August 3, Milford State Forest, Dave Kiehm; August 17, The Robert V. Riddell State Park, Patricia Riddell Kent and Steve Kent; September 7, Crumhorn Mountain, Allen Nichols; October 19, Glimmerglass State Park, Eamonn Hinchey; October 26, The Robert V. Riddell State Park, Patricia Riddell Kent and Steve Kent; and January 18, 2014, The Robert V. Riddell State Park, snowshoe hike with the Kents. For a complete hike schedule, details and directions, visit the EnviroEvents calendar link via [www.occainfo.org](http://www.occainfo.org).

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).