



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: May 6, 2013

Rail Trail Hike Kicks Off OCCA Nature Walk Series This Weekend

SOUTH COLUMBIA – A three-mile section of the former Lackawanna Railroad right-of-way will be open from 9 a.m. to dusk on Saturday, May 11 for exploration to kick off OCCA’s 2013 Nature Walk Series.

The corridor is managed and operated by the Utica, Chenango & Susquehanna Valley Route LLC. The South Columbia Station and Creamery exposition space will be open for the event and will serve as a hub where explorers can park and begin their journey on this historic trail from South Columbia to Richfield Springs.

The privately-owned trail will be groomed for walking but is a somewhat rugged adventure for adults and children ages 12 and up. There are a few areas that are wet, so proper footwear is recommended. Parking is available in the Town of Columbia at the South Columbia Station, located 2.1 miles north of the intersection of Route 20 and 28 in the Town of Richfield. Head north on Route 28 at the intersection for 2.1 miles and turn left onto McKoons Road (“Mr. Shake” is located on the corner).

Those interested in more information on this event may contact OCCA Executive Director Darla M. Youngs at (607) 547-4488 or admin@occainfo.org. To learn more about UC&SV Route LLC, visit www.ucsvroute.com.

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 1, Basswood Pond State Forest, Travis Sauerwald; June 1, Leatherstocking Golf Course, Bernie Banas; 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; September 7, 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.

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.