



PRESS RELEASE

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Butterflies at Oktoberfest

Butterflies and Oktoberfest don’t typically go hand-in-hand, but they’ll be paired up October 5th at the Joseph L. Popp, Jr. Butterfly Conservatory in Oneonta, when Otsego County Conservation Association and the Popp Conservatory co-host OCCA Oktoberfest from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Popp Butterfly Conservatory is home to more than 150 animals. In addition to butterflies, the Conservatory houses exotic birds, frogs, lizards, even stick insects. The animals roam free in the conservatory’s 3,000-square-foot exhibit.

“It’s an amazing place,” said Jeff O’Handley, OCCA’s interim program director. “Having butterflies and birds flying around you is a magical experience.”

Admission fees provide entry to the conservatory and the event, and will benefit both organizations, said O’Handley. “Oktoberfest activities are taking place in the butterfly field alongside the conservatory. It’s a beautiful location. We’re looking forward to an exciting day.”

Oktoberfest features exhibits dedicated to OCCA’s programs and activities that help protect Otsego County’s natural resources. Several organizations that OCCA partners with—such as the SUNY-Oneonta Biological Field Station, Otsego Regional Cycling Advocates, and Oneonta Susquehanna Greenway. In addition, several vendors will be on hand, selling locally-made products. Vendors include Blue Willow Atelier and Enviro Energy, LLC. Brewery Ommegang will be on site conducting a beer tasting. Hot Rod’s BBQ of Otego will be selling German-themed foods. For kids, Oneonta World of Learning will provide German-themed activities for children, and music will be provided by the award-winning Fritz’s Polka Band. There’s also a strudel contest.

“Bake a strudel, bring it down, and if our panel of judges approves, you could be Überstrudelmeister of the Oktoberfest,” said O’Handley. “Contest rules are on our website. There’s no additional fee to enter, but we would like contestants to pre-registration.”

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 Oktoberfest, OCCA, or to donate, visit www.occainfo.org.

OCCA Oktoberfest is sponsored by Cooperstown/Otsego County Tourism, Ashley-Connor Realty, Community Bank, Geo. Powers Construction, Northern Eagle Beverages, S. Tier French, and The Patrick Family