

Sosa lauded by OCCA for community trail, stewardship initiatives

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At its Annual Meeting and Dinner, held on November 18, the Otsego County Conservation Association honored Al Sosa with its 2011 Conservationist of the Year award. Sosa was recognized for his dedication to bicycle and pedestrian trail building and maintenance, as well as for his leadership role in the fostering of natural resource appreciation and stewardship. Sosa, a retired SUNY-Oneonta physical education professor, developed and continues to teach mountain biking courses at both the beginning and intermediate levels.

Sosa was nominated by OCCA Board member Mark Davies, who applauded his work with local landowners, city, school district, and university officials, and volunteers to build a multi-use trail network of more than 46 miles (and growing) within the greater Oneonta community. Davies also commended Sosa for his philosophy of giving back to the community. Through his classes and as advisor to the Oneonta State Mountain Biking Club, Sosa engages college students in trail maintenance and improvement as well as trail building and design, giving them a better understanding of, and appreciation for, the natural world.

"While conservation is often seen as working to preserve something, I would argue that encouraging students to build a relationship with the natural world and become stewards of their physical environment is very much in the spirit of conserving and protecting," wrote Davies.

"Last spring, students dedicated a trail developed up behind the high school and behind Wilber Park. We have worked with city parks and recreation, Hartwick College, private property owners, the New York State Department of Transportation and others to develop trails all around this com-



Al Sosa and Sam Brown-Shaklee take a break from trail maintenance and clean-up activities.

Photo provided

munity," Sosa said. "Maintenance, improvement, design and development – we've become pretty sophisticated."

According to Davies, Sosa leads students and volunteers in the creation of trails that are sensitive to the ecology.

"His trails carefully avoid wetlands, use rock beds to allow natural water runoff, and incorporate water diverting techniques to ensure that trails are not prone to excessive erosion. Al has also built many bridges over seasonal streams, the mill raceway on New Island, and in other sensitive areas. I have seen these trails stand up to wet springs and have found them to be some of the best trails in the area," said Davies.

Sosa, who also organizes and conducts Sunday morning community rides, said he loves being outdoors and working in the woods.

"I like working on trails, and my background in construction lends itself to this type of work. I also enjoy working with students. They leave something very positive for this community, and take skills with them to other communities," Sosa explained. "Yes, I have a passion for this – it's very rewarding to see people out there enjoying these trails and it's very rewarding to get to ride them myself."

Sosa said the trails that he builds and maintains with students and volunteers are designed for multi-use, low impact, non-motorized activity and to be easily sustainable.

"I firmly believe that healthy trails will help build a healthy community," Sosa added.

Sam Brown-Shaklee, president of the Oneonta State Mountain Biking Club, praised Sosa for his dedication to, and passion for, trail stewardship and for sharing that passion with those around him.

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Bassett Medical Center Cooperstown, Golden Artist Colors and Karen Shekells were also honored at the OCCA Annual Dinner in November. See page 8 for details.

President's Message

Membership is vital to our mission

Our environment is our home, and protection and preservation of the environment – whether for ourselves or for the generations to follow – is the constant challenge that we face. No one is more vital to this cause than people like you, who understand the importance of the appreciation and sustainable use of Otsego County's natural resources.



VICKY M. LENTZ

As environmentalists, we cannot stop advocating for these valuable, finite natural resources. Your membership dollars make it possible for OCCA to do so. You may have sent funding in 2011 specific to a particular program area – Earth Festival, Otsego Regional Cycling Advocates, water chestnut eradication on Goodyear Lake, the Harman Internship Endowment Fund, Up the River Without a Paddle, Otsego Lake Challenge 2012, natural gas drilling and other high impact environmental threats. These funds are earmarked for those purposes.

If you haven't done so already, we ask now that you renew your OCCA membership to ensure that we can move forward with our general countywide programming, which is equally important. This encompasses:

- safeguarding against threats to our environment, including hydrofracking for natural gas
- land-use management and municipal

THIS MAY BE YOUR LAST ISSUE OF THE LOOKOUT: *If you have not yet renewed your membership but would still like to support the work of OCCA, we hope you will take a moment to fill out the membership renewal form on the next page.*

Beekman Boys to kick off Spring Garden Day, Earth Festival

Spring Garden Day, hosted by the Master Gardeners of Cornell Cooperative Extension Schoharie and Otsego Counties on Saturday, April 14 at Milford Central School, will feature The Fabulous Beekman Boys as keynote speakers beginning at 9 a.m. The Beekman Boys – Josh Kilmer-Purcell and Dr. Brent Ridge – will discuss heirloom seeds. Their presentation is free and open to the public and will be followed by a book signing. Spring Garden Day workshop topics include Garden Design, Vegetable Gardening in Containers, Edible Gardening, Flowers, Magical Gardening: Nature at Work for You, and Composting. The fee for workshop participants is \$10 and pre-registration is required. For more information, visit <http://occainfo.org/documents/SpringGardenDayflyerwBeekmans.pdf>.

Spring Garden Day is being held in conjunction with Earth Festival 2012. Earth Festival is an environmentally-focused, interactive event featuring exhibits, activities, vendors and entertainment, all with a fun, earth-friendly twist. Earth Festival 2012 is sponsored by the Otsego County Conservation Association and WildLearn.com.

partnerships

- aquatic invasive species control and education
- riparian buffers and hydroseeding
- water quality monitoring
- septic system management
- reduction of agricultural runoff
- natural resource appreciation and the annual nature walk series
- environmental education, including our quarterly newsletter and education mini-grants to local schools
- development of the Susquehanna River Trail
- recycling advocacy and action
- DEC student camperships
- and much more

Your support is vital. You can make a secure gift online at www.occainfo.org, if you prefer, and we are also prepared to accept gifts of appreciated securities, stocks, real estate, and life insurance. And remember, your OCCA membership is valuable to us on more than simply a monetary basis – there is strength in numbers, and membership figures help us to leverage grant funding and statewide partnerships throughout the year.

Our environment. Our home. Our challenge.

For more than 40 years, OCCA has been your environmental advocate. Today, OCCA serves an important and necessary function for the entire county – while Otsego Lake is undeniably the jewel in Otsego County's crown, environmental stewardship demands that we expand our efforts further afield. Please help us – we cannot do it without you.

OCCA in the news

Links on our website's "Home" page (www.occainfo.org) and "News" page (www.occainfo.org/news), allow you to catch up on or revisit news items generated from our press releases.

Herbicide and Pesticide Use

Film documents successful ban on cosmetic use of pesticides and herbicides: The film "A Chemical Reaction" will be shown on Monday, April 9 beginning at 7 p.m. at Templeton Hall (corner of Pioneer and Church streets) in Cooperstown. This 70-minute documentary presents the story of how the Town of Hudson, Quebec – goaded by a relentless woman physician – voted to ban the cosmetic use of pesticides and herbicides. Although legally challenged by the chemical industry, the right of Hudson to pass the ban was ultimately affirmed by the Supreme Court of Canada, which based its decision on the "precautionary principle." According to a February 2012 report from the Environmental Protection Agency covering the year 2007, the most recent year available,

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Invasive Species

Water chestnut eradication: The dates have been set for this year's hand pulling of water chestnut in the Goodyear Lake stump lot and the lake proper, including a service project in conjunction with the Susquehanna Sojourn in June. For details, visit OCCA's EnviroEvents calendar via the link in the left-hand column of the home page, www.occainfo.org

Land-use Planning

OCCA Circuit Rider Planner Program: OCCA has revamped this program, which offers continuous as well as project-specific support to Otsego County municipalities. For details on the CRP Program and to access new links to land-use and environmental planning online resources, visit <http://www.occainfo.org/Land-UsePlanning.htm>

Natural Resource Appreciation

OCCA Ecotourism Project: OCCA has begun to work with the Otsego County Tourism Department to identify and develop ecotourism opportunities throughout the region. Visit <http://www.occainfo.org/Ecotourism.htm> to learn more.

OCCA's website features sections focusing on environmental issues facing our region plus details on current programming, how to donate and ways to contribute.





Sleeping Lion Trail,
Springfield



Betty & Wilbur Davis State Park,
Westford



Bear Swamp,
Roseboom

Our Environment. Our Home. Our Challenge.

WE NEED TO ENSURE THAT INEVITABLE CHANGE IS CAREFULLY PLANNED AND WILL NOT DESTROY THIS AREA THAT WE HAVE COME TO LOVE. OCCA IS WORKING HARD TO EDUCATE, AND TO GUIDE AND LEAD THAT PROCESS, SO THAT THESE TREASURES WILL NOT ONE DAY BE LOST.

Our effectiveness is directly linked to the degree to which our members support us. Among other initiatives, with your help we can:

- SAFEGUARD AGAINST THREATS TO **OUR ENVIRONMENT** IN GENERAL, AND WATER QUALITY, THE CORNERSTONE OF OUR MISSION, IN PARTICULAR.
- WORK WITH AREA MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS, OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS TO PROTECT THE PLACE WE ALL CALL **OUR HOME**.
- MEET **OUR CHALLENGE** – NATURAL GAS DRILLING AND OTHER FORMS OF HIGH IMPACT DEVELOPMENT – WITH SOUND REGIONAL LAND-USE PLANNING AND REVIEWS.



Betty & Wilbur
Davis State Park

NOW, MORE THAN EVER, WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

YES, I would like to renew my OCCA membership.

Friends of OCCA (under \$200) The Contributors' Circle (\$200-\$499) The Sponsors' Circle (\$500-\$999)

The Stewards' Circle (\$1,000-\$4,999) The Benefactors' Circle (\$5,000-\$9,999) The Trustees' Circle (\$10,000+)

Name _____

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Clip and mail to: Otsego County Conservation Association, PO Box 931, Cooperstown, NY 13326

www.occainfo.org

Photos by S. Tier French

OCCA calls for withdrawal of DEC's revised draft SGEIS

Endorses Toxics Targeting recommendations, home rule

In official comments submitted to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation regarding DEC's draft regulations governing high-volume hydraulic fracturing for natural gas, the Otsego County Conservation Association has asked for an immediate withdrawal of the current document.

"OCCA recognizes and appreciates that the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has worked extensively to improve environmental safeguards in its revised Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement on the Oil, Gas and Solution Mining Regulatory Program. However, we still do not believe the SGEIS adequately addresses the protection of water, air, wildlife or habitat, nor does it sufficiently mitigate possible environmental impacts by high-volume hydraulic fracturing to our ecosystem as a whole," wrote OCCA President Vicky Lentz.

OCCA questioned numerous findings, procedures, and suggested mitigations in the SGEIS and noted DEC's failure to evaluate cumulative impacts on the region in terms of water quality, air quality, agriculture,

tourism, public health and safety, job markets, housing markets, and quality of life.

"The 2011 rdSGEIS fails to address cumulative impacts and appropriate remediation in any meaningful way," the letter reads. "The gas isn't going anywhere – we urge the state to make sure that both the technology and the process are perfected and proven before moving forward."

On behalf of its 800-plus membership, OCCA's final recommendation – in addition to immediate withdrawal of the current revised draft SGEIS – is that the DEC suspend all permitting until the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency concludes its study on the potential impacts of hydraulic fracturing on drinking water resources.

In other related news, OCCA has written to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo in support of a November letter by Toxics Targeting which identifies numerous defects and/or omissions within the SGEIS.

"OCCA echoes the conclusion drawn by Toxics Targeting that the revised draft SGEIS fails to provide a meaningful plan to safeguard New York from the irreparable harm that could be caused by the vast industrialization associated with Marcellus shale horizontal hydrofracturing," that letter read.

Among other recommendations, Toxics Targeting urged Cuomo to:

- Ban gas drilling wastewaters from being discharged into publicly owned treatment works designed for sanitary waste or adopt strict pretreatment standards

- Identify New York areas prone to higher seismic activity and propose measures to prevent earthquakes potentially associated with horizontal hydrofracturing

- Resolve EPA concerns about inadequate protection of ecosystems and wildlife

- Assess cumulative impacts on a comprehensive basis

In a second letter to Governor Cuomo, OCCA asked that an amendment to Environmental Conservation Law be considered which: 1) authorizes local governments to consider whether natural gas drilling should be a permissible use within their borders; 2) authorizes local governments to address natural gas drilling in their zoning or planning ordinances; and 3) allows the municipality regulatory control by special use permit should natural gas drilling be deemed a permissible use.

"Land-use planning touches on the many human activities which have an impact on our shrinking natural surroundings and

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Shamieh joins OCCA staff as new environmental planner

Effective December 12, Rima Shamieh has joined the Otsego County Conservation Association staff as environmental planner and head of the organization's Circuit Rider Planner Program.

Shamieh, who holds a bachelor's degree in molecular environmental biology from the University of California at Berkeley, completed her master's degree in city and regional planning in 2010 at Cornell University. She has lived in upstate New York for seven years.

Immediately prior to coming to OCCA, Shamieh was employed as a Marcellus shale horizontal drilling analyst for Cornell's Community and Regional Development Institute (CaRDI). She is the co-author of a narrated PowerPoint presentation on updates to the NYSDEC revised draft SGEIS on the Oil, Gas and Solution Mining Regulatory Program, released last fall by Cornell Cooperative Extension and CaRDI, and recently completed an internship with the Bradford County Office of Community Planning and Grants in Pennsylvania.

"I'm thrilled to be working for OCCA. This position is ideal because I can draw from all my past experiences in non-profits, ecology, and planning, and it will also allow

me to do what I truly love, which is to work with communities to enhance their quality of life," Shamieh said.

Shamieh's planning expertise includes subdivision and land development site plan reviews, model zoning ordinances for solar and wind energies and biomass digesters, housing needs assessment, housing market analysis, comprehensive plan development, and State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR). She has nearly 10 years of experience in conducting research, analyzing data, and managing databases, and also has extensive education and research experience in terrestrial and plant ecology.

OCCA is able to bring municipal and planning services to the Upper Susquehanna Watershed thanks to an increase in funding. Shamieh was selected from a pool of more than 80 candidates.

"First and foremost, Rima will be working



RIMA SHAMIEH

to complete OCCA's existing circuit rider contracts," said Executive Director Darla M. Youngs. "She has hit the ground running, and has already completely revamped the Circuit Rider Planner program.

"In addition to her planning and environmental expertise, Rima has valuable experience working with non-profits and managing and recruiting volunteers. On so many levels, we are lucky to have her on board," Youngs said.

The position of environmental planner was created by OCCA to help bring environmental concerns to the forefront of community decisions, and to work with Otsego County communities on issues relative to them, ranging from comprehensive planning and regulations to environmental reviews.

Shamieh's responsibilities will also entail public outreach on planning issues, invasive species and alternative energy, hands-on invasive species management and trail maintenance, research on various environmental issues, grant writing, and fundraising.

"I look forward to working with OCCA partners and area communities to protect our natural resources and enhance the quality of

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OCCA names new director

Following an extensive nationwide search, the Otsego County Conservation Association has announced that Darla M. Youngs is the organization's new executive director.



DARLA M. YOUNGS

Youngs had served at the OCCA helm as acting executive director since July 1, when former director Erik Miller left for a position with the Southern Tier East Regional Planning Development Board. Her promotion was made official in December.

"The Search Committee conducted a very deliberate and thorough search, and we are confident that we have the best person for the job," said OCCA Board President Vicky M. Lentz. "Darla's intimate knowledge of the organization and her extensive supervisory and managerial experience put her at the top of the list. We're fortunate to have had the perfect candidate so close at hand.

"An added bonus is that the transition was seamless – we haven't missed a beat," Lentz said.

OCCA's administrative director since October of 2008, Youngs originally focused primarily on bookkeeping, organizational and administrative oversight, fundraising, event planning, and newsletter design. Over time her responsibilities expanded to all program areas.

Since late 2009, Youngs has been responsible for public relations generated on behalf of OCCA, including press releases, eco-bulletins and "The Lookout," OCCA's quarterly newsletter. She has been a member of the Executive Board of the Otsego County Water Quality Coordinating Committee since 2007 and a member of the Earth Festival and Otsego Lakes Festival steering committees since 2006. For the past two years, Youngs has overseen OCCA's annual "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" Garage Sale as well as

the Annual Meeting and Dinner.

Programmatically, Youngs has been increasingly hands-on in all respects, from water chestnut eradication on Goodyear Lake and trail clean-up at Basswood Pond State Forest to the

Circuit Rider Planner Program and preliminary environmental reviews for Otsego Rural Housing Assistance. She has organized OCCA's popular nature walk series for the past two seasons, and was instrumental in reviving both the OCCA-sponsored DEC campership program and the Natural Resources Survey mapping initiative. Fundraising appeals, grant writing and website/social media development have also been among her focus areas.

After earning her associate's degree in journalism from Morrisville State College, where she graduated first in her class, Youngs relocated to Long Island to begin her journalism career. Over the next 10 years, her on-the-job training – which she terms "invaluable" – led her to positions as managing editor and editorial design director of two prominent weekly newspaper chains.

In 1994, Youngs left her post as head of the production division of Richner Publications, where she directed a staff of 30-plus, to return to central New York so that she could raise her two sons closer to home, where they could enjoy farmland, rolling hills and forests as they grew up, as she had. At that time, she became production director of "The Freeman's Journal," the third oldest weekly newspaper in the nation. She continued with the Journal through a change of ownership, and was promoted to general manager by Otsego Templeton Publishing Co., Inc., then the parent company. She held that position from 2001-2006.

In 2006, Youngs left the paper to pursue a career that would allow her to spend more time

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Photo provided

Spencer Wilson and Ben Leahy record weather data collected with the wireless weather station.

School uses education mini-grant funds to purchase weather station

Dear OCCA,

The Oneonta Community Christian School thanks you again for accepting our grant proposal for a weather station. We were successful in purchasing a new Davis 6250 Vantage Vue wireless weather station for \$289 plus shipping. We used the \$250 received from OCCA along with other donors providing the additional funds (\$49) for this purchase. A volunteer installed the weather station on the roof of the school with the digital display mounted inside the classroom.

My 9th and 10th grade physical science class began a unit on Earth's atmosphere and weather in late September. First we studied the physical properties of the atmosphere and the factors that cause the Earth's weather. Next, we studied how meteorologists monitor, measure and predict the weather. The addition of the Davis Vantage Vue wireless weather station to our classroom was ideal for putting all this knowledge to practical use. We used the weather station to collect, analyze and interpret our own weather data. Students took turns reading the digital display and recording the data on a large chart in the classroom.

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Photo provided

Thomas Leahy and Ethan Grant display graphs they created as part of their unit on the Earth's atmosphere and weather.

Combined efforts ensure continued success of HHWD

By Martha B. Clarvoe

The Household Hazardous Waste Day collection on Saturday, September 17 marked the 14th anniversary of this very successful annual event. Household Hazardous Waste Day is run by the Otsego County Department of Solid Waste and Recycling under the supervision of Planning Department Director Terry Bliss, with assistance from his wonderful staff: Karen Sullivan, senior planner; Psalm Wyckoff, planner; Meghan Lottridge, secretary; and Jody Taylor, director of weights and measures.

As always, everything went off without a hitch. The process of checking in, proceeding through the line, dropping off automobile batteries, spent propane tanks, pharmaceuticals for disposal, chemicals, compact and long outdated fluorescent tubes, and hundreds of gallons of latex paint for recycling took approximately five minutes per vehicle and driver. (Please note: Electronic items are now accepted at both MOSA transfer stations at no charge.)

According to the early totals, 1,045 gallons of latex paint were collected for reuse. This paint will now be reprocessed by Golden Artist Colors, Inc. and given away through the Otsego County Department of Solid Waste and Recycling. Also collected were 990 gallons of flammable liquids, 935 gallons of pesticide liquids, 220 gallons of corrosive base liquids, 330 gallons of antifreeze, and four pallets of compact fluorescent and fluorescent bulbs.

Rich McCaffery, who has volunteered for



Household Hazardous Waste Day collection volunteer Stephen Lopilato heard of this event while he was in town visiting family. He made the T-shirt the night before.

this event every year since its inception, said, "This is such a rewarding endeavor as a volunteer. So many residents are truly appreciative of this opportunity and take the time to say so as they exit. They comment on the efficiency and how easy and painless the process is, and can't express enough appreciation for jobs well executed."

Since 1998, OCCA has helped recruit volunteers for Household Hazardous Waste Day. Many of these volunteers have participated in 10 or more of these collections, selflessly giving up from 3-1/2 to 7-1/2 hours of their precious Saturdays. We are very grateful for the invaluable help these dedicated volunteers provide. Without their assistance, the wait would be much longer and the process not nearly as seamless.

OCCA wishes to thank Terry Bliss and his staff for a job well done, and extends our

thanks also to all those who helped out this year – Wendy Burton, Andrée Conklin, Deb Dalton, Sandy deRosa, Jean Finch, Maria Graham, Paula Greene, Cindy Hill, Jim Hill, Dottie Hudson, Dick Kelly, Jim Kidd, David LaDuke, Stephen Lopilato, Ed Lentz, Vicky Lentz, Carol Malz, Herb Marx, Rich McCaffery, Paul Mendelsohn, Jeff O'Handley, Nancy Potter, Bill Ralston, Linda Rowinski, John Saphier, and Lynn Wassel.

And with assistance from Linda Drake of SUNY-Oneonta's Center for Social Responsibility and Community, OCCA was also fortunate to enlist the help of Oneonta Job Corps volunteers. Thanks also to Giovanni Ayala, Alex Cokely, Christopher Dodd, Kareem Garcia, Gabrielle Jammel, Corey Miller, Krystyl Pantoja, Germaine Session, and Scott Stanton.

If you would like to receive information about volunteering at the Household Hazardous Waste Day collection next year, please contact me at (607) 547-4020 or via e-mail at martha.clarvoe@gmail.com. Many hands lighten the load!

Otsego County's oldest environmental conservation association, 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 donate, call (607) 547-4488 or visit www.occainfo.org

Martha Clarvoe is OCCA's special projects manager.

Sosa

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"I have gained a lot from my relationship with Al over the past three years," Brown-Shaklee explained. "He introduced me to trail design and since then we have been part of a growing effort to develop outdoor recreation in Oneonta. Through this experience, I have found a love for trail design, construction and maintenance which I intend to pursue professionally.

"For many of us in the [club], Al Sosa has been a mentor, role model and friend. We respect and love him for his dedication and hope that when we turn 67 we might be as active as he is today," Brown-Shaklee said.

This year, OCCA presented three additional awards to businesses and individuals who have made a positive difference related to environmental protection, preservation or education in Otsego County.

Golden Artist Colors, Inc. of New Berlin

received the Business Conservation Award for keeping thousands of gallons of paint from landfill disposal over the last 13 years; Karen Shekells of Friends of Glimmerglass State Park, Inc. earned Special Recognition for Environmental Excellence for increasing and enhancing community awareness and participation in a diverse array of environmental education events; and the "Green Business" Award was given to Bassett Medical Center, Cooperstown for its initiatives to reduce, reuse, recycle or manage waste in more sustainable ways and to increase energy efficiency in existing or new processes.

"We are delighted to have had such a diverse group of honorees this year," said OCCA Executive Director Darla M. Youngs. "Our award winners demonstrate in countless ways how both individuals and businesses can successfully work to protect and preserve our environment. More importantly, they're doing a great job of it."

Erin Heard, tributary strategy specialist

for the Upper Susquehanna Coalition and outreach coordinator/river trail manager for the Headwaters River Trail, gave the keynote address at this year's Annual Dinner.

Heard's presentation covered the history of the Upper Susquehanna Coalition, how USC came to manage the water trail, the partnership process, what has been accomplished, and where organizers hope to go in the future. She also talked about the Susquehanna Sojourn – a multi-day, group-oriented annual paddling event emphasizing environmental and cultural education – which will embark from Otsego Lake on June 13.

"OCCA has long envisioned a Susquehanna River Greenway Trail, extending from Cooperstown to the existing Oneonta Susquehanna Greenway. Erin's expertise in partnership building and trail visioning and planning should inspire us as we continue to move toward making that dream a reality," Youngs said.

OCCA welcomes Sauerwald

The Otsego County Conservation Association announced in February that L. Travis Sauerwald of Cooperstown has joined its staff as program director. In this newly-created position, Sauerwald will spearhead OCCA's water quality, land use, solid waste, energy and natural resource appreciation initiatives.



TRAVIS SAUERWALD

As park manager for the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, Sauerwald was responsible for personnel, grounds, and property at Fort Delaware State Park, Fort DuPont State Park, and the Port Penn Interpretive Center, where he created and conducted workshops and lectures on various conservation issues and regularly led events with upwards of 200 volunteers. His certifications include Conservation Law Enforcement (National Park Service/University of Massachusetts), State Park Leadership (National Association of State Park Directors), Wilderness First Responder (Wilderness Medical Institute) and Wildland Firefighter (United States Forest Service).

"We are excited to have Travis on board," said OCCA Executive Director Darla M. Youngs. "He is already immersed in several projects involving alternative energy and education on organic herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers, and is setting the schedule for this year's water chestnut hand pulling efforts and the nature walk series."

Sauerwald has worked professionally and as a volunteer with the Delaware Department of Fish and Wildlife, American Hiking Society, Sierra Club, Audubon Society, Wilderness Volunteers, and Tri-State Bird Rescue, and was a charter instructor for the Delaware "Becoming an Outdoors-Woman program" through Eastern Mountain Sports. He was a team leader for the Elk Neck State Park AmeriCorps program (Maryland) and has led coastal and inland

bay cleanup efforts in Delaware.

"In addition to expanding our program areas in solid waste management, stewardship and conservation, Travis will also look to increase OCCA's volunteer opportunities, service projects and programs for youth. His experience lends itself to reinforcing our current programs and creating new initiatives as per our strategic plan," Youngs added.

Sauerwald is eager to work with OCCA staff and both existing and new partners countywide on issues ranging from sustainability to eco-tourism.

"I am very happy to be joining OCCA in its continuing efforts to protect and preserve the natural resources of Otsego County. I have gained a great appreciation for the area since moving here, and it is very meaningful to be able to make a positive contribution to its future," Sauerwald said.

Sauerwald moved to the area in 2009, when his fiancé accepted a position at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum. He is currently working to complete a bachelor's degree in environmental studies through Empire State College, including coursework in plant ecology, geology, conservation, winter ecology, and ecology, adaptation and sustainability. He is a volunteer firefighter and EMT with the Cooperstown Fire Department.

"My passion for nature extends back to my childhood when I filled my Boy Scout sash with every environmentally related merit badge available," said Sauerwald. "This passion has guided me throughout my professional career."

Sauerwald is eager to work with OCCA staff and both existing and new partners countywide on issues ranging from sustainability to eco-tourism.



Photo provided

Special Recognition

Dr. Willard N. Harman, OCCA vice-president (right), receives the Susquehanna River Basin Commission's 2011 Maurice K. Goddard Award from SRBC Commissioner Kenneth Lynch. This award program was established in 1999 to honor individuals who demonstrate excellence in the wide-ranging field of water management. According to the SRBC, Harman's enormous contributions to the aquatic resource management of Otsego Lake – the source of the Susquehanna River – have helped protect the lake's unique ecosystem. Harman was honored by the SRBC at its quarterly meeting on September 15 in Milford. "Every lake needs a Dr. Harman," Lynch said.



Teamwork

Tony Capraro, district conservationist at USDA-NRCS, presents OCCA President Vicky Lentz with a Natural Resources Conservation Service Partner sign at a recent OCCA Board meeting. OCCA provides funding toward a variety of NRCS projects to help reduce soil erosion, enhance water supplies, improve water quality and increase wildlife habitat.

Bassett Medical Center named 2011 OCCA 'Green Business'

The comprehensive impact of all of the steps Bassett Medical Center, Cooperstown has taken to reduce its ecological footprint impressed OCCA Board members and earned Bassett this year's "Green Business" Award. From upgrades on lighting, windows, motor drives, and electrical transformers, to reduction of paper, fuel, and electricity usage, to recycling of batteries, compression sleeves, and cardboard, Bassett's green efforts represent a significant commitment to environmental protection.

Among Bassett's conservation activities noted on the nomination form: electronic reporting saves 373,008 sheets of paper annually; 400 pounds of batteries were recycled in 2010; 57 tons of paper waste has been kept out of the landfill through the shredding and recycling program; and the hospital's shuttle bus system reduces travel in the village by nearly 500 miles a day. Stacey Michael of the Pulmonology Department submitted the nomination.

"Bassett began its green efforts long before the greening of America's hospitals hit high gear and it's work our CEO and COO embrace," said former Vice President of Corporate Support Services and Facilities Planning Joe Middleton. "From considering sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection, indoor environmental quality, and waste reduction, we are continually seeking to be an even greener organization. As the region's largest employer, we understand we have a responsibility to set the example in reducing our ecological footprint."

In 2007, Bassett formalized its green efforts by establishing a volunteer Green Team made up of employees from various departments within the organization, including Housekeeping, Facilities, Food Service,

"As the region's largest employer, we understand we have a responsibility to set the example in reducing our ecological footprint."
— Joe Middleton

Laboratory and Corporate Communications. The team, currently chaired by Brian Wrubleski, director of Food Service, leads the organization's efforts to improve recycling and reduce waste at Bassett. Their work has also resulted in energy savings as well as a reduction in chemical and water use.

"We're very proud of the action staff has taken to contribute to this effort by reducing waste, increasing recycling and offering suggestions for the further greening of Bassett," said Brian Wrubleski.

Middleton, Wrubleski and Tom Terry accepted the award on behalf of Bassett Medical Center.



Photo by Paul Donnelly

Karen Shekells assists a flip-flop decorating contestant at Lake Appreciation Day.

Karen Shekells recognized for environmental excellence

Karen Shekells of Friends of Glimmerglass State Park, Inc. earned Special Recognition for Environmental Excellence from OCCA for increasing and enhancing community awareness and participation in a diverse array of environmental education events.

Shekells, who serves as president of the Friends of Glimmerglass State Park volunteer Board of Directors, was one of the original organizers of that group. The goal of this not-for-profit organization is to increase community awareness and participation through organized events and programs at the park, and to support the mission of the park through fund raising, volunteerism, strategic planning, advocacy, and activities for the benefit and enjoyment of the public.

According to OCCA member Rich McCaffery, who nominated Shekells for recognition, she has been instrumental in transforming the face of the state park to an appealing and welcoming environment where people of all ages can discover the wonders of nature.

"Karen's husband, Richard Shekells, became the manager of Glimmerglass State Park and Davis State Park in the spring of 2007," wrote McCaffery. "Karen set out to involve others to advance lifelong learning at the park through guided tours, lectures, workshops, and discussions on ways to conserve our environment and protect wildlife. She has provided the leadership for such initiatives as upgrades to the nature trails, the Great American Campout, Yoga on the Beach, the revival of snow tubing (previously discontinued due to cuts in state funding), Wild Wilderness Wednesdays, environmental school programs and many, many other outdoor education opportunities."

Shekells said it has been great to see Friends of Glimmerglass State Park grow and flourish.

Golden Artist Colors honored for Otsego Cty. recycling efforts

The Business Conservation Award from OCCA, new this year, was given to Golden Artist Colors, Inc. of New Berlin for keeping thousands of gallons of paint from landfill disposal for the last 13 years.

Golden Artist Colors, Inc. earned accolades from OCCA for its contribution to Otsego County's successful Household Hazardous Waste Day collection, whereby latex paint collected at that event is recycled and returned to the county for distribution to area non-profit organizations and municipalities.

According to the nomination form submitted by Karen Sullivan, Otsego County senior planner, "Golden generously supplies the county with 55-gallon drums for the collection event, which is supported by volunteers who provide the necessary labor to open, mix and pour the collected paint into the drums. Golden then picks up the drums of paint and transports them back to their facility for processing. Within a few weeks, Golden has repackaged the paint in five-gallon buckets of various colors for distribution, free of charge."

"Our beautiful, rural location inspires us, as does the importance to our staff and customers that we minimize our environmental impact so that, by extension, they can."

— Ben Gavett

According to Ben Gavett, regulatory affairs and facilities director at Golden, the impetus behind the company's conservation initiatives is multi-layered.

"Our beautiful, rural location inspires us, as does the importance to our staff and customers that we minimize our environmental impact so that, by extension, they can. In the case of the Otsego County Paint Recycling Program, a desire to have a measurable, positive environmental impact by utilizing our facility and expertise as a paint manufacturer motivates us as well," said Gavett.

Golden Artist Colors, Inc. promotes environmental conservation and protection in a number of other ways.

"In addition to recycling paint for Otsego and Chenango counties, we purchase 100 percent renewable electricity in the form of wind and low-impact hydro. We also operate a reverse osmosis system to recycle our process wash water, have an extensive in-house program to recycle what would otherwise be solid wastes, and we maintain a 'no exposure' facility which protects the environment from storm water discharges associated with industrial activity," Gavett said.

Gavett accepted the award on behalf of Golden Artist Colors, Inc.

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Perspectives – The Law and the Environment

Two for two: Early ‘gas ban’ court decisions favor home rule

As has been reported in the local and national press, the first two challenges to municipal bans on natural gas drilling in New York State have been decided in favor of the municipalities. Specifically, in the cases of *Anschultz Exploration Corporation v. Town of Dryden* and *Cooperstown Holstein Corp. v. Town of Middlefield*, decided February 21 and February 24, respectively, the New York State Supreme Court upheld the power of towns to enact land use regulations that ban gas drilling within town borders.

Both decisions will likely be appealed to the NYS Court of Appeals. Predicting when such appeals would be decided is difficult but decisions on appeal should not be expected for at least about six months.

At issue in both cases is the balance between the power of municipalities to govern within their borders, a principle commonly referred to as “home rule,” and the power of the state government to pre-empt local laws. In the absence of clearly expressed legislative intent to pre-empt local laws broadly, courts generally seek to harmonize state and local laws in a manner that preserves home rule. The NYS Environmental Conservation Law provides in Section 23-0303(2) that state law:

“shall supersede all local laws or ordinances relating to the regulation of the oil, gas and solution mining industries; but shall not supersede local government jurisdiction

over local roads or the rights of local governments under the real property tax law.”

The Towns of Dryden and Middlefield contended that their bans on natural gas drilling are regulations on land use, not regulations on gas drilling, and that the Environmental Conservation Law does not clearly express an intent to pre-empt local land use regulations. The plaintiffs, a gas

The judges analyzed precedent and the laws at issue and concluded that municipalities have the authority to determine the “whether” and the “where” of gas drilling and that state pre-emption applies only to the “how” of gas drilling.

company in the Dryden case and a leaseholder in the Middlefield case, contended that such bans are regulations of the gas industry and are therefore pre-empted by state law.

In the court opinions, both of which are well written and well reasoned, the judges analyzed precedent and the laws at issue and concluded that municipalities have the authority to determine the “whether” and the “where” of gas drilling and that state pre-emption applies only to the “how” of gas drilling.

Notwithstanding the likelihood of appeals, these decisions will undoubtedly bolster proponents of local bans on gas drilling and increase pressure on town boards that have resisted adopting such bans on the grounds

that they would be illegal and unenforceable.

In both Dryden and Middlefield, the bans on gas drilling were based on zoning powers. However, at least two towns in Otsego County, Springfield and New Lisbon, do not have zoning ordinances and, instead, base their bans on the power of towns to protect the health, safety, and welfare of their residents. The Dryden and Middlefield opinions affirmed the power of towns to regulate land use and did not draw a distinction between land use regulation based on zoning and land use regulation based on health, safety, and welfare.

Additionally, the opinions did not draw any distinction between bans on heavy industry generally and bans on gas drilling specifically.

The issue before the court did not require the judges to fully consider the extent of pre-emption of local regulations that affect gas drilling operations. For example, towns have historically had the power to regulate things like noise, lighting, setbacks, signage, etc. Saved for another day is the question of the extent to which such general land use regulations are pre-empted by the ECL.

The Dryden and Middlefield decisions call further into question the necessity of pursuing the so-called “Home Rule Bill” (S5830-2011, A8557-2011), which would appear to confirm the power of municipalities to ban gas drilling but which may prove unnecessary and which, if enacted, may have unintended consequences.

– Edward T. Lentz, Esquire

About Appeals

In both decisions, the aggrieved parties (i.e. the ones who lost before the Supreme Courts) are considering appealing. Appealing a decision, order, or judgment in New York State involves two procedures: the taking and the perfecting.

To take an appeal, the aggrieved party files a “Notice of Appeal” within thirty days of being served by the winning party with a copy of Supreme Court’s Decision and a “Notice of Entry.” The thirty days is mandatory – in other words, if a Notice of Appeal is not filed within those thirty days, the right to appeal is lost

and the case is over. However, the thirty days does not begin to run until the service is made by the winning party, even though all parties know of the decision, and even the public knows of it.

The Notice of Appeal is filed with the Supreme Court Clerk. The appeal is taken to the Department of the Supreme Court, Appellate Division, in which the Supreme Court is located. New York State has four departments.

State law, namely the Civil Practice Law and Rules, sets forth how to perfect an appeal. Each Department, however, can modify or add to the specific rules that pertain to the practice before it. These are known as the local rules. The case with the

Town of Dryden was before the Tompkins County Supreme Court, which is in the Appellate Division, Third Department. The case with the Town of Middlefield was before the Otsego County Supreme Court, which is also in the Appellate Division, Third Department. The Third Department’s local rules can be found at its website, <http://www.nycourts.gov/ad3/>.

In the Third Department, the appellant (the party who has appealed) has sixty days from service of the Notice of Appeal to file a certified record and brief with the court. The sixty days can be extended on motion. Once it has received the certified record and appellant’s brief, the court then sets the deadlines for the respon-

dent(s) to file any brief(s), and for the appellant to file any reply. The case is assigned a return date, that is, a date for the court to consider the case. Undoubtedly, oral argument will be requested in these cases, and therefore there will be oral argument before a five judge panel on the return date. A decision on the appeal is generally issued within sixty days.

Appeals not perfected within nine months of the filing of the Notice of Appeal are deemed abandoned and dismissed.

If the aggrieved parties do appeal, we may have a decision from the Third Department by next year.

– Carol Malz, Esquire

SGEIS

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addresses such concerns as unique natural habitats, water quality, traffic patterns, noise abatement, air quality, and light pollution,” the letter read.

“OCCA would be remiss in its role as partner and advisor to Otsego County’s municipalities if we did not ask for the immediate withdrawal of the current SGEIS and advocate as well for home-rule authority within the regulations proposed by the DEC.”

Director

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with her family. She was hired by Otsego 2000, another local environmental nonprofit organization. In 2007, she was promoted to associate director there. While at Otsego 2000, Youngs administered the Cooperstown Farmers' Market among other duties.

“Darla is a natural, strong leader. Her ability to efficiently and effectively carry out administrative duties is a huge asset. Since leadership and efficiency are crucial to OCCA’s success, these assets weighed heavily in her favor,” Lentz said.

Youngs said she looks forward to her new role at OCCA.

“I have been very fortunate in that I had the opportunity to train under Martha Frey and Erik Miller, two of Otsego County’s most successful environmental non-profit leaders. I intend to put what they taught me to good use,” Youngs said.

Youngs grew up in Pine Woods and graduated from Morrisville-Eaton Central School. She is an award-winning graphic designer and sole proprietor of DM Youngs Design. She and her two sons – Morrison and John Darcy – live in Hartwick.

Weather

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They also learned how to use the Microsoft Excel program in our computer lab to create their own personal data tables for their weather data. Next they learned how to use the Microsoft Excel program to generate visual graphs of this data in various forms. It was exciting to see them learn to create graphs that presented the data in such a way as to allow for discovery learning. They were able to discover for themselves and actually “see” weather trends and the relationships between different elements of weather.

We wrapped up the unit by discussing the many ways that this knowledge can be applied in our daily lives. It can help save lives, make people more comfortable, and provide essential information to assist farmers, gardeners, and ecologists in their work. We discussed the ecological impact of abiotic factors (such as the elements of weather) on the biotic web of life, the interdependency of living things. These abiotic factors contribute to population fluctuations within an ecosystem. We concluded with a discussion of how these factors contribute to the greenhouse effect and the complex global warming issue, concluding with the importance of preserving all of our natural resources.

It was a very successful unit as indicated by my students’ enthusiasm, by the outcome of their final charts and graphs, and by their high test scores. The exam concluding this unit included essay questions in which the students were able to demonstrate their understanding of relationships between factors and complex issues, not just facts. The only failure, as I recall, was that we had a long spell of unusually mild and dry weather during the time that we had allotted for data collection. I think the students were hoping for some more dramatic weather changes and fronts moving in and out of our area. Even that was a lesson in itself. In spite of this one “failure,” the success of the project is highlighted by seeing the students continue to use the weather station, almost daily, long after the project was over. I have also made the weather station available for other classes to use as needed. It will continue to get used for years to come. I plan on redoing this project every year that I teach physical science.

Thank you again for helping our students develop their academic science skills through this grant.

*Sincerely,
Julianne Grant, HS Science Teacher*

Film

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1.1 billion pounds of pesticides were used in the United States. Agriculture accounts for 80 percent of the total. The remainder, about 200 million pounds, was used in homes, gardens, lawns, industrial, commercial and government market sectors. Herbicides, or weed killers, were the most widely used products. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has reported that homeowners use up to 10 times more chemical pesticides per acre on their lawns than farmers use on crops. “This is a very compelling film, which Sam and Hilda Wilcox shared with Martha Clarvoe and me several weeks ago. The Hudson, Quebec bylaw is considered a ban on cosmetic use of pesticides and herbicides – there are a num-

ber of exemptions, among them farmers and golf courses,” said OCCA Executive Director Darla M. Youngs. “OCCA is currently re-examining its Herbicide and Pesticide Use Position Statement and will be adding a section with regard to homeowner use. We are also going to be working locally with the EPA’s Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program, and we will have materials to distribute at the film showing,” Youngs said. This event is sponsored by the Otsego County Conservation Association, Otsego 2000 and Sustainable Otsego and there is no charge to attend. For more information, contact Sam or Hilda Wilcox at (607) 547-9725. To view Bylaw 270 on the Hudson, Quebec website, visit <http://www.ville.hudson.qc.ca/urban/R%E8glements/Anglais/PesticidesOperational.pdf>

Sheckells

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“My husband Rich and I believe environmental education is extremely important,” she explained. “Glimmerglass State Park is an excellent resource for outdoor recreation and environmental education. I am fortunate to be in a position to help FOGSP organize and facilitate programs to meet the varying needs of individuals and groups that match our vision.

“The park was developed for public enjoyment and we help to fulfill that mission,” Sheckells said.

Sheckells utilizes management and teaching skills from her career experience in the medical field as a care giver, department manager and clinical educator to lead the programming for FOGSP.

“After moving to Cooperstown, I completed a wedding and event planning course to further my ability to organize activities for the organization. One of the most practical approaches to program development has been the networking with various community groups throughout the area and availing myself of their educational opportunities,” she said. “I’m a staunch believer in lifelong learning and doing what I can to help and direct others to work and contribute to their fullest potential, both individually and collectively.”

Sheckells and FOGSP are currently working toward the establishment of a permanent nature center at Glimmerglass State Park to serve as home base for the diverse array of environmental education events at the park, and as a community education resource.

“Environmental education should be paramount to all of us,” Sheckells said. “We’re the caretakers of the planet and need to ensure that future generations respect and appreciate our natural environment.”

Social media intern joins OCCA team

Miranda McWeeney, a communication studies major at SUNY-Oneonta, has been working with OCCA as a social media intern since February. After reviewing the organization's history, objectives, and priorities, McWeeney is collaborating with OCCA on social media management, creating social media profiles, and website editing, among other projects.



MIRANDA
McWEENEY

McWeeney is also a marketing intern at the New York State Department of Health within the Bureau of Marketing and Creative Communications. Here she is developing content for various social media accounts, drafting press releases and PSAs, and assisting in the creation of campaign materials.

McWeeney is the treasurer of SUNY-Oneonta's Communication Arts Honor Society, a teaching assistant for the public relations course, a Cystic Fibrosis Foundation volunteer, and was a member of the SUNY-Oneonta Women's Swimming and Diving Team.

A graduate of Kingston High School, McWeeney will be graduating in May.

Begin collecting now for OCCA garage sale

OCCA's Annual "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" Garage Sale will be held on Saturday and Sunday, April 28 and 29 in the Cooperstown Farmers' Market building at 101 Main Street, Cooperstown. Please begin setting aside items now for this fundraising event. The official collection dates for the OCCA garage sale will be April 22-26. All donations are tax deductible: OCCA will provide a donation voucher upon request. Those interested in dropping off materials sooner, or who would like more information about volunteering to assist with the event, should call (607) 547-4488 or e-mail admin@occainfo.org for further details.

In addition to raising funds for OCCA programming, the garage sale also benefits the environment through waste prevention, or "source reduction." Source reduction, including reuse, can help reduce waste disposal and handling costs, because it avoids the costs of recycling, municipal composting, land filling, and combustion. Source reduction also conserves resources and reduces pollution, including greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming.



Photos by Dave Kiehm

Summer Birds

On August 7, Dave Kiehm of the Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society led an OCCA-sponsored hike, "Summer Birds and Neo-Tropics," in the Milford State Forest. "The gray weather kept our numbers down for this walk but birds showed no effect," reported Kiehm. "The mixed woods and fields held dozens of species of birds that were very active and conspicuous. Many migrants – like black and white and chestnut-sided warblers – were present, as well as a host of residents. Catbirds, kingbirds, phoebes and many groups of cedar waxwings were feeding all morning and we got good looks at less common birds for the area, like great-crested flycatchers. Everyone had many opportunities to see a varied array of birds that make this state forest a great birding treasure in our area."



Shamieh

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life for all our residents," Shamieh said.

In addition to her new role at OCCA, Shamieh continues to serve on the City of Ithaca Conservation Advisory Council. She is a member of the American Planning Association Upstate New York Chapter and Planners Network.

Free shredding service returns to Earth Festival

Earth Festival 2012 will be held on Saturday, April 14 at Milford Central School. In keeping with the earth-friendly theme, a number of items will be collected for recycling. Event organizers invite attendees to drop off Styrofoam (white only), bubble wrap, empty inkjet cartridges, cell phones, eyeglasses, videotapes and CDs, and used nylon monofilament fishing line at no charge. And, back by popular demand, Empire Recycling will return with the ConfiData Shredder from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

OCCA will again collect white, clean Styrofoam in plastic bags at Earth Festival, which will then be delivered to Shelter Enterprises in Cohoes. For 2012, to offset rental truck costs and fuel consumption, this delivery will be made possible by a generous donation from OCCA President Vicky Lentz. Lentz has offered the use of a horse trailer and pick-up truck powered by biodiesel processed on Fox Falls Farm, which she owns with her husband, Ed.

Those setting aside Styrofoam in preparation for the Earth Festival 2012 collection – including white clam shells, white meat trays, and white Styrofoam packaging material – are asked to deliver them in a plastic bag so that items may be transferred easily and efficiently.

For more information on Earth Festival recycling efforts, call OCCA Special Projects Manager Martha Clarvoe at (607) 547-4020 or via e-mail, martha.clarvoe@gmail.com

Remembering Someone Special

Making a gift to the Otsego County Conservation Association is a special way to honor a loved one who shares your appreciation of the environment.

There are many occasions to remember someone – a wedding, birthday, graduation, anniversary, homecoming, or celebration of a person's life.

Whether to congratulate or comfort, simply send your donation to OCCA, PO Box 931, Cooperstown, NY 13326, along with the name and address of the person you are honoring. Or you can make your donation online through Network for Good at www.occainfo.org.

Planning for the Next Generation

By making a bequest to OCCA, you can ensure that we will always be there to protect and preserve the environment. To learn more about including OCCA in your will or estate plans, call (607) 547-4488.



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We try to conserve precious resources at OCCA by printing on recycled paper and using soy-based inks when feasible. If you would like to help us do even better, consider being put on our electronic distribution list and receive future newsletters and general correspondence via e-mail.

ORCA schedules Bike to Work Day

Otsego Regional Cycling Advocates, a committee of the Otsego County Conservation Association, is planning its fourth annual Bike to Work Day for Wednesday, May 16. The aim of this event is to encourage people to choose an alternative "green" mode of transportation – biking, walking or even skateboarding – to get to work or school, to run errands, or just for fun on May 16 in particular and as a lifestyle choice in general.

"We hope to up the participation rate by 10 percent this year," said event organizer Martha Clarvoe. "This is a big challenge, but we know there are a lot of people who have been considering reducing their carbon footprint or adding more exercise to their routine. Walking or riding their bicycles will make this change easy and fun.

"I think this year the price of gasoline or diesel is a big incentive. One can save a good bit of change by reducing their driving," Clarvoe said.

Check-in locations throughout the county will be staffed from 6:30-9 a.m. on Bike to Work Day. Those interested in participating, in setting up a check-in station, or in recruiting riders and walkers are encouraged to call Clarvoe at (607) 547-4020 or e-mail martha.clarvoe@gmail.com.

As of April 2, OCCA will be moving its offices to Mohican Farm, 7193 State Highway 80, Cooperstown, NY 13326. Please stop by for a tour of the new site! Martha Clarvoe, special projects manager, will retain a satellite office at 101 Main Street, Cooperstown. Our phone numbers will remain the same.