2006: A Very Good Year for OCCA!

In 2006, OCCA continued many longstanding initiatives: barnyard water quality programs carried out in partnership with the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, major funding of the Otsego Lake Septic System Management Plan and Zebra Mussel Inspection Program, volunteer recruitment for Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day, container recycling program for the Village of Cooperstown, and seasonal walks on trails featured in its publication Otsego Walks & Paddles. OCCA also hired two new staff members, one to focus on planning and public outreach, and another to coordinate riparian buffer sign-ups, also in partnership with the USDA-NRCS. The contents of The Lookout will review our 2006 programs, all designed to uphold our mission to preserve and protect the environment of Otsego County.

Erik Miller takes over at OCCA

The most significant change at OCCA in 2006 was the addition of Erik Miller to the OCCA staff. Miller joined OCCA in January 2006 as Director of Planning and Public Outreach. In this capacity, he quickly established friendly working relationships with local governments, especially planning boards, as well as residents of various municipalities concerned about land-use decisions.

His outreach on behalf of OCCA extended to Cherry Valley, where he was appointed as advisor to its planning board; the Village of Milford, with which he discussed the greening of the village, pedestrian-friendly streets, street trees, and expanding parks and green spaces; and the City of Oneonta, where he participated in meetings and activities of the Oneonta Susquehanna Greenway and Greater Oneonta Locomotion bicycling group, the environmental board, and planning commission. Most notably, Miller assisted in the review of Catalyst Renewables’ proposal to site a wood burning plant within the City of Oneonta, bringing many pertinent questions to light and raising the bar for the scrutiny of this project, which was ultimately withdrawn.

Miller also worked with the Town of New Lisbon to get a comprehensive planning process underway, with citizens in the Town of Unadilla concerned about operations at a transfer station and construction and demolition landfill; with Friends of the Butternut, a Morris-based group concerned about a 175-unit recreational vehicle proposal; and with the Town of Edmeston regarding zoning issues. Despite tensions resulting from a State Environmental Quality Review lawsuit filed by OCCA against the Town of Hartwick in September 2005, Miller was sought out by its planning board to give advice to its town board on zoning and to discuss the feasibility of a comprehensive plan for the town.

“I am excited about the challenges that go along with being Executive Director – both regarding organizational structure and working with communities for better planning,” Miller said. “I love the field of planning and hope my skills can help make Otsego County a better place for us all to live in.”

Check Us Out Online!

OCCA is in the process of revamping its website. Soon all of our newsletters and special events will be just a click away.

We want our website to be a user-friendly guide with links to useful, environmentally-related services, as well as other environmental organizations. We invite you to visit the site to get an overview of the organization. Any suggestions for additions or improvements from our membership are welcome…and please keep checking back. It is a work in progress!
McIntyre assumes OCCA presidency

At its September 2006 meeting, the OCCA Board of Directors elected Win McIntyre to serve out the term of Oneonta attorney Carol Malz, who resigned from the board due to multiple constraints on her time. The board also nominated McIntyre to serve as President for the 2007-2008 term.

“At this juncture, I am pleased to have the opportunity to head OCCA. It’s a great organization with a long history of protecting the environment of Otsego County, and I intend to help ensure its future,” McIntyre said.

A retired chemical engineer for Procter & Gamble, McIntyre has worked intensively on Otsego Lake watershed issues since 1999. In 2000, he completed a Water Resources program at the State University College at Oneonta and worked as an Earth Team volunteer with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. In that same year, he was appointed Watershed Manager by the Otsego Lake Watershed Council, which has since dissolved. He was then retained as Watershed Coordinator by the Otsego Lake Watershed Supervisory Committee, which operates under the aegis of the Village of Cooperstown. Simultaneously he served as Watershed Technician to the Otsego Lake Association and as Watershed Consultant to OCCA prior to his election to its board.

Since 2004, McIntyre has devoted much time and energy to the implementation of the Plan for the Management of the Otsego Lake Watershed, especially in regard to the Septic System Management Plan, which involves inspection of septic systems around Otsego Lake, followed by upgrades or replacement of systems as necessary. He was instrumental in procuring a Water Quality Improvement grant from the New York State Department of Conservation on behalf of the Village of Cooperstown and the Watershed Supervisory Committee. Monies from this grant will go toward the installation of six demonstration onsite wastewater treatment systems on Otsego Lake. These systems will use enhanced treatment technologies and include phosphorus removal. The total project cost is estimated to be $209,000, with the state providing $76,000

Other watershed projects in which McIntyre has been heavily involved include placement no-wake-zone buoys on Otsego Lake, devising a plan for the dredging and repair of Clarke Pond in the Town of Springfield, wetland restoration projects carried out in partnership with the Army Corps of Engineers, and riparian buffer planting programs, and the 2005 Otsego Lake Festival. McIntyre, who lives in Cherry Valley, is also a member of the Otsego County Water Quality Coordinating Committee.

At the Nov. 9 Annual Dinner, McIntyre laid forth his view of OCCA’s future, which, he said, “will be consistent with OCCA’s mission of promoting the protection of Otsego County’s natural resources through education, advocacy, resource management, research, and planning.”

McIntyre would like to see the current membership of 400 triple by the time his term ends in December 2008. He also wants to see greater membership from all parts of the county, and he hopes to increase financial stability through careful financial management and a diversity of revenue sources. He will work to foster collaboration with local governments, community organizations, and county residents while continuing the intensive work OCCA does for Otsego Lake.

Contact OCCA if you would like to receive any of our publications:

Recycling: Above and Beyond, a practical recycling alternatives guide
Otsego Walks & Paddles, an area guide for low-impact outdoor enjoyment
OCCA & Otsego Lake, our many lake initiatives
Starry Nights: Light Pollution Brochure
Biodiesel: Harvested and Produced in Otsego County

Mark Your Calendars…Save the Dates

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<td>Kernan Annual Tree Give-away, So. Worcester</td>
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2006 Conservationist of the Year: Dr. Theodore “Ted” Peters, Jr.

In 2006, OCCA recognized Dr. Theodore “Ted” Peters, Jr. as its Conservationist of the Year for his 30 years of water quality vigilance in the Otsego Lake watershed.

As the first Chairman of OCCA’s Lake Otsego Committee (1972), Peters promoted the first inspections of lakeside septic systems, held a bumper sticker contest which selected the motto “SOLO – Save Our Lake Otsego,” and initiated Lake Clean-up and Boat Census Days. He also archived chemical data of the lake’s water composition and traced the rise in chloride levels in the lake to road salting, begun in 1950.

As a member of the Village of Cooperstown Water and Sewer Board from 1974 to 2005, Dr. Peters worked for incorporation of New York State Department of Health’s Public Health Law 1100 into Cooperstown water policy. He persuaded the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to change the designation of the upper Susquehanna River from “intermittent” to “regulated” stream, and created a computer program to calculate the flow over the Mill Street dam to meet the 11 cubic foot per second DEC requirement. Dr. Peters also promoted replacement of chlorination with ultraviolet disinfection of sewer effluent to the Susquehanna River.

In addition, Dr. Peters has chaired the Village of Cooperstown’s Zebra Mussel Committee and Watershed Supervisory Committee. He is also a member of the Otsego County Water Quality Coordinating Committee. In 1995, he received the Cooperstown League of Women Voters Public Service Award and in 2003, he received the Cooperstown Rotary Club Chris Warrell Community Service Award.

A special thank you goes out to Carol Malz

Attorney Carol Malz, who was elected to serve as OCCA President from 2005 through 2006, announced her resignation from this office in August 2006, citing multiple time commitments as her reason. Malz will continue to serve as legal adviser to OCCA. She has also expressed a desire to intensify efforts in volunteer recruitment and coordination.

At the Nov. 9 OCCA Annual Dinner and Meeting, current President Win McIntyre thanked Malz for her contributions to OCCA. As her foremost contribution, he cited leadership in the Environmental Quality Review Act lawsuit filed against the Town of Hartwick for approving yet another expansion of Cooperstown Dreams Park. “Carol was convinced it was the right thing to do,” he said. “She articulated her reasons to the board and then worked overtime providing services worth tens of thousands of dollars at no cost to OCCA.” As a result of pursuing this lawsuit, local planning boards appear to be looking at projects with more scrutiny, which represents a positive outcome in and of itself.

Malz also worked at strengthening the role of the board in OCCA governance, overseeing two board retreats resulting in a strategic plan, promotion of board work through committees, a personnel policy, job descriptions, personnel evaluations, and revision of OCCA bylaws. “These kinds of accomplishments are often put aside because of their inherent tedium. Nevertheless, such documents must be updated from time to time to ensure optimum functioning of any organization. Due to Carol’s characteristic perseverance, OCCA is better poised to face the future,” McIntyre said.

As a result of Malz’s leadership and direct challenge to the board, OCCA membership increased by approximately 100, bringing overall membership to approximately 400.
**State of Otsego Lake**

According to Bill Harman, long-time OCCA board member and director of the SUNY Oneonta Biological Field Station, “The lake is in much the same condition as last year. Good! The general indicators of the lake’s health are positive. Clarity, chlorophyll levels, oxygen demand are all about the same as recent years. These indicators are much more positive than those documented 10 or 15 years ago.”

OCCA has played a major part in this trend. For some time now, a major goal for lake protection has been to decrease the alewife population, feeding on zooplankton, which control algae and provide forage for Otsego bass and cisco. Currently, crustacean zooplankton are both larger and more abundant while individual alewife are larger but with less abundant populations. Apparently, this development is due, at least to some degree, to the introduction of walleye in the lake in 2000. OCCA contributed $5,000 to that effort.

Still other OCCA endeavors address major water quality concerns for Otsego Lake. Over the past three years, OCCA has contributed $106,500 to implementation of the Septic System Management Plan, which is making great progress. OCCA has also contributed $30,000 to the Zebra Mussel Control Program, and to date, Otsego Lake is free of this highly undesirable invasive species, which wreaks havoc on lake ecology, lake shores, and municipal water systems. Since 1996, OCCA has invested approximately $400,000 to pay the farmer cost share of carrying out water quality improvement projects on over 40 farms in the Otsego Lake watershed. This program has been carried out in cooperation with the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service.

**Otsego Lake Festival II: A second year, a second hit!**

Working with the Otsego County Water Quality Coordinating Committee’s Executive Committee (OCCA, Otsego 2000 and the Otsego Lake Association), Susan O’Handley of the Wildlife Learning Company, located in Hartwick, undertook planning and organization of this year’s Otsego Lake Festival. At the August 25 event, 18 exhibitors representing groups working to implement the watershed management plan presented exhibits to members of the community. As in 2005, the festival had a good turn-out, despite the cloudy skies and drizzle. Highlights included a display of septic system options by the Watershed Supervisory Committee; water quality excursions led by the Biological Field Station; an estuarine life display by Wildlife Learning Company; a NYS DEC interactive watershed model displayed by SUNY Oneonta’s Water Resources Department; and watercolor “lakescape” painting for children.

The Lake Festival is a “win-win” event, providing information to the community on programs being carried out to ensure good water quality. It also affords the public the opportunity to become more aware of the organizations and agencies working to protect the lake.

OCCA wishes to thank all the sponsors and supporters of the Otsego Lake Festival, especially the Gronewaldt Foundation, whose generosity makes the festival possible.

**Riparian buffer planting program gets underway in the watershed**

Since September 2005, OCCA Riparian Buffer Program Coordinator Kelly Miller has been gathering information on the USDA Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) from experienced professionals, visiting local farms suitable for the CREP program, and getting professional training at CREP workshops. She has also been working with Bill Gibson of the USDA Farm Service Agency and Tony Capraro of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

CREP offers both environmental and financial incentives for farmers, with the goal of removing environmentally sensitive cropland and pastureland from stream borders and implementing various conservation practices, such as forest buffers, stream crossings, alternative watering sources, and fences. This program is designed to improve water quality, prevent erosion, filter nutrient run-off, reduce crop loss from flooding, and provide quality wildlife habitat — both in and out of water.
Over the past three years, OCCA has dedicated $106,500 to the Otsego Lake Septic System Management Program, which began in 2004 with public education and an inventory of existing systems. The goal is to complete the inspection of some 340 septic systems within 500 feet of the lake, or within 100 feet of a tributary stream, in five years. This translates into approximately 70 systems per year.

To pass an inspection, the tanks must be water tight with no missing baffles. No wastewater may appear on the surface. All waste lines must be directed to the septic tank.

After two years of inspections, 180 systems have been inspected. Of those, 71 systems have passed inspection, while 100 (58%) have failed. Of these failed systems, 37 new systems have been installed; 34 have either been designed or are in the process of being designed. The balance of systems is in the initial stages of discussion.

All new and replacement systems are reviewed and approved by the Watershed Supervisory Committee. Existing systems within 100 feet of the lake are “grandfathered,” and individual variances are granted for replacement systems. Alternative design systems will be required for most replacement systems. These systems do not rely on the soil for treatment. They include aerobic treatment units and media filters. Nutrient (phosphorus) removal is being recommended for new and replacement systems within 100 feet of the lake. The Town of Springfield has passed a local law requiring this.

A Property Owners Guide to assist with the selection, design approval, and installation of septic systems for Otsego Lake is available by contacting Win McIntyre at 547-6057.

Zebra mussels are a harmful invasive species which can damage water systems, upset the ecology of a water body, cause an unpleasant odor, and ruin beaches when the mussels’ sharp shells wash to shore.

Since 2004, OCCA has been a major factor in Otsego Lake zebra mussel protection, contributing $30,000, approximately 50% of the overall budget, to the Village of Cooperstown’s Zebra Mussel Control Committee, whose members are Carl Good, Grace Kull (chair), Ted Peters, and Stu Taugher.

For the program, trained inspectors check all boats and trailers before entering Otsego Lake at the Fair Street and Fish Road launch sites. In 2006, inspections occurred from May 13 to October 29, generally operating from 6 a.m. – 6 p.m. Total launches for 2006 were 967, down from 1,131 in 2005. This decrease may be attributable to the June flood. No boats failed inspection this year; however, all boats were treated prior to lake entry.

To date, despite the discovery of the zebra mussel in Canadarago and Goodyear lakes, no mussels have been detected in regular testing by the Biological Field Station. Even if detected, mussel colonies will only prevail if there are repeated inputs. Each year free from zebra mussels represents thousands of dollars saved for lakeside inhabitants and the Village of Cooperstown.

In 2004, the Otsego County Soil & Water Conservation District purchased a hydroseeder to be used on roadside ditches and other non-vegetated areas to control erosion. The District intends to hydroseed 130 miles of road ditches in the county. OCCA has dedicated $9,200 to cover costs of mulch, seed, and fertilizer for the areas of Otsego Lake, Canadarago Lake, Red Creek Valley, Cherry Valley, and the Susquehanna River from Cooperstown to Goodyear Lake. The OCCA monies will help seed approximately 12 miles of road ditch in the focus area.

The OCCA grant enables the Soil & Water Conservation District to offer free hydroseeding supplies to local watershed municipalities. The primary focus of the program is to reseed road ditches after municipal maintenance to stabilize road ditches and reduce sedimentation in bodies of water. This is important because unvegetated ditches create a substantial amount of sediment, thus degrading bodies of water and fisheries.

Hydroseeding features a homogeneous mixture of seed, fertilizer, mulch and stabilization agents. This combination of materials provides the best possible conditions for seed germination and, in most cases, results in a more rapid vegetative cover for highly erodable soils.
A healthy environment needs healthy support. . .

**Benefactors** ($5,000 and above)
The Clark Foundation, The Scriven Foundation, Ed & Vicky Lentz, Anonymous

**Patrons** ($1,000 - $4,999)
George Snell, Dale Burrington

**Stewards** ($500 - $999)
Martha & Paul Clarvoc, Henry Cooper Jr., Eggleston Foundation, John & Amanda May, Teresa Winchester

**Sponsors** ($150 - $499)

**Contributors** ($75 - $149)

**Supporters** ($30 - $74)

**Members** (under $30)

We are delighted to be able to recognize our donors for the first time. If we have inadvertently omitted anyone, please contact us at (607) 547-4488 so that we can correct our records.

Your contributions are a great help in allowing us to fulfill our mission to protect and conserve the natural resources of Otsego County as well as to inform residents and visitors about these resources – what makes them worth preserving and what threatens them.

Having you on board with us gives us more strength. The following contributions were given during the 2006 calendar year.
2006 Volunteers . . .

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

We would not be able to implement all of our programs if it weren’t for the dedicated members who volunteer their time consistently to assist OCCA in achieving our mission.

Mailings & Miscellaneous Office
Administration
OCCA office or at home

Basswood Pond State Forest Trail Maintenance
Jerry Townsend and Outward Bound, Bill Ralston, Erik Miller, Teresa Winchester

Earth Festival
Milford Central School, May 6
Martha Clarvoe, Erik Miller, Kelly Miller, Donna Vogler, Teresa Winchester

Nature Walks
May – August
John Davis (Lordsland Preserve), Tom Salo (Basswood Pond State Forest), Joe Hart (DOAS Sanctuary), Donna Vogler (Emmons Pond Bog)

Seasonal Recycling Program
Cooperstown, May – October
Martha Clarvoe, Dick deRosa, Sandy deRosa, Sue LaBudde, Fred Kerr, Stacey Michael

Library Book Recycling
Cooperstown, July 2006
David Bauer, Henry Bauer, Stephanie Bauer, Rod Carter, Martha Clarvoe, Joyce Dunigan, Barb Harman, Fred Kerr, Bill Ralston

Otsego Lake Festival
Lake Front Park, August 26
Lisa Lippit, Jennifer Carr, Erik Carr, Giles Russell, Quinn Bernegger, Donna Vogler, Jim Bernegger, Bill Ralston, Win McIntyre, Carol Malz

Garage Sale and Fund Raiser
Cooperstown Farmers’ Market, April 22-23
Kathy Allen Marsha Clarvoe Paul Clarvoe
Andréé Conklin Sandy deRosa Barb Harman
Nancy Herman Mary Howes Dotty Hudson
Nancy Iversen John May Rich McCaffery
Lynn Mebust Erik Miller Kelly Miller
Maureen Murray Bill Ralston Giles Russell
Linda Van Slyke T. Winchester Leigh Connor

Water Chestnut Eradication
August - September
Biological Field Station, OCCA, Bruce Shultis & Goodyear Lake Association, Bruce Dunn, Kelly Miller, Joseph Stocker, SUNY-Oneonta Professor Horvath’s Limnology Class

Garage Sale and Fund Raiser
Cooperstown Farmers’ Market, April 22-23
Kathy Allen Marsha Clarvoe Paul Clarvoe
Andréé Conklin Sandy deRosa Barb Harman
Nancy Herman Mary Howes Dotty Hudson
Nancy Iversen John May Rich McCaffery
Lynn Mebust Erik Miller Kelly Miller
Maureen Murray Bill Ralston Giles Russell
Linda Van Slyke T. Winchester Leigh Connor

Household Hazardous Waste Collection
County Highway Department, Cooperstown, September 9
Stephanie Bauer Jim Bernegger Quinn Bernegger Rod Carter Martha Clarvoe
Carolyn Clarvoe Andréé Conklin David Cox Deb Dalton Jeanne Dewey
Scott Fickbohm Dotty Hudson Dick Kelly Rudy Laguna Kathy Leahy
Carol Malz Rich McCaffery Paul Mendelsohn Erik Miller Becky Myers
Jeff O’Handley Laura O’Shea Bill Ralston Suzanne Stack Maureen Weir

OCCA OTEGSO COUNTY CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION
OCCA’s Recycling Coordinator, Martha Clarvoe, oversees activities and progress related to many recycling initiatives. Her dedication is unmatched and her perseverance has brought positive results. She plays a major role in the programs described below.

Hazardous Waste Collection Day

The Ninth Annual Household Hazardous Waste Day Collection was held on September 9 in Cooperstown. This annual collection allows for the safe disposal of the many toxic substances which accumulate around the home, such as antifreeze, gasoline, paint thinner, and other household chemicals. Traditionally, OCCA’s role in this event is to pay for personnel to take registration and to recruit approximately 20 volunteers to work at the collection. In 2006, 7,605 gallons of liquid waste, 22,481 pounds of miscellaneous solid waste, 2,600 pounds of solid pesticides, and 200 automotive batteries were collected. In addition, 750 gallons of latex paint were collected and remixed for reuse by local non-profit organizations. For a modest fee, 9,125 pounds of computers and other electronic equipment were reclaimed. During the course of the day, 350 cars representing 400 households came through the collection site. The $50,000 cost of the collection is partially funded through the county’s solid waste user fee. Fifty percent of the cost is reimbursed by the NYS DEC.

OCCA recycles in Cooperstown

2006 proved to be a record breaking year for OCCA’s recyclable collections in the Village of Cooperstown. This was due in part to the increased number of baseball teams coming to the Cooperstown area and to the addition of another recycling bin on Main Street.

The can and bottle recycling program for the Village of Cooperstown began in May 2004, the brainchild of Martha Clarvoe and Sue LaBudde. LaBudde found a “new and improved” model for collection bins which deters bees and other insects from entering the bins as well as the mixing of trash with the recyclables -- problems encountered in a previous recycling effort. Clarvoe did the bulk of the bin construction work with OCCA member and seasonal lake resident Fred Kerr.

Many people voiced positive opinions about this OCCA effort. After the first season, Village of Cooperstown Parks Manager Robert “Buzz” Bussey and the village board requested more bins be placed at other locations. In 2005, the number of bins increased to 13.

Bill Ralston, OCCA Treasurer, redesigned the bins to eliminate the use of the interior barrels. This made the bins easier to empty and smaller, thus easier to transport. The Village Board provided $535 dollars for additional bins. The Rogers Foundation gave an unsolicited donation of $1,250 towards our efforts as a result of foundation members passing through Cooperstown, noticing the bins and wanting to show support of our program. This donation paid for all the initial building costs.

This program is labor intensive, requiring weekly or biweekly pickups May through October from full and heavy bins. The dedicated volunteers who have done a yeoman’s work to make the program work include: Martha Clarvoe, Sue LaBudde, Fred Kerr, Dick deRosa, Sandy deRosa, and Stacey Michael.

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Recycling at Cooperstown Central School expands

In mid-September 2005, the Cooperstown Middle School students in the 6th and 7th grade advisory classes began a paper and container recycling program for the Middle and High School students and staff. They started slowly, placing 15 bins in the Middle School wing. By the end of the school year, they had collected a total of 3,500 pounds of paper and were servicing 98% of the school.

For 2006-07, the school purchased twelve more recycling bins, which were distributed to staff members who had expressed interest in the program. As of November 1, 2006, students had collected 1,359 tons of paper.
Recycling at Cooperstown Central School (continued)

The collection of soda, water, and juice bottles was undertaken at the very beginning of the 2005 school year by Building and Grounds Superintendent Walter Bennett and his staff. Large trashcans with special lids were placed next to cafeteria trashcans and next to the soda machines. Cafeteria Manager Rick Angerer also assisted in educating students about which can to use for recycling.

Beginning in September 2006, soda machines are no longer on school premises. This cuts down on the returnable bottle program.

Over the summer the cafeteria staff decreased the size of beverage bottles sold in the cafeteria, reducing the problem of liquid in recyclable plastic bottles. As a result, the total weight of bottles collected will decrease.

The next hurdle will be to tackle the recycling of milk cartons. It is hoped that students in the 9th period study hall will be interested in taking on this challenge. Time will tell whether the anticipated problems with sour milk can be overcome.

Agricultural plastic baling demonstration points to future

On August 7, approximately 40 people attended a demonstration of the agricultural plastic film baler, known as “Big Foot,” designed by Floridian Dennis Sutton. In the process some 1,500 pounds of plastic film wrap were compacted into bales of approximately 36 by 40 by 40 inches. The project was organized and sponsored by OCCA, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Otsego County, Cornell Cooperative University Environmental Risk Analysis Program, and Dennis Sutton. The demonstration took place at Cooperstown Holstein, Inc. on County Highway 33 in Phoenix Mills, and at Frazier’s Greenhouse in Oneonta.

Martha Clarvoe, Special Projects Manager for Otsego County Conservation Association, was a key organizer of the baler demonstrations. She has been working on identifying markets and means of recycling ag plastics for over five years.

In October, Martha and David Cox of the Cornell Cooperative Extension attended an ag plastics workshop organized by the Northeast Waste Management Officials’ Association. They learned of recycling efforts for ag plastics and boat wrap in Vermont, Connecticut, and Rhode Island. Continued efforts may result in a pilot project in summer 2007.

Clarvoe leads book recycling efforts

Since 2002, OCCA Special Projects Manager Martha Clarvoe has organized a book recycling effort for unsold books remaining after the Cooperstown Village Library’s annual book sale. Much effort was made in finding new homes for leftover books. The Oneonta Rotary Club sent some of the books to schools in Pakistan while others went to the Otsego County Jail library. Those not finding new homes were taken to the Northern Transfer Station in Fly Creek for recycling. Many tons of books have been recycled as a result of this program.

Martha Clarvoe, OCCA Special Projects Manager, Bill Ralston, OCCA Treasurer, Henry, David and Stephanie Bauer, Joyce Dunigan and Fred Kerr, Barb Harman, and Dr. Rod Carter.

For more OCCA recycling programs and activities
VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.OCCAINFO.ORG
OCCA sponsors “Burn Barrel Biology”

In the 2005-2006 school year, OCCA commissioned Wildlife Learning Company to develop a Burn Barrel Biology program, which has been presented to more than 1,600 people. Audiences have consisted of 931 Otsego County elementary students, 124 educators from throughout New York State, and an estimated 560 members of the general public, including the Otsego County Board of Representatives and NYS DEC Commissioners Office in Albany. Panels of environmental professionals, conservationists, educators, parents, and health professionals have reviewed and endorsed this project.

Otsego County Burn Barrel Education

The Otsego County Burn Barrel Education Committee (BBEC) was formed at the request of OCCA. The mission of the committee is to inform and educate residents of Otsego County on the hazards of trash burning. Educational efforts have included newspaper articles, signs on public transportation buses, and flier distribution throughout the county offices and town municipal offices. Members have also spoken to public service groups and to town municipalities.

Influenced by the educational campaign, the Town of Otsego recently passed anti-trash burning legislation. Town board member Meg Kiernan took a leadership role in this effort. In anticipation of drafting anti-trash burning legislation, the towns of Edmeston and Maryland have requested the PowerPoint presentation created by Martha Clarvoe and Susan O’Handley. OCCA members are encouraged to urge their respective towns to do the same!

Bothered by Burn Barrels?

Do you have a complaint about outdoor trash burning? If so, here are a few numbers to call:

**Otsego County:**
Otsego County Solid Waste Office – 547-4225
County Code Enforcement Officer – 547-4320

**New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Officers:**
Tom Harrington – (607) 965-6737
Mark Vencak – (607) 397-1823
Kurt Zurmuhlen – (315) 858-8962

If you are unable to reach these officers, call Area Supervisor Lt. Frank Lauricella – (518) 357-2080 or Office Dispatcher – (518) 357-2047

Would you like an OCCA representative to give an informative PowerPoint presentation, “Backyard Burning of Household Waste: Why this Practice Needs to Stop?” or provide sample legislation prohibiting outdoor burning for your municipality to adopt? Please give us a call, (607) 547-4488. We would be more than happy to assist in any way that we can.
Stewardship of Basswood Pond Trail

For over six years, OCCA has served as the official trail steward of Basswood Pond State Forest, located in the towns of Burlington and Exeter. This forest offers varied outdoor recreational opportunities — fishing, hiking, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing — along with an attractive picnic area. The pond site is handicapped accessible with a paved path to the water’s edge. In this capacity, OCCA organizes regular clean-up efforts and trail enhancements such as foot bridges. This year, the Clark Sports Center Outward Bound group, led by Jerry Townsend, conducted two major clean-up efforts, one in June and another in October. OCCA encourages those not familiar with this site to visit it.

In July, OCCA received a $2,100 grant in the form of a Gift Certificate from Home Depot to purchase equipment and supplies for trail maintenance. Rakes, shovels, picks, loppers, a chainsaw and weed whacker were purchased with this grant. These tools are also available to other groups for trail maintenance. Contact us at (607) 547-4488 or via email at OCCA@WPE.COM

Otsego Walks and Paddles

In 2004, OCCA published Otsego Walks & Paddles — an attractive, educational, and user-friendly outdoor guide for Otsego County. The motivation for this publication was to encourage residents and visitors to develop an appreciation for the open spaces and waterways in or near Otsego County. The guide consists of forty pages featuring twelve walking trails on both public and privately owned land and 3 canoe routes on the Susquehanna River. It includes a piece on the geological history of Otsego County and an index of other sources of information regarding the outdoors, especially state lands, in the county. In 2005 and 2006, reprints of the guide were issued by soliciting sponsorships. Copies of Otsego Walks & Paddles are available by contacting the OCCA office at (607) 547-4488 or OCCA@WPE.COM

Walk and paddle with the Otsego County Conservation Association

Annually, OCCA organizes trail walks and canoe excursions on trails featured in our publication, Otsego Walks & Paddles. This year, we will be scheduling these outings on the second Saturday of each month from April through October. For times and locations, call OCCA at 547-4488, check our website at www.occainfo.org, or watch for announcements in the local papers. Copies of Walks & Paddles may also be obtained by contacting OCCA.

Earth Festival 2006 held in Milford

A first ever countywide Earth Festival took place at Milford Central School on Saturday, May 6, 2006 through the direct efforts of staff of Wildlife Learning Company, OCCA, and Cornell Cooperative Extension. The Festival had over 500 attendees who visited more than 20 exhibits and 18 scheduled presentations, including games, live entertainment and food from local vendors. The 2007 event is scheduled for Saturday, May 5, 2007, again at Milford Central School.
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Erik Miller takes over directorship at OCCA ...

OCCA and Outreach

Erik Miller takes over directorship at OCCA.

The most significant change at OCCA in 2006 was the addition of Erik Miller, who quickly established friendly working relationships with local governments and residents alike.

Win McIntyre assumes OCCA presidency

"At this juncture, I am pleased to have the opportunity to head OCCA."

2006 Conservationist of the Year: Dr. Theodore "Ted" Peters, Jr.

Dr. Peters was honored for 30 years of water quality vigilance in the Otsego Lake watershed.

A special thank you to Carol Malz

Due to overwhelming time commitments, Carol Malz chose to resign from the OCCA presidency in September, leaving an impressive record of accomplishments.

OCCA and Otsego Lake

Advocacy and program support for Otsego Lake and its water quality is always high on OCCA's agenda. From support of water quality improvement projects to funding the lake's septic system management plan, OCCA is on the forefront of lake advocacy and protection.

OCCA and Recycling

Recycling initiatives include recycling in Cooperstown, at Cooperstown Middle School, and at the village library.

Public Education and Outreach

Environmental education in the schools, informative publications, natural resource appreciation, Otsego Lake appreciation, environmental education in the schools, informative publications, natural resource appreciation, and Otsego Lake appreciation.

Our Environment... Our Home

We try to conserve precious resources at OCCA by using soy based inks where possible. If you would like to help us do even better, consider being put on our electronic distribution list and receiving future newsletters and general correspondence via E-Mail.

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