



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release: March 8, 2013**

### **OCCA Offers Grants to Local Schools for Environmental Projects**

The Otsego County Conservation Association has dedicated funds in 2013 to local schools for educational projects with environmental themes. These grants are available to teachers in all public and private schools in Otsego County. OCCA is prepared to grant a maximum of \$250 per project to proposals submitted and approved through December, 2013.

“Our children are the future stewards of our environment,” said OCCA Executive Director Darla M. Youngs. “OCCA is proud to be able to provide teachers with support as they nurture environmental awareness through education.”

Through previous OCCA education mini-grants, the Oneonta Community Christian School was awarded funds toward the purchase of a weather station to provide ninth- and tenth-grade students with hands-on experience collecting and interpreting weather data, Gilbertsville-Mount Upton Central School received funds for the purchase of hand-held global positioning systems for the study of natural areas surrounding the school, and Cooperstown Central School received monies to design and create an organic garden for the introduction of sustainable agriculture to its students. Other projects funded in past years have included storm drain marking, guides for tree identification, design and construction of a raised-bed garden in a school court yard, and binoculars for bird identification.

There is no standard application form; however, proposals should be presented clearly and concisely and be accompanied by a budget. Guidelines for applying and for requirements, such as progress reports following receipt of grants, are available through the OCCA office, [\(607\) 547-4488](tel:6075474488), or [admin@occainfo.org](mailto:admin@occainfo.org).

Otsego County’s oldest private, non-profit membership environmental organization, OCCA is 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, or to donate, call [\(607\) 547-4488](tel:6075474488) or visit [www.occainfo.org](http://www.occainfo.org).



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