

## Keynote Address:

Allen Nichols  
“A Bright Future for  
the American Chestnut”

The American chestnut was once one of the most common trees in the northeast, a giant in both size and importance. It was prized for the strength and durability of its wood while the nuts were a staple for humans and wildlife alike. However, the tree was not able to withstand the chestnut blight, a parasitic fungus accidentally introduced from Asia in the early 1900s. Within 50 years, the blight had wiped out virtually all mature chestnuts.

Today, the American chestnut exists in our forests as a small tree sprouting from old stumps. Instead of giants more than 10 feet across, they rarely reach 20' tall or get much more than 6 inches in diameter before the blight gets them. And they rarely produce viable nuts.

Allen Nichols is president of the New York Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation. Nichols will provide an overview of the history of the American chestnut and TACF's efforts at saving the species. The New York Chapter has been supporting SUNY-ESF for 25 years and has finally developed a truly blight-resistant American chestnut through genetic engineering, bringing TACF closer to achieving its goal: restoring this keystone species back into America's forests.

Nichols became interested in the chestnut tree as a teenager when his father showed him dead trees on a hunting trip. He has been involved with The American Chestnut Foundation for 13 years and lives in Laurens.



## CANADARAGO LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

### 2014 Conservationist of the Year

For outstanding leadership, teamwork, and dedication, and its proactive approach to the protection and preservation of Canadarago Lake's freshwater heritage for future generations.

### Special Recognition for Lifetime Achievement

#### Edward Wesnofske

For his contributions toward environmentally and economically sound solid waste solutions for Otsego County.

### Program

Welcome

Silent Auction Overview

Dinner

*(the OCCA Year in Review will be presented  
as a PowerPoint during dinner)*

Award Presentations

Keynote Address

Election of Directors for 2014-2016

Silent Auction Results/Checkout

## OCCA Annual Dinner and Meeting

Holiday Inn Oneonta -  
Cooperstown Area



### 6 p.m. Silent Auction Preview and Cash Bar

*selection of crackers and cheeses*

### 7 p.m. Dinner

Prime Rib

or

Chicken Stir Fry

or

Eggplant Parmesan

*All selections include salad; seasonal vegetables,  
potatoes or rice; rolls; apple crisp; and coffee/tea.*

Price for all dinners,  
including gratuity, \$35.

Reservations by Monday, November 10

**Prepayment required.**

Make checks payable to OCCA and mail to:  
OCCA, PO Box 931, Cooperstown NY 13326

**Please clip and mail before November 10.**

Name: _____
Guest: _____
Phone/email: _____
Indicate menu choice/quantity:
Prime rib #___ Chicken #___
Eggplant parmesan #___
Amount enclosed: \$_____



# Annual Dinner and Meeting

*Plus Silent Auction!*

**Monday, November 17**

Holiday Inn Oneonta-  
Cooperstown Area  
5206 State Highway 23, Oneonta



## **Program:**

**“A Bright Future for the  
American Chestnut”**

*presented by Allen Nichols, president,  
NY Chapter, The American Chestnut Foundation*

**Conservationist of the Year:**

**CANADARAGO LAKE IMPROVEMENT  
ASSOCIATION**

Otsego County Conservation Association  
PO Box 931  
Cooperstown, NY 13326



## **OCCA SILENT AUCTION: BRING YOUR CHECKBOOK, BID EARLY AND BID OFTEN!**

Items to date include: signed and matted photograph by Richard S. Duncan; 54-inch Whistle Creek hickory hiking staff; framed bathymetric print of Otsego Lake; handmade bedspreads, circa 1940; Luci inflatable solar lantern; guided barge tour of Otsego Lake with the SUNY Oneonta Biological Field Station; Deborah Geurtze original, “Stone Bridge at Dusk”; Cooperstown Concert Series tickets; T-shirts made from recycled water bottles; pottery, jewelry, artwork, and a host of other great services, merchandise, and gift certificates.

Auction items must be paid for and taken at the end of the evening unless other arrangements are made.  
Cash or check only.



Bidding will close shortly before the end of dinner. Announcements will be made during the course of the evening.

**OCCA Annual Fund: Our environment. Our home. Our challenge.**