Letter from the President

Another year has come and gone, and OCCA has had another year of wonderful projects. Looking back over this year, as you can see in this annual report, OCCA has accomplished even more with our numerous walks, invasive species eradication projects, educational “In the know” talks, committee work, assistance to communities with our “Circuit Rider Planner Program” and many other activities. Staff, board members and volunteers have put in an unbelievable number of hours of work in our continuing efforts to make Otsego County one of the best places in the world to be. And, as you know this is possible thanks to the generous support from you.

We are grateful to the many donors who have contributed to our efforts, whether it was with time, money or telling others about what we do. Your contributions are what keep us going, that allow us to educate and eradicate, lead the walks and arrange the talks, plan for the future and preserve the beauty around us. We have expanded our efforts over the past year and plan on doing even more in the future with your help.

Winter has come with a blast this year and is nature’s reminder that we need to be prepared for a lot more work to come, if we want Otsego County to remain one of the most beautiful places in the state. We still have many challenges ahead. So as we approach the seasons of gratefulness and giving, please remember OCCA. We need your continued support to fund the projects we have planned for the future.

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The end of the year is also coming with the news that we will be losing our truly awesome Executive Director, Leslie Orzetti. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with her over the past few years. I wish her well in her future endeavors and will miss her enthusiasm and drive. She has made Otsego County a better place for us all.

Note from the Executive Director

By: Leslie Orzetti

It’s been a great ride! It is with bittersweet emotions that I am moving on from OCCA. With a move back to my Western New York roots, I will bring with me a wealth of information that I learned by being Executive Director of this great organization. Aside from the usual duties that come with being a director, I have had the distinct pleasure of learning from our many partners. What, you may ask, have I learned from all of you? I can honestly say, I never thought I would know so much about agriculture, both its impact on the environment and economy as well as the way of life. I’ve learned that there is more that goes into recycling than meets the eye, and that we should all be working on reducing our use of glass, plastic and paper instead of relying on recycling. I’ve learned about our energy choices and how they have an impact on the planet. I came into this position with a fairly good understanding of climate change, but was used to being able to turn on my furnace, dryer, and hot water heater without paying close attention to where that energy source was coming from. I am now more intimately aware of my choices, how what I do and advocate for indeed has an impact on the world around me. I’ve been reminded that action on the local level is what really impacts the world we live in, and that sound land use planning helps us all.

With all this new found knowledge and inspiration, I have some parting wisdom for those working hard to protect Otsego County. YOU matter. YOUR choices do make a difference. STAND FIRM on your beliefs. Otsego County is poised for a change, and those working for that change can make it happen. Be innovative. Take a chance. YOU can make this county a truly great place to live, work and play. Thank you for your support, it has been a privilege to be part of this community.
Whether it's snowshoeing to the top of South Hill in Riddell State Park, paddling down Butternut Creek, or exploring caves in Van Hornesville, OCCA's 2019 nature walk series covered a lot of ground. We continued our tradition of providing a variety of enjoyable—and informative!—experiences in our region’s beautiful natural landscapes. Nearly 200 people joined us on eighteen walks this year, which occurred in all seasons of the year, and were led by OCCA staff and volunteers who were eager to share their passion for and knowledge of the natural world with all.

**LECTURE SERIES**

OCCA and Mohican Farm began the Be Informed Lecture Series for the purpose of getting more in-depth on important environmental topics. In 2019, three lectures were offered, covering ticks and Lyme disease; creating a meadow with native wildflowers, and impacts of invasive species on our landscape. Guest speakers came from the Otsego County Health Department, SUNY Cobleskill, Mohican Farm, SUNY Oneonta Biological Field Station and the Ecological Research Institute.

In addition to the Be Informed series, OCCA staff provided lecture programs for a number of groups throughout the county, including the Adirondack Mountain Club, Woodside Hall, the Clara B. Welch Thanksgiving Home, and Kennedy Memorial Library. One hundred seventy-five people attended OCCA's various lecture programs this year.

**ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION**

OCCA offered fifteen environmental education programs this year on a variety of topics, including workshops on identifying and looking for signs of invasive species such as hemlock woolly adelgid and spotted lanternfly, learning how to identify trees, and astronomy. In addition, we provided a special program for 102 schoolchildren from five area schools as part of Glimmerglass State Park's "Fun & Safety in the Great Outdoors" day. Our "Get the Kids Out" program suffered due to poor weather, but covered topics such as tree identification and adaptations. Our environmental education programs included partnerships with Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP), the New York Flora Association, and New York State Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.
**Waste Reduction**

OCCA has a long history of dealing with solid waste issues in our community, including helping to establish glass, junk mail, and tire collection programs in Otsego County, educating people about the importance of recycling and waste reduction, and the health impacts of burn barrels. We are an active participant at Otsego County’s Solid Waste and Environmental Concerns Committee.

With the help of an active group of volunteers serving on OCCA’s recycling committee, as well as the eager participation of the Otsego County community, OCCA continued to offer avenues to divert unusual items from landfills. This included collection of 2000 used tennis balls from courts in Cooperstown and Oneonta (tennis balls were used as a shock absorbing underlayer for new tennis courts); a used sneaker collection; turning used pet food bags into reusable shopping bags; collecting used inkjet cartridges and small electronics for recycling through Project Green; and providing volunteers to assist with paint collection and general assistance at Otsego County’s annual Household Hazardous Waste Day.

Partnering with the Otsego County Department of Solid Waste and Casella Resource Solutions, and supported with aid from Otsego 2000, Otsego Land Trust, and the Delaware Otsego Audubon Society, OCCA launched the Film Plastic Recycling Challenge in 2019. Thirteen schools participated in the challenge, which ran from January 1 through April 15, and collectively diverted 4000 pounds of plastic bags and other film plastics from the waste stream. Gilbertsville-Mount Upton Elementary School won a visit from the Utica Zoomobile for diverting 1382 pounds of plastic from the landfill.

In 2019, OCCA received a grant from the Temper of the Times Foundation to launch “Pack Your Bags”, a public advertising campaign aimed at encouraging the use of reusable bags over single use plastic or paper shopping bags. The campaign involved 12 weeks of print advertisements in area newspapers, along with daily advertisements on local radio stations. Prior to the launch and after the conclusion of the advertising campaign, OCCA volunteers observed shopper behavior at area retail stores to determine if and by how much use of reusable bags changed. The post-campaign survey numbers have not yet been finalized.

With a theme in 2020 regarding “reduction”, OCCA will continue our efforts to educate the public on waste reduction, and how to reduce their carbon footprint on the landscape.

**Heat Smart Otsego**

The Heat Smart Otsego campaign completed its first annual campaign at the end of May 2019. A total of 30 outreach events were held with an estimated total audience just over 1600 attendees. An additional 381 households were solicited via email to participate in Heat Smart Otsego based on historical participation in the Green Jobs-Green New York residential energy audit program.

Outside of the residential focus of the Heat Smart Otsego program, a great deal of effort was made to recruit large commercial entities to the Campaign. A team of professionals including NYSERDA representatives, nationally recognized ground source heat pump engineers, and an international energy investment company visited Otsego County twice to meet with public and private entities to discuss large hospital conversions and district geothermal projects. We are continuing to work with these large users and municipalities to explore these possibilities.

During the second year, HSO has continued to explore advertising options to direct citizens to our website and information sessions including social media, list serves, and local radio advertising. We have explored collaborating with installer partners to bring NYSERDA funding to help defray advertising costs, and have applied for funding to help defray the costs of clean heating technology for low to moderate income homes in Otsego County. Be on the lookout for more presentations, home tours, and guest columns in local papers regarding benefits of clean heating and cooling.

**Earth Festival**

Earth Festival celebrated its 15th anniversary last year with great success. The event again attracted over 1000 people who had the opportunity to learn about all the great things going on in Otsego County around the protection of the environment. This year’s theme was “energy”, and to that end, Otsego 2000 again sponsored our Friday Night Movie with Paris to Pittsburgh, a film that celebrates how Americans are demanding and developing real solutions to climate change.

Also rounding out the energy theme were a variety of exhibitors and vendors promoting energy efficiency and alternative energy generation.

Other popular events that returned were the clothing swap organized by Angelica Palmer, EcoArt sponsored by CANO, and the ever-popular recycling collection. In addition to Styrofoam and paper shredding, Casella sponsored the collection and transport of glass and porcelain to Ruby Lake Glass for use in their products. For the first time, OCCA volunteers did not need to transport Styrofoam out of county to be recycled. The Otsego Re-Use Center transported the Styrofoam to their facility in Oneonta for densifying the Styrofoam to be sold for recycling into new products.

All told, recycling efforts collected more than a ton of material that was kept out of landfills.

We’re excited to start planning this year’s festival to be held on April 18 at Milford Central School. Come be part of the planning team!
Driving south down I-88 near the Town of Worcester, you will see a nondescript sign welcoming you to the Chesapeake Bay watershed. You may think, “Wait, isn’t the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland?” Stretching over 400 miles across six states and the District of Columbia, the Chesapeake Bay watershed’s headwaters are located in Otsego County—Otsego Lake to be exact.

The Chesapeake Bay is governed by a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. This can be thought of as a pollution diet for the Chesapeake Bay. The TMDL governs how much nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment can enter the Chesapeake Bay while still meeting minimum water quality standards. Each state including the District of Columbia, is mandated to reduce the amount of nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment that the waterbodies in their jurisdictions carry into the Bay. This can be achieved through a number of strategies, many of which are included in each state’s Watershed Implementation Plan. This document describes how each state will achieve their respective reduction targets and who will be responsible for making it happen.

As we are at the headwaters of a nationally significant estuary, OCCA has been working hard to raise awareness about the importance of preserving the Chesapeake Bay watershed. In 2019, OCCA was designated to be the New York Outreach Lead for the Choose Clean Water Coalition. We worked with state and regional agencies to strengthen New York’s Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan and to organize the Upper Susquehanna Watershed Forum. OCCA Environmental Planner Danny Lapin serves on the Chesapeake Bay Local Government Advisory Committee, a sub-committee of the Chesapeake Bay Program. Heading into 2020, OCCA plans to continue its role as New York Outreach Lead for the Choose Clean Water Coalition and advocate for clean water for all.

In its new role at the NY Outreach lead of the Choose Clean Water Coalition, OCCA was the lead planner for the 4th annual Upper Susquehanna Watershed Forum. This year’s forum was held at the Center of Excellence at Binghamton University. With over 100 in attendance, participants learned about current research efforts, innovative conservation practices, partnerships, and the value of good communication to promote land and water preservation in the headwaters of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The forum was intended to educate policy makers, citizens, and practitioners in the field on implementing the new Phase III NY Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan. With challenging water quality targets that need to be met to help restore not only the Chesapeake Bay, but also our own waterways, it is imperative that everyone is aware of and understands their responsibility to help improve our water quality across the watershed.
Citizen Monitoring

What a great year of stream monitoring we had! With a dedicated group of stream monitors, we have collected over 1000 data points on the health of our streams. We’re happy to report that the streams we have sampled have good water quality with little to no nutrient loading, and water clarity (a surrogate for the amount of sediment in a stream) is great. Even during high flow events, our data show good water quality across the nine sites we sampled.

New this year was benthic macroinvertebrate sampling. Our intrepid volunteers donned their waders and thinking caps to learn this new sampling protocol to collect “nature’s water quality indicators,” the tiny creatures without a backbone that live on the bottom of our streams. As any good fly-fisherman/fisherman will tell you, the more diversity of bugs living on the bottom of your stream, the better the water quality, and the more trout you will have. Volunteers from Elk, Oaks, Butternut, White’s, and Red Creeks collected these samples and found that there was abundant and diverse life, and those critters belonged to the orders of organisms that are not or moderately tolerant to pollution.

These data are being shared with the Chesapeake Monitoring Network along with our water quality data to help scientists and policy makers make better informed decisions when it comes to setting clean-up goals and policy when it comes to protecting our waterways.

In more exciting news, our current group of volunteers have signed on for another year of data collection which will allow us to have four years of continuously monitored creeks, certainly a boon to Otsego County! We are also happy to report signing on two new monitoring teams at Herkimer and Cherry Valley Creeks. Cherry Valley Creek has been adopted by the Citizen Science Monitoring class at the Cooperstown Graduate Program and is being hosted by the Otsego Land Trust. We’re thankful for this innovative three-way partnership. For more information or to become a monitor, see our website at www.occainfo.org/citizen-science.

Invasive Species

From “Water Chestnut Day” in Otsego Lake to the “Clean, Drain and Dry, or Kiss the Fish Goodbye” public education campaigns, to providing funds to support boat inspections at Canadarago and Otsego lakes, to organizing scores of volunteers for hand pulling of water chestnut at Goodyear Lake, OCCA has long made fighting invasive species a top priority. In 2019, OCCA received two grants that will enable us to continue this battle into the future.

A three-year grant awarded by New York State Department of Environmental Conservation is supporting an early detection/rapid response project focused on European frog-bit, an invasive aquatic plant first found in Otsego County in 2018 in Silver Lake in New Berlin. OCCA’s Invasive Species/Education Intern, Mary Keefe surveyed a number of water bodies in the county over the course of the summer. Thus far, frog-bit has only been found in one additional water body in the county, Clarke Pond in Springfield. Following its discovery, a hard-working team of volunteers spent several hours scouring the pond and removing the plants, helping keep this noxious species from spreading into Otsego Lake.

DEC funds are also allowing us to continue removing water chestnut at Goodyear Lake, a project begun in 2005 with the Goodyear Lake Association. In 2019, OCCA, with the help of 11 volunteers, removed 325 pounds of water chestnuts in two days. DEC funds also supported water chestnut removal at Silver Lake. Over 20 volunteers removed more than 200 pounds in two days there.

Funding from the Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP) allowed OCCA to initiate a rapid response project targeting Japanese angelica tree (Aralia elata), an invasive tree species found in Springfield. OCCA is working with the property owners, the Department of Transportation, and SUNY Oneonta to document and develop a treatment plan for the infestation. Site treatment will occur in spring 2020, and OCCA will carefully monitor the site for regrowth.

Biological Field Station Interns

Madilyn Sausville, a Biology major from SUNY Oneonta, held the Biology Department Internship. Supported by OCCA, she worked under the guidance of Paul Lord and Holly Waterfield on phosphorus release from cut Eurasian milfoil stems.

Bridget Walker, a Biochemistry major from LeMoyne College, was also sponsored by OCCA as the Rufus J. Thayer Intern in the Aquatic Sciences. She conducted water quality monitoring, focusing on coliform bacteria concentrations, in Otsego Lake’s watershed.

Aidan Neer, of Sydney High School, was also supported by OCCA. He held a F.H.V. Mecklenburg Conservation Fellowship continuing our long-term monitoring on the upper Susquehanna River. Also, under the direction of Dan Stich, he oversaw an effort to compare fish diversity with rusty crayfish density across the upper Susquehanna River watershed.
Fondly known within the office as the “Travelling Roadshow,” OCCA’s Circuit Rider Planner Program is coming off of another successful year. OCCA’s Circuit Rider Planner program allows municipalities to retain planning services on an as-needed basis at a 50/50 cost share with a reduced rate. We actively work with municipal governments to develop comprehensive plans, review large-scale development projects, and review zoning and landuse regulations. In 2019, OCCA successfully developed its first Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Maryland, which was unanimously adopted by the town and county, assisted with the final review and adoption of the Town of Richfield’s Zoning Law, and interacted with municipalities in Chenango County for the first time. In addition to planning processes that often extend beyond the adoption of a plan, OCCA offers plan implementation assistance to ensure these plans do not sit on shelves but are living, working documents.

Environmental reviews of development projects can often be confusing, frustrating processes. OCCA’s trainings on the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) can help officials in local municipalities to fairly and thoroughly apply the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act to key projects. The trainings can be generic or tailored to specific projects in a given municipality. Since the program’s inception, we have been actively revamping the training to reflect changes to the regulations made in 2019. Our SEQRA trainings can be delivered to local government officials, community organizations, and even interested members of the public, and are eligible for Continuing Education Credits.

Since its adoption in 2017, OCCA and numerous partners have been hard at work implementing the Otsego County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan. To implement the plan, the Otsego County Board of Representatives and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Schoharie and Otsego Counties partnered to hire a point person to lead the charge in late 2018. Since then, Jim Barber has coordinated work among Otsego County’s agricultural organizations to ensure that county farmers received the help they needed.

In 2019, he launched an online farmers market and developed a guide for farmers to identify organizations that can meet their needs. Heading into 2020, OCCA will continue our work on the implementation committee to protect the county’s pristine agricultural lands.
Comprehensive Planning

Comprehensive plans are foundational documents that are intended to guide a municipality’s growth over a 10-15 year timeframe. These plans tackle a wide variety of planning challenges ranging from transportation to economic development. Successful comprehensive plans are built with extensive public input where citizens are empowered to take ownership of their future. In October 2019, OCCA completed the 2019 Town of Maryland Comprehensive Plan. The plan was developed in partnership with municipal officials and dedicated citizen volunteers.

The plan took a snapshot of local demographic, social, economic, and environmental conditions within the Town through a series of maps and graphs. The process culminated in the identification of eight priority projects, 28 goals, and 75 policy recommendations spread across eight categories. It is important to note that plans, themselves, do not act as catalysts for community revitalization. Successful plans often rely on dedicated volunteers and local government officials to carry out a plan’s key objectives. OCCA will continue to work with the Town of Maryland to serve on their implementation committee and start to get funding projects on the ground where appropriate.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead

Watershed Planning

In the environmental world, a common refrain used to describe watersheds is that “watersheds do not adhere to societal boundaries.”

Managing watersheds often requires a coordinated effort between local governments, county, state and federal agencies, community groups, and the business community. Lying at the headwaters of the Chesapeake Bay watershed, Otsego County is governed by the Bay’s pollution diet or Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). The TMDL regulates the amount of nitrogen, phosphorous and sediment that can enter the Chesapeake Bay while ensuring minimum water quality standards are met.

In New York, each Town has the ability to regulate land use within their borders. Each town may regard the protection of water quality differently and manage their water resources accordingly.

To ease the burden for local governments, OCCA began the Butternut Creek Watershed Management Plan process in July 2019. This plan is the first stakeholder-based watershed management plan in Otsego County. We are working with the Otsego County Soil and Water Conservation District, the Butternut Valley Alliance, the Otsego Land Trust, the Otsego County Planning Department and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to develop the plan. The goal of the project is to develop a regional, stakeholder-based watershed management plan that will be a model for other watersheds in the Upper Susquehanna watershed, New York’s portion of the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Energy Planning

In late 2018 the Otsego County Board of Representatives, through bi-partisan action, created the Otsego County Energy Taskforce to address the mounting need to plan for a sustainable energy future. OCCA is one of five community leaders appointed to the Taskforce’s Leadership Committee, which is chaired by Representatives Farwell and Kennedy. We have been diligently serving alongside Farwell, Kennedy, Oneonta Town Supervisor Bob Woods, and City of Oneonta Engineer Greg Mattice to create what is now the Otsego County Energy Taskforce. Made up of four working committees, Environment, Economic Development, Buildings & Efficiency, and Energy Supply & Distribution, the taskforce has been gathering background information on Otsego County’s current infrastructure, energy needs, current national, state, regional, and local legislation, the benefits and impacts of different types of energy generation, examples of other jurisdictions energy and economic development plans, energy efficiency options and different types of funding programs available for infrastructure and energy efficiency upgrades. The working committees meet monthly to discuss findings and report to the full taskforce during bi-monthly meetings. Full taskforce meetings are open to the public and publicly noticed in local papers.

OCCA’s role on the leadership committee is to be a thoughtful advocate for the environment while taking into consideration the needs of the community. We are proud to have been asked to serve in a leadership capacity on the taskforce.
EXCELLENT YEARS OF INTERNS

Bailey Gano
Bailey Gano worked with OCCA from January to October 2019. She was instrumental in assisting OCCA staff with lobbying efforts associated with the creation of the Otsego County Energy Taskforce by developing a report and proposed governance structure justifying the need for a county-level energy plan. Bailey then served as the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority Clean Energy Intern tasked with assisting the newly formed Otsego County Energy Taskforce. In this capacity she gathered information on energy policy, researched energy plans, and aided the Leadership Committee as needed. In August, Gano was hired as OCCA’s first Assistant Planner. She worked with Environmental Planner Danny Lapin, AICP, to kick off the development of the Butternut Creek Watershed Management Plan. As Assistant Planner, she helped develop public engagement materials, presented information to municipal boards, collect valuable watershed information. Gano is now an Environmental Analyst with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.

Mary Keefe
Mary Keefe, currently a senior at SUNY Oneonta, majoring in Environmental Sustainability, served as OCCA’s first Invasive Species/Education Intern. Mary’s primary responsibility this summer was to search water bodies in the county for high priority aquatic invasive species. Working with Otsego County Soil and Water Conservation District (and former OCCA Planning Intern) Intern, Olivia Kuss, Mary surveyed all or parts of 13 different water bodies this summer, and discovered frog-bit—a potentially very destructive plant—in Clarke Pond, a short distance from Otsego Lake. Mary helped organize volunteers to search for and remove frog-bit from Clarke Pond, and she presented on frog-bit at the annual meeting of the Otsego Lake Association.

In addition to her work on aquatic invasive species, Mary also organized our Chop & Cheese events, which made controlling Japanese knotweed much more enjoyable, developed a new activity for Fun & Safety Day at Glimmerglass State Park, tirelessly promoted our programs (even after her internship ended), and created a week’s worth of social media posts for Invasive Species Awareness Week.

Marly Davies
Marly Davies, Oneonta, served as Environmental Education Intern in summer, 2018. Marly jumped right into the action, leading invasive species education programs for over 100 children at Fun & Safety Day at Glimmerglass State Park. During her time with OCCA, Marly developed and led programs for the Clark Sports Center’s Kid Zone summer camp, as well as a special ‘Get the Kids Out’ program in Wilber Park, Oneonta. Marly also pulled water chestnuts at Goodyear Lake.

Currently in her junior year at St. Lawrence University, Marly is majoring in Environmental Sociology. Last summer, she interned at the Adirondack Experience Museum in Blue Mountain Lake, NY. Marly says, “I found myself drawing on much of what I learned at OCCA about creating and running programs for the public.” Marly is looking forward to taking her skills on the road by spending the spring semester in New Zealand.

Olivia Kuss
At OCCA, Olivia was tasked with developing a strategy to evaluate the survivability of riparian buffers. To accomplish this, Olivia developed a field and office protocol for collecting on-the-ground riparian buffer survivability data. Her second task with OCCA was to learn how to utilize the Chesapeake Bay Assessment Scenario Tool (CAST) to evaluate the efficacy of water quality best management practices. Olivia utilized her experience with OCCA to land an internship at the Otsego County Soil and Water Conservation District in summer 2019.
WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Carl Vricella
Carl was OCCA’s Environmental Planning Intern from January 2017 – May 2017. Since his internship he completed a B.S in Environmental Science from SUNY Oneonta, and is currently finishing a graduate certificate in Geospatial Science from SUNY Stony Brook. He is a student programmer at Stony Brook where he helps create online web mapping applications for faculty. He was also recently hired at the Public Service Enterprise Group as a GIS Analyst. OCCA is also sponsoring Carl’s graduate research project to develop a GIS Strategic Plan for Otsego County. He states that “the internship experience at OCCA was a great opportunity and allowed me to get professional GIS/Geospatial project experience, which then motivated me to pursue the field as my professional focus.”

Shane Digan
Shane is currently a Planner-Trainee and Recycling Coordinator with the Otsego County Planning & Solid Waste Department. He splits his time between recycling coordination/education and planning. In recycling, he works to find markets for materials, inform the County Solid Waste and Environmental Concerns Committee, provide outreach at town board meetings, community events, festivals, and more regarding recycling, work with schools to increase recycling education with children, and coordinate efforts with local environmental groups. In planning, he works on reviewing municipal planning and zoning actions, assist in applying for grants, provide direct support to municipal planning boards, create maps and guidebooks for local municipalities, research energy related matters, and more. Shane states his OCCA internship during spring semester of his junior year, undoubtedly helped prepare him for this job. “If it wasn’t for my OCCA internship, I’m not sure I would have ever known about planning as a career option!”

Kelsey McKeighan
Since graduating and leaving OCCA, Kelsey moved to Tempe, AZ in March, 2018 and started work for the Arizona Sustainability Alliance as their Adopt-a-Park Priority Lead. She organizes and leads park clean up events and recruits volunteers to identify and monitor invasive plants in the Phoenix Parks and Preserves. Since starting with the non-profit she has been able to work on professional growth in grant writing, project management, volunteer recruitment, environmental education, and public speaking. Last year she took a few online graduate classes and received a Graduate Certificate in Environmental Leadership from SUNY ESF in December, 2018. Personally, she and her partner have adopted 2 rescue dogs, Zuke and Mooney and have been doing a lot of road trips since moving out west in their self-converted sprinter camper van. Her favorite places so far have been Sedona, Moab, and Zion and Yellowstone National Parks.

Candace Nicoletti
Since interning at OCCA, I obtained my Masters of Environmental Studies degree from Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia, Canada (I’m a dual citizen!). My interest is mainly around community health, specifically food access. I now work at United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region in Poughkeepsie, where I serve as the Community Impact Coordinator. I really enjoy collaborating with the Hudson Valley community. My experience with OCCA was invaluable and definitely gave me the skills that lead me where I am today!
### Assets

#### Current Assets
- Cash: $195,807
- Cash—Board designated endowment: $1,865
- Grants: $40,219
- Contributions Receivable: $1,686
- Prepaid expenses: $1,596

Total current assets: $241,173

#### Other Assets
- Property and Equipment (depreciation): $1,120
- Investments: $222,214
- Investments—Board designated endowment: $37,065

Total assets: $501,572

### Liabilities and Net Assets

#### Current liabilities
- Accounts payable: $38,719
- Payroll liabilities: $6,029

Total current liabilities: $44,748

#### Net Assets
- Without donor restrictions: $439,645
- With donor restrictions: $17,179

Total net assets: $456,824

#### Total Liabilities and Net Assets
- $501,572

### Income

- Direct Public Support: $17,627.00
- Fundraising Event Income: $1,583.75
- Contracts: $7,409.20
- Grants and Awards: $281,048.41
- Restricted Contributions: $2,666.45
- Investment Income: $30,770.48
- Reimbursed Expenses: $549.62

Total Income: $341,654.91

### Expenses

- Personnel: $188,207.98
- Intern Stipends: $2,196.00
- Professional Fees: $15,800.00
- Operating Expenses: $16,798.30
- Marketing/Publishing: $1,416.04
- Meeting Expenses: $808.25
- Travel: $5,852.92
- Donations, Contributions, Gifts: $8,350.00
- Project Expenses: $91,388.11

Total Expense: $330,816.62

Earth Festival Net Income: $3,512.33

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| Administration | 7% |
| Communication and Development | 11% |
| Education and Outreach | 27% |
| Research and Management | 33% |
| Policy and Planning | 22% |
Thanks to our Donors (through Nov. 1 2019)

Butternut

Sandy & Mark Andrews
Velma Armstrong
Mary Balantic
Rob Baum
Elizabeth Beasley
Suzie Benner
Ruth Berry
Karen Biesanz
Ann Bower
Cliff & Patti Brunner
Ed Bugel
Brian & Elizabeth Burns
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Cheers to our Volunteers!

Volunteers are essential to many of our projects. From invasive species eradication to our citizen science stream monitoring program, none of this valuable work would get done without an army of volunteers. Among the many projects volunteers helped us accomplish this year were: Household Hazardous Waste Day; highway clean-up; tote-bag making; Earth Festival; invasive species; and citizen science stream monitoring. Thank you for all your hard work!

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“Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in.”

-Annonymous
Thank You for your support

Otsego County Conservation Association

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13326
607.547.4488

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www.occainfo.org