



**E-BULLETIN FROM OTSEGO COUNTY CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION**  
**April 14, 2009: Vol. 2, No. 12**

TASK FORCE FINDINGS ON GAS DRILLING AVAILABLE ONLINE: The Sullivan County Gas Drilling Task Force 84-page compilation of that group's findings, based on numerous interviews and research with local, state and out-of-state officials and agencies and mentioned in a previous OCCA eco-bulletin, is now available on the Sullivan County website. **Based on both positive and negative information gathered, the Task Force has made 21 recommendations for Sullivan County legislators to consider.** To view the report, titled "Preparing for Natural Gas Development: Understanding Impacts and Protecting Public Assets, A Gas Drilling Research Task Force Report for Sullivan County," click on: <http://co.sullivan.ny.us/documentView.asp?docid=768>

ZEBRA MUSSEL FILTRATION UNIT AVAILABLE AT BRUCE HALL HOME CENTER: Zebra mussels can attach to a variety of surfaces including metal, concrete, plastic and Teflon. They attempt to attach or connect to such surfaces and can colonize residential pipes and other intake systems, blocking the free flow of water. They have been known to form into mats or clumps up to five inches thick. **Bruce Hall Home Center carries Primär Filtration permeable ceramic filters for seasonal use, manual back-flush, year round use, automatic back-flush and submersible pump applications, including screening out zebra mussel veligers.** For more information and/or literature on the "Shredder" reusable filter cartridge, visit Bruce Hall Home Center at 206 Main Street, Cooperstown, or call (607) 547-9961.

GOV'S OFFICE APPROVES DEC BILL TO LIMIT PHOSPHORUS IN CLEANING PRODUCTS, LAWN FERTILIZER: According to the recent issue of "Waterworks," the newsletter of the New York State Federation of Lake Associations, Inc., Governor David Paterson's office has approved the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's proposed legislation to dramatically reduce the allowed levels of phosphorus in lawn fertilizer and dish soap. **Components of the bill address cleansing products used in automatic dishwashers, food and beverage processing equipment, and dairy equipment as well as turf grass applications and education requirements.** In its statement of support which accompanies the bill, DEC states: "Discharge of excess phosphorus into the state's waters has been linked to eutrophication, reducing biodiversity, limiting recreational uses, and increasing the costs of treating drinking water. When water bodies receive an unnaturally high quantity of plant-supporting nutrients like phosphorus, excess plant growth results, often in the form of algae blooms and nuisance weeds. **Just one pound of phosphorus has the capacity to grow from 500 to 700 pounds of algae, which can reduce levels of dissolved oxygen in the water, causing fish and shellfish to die.** These low oxygen conditions also cause iron, manganese and phosphorus to be released from sediments into the water, deteriorating water quality used for human consumption." According to NYSFOLA, the DEC bill is modeled after a Minnesota law enacted in 2004. Studies in that state indicate that there has been a 50% reduction in the number of tons of phosphorus contained in lawn fertilizer from 2003 to 2006. To read the full text of the proposed bill, click on <http://assembly.state.ny.us/leg/?bn=S03780&sh=t>. If passed, the new law would be effective on January 1, 2010.

DONATIONS, VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR OCCA GARAGE SALE, APRIL 25 AND 26: OCCA will hold its annual garage on Saturday, April 25 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on Sunday, April 26 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Cooperstown Farmers' Market. **Donations of sale items will be accepted from April 17-23 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the market space** (please note that the donation period has been shortened due to lack of volunteer help). All donations are tax deductible, and OCCA will provide a donation voucher to any donors so requesting. **Volunteers are needed both the week before and on the days of the sale to help with set-up, pricing, putting up posters, assisting shoppers, working check-out, and other miscellaneous tasks.** To volunteer, please contact OCCA at 547-4488 or [admin@occainfo.org](mailto:admin@occainfo.org)

BALD EAGLE SIGHTING: Kris Schneeberg called the OCCA offices on Tuesday morning, April 14, to report the sighting of a bald eagle in the Town of Burlington. **Schneeberg said the majestic bird was seen at State Route 80 and Hovick Road, in the vicinity of the swamp located there.**

EARTH FESTIVAL 2009 IS THIS SATURDAY: Among the exhibitors at Earth Festival this year are: Andela Products, Bassett Healthcare, CADE, Cooperstown Farmers' Market, CR Solar, Delaware Otsego Audubon Society, Friends of Glimmerglass Park, Gibson's Native American Crafts, Great Brook Enterprises, Oneonta Federated Garden Club, Otsego 2000, Otsego County Conservation Association, Otsego County Natural Resources Conservation Service, Otsego County Soil and Water Conservation District, Otsego Electric Cooperative, Otsego Lake Association, Otsego Land Trust, The Farm, United Methodist Church Women's Green Team, and Wildlife Learning Company. There will be student exhibits by Milford BOCES and Franklin Central School. **Throughout the day, Otsego resident Sy Lloyd will overview adaptations, natural history and forensic findings through his amazing display of animal skeletons, which he began collecting as a child. Wildlife Learning Company will again end the festival with a presentation titled "Birds of Prey," featuring live birds, from 3-4 p.m.** As in past years, the Earth Festival will feature the EcoArt/Trendy Trash Contest with prizes to the winners in several categories including "Best of Show," "Judges Choice" and "People's Choice." Eight entries have been received thus far, but it's not too late to enter. Call 547-1858 for details. **As festival goers work up an appetite, they can look forward to hamburgers hot off the grill. Barbecuing on site, CADE will serve up local beef burgers from Cooperstown Holstein Corp. at a reasonable price, with cheese from Chenango Historic Cheese in Norwich optional. Vegetarian soup (made from locally-produced veggies) and quiche from Lucky Dog Café in Hamden will also be available.** Many attractive items have been donated for the Silent Auction that will take place throughout the day, including books ("Low Carbon Diet – A 30 Day Program to Lose 5000 Pounds," "The Noble Wilds," and "Cranks From Cooperstown: 50 Bike Rides in Central New York"), calendars, wind chimes, bluebird houses, and compact fluorescent light bulbs. **A thrift store skirt, embellished and refashioned with vintage fabric and trim, will also be up for bid, compliments of Quirky Works Studio. Silent Auction donations are still being accepted. Call 547-4488 to learn more.** Earth Festival 2009 will offer opportunities for recycling, so bring your Styrofoam, bubble wrap and broken Christmas lights. Clean Styrofoam packaging material, meat trays, mushroom boxes, and egg cartons will be collected and delivered this year to Meyda Tiffany, along with bubble wrap. ConfiData, a division of Empire Recycling, will provide a free document shredding service for disposal of confidential papers. A plastic bag recycling container, provided by Wal-Mart for the event, will also be on-site for collecting plastic shopping bags. Earth Festival 2009 will be held on Saturday, April 18 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Milford Central School. The free shredding service will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Earth Festival 2009 is sponsored by Wildlife Learning Company, in cooperation with Otsego 2000, Otsego County Conservation Association, the Cooperstown Chamber of Commerce and Cooperstown Art Association. For more information about the many activities and opportunities associated with this exciting environmental education event, go to [www.eenoc.com](http://www.eenoc.com) or call 293-6043.**

CLEAN-SWEEP IS MAY 2: The Town of Hartwick will host its second annual “Hartwick Clean-Sweep” initiative on Saturday, May 2. **This year’s event will focus on three activities: The Roadside Clean-Up, a scrap metal collection and a recycling collection.** Volunteers are invited to meet at the Town Hall at 9 a.m. to register for the Roadside Clean-Up, or to pre-register by calling Juli at 293-7324.

DOAS PLANS UPCOMING WORK DAYS, FIELD TRIPS: The Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society has scheduled a Sanctuary Work Day at the Audubon Sanctuary on Franklin Mountain in Oneonta for Sunday, April 26 from 9 a.m. to noon. According to the DOAS calendar of events, the group will be doing mostly trail maintenance, including light trimming, moving downed branches, replacing trail markers, etc. If you haven't visited the sanctuary, this is a good opportunity to lend a hand, explore the site, and do a little bird watching. Contact Andy Mason at (607) 652-2162 for more information, and directions if needed. Also coming up for DOAS: an Evening Search for Wetland Birds in the Sharon Springs area on April 29, led by Bob Donnelly (607-264-8156) and a Beginner’s Field Trip at Glimmerglass State Park, also to be led by Donnelly, on May 2. To learn more about the DOAS, visit their website at <http://www.doas.us/>

GAS DRILLING FORUM SET FOR MAY 6: An open forum on gas drilling, titled “The New Gas Drilling: What Local Governments Can Do,” will be held on May 6 from 7-9 p.m. at the Women’s Community Building, 100 W. Seneca Street, Ithaca. **Presenters will be Dr. William Palmer, commissioner of planning and environmental management for Sullivan County, and Dr. Stephen Penningroth, executive director of the Community Science Institute in Ithaca.** Call (202) 368-8753 or e-mail [shaleshock08@yahoo.com](mailto:shaleshock08@yahoo.com) for more information.

ECO-FRIENDLY TIP: Turning the faucet off while brushing your teeth saves up to 10 quarts of water each time. Assuming two brushings a day, that adds up to more than 500,000 quarts over the average person’s lifetime.

*From the book “1,001 Ways to Save the Earth,” by Joanna Yarrow.*

OCCA NEEDS YOUR HELP TO KEEP FIGHTING THE THREATS TO OUR NATURAL RESOURCES. Got a minute? Visit our website and look at everything else OCCA is doing – and please consider an online donation whenever you can. Visit [www.occainfo.org](http://www.occainfo.org) and look for the Network for Good logo at the top right of the home page.