



E-BULLETIN FROM OTSEGO COUNTY CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION
June 1, 2009: Vol. 2, No. 16

**2009 OCCA ANNUAL FUND: OUR ENVIRONMENT.
OUR HOME. OUR CHALLENGE.**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR WATER CHESTNUT HAND-HARVESTING JUNE 3-6: For the past three years, the Otsego County Conservation Association and Goodyear Lake Association have been vigorously battling an invasive plant, the water chestnut, as it spreads throughout the northern part of Goodyear Lake. It has been estimated that without this initiative, the northern portion of the lake (the stump lot) would have been completely covered by water chestnut in less than five years. **This year, OCCA and GLA are organizing two hand-harvesting efforts: June 3-6 and August 5-8. Anyone interested in volunteering for this effort should call and leave contact information with Bruce Shultis, Goodyear Lake Association, 432-8698, or with Erik Miller at OCCA, 547-4488.** Volunteers will meet at the Route 28 pull-off in Portlandville, just south of the former Blue Bonnet Antiques, at 9:30 a.m. each day. Gloves and tools will be provided and canoes and johnboats are available. Those in need of a boat are asked to call to register so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Lake area residents who would prefer to boat over to the stump lot are encouraged to do so.

OCCA, PARTNERS TO HOST LAKE APPRECIATION DAY ON JULY 11: Otsego County Conservation Association, along with Glimmerglass State Park, Friends of Glimmerglass State Park, Inc. and the Otsego Lake Association, will host a "Lake Appreciation Day" on Saturday, July 11 at Glimmerglass State Park. All are invited to enjoy a day with family and friends on the beaches of Otsego Lake. **Exhibits, a youth trail cleanup, canoeing, a trail hike and a pot luck lunch are among the highlights of the event, and lake-focused organizations are invited to exhibit in the enclosed pavilion.** Organizers are still in the planning stages – for more information, call (607) 547-4488. Lake Appreciation Day takes the place this year of the Otsego Lake Festival, which has been postponed until summer 2010. The Otsego County Water Quality Coordinating Committee, sponsors of Lake Festival, are skipping a year to restructure and revitalize that event.

EQUITY ENERGY OFFERS FULL RANGE OF SERVICES: Former OCCA Board member and treasurer Bennett Sandler has embarked on an exciting new "green" business venture, based in Fly Creek. According to the website, Equity Energy is dedicated to finding ways to help save customers money and build equity in their homes by reducing energy use. Founded by a group of environmentalists who share a passion for the environment and who take a systems approach to energy conservation, Equity Energy is doing its part to promote clean energy, lessen climate change, and reduce dependence on foreign oil while increasing savings and home comfort. **"We provide a full spectrum of services to measure your home energy consumption and plan cost-effective, energy-saving improvements including the design and installation of renewable heating, cooling, and energy systems,"** the website reads, **"and we will help you navigate the maze of state and federal incentives to help reduce the payback time on your energy-saving improvements."** The Equity Energy process begins with an over-the-phone interview to

collect information about the condition of the home and current energy usage. Step two is a Comprehensive Home Assessment, including a blower door test and a thermal infrared scan of the home, which takes about three hours. The Comprehensive Home Assessment can be broken down into three elements: a safety test, an energy audit, and an inspection of the thermal envelope. Computer-generated reports give the homeowner a “roadmap” toward energy-saving improvements that can be submitted electronically to NYSERDA for rebates or low-interest funding options. Step three is the implementation of energy-saving home improvements such as air and duct sealing, adding insulation, and replacing old appliances and lights with new, ENERGY STAR-rated devices. Step four, should the homeowner choose, is the design, installation, and service of renewable energy systems such as geothermal, solar thermal, and/or solar photovoltaic systems custom designed for the reduced energy demand of their home. Sandler, who holds a BSNR from the University of Michigan and an MS from Duke University, is an International Ground Source Heat Pump Association certified geothermal installer and a BPI certified building analyst and envelope specialist. Joining Sandler at Equity Energy are Norman Farwell, Colin Lissandrello, Roberto Romano and Oreon Sandler. **To learn more about Equity Energy, visit www.equityenergy.net**

PETITION SEEKS CUTTING OF NEW YORK STATE’S GLOBAL WARMING POLLUTION: Environmental Advocates is inviting concerned citizens to petition New York State leaders to follow the “Cap Carbon – New York Principles.” **According to the call for action, the Cap Carbon –New York Principles “will guide the state's efforts to cut global warming pollution, save energy and money, and help New York put its best foot forward in the transition to a clean and green energy economy.”** The five principles are: 1. Reduce the pollution that is changing our climate. 2. Support clean, safe energy sources that don't pollute. 3. Save power and money by investing in energy efficiency. 4. Reap the benefits of rising to the global warming challenge. 5. Protect New York's environment from the potential ravages of global warming. **To read the full text and access the petition, visit http://actionnetwork.org/campaign/cap_2009/we7beur0jn5ixdd?**

OUTDOOR MOVIES SPONSORED BY FRIENDS OF GLIMMERGLASS STATE PARK: Friends of Glimmerglass State Park is sponsoring a series of outdoor movies. **The movies begin at dark at the West Shelter – admission is free, and they will be shown under cover if it is raining.** Next up on the schedule is “The Adventures of Milo and Otis” (G) on Friday, June 5. For more information on events at Glimmerglass State Park, visit <http://www.friendsofglimmerglass.com/events.html>

YOUTHS SOUGHT FOR OCCA TRAIL CLEAN-UP PROGRAM: Otsego County Conservation Association has received a grant from Stewart’s Holiday Match toward an upcoming Trail Stewardship Program initiative. **The \$350 from Stewart’s will be used to organize a crew of youth volunteers for trail clean-up and clearing, scheduled in conjunction with Lake Appreciation Day on Saturday, July 11 at Glimmerglass State Park.** Tasks will include removing brush, trees, and logs from the trail, brushing the trail (clipping plants that lean into the trail), and removing any trash left by visitors. Adult volunteers and OCCA staff will lead the youths and will identify maintenance needs for the trail. Trail stewardship refers to long-term care and oversight of a trail resource – maintenance and stewardship are essential to the safe use, enjoyment, and long-term success of any trail. Stewardship also includes building community support and advocacy so the integrity of the trail will not be compromised in the future. **Otsego County students in sixth through 12th grades and adult volunteers interested in taking part in this event are invited to call OCCA at 547-4488 to learn more. Those participating will be treated to a pot luck lunch and all that Lake Appreciation Day has to offer.** The trail stewardship experience will teach the youths to give of themselves to others on community projects such as trail maintenance. Participants will also learn the basic tenets of the national "Leave No Trace" program: plan ahead and prepare, be prepared for surprises, respect the land, dispose of waste properly, minimize campfire impacts, respect wildlife, and be considerate of other visitors. Throughout the day, the youths will be prompted to learn about the plants and animals in the woods, with the help of field manuals

and/or adult volunteers. The Stewart's Holiday Match program is part of Stewart's commitment to donate 5 percent of its profits annually to charity. For more information, visit www.stewartsshops.com.

CLARIFICATION: Bennett Sandler of Equity Energy warns of wrapping your water heater tank in a fiberglass blanket – Careful! Wrapping a gas or oil fired hot water heater can be DANGEROUS if you interfere with air flow to combustion or get the wrapper too close to a flame. You could create a carbon monoxide problem or start a fire. For more information, see http://www.energysavers.gov/your_home/water_heating/index.cfm/mytopic=13070

ECO-FRIENDLY TIP: Plant a wildflower meadow. Instead of having a large, manicured lawn, try planting an area with a wildflower mix. Wildflower meadows grow best on poor soil, so don't require any fertilizers (or weedkillers, of course), need cutting only twice a year, are gorgeously colorful, and attract butterflies, birds, and bees.

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 and look for the Network for Good logo at the top right of the home page.