



E-BULLETIN FROM OTSEGO COUNTY CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION
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2009 OCCA ANNUAL FUND: OUR ENVIRONMENT.
OUR HOME. OUR CHALLENGE.

MORRISVILLE STATE COLLEGE TO HOST REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE ON NATURAL GAS DEVELOPMENT JUNE 20: Morrisville State College will host a regional legislative conference on natural gas development on Saturday, June 20 from 9 a.m. to noon in the John W. Stewart Center for Student Activities (STUAC). **The conference, “A Proactive Municipal Response to Natural Gas Development in Upstate New York,” is suggested for elected and appointed town and county officials who are currently experiencing natural gas development activities in their communities or are located in the Marcellus Shale Reserve and expect such activity in the coming months and years.** Speakers include Kimberly Rea, Esq., Bosworth, Gray & Fuller, environmental and municipal attorney; Mark R. Millsbaugh, P.E., president of Sterling Engineering, PC, Latham, NY; and a panel of local municipal officials including Madison and Chenango county representatives. Topics that will be covered include Environmental Conservation Law Section 23-0303 – the powers it gives and the powers taken from local government and towns, the impact of the draft Supplemental GEIS on hydrofracking process for gas drilling of Marcellus Shale gas wells for local governments – what will be the regulations and when will these be implemented and how. Additional topics include actions municipal governments can take to address local road impacts and protect local roads and actions municipal governments can take to protect critical areas in their municipalities. The current system of assessment of fuel production and property taxes in New York State and proposals to create a severance tax or fuel production tax, and its ramifications or opportunities for local municipalities, will also be discussed. The conference, which is free and open to the public, is sponsored by Morrisville State College, the Association of Towns of New York State, the New York State Association of Counties, and Madison County. Pre-registration is preferred, but not required, by contacting Town of Lebanon Supervisor Jim Goldstein at Lebanon@citlink.net or (315) 837-4152. **Immediately following the conference, tours will be offered of existing gas well development in the towns of Lebanon and Smyrna, which adjoin in Madison and Chenango counties and have more than 100 gas wells in various stages of operation, development and permitting.**

OCCA BOARD MEMBER AWARDED \$25,000 BY FAA FOR AIRPORT WILDLIFE HAZARD MANAGEMENT GRANT: **Dr. Donna Vogler, associate professor of biology at SUNY-Oneonta and a member of the OCCA Board of Directors, has received a \$25,000 award from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Aviation Research Grants Program to conduct a 15-month field study, “Non-wildlife-attracting Native and Naturalized Turf Species Suitable for Use on Airfields Managed for Wildlife Hazards in the Northeast.”** The study will be carried out at three local airports – Oneonta Municipal Airport, Griffiss International Airport in Oneida County, and the Elmira-Corning Regional Airport in Chemung County – by Dr. Vogler and graduate student Kristin Dorsch. Five species of native plants that can tolerate the dry conditions of the airfields will be compared against a commonly

used turf mix for their potential to attract, or deter, wildlife. According to a press release issued by SUNY-Oneonta, the special advantage of native grasses is that many species contain more roughage and are less attractive to birds and other wildlife than the typical species used to establish grassy areas along airport runways. **Annually, birds and other wildlife strikes cost the U.S. civil aviation industry more than \$620 million from aircraft damage and place human life in jeopardy during landings and take-off. Wildlife hazards are of special concern for general aviation airports located in rural areas adjacent to wildlife-friendly agricultural land where deer, geese, turkey and coyotes are common.** The five species tested will be Indian grass, crinkled hairgrass, poverty oats, little bluestem, and a mat-forming species of thyme. Standard turf mixes frequently contain species such as clover and bluegrass, which establish easily but are very attractive to grazing animals. Once the plants have sprouted, Vogler and Dorsch will begin monitoring for wildlife attraction of insects, birds and mammals. The overall goal of the project is to provide recommendations to airports that can be used as part of a plan for wildlife hazard management. However, results of the project may be of interest to other venues facing similar problems with wildlife attraction, such as busy roadways or golf courses.

ZEBRA MUSSEL CONTROL DEVICE AVAILABLE AT HAGGERTY ACE HARDWARE: With the invasion of the zebra mussel in both Otsego and Canadarago lakes, lake property owners are in need of means to prevent the destructive species from entering their household water systems. **After receiving a number of inquiries about control devices, Haggerty Ace Hardware is stocking Team filters. The pleated, cleanable filter, which is part of the pump's foot valve, "polishes" the water to a very fine 25-micron absolute.** These filters remove sand, silt, zebra mussels in their larval stage, spiny water fleas, and schistosomes, which are a tremadode worm parasite. "The half-horse power Team Zebra 90 is most in demand because it's for a submersible pump and year-round use. It costs about \$375," said store owner Jeff Haggerty. Two other sizes of the filter are available – the Team Zebra 40, which is designed for more limited use (a jet pump at a seasonal camp, for instance) and the Team Zebra 170, which is for households using a great deal of water. Alex Milne Associates, the manufacturer, claims that the pleated filters allow up to 10 times the flow of old-style, flexible cloth filters and that they maintain their filtering accuracy for up to 10 years. The filter may be easily cleaned with a brush. It must be pulled and cleaned once a year. A spray cleaner for this task is also available at Haggerty's establishment. According to Haggerty, the product, which originated in Canada, has been available for a number of years and has been government-tested. Alex Milne Associates has been in business for approximately 30 years. Haggerty pointed out that the filter does not prevent bacteria from entering the water system. Only chlorination or ultraviolet light will eliminate bacteria. **Otsego County Conservation Association has posted information related to zebra mussel control on its website, www.occainfo.org.**

OTSEGO LAKE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING IS SATURDAY: The special topic of this year's Otsego Lake Association Annual Membership Meeting is "Zebra Mussels – 2009: They Are In the Lake, They Are Growing, How Do We Deal With Them?" **The panel discussion will include presenters Dr. Tom Horvath, SUNY-Oneonta; Vince Stayter, Goodyear Lake Association; Chuck Hascup, local plumber; Mark Capozucco, local diver; Randy Reckeweg, Bruce Hall Corp.; and the Canadarago Lake Association.** The meeting will be held at the Town of Springfield Community Center at 9 a.m., with coffee and donuts served at 8:30 a.m. Members and non-members are welcome to attend. For more information, contact OLA President Wayne Bunn at (518) 542-6630.

ECO-FRIENDLY TIP: **Task lighting.** Does the whole room need to be ablaze with light to illuminate you reading a book in one corner? If not, switch off the overhead lighting and snuggle up next to a lamp. If a million homes all reduced their average electricity load by just 60 watts (one incandescent light bulb), they'd cut carbon emissions by around five million tons a year.
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.