



E-BULLETIN FROM OTSEGO COUNTY CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION
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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. **SATURDAY IS THE FINAL DAY OF THIS SESSION OF HANDPULLING – THERE IS MUCH WORK TO BE DONE, AND ANY AND ALL HELP IS MOST WELCOME!**

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.

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.stewartshops.com.

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.