

2010 Nature Walks

OTSEGO TRAILS ARE CALLING!

sponsored by OTSEGO COUNTY CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

Since 2001, OCCA has organized nature walks on local trails.

This year's schedule includes three trails featured in the OCCA publication, "Otsego Walks & Paddles," and six on other area trails. Come walk with us! You'll like what you see!

WATERFALL TO WATERFALL WALK: Saturday, June 12 at 9 a.m. Botanist Connie Tedesco will lead a hike in the Town of Hartwick to the top of Rainbow Falls and across field and forest to East Hill Falls, enjoying and identifying wildflowers along the way. The mildly strenuous hike will take approximately 2 hours. Participants should meet at 9 a.m. at Horace and Hazel Tabor Drive, across from John Bush Used Cars on County Rte. 11 in the Town of Hartwick. For more information, contact OCCA at admin@occainfo.org or 547-4488.

FATHER'S DAY EVENING WALK AT THE ROBERT V. RIDDELL STATE PARK: Sunday, June 20 at 7 p.m. Patricia Riddell Kent and Steve Kent (the donors of the state park land) will lead a walk of the 200-acre field and creek portion of the park. This is a fairly easy walk, mostly flat terrain. The walk should take about 1 to 1.5 hours. Meet at the park's entrance at the Robert V. Riddell Rd., located off State Hwy. 28, to the right, just after taking I-88 Exit 17 or, if heading south on State Hwy. 28, the park entrance is on the left of State Rte. 28, just past the DOT gravel lot and tourist area at Lifgren Rd., located on the right. Walkers will see the old homestead and beautiful scenic vistas. For more information, contact OCCA at admin@occainfo.org or 547-4488.

A MID-SUMMER'S EVE PLANT WALK – RIVER PLANTS ALONG THE SUSQUEHANNA: Wednesday, July 7 at 6 p.m. Donna Vogler, OCCA Board member and associate biology professor at SUNY-Oneonta, will lead this walk along the Susquehanna River Park Trail in Oneonta, the first completed section of the Oneonta Susquehanna Greenway. A full circuit of the loop trail offers 2 miles of easy, flat walking. **DIRECTIONS:** The trailhead is reached from the State Hwy. 205 extension at I-88 exit 13. Between I-88 and the river, turn on Silas Lane, bear right, and follow the road around to the Greenway parking lot on the right. For information, call 436-9234.

WALK TO BEAR SWAMP: Saturday, July 17 at 8 a.m. for breakfast or 9 a.m. for walk Terry Bliss will lead a walk to Bear Swamp in the Cherry Valley State Forest. Participants wishing to gather for breakfast beforehand should meet at the Country Kitchen in Roseboom on the corner of State Rts. 166 and 165. Others should be at the same location by 9 a.m. and proceed to the trailhead from there with Terry. Information at 547-4225.

SLEEPING LION TRAIL AT GLIMMERGLASS STATE PARK: Sunday, July 25 at 10:00 a.m. The Sleeping Lion Trail, uphill and down through the forest at Glimmerglass State Park, affords peek-a-boo views of Otsego Lake while walking through majestic white pines, hemlocks and hardwoods. Participants should meet at the parking area next to the westerly pavilion at the base of the hill leading up to Hyde Hall. This moderately difficult 2-1/2-mile hike, led by Field Representative Joseph Homburger of the Otsego Land Trust, is jointly sponsored by OCCA and Friends of Glimmerglass State Park. **DIRECTIONS:** The entrance to Glimmerglass State Park is on County Hwy. 31, 4.3 miles south of U.S. Hwy. 20 and 8 miles north of the center of Cooperstown. For information, call 547-8662 or e-mail friendsofglimmerglass@gmail.com.

SUMMER BIRDS AND NEO-TROPICS AT MILFORD STATE FOREST: Saturday, August 7 at 9 a.m. The Milford State Forest has been carefully managed since enduring a tornado in May 1998. The result is varied habitat for both flora and fauna, with scenes of quiet morning beauty. Led by Dave Kiehm, hikers will meet at 9 a.m. sharp at the DEC warehouse on Kelly Corners Rd. (about 1/2 mile south of its intersection with State Land Rd.) for a walk of 2 hours. Participants will look for the summer birds and neo-tropics that frequent the area. Bring binoculars if you have them and choose footwear appropriate for tall, wet grass. For more information, contact Dave Kiehm at dave@deadriftstudio.com.

A WALK IN THE CLOUDS AT BETTY AND WILBUR DAVIS STATE PARK: Sunday, August 15 at 2 p.m. Joe Ritton of Glimmerglass State Park will lead this fairly easy 2.7-mile hike on "Andy's Trail," which includes wooded areas, meadows and panoramic mountain-top views. Participants should meet at the Sunset Pavilion parking lot. The walk is jointly sponsored by OCCA and Friends of Glimmerglass State Park. Located in Westford, Betty and Wilbur Davis State Park is a satellite facility of Glimmerglass State Park. **DIRECTIONS:** I-88, Exit 18, Rte. 7 W, County Rt. 34N, County Rt. 36A W to park entrance; Rte. 166, County Rte. 35 S, County Rte. 36A E to park entrance; I-88 E. For information, call 547-8662 or e-mail friendsofglimmerglass@gmail.com.

NATURE WALK AT LORDSLAND PRESERVE: Saturday, September 11 at 9 a.m. Join former OCCA board member Dick deRosa on a 2- to 3-hour tour of this 80-acre parcel owned and maintained by The Nature Conservancy. The preserve's diverse habitats sustain a wide variety of plant and animal life. Not all the preserve's avian residents will have headed south, so bring along a pair of binoculars. Participants should meet at the east side trailhead on Doc Ahlers Rd. **DIRECTIONS:** From the intersection of State Hwys. 166 and 165 in Roseboom, drive 0.3 miles southeast on State Hwy. 165. Follow signs to Belvedere Lake. Bear left to Stannard Hill Rd. at 0.4 miles and left again on Gage Rd. at 0.7 miles. To access the east trailhead, continue on Gage Rd. at 2.6 miles and turn right. Cross the valley and climb the hill. The east trailhead is on the right at 3.0 miles. For information, call 547-9553.

ROBERT V. RIDDELL STATE PARK HIKE TO MUD LAKE: Sunday, October 24 at 1:30 p.m. Patricia Riddell Kent and Steve Kent, who donated the land for this park, will guide a 4-hour walk on the 800-acre portion of The Robert V. Riddell State Park. Participants should meet at the Pine Lake Campus of Hartwick College. From there, they will carpool to The Robert V. Riddell State Park and proceed 4.5 miles through the park, to Mud Lake, and back to Pine Lake parking lot. If time permits, walkers will take a detour to a beautiful waterfall. Bring sufficient water and a snack. **DIRECTIONS:** From I-88 exit 16 or State Hwy. 7, take County Hwy. 47 east to West Davenport, 2.8 miles. Turn left on Charlotte Creek Rd. The entrance to Pine Lake is on the right, at 1.8 miles. Drive in the main entrance and park on the left, opposite the Robertson Center. From the traffic signal at Pindars Corners on State Hwy. 23, turn north on County Hwy. 11 and turn right on Charlotte Creek Rd. Continue 1.8 miles to the Pine Lake Campus and follow the directions above. For information, contact OCCA at admin@occainfo.org or 547-4488.

*Other delights may pall, but the joy of the open never;
The charm of the silent places must win and hold us forever;
Bondage of walls we leave with never a glance behind us.
Under the lucent sky the delights of the rover shall find us.*

"The Rovers," Lucy Maud Montgomery (1874-1942)



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