

REPORTER

Summer 1997

In this Issue

- **USDA Receives Agricultural Funding for Watershed**
- **Spotlight on Summer Interns and Students**
- **Comments from BFS Alumni**
- **More Invaders**
- **Updates**

USDA Receives Agricultural Funding for Watershed

Federal cost share money for conservation practices on farms is now available under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). This program provides cost share money for eligible conservation and best management practices (BMP'S) on farms in priority watersheds. In Otsego County, a Local Working Group comprised of agricultural professionals, farmers, conservation groups and the BFS has targeted the Upper Susquehanna Lakes region of the County for funding. This group applied for and re-

ceived funding in this watershed for 1997 totaling \$84,375. This area includes all farms upstream of Goodyear Dam on the Susquehanna River and tributaries including the Otsego Lake, Canadarago Lake, Cherry Valley Creek, and the Oaks Creek watersheds and tributaries. The BFS provided valuable input for the assessment of the watersheds considered for funding. Money will be directed to high priority projects and land treatment practices through 5-10 year con-

Continued on page 4

More Invaders

The following fish, although not now in inland lakes in New York, are rapidly colonizing the Great Lakes. They could show up locally at any time.

The Ruffe (*Gymnocephalus cernuus*), pronounced ruff) is a fish native to Eurasia. It was introduced into Lake Superior in the 1980s in ballast water of ocean-going vessels. Because they mature quickly, have a high reproductive capacity, and adapt to a

Continued on page 3

Do we have your correct address?

Located in Cooperstown and founded in 1968, the Biological Field Station is a unique facility serving the Upper Susquehanna Watershed, Otsego county and the immediate Cooperstown area. It is primarily a teaching and research center for undergraduate and graduate

students from across New York, the United States, and Canada. Directed by Dr. Willard Harman and staffed with talented, experienced professionals, the Biological Field Station is presently the focal point for information about issues affecting Lake Otsego and the Susquehanna River.

Spotlight on Summer Interns and Students

The 1997 FHV Mecklenburg Conservation Fellowships for High School students are sponsored by the Cooperstown community, including funds from the Village of Cooperstown, The Clark Foundation and several citizens. Interns include:

Mary Miner; Cooperstown Central High School

Deidre Willies; Oneonta Central High School

Shannon Bennett; Richfield Springs Central High School

Miles Wheat; Mt. Markham Central High School

The New York Academy of Sciences, via the Research Institute at Bassett Healthcare, is sponsoring the following High School Research Trainees:

Megan Irving; CV-Springfield Central High School

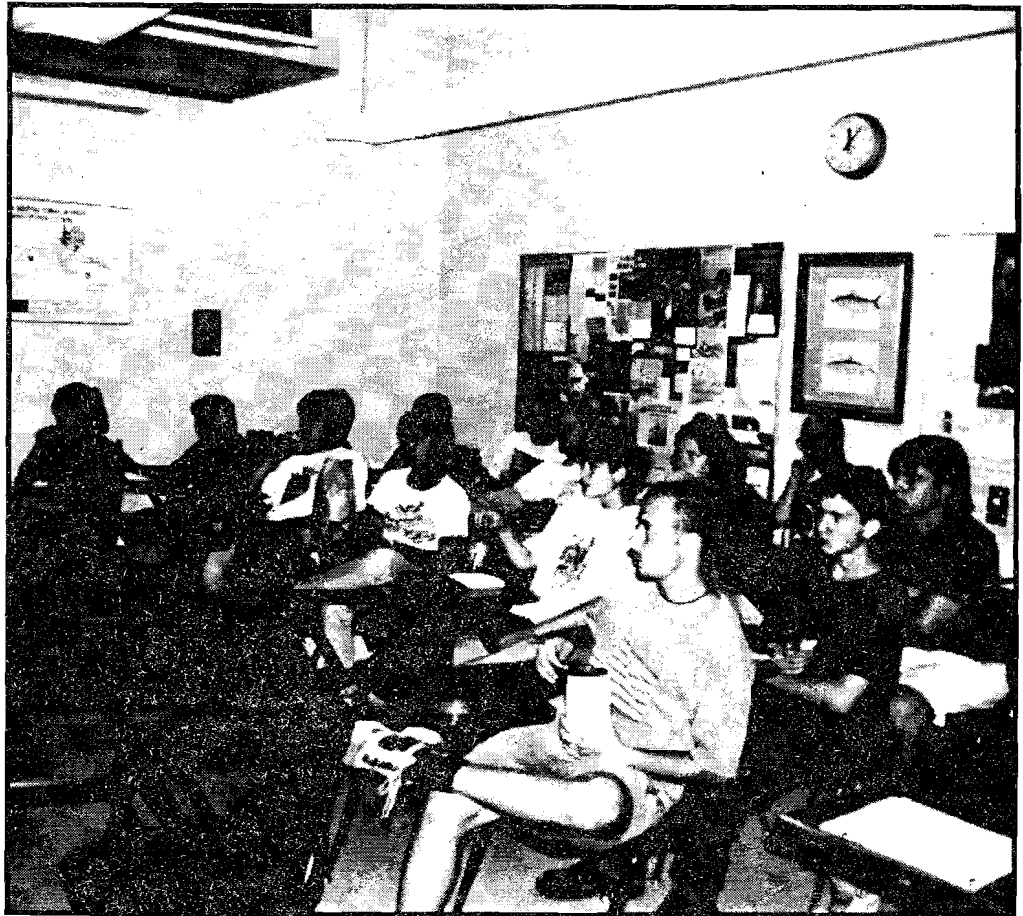
Jennifer Lopez; Richfield Springs Central High School

Chrissy Pasquale; Milford Central High School

Jessica Salo; Edmeston Central High School

Brian Burgen; Cooperstown Central High School


David Selover; Cooperstown Central High School, holds a volunteer internship.

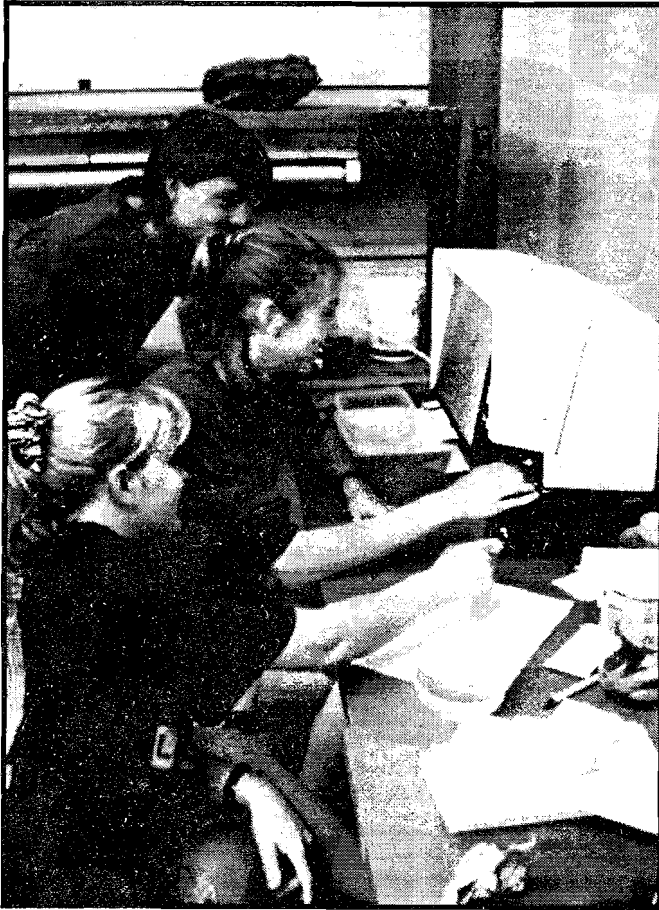


Undergraduate college internships are as follows: The OCCA's Rufus J. Thayer Otsego Lake Research Internship is held by **Kristi Ives**; University of Vermont, School of Natural Resources. Two Robert C. MacWatters Internships in the Aquatic Sciences, funded by The SUNY Cobleskill Foundation and the BFS were received by **Shane Haresign**; SUNY Cobleskill, Fisheries and Aquaculture and **Darcy King**; Cornell University, Agriculture and Life Sciences.

The Greenwoods Internship sponsored by the Peterson Family Conservation Trust was given to **Carrie Miller**; University of New Hampshire, Environmental Science and Biology. The Lake and Valley Garden Club sponsored Goodyear Swamp Sanctuary award is held by **Tavis Austin**; Humboldt State University (CA), Natural Resources.

Graduate students active at the BFS are: From the SUNY Oneonta Liberal Arts Biology program; **David Ramsey**, Al-

gal productivity in Otsego Lake; **David Warner**, Otsego Lake alewife population dynamics (in cooperation with the Cornell University BFS on Oneida Lake); **Scott Stanton**, large scale salmonid behavior in the Delaware River basin; **Jeane Bennett O'Dea**, the vascular plant communities of Greenwoods Conservancy, **Lorrie Trotta**, Otsego Lake watershed wetlands nutrient flux; **Andy Fetterman**, SUNY Oneonta Earth Sciences program, Karst Hydrology. 



Comments from BFS Alumni

- "My visit helped place the management of the whole Chesapeake Bay Watershed in perspective". **Terrance W. Clark**, Baltimore, MD. Chief, Non-tidal Wetlands and Waterways Division, Maryland Department of the Environment.
- "I gained significant insight and knowledge regarding the ecological water resource problems of Otsego Lake and its watershed." **Gill Hershall**, Harrisburg, PA. Planning Coordinator, Susquehanna River Basin Commission.
- "Great introduction to lake ecology and issues important at the top of the Chesapeake Bay watershed." **Steve Oliphant**, Harrisburg, PA. Formerly Mgr. of the Susquehanna Watershed Educational Program, Chesapeake Bay Foundation; now Pennsylvania Curriculum Facilitator - curriculum for Pennsylvania Middle Schools about the Susquehanna River in PA.
- "(The course I took in the 1970s) provided a broad base of information and experience that has helped define my own teaching style. It (currently) provides a point of access into aquatic ecosystems with my own students". **Jim Austin**, Cooperstown. Environmental Science Teacher.
- "(My BFS experiences) provided greater understanding of natural resources and research techniques for later use". **Jennifer Austin**, Health Education / HIV Program Coordinator, UCSC Santa Cruz, CA.
- "(Through BFS internships) I have gained an increased sense of responsibility and a greater understanding of scientists responsibilities to their local communities". **Tavis Austin**, Natural Resources major, Humbolt State University, CA.



More Invaders, cont. from page 1

wide variety of environments, it is considered a serious threat to sport fishing. Ruffe were first collected in the Duluth/Superior harbor area of Lake Superior. Since its introduction the Ruffe has become the most abundant fish in the St Louis River, spreading east along Lake Superiors coast to the Sand River in northern Wisconsin, and north to Thunder Bay, Ontario.

The ruffe resembles a yellow perch with walleye markings. Adults are usually about five to six inches long, rarely exceeding 10 inches. The ruffe is different from other perch because of its large dorsal fin, downturned mouth and its lack of scales on its head.


The round goby (*Neogobius melanostomus*), another small invader from

Eurasia, was first found in the St. Clair River in 1990. It now occurs in all the Great Lakes except Ontario. Round gobies are bottom-dwelling fish that perch on rocks and other substrates. They grow to as large as 10 inches. With large heads, soft bodies, and dorsal fins lacking


spines, they slightly resemble large tadpoles. They look similar to sculpins, a native fish occasionally caught by anglers. A unique feature is their fused pelvic fins. Like all exotic species they vie for food and cover with native species, often out-competing them.



Updates

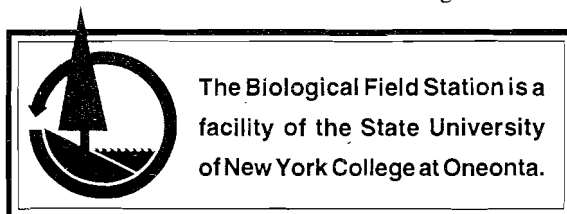
- **P.R.O.B.E.** cleans up. Jim Austin and Jerry Townsend's Cooperstown high school class and volunteers used BFS john boats to clean up a section of the Susquehanna River on the 1st of June. They collected about four tons of tires and metal debris.
- **Bill Harman** participated in a state-wide, multi-agency conference and workshops on May 28- 29 in Auburn, NY, entitled "Agricultural Environmental Management: Building from Experience". Bill conducted two workshops on "Environmental education and community-based environmental assessments" He discussed community involvement in Otsego Lake management issues.
- **David Warner** and **Matt Albright** each presented at the Annual Meeting of the New York State Federation of Lake Associations (NYSFOLA) at Moraine Lake, Madison County, NY. On May 2-4, **Bill Harman** coordinated and moderated two sessions on "Watershed and lake research in New York". He was elected to the Board of Directors and made Vice-President of the organization.
- **Dave Warner** and **Bill Harman** presented papers at the June meeting of the "International Association of Great Lakes Researchers" at Buffalo. Dave's presentation, "An estimation of the density, abundance, biomass, and species composition of the Otsego Lake pelagic fish community and estimates of the zooplankton and alewife phosphorus regeneration" was co-authored by **Lars Rudstam** from Cornell's Biological Field Station on Oneida Lake and Bill Harman. Bill's paper was "The molluscan community of Oneida Lake: A history of invasions, 1915 -1995." 

USDA Receives Agricultural Funding for Watershed, cont. from page 1

ority projects and land treatment practices through 5-10 year contracts with farmers. All projects will be ranked and funded using an environmental cost/benefit analysis. Money from local sources will be combined with federal money to provide added incentives to farmers in the watershed. A funding proposal for the same area was submitted for 1998 for \$208,000. The BFS will continue to be an active member of the Local Working Group providing input for project ranking and implementation strategies. If you would like more information on EQIP please call The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service at (607) 547-8337 or USDA Farm Service Agency at (607) 547-8331. 

Fiscal challenges in recent years have constrained the work of the Biological Field Station. Private gift support from individuals, foundations, and corporations is essential and an investment in the Biological Field Stations' continued success and services to the community. For more information, call or write:

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The College at Oneonta Foundation receives and manages gifts for the Biological Field Station. All gifts are used expressly for the purposes for which they are given and they are tax-deductible. Information is available through:

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