

REPORTER

Winter 2000

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Do we have your correct address?

Walleye To Be Introduced This Summer

Recently biologists from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, Cornell's Warm Water Fisheries Unit and the BFS met to discuss the feasibility of re-establishing walleye in Otsego Lake. The abundant and underutilized alewife forage base provides the opportunity for the introduction of another predator species.

Under the plan discussed, walleye fry would be supplied by the DEC from eggs and milt collected from wild fish in Oneida Lake next April. Commercial growers would then be commissioned, using private funding, to grow the fry in ponds to 2" fingerlings that would be released into Otsego in July. At that time the alewives would be spawning and their newly hatched fry would provide excellent forage. The target is to stock 20 fingerlings per acre for

the 4,000+ acres of the Lake, or about 80,000 walleye annually for at least three years.

They should grow rapidly on the abundant alewife forage and further increase the quality and diversity of fishing opportunities offered by Otsego Lake. Unfortunately, alewife feed heavily upon newly hatched walleye fry and maintaining a walleye population in the lake will probably require periodic stocking of fingerlings. However, walleye can live more than 15 years and a few years of successful stocking can provide many years of fishing opportunities. Mark Cornwall, a BFS graduate student, will implement a monitoring protocol following stocking. It is possible if walleye reduce the alewife population, algae-cropping zooplankton might rebound improving water clarity.

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.

Volunteer Divers Contributing To Research

As noted in the last issue of the Reporter, volunteer divers are assisting ongoing research efforts. This past summer they planted and retrieved substrate pore water sampling devices in support of intern **Deidre Willies'** research on

ground water seepage into and out of the Lake. More recently the divers have been focused on locating potential sites for lake trout spawning, submerging in various locations to depths ranging from three to 100 feet. Sites with irregular

bottom contours or sharp drop-offs have been targeted. To date, twelve such sites have been carefully surveyed. One apparently suitable location has been identified as has another, though marginally satisfactory. Water temperatures are

dropping (34° as of 13 January 2000) but the volunteers keep swimming. We gratefully note the contributions of: **Dale Webster, Jeff Back, Jeff Opar, Lee Ferrara, Andrew Lachut, Jennifer Szarek, Heather Taggart** and **Brian Sydow**.

Updates, cont. from p. 4

1930s at the location of the present field laboratory at Moe Pond on the BFS "Upper Site". Things don't seem quite the same there now!

- The OCCA has recognized **Earle Peterson** as the "1999 Conservationist of the Year" for his land stewardship and work with the Otsego Land Trust. Dr. Peterson has worked closely with the BFS to develop the research and educational programs at Greenwoods Conservancy and as a volunteer in several areas of endeavor. Congratulations!

- **Sam and Bill Harman** recently completed the last major bridge planned for the trail sys-



Sam Harman at the new bridge in Greenwoods

tem at Greenwoods Conservancy. Just east of Snipe Hill, in a complex of several beaver ponds, the 50 foot long bridge and 30 feet of associated walkway complete a loop of trails exceeding 5 miles that covers a large portion of the 1,300 acres that make up the Conservancy.

- **Congressman Sherwood Boehlert**

chaired a Congressional Field Hearing of the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment: Clean Lakes and Water Quality Management, in Cooperstown on the 18th of October. **Bill Harman, Matt Albright, Paul Lord** and **Doug Hamilton** provided a pre-hearing briefing on the situation at the O-TE-SA-GA

Hotel. Later, Harman testified as part of three panels of witnesses in support of HR2328, a bill reauthorizing the Clean Lakes Program, Section 314 of the Clean Water Act.

News from Oneonta

- Again this year **SUNY Oneonta** has been named as one of only 100 colleges and universities nation wide to make the prestigious "**Templeton Honor Roll**" for Character-building Colleges. Oneonta is the only SUNY institution to be recognized this year. This year's honor roll recognizes Dartmouth, Princeton and Yale as well as the US Air Force, the Military and Naval Academies.

BFS 1999 Donors & Sponsoring Organizations

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Dr. Willard Harman	Grover and Patricia Radley	Mrs. Ernest Wright
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BFS Receives 85 Acres

The **National Wildlife Federation** (NWF) has deeded a hill covered with mature forest to the BFS with the condition that the land be protected by conservation easement.

The land was part of the original Thayer property and had been given to the Federation about 25 years ago. After review of our programs in ecological research and environmental

education the NWF felt the land would be better utilized and protected with BFS stewardship. Facilitating that transfer was a generous gift from Mr. and Mrs. Brent Nicklas. We are

pleased that our commitment to the land, and the creation of an easement with the Otsego Land Trust, exceeds the obligations of the Federation and assures the hill's future protection.

Updates

Alumni

- **Dave Warner 99'**, and **Mead McCoy 99'**, have had their theses published as BFS Occasional Papers. Dave's, Occ. Pap. # 32, titled "Algae in Otsego Lake, NY: A comparison of their direct and indirect mechanisms of impact on transparency and chlorophyll a" characterizes the lake's problems with its huge population of these introduced forage fishes. Mead's work, Occ. Pap. #33, co-authored by **Charles P. Madenjjan, Jean V. Adams, Willard N. Harman, David M. Warner, Matthew F. Albright and Leonard P.**

Sohacki addresses "Moe Pond Limnology and Fish Population Biology: An Ecosystem Approach".



The Westley home at Moe Pond circa 1930

The latter study was done at Moe Pond on the BFS Upper Site.

- **Graham Lewis 92'**, and **Christian Munoz Donosa** produced a nature film that won the "Marion Zunz

Newcomer Award" for the best first production and best first script, presented recently at the Jackson Hole

Wildlife Film Festival in Wyoming. After leaving the BFS, Graham completed a MA in global forestry at Colorado State University and then joined the Peace Corps. He worked

in Chile as a consultant on government policy for protecting the biota. There he met Donoso and filmed the award winning documentary.

Happenings

- **Rufus J. Thayer** received the College's 1999 Special Recognition Award posthumously for his long-term support of the BFS through gifts of land and monetary resources. He contributed over \$1 million in the form of a charitable

remainder unitrust, a mark of his dedication to education and to preserving our natural resources.

- **Louise Allen** has given us a picture of the "Westley Home" taken in the early

Continued on page 2

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:

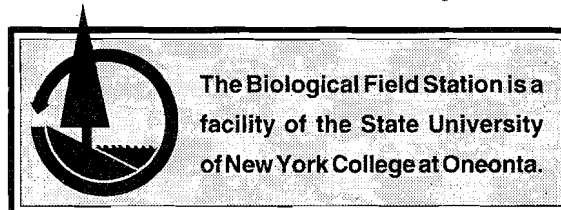
Dr. Willard Harman, Prof. & Dir.
5838 St. Hwy. 80
Cooperstown, NY 13326


(607) 547-8778

Fax: (607) 547-5114

E-mail: HARMAN@ONEONTA.EDU

BFS Web Page: www.oneonta.edu/~biofld/



 Printed on recycled paper

The College Foundation Office
Netzer Administration Building
SUNY College at Oneonta
Oneonta, NY 13820

(607) 436-2535.