

# REPORTER

Summer 2003

## In this Issue

- NYSFOLA Meetings
- New Interns
- Updates

## NYSFOLA Meetings

At the 2003 annual New York State Federation of Lake Association meeting at Moraine Lake this spring, BFS faculty and students were involved in a number of activities. **Mark Cornwell, Matt Albright, Tom Horvath** and **Bill Harman** filled a panel on basic limnology relevant to lake management concerns. **Paul Lord** and **Bob Johnson** (BFS Visiting Researcher 2000) conducted a day long aquatic plant identification workshop. **Paul** also contributed to a panel on aquatic plant control as a biocontrol expert. Other members, representing the plant control industry, were proficient in chemical and physical control methodologies. **Matt** gave a presentation on the recovery of native flora after purple loosestrife control in Goodyear Swamp Sanctuary. **Mark** presented work on the walleye reintroduction program in Otsego Lake.



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.

Do we have your correct address?

## New Interns



Some of the summer 2003 interns and staff: Back row, left to right; Claire MacNamara, Lee Hingula, Ryan Burns, Jamie High, Tom Horvath, Matt Albright, Doug Hamilton, James Wells. Front row, left to right; Ann Armstrong, Becky Hamway, Jess Harman, Rob Barron, Holly Meehan, Scott Fickbohm.

**Jordan Titus** (Cornell Univ.) holds a NYS Power Authority internship, monitoring land cover associated with maintenance activities along the Marcy South right-of-way at Greenwoods Conservancy. **Claire MacNamara** (William Smith College) will be responsible for work at Goodyear Swamp Sanctuary sponsored by the Cooperstown Lake and Valley Garden Club. **Andrea Armstrong**

(Cornell Univ.), **Jess Harman** (Maryland Institute College of Art) and **James Wells** (SUNY Oneonta), are working with **Paul Lord** on several lakes in Madison County on Eurasian milfoil biocontrol. **Holly Meehan** (SUNY ESF) and **Rebecca Hamway** (Dickinson College) both hold Rufus J. Thayer Otsego Lake Research internships. They will work on Otsego Lake and tributary water quality and evaluation of phospho-

rus release from near-lake septic systems. **Jamie High** (SUNY Cobleskill) and **Ryan Burns** (SUNY Oneonta) hold Robert C. MacWatters internships in the aquatic sciences. Both will be involved in fisheries research. **Heather Burgess** (SUNY Oneonta) has been awarded a Greenwoods Conservancy internship and will be working on site there. **Lee Hingula** (Vassar College) will be involved in an intensive biological

survey of Moraine Lake tying up several years of work there. High School students **Rob Schmitt** from Cherry Valley – Springfield Central School and **Matthew Polus** from Cooperstown Central have received the 2003 FHV Mecklenburg Conservation Fellowships. They will be working on water quality in the Susquehanna River and on Otsego Lake with the college students and BFS faculty and staff.



## Updates, cont. from p. 4

- **Wesley Tibbits** (Oneonta MA in biology graduate student) has been working on lake trout in Otsego Lake in an attempt to determine the DNA profiles of the strains present, patterns of annual activity via implanted transceivers, reproductive behavior and spawning success. To date he has collected dozens of fry from spawning areas in the lake.



A colony of 150 bats can protect farmers from up to 33 million or more rootworms each summer. A single little brown bat can catch 1,200 mosquito size insects in an hour (from the June 2003 Bay Journal). The Thayer bat house will provide lost cover resulting from our barn repairs.

- **Robert Jenkins** (SUNY Oneonta), a licensed arborist, earned 3sh of credit involved in trail development for improving access for research and BFS pre-college programs (Learning Adventures and Agricultural Environmental Quality). We now maintain over 28 miles of trails with several bridges and raised walkways and four primitive campsites on more than 2,600 acres of land, much of which is protected by conservation easements.

toric agricultural development pattern along the NY State Route 80 corridor adjacent to Otsego Lake within the Glimmerglass Historical District. He feels "It is significant to the community and the mission of the BFS that an operating farm be preserved in this important tourism corridor".

- Many thanks to **Leif Hartmark** (Vice President, Administration and Finance) for providing support to employ **Kenneth A. Gifford**, RLA, Landscape Architect and Planner, to develop the now completed Thayer Farm Master Plan. The plan uses the significance of the Farm as the last visible vestige of the his-

- The US Army Corps of Engineers have selected a series of wetland ponds on Rum Hill to serve as a reference site for a 1.6 million dollar agricultural wetland reclamation project in the upper Susquehanna drainage basin. The ponds will be monitored to establish goals for water quality hoped to be attained by the ponds receiv-

ing mitigation. The objective of this monitoring effort is to demonstrate that the restoration techniques employed by the Corps foster the biological, physical, and chemical conditions necessary for effective nutrient retention. It is hoped that the restored wetlands will reduce nutrient runoff from the affected areas to Otsego Lake and the Susquehanna River, as well as provide improved habitat for wildlife. BFS research supports specialist **Scott Fickbohm** is responsible for monitoring the wetland sites and reporting water quality data to Federal, State, & local agencies.

- The BFS Annual Report for 2002 is available upon request. It includes 31 contributions. In addition to updates on our traditional work on Otsego Lake and its environs there are articles ranging from a survey of terrestrial arthropods in Costa Rica, the BFS role in the USACE's Upper Susquehanna River watershed-Cooperstown area ecosystem restoration feasibility study and integrated environmental assessment, and a new species of Ectoproct (bryozoan) found in Otsego Lake. Also included are facsimiles of Technical Reports 15 -18 on aquatic macrophyte management and vegetative succession along the Marcy South power line right-of-way at Greenwoods Conservancy.

- **Laurie Trotta** completed her MA in biology degree from Oneonta. Her thesis was on the fisheries of Peck's Lake in the Adirondacks. Its available as BFS Occasional Paper #36.

- **Rob Barron** (SUNY Cobleskill) is a full-time volunteer with fisheries experience helping wherever needed. He hopes to assist us in attaining our mission goals and to broaden his areas of competency.



# Updates

- **Doug Hulick**, a local exterminator with an abiding interest in bats, constructed, donated, and installed a bat house in the sheep pasture on the Thayer Farm. The structure is about 4 x 8 feet in size and sits on posts 14 feet above ground level. It's designed to house 100s of bats for insect control and study purposes.
- This year **Lou Hager**, for the Gronewaldt Foundation, generously matched monies given for the Otsego Lake walleye stocking program. Combined with funds from the following individuals and groups total support equaled \$32,000. Many thanks to Lou, Lucy Hamilton, George Snell, Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Willies, Otsego 2000, the Otsego County Conservation Association and the Otsego Lake Association.
- **Scott Fickbohm**, BFS research support specialist, presented a seminar "Exotic Species Effect in a Freshwater Marsh: A comparative Study of *Lythrum salicaria* and *Typha latifolia*" to the SUNY Oneonta biologists this spring.
- **Dr. Donna Volger** (SUNY Oneonta biology department) is becoming more active at the BFS and is now Chair of **Connie Tedesco's** graduate committee.
- **Paul Lord** (BFS graduate student) has accepted a position with Cornell University, working with **Robert Johnson** (BFS Visiting Researcher, 2000) on biocontrol of Eurasian milfoil in Central New York lakes.
- **Bekka Brody** (BFS intern 2001,02) will begin teaching applied aspects of marine biology in Fiji for the Peace Corps late this summer.
- **Darcy King** (BFS intern 1997,98,99) received her BS from Cornell University three years ago. She just returned from Zambia where she worked with the Peace Corps in a rural aquaculture program teaching fisheries biology. She is now with the Yukon Drainage Fisheries Association working as Database Coordinator for several habitat restoration projects.
- **Mike Gray** (former BFS intern, now graduate student at SUNY Oneonta) is working with **Dr. Thomas Horvath** (SUNY Oneonta biology department) as Chair of his graduate committee.
- **Selinda Schlierman** (BFS intern 2002) and **Matt Albright** published Selinda's work on Susquehanna River water quality entitled "Monitoring the fecal coliform bacteria and water quality in the Upper Susquehanna River" in the New York Water Environment's journal "Clearwaters".
- Boat inspections associated with Cooperstown's zebra mussel prevention control program are now activated.
- **Bill Harman** provided a workshop for Village staff on exotic species and inspecting protocols.
- **Tavis Austin** (BFS intern 1994 through 99) has completed his undergraduate work and taken a position with a county planning department in Eureka, California.

**Continued on page 3**

The work of the Biological Field Station is strengthened and enhanced by private financial support from individuals, foundations, businesses, corporations and civic organizations. In fact, these contributions are necessary for the continued success of the Biological Field Station and all of the services provided to the community. For more information, call or write:

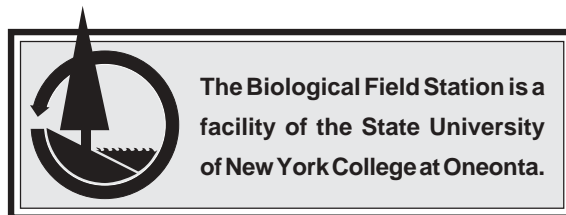
Dr. Willard Harman, Prof. & Dir.  
5838 St. Hwy. 80  
Cooperstown, NY 13326

(607) 547-8778

Fax: (607) 547-5114

E-mail: [HARMANWN@ONEONTA.EDU](mailto:HARMANWN@ONEONTA.EDU)

BFS Web Page: [www.oneonta.edu/~biofld/](http://www.oneonta.edu/~biofld/)



Printed on recycled paper

As an academic program within the State University College at Oneonta, the Biological Field Station receives fund raising services through the College at Oneonta Foundation, a nonprofit charitable organization. All gifts and grants for the BFS are tax deductible. They are managed by the Foundation and used expressly for the purposes for which they were given. Estate planning gifts such as bequests and trusts are also sought and appreciated. More information is available by contacting:

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

(607) 436-2535

Fax: (607) 436-2686