

REPORTER

Summer 2004

In this Issue

- New York Signs on to Clean up Chesapeake
- Greenwoods
- Thayer Progress
- Interns
- Updates



Otsego Lake from the Getman homesite on the Thayer farm, recently cleared of overgrowth.

Thayer Progress

An office, storeroom, machines room, bathrooms and the briefing room are fully complete in the boathouse. The classroom

on the second floor should be completed by the end of this summer. The chicken coop next to the hop shed, shop and equipment bays is

being renovated for student study space. We received a legislative grant from **Senator James Seward** to begin work on the

construction of the Upland Interpretive Center at the site of the old sap house. To date, bids have been awarded for site preparation there. ❁

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?

Interns

Ken Blanchard and **Brandon Bushen** are undergraduates from SUNY Oneonta. Ken will be working on Lake Moraine monitoring aquatic plants after an herbicide application. Brandon has not yet developed a project.

Kara Lopata from SUNY Binghamton is involved in Goodyear Swamp loosestrife biocontrol and monitoring the vegetation along the Marcy South power line at Greenwoods.

Samantha Armstrong from St. John Fisher and **Kendra Murray** from Carleton College have yet to define their work. **Paul Leonard** from Clarkson University is monitoring Otsego Lake tributaries for water quality and analyzing Otsego Lake warm water fish populations.

Lee Hingula from Vassar College is working with Otsego Lake zooplankton. **Jason Cheever** from SUNY Cobleskill will be studying predation on stocked walleye. As of the date of this writing high school students **Joe Hill** from Glibertsville Central School and **W. Joe Collins** from Masonville Central have not started their internships. ❁



2004 BFS interns conducting a fish census on Moe Pond.

Greenwoods

The old Zackow residence next to the Conference Center on Zackow Road has been completely renovated and is ready for year around use. The offices of the Peterson Family Trust and Greenwoods Conservancy, a library and study area, student

workspace/office, full apartment and an observation deck are housed there.

Jordan Titus' and **Heather Burgess'** work on a trends analysis of the impacts of the NYS Power Authority right of way maintenance practices on the local flora and on the

Greenwoods whitetail deer population, respectively, were submitted last summer.

Melissa Bennet's quantitative work on the arthropod fauna at Greenwoods began early this spring and will continue throughout this summer. ❁

New York Signs on to Clean up Chesapeake

The Upper Susquehanna Coalition has taken the charge to develop tributary strategies intended to reduce New York's contribution of sediments, phosphorus and nitrogen to the Chesapeake Bay. Basin wide, such efforts are intended to reduce nutrient loading rates to approximately half of what they had been in the 1980s.

This would reduce algal blooms in the Bay, resulting in the increased oxygen and submerged aquatic vegetation upon which fish, shellfish, crabs and other wildlife depend. The EPA has the jurisdiction to impose Total Maximum Daily Load regulations. However, the involved states have been given the opportunity to

develop their own voluntary strategies in an attempt to meet goals more quickly and inexpensively than would otherwise be the case. Efforts will include implementation of agricultural Best Management Practices, nutrient removal of septic leachate and municipal waste, and storm water management. Basin wide, estimated costs

for meeting 2010 goals are \$10 – 20 billion. Thinking locally, the above will soon be impacting our activities in the Upper Susquehanna/Otsego Lake watersheds. It will affect everything from sewage treatment plants and home septic upgrades to agricultural best management practices and storm water retrofits.



Updates, cont. from p. 4

and Scott. Bill and **Dean Long** (The LA Group) were honored by the highest award given by the organization, the Lake-Tear-of-the-Clouds award, for long-term service to the organization and New York's lakes.

- **Bill Harman** was an invited member of a distinguished panel of lake managers, regulatory officials and water resource stakeholders discussing "The future of aquatic plant management in New York" at the 5th Annual Meeting of the Northeast Aquatic Plant Management Society in Saratoga Springs January 20.
- **Tom Horvath** and **Mike Gray** presented a poster at the Ecological Society of

America's Mid-Atlantic Ecology Conference, held at Franklin & Marshall College on March 27. The title of their poster was "Natural and human-mediated dispersal of zebra mussels from Eaton Brook Reservoir, Madison County, NY" co-authored with **Scott Ingmire** of the Madison County Planning Department. A modified version of their poster was also presented at the 55th Annual Meeting of the American Institute of Biological Sciences in Washington, DC on March 16.

- **Holly Meehan**, BFS intern '00-'03 presented a paper at the American Water Resources Association's Student Water Resources Symposium April 16 in Syracuse titled "Phosphorus

migration from a near-lake septic system in the Otsego Lake watershed, summer 2003".

- **Tom Horvath** published "Retention of particulate matter by macrophytes in a first order stream" in the January issue of *Aquatic Botany*.
- **Paul Lord** presented a paper at the same meeting "Bluegill facilitation of milfoil dominance" comparing populations of Eurasian Milfoil in Otsego Lake compared to several smaller lakes in Madison County.
- The New York State Natural History Conference at the State Museum in Albany took place May 20 and 21. **Wesley Tibbits** presented a paper and poster on

"Selection of spawning sites by Lake Trout in Otsego Lake, NY" while **Matt Albright** discussed "Impacts of a new generation of highway deicers on introduction of nutrients into Otsego Lake, NY".

- The BFS received national recognition in "Flyways" the Ducks Unlimited magazine in an article describing the Upper Susquehanna wetlands mitigation project.
- **Paul Lord** has completed his MA in Biology degree and has taken a position working with bio-control of aquatic plants in the Cornell University Experimental Ponds Unit. He continues as dive master for the BFS volunteer divers.



Updates

● **Wesley Tibbits** documented lake trout spawning last fall and recruitment of fry this spring in Otsego Lake. The spawning areas were originally defined by following trout implemented with radio transmitters, followed by SCUBA divers observations and electrofishing.

● Dozens of walleye were observed spawning this spring in Otsego Lake tributaries. Most fish appeared to exceed 20 inches in length.

● **Bill Harman** attended the spring meeting of the Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel in Newport, RI, May 17 and 18. He represents the New York State Federation of Lake Associations on the panel.

● 2003 was another record year for improving water

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

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



Memorial plaque recently placed on Rum Hill at the original Thayer homestead through the generosity of William and Henry Reed, decedents of Frances (Thayer) Reed, daughter of William J. Thayer, Rufus Thayer's grandfather.

clarity in Otsego Lake. Secchi transparency was similar to that in the late 1980's, Chlorophyll_a, a proxy for algae populations, was the lowest in several years while cladocera, that heavily graze algae, increased in size and numbers.

● **Matt Abright** has been elected Region 2 Director of the North American Lake Management Society. He recently attended their spring meetings in Chicago.

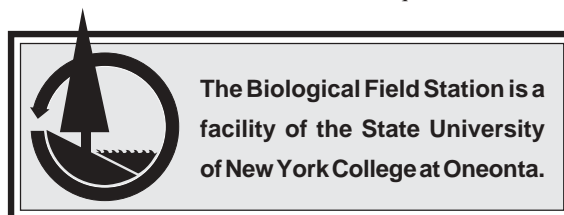
● **Scott Fickbohm** has installed all the weirs and automated samplers to


facilitate post-construction monitoring on the "Upper Susquehanna River Watershed-Cooperstown Area Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study and Integrated Environmental Assessment" project.

● **Matt Albright, Mike Gray, Bill Harman and Tom Horvath** attended the Annual Meetings of the New York State Federation of Lake associations in Hamilton NY, April 28-May 2. Bill co-chaired the conference for the 5th year. All were involved in a panel on basic limnology for lake association members. Matt, Mike and Bill made additional presentations on their work. BFS posters highlighted work by **Wesley Tibbits** and **Nancy Bachman**, Mike and Tom,

Continued on page 3

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:



 Printed on recycled paper

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

(607) 436-2535

Fax: (607) 436-2686