



Reporter

The Biological Field Station is a facility of the State University of New York College at Oneonta

The SUNY Oneonta Cooperstown Campus

Renovations have been completed on the building housing the **Cooperstown Graduate Program** and the **BFS Main Laboratory**. We are gradually moving back in, commissioning one lab at a time, in an attempt to keep programs smoothly functioning as a diversity of equipment is properly installed and brought on line.

The renovations now enable us to separate the necessarily clean and secure analytical spaces in the Main Lab from the more field oriented functions and pre-college day trips now being undertaken at the Thayer Farm and Greenwoods Conservancy. Unique new spaces in the Main Laboratory are designed to facilitate

downloading of wireless data incoming from the lake and upland areas, provide a specialized air conditioned and vibration free suite for research microscopes and a greenhouse-like environment for the culture of both aquatic and terrestrial plants and animals.



Renovations at the BFS main laboratory.



We are now routinely posting Otsego Lake water quality updates on our web page (www.BFS.Oneonta.edu).

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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.

Progress on the Upper Site Laboratory

Field Station faculty, **Bill Harman**, **Florian Reyda** and **Nigel Mann**, working with Facilities Planning staff, **Tom Rathbone** and

Scott Barton and our local Grants Development staff **Kathy Meeker** and **Tanja deMauro**, obtained a National Science Foun-

dation grant for \$417,500 to convert the old field laboratory near Moe Pond into a year-round, state of the art research lab with specialized capabilities for avian and parasitological research.

Since we are at least a mile from the nearest electricity the structure will be independent of any outside utilities and will be provided with lighting, heat and water by on-site environmentally sustainable engineering services. A cultural survey has been completed by **Renee Walker** from SUNY Oneonta's Anthropology Department. Required road improvements have been completed by **Bassler Construction** (Fly Creek). **M&E Engineering, P.C.**, will be responsible for final design and construction which is planned to be completed by fall 2011.

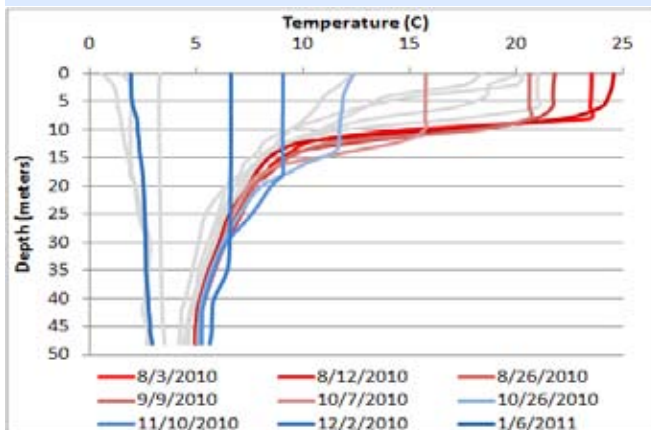
The original building was constructed to provide logistical support before the Main Laboratory

north of Cooperstown was constructed in 1971, itself now just being reoccupied after recent renovations. (See page 1.) As such, the field laboratory had been all but abandoned and little used recently other than as a shelter for students and faculty conducting research on the Upper Site. Its deteriorating condition has necessitated any analysis and curation of materials to be completed off site at the Thayer Farm or the Main Laboratory.

It is expected that the new laboratory will support Nigel's research on song bird behavior and Florian's work on local fish parasites. Years ago, **John New**, **Bill Butts** and their students did a lot of work with birds and small mammals at the site and **Ted Katsigianis**, a graduate student of **Bill Harman's** did an intensive study on the trematode parasites of Moe Pond golden shiners, aquatic pulmonate snails and kingfishers. 🐸

Otsego Lake Water Quality Update

Seasonal Transitions: Otsego Lake temperature data collected in profile (surface to bottom) are illustrated in the graph below; red and black lines in the foreground show profiles collected from August 2010 through January; faint gray lines behind show profiles from earlier in the year, February through July 2010. Warmest recorded surface temperature occurred on August 3; on this date the metalimnion occurred from 8-12m depth. This is the layer where temperatures rapidly transition from the warm surface to the cold hypolimnion. Fall turnover occurred between 2 December and 6 January. Otsego Lake completely froze on January 14, 2011.



The Getman Complex



Updates, cont. from p. 2

has been approved. The final herbicide application and concurrent monitoring of the wetland will be conducted in summer of 2011. The 2010 water chestnut population was smaller than seen in the recent past, though without the herbicide application, plants were able to produce a crop of fruiting bodies that will likely be viable for years to come.

➤ Over 110 party's representing about 350 people have registered as visitors to the **Goodyear Swamp Sanctuary** in 2010. They were from 15 States and Germany. This registry enables us to estimate the usage of the Sanctuary and justify its value to the public. The trailhead kiosk was repaired after it sustained damage in an early-summer windstorm and trails were mulched in June with woodchips donated by **Timberworks Tree and Stone**, of Cherry Valley. There is still much work to be done;

Getman Complex

All external renovations on the Getman buildings at the Thayer Farm have now been finished. The **Ice House** is designed for clean storage; the **Getman Barn** is used for

work space, bays for grounds maintenance equipment and storage and the **Corn Crib** as a student commons area. Clustered together at the crest of the hill leading to the **Up-**

land Interpretive Center, they are the remnants of the buildings of the former Getman Farm, which had been purchased by the Thayer's in the early 1900s. 🐾

the Boundary Trail kiosk is in need of maintenance and the educational signage throughout the Sanctuary needs updating. Several areas of the walkway exposed to open water have sustained ice damage. If you would like to get involved or make a donation of time or resources to this cause, please contact us!

➤ We have just received \$10,000 from **CRISP**, the **Catskill Regional Invasive Species Panel**, to do a pilot survey of the aquatic invasive species of the Catskills. We will start work in the spring.

➤ We are wrapping up two years of field work on **Canadarago Lake** and its watershed and will be working on a State of the Lake report this winter. We will

remain involved to provide assistance to the involved municipalities and interested parties to develop a plan to manage the lake and its watershed. This work has been supported by a multi-sponsored contract administered through the **Otsego County Soil and Water District**.

➤ **BFS staff**, working with our **Cobleskill colleagues**, conducted water quality and fisheries surveys on the 190 acre privately owned **Twelve Mile Lake** in eastern Pennsylvania. The final report includes recommendations on managing this pristine fishery.

➤ 2010 marked the 12th consecutive year that the BFS has monitored aquatic plants in **Moraine Lake in Madison County, NY**. Our

work has facilitated and evaluated efforts to control nuisance exotic species there. The earlier focus was on Eurasian milfoil, which has been controlled successfully with intermittent applications of the selective herbicide **SONAR**. More recently, starry stonewort has become a dominant exotic pest. Plans to manage it are to be determined.

➤ We have recently been interviewing applicants for a **new BFS faculty position** to be shared with the **Biology Department**. The goal is to employ a freshwater ecologist with expertise in aquatic botany, ecosystem modeling including bioenergetics, trophic interactions and watershed/lake interactions. 🐾

Updates



Dale Webster

➤ **Dale Webster** has been reassigned to the main campus. We are happy for him since the change will personally be better for him, but are reluctant to see him go. Dale has been responsible for virtually all the observable infrastructural improvements at the Thayer Farm and a lot that can't be seen. His competent and meticulous work combined with his work ethic and real pride in the Farm have been greatly appreciated. We will miss him.

Our plans are to install new ash floors on the first floor of the Hop House as soon as staff has moved back to the Main Lab. We hope he can come back a few days to show his replacement how to get started.

➤ Faculty and Staff of the Biological Field Station gave presentations in technical sessions of the 30th Inter-

national Symposium of the **North American Lake Management Society**, held in Oklahoma City. **Bill Harman's** presentation was entitled "Lake Otsego Macrophyte Communities: 1935-2010"; **Matt Albright's** presentation was entitled "Evaluating phosphorus-removal media for use in onsite wastewater treatment systems"; **Holly Waterfield's** presentation was entitled "Human Influences on Species Composition: Long Term Change in Otsego Lake, NY". As **NALMS Region II Director**, Holly also participated in the Society's semi-annual Board of Directors meeting.

➤ In November, **Holly Waterfield** attended the Catskills Environmental Monitoring Conference, hosted by the Catskills Institute for the Environment, the NYS DEC and

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County. The conference was held at the DEC's Belleayre Mountain with the goals being to identify long-term research needs within the Catskill Mountains ecosystem and to enhance collaboration among researchers and environmental professionals working in the Catskills Region. Holly presented the BFS's compilation of long-term datasets in a modified version of her presentation entitled "Human Influences on Species Composition: Long Term Change in Otsego Lake, NY".

➤ No herbicide application took place in 2010 due to delays in the permitting process in our **Water Chestnut Management** program in a wetland near Oneonta. An extension to the project timeline was sought from the DEC and

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:

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