

# REPORTER

Winter 2007



Inside the main room at the Upland Interpretive Center (see page 2)

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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.

**Do we have your correct address?**

## The Upland Interpretive Center (UIC)

The new building, with 3,200 ft<sup>2</sup> of floor space, is ready for use. A grant from Senator Jim Seward stimulated planning for the facility two years ago. From the road the structure appears much like the old sap house - club house complex. The original front door has been retained, the deer antlers have been replaced and a turn of the century steel rowboat hangs beneath the porch, all contributing to the ambiance. Inside, the main room, featuring mounted specimens of local mammals and birds and additional environmental and cultural displays, provides an introductory venue for those involved in pre-college field trips, conferences and meetings. Modern networked, computerized projection equipment facilitates those activities. An office, workroom, kitchen and bathrooms support the above uses as well as work undertaken by undergraduate, graduate students and faculty using the building. A full basement houses the utilities and provides ample storage space.



The Upland Interpretive Center from the parking lot next to the road

## The Hop Shed

The National Science Foundation awarded us the resources needed to begin renovation of the former hop shed. It will ultimately become the administrative center on the Thayer Farm, housing two offices, a reception area, a small meeting space, and two laboratories as well as the necessary utilities for year-around occupancy. We anticipate work starting this spring. The first phase includes putting a full basement below the present structure, bringing in utilities, replacing siding, doors and windows, in addition to needed structural repairs. Continued work depends on the availability of funding.



Oneonta archeology students conducted preconstruction surveys at the Hop House.



## Water Chestnuts Threaten the Susquehanna Drainage

Last spring we asked for donations to help control a colony of water chestnuts in a wetland draining into the Susquehanna near the junction of Routes 7 and 205 in Oneonta. In order to mount a rapid response the BFS had assumed the costs to remove the chestnuts. We felt quick action was necessary to prevent chestnuts from getting into and infesting the entire drainage basin. A SUNY biology graduate student, Willow Eyres, is now conducting monitoring and will continue assessing the



Water chestnuts

situation. Since that time we have received about \$17,000 from Senator Jim Seward, the NYS Power authority, the Millennium Pipeline Company and the Otsego County Water Quality

Coordinating Committee for chestnut removal and research to determine if phosphorous release from the wetland changes as a result of herbicide treatment and death of the plants. The Otsego

County Conservation Association helped by organizing volunteers to hand pull water chestnuts outside of the areas of most dense coverage that were treated with herbicide. We will be monitoring this spring to determine if follow up action is necessary. Later in the summer we discovered water chestnuts in Goodyear Lake, contacted the Goodyear Lake Association, and with the help of volunteers and the OCCA did some hand pulling in that area.

### Updates, cont. from p. 4

National Forest. He now works for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources with big reservoir and river fisheries management. Jim is married (Amy) and has a three year old daughter, Chloe.

1 **Les Monostory**, a graduate of SUNY ESF (65') who did ESF graduate work at the BFS in 1968-69, has been long active in environmental planning in the Syracuse area, contributing to efforts to mitigate concerns with Onondaga Lake and the Oswego

River. He is proud of the improvements apparent there. Always a great athlete, he has been involved in the Empire State Games for the past several years. Last year he took gold in the masters epee division and a silver in saber fencing.

1 **Todd Paternoster** recently completed his MA in biology at SUNY Oneonta. He is a teacher at Sidney Central School where he participated in the development of a consortium of high schools interactively monitoring the Susque-

hanna River. Todd's thesis, and contribution to the above program, was designing and implementing protocols for water quality monitoring and documenting biotic indicators of pollution.

1 On July 31, 2005 **Dr. Frank Vertucci** passed away at his home in Colorado. He worked for several years in the 1980s at the BFS as an undergraduate at Oneonta State before going on to Cornell and a career in academics. His seminal work on associations of

submergent aquatic macrophytes in Otsego Lake has contributed in major ways to our management strategies concerning nuisance aquatic plants in the lake.

1 **Matt Albright** attended the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual North American Lake Management Society (NALMS) meetings in Indianapolis, Indiana, this fall. His three year term as Region # 2 Director (NY, Pa, Puerto Rico) has expired, though he continues to be involved with the work of the Regional Board.



# Updates

1 Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) is infecting fish throughout the northeast and Canadian maritimes. VHS is killing fish in numbers in the Great Lakes, St. Lawrence River and Conesus Lake in the Finger Lakes Region. As a result we may not be able to stock Oneida Lake walleye in Otsego Lake this spring. We are investigating the possibility of stripping eggs from our own Otsego walleye, raising them at SUNY Cobleskill and returning them to the Lake when large enough to avoid the typical heavy juvenile mortality.

1 SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry graduate student **Jessica Martin**

(BFS summer intern 02') is monitoring nutrient outflows from septic systems in the Catskill and Delaware Regions of the New York City watershed.

1 Governor **George Pataki** announced in October that NYS is awarding over \$2 million to permanently protect almost 1,000 acres in Otsego and Herkimer Counties via the Department of Agriculture and Markets. The funding enables the Otsego Land Trust to negotiate the purchase of development rights on one of the finest dairy farms in the State. The BFS contributed justification for the action as a member of the Herkimer/Otsego Farmland Protection Committee.

1 **Bill Harman** contributed to a conference and workshop concerning "Lake Champlain Alewife Impacts" on February 14, 2006 in Plattsburgh, NY. He discussed Otsego Lake's experiences with alewife management.

1 We want to again thank the BFS volunteer divers for their work, especially with the Otsego Lake no-wake buoys. Divers participating this fall included **Brian Benjamin, Dale Webster, Lee Ferrara, Jerry Munrett and Paul Lord.** Tenders were **Cyndi Benjamin, Scott Heilman and Liam Heilman.**

1 **Soren Dahl** (BFS 01') recently presented his

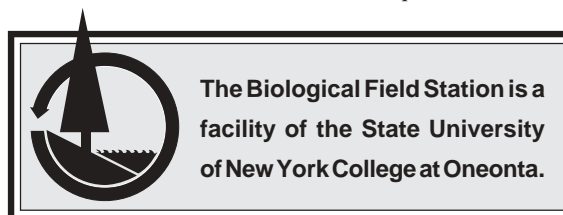
Master's thesis to the Marine Science Center at Stony Brook University. He worked with a disease that impacts hard clam populations. The study was conducted with the Marine Disease Pathology and Research Consortium [www.msrb.sunsb.edu/~MDPC/](http://www.msrb.sunsb.edu/~MDPC/).

1 **Jim Hakala** (BFS 94') graduated from SUNY Cobleskill in 1996, worked for Versar, Inc., a consulting firm, for two years in Maryland, and went on to West Virginia University for his Master's degree. His thesis documented the impacts of fine sediments and drought on headwater brook trout populations in the Monongahela

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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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