In September The Rufus J. Thayer Chair for Otsego Lake Research became the first endowed chair. President Alan Donovan announced the appointment of Bill Harman, BFS Director, as the first faculty member to hold the position. Funded by gifts from Rufus Thayer, Mrs. Willis D. Hadley, the Clark Foundation and many community members, the chair institutionalizes applied scientific research and the management of Otsego Lake as BFS missions. Until now our involvement with the Lake resulted because of the research and community service efforts of BFS staff under Harman’s direction. If Bill had left the University, nothing was in place to assure continued interest in Otsego Lake. From this date forward it will be the first responsibility of those holding the Thayer Chair to continue work to maintain and protect the character of Otsego Lake. Harman indicated “I am elated and indebted to Rufus and literally hundreds of individuals, especially my family members, to reach the point where I can reasonably be assured that someone will always be at the BFS to keep an eye on Otsego”. A search is now underway for a new faculty member to fill Bill’s former position, dedicated half time to BFS research and the remaining to teaching at the campus.

The building containing the BFS Main Laboratory and the Cooperstown Graduate Program will be undergoing planned renovations in 2009. New biology spaces include an aquaculture laboratory and aquarium room served with unfiltered water from the lake, new analytical spaces, a microscope room, telemetry space and a conference area. Faculty offices (with windows), research carrels and expanded student commons areas will contribute to safer, more secure, analytical research and organism culture spaces than we have had in the past. More classroom and field oriented activities will be transferred to the Thayer Farm and Greenwoods Conservancy.
Onsite Wastewater Treatment Training at BFS?

Administrators from SUNY Oneonta and SUNY Delhi met with engineers and trainers from New York's Onsite Wastewater Treatment Training Network (OTN) and BFS faculty and staff to determine if the Upland Interpretive Center (UIC) on the Thayer Farm would be a desirable venue to provide offerings and house equipment used to demonstrate new technologies to contractors and citizens for the construction of private homeowner sanitary waste disposal systems. The UIC appears to have great potential; excellent meeting/classroom facilities and space for demonstration materials. There is also access to several new systems now being placed along Otsego Lake as a result of updates of septic systems stimulated by Cooperstown's inspection program as well as nutrient removal technologies funded by the NYSDEC. The sanitary system in use on site at the UIC uses technology that enables both phosphorus and nitrogen removal as does another, soon be put in use serving the boathouse, hop house and Thayer residence. The latter will use different, but equally advanced, technology. A proposal from the OTN is now under review by all concerned.

Biological Field Station Committee Reactivated

From 1968 until 1988 the BFS was administered by the chair of the SUNY Oneonta Biology Department and an advisory committee of biology faculty members. Bill Harman was chair of the BFS committee from its inception until President Alan Donovan made the BFS a college wide resource with Bill as Director reporting directly to the Dean of Science and Social Science. The committee has continued to serve informally. With new faculty and anticipated increased use of new infrastructure at the BFS, everyone concerned recognizes the continued necessity of communication between research faculty for general advice, program review and research project approval. Now meeting more frequently, the members are Adam Ryburn, Jeff Heilveil, Tom Horvath (designated chair), Nigel Mann, Bill Pietrafesa and Donna Volger from biology, Jim Albanese and Devin Castenaye from Earth Sciences and Renee Walker from Anthropology, as well as Bill Harman as BFS Director.
increased 30% since 2004. "Hot jobs" include: Emissions brokers, biomimicry engineers, green architects, green lobbyists, renewable fuels biologists, climate risk analysts, ecological economists, environmental scientists, urban and regional planners, conservation scientists/foresters and environmental lawyers.

Holly Meehan, BFS, 02-03, 05', recently a graduate of the University of Rhode Island in environmental science and management, married Nathan Waterfield on 8 September. They met at SUNY ESF during their undergraduate years.

Arrangements have been made for PACY Lands, LLC, to donate about 6 acres including the top of Mt. Tom to the BFS. The site is an internationally known Upper Devonian, (Edgecliff formation) 400 million year old coral reef exposed just to the west of Summit Lake in the town of Springfield. It will remain undeveloped and an important natural resource for our research and educational missions.

This late summer and fall Dale Webster has worked diligently to repair and repaint the siding and windows of the shop and equipment bays adjacent to the hop house. Concurrent renovation of the latter will result in greatly improving the appearance of the outbuildings near the main residence.

Dr. David Warner and his wife Emily had a baby boy, Isaac, on 13 September. They live in Ann Arbor, MI where Dave works at the USGS Great Lakes Science Center. He received his MA in biology working on trophic impacts of the then recently introduced alewife to Otsego Lake in 1999.
Updates

- Our "pre-college" field trip program served more than 1,200 people from 26 schools and local organizations this season. Students from 10 years old to those over 80 took advantage of our experiences on the Thayer Farm, Rum Hill, Goodyear Swamp Sanctuary and Otsego Lake.

- As of 1 November all the recently constructed temporary (vernal) ponds on Rum Hill were full of water to the levels of their spillways, with the exception of pond #8 which was about 1/3 full. Aquatic insects and filamentous algae were apparent in all despite of a lack of true aquatic vascular plants.

- SUNY Oneonta biology graduate student Willow Eyres reports that on July 31 the following volunteers visited the Oneonta wetland to pull water chestnuts near our clearly successful application of 2, 4-D on the main mass of plants in June: Matt Albright, Lou Blasitti, Charlie Bueche, Owen Coyle, Lori Crane and her daughter, Holly Meehan, Joe Lydon, Erik Miller, Karan Mummigatti, Sophia Ottley, Caitlyn Snyder, Dan Stitch, and four others. Our thanks to all.

- Andy Fetterman married his wife, Allison, on 1 September. They live in Royersford, PA, where he is Project Manager for Synergy Environmental, Inc., an environmental consulting firm. He received his MA in hydrology studying the geochemistry of subsurface water flow in the Otsego Lake drainage basin in 1996.

- The NYS Department of Transportation (DOT) reduced the angle of repose of the eroding roadside banks along Rt. 80 at the Thayer Farm in late summer. NYS Electric & Gas is replacing utility poles threatened by the process. The spoils were spread on several areas of mowed fields, used to increase the height of a dike on pond #2 on the Shale Road and fill some rough areas in the yard at the UIC. Both the DOT sites and spoil areas were hydro-seeded before November.

- BFS internships have been selected to be listed in "The Ultimate Guide to Summer Opportunities for Teens: 200 Programs that Prepare You for College Success, $16.95, Prufrock Press, Inc. In addition to the directory, the author, Sandra L. Berger, provides students and parents with advice on using summer experiences to help college bound students entrance into selective universities as well as guidance on choosing, applying for and making the most out of summer programs.

- The November 07 issue of Environmental Protection listed the fastest growing U.S. jobs. The demand for Environmental Engineers has

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