

On the Bright Side: Otsego Lake to be shown the love Saturday

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The Otsego County Conservation Association, Friends of Glimmerglass State Park and the Otsego Lake Association will host a Lake Appreciation Day from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at Glimmerglass State Park in Springfield.

Two events for children will highlight the day.

First, kids are invited to explore the world of birds at 8 a.m. with OCCA Program Director Jeff O'Handley. Participants will learn some of the basic skills of birding, including what to look for, how to use binoculars (participants must bring their own), and how to use a field guide. These skills will be applied in a birding walk around Glimmerglass State Park's Beaver Pond.

At 1:30 p.m., O'Handley will lead an exploration in search of aquatic life at the Beaver Pond. Using small nets, kids will capture and study the animals that live in the water, and will learn how these creatures are both connected and important to the lake environment.

Participants in both programs will receive "Critters of New York," a 128-page, illustrated guide to wildlife found in the state. These activities are offered as part of Lake Appreciation Day, an event intended to bring members of area environmental groups and lake organizations, lake residents, families, and friends together for a day of fellowship and recreation on the shores of Otsego Lake.

In addition to the kids' events, the following events will take place:

- Glimmerglass Marketplace featuring vendors selling produce, prepared foods and crafts "Made in New York."
- Aquatic tank displays by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.
- Fly-tying demonstrations and lessons by members of the Dave Brandt Chapter of Trout Unlimited.
- Educational exhibits by lake-focused organizations in the Lake View enclosed pavilion.

Lunch will be provided at no charge from 12:30 to 2 p.m. (pre-registration required), including hamburgers, hot dogs and veggie burgers, salads, watermelon, cookies and beverages.

There is no charge for the birding or aquatic life programs, which are open to the public, but regular park admission will apply. Pre-register for these activities by calling 547-4488 or email programdirector@occainfo.org.

For more information, visit <http://occainfo.org/calendar/lake-appreciation-day/>.