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[Otsego Lake again to be site of festival](#)

By Tom Grace [Cooperstown News Bureau](#)

After a one-year hiatus, a lake festival will return to Otsego Lake this summer, Darla Youngs, administrative director of the Otsego County Conservation Association, said Friday.

From 2005 through 2008, the lake was the scene of annual Otsego Lake festivals, drawing about 1,000 people each summer.

Last year, when organizers had difficulty raising funds, the event was downsized to a Lake Appreciation Day, held at Glimmerglass State Park, she said.

But this year, the full event is back, with a more inclusive title: the Otsego Lakes Festival, a celebration of the county's several lakes, Youngs said.

"We hope to see people from all over," she said. "This is a celebration of all of our water bodies."

The event will be held Saturday, July 10, at Lake Front Park with music, art, children's activities, food and fun, she said.

Groups will host watershed stewardship workshops on topics such as rain gardens, lawn and garden maintenance, shoreline restoration and water conservation strategies, she said.

OCCA is raising \$4,000 to pay for tents, display tables, entertainment, workshop presenters and advertising for the festival, which is sponsored by the Otsego County Water Quality Coordinating Committee.

"People want a festival because it's fun, but we're working to keep our expenses down," Youngs said. "Everyone is volunteering, and we've got photographer Richard Duncan donating the poster this year. He's going to have large, signed prints for \$100, and smaller, traditional prints for \$20. All the proceeds from those will go to the festival."

The Cooperstown Art Association will offer fish painting, where people can paint T-shirts with paint-covered fish, she said.

"They use rubber fish, and they can also use real fish," she said. "A lot of kids like the rubber fish because the real ones can be smelly, but the real ones make a better print."

Dr. Ted Peters, who recently stepped down from the village of Cooperstown Board of Water Commissioners, will be honored "for his long-time dedication to water quality issues," Youngs said.

People who want to donate money to help defray expenses for the festival should send contributions to Otsego Lakes Festival, care of OCCA, P.O. Box 931, Cooperstown, NY 13326.