

The Daily Star
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[SUCO awarded \\$104,390 for research at lake](#)

ONEONTA _ The National Science Foundation has awarded a grant of \$104,390 to the State University College at Oneonta for research equipment for the Biological Field Station in Cooperstown.

The grant, which is effective Aug. 1, was secured through the efforts of Dr. Willard Harman, director of the Biological Field Station.

The college will use the hydroacoustic and associated equipment in a collaborative project with Cornell University and SUNY Cobleskill to develop population estimates and distributions of fish, zooplankton, and benthic macrophytes.

The information will help complete and evaluate a collaborative management strategy for Otsego Lake that began in 2000.

As part of the strategy to improve water quality, the project has stocked 80,000 walleye fingerlings annually to reduce the numbers of alewives. The alewife population has decreased water clarity and damaged the fisheries of lake whitefish and cisco.

The instrumentation acquired through the grant will enable researchers to collect additional data, determine fish populations and assess the impact of the project.

The instruments will also be used to collect data as part of the consortium's long-term monitoring of nearby inland lakes and the Great Lakes. Researchers are studying the management of invasive species, cold and warm water fisheries, water quality, and aquaculture and fisheries management.

The new equipment at the Biological Field Station will be available to faculty as well as graduate and undergraduate students.

The students will use it in research and hands-on training.

SUCO faculty and students in the sciences and education use the Biological Field Station for courses and research, and the field station offers programs for area high school students, visiting researchers, and community members. The main laboratory is on Otsego Lake, just north of The Farmers' Museum in Cooperstown.

Harman, a professor of biology and an expert in the ecology of freshwater lakes, has worked at the Biological Field Station for more than 30 years. He joined the SUCO faculty in 1968 after earning his doctorate in limnology from Cornell University. He was honored with the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1975 and named a SUNY Distinguished Service Professor in 2002.

Harman has conducted continuing studies of the ecology of Otsego Lake and produced an annual "State of the Lake" report. His research centers on aquatic, terrestrial and limnological topics as they relate to lake ecology and watershed management. He has studied topics such as zebra mussels in the Susquehanna River Basin and freshwater aquatic plants.

He is profiled in "Saving the Bay: People Working for the Future of the Chesapeake" (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2001).

In 2004, he helped secure a National Science Foundation award of \$115,269 for the college to acquire laboratory equipment for the Biological Field Station. Last year, he coordinated a National Science Foundation grant of \$125,442 to improve the facilities at the Biological Field Station.