

College seeks funds to repair Goodyear Swamp access

- By Erin Jerome Staff Writer

- Oct 1, 2018

- https://www.thedailystar.com/news/local_news/college-seeks-funds-to-repair-goodyear-swamp-access/article_91c8ea45-c0b6-5b32-a920-61770c643eb1.html

SUNY Oneonta is raising funds for the restoration of Goodyear Swamp Sanctuary, and a local foundation will be matching donations.

The sanctuary is run by the college's Biological Field Station, which encompasses 2,600 acres with multiple laboratories and classrooms to support research. The sanctuary is a wetland near the Glimmerglass Opera on Otsego Lake, and has seen more than 1,600 annual visitors since it was donated by the Goodyear family in 1982, according to biology professor and research director Bill Harman.

Pre-college students have been included in research on the swamp and lake, which are also popular destinations for birders, tourists and groups concerned about environmental and cultural problems impacting the sustainability of the Susquehanna River and the Chesapeake Bay.

“None of that has been available,” Harman said. There has been no research done this fall because major repairs are needed to over 600 feet of raised wooden walkways. About half a mile of trails are still usable, he said.

About \$50,000 is needed for the renovations, which will include the installation of a non-motorized watercraft landing that would provide a link between the sanctuary and Glimmerglass State Park. A campaign to raise funds last year garnered \$27,000, and the Scriven Foundation will provide \$12,000 in matching funds to raise the remainder, Harman said.

The Otsego County Conservation Association has submitted a state Environmental Protection Fund grant proposal for \$100,000 that includes sanctuary renovations, but Harman said the college foundation would like to avoid depending on it. If the grant comes through, Harman said donations would be refunded as necessary. OCCA is expected to receive word this fall on the proposal, which includes improvements to Basswood Pond State Forest lower loop foot and cross-country ski trail, creating a link between trails in Harvey Bilderbeck County Forest and Arnold Lake State Forest, and making improvements to both.

Donations can be made to the College at Oneonta Foundation at 308 Netzer Admin. Bldg., PO Box 4015, Oneonta, NY 13820-9964, or by contacting Bill Harman at 607-547-8778.

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