



New York Water Environment Association

Clarkson University
Student Chapter

Volume 9
2008-2009 School Year

Robert Moses Niagra Power Plant Trip



Last fall our NYWEA chapter took a trip to the Robert Moses Power Dam Visitor's Center on the St. Lawrence River. From there, a clear view of the magnificent dam can be seen. Inside the facility there was a wealth of information about the dam including aerial pictures, interactive maps, photographs, and written information. We watched a

film about its construction and history in their theater room and spent a considerable amount of time playing with the interactive toys the best parts about the trip; most of us are well educated within the field of water energy, but it's always nice to have some fun learning about it. The visitor's center is a great place for a day or afternoon trip and there is a wealth of information there for all levels, especially children. After spending a couple of hours there, our group departed back for campus, but not without first stopping at the nature facility down the road.

-Ryan Doyle

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NYWEA Members Attend Power Shift '09

In February, student members represented Clarkson University at Power Shift 2009, a national 3-day global warming summit in Washington, DC to discuss climate change and its solutions with other college students from across the country. At the event, students attended Panel Sessions and Workshops to discuss a diverse spread of topics, ranging from the scientific background of climate change and technical aspects of its solution to associated social issues and skills training for grassroots mobilization at campus and community levels. To complement these sessions, dozens of speakers sought to engage and empower our upcoming generation through their experience, and included well-know environmentalists such as Ralph Nader and Bill McKibben alongside progressive grassroots reformers and main-stream politicians. On the final day of the conference, at-



tendees rallied at a nearby coal plant to address the needs of the upcoming generation's interest in sustainable energy. The event, with students coming from all 50 states and every background, served as a great opportunity to unite in our goals of solving the climate crisis

through massive youth organization, as well as a chance to share experience and knowledge that can be used to raise awareness and spur progress back home.

-Eileen Stachowski

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NYWEA Members Teach the Future

This past spring, NYWEA members continued our annual tradition of attending Potsdam High School for our "Adopt-A-School" visit. The basics of this visit include not only educating the students about environmental engineering but also talking to them about college. We do this visit towards the end of the year for their Environmental Studies class, which ensures us that most of the students are interested in applying the knowledge that they have learned over the course of the year at a collegiate level. We split up into a few different groups and gave presentations to the students.

One of the projects that we did was a small sand filter. We colored some water blue and sieved it through a small sedimentation system to show that after time, the sand will decrease the turbidity of the water significantly. Many of the students enjoyed this project and were able to see



how sometimes, very simple applications worked very well. We then discussed many other forms of water treatment, such as chlorination, ultraviolet treatment and other forms of filtration that they would carry out as engineers.

that had a lot of clay, sand and other soils in it. From this, we had more students talking about erosion and the effects that water and wind have on different types of sediments.

After the presentations were finished, one of our graduate students then did a small speech on what his research project was. The students really enjoyed hearing about the practical ways that we are trying to cut down energy emissions with. After we had a plethora of questions asked about college life in the crown of the north country, we then were led on a tour of the school's greenhouse.

In the upcoming year, NYWEA is working to set up a relationship with more high schools in order to make this program grow, and should also be very active in helping students in regional environmental competitions.

- Olin Mather



Another project that we set up involved the removal of colored polymers. We took some regular juices and chemically separated the coloring out of the juices, and presented some to drink to show how the coloring doesn't do anything to change the taste. We then discussed how coloring is used to market tastes, yet a lot of artificial coloring is actually harmful to the natural world.

We had another station set up



Thank you

Peter Radosta, Koester Associates, for your generous support of the Clarkson NYWEA Chapter.

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What is ARCADIS?

ARCADIS is an international, publicly traded company dating back to 1888 with corporate headquarters in Arnhem, The Netherlands, and U.S. headquarters in Denver, Colorado. The company had \$1 billion in gross revenue prior to acquiring BBL. In the U.S., the ARCADIS environmental practice is equivalent in size to BBL, giving the combined companies an environmental staff of nearly 1,800 professionals and more than 100 offices located throughout the United States. Additional information can be found on the ARCADIS web site (www.arcadis-us.com).

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For More Information

For more information, please contact Human Resources in our Syracuse office at 315-446-9120. You can also visit the careers section of BBL's web site (www.bbl-inc.com).

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Bill McKibben and Wes Jackson come to the North Country

In the Fall of 2008, two of the most influential people in the environmental fields made trips to talk to the North Country residents. The first was Bill McKibben, who visited St. Lawrence University in September. He talked about many things, including his work with students as well as his new works and books. His speech was mainly directed at the upper-income students in the audience, mentioning the irony that most of the political movement came from this group, as well as most of the wasted money and resources that hurt the natural world. He wrapped up with a question-and-answer session that NYWEA members partook in, Wes Jackson came to Clarkson in October of 2008 and spoke to the



students about his work using genetics to turn corn from a perennial plant into an annual plant that would be more like grass called "Kernza". He went in

depth at how the plant would not only save on the effects that seeding the ground with new corn had every year, but as well as the effects of less energy and money spent on pesticides, fertilizer and planting involved with the new strain of maize. NYWEA members were able to watch his presentation as well as be able to talk to him personally after his speech as well as before in a private panel with the university's leading environmental professors and thinkers. Seeing a man take vision and apply it to his work is one of the most important things that a presenter can do to young environmental professionals, and this is exactly what Jackson did.

-Mike Guethle



Clarkson Students Visit The Wild Center



On September 5th, NYWEA members made the trip down the The Wild Center, a natural history museum of the Adirondacks, located in Tupper Lake, New York, near the center of the Adirondack Park.

Upon entering the building we were quickly greeted and sent on a tour of the place. First we saw the quarantine tanks, used to house new animals that are brought to the museum to make sure they have a healthy transition to their new home. Then we moved onto learning about how the otters, the museum's largest attraction, live and survive at the museum as well as in nature. In addition to an exhibit with water and plenty of options for playing, the otters also have several large cages loaded with toys. The cages provide plenty of fun and games away from the eager crowds ever watching the exhibit. The exhibit and cages,

as well as an additional outside play area, are all connected by a passageway so that the otters can move between them at leisure. It was at the cages that we met a delightful otter named Squirt, who we watched with much interest until Squirt decided to move on to the outside play area.

We were also able to observe the makeup of the museum that allowed for it to be the only LEED certified building in the Adirondack Park. We saw the intricate filtration systems that The Wild Center has, as well as their use of Bio Balls to filter out nitrogen from the tanks. The filtration systems are set up for each individual tank so that should anything happen to one tank, all the others will still be safe and sound.

We then ventured outside and saw the roof of the building. The roof is covered in solar panels on one side, and has a green roof on the other side. On the green roof was sedum, planted on the roof because of its hardiness and presence in the Adirondack Park. Also on the roof were other various plants that had flown in and de-



ecided to call the roof home. Our tour ended soon after the roof, but there were also plenty of trails to walk along outside if one was so inclined, as well as exhibits to further inform the populous about the natural history and environmental processes within the Adirondacks.]

-Kim Villemaire



Clarkson Chapter Wins Awards at 81st Annual Meeting

In February, several graduate students and undergraduate NYWEA officers, accompanied by advisor Dr. Stefan Grimberg, attended the 81st Annual NYWEA Meeting at the Marriot Marquis in New York City.

The conference brought together professionals from across the state for three days of seminars and presentations on the present and future quality of our water environment, and included a University forum in which several Clarkson students participated. Graduate students Matthew Donnelly and Rudras Baliga received second and third place, respectively, in the oral competition, with senior Michael Jahne also presenting his undergraduate research, and graduate students Yunhui (Rhoda) Deng and Rajiv Narula participated in the conference's first ever poster session.

Although current officers were unable to attend, past chapter officers (president Michael Jahne, secretary Sabina Gerstenberger, and treasurer Sarah Hunte) also attended the event, and discussed ideas about chapter events, membership drives, and other activities with the other student groups attending the conference. Students were also able to meet with state officers and prominent Young Profes-



sionals, providing both an excellent networking opportunity and a chance to consider the importance of bridging the gap between the collegiate student chapters and the Young Professionals division upon graduation. Additionally, the student chapter won first prize of \$1,000 in recognition of its distinguished activities and service, and Michael

Jahne received the Chapter Service Award and the Association Student Service Award for his outstanding service to the Clarkson Chapter and the Association itself, respectively. In all, Clarkson received the most awards of any university attending the conference.

Of course, the students took full advantage of their stay in

Times Square. The group enjoyed dining in The View revolving restaurant and walking the bustling city streets, and several caught a show on Broadway. Overall, the trip was an enjoyable, productive experience, and we look forward to the opportunity to return for next year's conference.

-Mike Jahne

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Clarkson Hosts St. Lawrence County Environmental Awareness Campaign

Last spring the Clarkson University chapter of NYWEA along with Clarkson Environmental Conversation Organization helped host a section of the Focus The Nation event at the Potsdam High School. Focus The Nation is a nation wide campaign that focuses on empowering people to help create and initiate change in their communities. It emphasizes a smooth transition to a clean energy future for our nation.

The Clarkson event was hosted in a town forum style, with a panel of local and statewide politicians and prominent community figures. Many townsfolk attended the meeting along with students from the area and a group discussion was facilitated. Some of the subjects that were addressed were green jobs in the North Country, what people can do to help the environment and ways to spread awareness on environmental concerns. This was the first year that the campaign was hosted in Potsdam, and it was considered a success! Both NYWEA and ECO plan on making Focus the Nation an annual event in the Potsdam area.

-Gerlinde Wolf



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Other Activities: Planet Earth Night, Earth Day Campus Clean-up

Movie Night

Every year club members as well as the Clarkson University campus enjoys a movie night dedicated to environmental awareness. During the most recent movie night, attendees watched 'Planet Earth' by the BBC Natural History Unit and enjoyed snacks from the local food co-op. They watch many episodes of this famous series of which included the deep oceans and deserts. Through these events, the club tries to raise awareness about our environment and un-



derstand how powerful our planet earth actually is. Clarkson's NYWEA chapter has found this to be one of the best ways to bring awareness about our club as well as the issues that NYWEA addresses.

-Allen Berber

Earth Day Campus Clean-Up

This year Clarkson's NYWEA chapter continued its tradition of entertaining the campus while giving it a drastically needed spring clean-up. NYWEA, along with other clubs on campus, went about cleaning up all areas on the campus and addressing the needs of new ways to keep the campus clean. We concluded the day with one of our local bands and a barbecue. NYWEA was able to have a relatively large turnout for the event and was able to spread awareness about the organization. NYWEA plans on using this,

as well as other large events that bring out a number of people, as part of the next year's membership drive.

-Mike Guethle & Allen Berber





NYWEA's Student Chapter at Clarkson is an organization for students pursuing a career in the environmental field.

Meetings take place bi-monthly and usually include information about future projects, guest speakers, and refreshments. Local chapter dues are \$5 and state dues are \$25. Joining NYWEA is a great way to meet other students in the environmental field, and professionals already in the field.

INTERESTED IN JOINING NYWEA??

EMAIL MICHAEL GUETHLE AT GUETHLMA@CLARKSON.EDU TO BE PLACED ON CLARKSON'S NYWEA EMAIL AND VISIT US ON THE WEB AT:

www.clarkson.edu/~NYWEA

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND ON THE OFFICIAL WEBSITE AT:

www.NYWEA.org



Student Membership Drive:

Each year NYWEA officers and members dedicate a great deal of time and effort into recruiting new members. We feel in order to maintain our integrity and reputability as a NYWEA Student Chapter it is vital to maintain substantial membership. New members are especially crucial in years such as our upcoming term, a year in which a large majority of our active members are going to be graduating and becoming part of the working world. Therefore, at the beginning of each semester and continuously through out the year, our officers and current members promote NYWEA whenever and wherever possible. New membership is vital to the sustainability of our Clarkson Chapter and is considered one of our top priorities. If you are interested in joining an organization that is concerned for protecting and maintaining our environment then be sure to visit our table at the Open Houses, and the Student Activities Fair.

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