



# New York Water Environment Association

Clarkson University  
Student Chapter

Volume 10  
2009-2010 School Year

## Potsdam Water Treatment Facility Trip



In Fall of 2010 our NYWEA chapter took a trip to the Potsdam Water Treatment facility in town. Many NYWEA students attended as part of a class trip from Dr. Shane Rogers' Water and Wastewater Treatment class. A few students were allowed to come even though they were not part of the class. The trip took place on Monday and

we were all able to enjoy the visit. We viewed the various parts of the facility, including the rapid mixing basins and the flocculation basins. The place was very interesting as it related to subjects that were introduced in class, but also it also applied to water issues in the town. We were all surprised to see how much water that Clarkson and SUNY Potsdam students used during the fall through spring as opposed to the summer months. The tour ended with a question and answer session and we all were able to learn a lot, and were able to do class work outside of the classroom.

-Gerlinde Wolf

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## Clarkson NYWEA Goes on a Hike

The Adirondack Park Region of New York State is home to some excellent hiking trails for all levels of expertise. The NYWEA chapter at Clarkson University recently organized a hiking trip to Azure Mountain in the town of Waverly, NY. On August 28, 2010, 19 members of the chapter left for a pleasant hike up this gorgeous mountain and were rewarded with an exquisite view on the watch tower at the top.

The trek up this sound beginner's trail provided the hikers with the beautiful scenery typically found throughout the Adirondack Mountain Region and offered a great experience to first-time hikers and experienced veterans in kind. Those who reached the brisk summit of the mountain reaped the benefit of watching a gorgeous sun set for another day across the region with countless pictures of the alluring landscape.

The watchtower atop



the peak allowed for a perfect view of the surrounding hills and mountains with a map to show the locations of each. Even the dropping of the sun below the horizon was unable to hide the beauty of the landscape all around with countless shades of the countryside coming out

before the fall of dark. NYWEA at Clarkson's trip to Azure was a remarkable time that filled the eyes as well as the cameras of the students with a remarkable view of the little touched world this region had to offer.

-Andrei Romei

### 2009-2010 Officers

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## NYWEA Members Teach the Future

Clarkson's NYWEA chapter has been working closely with the local schools in St. Lawrence County for the past few years. Up until recently, the main event that NYWEA ran was called the "Adopt-A-School" program and worked solely out of Potsdam Central High School. This program featured a series of activities that students in the Advanced Placement Environmental Science course would partake in to reinforce learning objectives from class. The activities, which ranged from creating a cloud inside of a bottle to running a small-scale sand filter, also created a fun break in the everyday class lectures and gave Clarkson students a chance to talk to high school students about the range of possible careers within the environmental fields.

Unfortunately, the 2009-2010 school year had no



A.P. Environmental Science class at Potsdam Central School. NYWEA at Clarkson still wanted to work with younger students and ended up teaming with the University's K-12 outreach program. The specific project that NYWEA worked on was called the JETS program, a program designed to gather high school and middle school students to work in teams to solve problems. Clarkson NYWEA decided that this would be a good program to join with and worked with over 6 schools this past spring to put on events to help students come together to solve problems.

There were eight specific tasks in the JETS program. These events were all

related to water resources and included design of hydraulic power plants, understanding of desalination, understanding of fluid mechanics and a general

knowledge of watersheds. NYWEA students worked in teams of two to four to explain these tasks using hands-on presentations and examples. NYWEA students also crafted sheets for the other students to take home as reference.

The college students who participated in the JETS program felt as though it was beneficial in that it reinforced basic engineering concepts not only in the high school students, but as well as helping reinforce their own understanding. Clarkson students also enjoyed talking about their fields of interest and talking to the high school students about possible interests in their search for college. Participating NYWEA members also found out how hard it can be to set up a date to work with a total of seventy students from a variety of schools, as well as planning out an hour-long lesson.

-Mike Guethle



### Thank you

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

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If you are interested in helping to support this student newsletter and receive advertising to both professionals in the environmental field as well as those students on their way to becoming professionals please send an email to the Chapter Adviser: [grimberg@clarkson.edu](mailto:grimberg@clarkson.edu)

## Changes in Clarkson NYWEA's Executive Board Structure

Clarkson NYWEA has recently gone through multiple changes in its administrative structure. In order to increase productivity, the roles of a few of our officer positions have been changed. Vice President of NYWEA at Clarkson is now in charge of planning all field trips, and the Treasurer is to help the Vice President in planning these trips as well as funds. President of the organization is in charge of networking with all companies, finalizing meetings and meeting times as well as bringing in speakers. Secretary, while still in charge of documents, is now also in charge of the annual newsletter. We feel as though these changes have been very beneficial to Clarkson NYWEA as we are now more organized than ever before and are now able to attend many more field trips. This



also takes a lot of strain off of the president of the organization and makes for 4 equal officers, and thus having four very active members and a very active organization. NYWEA at Clarkson has already been able to have a very successful semester this year, and it is only the end of September.

With a more organized chapter, we are also able to have a focus on getting the new members involved in activities. In doing this, we have many younger students interested in becoming officers in November. Moving our elections to November, we are also allowed to have a 4-month period where old officers are able to help the new officers do their job. We hope that this will lead to the continuity of the program at Clarkson. The current officers hope that this will allow for students to experience the great things that we have been able to as NYWEA members in the years to come.

-Mike Guethle

## NYWEA Hosts Panels of Clarkson Professors



Clarkson NYWEA sponsored an event in late November 2009 with 4 professors in the environmental fields that was geared at helping students explore their career options. The event was a simple roundtable discussion with 4 of Clarkson's professors: Dr. Temitope Ojo, a Mechanical Engineer working towards another degree in Environmental Engineering, Dr. Stefan Grimberg, an Environmental Engineer, Dr. William Vitek, an author of books on sustainability and chair of the Humanities Department and Dr. Shane Rogers, an Environmental Engineer.

The purpose of the gathering was simply to have each professor talk about how they became involved in their careers. NYWEA is a professional society, and nothing is more important to a collegiate chapter of a professional society than helping students determine which career path they want to take. Many students enter environmental engineering with poor or little understanding of the actual

work that is done within the degree. It was very interesting to hear all of the different research work that each professor was doing. It was also interesting to talk to Dr. Vitek and Dr. Ojo about the different environmental jobs that exist outside of environmental engineering firms and research facilities.

However, perhaps the most important piece to this event was learning about the paths that each professor took to attain their current positions. Originally, these professors set out to be either clergymen, pilots or other unrelated professions, and then finally ended up in their current positions. It was a great relief to many of the students to see that it is fine to be a sophomore in college and want to switch majors. Many of the students also enjoyed getting to know where their professors came from, and after the roundtable ended, students were still having conversations with each professor asking for help or talking about other degree plans.

All in all, it was a very good event and all who attended seemed to gain a sense of relief about their future.



Clarkson's NYWEA chapter is planning on having a similar event in the 2010-2011 school year, possibly changing the outline of the roundtable to be more casual in hopes of raising attendance.

-James Gilchrist



## Clarkson Chapter Wins Awards at 82<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting

This past February, 10 students along with Professor Grimberg went down to the NYWEA New York City Conference from February 1<sup>st</sup> to February 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Clarkson chapter is big into promoting professional networking for students, and this conference is a really good place for that. There are a lot of companies from around the area and upstate that send some of their employees down to attend this conference. While these employees are down at the conference they see the presentations, prepared by students from colleges, and the posters that are set up by students and other companies that are advertising what they are working on in the various fields of environmental engineering. Networking with all these employees from all these different companies happened all throughout the conference, which is really good for the college students looking for an internship, or even a job for when they get out of school. What was really important about meeting these companies was bringing their information back to our chapter.

While down at the NYWEA New York City conference the Clarkson students were very busy. They gave 4 of the 8 presentations and even had 5 poster presentations set up. The Clarkson NYWEA chapter ended up receiving three awards. One of the awards was first place for student chapter grants due to being the most active student chapter in the state, which awarded us \$1000.



Another award was second place in the student presentations.

At the conference the different student chapters were even able to meet with each other and network with each other. It was a very fun time as well as a good way for each chapter to bounce ideas off of each other. They could then take those ideas back there college and try and incorporate those ideas into what their chapter does during the semester. The Clarkson chapter got a lot of complements on their Newsletter that they produce once a year in the fall.

-Brandon Kelsey

## Your Ad Could Be Here!

If you are interested in helping to support this student newsletter, reaching out to NYWEA student chapters and to receive advertising to both professionals in the environmental field as well as those students on their way to becoming professionals please send an email to the Clarkson NYWEA Chapter Adviser:



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## Clarkson University Hosts Will Stradling from Pall Corporation in Cortland

Will Stradling of Pall Corporation came to talk for NYWEA this past fall. He came and spoke about both his career and his involvement in NYWEA over the past few years.

Mr. Stradling started his presentation by talking about how he spent a lot of time in between different jobs. It was nice to hear about someone having a successful career have trouble in the beginning, as many college students are having trouble finding a desirable job right after graduation. It was also really interesting to hear about the different jobs that Mr. Stradling took and how he ended up at Pall Corporation.

It was also very nice of him to speak about his involvement in NYWEA and his current work. In classes, it is very often hard to think about spending your career based out of a few design courses, but that is exactly what Mr. Stradling is doing. Seeing his work in water treatment makes it interesting to go to class and learn the specifics of each project, as that simple day in class may be relevant to a job one day. It was also very interesting to hear about how professional networking was so important to him; Stradling talked about how he still is friends with the students he worked with in college, and how many of them are in similar fields and see each other at work. It was also great to hear how influential NYWEA can be to a student, as you are able to meet professionals who can help you throughout your career.

Finally, it was great to get some pointers for talking to companies about career and job recruitment.

-Meghan Cleason



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

#### Activity Nights

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 understand 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. New members enjoy this event and new students attend every year.

-James Gilchrist



#### 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 Clarkson ECO and many other students, 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 very large turnout for the barbecue 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.

-Brandon Kelsey





NYWEA's Student Chapter at Clarkson is an organization for students pursuing a career in the environmental field. Meetings take place weekly and usually include information about future projects, guest speakers, and refreshments. Local chapter dues are \$10 and state dues are \$25. Joining NYWEA is a great way to meet other students in the environmental field, and

### **INTERESTED IN JOINING NYWEA??**

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

[www.clarkson.edu/~NYWEA](http://www.clarkson.edu/~NYWEA)

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CAN BE  
FOUND ON THE OFFICIAL WEBSITE AT:**

[www.NYWEA.org](http://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.

## **Help Support This Student-Run Newsletter!**

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