

Club of the Week: NYWEA

By Liz Urban

The New York Water Environment Association (NYWEA) Student Chapter is an organization for students pursuing a career in the environmental field. In past years the number of student members has dwindled and perhaps one reason for this is the students of Clarkson University do not understand the real benefits to the organization and what it can offer you and your future.

The NYWEA tries to set up several projects during the year to benefit the school and the community. Last spring NYWEA teamed up with the Chinese Students and Scholars Association (CSSA) and held Earth Day Clean Up. In 2000, the chapter started a recycling campaign on campus to give students the opportunity to be more environmentally aware and friendly by giving them an option for recycling bottles.

Adopt-A-School is another program that the organization has done in the past and is returning this year. Student members spend a couple of hours doing water treatment related experiments with Potsdam High School students. An example of an experiment was "a water sample contaminated with dirt was passed through a filter to demonstrate at a small scale the means of natural water filtration." New experiments try to be developed each year to bring new ideas into the classroom. This is a great program and is an opportunity for the younger students to get an idea of certain aspects of the environmental field and ask questions concerning the occupation and college life.

The NYWEA organization on campus is a great way to get you involved with the environmental field and helps you get an idea about your profession, just as much as the students at Potsdam High. Get some experience in environmental activities by joining the different projects offered by the association that look great on your resume. Guest speakers, field trips, and conferences are also great opportunities to talk to professionals in the field. It is important to start networking contacts in order to make looking for a job easier when it is time to leave school. NYWEA is a way you can start.

Meetings take place about once a month and include information about future projects, guest speakers, and refreshments. Local chapter dues are \$5.00 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. There are several benefits from becoming a member that many are unaware of that include scholarships, resume posting and networking, publications, and Water Environment Federation membership.

Interested in joining NYWEA? You can contact president Laura Bertrand at her email bertralj@clarkson.edu to get placed on the mailing list and you can also visit their website at www.clarkson.edu/~nywea.
