



# New York Water Environment Association

Clarkson University Chapter

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Fall Semester 2001

## NYWEA's Continued Recycling Initiative at Clarkson University

The next time you walk up to a trash can with an aluminum can or a plastic or glass bottle, keep this fact in mind: it takes approximately 80 years to degrade an aluminum can and it takes one million years to degrade a glass bottle! Now think about the benefits experienced by recycling these same items. Did you know that recycling ONE aluminum can saves enough energy to run either a television set or a computer for three hours? Here's another fact for you, recycling FIVE plastic bottles makes enough fiberfill to stuff a ski jacket! Recycling ONE glass bottle provides enough

energy to run a 100-watt light bulb for four hours.

It is with these facts in mind that I write this article in order to generate campus awareness of the recycling program being run by the New York Water Environment Association (NYWEA). This program was started in the fall of '99 due to the poor perception of recycling on campus. We started out with three bins and now are up to seven bins. These bins can be found in the CAMP atrium, the ERC, the Concrete Café in the Science Center, the 1<sup>st</sup> floor lobby of Snell, and by the vending machines in Rowley. This year we are trying

something different with our bins in the ERC and the Science Center. We have placed two bins in each of these locations; one is for redeemable containers while the other is for non-redeemables. Both redeemable and non-redeemable containers may be placed in the locations with only one bin present. Due to the fact that members

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This years new signs direct students to bins.

## “Bench’marks of progress for the Clarkson environmental movement: NYWEA and the Clarkson Garden Project”

Recently, the Clarkson University chapter of the New York Water and Environment Association, and the Clarkson Garden Project, have agreed to become partners in the construction of several benches that will be placed along the newly created trails in the Garden area.

The Clarkson Garden Project was started in 1998, as a project for the Environmental Science and Policy EV 200 project class. The goal of this project was to designate a place on campus that would not be developed for Univer-

sity, but could be developed by interested students into an “Adirondack-style” garden area. This garden would be low impact, emphasize the existing landscape and biota, and have trails and benches to accommodate all visitors, both from the University, as well as from the Potsdam community.

Over the next few years, much time has been spent removing dead brush from the garden site, located behind the Moore House dormitory and to the left of the Pit Path, heading toward the village. The site was heavily

damaged by the Ice Storm of '97-'98, and has required much attention to make the site safe and accessible for further work. In the last two months, members of the Garden Project have removed the last of the major brush, cleared and lined a rough perimeter trail, obtained enough mulch to thinly cover the trail (many thanks to Ian Rutherford, and the Clarkson University Grounds crews, and Niagara Mohawk), constructed two preliminary footbridges, and gave some new life to the

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### Fall 2001 Officers

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## NYWEA's Continued Recycling Initiative at Clarkson University cont.



NYWEA members work hard to keep bins like this one in the ERC from overflowing.

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of NYWEA must go through the trash in order to separate the redeemable containers from the non-redeemables we are asking for the cooperation of everyone on campus to please not throw your garbage, paper or food into these bins.

In order to alleviate any concerns that may arise amongst the student body, NYWEA is not keeping the money made from the redeemable containers. We have chosen instead to give

that money back to the campus. The maple saplings decorating the courtyard between Cheel and CAMP were purchased with the money made the first year of the program and the money made last year will be donated to the Clarkson Garden Project in order to build benches for students to sit on. So you can see that the profits made from our recycling program are not being kept for our personal benefit, they are being given back to you in order to make our campus a better place for

everyone. Please help us to prove that in a society where we throw away enough aluminum every three months to rebuild our entire commercial air fleet that there are some people who care enough to try to make a difference. Together we can show everyone that Clarkson students care about the future of our environment and intend to do something about it!

-Angela Link  
Recycling Coordinator

## “‘Bench’marks of progress for the Clarkson environmental movement: NYWEA and the Clarkson Garden Project” cont.

Below is the Clarkson Garden Projects Logo



"Heaven is under our feet as well as over our heads"  
- Henry David Thoreau

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stream on the site. As project members pick up their tools and break for winter, they are beginning to plan the final stages of preliminary construction during the spring, as well as planning fundraisers and an event to “open” the Garden. This event will be planned to coincide with Earth Day.

During this past semester, several students in the NYWEA organization became aware of the efforts by Garden Project members, and wanted to know how they could help. The Garden Project and NYWEA have teamed in the past to benefit the environment, co-sponsoring an “Earth Day Campus Clean Up” a couple years ago. Members from NYWEA and the Garden Project are also active in the Clarkson Environmental Conservation

Organization, ECO, and have begun many projects during this past semester.

For their part in the construction of the Garden, NYWEA voted to donate an unspecified, but much appreciated, amount of revenue from their returnable bottles recycling program to finance the construction of benches, to be placed along the new trail on the site. The Garden Project hopes to also work with the members of the Partners in Engineering program to create concrete bench sides, using the “recycled aggregate recipes” explored in the PIE program. The seat and backrest material will be made from 100% post-consumer content recycled plastic. It is hoped that these benches will define how materials can be reused to create functional and aesthetically

pleasing products. These benches will be constructed over the long winter, and placed in the Garden as soon as the weather allows. The Garden Project is very appreciative of the gracious donation by NYWEA, and feels that such partnerships are unavoidable, but incredibly necessary and beneficial, when working to environmental causes. Any time that groups with common interests can come together and work to effect change and further the progress of projects and initiatives, there is undoubtedly much optimism for the environmental movement, now and well into the future.

- Mark Koster



## Employment Opportunities From Our Sponsors

### CO-OP PROGRAM

The Stearns & Wheler Companies work to develop environomic solutions - solutions that contain a high sensitivity to the environment and to economic realities. With over 250 employees company-wide, the Stearns & Wheler Companies is a diversified, client-focused organization that continues to advance and provide service to clients throughout the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions.

The Stearns & Wheler Companies include three fully integrated companies: Stearns & Wheler, LLC/ PLLC; S&W Services, Inc.; and S&W Redevelopment of North America, LLC, each contributing to the wide range of services we provide. For more information please contact Human Resources at (315) 655-8161.

Co-op Students assist our engineering staff in the following areas:

Our principal areas of practice include:

- Water
- Wastewater
- Solid Waste
- Hazardous Waste
- Hydrogeology
- Wetlands and Ecosystems
- Water Quality
- Air Quality
- Industrial
- Conduct Field Investigations
- Gather and Compile Data
- Perform Engineering Studies
- Make Comparative Engineering and Economic Evaluations
- Design Calculations
- Develop Facilities Layouts
- Assist with Project Management Activities
- Assist with CADD Drawings
- Conduct Cost Estimates
- Assist with Field Surveys and Inspection of Construction.

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If interested please email inquiries to [grimberg@clarkson.edu](mailto:grimberg@clarkson.edu)



## Clarkson University well presented at the upcoming 74<sup>th</sup> Annual NYWEA Conference

Clarkson University NYWEA Chapter will be well presented at the upcoming 74<sup>th</sup> Annual NYWEA Conference in New York City, February 4-6, 2002. Four students will present this year at the conference. During the University Research Forum two presentations will be given by our students. Cory McDowell, a second-year Masters Student in Environmental Engi-

neering, will present results from his research. The title of his talk is Migration of Petroleum Pools Following an Ethanol Spill. Two undergraduate students, Alicia Crandall and Jason Hime will present their research results on stimulating the biodegradation of TCE contaminated soil also during the University Forum. The fourth student presenting at the conference will be

Anahita Amadi. Anahita, a graduate student of the Environmental Manufacturing and Management Program and a member of the NYWEA sustainability task force, will present her research on reducing waste during toner manufacturing in the printing industry. The conference brings together annually several hundred scientists and en-

*(Continued on page 6)*



NYWEA's Recycled NotePads Sign

## More on Recycling and NYWEA

This semester NYWEA continued recycling paper collected from the Rowley copy rooms. The one sided paper that accumulates is taken down to the campus duplicating center, and formed into note pads. However, this semester it was decided that the pads were to be distributed in the Educational Resource Center and sold for a quarter a piece. Since this decision, members have been help-

ing with selling the pads whenever they get a chance. There is hope to sell once a week in high traffic areas on campus. So far only a minimal amount of pads have been sold, but the appropriations are well appreciated. The funds raised are going to be donated to campus improvement, specifically, towards the Clarkson Garden Project. Clarkson's Garden Project is taking two acres of

on campus forest and making low environmental impact adjustments such as removing broken branches from the ice storm we incurred three years ago, removal of trash, and clearing several paths so students can coexist with and enjoy the wooded area. Soon a bench will be placed along the path recognizing the donations from NYWEA.  
- John Sebesta



Rodman Landfill



Students are given a first-hand look at the Landfill Operation  
More Pictures on page 6

## Rodman Landfill Trip

On November 19<sup>th</sup> a combined team of NYWEA members and students in Dr Grimberg's CE 481 class participated in a field trip to the Development Authority of the North Country's Rodman Landfill in Rodman, New York. The six-person team left Clarkson University arrived at the landfill and was introduced to site technician Bill Seifried and site engineer John Brusa from Barton and Loguidice engineering firm. We were first shown a promotional video explaining all the facilities capabilities and speci-

fications. Then we moved out into the field where we witnessed first hand the processes of running and maintaining a landfill. The tour covered all main parts of the landfill including the main gate where trash is weighed for pricing. At the leachate facility we were shown individual pump houses and given an in depth description of how this leachate facility operated. The tour then continued to the actual landfill, where the tour van actually drove on top of the landfill. It was a truly unusual experience

to realize that this was a hill made of trash. The tour then went on to cover the methane removal capabilities of the landfill. Finally we concluded with a round of Q and A in which we discussed topic such as the length of the landfill's life and other aspects not covered in the tour. This one of a kind tour provided us with new insight into the world of waste disposal.

-Brett Gobe



## Employment Opportunities From Our Sponsors

### CIVIL/ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER

The Stearns & Wheler Companies work to develop environmental solutions - solutions that contain a high sensitivity to the environment and to economic realities. With over 250 employees company-wide, the Stearns & Wheler Companies is a diversified, client-focused organization that continues to advance and provide service to clients throughout the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions.

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Our principal areas of practice include:

- Water/Wastewater
- Solid Waste
- Hazardous Waste
- Hydrogeology
- Wetlands and Ecosystems
- Water Quality
- Air Quality
- Industrial
- Petroleum/Chemical Services
- Construction Management.

**We are looking for a highly motivated team player with minimum requirements including a B.S. or M.S. degree in civil/environmental engineering.** Individual will complete assignments under the direction of a project manager and will be responsible for tasks during the study, design, construction, and startup phases of general civil and environmental engineering projects, waterworks projects, or industrial compliance. Candidate must have excellent written and oral communication skills. For more information please contact Human Resources at (315) 655-8161.

New employees assist our engineering staff in the following areas:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| • Conduct Field Investigations                          | • Develop Facilities Layouts                                |
| • Gather and Compile Data                               | • Assist with Project Management Activities                 |
| • Perform Engineering Studies                           | • Assist with CADD Drawings                                 |
| • Make Comparative Engineering and Economic Evaluations | • Conduct Cost Estimates                                    |
| • Design Calculations                                   | • Assist with Field Surveys and Inspection of Construction. |

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If interested please email inquiries to [grimberg@clarkson.edu](mailto:grimberg@clarkson.edu)



## Clarkson University Chapter

NYWEA Student Chapter is an organization for students pursuing a career in the environmental field. Meetings take place once a month in Cheel Barben Rooms. Meetings include information about future projects, guest speakers, and occasionally 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 Lindsay Wilkins at [Wilkinlr@clarkson.edu](mailto:Wilkinlr@clarkson.edu) to be placed on Clarkson's NYWEA Email list & now visit us on the web at [www.clarkson.edu/~nywea](http://www.clarkson.edu/~nywea)

### Our Sponsors



Rodman Landfill Pictures cont.



## Scholarships Available From NYWEA

The New York Water Environment Association (NYWEA) has taken the initiative to recognize aspiring students affiliated with environmental protection. Children of NYWEA members, NYWEA student chapter members, or high school students planning to pursue a career in the environmental field are invited to apply for the monetary scholarships of \$1,500.

The two recipients of this year's NYWEA college scholarships are Laura Bertrand and Jason Hime. They have been chosen for recognition for their academic achievement, demonstration of leadership qualities and commitment to the environment. Both students are currently attending Clarkson University. Laura Bertrand is going on co-op with the environmental consulting firm Stearns & Wheeler this spring

and will graduate with a degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Clarkson University in May of 2003. Jason Hime will be graduating in May of 2002 with dual degrees in Civil and Environmental Engineering and Physics and plans to attend graduate school.

Jason and Laura would like to say **Thank You Very Much** to the scholarship committee and

all of the many NYWEA members who aided in this great cause. They both appreciate the recognition and financial assistance this award has given them.

Information and applications for these scholarships may be downloaded from NYWEA's web site at <http://www.nywea.org/>. Applications for next year's scholarships must be submitted by March 1, 2002

## Clarkson University well presented at the upcoming 74<sup>th</sup> Annual NYWEA Conference cont.

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gineers from public utilities, government, academia and industry. In the past resumes of student NYWEA members were on display during the conference for potential employers. This year student members may submit their resumes in

electronic format to be included on the electronic bulletin board, which will be accessible through the NYWEA webpage. This change will significantly increase the exposure of the student's resumes and therefore increase the student's chances to obtain a

job. Students interested in submitting their resume have to be a NYWEA member and can e-mail their resume to Stefan Grimberg ([Grimberg@clarkson.edu](mailto:Grimberg@clarkson.edu)), who is coordinating all resumes for NYWEA this year. Two computers with printers will be available at

the conference site for potential employers to review and print resumes.

-Dr. Stefan Grimberg