

Enviro-News

March, 2010

Sponsored by Daemen College Center for Sustainable Communities and Civic Engagement and the Natural Sciences Department

Newsletter Contents:

- Articles- including events, courses, positions, local news, grants
- Upcoming Activities
- Tips to Help the Environment

Articles:

The Role of Government-A Partner in Renewable Technology?

The Western New York Sustainable Energy Association is sponsoring a forum on **Tuesday, March 2** at 5pm exploring the role of government in promoting the use of renewable technologies as we make the transition from fossil fuels to a renewable energy based economy. This free event will be held at Hallwalls Arts Center at Delaware and Tupper Ave. Speakers include Robert E. Knoer, Esq., Jessica Miller and Bill Nowak.

Robert E Knoer, Esq. has a broad range of expertise in the field of environmental law and has taught “Law and the Environment” at the State University of Buffalo from 1992 to 2007. He will speak on “Opportunities for Local Governments to Use Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency: Addressing the Cost of Government”.

Jessica Miller is an urban planning graduate student at the State University of Buffalo. She will talk about her experience developing ordinance guidelines for solar and wind installations for the city of Erie, PA.

Bill Nowak, Deputy Chief of Staff and Director of Policy Research for New York State Senator Antoine M. Thompson, will brief us on Senator Thompson’s “Ten-Point Green Jobs Strategy. In the process he will bring us up to date on energy legislation passed in 2009, as well as current energy legislation before the Senate.

Future of Food Film Screening

Daemen College Center for Sustainable Communities will host a free public film screening for the documentary “Future of Food” on **March 3** at 7pm in Schenck Hall Room 107 (map at <http://daemen.edu/~byoung/schenck.jpg>). A panel discussion will follow with panelists Christa Glennie Seychew, Feed Your Soul Buffalo; Erin Sharkey, Massachusetts Avenue Project; and Eveline Hartz, World on Your Plate. The Future of Food, a groundbreaking documentary released in 2004, distills the complex technology and key regulatory, legal, ethical, environmental and consumer issues surrounding the troubling changes happening in the food system today—genetically engineered foods, patenting, and the corporatization of food—into terms the average person can easily understand. It empowers consumers to understand the consequences of their food choices on our future. In 2010 as we take note of where we stand and look toward the future, the issues raised in The Future of Food are more pressing than ever. The corporate control of agriculture and the seed supply is meeting more and more resistance from the sustainable food movement that has risen up around the world. Food and agriculture have become central in discussions about climate change, sequestering carbon, health and the preservation of biological diversity. For more info on the film, visit <http://www.thefutureoffood.com/>. For questions about the event, contact byoung@daemen.edu.

Junior Solar Sprint

Junior Solar Sprint (JSS) is a hands on interdisciplinary project for students in grades 6, 7 or 8. The students build a model solar racecar to specific specifications using an approved solar panel and electric motor. The remainder of the car

is made from a wide variety of materials, however balsa wood and foam core are very popular. The subjects that can be integrated into a JSS program include lessons on electricity, solar energy, energy conservation, wind resistance, gear ratios, as well as making design changes based on test results. The cars are no longer than 24 inches and no wider than 12 inches. The cars are designed to run in a straight line while guided by a tight string.

To introduce middle school teachers and mentors to this exciting program, a FREE workshop is being held on **March 3, 2010** at the Buffalo Museum of Science between 4:00 and 7:30 PM. This is a great opportunity to learn about JSS and talk with other people who have participated in this program. To register for the workshop e-mail your Name, School and Grade you teach to jssbuffalo@yahoo.com.

In recent years the Buffalo Area JSS competition has been held in early May. At this competition the student's cars are judged for Innovation, Craftsmanship, Technical Merit and Speed. The trophy winners from our Buffalo Area competition are invited to attend the Northeast Regional Competition in Massachusetts. For more information visit www.jssbuffalo.com or contact the local JSS Competition organizers at jssbuffalo@yahoo.com. The JSS sponsor for the North Eastern USA is the Northeast Sustainable Energy Association (www.nesea.org).

Going Green Classes at Botanical Gardens

The Buffalo & Erie County Botanical Gardens are offering a number of classes this spring. Their "Going Green" series begins on **March 3** with Starting Flower and Vegetable Seeds at Home. Additional classes in the series address rain barrels, composting, soil problems and integrated pest management. Information and registration for these and other classes are available at http://www.buffalogardens.com/Classes_Adult.aspx. Classes are \$10 members/\$12 non-members.

Making Upper Floors Work Again

Preservation Buffalo Niagara is hosting this day-long workshop, [Making Upper Floors Work Again](#) which will be presented by the [Preservation League of New York State](#) with support from the Empire State Development Corporation. This free workshop will be held at the Niagara Falls Public Library on Thursday, **March 11** from 9am-3:30pm. This workshop is a must for building owners, architects, main street merchants, civic activists, mayors & other elected officials, municipal staffers, preservation and planning board members, commercial realtors, and anyone working to revitalize their communities. **Pre-Registration is Required**-- This workshop is free but seating is limited and on a first-come, first-serve basis. To register, call 716 852-3300.

The Buffalo-Niagara region has numerous downtowns and neighborhood business districts which contain wonderful commercial rows of two and three story (and larger) buildings. The upper floors of these buildings are often vacant - and their reuse is both a challenge and an opportunity! Featuring a highly experienced team of speakers, this day long program will provide design, building code and financial information - plus imaginative approaches - for bringing upper floors back to productive life as part of revitalization efforts for downtowns and commercial districts.

Wildlife Rehabilitation Course at Hawk Creek

Develop a sense of appreciation & the importance of preserving native wildlife. Hawk Creek Wildlife Center is offering a Wildlife Rehabilitation Course on **March 13-14, 2010** at their East Aurora facility. Cost is \$100/person for the two-day 12-4pm course. Come learn how to lend a helping hand to injured, orphaned & distressed animals in your community. This course will arm you with the general principles of wildlife rehabilitation including feeding and emergency care treatment. It also offers preparation for those interested in the NYSDEC Wildlife Rehabilitators Exam, a practice exam will be given. For course details and registration info, visit www.hawkcreek.org. Space is limited.

"Fresh Food for the Falls"-Niagara County Gardening Workshops

The Fresh Food for the Falls: Gardening Workshop Series includes FREE workshops during the months of March and April. Two workshops in March will be youth-focused! **Pre-registration is required as space is limited.** Please call Niagara University's ReNU Niagara office at 716-205-0287 or e-mail Lacey Severson at lseverson@niagara.edu to register. Note: Participants younger than 18 years old must be accompanied by an adult/guardian to attend. Please visit www.niagara.edu/renu to view the workshop flyer for times, locations, topics, and more!

Reinstein Woods Offering Workshops for Educators

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation is offering free teacher workshops this winter at Reinstein Woods Environmental Education Center in the Town of Cheektowaga. Each workshop provides teachers with activities designed to help them incorporate environmental education into their existing curriculum. The workshops offer interdisciplinary activities that can be used to enhance teaching in math, science, English language arts, social studies and the fine arts. The programs are designed for teachers and youth leaders of students in kindergarten through 12th grade. Continuing education credit is available for teachers in some school districts. Teachers and administrators also can request that Reinstein Woods present a specific workshop at their school. More information about these workshops can be found on DEC's website at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/education/1913.html>.

Participants in each workshop will receive a curriculum and activity guide that includes dozens of lesson plans for both indoor and outdoor activities. The activities are designed to teach students how to think, not what to think, about the environment. Activities are correlated to national and state learning standards. Workshop attendees take part in sample activities, receive tips on managing a class in the outdoors, and receive additional resource materials related to the workshop's topic. Refreshments and snacks will be provided at each workshop. **To register for a workshop, call Reinstein Woods at (716) 683-5959.**

Project WILD Aquatic Workshop will be held on Wednesday, **March 10** from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Project WET Workshop is scheduled for Wednesday, **March 24** from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Buffalo Niagara Green Expo-Volunteers Needed

The Buffalo Niagara Green Expo will be held on Saturday, **April 17th** at the Galleria Mall. The Expo is a chance for businesses and organizations who have green products, services, or concepts, to set up a table and show their ideas to the community (www.bnge.org). Senator Antoine Thompson, Chair of the Senate Environmental Conservation Committee, initiated the Buffalo Niagara Green Expo because of his strong desire to support local green businesses and organizations that are a key part of WNY's 21st century economy. We could use your help! Starting February 16th, and again in late March, we will be taking posters out to stores and community centers throughout WNY. We'd like to do this with 2 person teams – one person to drive and another to talk with store owners. We'd like to see a poster in every barbershop, beauty salon, bowling alley and store in WNY. Volunteers will also be needed on April 16th and 17th to assist the exhibitors, either to set up the Friday evening before the Green Expo, or during the day of the Expo. They may be asked to greet the public, help exhibitors, or even walk around the mall directing the public's attention to the exhibits. Anyone wanting to add his or her efforts to promoting environmental activities in WNY through the Green EXPO is encouraged to send an email with your name, telephone number, and email to mfisher@environmentaleducation.com, or janetmg@verizon.net. Our next meeting will be **March 16, 2010** at 346 Austin Street (near Grant & Military) at 5:30 pm.

DEC Free Tree Seedling Program for Schools

School groups are eligible to apply for free delivery of either 50 trees or a variety of 30 wildlife shrubs for spring planting. Seedling stock can be used on school grounds or other community spaces to control erosion and provide windbreaks humans and wildlife. Applications are available at www.dec.ny.gov/animals/9393.html and due by **March 31**.

2010 Tree and Shrub Sale

Erie and Niagara Counties Soil and Water Conservation Districts have announced their annual tree seedling program. Order forms are due by **March 19**. For Erie County selections, visit http://www.ecswcd.org/docs/2010_ts_orderform.pdf. For Niagara County, view the selection at http://www.niagaraswcd.com/Order%20Form%20Insert_1paggers.pdf.

Women Build Fundraising Event

There will be a fundraising event for the Habitat for Humanity 2010 Women Build project on **Friday, March 19** at Asbury Hall at 341 Delaware Ave., Buffalo from 6-10pm. Tickets are \$25/person presale until March 13 or \$30 at the door. Domenic Cortese of Hammertime on the Home Improvement Hour (WBEN 930 AM) will be the emcee for this event. There will be appetizers, desserts, cash bar, and wine tasting. Silent and live auctions will be held. For additional information, contact Habitat for Humanity at 716-204-0740.

Beaver Meadow Maple Harvest Festival

Celebrate Spring and the maple harvest with Buffalo Audubon at Beaver Meadow Audubon Center on **March 20th & 21st** from 9am-4pm. The weekend is filled with the traditional pancake breakfast as well as maple sugaring through history demonstrations, crafts, games, nature hikes, and much more. Fun for the whole family! Admission is \$7 adults/\$5 ages 3-12/under 3 free (price includes breakfast). For info, visit <http://www.buffaloudubon.com/>.

Exhibitors Invited to Buffalo Audubon Earth Day Festival

The Beaver Meadow Audubon Center is planning its third annual Earth Day Festival at our North Java center for April **17th** from 10am-4pm. Environmental organizations and businesses selling green products are invited to display. The festival is designed to promote environmental awareness and encourage people to take better care of the environment. Spaces are limited, so if you would like to set up an informational display at this year's Earth Day Festival contact Paul Fehringer at (800)377-1520 or fehinger@buffaloudubon.org.

The Sweet Taste of Spring Family Weekend

Join Nature Ed-Ventures for a family weekend on **March 20-21, 2010** at Camp Allegany, Allegany State Park. Snow might be on the ground, but Spring's in the air! Time for you and your family to make fresh maple syrup, perfect for pancakes! We'll familiarize you with the people from the Native Americans to the early settlers to the modern day syrup producers with visits to our sugar house and sugar camps. Hikes to the sugar bush, nature activities, a campfire and nature crafts will round out this year's fun-filled weekend. Fees for the family weekends are as follows: \$80 for ages 5+, \$40 for 2-4 year olds, Under 2 free. Fee includes comfortable indoor accommodations with showers, three home-cooked meals, and all program materials and activities. <http://www.natureed-ventures.com/index.php>.

Green Business Networking Events Planned

The [Upstate Green Business Network](#) in association with [US Green Building Council Upstate Chapter](#) sponsors a Green Drinks to bring individuals together who want to promote green business and community sustainability. The event is hosted bimonthly the fourth Wednesday of the month at D'Arcy McGees, 257 Franklin St., Buffalo. The upcoming events with cash bar are at 6pm on **March 24** and May 26. If your organization is interested in sponsoring a future Green Drinks event, learn how at <http://ceinfo.org/ugbn/index.php>. Sponsorship opportunities are only available to members of UGBN and USGBC. To arrange a sponsorship, contact Deanna Stachowski, THE KNOER GROUP, PLLC at (716) 332-0032 or dstachowski@knoergroup.com.

Working with AmeriCorps

A WNY Service Learning Coalition workshop on "**Working with AmeriCorps**" will be held on **March 24, 2010** from 9-11am at Amherst Youth Foundation, 5005 Sheridan Dr., Williamsville. This workshop will feature speakers from WNY AmeriCorps who will present information on AmeriCorps programs. Learn about the different programs AmeriCorps offers and the opportunities for partnerships. Following the presentation, smaller group discussions will focus on summer opportunities for students and more detailed information about AmeriCorps' VISTA and ABLE programs. This workshop will be beneficial for community partners to learn more about getting involved with AmeriCorps and for higher education administrators, staff, and faculty to learn of opportunities for their students and for collaboration. Free event. Reservations are requested by March 17, 2010. Please call 839-8375 or email coman@daemen.edu.

March 2010 Environmental Youth Summit

The Environmental Youth Summit, scheduled for **March 26- 27, 2010** will bring together ten regional high schools with teams of 5-8 students and their teacher advisors to investigate an environmental challenge they face in their school or community. The conference is being hosted at Rich's Atrium in Buffalo. Dave Bauer, president of Sustainable Earth Solutions, Inc. (www.sustainableearthsolutions.org), is delivering the training during the two day conference. Among the sponsors is the International Center for Studies in Creativity (ICSC) at Buffalo State College, an active partner providing 10 graduate students to assist in the facilitation during the conference and post conference coaching. The intent of this conference is to use creative thinking and leadership skills that are applied to the plans of action that teams create while

attending the conference. This unique conference brings together urban, suburban and rural students to collaborate during the design and implantation phases of the training. The primary outcome for each team attending is the commitment to carry out its designed plan of action that was developed during the Summit. After a period of 45 days of support and coaching from Bauer and the graduate students, each team submits a "45 Day Report" with measurable data to demonstrate the team is moving forward and is assessing its progress. After the reports are reviewed by Bauer and checked for sustainability, each school is awarded \$200 of Seed money for costs involved in their projects. Increased funding from sponsors including the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo has made it possible for 10-12 schools to participate. For information on the Summit or questions contact: Dave Bauer dbauer102@yahoo.com.

Great Lakes Water Conservation Workshop for Brewers and Cheesemakers

The Great Lakes Water Conservation Workshop is planned for **Friday, March 26**. This one-day workshop is to help craft brewers and cheesemakers save water and save money. With many water utilities in the Great Lakes region increasing fees by 25% or more in the next year, this workshop will pay for itself through practical systems for water savings. The workshop will be held in downtown Rochester, NY, at the Rochester Museum & Science Center, 657 East Avenue. Attendees will hear from industry leaders in brewery water management. Presentations and panels cover systems for water conservation, water auditing, wastewater treatment and recycling in brewhouses and brewpubs, economics of water pricing in the Great Lakes, and CIP processes for both brewers and cheesemakers. You can see the full agenda and register online at [here](#).

Growing Up WILD: Exploring Nature with Young Children Educator Workshop

An Educator Workshop for "Growing Up WILD" is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 30** at Tiff Nature Preserve 1200 Fuhrmann Blvd., Buffalo from 4-7pm. This new offering from Project WILD is an exciting new nature-based early childhood program for children 3-7 years of age. The materials are designed to connect children to nature through developmentally appropriate practices and a direct contact with the natural world through field investigations. Each activity has a "Take Me Outside" and "Home Connections" box along with math and literacy connections, art projects, and music and movement opportunities. Activities are correlated to the Head Start Domains and Indicators and the National Association for the Education of Young Children standards. To register, please call Tiff Nature Preserve at 716-825-6397.

Buffalo ReUse Seeks Artists for Bird Abode Exhibition

This goes out to all the artists and bird watchers! Buffalo ReUse is hosting an art exhibition in April, our first BIRD ABODE EXHIBITION. Do you have an idea for a bird house that incorporates recycled material, found objects or green technology? Maybe your perfect birdhouse has a fountain to attract flamingos or solar panels to warm those penguin toes. Remember, ostriches and emus need homes too! Send jpgs of your entries and other inquiries to refindarts@buffaloreuse.org. Deadline is **April 12**.

Sustainable Stewardship: Greening Historic Buildings

Preservation Buffalo Niagara is sponsoring a free lecture "Sustainable Stewardship-Greening Historic Buildings" from 2-4pm on Tuesday **April 13** at the Larkin on Exchange Building 6th Floor. The speaker is Barbara A. Campagna, FAIA, LEED AP, Chief Architect of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The National Trust for Historic Preservation's Sustainability Program is demonstrating that conservation and improvement of our existing built resources, including re-use of historic and older buildings, greening the existing building stock, and reinvestment in older and historic communities, is crucial to combating climate change. The construction and operation of buildings accounts for more than 40% of the United State's carbon dioxide emissions. But reusing and retrofitting our existing buildings can reduce these emissions dramatically. In fact, our existing buildings are one of our greatest renewable resources. Barbara Campagna, the Chief Architect of the National Trust, will discuss the National Trust's Sustainability Program and how the 29 historic sites of the National Trust are integrating historic preservation values with green building practices, from green housekeeping techniques to sustainability master plans to LEED certification for historic rehabilitations. Preservationists, design professionals, building managers and persons focusing on sustainable energy should attend this workshop. Pre-Registration is Required-- This workshop is free but seating is limited and on a first-come, first-serve basis. To register, call 716 852-3300 or email name and address to info@preservationbuffaloniagara.org.

Tift Nature Preserve School Earth Day Program for 2010

Celebrate National Environmental Education Week and Earth Day at Tift Nature Preserve on **Thursday, April 15** from 10am-1pm! Students will learn about Tift's wildlife, various habitats, alternative energy sources, recycling, composting, and more! Please dress appropriately for the outdoors. Theme Days offer hands-on inquiry-based activities centered on particular themes for grades 3-8. Students will encounter new concepts, make connections, and gain a better understanding of the world around them. Space is limited to 90! **To register your group**, please call Robin Mancuso at 716.896.5200 x338 or email rmancuso@sciencebuff.org Fee: \$5 per student.

Building the Canvas Covered Canoe

Building the Canvas Covered Canoe with Lew Markle Session II workshop occurs over two weekends in April. The course offered by Buffalo Maritime Center will meet from 9am-5pm on **April 16, 17, 18 & 23, 24, 25**. Participants will use a canoe mold, already constructed, on which to build the 15 foot canoe from start to finish. The process will involve steaming ribs and planks, planing, carving the breasthooks, stretching the skin and filling the weave. At the end of the workshop participants may draw straws to see who gets to take the canoe home for the cost of the materials. The cost of the workshop is \$750. For more information contact Richard Butz at butzra@buffalostate.edu or call 716-878-6017.

Power Shift NY Western New York Regional Summit

The Western New York Regional Summit for Power Shift is planned for **April 16-18** at University of Buffalo. The purpose of the Power Shift Western New York Regional Summit is to unite environmentally active students from colleges and universities from around the region, as well as high schools students and young environmental professionals. The 3-day conference will open with a day of action on Friday, April 16th. Saturday and Sunday will be filled with speakers, panels, and workshops similar to those in Powershift 09' in Washington D.C last March. Students are invited to be part of these panels, and share with one another their experiences in environmental action on their campuses and in their lives.

If you are interested in getting involved, such as hosting a panel/speaker session, are from a local green business that would like to have a presence at the conference, would like to sponsor the event, or would like more information, please contact Danielle Peters at dpeters3@buffalo.edu.

Buffalo Urban Outdoor Education Announces Scholarships for 2010 Programs

Buffalo Urban Outdoor Education (BUOE) offers hands-on, standards-based aquatic education programs aboard the 73' schooner Spirit of Buffalo. Our program bridges the gap between academic learning, personal potential and the real world through high-impact, hands-on experience. Three-hour programs address topics such as Plankton and Pollution, Touch Tank Studies, Navigation and Helmsmanship, Boat Building and Watershed Education through individual learning stations. BUOE has received funding to offer program fee assistance for qualifying schools and institutions for 2010 programs, which begin in mid-May 2010. Funding is distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. Qualifying schools/institutions must have at least 40% of its students qualifying for free- or reduced-school lunch. For more information on our program and to download a fee assistance application please visit www.buoe.org or email kate@buoe.org.

Rain Barrel Painting Competition

One of the many activities during the Buffalo Niagara Earth Day Celebration (see www.buffaloeearthday.com or www.projectearth.net for listings) will be a Rain Barrel painting competition for the region's schools. This is your school's unique chance to show how creative and environmentally conscious you are! First place winner will receive \$300 while second and third place will receive \$100 prizes that can be used for your school's environmental activities or outings such as fieldtrips to Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve or Tift Nature Preserve.

If you participate, your school will receive a donated Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper rain barrel, educational materials and installation instructions for the rain barrel along with information about our organization and our partners in this project, Tift and Reinstein Woods Nature Preserves. Reinstein Woods is offering a free in-school program on watersheds and stormwater to participating schools. An environmental educator will visit the school and do fun, standards-based activities with classes participating in the rain barrel program. To arrange a presentation for your school, call 683-5959.

To enter this contest, please fill out the Registration Form at <http://daemen.edu/~byoung/RainBarrelFormContest.doc> and return via email, mail or fax. **Please read it over completely for all rules and guidelines.** You will have until **March 15th** to register and April 5th to send in a picture of the finished product for pre-judging. There is a limited amount of rain barrels so be sure to register quickly.

68th Annual WNY Science Congress

The Annual WNY Science Congress will be held on May 1, 2010 at Buffalo State College. This event for youth in grades 5-12 accepts projects in a number of science categories. Entries and registration must be submitted by **March 24**. For entry details, visit <http://wnysc.org/>.

Peace Education Fund Seeks Partners for Earth Week Activities

The Peace Education Fund is calling all Western New York organizations and individuals committed to making life on earth more healthful, just, peaceful, and joyful to share their efforts during Earth Week (the week of Earth Day in April). The Peace Education Fund (PEF) is a local initiative (www.fundpeace.org). Our goals include seeking ecological preservation for all peoples and beings in the quest for peace. PEF is offering to coordinate, highlight, and publicize environmental and peace events and to frame the week (April 15-25) by planting a Tree of Peace and celebrating together on Saturday, April 24th, with a gala Lizzard Ball, a WNY progressive tradition with music & food, promoting earth stewardship, peace, and respect for all. During the week, we have a number of ideas under consideration, including a "Food Safari", an Olmsted Park Day, a poster contest and other events for kids, screenings, a scavenger hunt, raffles, seminars and presentations. If you and/or your organization are interested in supporting, helping to develop, and/or participating in this Earth Week devoted to increasing peace & diversity, we hope you will contact us at pef@peaceonearthweek.org as soon as possible.

The Energy Highway

An upcoming conference titled "The Energy Highway: The Efficient, Secure, Reliable and Environmentally Sensitive Transmission and Distribution of Electricity" will be held **April 16th**, at The Links at Erie Village, E. Syracuse, N.Y. For info including registration, visit www.cazenovia.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=355&ctl=Details&mid=2157&itemID=2010

Erie County Envirothon

The Erie County Envirothon is an annual, outdoor, hands-on, environmental educational program open to all high school students in Erie County. Participants in the Envirothon learn about and are challenged in the subjects of forestry, wildlife, aquatics, soils, and a current environmental issue topic. To prepare for the Envirothon, students study the various Envirothon topics with help from local natural resource field professionals including ecologists, conservationists, biologists, foresters and field technicians from local environmental agencies. During the Envirothon, students work as a team to achieve the highest score in the Envirothon test categories. All students are rewarded for participation; the winning team of students at the Erie County Envirothon earns the privilege of representing Erie County at the New York State Envirothon in June. The 2010 Erie County Envirothon will be held **April 1** and **April 29** at Elma Village Green/Elma Senior Center. Registration is required. There is no cost to participate. If you are involved with a high school, encourage the students to participate. For more information, please contact Melanie Saunders at Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District (716) 652-8480 or visit www.ecswcd.org.

Spring Shoreline Sweep

The Spring Cleanup 2010 is fast approaching!!! This year's Spring Shoreline Sweep is **April 17th**, from 9am – 12pm. Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper is seeking Site Captains to operate a site, lead and direct volunteers, distribute materials and supplies, and make sure things run smoothly on Cleanup Day. If you know of a potential site that you would like to recommend to us, or would like to become a Site Captain, contact Adrienne at akina@bnriverkeeper.org. For Cleanup Volunteers: Register for a specific site using [Riverkeeper's Cleanup Sites](#) on Google Maps to get an idea of where you want to volunteer! Visit <http://bnriverkeeper.org/get-involved/cleanups/> for info.

Introduce your Kids to Fishing at “Teach Me to Fish”

"Jimmy Griffin Memorial Teach Me to Fish" is a free hands-on seminar with outdoor writer, Forrest Fisher, for kids and parents on Sunday, **April 25** at the Bison City Rod & Gun Club, 511 Ohio St, Buffalo, NY. Come learn about fishing. Kids will have hands-on rod and reel demonstrations, knot learning, lure rigging, get free area fishing maps and free Sahlen's hot dog and ice cream dessert lunch. Special activities include fish feeding as kids can help the staff feed 10,000 steelhead fingerlings raised in floating pens on the Buffalo River. Event will run from 2 - 4 p.m. with 50 FREE rod/reel fishing outfits for kids in attendance. Every child present will win a fishing prize! For more info, call 652-2256.

Upcoming KidWind Event Offer Challenges for Students-Seeks Sponsors

Kid Wind is an educational program promoting a hands-on approach to renewable energy science and engineering. A local KidWind Challenges is planned at Erie Community College South on **May 20** in conjunction with the Western New York Technology Education Association (WNYTEA) Tech Wars. You may register for the KidWind Challenge online at www.kidwind.org or contact local organizer Andy Lueth at andy@kidwind.org. In addition, information on the two Tech Wars is available online at www.WNYTEA.com.

KidWind is actively seeking additional sponsors for in-kind and cash donations for their event, including food, T-shirts and other prizes. Sponsors will be invited to attend the KidWind Challenge and will be featured in promotional materials. By supporting the KidWind Challenge, your organization is contributing in a tangible way toward training the next generation of wind engineers and scientists. Please consider supporting their efforts, by joining as a sponsor, or perhaps as a judge at an upcoming event. For more information on the challenge, please visit www.kidwind.org, or for more information on becoming involved with the KidWind Challenge events in WNY, please contact Andy Lueth at 716-TCH-WIND (716-824-9463) or via email at andy@kidwind.org.

“Wetlands/Waters of New York’s Great Lakes and Adjacent Lake Plain”

The New York State Wetlands Forum, Inc. will hold their 2010 Annual Conference and Meeting on **April 28 & 29, 2010** at Millennium Hotel Buffalo. The 16th annual Spring Conference and Business Meeting will examine an interesting variety of wetland-related issues and developments. For more information on the meeting, visit <http://www.wetlandsforum.org/>.

2010 America’s Greenest School Contest

School bus manufacturer IC Bus has announced the [2010 America’s Greenest School contest](#). Students across the United States are invited to submit an entry (e.g., a photo collection, music, a video, an essay, or photos of a diorama, collage, or piece of artwork) that illustrates their ideas for making their school a greener place. IC Bus will select ten finalists and the public will then select the winner through online voting. The winner will be announced the week of Earth Day 2010 and the school of the winning entrant will win a hybrid school bus from IC Bus (a \$150,000 value), a green audit of their school from a LEED Accredited Professional, and approximately \$20,000 for their school to use toward a “green” makeover. Entries should be submitted by **March 8, 2010**.

Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control 2010 Request for Proposal

The Great Lakes Commission is pleased to announce the Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control 2010 Request for Proposal (RFP) for small scale erosion and sediment reduction demonstration and information and education (I&E) projects. Applications for proposals will be accepted until **March 16, 2010**. Please visit our website at <http://www.glc.org/basin/reports/app10.html> for the complete RFP instructions and application. For more information please contact Gary Overmier at garyo@glc.org or 734-971-9135.

Ten to fifteen projects will be funded for up to \$30,000 (\$10,000 for I&E) each. Projects can be up to 24 months in duration. There is a twenty five percent match requirement for each project which can include in-kind contributions. Areas of interests include controlling erosion and sediment in agricultural area, nonagricultural rural land, lakeshore and coastal shoreline, forested areas, roadsides and streambanks.

2010 National Award for Smart Growth Achievement

Applications are now being accepted for the 2010 National Award for Smart Growth Achievement sponsored by the Environmental Protection Agency. This competition is open to public- and private-sector entities that have successfully used smart growth principles to improve communities environmentally, socially, and economically. The application period is open from February 8, 2010 to **April 5, 2010**. Up to five awards will be given in the following categories: Programs, Policies, and Regulations, Smart Growth and Green Building, Civic Places, Rural Smart Growth and Overall Excellence. More information at <http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/awards>.

Green & Mean It

Buffalo's Green Hospitality initiative, Green & Mean It, was formed in August 2007. The goal of the initiative is to develop and maintain environmentally responsible practices and promote a green experience for travelers and conventioners visiting the region. The Buffalo Niagara Convention & Visitors Bureau and a consortium of local partners are determined to improve performance in the areas of waste management, energy savings, food production and disposal, water savings, environmentally safe cleaning products, paints, and office practices. They are committed to reducing our carbon footprint and implementing sustainable practices. For more information, visit <http://www.visitbuffaloniagara.com/meetingplanners/green/default.asp>.

Western New York Waterways Provide Living Laboratory for 2010 Ecosystem Restoration Workshop at UB

Professional scientists and engineers interested in restoring and preserving stream and waterway resources are invited to participate in the University at Buffalo's "Engineering for Ecosystem Restoration" workshop to be held **June 7-25**. The annual summer workshop is designed to help train specialists in "ecosystem engineering" how best to work with natural processes to restore system function. It is sponsored by UB's ERIE (Ecosystem Restoration through Interdisciplinary Exchange) and Great Lakes programs. Classroom concepts are reinforced through site visits and a ship-based sampling field trip to nationally recognized stream restoration projects in Western New York. The three one-week courses provide training in theoretical and applied concepts of ecosystem restoration; courses may be taken individually or in succession, and may be credited toward academic or Professional Engineer continuing education requirements. For more information on the workshop, please contact the ERIE office at 716-645-4001 or igert-erie@buffalo.edu.

Erosion and Sediment Control Workshop for Construction Site Contractors and Operators

Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District and WNY Stormwater Coalition will host an Erosion and Sediment Control Workshop on **March 24, 2010** at the WNY Stormwater Conference and Tradeshow to be held at the Buffalo Niagara Convention Center. All contractors and subcontractors working under the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's (NYSDEC) Permit GP-0-08-001 (SPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activity), must identify at least one *trained individual* from their company that will be responsible for implementation of the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), and have at least one *trained individual* on site on a daily basis when soil disturbance activities are being performed. Also, developers must have a *qualified inspector* conduct regular site inspections in accordance with GP-0-08-001. Attendees **must pre-register**. Please check the NYSDEC website for more trainings and additional information at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8699.html>.

Native Plants in Any Garden

The Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens, along with Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners of Erie County and 8th District Federated Garden Clubs of New York State will host Dr. Don Leopold on **May 6, 2010** at 7pm. Dr. Leopold is a Distinguished Teaching Professor at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science & Forestry in Syracuse and the author of *Native Plants of the Northeast: a Guide for Gardening and Conservation*. This presentation will include native plant discussion, recommendations, question and answer session and refreshments following the presentation. Dr. Leopold's books may also be pre-ordered (see order form), or purchased at the event at a discount. Dr. Donald J. Leopold has a Ph.D. in forest ecology from Purdue University, a M.S.F. in forest ecology, and a B.S. in ornamental horticulture/nursery management. In August 2009, Dr. Leopold received the New York State Nursery and Landscape Association George L. Good Gold Medal of Horticulture Award for outstanding contributions to horticulture in the state of New York. [Click here to register!](#) Tickets are \$20 (\$24 after April 1).

Wilderness First Aid Course

This course is for everyone to learn what to do when help is delayed due to storms, your location or the inability of emergency help to reach you in a timely manner. This is a 16 hour American Red Cross Course and has a three year certification. This course is taught over 3 consecutive Monday evenings from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM. Your final training session is conducted on a Friday Evening and includes hands on Practicals. Sessions are held on: 3/15, 3/22, 3/29/10 with the concluded Hands on Practical Friday evening 4/2/10. Cost is \$95.00. This class will be held at the Lancaster High School on One Forton Drive, Lancaster, NY. Room 203. Paths, Peaks & Paddles is teaming up with the Lancaster Community Education Programs to present this session. You do not have to be a member of the Lancaster School System to sign up. You can sign up through the Lancaster website at www.lancasterschools.org or by telephoning the Community Education office at 716-686-3262.

Kayaking Classes Offered

Paths, Peaks & Paddles is teaming up with local community education programs to offer courses in Introduction to Kayaking and Kayak & Canoe Safety Rescue. All equipment is provided all you need to bring is a swimsuit, towel, a lock for your locker and a positive mental attitude All instructors are New York State Licensed Guides. For details on the classes call Paths Peaks & Paddles at 213-0350.

The Kayak & Canoe Safety Course will be offered twice. It will be conducted Wednesday evenings at Lancaster Central School at 5201 Williams Street Lancaster, NY from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM on 4/7, 4/14 & 4/28/10. Sign up On Line at: www.lancasterschools.org or by contacting the Lancaster Community Education Office at 716-686-3262. The second offering is Tuesday evenings at Kenmore East Pool on Brighton Road from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM on 4/27, 5/4 & 5/11/10. Paths, Peaks & Paddles is teaming up with the Ken-Ton Community Education Program to present this session. You do not have to be a member of the Ken-Ton School System to sign up. Contact the Ken-Ton Community Education office at 874-8411 ext 7324. Cost is \$145.00 for either three-week class.

Introduction to Kayaking meets 6-9pm on April 13 at the Kenmore East Pool. Cost is \$65.00. Please call Paths Peaks & Paddles at 716-213-0350 if you have any questions regarding the class. Paths Peaks and Paddles is teaming up with the Ken-Ton Community Education Program to present this session. You do not have to be a resident of the Kenmore School System. You can sign up by contacting the Ken-Ton Community Education Office at 716-874-8411 - Ext. 7324

2010 Nature Hills Nursery Green America Awards Application is Now Available Online

The 2010 Nature Hills Nursery Green America Awards, designed to give national recognition and \$5,000 in plants to community groups and organizations that are improving their local environments, is now accepting applications. The annual award, sponsored by Omaha-based Nature Hills Nursery, will be presented in April 2010 to groups and organizations that are literally “greening” their communities, parks, schools and public spaces by planting trees, shrubs and other plants. Applications for the 2010 Nature Hills Nursery Green America Awards will be accepted nationwide from September 15, 2009 until **April 1, 2010**. The winners of the 2010 Nature Hills Nursery Green America Awards will be announced on April 19, 2010. To apply for the 2010 award online, visit the website at www.naturehills.com/green_america_awards.aspx.

8th Annual Green Building Conference

The Annual Green Building Conference is your go-to conference for accurate, green information. This year’s event is **March 11 and 12** at Oncenter Complex, 800 South State Street , **Syracuse**, NY 13202, (315) 435-8000. For info on the conference, visit <http://www.esf.edu/greenbuilding/>. [REGISTER ONLINE](#).

“Affordably Green” Workshop

This interactive two-day session from 9am-4pm on **March 23-24, 2010** in Rochester, NY will provide practical strategies for greening affordable housing. Presentations, discussions, case studies and an interactive review of current projects will cover the latest issues in greening, the best strategies being employed across the industry, and approaches that can benefit projects of all sizes. The training will cover: Essentials of Building Energy Use, Measuring Performance, Renewable

Energy Options, Financing Green Projects, Long-term Sustainability, Lessons Learned. Participants will gain an overall understanding of how to plan and manage a successful rehabilitation project, including the initial building assessment, energy conservation measures and measuring performance. This workshop is being offered FREE of charge to all participants with pre-registration required. A two-day lunch package is available for purchase through the website or participants may bring their own. For info, [www.npcnys.org/files/Affordably Green Workshop Brochure.pdf](http://www.npcnys.org/files/Affordably_Green_Workshop_Brochure.pdf). Questions may be directed to Christine Hmiel, Program Manager, at c.hmiel@npcnys.org or (518) 432-6757.

Terracycle is Helping to End “Garbage”

As we end the holiday shopping season, it is timely to consider the amount of stuff that we accumulate and its fate when we dispose of it. Traditionally, most of our purchases end up in a landfill after serving their original purpose. Now, a new organization, Terracycle, is trying to work with manufacturers to find new lives for many of our products. Unlike traditional recycling which often breaks down packaging and remakes objects, Terracycle is trying to upcycle materials and increase their usefulness. For example, juice pouches can see a new life as purses. Watch the video at www.terracycle.net and begin collecting materials which you can ship for free and receive donations for your favorite school or charity. As discussed in the excellent book “Cradle to Cradle” ([www.mcdonough.com/cradle to cradle.htm](http://www.mcdonough.com/cradle_to_cradle.htm)), nature treats waste as “food” and our ecosystems recycle their wastes. Similarly we consider the life cycle of our goods in designing them and find ways that the materials can be used as technical nutrients for future goods. If you haven’t considered the amount of energy and raw materials that are used in making our stuff, I highly recommend that you watch the video “The Story of Stuff” (<http://www.storyofstuff.com/>). With Terracycle, we now have a place to send our candy wrappers, wine corks and many other items.

Allegheny Nature Pilgrimage-Plan Ahead

Allegheny Nature Pilgrimage, a weekend of exciting workshops and hikes celebrating the outdoors, is June 4-6 at Allegheny State Park. Cabin accommodations go quickly, so if you plan to attend and want to stay in a cabin, you can reserve a cabin through <http://reserveamerica.com>. For more information on the Pilgrimage, now in its 52nd year, go to <http://alleghenynaturepilgrimage.com>.

Nature in Art

Several nature-based art exhibits open in March. The UB Art Gallery will display Alberto Rey’s Lightwell Project from March 18-May 15 with an opening reception on March 18 from 5-7pm. This work is a continuation of his Biological Regionalism series in which he attempts to reestablish a connection to local landscapes by introducing fish found in bodies of water near the exhibition venue and into the gallery through video and traditional piscatorial painting. The Roger Tory Peterson Institute in Jamestown will display Alberto Rey’s work (“Trout and Biological Realism”) from March 6 through May 9. The Burchfield Penney Art Center at Buffalo State College will feature “Heat Waves in a Swamp: The Paintings of Charles Burchfield” from March 7 through May 23. Burchfield chose to focus his nature-based art in the ground beneath his feet; working almost exclusively in watercolor, his primary subject was the landscape around his home outside Buffalo. From April 9-30, the Roger Tory Peterson Institute will host the Banff Mountain Photography Tour and 19 images from the competition will be on view. The RTPI Banff Film Festival will be on April 13 at Reg Lenna Civic Center in Jamestown (www.rtpi.org).

Share your Energy Tip Contest

BidUREnergy.com is sponsoring a “Conservation Tip of the Week Contest” going on with the Buffalo Bills on their website at <http://www.bidurenergy.com/>. For each home game, they give out an autographed jersey, (T.O., Lee Evans, Edwards, etc.) and your tip is read by a player! Give it a try- good luck!!

Thompson Supports Environmental Legislation in State Senate

On February 2, 2010, two bills sponsored by NYS Senator Antoine M. Thompson (D-Parts of Erie & Niagara Counties), were reported out of the Senate Standing Committee on Environmental Conservation. Senate bill S2763-A encourages the development and installation of green roofs and S3296F bans the toxic chemical BPA in baby bottles, sippy cups and pacifiers. These bills have been dual referenced to the Finance & Codes committees for consideration. Senator Thompson intends to aggressively move these bills and include them in our Earth Day Celebration in April.

The Green Roofs Act (S2763-A) establishes a green roof installation credit in the amount of fifty-five percent of qualified expenditures up to a maximum of five thousand dollars. Green roofs can reduce the costs of heating and cooling a building and reduce water runoff. Senator Thompson noted that "Green roofs are an important tool in decreasing water runoff. Urban areas face enormous expenses from mandates to stop combined sewer overflows which contaminate our rivers, streams and lakes. We must capitalize and take advantage of all opportunities that promote green infrastructure, such as green roofs, and provide a cost effective way of resolving a water contamination issues."

The "Bisphenol A-Free Children and Babies Act" (3296-F) prohibits the manufacture, distribution and sale of unfilled beverage containers containing bisphenol A (BPA) in products designed for use by children, such as baby bottles, sippy cups and pacifiers. BPA has been linked to a number of common ailments, including heart disease, immune system disruption, brain deterioration, type-2 diabetes, cancer and obesity. Research studies have found that because of greater exposure and reduced capacity to metabolize BPA babies have up to eleven times higher levels of BPA in their bodies than do adults. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has taken the position that recent studies provide reason for some concern about the potential effects of BPA on the brain, behavior, and prostate gland of fetuses, infants and children.

NYSERDA Funding for Energy Efficiency Training

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) is seeking partnerships with eligible training entities to deliver energy efficiency training programs throughout New York State. The Program goal is to significantly expand existing energy efficiency training infrastructure to serve the needs of the portfolio of programs funded through the Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard. Funding is available to deploy training and certification programs as outlined in the NYSERDA Workforce Development Training Guidance Document and Application. Funding is available to effectively advertise and market these training programs and is also available for students for expenses associated with first-time certification examinations for new and incumbent workers, and certification exam preparation courses. All eligible organizations such as professional development associations, trade training and development associations, universities, community colleges, technical trade schools, and other entities as described in the eligibility section of the guidance document are encouraged to apply. Applications are accepted through August 1, 2010. For more info, visit <http://www.nyserda.org/funding/funding.asp?i=2>.

Net Metering Fix Passes Both State Houses

A broad coalition of clean energy advocates announced that the State Senate and Assembly have passed legislation fixing New York's net metering laws, which were expanded in 2008 to give non-residential customers the ability to net meter renewable power generating systems of up to two megawatts in size. The amendment (A.7557A/S.6700), which was one of Governor Paterson's program bills and sponsored by Assemblyman Kevin Cahill and Senator George Maziarz, corrects restrictions in the 2008 law that prevented its original intent from being fulfilled.

Net metering allows the owner of an on-site renewable energy system to receive a credit on his or her utility bill for any unused power supplied to the electric grid by the system. The credit then offsets the power received from the grid when the customer consumes more energy than the system is generating. In addition to acting as a hedge against rising energy costs and reducing overall stress on the electric grid, on-site renewable energy systems provide numerous environmental, public health, and economic development benefits to local communities.

EPA Announces New Support for Sustainable Communities

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has announced three steps to support communities' efforts to provide their citizens' with economic opportunity while reducing impacts on the environment. The actions will encourage state and local government to make their communities more sustainable by strategically aligning their environmental, transportation and housing investments. The EPA has created a new Office of Sustainable Communities to encourage communities to take an integrated approach in making environmental, housing and transportation decisions. A new pilot grant program has been designed to help three states – New York, Maryland and California – use their clean water funding programs to support efforts to make communities more sustainable. Also a pilot program has been initiated to clean up and redevelop contaminated sites, known as brownfield sites, in coordination with communities' efforts to develop public transportation and affordable housing. More info at: www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/partnership.

MLK Energy Challenge Program Announced

NYS Senator Antoine M. Thompson (D-Parts of Erie & Niagara Counties) recently held a press conference along with community representatives and the President and CEO of NYSERDA, Francis J. Murray, Jr. to highlight the Martin Luther King Energy Challenge program. The MLK Energy Challenge, offers energy reduction measures at no cost to homeowners for income eligible residents on the periphery of MLK Park and beyond. Senator Thompson joined forces with NYSERDA, WNY AmeriCorps, the NY Division of Housing and Community Renewal (DHCR), The Matt Urban Center and FLARE for funding of this program. The New York State Division of Housing & Community Renewal (NYSDHCR) received about \$394 Million of federal stimulus funding to serve low-income residents of New York State. The Matt Urban Center received about \$2 Million that will be used to serve the low-income population throughout its service territory. The MLK Energy Challenge project will have an estimated Weatherization Assistance Program investment of around \$260,000. This estimate is based on a significant number of households that will participate in the project. In addition, NYSERDA has invested \$300,000 in this program and Senator Thompson has added \$300,000 for home repairs related to the weatherization work, for a total investment of more than \$850,000. This project combines energy efficiency to fight climate change and save consumers money, along with an economic development thrust to lift the profile and desirability of the MLK Park neighborhood. This area was chosen because it is a central component of Senator Thompson's efforts to revitalize Buffalo's East Side.

State Environmental Justice Legislation Passed in Senate

Legislation sponsored by Senators Eric Schneiderman (D-Manhattan) and Antoine Thompson (D- Erie, Niagara) mandates a policy of equal treatment for people of all races, cultures, religions, incomes, education levels and sexual preference in the creation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies. It also ensures that the State of New York will provide environmental justice for all of its citizens regardless of their political or economic strength.

"A Climate of Change", a 2008 report by the Environmental Justice and Climate Change Initiative found that 71% of African Americans live in counties in violation of federal air pollution standards compared to 58% white; and 78% of African Americans live within 30 miles of a coal-fired power plant, as compared to 56% of whites. This legislation will provide environmental justice to minority and disadvantaged communities by supporting their legal right to a healthy and clean environment.

New York Power Authority Seeks Partnerships for Photovoltaic Systems

NYPA is seeking to establish public-private partnerships for the installation of solar PV systems, including roof-mounted and ground-mounted PV arrays, at municipal facilities, public and private schools and government buildings throughout the state. Eligible facilities are invited to [explore the criteria](#) for participating in this initiative and propose sites for the installation of solar arrays.

Funding for Niawanda Park Improvements Secured by Thompson

NYS Senator Antoine M. Thompson announced \$250,000 in capital funding which was secured for Niawanda Park, the largest park in the City of Tonawanda. The priority is on stabilizing about a mile of the shoreline due to erosion of the bank from the Niagara River.

Art Work Wanted for Garden Walk Promotion

Garden Walk Buffalo is looking for submissions of original artwork for use on the Garden Walk 2010 posters, t-shirts and maps. Artwork must be garden-related and it is preferable that it relate to the type of gardens, flowers, and neighborhoods found on Garden Walk Buffalo in late July. **Entries are due Friday, April 9.** Visit <http://gardenwalkbuffalo.com/>.

Garden Crusader Award Application

Gardener's Supply presents annual Garden Crusader Awards to nominated individuals in categories of Education, Restoration, Urban Renewal and Feeding the Hungry. For more info on the program and application info for 2010, visit <http://www.gardeners.com/Garden-Crusader-Awards/5549,default.pg.html>. Deadline is June 1.

Ecology and Environment Launches Project Earth

Local company Ecology and Environment is launching its website “Project Earth” on January 1, 2010. Project Earth is an international network that connects people around the world to engage in and jointly solve environmental problems through action and project-based collaboration. The first rendition of the website will be launched at www.projectearth.net. Project Earth will empower you to build your global network by interacting with individuals from all over the world to learn, support and solve global environmental problems through mutually developed solutions.

Calculate your Carbon Emissions

There are many websites with carbon calculators and quizzes for determining your ecological or water footprints. One of the newer calculators is not only easy to use, but has links to other carbon calculators. Pull out your most recent home energy bills and give it a whirl at <http://michaelbluejay.com/electricity/carboncalculator.html>. You can use the estimate as a benchmark for any green New Year’s resolutions.

Courses Available for Solar Installation

A range of courses in photovoltaic installation, solar hot water heating and solar power permitting will be offered across New York state in the upcoming months. Courses fill quickly, so register early. For info and registration, visit <http://www.etmsolar.com/courses.htm> and <http://www.esf.edu/outreach/pd/spare/>.

Play Free Online Games and Raise Money for Charity

Now you can enjoy a few minutes of solitaire or other games guilt-free. Go to www.gamesthatgive.net and register your choice from their list of charities. As you score, your charity benefits. The Wilderness Society is currently on the list of charities benefiting from this program.

EPA Announces Funding for Community Environmental Programs

EPA is making \$2 million available in 2010 to reduce pollution at the local level through the Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) program. CARE is a community-based program that works with county and local governments, tribes, non-profit organizations and universities to help the public understand and reduce toxic risks from numerous sources. EPA will award CARE cooperative agreements in two levels. Level I awards range from \$75,000 to \$100,000 and will help establish community-based partnerships to develop local environmental priorities. Level II awards, ranging from \$150,000 to \$300,000 each, will support communities that have established broad-based partnerships, have identified the priority toxic risks in the community, and are prepared to measure results, implement risk-reduction activities and become self-sustaining. Applications for the CARE grants are due **March 9, 2010**. For more information about the grants: <http://www.epa.gov/care/>.

EPA Action Plan for Great Lakes Restoration

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa P. Jackson has released an action plan to guide the Obama Administration’s historic efforts to restore the Great Lakes. The action plan lays out the most urgent threats facing the Great Lakes and sets out goals, objectives and key actions over the next five years to help restore the lakes. In February 2009, President Obama proposed \$475 million for a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, the most significant investment in the Great Lakes in two decades. The action plan, which covers FY 2010 through 2014 will help guide the administration’s efforts to implement this historic initiative to restore and protect this natural and economic treasure. More information on the full plan: <http://www.greatlakesrestoration.us>.

EcoStar Grants for NonProfits

[Constellation Energy](http://www.constellationenergy.com) supports nonprofit organizations that are working to improve the quality of life in company communities throughout the U.S. The company offers EcoStar Grants of up to \$5,000 to local nonprofit organizations for

projects that address at least one of the following five environmental focus areas: pollution prevention, education, energy efficiency, conservation, and community activism. Funded projects must be located geographically within a region where Constellation Energy does business. The application deadline is **March 16, 2010**.

Grants Promote New Approaches to Energy Use and Urban Development

The Blue Moon Fund seeks to improve the human condition by changing the relationship between human consumption and the natural world. Support is provided to nonprofit organizations in the United States, Latin America, and Asia that have developed innovative approaches to improving human quality of life in harmony with the natural world. Support is provided in the following three initiative areas: Rethinking Consumption and Energy is aimed at developing environmentally-friendly, efficient, and economically competitive transportation and energy choices worldwide. Balancing Human and Natural Ecosystems promotes new economic and cultural approaches to reducing resource pressure and preserving biodiversity. Reenergizing Urban Communities is based on the belief that underpinning vibrant cities is their capacity to self-organize in ways that maximize the economic, cultural, environmental, and spiritual benefits of urban life. Letters of inquiry may be submitted throughout the year; proposals are reviewed by invitation only. Visit the <http://www.blumoonfund.org/> to take the required online eligibility test. Rolling deadlines exist for grants.

Environmental Support Grants Available

The Environmental Support Center is accepting applications for training and technical-assistance funds to strengthen nonprofit environmental organizations in areas including fund raising, organizational development, and planning. Regional, statewide, or local nonprofit organizations serving low-income or minority constituencies that have environmental issues as a significant part of the organization's agenda may apply. For info visit <http://www.envsc.org>.

Weatherization Assistance Funding Available

The U.S. Department of Energy requests proposals for [Weatherization Assistance Program Grants](#) (WAP). WAP funds are used to increase the energy efficiency of dwellings owned or occupied by low-income persons, reduce their total residential expenditures, and improve their health and safety. WAP assists persons who are particularly vulnerable such as the elderly, persons with disabilities, families with children, high residential energy users, and households with high-energy burden. Prime applicant eligibility is restricted to agencies responsible for administering the annual Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) formula allocation. Proposals will be accepted through **August 1, 2010**.

Jamestown Audubon Accepting Summer Job Applications

Jamestown Audubon Society will be hiring Nature Education interns for Summer 2010. Interns will work approximately 6-8 hours per day. Primary responsibilities are leading programs for school and other youth groups and serving as a day camp counselor for summer programs. Pay is \$8.40 per hour. For full details, check out www.jamestownaudubon.org/.

Google Grants Help Groups Get Noticed on the Web

Nonprofit groups are encouraged to promote their missions by applying for the Google Grants program, administered by Google. Visit <http://www.google.com/grants> for application procedures and additional information.

Newest Niagara Greenway Proposals

The Niagara River Greenway Commission has recently endorsed six proposals. The new projects include improvements to LaSalle Park in Buffalo, creation of a La Salle Park in Niagara Falls, energy-efficient water playgrounds at two Niagara County parks, a waterfront land-acquisition study by Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper, a "Kiddieland" project near the Herschell Carrousel Factory Museum and expansion of the Rand Penney Project at the Erie Canal Discovery Center. If you are interested on the current proposals for Niagara Greenway funding, you can check them out and submit comments on their website at www.niagaragreenway.org.

Grants for Electronics Recycling Events

The Best Buy Recycling Grant Program provides support to help increase the consumer electronics recycling opportunities available in communities across the country. Grants, ranging from \$500 to \$1,500, can be taken in cash, Best Buy Gift Cards, or a combination of both. These grants are designed to defray costs for events already planned and allow groups to do more with their budgets. All organizations and groups are eligible to apply, including nonprofit organizations, cities, counties, and public-private partnerships, with priority given to nonprofit organizations. Applications may be submitted at any time. For more information, visit <http://www.bbycommunications.com/crnew/recycling.asp>.

“Be Aware of New York” Agriculture Contest

The “Be Aware of New York Agriculture” Contest is a wonderful opportunity to expose K-6 children to agriculture and the food system. The contest is divided by grades with prizes for each grade level. Students will learn more about where their food comes from and the role of agriculture in our state. **Entries are due by March 26.** Visit <http://www.nyaged.org/aitc/> for details.

Advanced Bird Banding Workshop Announced

Braddock Bay Bird Observatory will host an Advanced Bander Workshop by Peter Pyle, author of the Identification Guide to North American Birds, from May 24 – 28, 2010. The four-day course is designed for experienced banders who wish to improve their sexing and ageing skills. The class will focus on understanding and identifying the differences between age classes and other advanced skills. Enrollment is limited to 14 participants. The cost for the workshop will be \$650 (\$550 early registration, payment by April 1, 2010). Breakfast and lunches are included; lodging is not provided. For more information and a registration form please contact Betsy Brooks at brookser@earthlink.net.

DEC Hiring for Hogweed Control

DEC Forest Health and Protection is looking to hire up to 12 people to control giant hogweed plants (an invasive plant that can pose a serious health threat to humans) throughout central and western NY on private and public lands. These 5 month positions will start April 26 and will be located out of one of several Regional DEC offices in Regions 7, 8 and 9 (Allegany, Avon, Bath, Cortland, Reinstein Woods (Depew), West Almond). Six positions are available for the chemical control program- two NY State Certified Commercial Pesticide Applicators (hired as labor supervisors) and four NY State Certified Commercial Technicians. Six positions are available for the manual control program. This control method involves cutting through the root 5" below the soil which kills the plant completely. Root cutting is recommended for sites with less than 200 plants as a very effective, though labor intensive, control method. Positions available are for Labor Supervisors, Forestry Technicians 1 or Laborers, depending on qualifications. The contact person for further information is Naja Kraus: nekraus@gw.dec.state.ny.us.

DEC Youth Camps

Foster a love for the natural world that will last a lifetime- send a child to a DEC camp for a week! Campers learn about the environment through hands-on, outdoor activities and build friendships that last forever. Contact with environmental professionals throughout the week enriches the learning and encourages career exploration.

Four camps, Colby (Northern Adirondacks), Pack Forest (Southern Adirondacks), DeBruce (Catskills) and Rushford (Western NY), host youth 12 to 14 years old. DEC also offers week-long Ecology Workshops for teens 15 to 17 years old at Pack Forest and Rushford.

Complete information about the camps is available at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/education/29.html>. We begin accepting applications postmarked no earlier than February 6 for campers sponsored by an organization and February 27 for campers whose parents pay the \$325 fee. Application forms are available on the website or by calling DEC Camps at 518-402-8014.

Green in 3 Contest

There's a lot about the environment that can be fixed. There's the big one, of course, global warming, which will take a global solution. But there are also other pressing issues – such as addressing water and air pollution, ensuring populations have access to clean water, cleaning up our oceans, protecting biodiversity, safeguarding endangered species... Now, let's say you had the power of the adman – and could broadcast your message to the masses. Using just three written words, create a 30-second (or less) video telling us how you would make the environment better. For a complete set of Rules and Regulations click on the [contest rules page here](#). Prize of \$500.00 cash for each first-place winner. Deadline for Entries: Contest Entry period 2 – 11:59 p.m. (EST), Fri., **March 12** and Contest Entry period 3 – 11:59 p.m. (EST), Fri. **April 9**.

Volunteer Opportunities Available

A number of volunteer opportunities are available at organizations in Western New York. Opportunities exist for a one-time commitment for several hours to a regularly scheduled donation of your time. For a listing of some Buffalo positions, visit <http://www.handsongreaterbuffalo.org/>.

Beaver Meadow Audubon Center needs help with tour leading, office work, programming, grounds keeping and general maintenance. Tour leaders are desperately needed for the school year tours. Tour leader training classes are scheduled throughout the summer. Every Wednesday 10am-2pm is Volunteer Day at Beaver Meadow. For all Audubon volunteers - even first timers! No need to register, but bring a lunch.

Buffalo Carshare- This new non-profit has brought car-sharing to Buffalo. Volunteers are needed for office help and promotion. Contact them at <http://www.buffalocarshare.org/volunteer.html>.

Buffalo & Erie County Botanical Gardens-Docents needed. To be a tour guide you must enjoy plants and be able to communicate with small groups. Training is provided with the next round from Sept. 8-12 from 9am-noon. Tours and hands-on lessons are scheduled in advance, so you may sign up for those that fit your schedule. Other opportunities to help are available too. For info, contact Nancy Kalieta at 827-1584 ext. 207 or nkalieta@buffalogardens.com.

Buffalo Museum of Science has volunteer and internship opportunities available for teens, college students and adults. For information, contact Monika McFoy, Director of Community Programs, at 896-5200, ext. 343.

Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper- <http://www.bnriverkeeper.org/programs/riverwatch/index.htm> for volunteer opportunities.

Buffalo ReUse can use volunteers for many things including fundraising, graphic design, building salvage and material pickups. Join them for their fun Saturdays. To help, contact them at volunteer@buffaloreuse.org.

Eastside Redevelopment Task Force has volunteer openings to help improve the Eastside community. For contact info and details on their vision, visit <http://www.eastsideredevelopment.org/>.

Excalibur, a private, non-profit all volunteer, charitable organization seeks competent anglers and captains to help provide free boating and fishing opportunities on Lake Erie for disabled and disadvantaged persons using the organizations new vessel. Contact Director Jim Catalano at jim@excaliburl.org or visit <http://excaliburl.org>

Habitat for Humanity needs volunteers to help impact lives of families in the city of Buffalo by building simple, decent homes. Call 204-0740 or volunteer@habitatbuffalo.org.

Hawk Creek Wildlife Center is seeking volunteers for who would like to work with wildlife. 16 years or older. Call 716-652-8646. Email info@hawkcreek.org.

Heartwood Wilderness Skills School-Located in Wales, NY (3 miles from East Aurora) is looking for volunteers with outdoor/teaching experience. If you are articulate, professional, physically fit, and have respect for Nature, call 716-655-7622. As a volunteer, you may be asked to help prepare for workshops, harvest materials, and assist with classes/hikes."

HOME, Inc. (Housing Opportunities Made Equal) seeks volunteers to work on various committees to further fair housing. If you would like to get involved with the work of HOME consider sitting on any one of the following committees: Development, Finance, Membership, Nominating, Program Operations & Planning, Annual Meeting or the JoAnne Champion Granger Scholarship committee. For information/application, email muj265@homeny.org or visit their website at www.homeny.org.

Iroquois Observations offers free nature programs presented in partnership with the Buffalo Audubon Society each spring and fall. Programs include: birding field trips, scope watches, owl prowls, canoe trips, hands on activities, and guest speakers. If you are friendly and love the outdoors those are all the qualifications you need to volunteer. Please contact Garner Light at 772-5110 or glight@rochester.rr.com for more information.

Lead Safe Erie County needs volunteers to help paint houses and prevent lead poisoning. For those who are interested, there is also free training for Lead Safe Work Practices Certification. Service learning students, block clubs and others are welcome. Call Mary at 716-833-2929, ext. 117.

Olmsted Parks-Volunteers are needed for tree plantings (5/2 and 5/9), special park events, office work and mailings. Please contact Sal at (716) 838-1249 x. 33 for more information on becoming an Olmsted parks volunteer.

Penn Dixie Paleontological and Outdoor Education Center- Volunteers of all ages and backgrounds are needed. Have a few hours a month to help introduce children and adults to the natural sciences? Please call (716) 627-4560 and leave your name and phone number.

Preservation Buffalo Niagara-Interns and volunteers are welcome. For info, visit <http://www.landmark-niagara.org/>.

Science Firsthand needs adult mentors to work with children in learning about science. All materials are provided for fun experimentation. Mentors and students meet one hour per week after school at a community center. For information, call 858-7548.

Tift Nature Preserve also needs volunteers for their programs, communications, fund-raising and other events. Call 662-1342 or email tiffriends@yahoo.com.

Upcoming Community Activities:

Monday, March 1

SPCA Junior Cadet Story Time- Learning about animals through stories, songs, and more! From 12:00 – 12:30 pm at the [SPCA CAT ARMY ADOPTION POST](#), Walden Galleria, Upper level of the mall, near Macy's. Free for all children ages 2 to 5 years! A parent or guardian must be present (and can participate!). Registration preferred. To reserve your spot, please call the SPCA's Christine or Lynn: 684-0983. Learn more by visiting CatArmy.org or YourSPCA.org.

UB Environmental Network meeting-UB student group weekly meeting at 7pm, 250 Student Union North Campus. <http://wings.buffalo.edu/sa/ubenv/>.

Tuesday, March 2

The Role of Government-A Partner in Renewable Technology?-The Western New York Sustainable Energy Association is sponsoring this forum at 5pm at Hallwalls Arts Center at Delaware and Tupper Ave. The forum will explore the role of government in promoting the use of renewable technologies as we make the transition from fossil fuels to a renewable energy based economy. Speakers include Robert E. Knoer, Esq., Jessica Miller and Bill Nowak.

Community Bicycle Workshop-From 7:30pm – 10:00pm at 98 Colvin Ave. (near the corner of Linden Ave., in former police precinct building just north of Delaware Park) ([map](#)). Repair bikes for Buffalo Blue Bicycle; be a Bike Mechanic supervisor or conduct bike mechanics workshops. <http://www.buffalobluebicycle.org/>.

Wednesday, March 3

Future of Food-Free public film screening at Daemen College at 7pm, Schenck Hall Room 107. The Future of Food, a groundbreaking documentary released in 2004, distills the complex technology and key regulatory, legal, ethical, environmental and consumer issues surrounding the troubling changes happening in the food system today. For more info on the film, visit <http://www.thefutureoffood.com/>. Contact byoung@daemen.edu for more info on the event. Panel discussion to follow the film.

Teacher Workshop for Junior Solar Sprint-Free workshop for 6-8 grade teachers to learn about Junior Solar Sprint (www.jssbuffalo.com). In this hands on project for students, they build a model solar racecar to specific specifications using an approved solar panel and electric motor. From 4:00 and 7:30 PM at Buffalo Science Museum. This is a great opportunity to learn about JSS and talk with other people who have participated in this program. To register for the workshop e-mail your Name, School and Grade you teach to jssbuffalo@yahoo.com.

Starting Flower and Vegetable Seeds At Home – Buffalo & Erie County Botanical Garden Class- 6:30-8:00pm Cost: GM \$10; NM \$12. This class will cover the "what, when, where, how and why" of growing healthy foods and beautiful flowers economically. Presented by Joe Manual, Master Gardener. Register at <http://www.buffalogardens.com/c-5-classes.aspx>.

Working for Downtown Speaker Series-Rocco Termini of Signature Development will speak from noon-1:30pm in the Central Library meeting room, 1 Lafayette Sq. For reservations or to order a box lunch for \$10, contact Lynn Waclawek at lwaclawek@mtb.com.

Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council Meeting-Public Meeting at 9:30am. Join us to learn how GBNRTC operates and to see how "hot" transportation topics in the region are being addressed. 95 Franklin St. Meeting locations rotate and may change, so call to verify location at 856-2026.

Brown Bag Lunch Series- 12 to 1 pm at Buffalo & Erie County Public Library. Come hear Rocco Termini talk about his newest development projects and plans for the Lafayette Hotel and the A.M.&A."s building.

Thursday, March 4

Wee Explorers-Buffalo Science Museum activity from 10:30-12 for children ages 3-4 and their care giver. Cost is \$5 for museum members and \$12 for non-members (1 adult with 1 child). Pre-registration is required. Call 716.896.5200 x338. Program topic changes monthly, visit <http://www.sciencebuff.org> for details.

After School Escape at Reinstein Woods- A one-hour program from 4:30-5:30pm for children in grades K-5 featuring a different, fun outdoor activity each week. No registration is required, and you can attend as often as you like. Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve, Depew.

Wind Action Group Meeting-Monthly meeting begins at 5:30pm at D'Arcy McGee's at 257 Chippewa. Note the new location for this month's meeting. Among the items to be discussed is a quick review of NY, US and worldwide wind turbine progress, especially with regards to installed capacity.

Community Bicycle Workshop-From 7:30pm – 10:00pm at 98 Colvin Ave. (near the corner of Linden Ave., in former police precinct building just north of Delaware Park) ([map](#)). Repair bikes for Buffalo Blue Bicycle; be a Bike Mechanic supervisor or conduct bike mechanics workshops. <http://www.buffalobluebicycle.org/>.

RIT Workshop on Metal Finishing-This workshop will present a system wide approach on metal finishing operations, including a focus on energy usage, water consumption, chemical usage, and wastewater reduction and recovery. For registration and information contact [Erica](#) or call 585-475-2512. <http://www.nysp2i.rit.edu/PublicDocs/Training/SavetheDateMetalFinishing.pdf>

Friday, March 5

Buffalo Home & Garden Show- 10am – 9pm, Convention Center ([map](#)). The Buffalo Home & Garden Show is the place for you to experience what's new in remodeling, gardening, decorating and anything related to your home & garden. You'll have the opportunity to meet over 500 experts and experience thousands of products and services. <http://www.buffalohomeshow.com/>. Adults \$10.

Saturday, March 6

Walk at Knox Farm State Park- Family walk beginning at 9am. Visit <http://freecal.brownbears.com/bmac> for the topic of the day. Contact Beaver Meadow at 1-800-377-1520 or email info@buffaloudubon.org .

Cool Cats Weekend-Celebrate a "purrfect" weekend, and come to the Buffalo Zoo to see our fine felines in action! There will be crafts inside our Ecostation, enrichment for the animals and keeper talks on our servals, lions, tigers and snow leopards. The event runs from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. and is free with Zoo admission.

Pruning Techniques: Shrubs, Trees and Vines -Menne Nursery Class held at 3100 Niagara Falls Blvd, Amherst at 10am. Reservations required for all classes, call 693-4444 to reserve. Reservations made 24 hours in advance will be given preferred seating. Class schedule is subject to change, stop in often and pick up our latest detailed list or check on line at www.mennenursery.com.

Snowshoe Walk-10:30 AM. Join us for the final snowshoe walk of the season. Snowshoe rental = \$2.00/pair; free for FORNP members. To register call 683-5959. Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve, 93 Honorine Dr., Depew.

Buffalo Home & Garden Show- 10am – 9pm, Convention Center ([map](#)). The Buffalo Home & Garden Show is the place for you to experience what's new in remodeling, gardening, decorating and anything related to your home & garden. You'll have the opportunity to meet over 500 experts and experience thousands of products and services. <http://www.buffalohomeshow.com/>. Adults \$10.

Celebrate 125 years of the Oldest State Park in the Nation-From 11:00 AM - 03:00 PM at [Niagara Falls State Park](#). Learn about the events leading up to and the establishment of the oldest State Park in the Nation. Also, short interpretive walks in the park will be provided. Presentation will take place in the Orin Lehman Visitor Center at Prospect Point. Phone: (716) 282-5143, Registration: Required.

Sunday, March 7

Cool Cats Weekend-Celebrate a "purrfect" weekend, and come to the Buffalo Zoo to see our fine felines in action! There will be crafts inside our Ecostation, enrichment for the animals and keeper talks on our servals, lions, tigers and snow leopards. The event is from 11am-3pm and free with Zoo admission. Call 995-6133 for more information.

Buffalo Home & Garden Show- 10am – 6pm, Convention Center ([map](#)). The Buffalo Home & Garden Show is the place for you to experience what's new in remodeling, gardening, decorating and anything related to your home & garden. You'll have the opportunity to meet over 500 experts and experience thousands of products and services. <http://www.buffalohomeshow.com/>. Adults \$10.

Family Nature Walk- Join us at 2pm at Beaver Meadow Audubon Center for a free walk through the woods. Visit www.buffaloudubon.org for directions.

Monday, March 8

SPCA Junior Cadet Story Time- Learning about animals through stories, songs, and more! From 12:00 – 12:30 pm at the [SPCA CAT ARMY ADOPTION POST](#), Walden Galleria, Upper level of the mall, near Macy's. Free for all children ages 2 to 5 years! A parent or guardian must be present (and can participate!). Registration preferred. Call the SPCA's Christine or Lynn: 684-0983. Learn more by visiting CatArmy.org or YourSPCA.org.

Buffalo's Historic Past – Class at Buffalo & Erie County Botanical Gardens. Presented by Dr. Joseph Bieron, Professor Emeritus, Canisius College. From 7-8:30pm. Series Cost: GM \$40; \$11 per class, NM \$48; \$13.00 per class. Join us for an enjoyable Monday evening delving into the glorious history of our Queen City of the Great Lakes. Register at <http://www.buffalogardens.com/c-5-classes.aspx>.

Tuesday, March 9

"Spring Foraging for Wild Edibles"-Niagara Frontier Botanical Society meeting and talk by Bill Soules at 7:30pm at Harlem Road Community Center, Harlem & Lincoln St., Snyder. Free to the public. Talk will feature the location and collection of some of our area's most palatable wild herbs with tips on preparation and cooking.

“Imagining Buffalo Niagara in the 21st Century”- Speaker: Ted Pietrzak, Director, Burchfield-Penney Art Center as part of an ongoing lecture series on this topic from 12:15-1pm sponsored by Center for the Study of Art, Architecture, History and Nature and Buffalo and Erie County Downtown Public Library in the Fables Café Conference Room, Downtown Public Library. Free and open to the public.

The All Powerful Sun- The source of almost all energy on our planet is our star the Sun. We will explore how it makes energy, the inner workings, and how it controls the environment in space and here on Earth. Special Guest: Alan Friedman, avid astro-photographer who has published numerous works. He will be sharing “Catching Sunlight,” a presentation that explains his techniques for photographing the Sun. For information on registration, visit <http://williamsville.augusoft.net>. Class is \$13 and from 7-9pm at Williamsville North High School Planetarium.

Nature’s Circle: Spring Tails-Read a story and have some fun during outdoor circle time at Tiff Nature Preserve. Silly songs, games and lots of fun help little ones engage in a natural setting. Let’s learn to enjoy nature together! Designed for ages 2-3 from 10:30-11:15 AM with a cost of \$4 per child & adult (\$2 additional child with same adult). Pre-registration required. Call 716.896.5200 ext. 338.

Community Bicycle Workshop-From 7:30pm – 10:00pm at 98 Colvin Ave. (near the corner of Linden Ave., in former police precinct building just north of Delaware Park) ([map](#)). Repair bikes for Buffalo Blue Bicycle; be a Bike Mechanic supervisor or conduct bike mechanics workshops. <http://www.buffalobluebicycle.org/>.

Wednesday, March 10

Science Exploration Day- An annual day for high school students to attend presentations at UB North Campus. For a program listing, visit <http://gse.buffalo.edu/org/sed/>.

EPA Webinar Series: Separation and Collection of Food Waste-10am-11:30am. EPA and NYSDEC webinar. ([map](#)). <http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/homepage.nsf/information/webinars>.

EPA Webinar Series: Measuring your Climate Footprint-10am-11:30am, <http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/homepage.nsf/information/webinars>.

Thursday, March 11

Enhancing Main Street: Making Upper Floors Work Again- The Buffalo-Niagara region has numerous downtown business districts and neighborhood commercial districts which contain wonderful commercial rows of two and three story (and larger) buildings. The upper floors of these building are often vacant – and their reuse is both a challenge and an opportunity! This all-day program will provide design, building code and financial information –plus imaginative approaches – for bringing upper floors back to productive life. Niagara Falls Public Library from 9am-3:30pm. Free but registration is required: To register, call PBN at 716 852-3300 or email info@preservationbuffaloniagara.org with your name, address and day-time phone number. For info, visit <http://www.preservationbuffaloniagara.org/page/making-upper-floors-work-again/>. Arrangements will be made to enable participants to order a lunch.

After School Escape at Reinstein Woods- A one-hour program from 4:30-5:30pm for children in grades K-5 featuring a different, fun outdoor activity each week. No registration is required, and you can attend as often as you like. Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve, Depew.

Community Bicycle Workshop-From 7:30pm – 10:00pm at 98 Colvin Ave. (near the corner of Linden Ave., in former police precinct building just north of Delaware Park) ([map](#)). Repair bikes for Buffalo Blue Bicycle; be a Bike Mechanic supervisor or conduct bike mechanics workshops. <http://www.buffalobluebicycle.org/>.

Friday, March 12

Buffalo Home & Garden Show- 10am – 9pm, Convention Center ([map](#)). The Buffalo Home & Garden Show is the place for you to experience what's new in remodeling, gardening, decorating and anything related to your home & garden. You'll have the opportunity to meet over 500 experts and experience thousands of products and services. <http://www.buffalohomeshow.com/>. Adults \$10.

Saturday, March 13

Seed Saving Workshop-Urban Roots workshop by Richard Price at 2pm. For more info:

<http://www.urbanroots.org>.

Cabin Fever Lecture at the NY Power Authority-From 11:00 AM - 02:00 PM at [Niagara Falls State Park](#). Join a state park naturalist at the New York Power Authority's Visitor Center to learn about the creation of Niagara Falls State Park, the oldest state park in the country since 1885. In celebration of the 125th anniversary, we will discuss some fabulous historical moments leading up to its creation! NY Power Authority, 5777 Lewiston Rd, Lewiston, New York. Phone: (716) 286-6661.

"The Art of Tracking"- Take a hike through East Aurora's newest park with Buffalo Audubon on Route 16 just south of the village as we discover what animals have been around and what they have left behind. From 9-11am. (East Aurora, \$5/\$3 members/\$15 family). **Please call (585)457-3228 to sign up.**

"Dying to Help the Environment"- A lighthearted look at how our funeral and burial practices can be harmful to the environment. We will look at the growing trend towards environmentally friendly burial practices. We will also learn about planned giving. 11am talk at Beaver Meadow Audubon Center. **Call (585)457-3228 to sign up.**

Beer and Botany – Buffalo & Erie County Botanical Garden program presented by Ed Dore, Beer & Botany Aficionado from 3:00pm-4:30pm Cost: GM \$12; NM \$14. Join Ed for a delightful class on the various "plants" involved in making beer, followed of course, by bratwursts and beer tasting. Register at <http://www.buffalogardens.com/c-5-classes.aspx>.

Annuals & Vegetables: Starting from Seed-Menne Nursery Class held at 3100 Niagara Falls Blvd, Amherst at 10am. Reservations required for all classes, call 693-4444 to reserve. Reservations made 24 hours in advance will be given preferred seating. Class schedule is subject to change, stop in often and pick up our latest detailed list or check on line at www.mennenursery.com.

Advanced Tour Leader Training- Learn how to lead tours at Beaver Meadow Audubon Center and teach "Hands on Wildlife" to school groups in the classroom. Training from 10am-noon. Free. Contact Beaver Meadow at 1-800-377-1520 or email info@buffaloudubon.org for more info.

Tour Guide Training- Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve, 93 Honorine Dr., Depew. 9:00 AM to noon. Attend this training session to become a volunteer tour guide at Reinstein Woods. No experience is necessary-just a love of nature and the desire to share it with others. To register call 716-683-5959.

Elements of Garden Design: On Plant Selection-Urban Roots Workshop from 10am – 11am ([map](#)). With Liz Lipsitz. A checklist approach to choosing plants for your perennial garden or mixed shrub border.

Buffalo Home & Garden Show- 10am – 9pm, Convention Center ([map](#)). The Buffalo Home & Garden Show is the place for you to experience what's new in remodeling, gardening, decorating and anything related to your home & garden. You'll have the opportunity to meet over 500 experts and experience thousands of products and services. <http://www.buffalohomeshow.com/>. Adults \$10.

Sunday, March 14

Weather Watch Girl Scout Workshop- Earn the Weather Watch patch during this workshop from 1-4pm at Beaver Meadow Audubon Center. \$6 per scout. Please call Buffalo Audubon at (585)457-3228 to register.

Buffalo Home & Garden Show- 10am – 6pm, Convention Center ([map](#)). The Buffalo Home & Garden Show is the place for you to experience what's new in remodeling, gardening, decorating and anything related to your home & garden. You'll have the opportunity to meet over 500 experts and experience thousands of products and services. <http://www.buffalohomeshow.com/>. Adults \$10.

Family Nature Walk- Join us at 2pm at Beaver Meadow Audubon Center for a free walk through the woods. Visit www.buffaloudubon.org for directions.

Monday, March 15

SPCA Junior Cadet Story Time- Learning about animals through stories, songs, and more! From 12:00 – 12:30 pm at the [SPCA CAT ARMY ADOPTION POST](#), Walden Galleria, Upper level of the mall, near Macy's. Free for all children ages 2 to 5 years! A parent or guardian must be present (and can participate!). Registration preferred. To reserve your spot, please call the SPCA's Christine or Lynn: 684-0983. Learn more by visiting [CatArmy.org](#) or [YourSPCA.org](#).

UB Environmental Network meeting-UB student group weekly meeting at 7pm, 250 Student Union North Campus. <http://wings.buffalo.edu/sa/uben/>.

Tuesday, March 16

Green Expo Planning Meeting-5:30pm at 346 Austin Street (near Grant & Military). Please join us!

Community Bicycle Workshop-From 7:30pm – 10:00pm at 98 Colvin Ave. (near the corner of Linden Ave., in former police precinct building just north of Delaware Park) ([map](#)). Repair bikes for Buffalo Blue Bicycle; be a Bike Mechanic supervisor or conduct bike mechanics workshops. <http://www.buffalobluebicycle.org/>.

Mapping Your Garden Design-Buffalo ReUse workshop from 4-5pm at 158 Eaton St., Buffalo ([map](#)).

Living Wage Forum-Sponsored by the Partnership for the Public Good. Large numbers of public school workers still earn poverty wages. The Buffalo Public School Board has passed a resolution calling for a living wage policy, but the bus aides and food service workers have yet to see progress on it. Lou Jean Fleron, PPG co-director and chair of Buffalo's Living Wage Commission, will moderate a panel discussion on the issue – sure to be a major focus of discussion in the School Board elections this spring. The forum will be at 4:00 pm at 237 Main St., Suite 1200. Email megan@ppgbuffalo.org to reserve a seat.

Wednesday, March 17

WNY Herpetological Society Meeting-8pm in Alumni Room of Main Building at Medaille College.

Babes in the Woods- From 10-11:30am at Beaver Meadow Audubon Center. This nature discovery program is for 3-5 year olds and their parents. Registration is required. \$5 child & adult/ \$3 each additional child. Contact Beaver Meadow at 1-800-377-1520 or email info@buffaloaudubon.org for more info.

"Central Terminal Restoration Corporation: Connecting Central Terminal with High Speed Rail"- Citizens for Regional Transit Monthly Meeting. Join us at Market Arcade (Landmark Society), 12:00 noon-1:00 PM at 617 Main Street, Buffalo. Free and open to the public.

EPA Webinar Series: Waste Reduction through Reuse-10am-11:30am. EPA and NYSDEC webinar. ([map](#)). <http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/homepage.nsf/information/webinars>.

Thursday, March 18

After School Escape at Reinstein Woods- A one-hour program from 4:30-5:30pm for children in grades K-5 featuring a different, fun outdoor activity each week. No registration is required, and you can attend as often as you like. Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve, Depew.

Community Bicycle Workshop-From 7:30pm – 10:00pm at 98 Colvin Ave. (near the corner of Linden Ave., in former police precinct building just north of Delaware Park) ([map](#)). Repair bikes for Buffalo Blue Bicycle; be a Bike Mechanic supervisor or conduct bike mechanics workshops. <http://www.buffalobluebicycle.org/>.

Land Conservancy Workshop-Designed for farmers, community leaders, town planner and attorneys, appraisers and any interested in farmland protection. This workshop provides a comprehensive review of the process for creating successful Purchase of Development Rights projects and programs. Presenters are Patricia Szarpa, Executive Director of WNY Land Conservancy, Diane Held, American Farmland Trust and Jason Engel, Grants Manager for NYS Dept. Agriculture and Markets. RSVP to pszarpa@wylc.org. Niagara County Cornell Cooperative Extension Bldg., 4487 Lake Ave. Lockport, 7-9pm.

Friday, March 19

Women Build Fundraiser-From 6-10pm at Babeville at 341 Delaware Ave. The major fundraising event for Women Build which is a program of Habitat for Humanity. Homes are planned, funds raised and houses built by women. Women Build focuses on empowering women to tackle all aspects of the project. In 2010, the Women Build house will be on Fox St on Buffalo's East side. Tickets \$25 pre-sale, \$30 at door. Call 716-204-0740.

Paradise under Glass-Fundraiser at the Buffalo & Erie County Botanical Gardens from 6-9pm, good times, great music, cold beer, fine wine, tropical attire suggested, sneak preview of Spring Flower Show. <http://www.buffalogardens.com/p-89-paradise-under-glass.aspx> for tickets and info.

Saturday, March 20

Walk at Knox Farm State Park- Family walk beginning at 9am. Visit <http://freecal.brownbears.com/bmac> for the topic of the day. Contact Beaver Meadow at 1-800-377-1520 or email info@buffaloudubon.org.

Vermicomposting-Urban Roots workshop at 2pm. For more info: <http://www.urbanroots.org>.

Maple Sugaring 101-From 2:00 PM - 05:00 PM at [Evangola State Park](#). Park naturalists will give an indoor presentation about the maple sugaring process. An outdoor hands-on informal presentation will follow. Learn how to tap a tree and see the sap turn into syrup. Phone: (716) 826-8895, Registration: Required.

Vernal Equinox Walk-Join us at Tiff Nature Preserve in celebrating the transition of seasons as we look for signs of spring on a walk around the preserve during the Vernal Equinox, or the first official day of spring. From 2-3:30pm, non-members \$5. Families welcome. Pre-registration required. Please call 896-5200, ext. 338.

Spring Cleaning the Water Garden-Menne Nursery Class held at 3100 Niagara Falls Blvd, Amherst at 10am. Reservations required for all classes, call 693-4444 to reserve. Reservations made 24 hours in advance will be given preferred seating. Class schedule is subject to change, stop in often and pick up our latest detailed list or check on line at www.mennenursery.com.

Gardening 101: Basic Principles-Menne Nursery Class held at 3100 Niagara Falls Blvd, Amherst at 2pm. Reservations required for all classes, call 693-4444 to reserve. Reservations made 24 hours in advance will be given preferred seating. Class schedule is subject to change, stop in often and pick up our latest detailed list or check on line at www.mennenursery.com.

Maple Harvest Festival-From 9am-4pm at Beaver Meadow Audubon Center. Join us for a day of sweetness, crafts, activities and hikes. Admission includes pancake breakfast. www.buffaloudubon.com

Snowy with a Chance of Salamanders-10:30 AM. On this first day of spring, we will explore the spring pools and search under logs for spotted salamanders. This is the time of year for them to lay their eggs and a chance to get a rare glimpse of this secretive creature. To register call 716-683-5959. Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve, 93 Honorine Dr., Depew.

Pruning-Gardening classes on various topics. Check for times, costs and other course topics at http://www.lockwoodsgreenhouses.com/classes_events.php3. Lockwood's Greenhouses, 4484 Clark St., Hamburg. Space limited, please call for reservations after **March 10**. Phone 649-4684.

Know Before You Grow: Soil Contamination and Remediation Field Day-New York Sustainable Agriculture Working Group (NYSAWG) invites urban farmers interested in learning more about environmental safety to our soil testing and remediation field day. 10:00am - 2:00pm at the Wilson Street Urban Farm between Broadway and Sycamore on Buffalo's East Side. The half day event will discuss the common contaminants found in urban areas, safe concentrations and suggestions for remediation strategies. Featuring Dr Joe Gardella, Chemist from SUNY Buffalo and regional environmental policy leader.

Astronomy Night at Penn Dixie-\$2 non-members, 7pm. View Saturn rising around 8PM, it's rings are still almost edge-on to us. This is the closest approach to earth for this year, Mars heading towards the Bee-Hive

cluster M44 in the constellation cancer, Orion's Nebula M42, a crescent moon near the Pleiades M45, which makes up the shoulder of Taurus the Bull constellation, and a variety of other constellations. www.penndixie.org

Monitor Training Event at Kennelegh Nature Preserve-Monitoring protected property is a land protection in action. If you would like to join WNY Land Conservancy volunteers, contact Nancy Smith to find out what is involved and to register for the training, email nancys@wnylc.org. 9:30am-noon.

Penguin Days-Get up close and personal with a Peruvian penguin, penguin feedings, mascots, prizes, Aquarium of Niagara, Niagara Falls.

Sunday, March 21

Maple Harvest Festival-From 9am-4pm at Beaver Meadow Audubon Center. Join us for a day of sweetness, crafts, activities and hikes. Admission includes pancake breakfast. www.buffaloudubon.com

March Marsh Walk-From 2-4pm at Tiff Nature Preserve, 1200 Fuhrmann Blvd. Buffalo, NY 14203. Looking for a fun way to get outside with the family this winter? Join Friends of Tiff for a scavenger hunt around the marsh! Follow animal tracks and learn about the wildlife at the preserve. Warm up inside the cabin around the fire with some hot cocoa and coffee. \$3 per person; \$10 maximum per family. Free for FOT Members. No registration required.

Family Nature Walk- Join us at 2pm at Beaver Meadow Audubon Center for a free walk through the woods. Visit www.buffaloudubon.org for directions.

Penguin Days-Get up close and personal with a Peruvian penguin, penguin feedings, mascots, prizes, Aquarium of Niagara, Niagara Falls.

Monday, March 22

SPCA Junior Cadet Story Time- Learning about animals through stories, songs, and more! From 12:00 – 12:30 pm at the [SPCA CAT ARMY ADOPTION POST](#), Walden Galleria, Upper level of the mall, near Macy's. Free for all children ages 2 to 5 years! A parent or guardian must be present (and can participate!). Registration preferred. To reserve your spot, please call the SPCA's Christine or Lynn: 684-0983. Learn more by visiting CatArmy.org or YourSPCA.org.

UB Environmental Network meeting-UB student group weekly meeting at 7pm, 250 Student Union North Campus. <http://wings.buffalo.edu/sa/uben/>.

Buffalo's Historic Past – Class at Buffalo & Erie County Botanical Gardens. Presented by Dr. Joseph Bieron, Professor Emeritus, Canisius College. From 7-8:30pm. Series Cost: GM \$40; \$11 per class, NM \$48; \$13.00 per class. Join us for an enjoyable Monday evening delving into the glorious history of our Queen City of the Great Lakes. Register at <http://www.buffalogardens.com/c-5-classes.aspx>.

Tuesday, March 23

"Imagining Buffalo Niagara in the 21st Century"- Speaker: John B. Simpson, President of University at Buffalo as part of an ongoing lecture series on this topic from 12:15-1pm sponsored by Center for the Study of Art, Architecture, History and Nature and Buffalo and Erie County Downtown Public Library in the Fables Café Conference Room, Downtown Public Library. Free and open to the public.

Sierra Club Meeting-Join others with the Niagara Sierra Club for their monthly meeting at 7pm at Room 244 Duns Scotus Hall, Daemen College. Visit www.daemen.edu/maps for directions.

Frogwatch USA Volunteer Training-6:30 PM. Become a citizen scientist! Participate in this training program, and volunteer to help monitor the frogs and toads here at Reinstein Woods. To register call 716-683-5959. Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve, 93 Honorine Dr., Depew.

Growing Local: How Community Gardens are Shaping Buffalo - 7pm Allen Hall Theatre, South Campus at University at Buffalo. With participants from Grassroots Gardens, Massachusetts Avenue Project, Wilson Street Urban Farm, UB Environmental Network.

Community Bicycle Workshop-From 7:30pm – 10:00pm at 98 Colvin Ave. (near the corner of Linden Ave., in former police precinct building just north of Delaware Park) ([map](#)). Repair bikes for Buffalo Blue Bicycle; be a Bike Mechanic supervisor or conduct bike mechanics workshops. <http://www.buffalobluebicycle.org/>.

Wednesday, March 24

Buffalo Green Drinks-A social networking event to bring individuals together who want to promote green business and community sustainability. The event is hosted [Upstate Green Business Network](#) in association with [US Green Building Council Upstate Chapter](#) at 6pm at D'Arcy McGees, 257 Franklin St., Buffalo. For info visit <http://ceinfo.org/ugbn/index.php>.

Thursday, March 25

Mambas, Malaria and Militias: 21st Century Exploration and Science in the Jungles of Democratic Republic of Congo-A Hayes Lecture by Dr. Eli Greenbaum at 7:30pm at the Buffalo Museum of Science. Free to the public.

After School Escape at Reinstein Woods- A one-hour program from 4:30-5:30pm for children in grades K-5 featuring a different, fun outdoor activity each week. No registration is required, and you can attend as often as you like. Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve, Depew.

Plantasia 2010-Garden and Landscape Show located on the Fairgrounds in Hamburg. Adults \$8. 10am-9pm. <http://www.plantasiany.com/>.

Friday, March 26

Plantasia 2010-Garden and Landscape Show located on the Fairgrounds in Hamburg. Adults \$8. 10am-9pm. <http://www.plantasiany.com/>.

"Best Paddling Films Of The Year"- Paths Peaks & Paddles and Catt Rafting Adventures are going to present approximately two hours of different films for your enjoyment. Films from around the globe will be shown involving flat water and white water adventures. Enjoy the awesome scenery from many different countries as you watch different kayaker's and canoeist's paddle different lakes, creeks and oceans. Films will be shown at 7:00pm at the Phillip Sheridan Building located at 3200 Elmwood Avenue (1/4 North of Sheridan Drive) in Tonawanda, NY 14150. Purchasing tickets before the event is \$18.00. Purchasing tickets at the door is \$20.00. You can purchase tickets at Paths, Peaks & Paddles or on line from the Paths, Peaks & Paddles "On Line store". If you have any questions regarding this exciting event please contact Paths, Peaks & Paddles directly at 716-213-0350 or Catt Rafting Adventures at 716-866-1461.

Saturday, March 27

Maple Sugaring: Past and Present-Join Earth Spirit at Green Lake, Orchard Park from 10am-1pm. Includes indoor and outdoor activities related to maple sugaring so dress warmly. The program is free, but an optional pancake breakfast is available for a \$5 donation (\$3 children). Contact 941-6267 or earthspirit@roadrunner.com.

Urban Flocks Workshop-Urban Roots workshop on raising chickens at 7pm in the city. For more info: <http://www.urbanroots.org>.

"Migration"- Take a hike through Sinking Ponds in East Aurora from 9-11am as we learn why birds migrate and see what birds have stuck around. (East Aurora, \$5/\$3 members/\$15 family). Buffalo Audubon Society. **Please call (585)457-3228 to sign up.**

Cold Blooded Critters presentation-From 11am-noon. Come early to Beaver Meadow Audubon Center and donate blood to the American Red Cross. After (or before) you give blood, join us for an informative meet and greet of our reptiles and amphibians. (BMAC, Free). **Please call (585)457-3228 to sign up.**

Tracking-A 1-2pm program at Beaver Meadow Audubon Center. Relax after your blood drive donation (come early if able to donate) with a slideshow presentation about wildlife tracking. (BMAC, Free). **Please call (585)457-3228 to sign up.**

Repotting Houseplants-Hands-on Workshop-Menne Nursery Class held at 3100 Niagara Falls Blvd, Amherst at 2pm. Reservations required for all classes, call 693-4444 to reserve. Reservations made 24 hours in advance will be given preferred seating. Class schedule is subject to change, stop in often and pick up our latest detailed list or check on line at www.mennenursery.com.

Birds, Birds, Birds!-10:00 AM. Did you know that there is a bird that does the moonwalk? How about a bird that can mimic a camera shutter? Come learn about these and many other oddities of the bird world. To register call 716-683-5959. Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve, 93 Honorine Dr., Depew.

Eagle Watch: Cayuga Overlook-Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge bird watching from 1-4pm.
<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/iroquois/>.

Plantasia 2010-Garden and Landscape Show located on the Fairgrounds in Hamburg. Adults \$8. 10am-9pm.
<http://www.plantasiany.com/>.

Buffalo Geological Gem-Mineral-Fossil Show-Check out the Penn Dixie Site exhibit on the Fairgrounds in Hamburg.

Sunday, March 28

Family Nature Walk- Join us at 2pm at Beaver Meadow Audubon Center for a free walk through the woods. Visit www.buffaloudubon.org for directions.

Plantasia 2010-Garden and Landscape Show located on the Fairgrounds in Hamburg. Adults \$8. 10am-5pm.
<http://www.plantasiany.com/>.

Buffalo Geological Gem-Mineral-Fossil Show-Check out the Penn Dixie Site exhibit on the Fairgrounds in Hamburg.

Bicycle Swap Meet & Expo- 10am-3pm buy, sell or trade bicycle-related items, local bike shops will be “peddling” discontinued & closeout items and good used equipment, individuals can offer used bicycles for sale in the “Bike Corral”, table space also available to sell related items, raffles, refreshments, DJ, Main Transit Fire Hall, Williamsville 634-7570.

Monday, March 29

SPCA Junior Cadet Story Time- Learning about animals through stories, songs, and more! From 12:00 – 12:30 pm at the [SPCA CAT ARMY ADOPTION POST](#), Walden Galleria, Upper level of the mall, near Macy’s. Free for children ages 2 to 5 years! A parent or guardian must be present (and can participate!). Registration preferred, call the SPCA’s Christine or Lynn: 684-0983. Learn more by visiting CatArmy.org or YourSPCA.org.

UB Environmental Network meeting-UB student group weekly meeting at 7pm, 250 Student Union North Campus. <http://wings.buffalo.edu/sa/ub/en/>.

Tuesday, March 30

Full Sap Moon Walk-8:30 PM. Join us for an evening walk, and learn about the benefits of the maple tree while viewing the full moon. Bring binoculars and flashlights if you have them. To register call 716-683-5959. Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve, 93 Honorine Dr., Depew.

Community Bicycle Workshop-From 7:30pm – 10:00pm at 98 Colvin Ave. (near the corner of Linden Ave., in former police precinct building just north of Delaware Park) ([map](#)). Repair bikes for Buffalo Blue Bicycle; be a Bike Mechanic supervisor or conduct bike mechanics workshops. <http://www.buffalobluebicycle.org/>.

Full Moon Stroll-From 7:30-9PM for Adults and youth 12 and older at Tifft Nature Preserve, 1200 Fuhrmann Blvd. Buffalo, NY 14203. Days are getting longer and nature is awakening after a winter slumber, but nighttime at Tifft is full of action too. Let’s check it out together on a stroll around the preserve. Non-Members: \$5 Pre-registration required. Please call 896-5200, ext. 338.

Wednesday, March 31

“How Geoscientists can Save the World-One House at a Time”- Program by Martin Derby for the Hamburg Natural History Society at 7pm in the Gateway Executive Office Auditorium, 3556 Lake Shore Road, Blasdell. \$3 for non-members. Visit www.pennndixie.org for info.

EPA Webinar Series: Composting and End-of-Life Management-10am-11:30am. EPA and NYSDEC webinar. ([map](#)). <http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/homepage.nsf/information/webinars>.

Thursday, April 1

After School Escape at Reinstein Woods- A one-hour program from 4:30-5:30pm for children in grades K-5 featuring a different, fun outdoor activity each week. No registration is required, and you can attend as often as you like. Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve, Depew.

Wee Explorers-Buffalo Science Museum activity from 10:30-12 for children ages 3-4 and their care giver. Cost is \$5 for museum members and \$12 for non-members (1 adult with 1 child). Pre-registration is required. Call 716.896.5200 x338. Program topic changes monthly, visit <http://www.sciencebuff.org> for details.

Community Bicycle Workshop-From 7:30pm – 10:00pm at 98 Colvin Ave. (near the corner of Linden Ave., in former police precinct building just north of Delaware Park) ([map](#)). Repair bikes for Buffalo Blue Bicycle; be a Bike Mechanic supervisor or conduct bike mechanics workshops. <http://www.buffalobluebicycle.org/>.

Friday, April 2

Spring Egg-stravaganza-Drop in for an egg-stremely fun time at Tiff Nature Preserve! Learn about animals that come from eggs, make some spring-themed crafts, dye eggs using natural dyes (dye provided, please bring your own hard-boiled eggs; 6 eggs per person maximum) and more! From 10am-2pm. Non-Members:\$7, Members save 10%. Pre-registration required. Please call 896-5200, ext. 338.

Saturday, April 3

Walk at Knox Farm State Park- Family walk beginning at 9am. Visit <http://freecal.brownbearsw.com/bmac> for the topic of the day. Contact Beaver Meadow at 1-800-377-1520 or email info@buffaloudubon.org for more info.

Bunny Basics-10:30 AM. Hop along with us as we share Eastern Cottontail rabbit facts, make a craft and search for rabbits on the trail! For children age 9 and under. To register call 716-683-5959. Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve, 93 Honorine Dr., Depew.

Easter Planter workshop- Gardening classes on various topics. Check for times, costs and other course topics at http://www.lockwoodsgreenhouses.com/classes_events.php3. Lockwood's Greenhouses, 4484 Clark St., Hamburg. Space limited, please call for reservations after **March 10**. Phone 649-4684.

Seaster Egg Hunt- The only underwater egg hunt in Western New York, rain or shine! Children search the exhibits for “SEaster” Eggs. Win Prizes! Say hi to the SEaster Bunny & Beaker, the Aquarium Penguin Mascot. Niagara Aquarium.

Owl Prowl at Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge-8pm – 10pm. Pre-registration is required. Call the refuge headquarters at 585-948-5445. Join local owling expert Chuck Rosenburg on a nighttime quest to see our local species of nocturnal hunters on the wing. Chuck's prodigious talent for imitating calls of the screech, barred, and great horned owls is a must see, and a walk in the nighttime woods is always an experience to remember.

Birding by Car-Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge bird watching from 9am-noon. <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/iroquois/>.

Focus on Peregrine Falcons-With Connie Adams at Refuge Headquarters, Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge bird watching from 1-2pm. <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/iroquois/>.

Eagle Watch: Cayuga Overlook-Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge bird watching from 1-4pm.
<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/iroquois/>.

Rototilling workshop-Buffalo ReUse from 2-3pm at 298 Northampton St.

Observatory Public Viewing Night-Look at the stars through your own telescope or the BAA's beginning at Dusk. Come to Beaver Meadow Audubon Center. Visit www.buffaloastronomy.com for info.

Monday, April 5

UB Environmental Network meeting-UB student group weekly meeting at 7pm, 250 Student Union North Campus. <http://wings.buffalo.edu/sa/uben/>.

Buffalo's Historic Past – Class at Buffalo & Erie County Botanical Gardens. Presented by Dr. Joseph Bieron, Professor Emeritus, Canisius College. From 7-8:30pm. Series Cost: GM \$40; \$11 per class, NM \$48; \$13.00 per class. Join us for an enjoyable Monday evening delving into the glorious history of our Queen City of the Great Lakes. Register at <http://www.buffalogardens.com/c-5-classes.aspx>.

Tuesday, April 6

Community Bicycle Workshop-From 7:30pm – 10:00pm at 98 Colvin Ave. (near the corner of Linden Ave., in former police precinct building just north of Delaware Park) ([map](#)). Repair bikes for Buffalo Blue Bicycle; be a Bike Mechanic supervisor or conduct bike mechanics workshops. <http://www.buffalobluebicycle.org/>.

Wednesday, April 7

Working for Downtown Speaker Series-James Morrell and Cynthia Schwartz, City of Buffalo Planning Board will speak from noon-1:30pm in the Central Library meeting room, 1 Lafayette Sq. For reservations or to order a box lunch for \$10, contact Lynn Waclawek at lwaclawek@mtb.com.

Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council Meeting-Public Meeting at 9:30am. Join us to learn how GBNRTC operates and to see how “hot” transportation topics in the region are being addressed. NYS Dept. of Transportation- 100 Seneca St. Meeting locations rotate and may change, so call to verify location at 856-2026.

Williamsville North Planetarium Show-6pm. Viewing of the Williamsville skies with **Penn Dixie telescopes** at the Williamsville Space Planetarium at 1595 Hopkins Rd. (near Dodge).

EPA Webinar Series: Putting the Pieces Together and EPA tools-10am-11:30am. EPA and NYSDEC webinar on waste management. ([map](#)). <http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/homepage.nsf/information/webinars>.

Thursday, April 8

After School Escape at Reinstein Woods- A one-hour program from 4:30-5:30pm for children in grades K-5 featuring a different, fun outdoor activity each week. No registration is required, and you can attend as often as you like. Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve, Depew.

Community Bicycle Workshop-From 7:30pm – 10:00pm at 98 Colvin Ave. (near the corner of Linden Ave., in former police precinct building just north of Delaware Park) ([map](#)). Repair bikes for Buffalo Blue Bicycle; be a Bike Mechanic supervisor or conduct bike mechanics workshops. <http://www.buffalobluebicycle.org/>.

Friday, April 9

Owl Prowl-7:30 PM. Learn about our local owls, and listen for their calls on a walk in the woods. For adults and children age 8 and older. To register call 716-683-5959. Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve, 93 Honorine Dr., Depew.

Saturday, April 10

Gardening with Children Workshop-Urban Roots workshop at 10am. For more info: <http://www.urbanroots.org>.

Native Plants Workshop-Urban Roots workshop at 2pm. For more info: <http://www.urbanroots.org>.

Designing the Backyard Landscape-Menne Nursery Class held at 3100 Niagara Falls Blvd, Amherst at 10am. Reservations required for all classes, call 693-4444 to reserve. Reservations made 24 hours in advance will be given preferred seating. Class schedule is subject to change, stop in often and pick up our latest detailed list or check on line at www.mennenursery.com.

A Perfect Lawn-Menne Nursery Class held at 3100 Niagara Falls Blvd, Amherst at 1pm. Reservations required for all classes, call 693-4444 to reserve. Reservations made 24 hours in advance will be given preferred seating. Class schedule is subject to change, stop in often and pick up our latest detailed list or check on line at www.mennenursery.com.

Ancient Forests-10:30 AM. Explore the diversity and richness of mature forests on this guided walk. For adults and children age 8 and older. To register call 716-683-5959. Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve, 93 Honorine Dr., Depew.

Houseplant Saturday- Gardening classes on various topics. Check for times, costs and other course topics at http://www.lockwoodsgreenhouses.com/classes_events.php3. Lockwood's Greenhouses, 4484 Clark St., Hamburg. Space limited, please call for reservations after **March 10**. Phone 649-4684.

East Aurora Parks Hike: Signs of Spring – 9am, Take a look around for signs that the cold winter is drawing to a close. (East Aurora, \$5/\$3 members/\$15 family) Contact Beaver Meadow at 1-800-377-1520 or email info@buffaloudubon.org for registration or info.

Birding by Car-Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge bird watching from 9am-noon.
<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/iroquois/>.

Focus on Purple Martins-With Rick Marx at Refuge Headquarters, Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge bird watching from 1-2pm. <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/iroquois/>.

Eagle Watch: Cayuga Overlook-Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge bird watching from 1-4pm.
<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/iroquois/>.

Woodcock Walk-Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge from 7:30-9pm. Meet at Swallow Hollow.
<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/iroquois/>.

Sunday, April 11

Rain Barrels and Rain Gardens - Buffalo & Erie County Botanical Garden Class Presented by the Buffalo Niagara River Keepers at: 1:00pm & 3:00pm. Cost: \$1 Garden Admission It's Dollar Day! Join us to find out how to provide plants with a drink of soft, oxygen-filled rainwater while exercising water conservation. Learn how to relieve pressure on other water sources by installing a rain barrel at your home. Each barrel is \$99.95 + tax. Orders for the barrels will be taken at these presentations. Register at <http://www.buffalogardens.com/c-5-classes.aspx>.

Family Nature Walk- Join us at 2pm at Beaver Meadow Audubon Center for a free walk through the woods. Visit www.buffaloudubon.org for directions.

Monday, April 12

UB Environmental Network meeting-UB student group weekly meeting at 7pm, 250 Student Union North Campus. <http://wings.buffalo.edu/sa/uben/>.

Tuesday, April 13

"Imagining Buffalo Niagara in the 21st Century"- Speaker: Mary Roberts, Executive Director of Darwin Martin House Restoration as part of an ongoing lecture series on this topic from 12:15-1pm sponsored by Center for the Study of Art, Architecture, History and Nature and Buffalo and Erie County Downtown Public Library in the Fables Café Conference Room, Downtown Public Library. Free and open to the public.

Sustainable Stewardship -- Greening Historic Buildings-Preservation Buffalo Niagara is sponsoring a free workshop from 2-4pm at the Larkin on Exchange Building (6th floor). Barbara Campagna, the Chief Architect of the National Trust, will discuss the National Trust's Sustainability Program and how the 29 historic sites of the National Trust are integrating historic preservation values with green building practices – from green housekeeping techniques to sustainability master plans to LEED certification for historic rehabilitations. **Pre-Registration is Required**-- This workshop is free but seating is limited and on a first-come, first-serve basis. To register, call 716 852-3300.

Mainstreaming the Alternative: Creating a Sustainable Transportation Network in Buffalo and Western New York-7pm Allen Hall Theatre, South Campus at University at Buffalo. With participants from Buffalo Carshare, Green Options Buffalo, Center for Transportation Excellence.

Nature's Circle: Earth Day Birthday-Read a story and have some fun during outdoor circle time at Tiff Nature Preserve. Silly songs, games and lots of fun help little ones engage in a natural setting. Let's learn to enjoy nature together! Designed for ages 2-3 from 10:30-11:15 AM with a cost of \$4 per child & adult (\$2 additional child with same adult). Pre-registration required. Call 716.896.5200 ext. 338.

Community Bicycle Workshop-From 7:30pm – 10:00pm at 98 Colvin Ave. (near the corner of Linden Ave., in former police precinct building just north of Delaware Park) ([map](#)). Repair bikes for Buffalo Blue Bicycle; be a Bike Mechanic supervisor or conduct bike mechanics workshops. <http://www.buffalobluebicycle.org/>.

"Springtime Wildflowers and More"-Niagara Frontier Botanical Society annual dinner and talk by Wayne Gall. Dinner reservations must be made by **April 1**. Cost is \$25 per person. 6pm cash bar followed by dinner at 7pm at Sonoma Grille, 5010 Main St. For info, contact robertj@medaille.edu.

Thursday, April 15

After School Escape at Reinstein Woods- A one-hour program from 4:30-5:30pm for children in grades K-5 featuring a different, fun outdoor activity each week. No registration is required, and you can attend as often as you like. Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve, Depew.

Community Bicycle Workshop-From 7:30pm – 10:00pm at 98 Colvin Ave. (near the corner of Linden Ave., in former police precinct building just north of Delaware Park) ([map](#)). Repair bikes for Buffalo Blue Bicycle; be a Bike Mechanic supervisor or conduct bike mechanics workshops. <http://www.buffalobluebicycle.org/>.

Boom Days- Visit <http://www.boomdays.com/> for the full schedule of events for this annual celebration of the removal of the ice boom.

Friday, April 16

Boom Days- Visit <http://www.boomdays.com/> for the full schedule of events for this annual celebration of the removal of the ice boom.

Saturday, April 17

Boom Days- Visit <http://www.boomdays.com/> for the full schedule of events for this annual celebration of the removal of the ice boom.

Walk at Knox Farm State Park- Family walk beginning at 9am. Visit <http://freecal.brownbears.com/bmac> for the topic of the day. Contact Beaver Meadow at 1-800-377-1520 or email info@buffaloaudubon.org for more info.

Buffalo-Niagara Green Expo-From 10am-6pm at Walden Galleria. A free event that will give you the opportunity to learn about the worlds of sustainable energy, weatherization and energy efficiency for buildings, green landscaping and gardening, holistic health, and so much more. This event also promotes networking where new business to business relationships can develop and companies with employment opportunities can connect with people looking to get into the green job sector. Sponsored by Senator Thompson. Info at <http://www.bnge.org>.

Earth Day Festival at Beaver Meadow- Environmental groups from around WNY, solar panel display, nature hikes, crafts and much more. Fun for the entire family at Beaver Meadow Audubon Nature Center! From 10am-4pm-\$6 adults/\$4 ages 3-12/under 3 free.

Earth Day Clean-up-Join us for a spring clean-up of Tiff Nature Preserve from 9am-noon in conjunction with the Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper Spring Shoreline Sweep. Refreshments will be served. Call 825-6397 for more information or to reserve a group. Bring your own work gloves and help out! Families welcome and no registration is necessary.

Organic Gardening for Beginners-Menne Nursery Class held at 3100 Niagara Falls Blvd, Amherst at 10am. Reservations required for all classes, call 693-4444 to reserve. Reservations made 24 hours in advance will be given preferred seating. Class schedule is subject to change, stop in often and pick up our latest detailed list or check on line at www.mennenursery.com.

Orchid Extravaganza-Menne Nursery Class held at 3100 Niagara Falls Blvd, Amherst at 10am. Reservations required for all classes, call 693-4444 to reserve. Reservations made 24 hours in advance will be given preferred seating. Class schedule is subject to change, stop in often and pick up our latest detailed list or check on line at www.mennenursery.com.

Earth Day Celebration-11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. An eco-friendly event for the whole family. Make crafts out of recycled materials, learn ways to save energy and register to win Earth-friendly door prizes! You also can enjoy a guided nature walk. Friends of Reinstein Nature Preserve will sell lunch items. Registration is not required for this event. Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve.

Gardening & Landscape Care for Beginners with Sally Cunningham –Gardening classes on various topics. Check for times, costs and other course topics at http://www.lockwoodsgreenhouses.com/classes_events.php3. Lockwood's Greenhouses, 4484 Clark St., Hamburg. Space limited, please call for reservations after **March 10**. Phone 649-4684.

Frogwatch Training workshop-10am. Learn how to join in on the excitement of counting frogs. This citizen science program is allowing researchers to determine how frogs are doing in our area and across the world. Anyone can participate in their own yards or at Beaver Meadow. Contact Beaver Meadow at 1-800-377-1520 or email info@buffaloudubon.org for registration or info. (Paul Fehringer, Beaver Meadow, donation)

Ebird Training workshop-11am to noon. Learn how to use your enjoyment of watching birds to help researchers learn more about our feathered friends. We will teach you all about the Ebird citizen science program and how to use the Ebird website. Contact Beaver Meadow at 1-800-377-1520 or email info@buffaloudubon.org for registration or info. (Paul Fehringer, Beaver Meadow, donation)

"Songs for a Livable Land"- Concert by Nan Hoffman at 7pm @ St. John's Grace Episcopal Church, 51 Colonial Circle, Buffalo, NY. Nan is a singer, musician, performer, recording artist, and workshop presenter. She has been sharing music with people of all ages for more than thirty years throughout the United States and parts of Canada. Her repertoire encompasses a wide range of folk songs and ballads, both contemporary and traditional, including topical, spiritual, and humorous songs. Her presentations are fun and informative, and much of her material invites audience participation. Hosted by PEF (Peace Education Fund), IPN (Interfaith Peace Network), and St. John's Grace.

Field Trip to Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant-Meet at Cayuga Overlook, Iroquois National Wildlife at 8:30am or WWTP at 9am. <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/iroquois/>.

Focus on Nature Photography-With tom Pocziwinski at Refuge Headquarters, Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge bird watching from 1-2pm. <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/iroquois/>.

Eagle Watch: Cayuga Overlook-Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge bird watching from 1-4pm. <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/iroquois/>.

Observatory Public Viewing Night-Look at the stars through your own telescope or the BAA's beginning at Dusk. Come to Beaver Meadow Audubon Center. Visit www.buffaloastronomy.com for info.

Every Day is Earth Day-Environmental exhibits 10am-4pm, Niagara Power Project Power Vista, Lewiston 286-6661.

Sunday, April 18

Planting Tree of Peace- Talk by Walter Simpson, who was the Energy Officer at the University at Buffalo for 26 years, directing, coordinating, catalyzing UB's energy conservation and green campus program. He also served as Director of the UB Green Office and chair of the UB Environmental Task Force. His many activities in the community include co-founding the WNY Sustainable Energy Association, WNY Climate Action Coalition, and the Animal Right Advocates of WNY. Hosted by Peace Education Fund, IPN (Interfaith Peace Network), and IWI (Indigenous Women's Initiatives). Time and location TBA

Earth Day Weekend: Earth Day Celebration-Noon-4PM at Tiff Nature Preserve, 1200 Fuhrmann Blvd. Buffalo, NY 14203. What better way to celebrate Earth Day than a visit to Tiff. Join Friends of Tiff for kids' activities, games, crafts, live animals, environmentally-friendly information, tours of the preserve, information on the history of Tiff, and refreshments. Call 825-6397 for more information. FREE.

Family Nature Walk- Join us at 2pm at Beaver Meadow Audubon Center for a free walk through the woods. Visit www.buffaloudubon.org for directions.

Monday, April 19

Buffalo's Historic Past – Class at Buffalo & Erie County Botanical Gardens. Presented by Dr. Joseph Bieron, Professor Emeritus, Canisius College. From 7-8:30pm. Series Cost: GM \$40; \$11 per class, NM \$48; \$13.00 per class. Join us for an enjoyable Monday evening delving into the glorious history of our Queen City of the Great Lakes. Register at <http://www.buffalogardens.com/c-5-classes.aspx>.

UB Environmental Network meeting-UB student group weekly meeting at 7pm, 250 Student Union North Campus. <http://wings.buffalo.edu/sa/uben/>.

Tuesday, April 20

CSI: Critter Sign Investigation-10:00 AM. Become a nature detective and look for "clues" left by wildlife along the trails. For children ages 6-10. To register call 716-683-5959. Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve, 93 Honorine Dr., Depew.

Community Bicycle Workshop-From 7:30pm – 10:00pm at 98 Colvin Ave. (near the corner of Linden Ave., in former police precinct building just north of Delaware Park) ([map](#)). Repair bikes for Buffalo Blue Bicycle; be a Bike Mechanic supervisor or conduct bike mechanics workshops. <http://www.buffalobluebicycle.org/>.

3rd Annual Environmental Information Fair-Buffalo State College from 11:30am – 1:30pm on Perry Quad. There will also be a collection of personal electronics from faculty, staff & students during the Fair. For more information feel free to contact EVERGREEN at 716-878-6835.

Wednesday, April 21

WNY Herpetological Society Meeting-8pm in Alumni Room of Main Building at Medaille College.

Little Tykes Mini-Nature Camp: Earth Day Birthday-9:30-11:30 AM for Ages 3-5 at Tiff Nature Preserve, 1200 Fuhrmann Blvd. Buffalo, NY 14203. Come investigate how Spring is springing out, as well as celebrate Earth Day, at Tiff Nature Preserve. Nature games, crafts, hikes, snacks and more are in store. Non-Members: \$8 per child & adult, \$4 additional children with the same adult. Pre-registration required. Call 896-5200, ext. 338.

Thursday, April 22

“Moral Choices and Environmental Justice”- Erin Brockovich is the 2010 Daemen College Academic Festival speaker (sponsored by Warren Fund, KeyBank Foundation, and Daemen). Free and open to the public. 7:30pm - Wick Center.

Earth Day Wellness Walk-Want to get outside on Earth Day and appreciate nature? Join Tiff volunteers at Tiff Nature Preserve from 10am-noon for a healthy outdoor walk with a botanical emphasis. Families (Kids ages 5 and up). Pre-registration required. Please call 896-5200, ext. 338. Suggested \$2 donation per person.

After School Escape at Reinstein Woods- A one-hour program from 4:30-5:30pm for children in grades K-5 featuring a different, fun outdoor activity each week. No registration is required, and you can attend as often as you like. Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve, Depew.

Community Bicycle Workshop-From 7:30pm – 10:00pm at 98 Colvin Ave. (near the corner of Linden Ave., in former police precinct building just north of Delaware Park) ([map](#)). Repair bikes for Buffalo Blue Bicycle; be a Bike Mechanic supervisor or conduct bike mechanics workshops. <http://www.buffalobluebicycle.org/>.

Recycling and Music for Earth Day- 11am-3pm create your own instrument at 12:30 & 3pm families will be lead in short concerts using some familiar tunes recycled with green lyrics, Explore & More...a children's museum, East Aurora 655-5131.

Friday, April 23

Insect Home Hunt- 10:00 AM. Bring your detective skills as we search the woods for webs, galls, cocoons and other homes. For children age 6 and older. To register call 716-683-5959. Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve, 93 Honorine Dr., Depew.

4th Annual Enviro-Fair-McKinley Square (in front of City Hall), Downtown Buffalo, 11am-2pm.

Saturday, April 24

How to Design & Plant a Vegetable Garden-Menne Nursery Class held at 3100 Niagara Falls Blvd, Amherst at 10am. Reservations required for all classes, call 693-4444 to reserve. Reservations made 24 hours in advance will be given preferred seating. Class schedule is subject to change, stop in often and pick up our latest detailed list or check on line at www.mennenursery.com.

Feeling Froggy-10:30 AM. Come out to The Woods, and learn all about frogs and toads through activities and crafts, along with a critter hunt. For children ages 4 to 8. To register call 716-683-5959. Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve, 93 Honorine Dr., Depew.

Herbal Windowbox workshop –Gardening classes on various topics. Check for times, costs and other course topics at http://www.lockwoodsgreenhouses.com/classes_events.php3. Lockwood's Greenhouses, 4484 Clark St., Hamburg. Space limited, please call for reservations after **March 10**. Phone 649-4684.

Growing Orchids with Joe Di Domenico –Gardening classes on various topics. Check for times, costs and other course topics at http://www.lockwoodsgreenhouses.com/classes_events.php3. Lockwood's Greenhouses, 4484 Clark St., Hamburg. Space limited, please call for reservations after **March 10**. Phone 649-4684.

East Aurora Parks Hike at Hamlin Park: Bluebirds – 9am. Learn about our state bird and grab the binoculars as we try to spot some bluebirds in the park. (East Aurora, \$5/\$3 members/\$15 family) Contact Beaver Meadow at 1-800-377-1520 or email info@buffaloudubon.org for registration or info.

Spring Wildflower ID Workshop – 10am-2pm. Take a stroll around Beaver Meadow and Rose Acres in search of our spring ephemerals and learn tricks to identification. (BMAC, \$5/\$3members) Contact Beaver Meadow at 1-800-377-1520 or email info@buffaloudubon.org for registration or info.

Spring Peeper/Woodcock Walk at Beaver Meadow-8pm to ? (BMAC, \$5/\$3 members) Contact Beaver Meadow at 1-800-377-1520 or email info@buffaloudubon.org for registration or info.

Earth Day Celebration- Help Hawk Creek Wildlife Center celebrate our precious natural world. Come face-to-face with bald eagles, take a tour of Walk With the Eagles! Join us from 11am-4pm. Children 4yrs and under are FREE! Adults \$10, kids \$7. Info at www.hawkcreek.org.

Gala Lizzard Ball-A WNY tradition, celebrating earth stewardship. From 7:00 – midnight @ DNIPRO, the Ukrainian Cultural Center, 562 Genesee Street, Buffalo, NY. Admission: \$10. Music: includes Gruvology, My Rap Name is Alex, Equinox, Blood-Thirsty Vegans. Activities: Chinese Auction, Silent Auction, 50/50 Split, Raffle (item TBA), Snacks, Cash bar. Hosted by PEF (Peace Education Fund).

Eagle Watch: Cayuga Overlook-Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge bird watching from 10am-4pm. <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/iroquois/>.

Spring into Nature-Iroquois NWR Headquarters, 9am-4pm. www.fws.gov/northeast/iroquois/.

Counterfeiters Ledge- Join the Niagara Frontier Botanical Society on this field trip to an Akron Nature Conservancy site for spring flower viewing. Call ahead to carpool, due to limited parking. Leaders: Laurie Baldwin at 735-3727 and Joanne Schlegel at 835-6042.

Astronomy at Penn-Dixie- 7:30 PM, View a gibbous waxing moon, Saturn, Mars near the Bee-Hive Cluster M44, Venus in the west, the Spring Triangle rising in the east and other constellations. May view some lingering meteors from the Eta Aquarids meteor shower. www.penndixie.org for info.

Sunday, April 25

Spring Wildflowers in Zoar Valley-Join Buffalo Audubon at 10 AM at the Valentine Flats Parking Area, Gowanda (To car pool, meet at the Tops parking lot in Springville at 9:15). Contact Person: Bill Michalek (billmarkm@yahoo.com). Zoar Valley is a treat to explore at any time of year, but the spring wildflower display is breathtaking. Many of the flowers we'll see are only in bloom for a few weeks out of the year, and each year we find new species to enjoy. This is a hike of moderate difficulty with some steep and muddy slopes.

"Teach Me to Fish"- A free hands-on seminar with outdoor writer, Forrest Fisher, for kids and parents at the Bison City Rod & Gun Club, 511 Ohio St, Buffalo, NY. Come learn about fishing, kids will have hands-on rod and reel demonstrations, knot learning, lure rigging, get free area fishing maps and free Sahlen's hot dog and ice cream dessert lunch. Special activities include fish feeding as kids can help the staff feed 10,000 steelhead fingerlings raised in floating pens on the Buffalo River. Event will run from 2 - 4 p.m. with 50 FREE rod/reel fishing outfits for kids in attendance. Every child present will win a fishing prize! For more info, call 652-2256.

Family Nature Walk- Join us at 2pm at Beaver Meadow Audubon Center for a free walk through the woods. Visit www.buffaloudubon.org for directions.

Monday, April 26

Composting at Home - Buffalo & Erie County Botanical Garden Class- Join Charles McHugh, Master Gardener, for some practical tips on getting a compost site started at home. Learn the benefits of this "going green" practice. Register at www.buffalogardens.com/c-5-classes.aspx. 6:30-8:00pm Cost: GM \$10; NM \$12.

UB Environmental Network meeting-UB student group weekly meeting at 7pm, 250 Student Union North Campus. <http://wings.buffalo.edu/sa/uben/>.

Tuesday, April 27

Sierra Club Meeting-Join others with the Niagara Sierra Club for their monthly meeting at 7pm at Room 244 Duns Scotus Hall, Daemen College. Visit www.daemen.edu/maps for directions.

"Imagining Buffalo Niagara in the 21st Century"- Speaker: Donald Boswell, President & CEO, WNED as part of an ongoing series from 12:15-1pm sponsored by Center for the Study of Art, Architecture, History & Nature and Buffalo & Erie County Downtown Public Library in the Fables Café Conference Room, Downtown Public Library. Free and open to the public.

Community Bicycle Workshop-From 7:30pm – 10:00pm at 98 Colvin Ave. (near the corner of Linden Ave., in former police precinct building just north of Delaware Park) ([map](#)). Repair bikes for Buffalo Blue Bicycle; be a Bike Mechanic supervisor or conduct bike mechanics workshops. <http://www.buffalobluebicycle.org/>.

Wednesday, April 28

Full Fish Moon Walk-8:30 PM. Join us for a walk on the night of the full moon. Bring binoculars and flashlights if you have them. To register call 716-683-5959. Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve, 93 Honorine Dr., Depew.

Explore Woodpeckers and Their Role in Human Affairs-A Buffalo Museum of Science Vaughan Lecture by Dr. Jerome A. Jackson. 7pm at the Science Museum. Talk is free to the public. A buffet dinner is available at 5:30pm for \$25 with reservations at www.sciencebuff.org.

Thursday, April 29

After School Escape at Reinstein Woods- A one-hour program from 4:30-5:30pm for children in grades K-5 featuring a different, fun outdoor activity each week. No registration is required, and you can attend as often as you like. Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve, Depew.

Community Bicycle Workshop-From 7:30pm – 10:00pm at 98 Colvin Ave. (near the corner of Linden Ave., in former police precinct building just north of Delaware Park) ([map](#)). Repair bikes for Buffalo Blue Bicycle; be a Bike Mechanic supervisor or conduct bike mechanics workshops. <http://www.buffalobluebicycle.org/>.

Petropolitan Art Auction- Join us for a silent and live auction of animal inspired art, including works from famed photographer William Wegman and from Buffalo's own Robby Takac of the Goo Goo Dolls to benefit Maddie's Pet Rescue Project in Erie County. Reservations: \$40 in advance / \$45 at the door, Doors open at 6:00pm, Food and drinks served at 6:30pm, Live auction begins at 8:00pm. The Butler Mansion, 672 Delaware Avenue. For tickets visit, <http://maddieseriecounty.org/Reservation-Form.html>.

Friday, April 30

Spring Tree ID Hike-Come celebrate with us at Tiff Nature Preserve from 6:30-8pm on a day set aside just for trees-Arbor Day! Learn the clues that trees show us that spring really is here to stay! Non-Members: \$5. Pre-registration required. Please call 896-5200, ext. 338.

Tips for the Environment:

1. Plastic Bag/Wrap Recycling- Even if you use your own totes for groceries, you probably end up with plastic bags from your bread, newspaper, dry cleaning or plastic wrapping from paper towels, toilet paper etc. It is great if you can reuse them, but you can recycle some of them. Grocery stores are now required to have collection bins for plastic shopping bags and these other plastics can be dropped off in these bins as long as they are clean. Clean, clear bags labeled with #2 and #4 can be recycled in these bins. Note that plastic cling film used for food, prepackaged food storage bags and any bio-based or compostable plastics are **NOT** accepted.

2. Start Planning for 2010 Energy-Efficiency Improvements-Warmer weather will soon be here, but consider the 2010 federal tax credits in your home improvement plans. You can receive a tax credit for 30% of improvement cost (up to \$1500) for insulation, window/door replacement, central heating/cooling improvements, water heaters and biomass stoves. Renewable energy improvements also earn you a tax credit of 30% of total cost without an upper limit. These apply to geothermal heat pumps, solar panels and hot water heaters, and small wind-energy systems. Visit <http://www.energystar.gov/taxcredits> for more info.

3. Reuse and recycle your Tips for the Environment-we are probably all using CFL bulbs, recycling regularly and engaging in lots of earth-friendly behaviors. It's time to reuse and recycle-so I've compiled the full list of tips from the first Enviro-News in January 2006. Check for anything you missed (www.daemen.edu/offices/academicaffairs/econews). If you have tips to share, please send them to me. I need help with more ideas.

Additional calendars with local events-

<http://artvoice.com/calendar>

<http://buffalorising.com>

<http://wnyscienceleaders.ning.com/>

<http://www.buffalospree.com/Buffalo-Spree/Events/>

<http://www.exploreny.net/events.php3>

<http://www.metrowny.com/events.php>

<http://www.buffalo.edu/calendar>

Additional local blogs and websites-

Re-Energize Buffalo Blog- <http://renewnrg.blogspot.com/>

ReNews Weekly Digest (renewable energy news)- sign up by email to zaczek@prodigy.net

New York Outdoors Blog- <http://newyorkoutdoors.wordpress.com>

Buffalo New York Outdoors- <http://www.squidoo.com/buffalonyoutdoors>

Buffalo News Jim Heaney Blog-http://buffalonews.typepad.com/outrages_insights/

Buffalo Issues Alert- <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BfloIssueAlerts/>

The Greener Ride -<http://www.thegreeneride.org/>

Dept. Environmental Conservation Calendar- <http://www.dec.ny.gov/public/48977.html>

Fix Buffalo- <http://fixbuffalo.blogspot.com/>

MRodgers-FCS-Grant Resources- <http://mrfcsgreen.blogspot.com>

Local Food- <http://buffalolocavore.blogspot.com/>

Edible Buffalo- <http://ediblebuffalo.wordpress.com/>

Jamestown Audubon Society-<http://jamestownaudubon.wordpress.com/blog/>

Buffalo Tours- <http://buffalotours.blogspot.com/>

Educational Offerings for kids-<http://www.buffaloalliance.org/publications/erg/index.php>

Parks and Trails NY Trailfinder Site- <http://www.ptny.org/trailfinder/Default.aspx>

Buffalo Niagara Partnership- <http://buffaloniagarapartnership.blogspot.com/>

Buffalo First Blog- <http://blog.buffalofirst.org/>

Green Job opportunities- <http://www.ub-careers.buffalo.edu/green.php>

Rochester Environment- <http://www.rochesterenvironment.com/>

Buffalo Solar Jars- <http://www.buffalosolarjar.com/>

Green Careers-<http://www.greencareersny.com/>

WNY Enviro-<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/WNY-ENVIRO/>

Urban Farms/ Rural Community-Supported Agriculture-

Canticle Farms-<http://www.canticlefarm.org>

Curbside Croft- <http://curbsidecroft.com/>

Native Offerings- <http://nativeofferings.com/>

Porter Farms- <http://porterfarms.org/>

Good Food Farm- www.goodfoodfarm.blogspot.com

The Promised Land- <http://www.promisedlandcsa.com/produce.htm>

Recycling, Disposal, Green Cleaning Options:

Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs-Accepted at all Home Depot stores

Computer equipment-Accepted at all local Goodwill stores and attended donation centers

Cell Phones-Buffalo Zoo, Aquarium of Niagara and other charities

Expired or Unused Medicines- http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/water_pdf/guidance3.pdf

Uses and reuses for many items- <http://www.world.org/weo/recycle>

Drug disposal best practices- <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/45083.html>

Green Cleaning programs in the workplace-<https://greencleaning.ny.gov/Entry.asp>.

Eyeglasses-Lions Club <http://donateglasses.net/search.html> for sites accepting donations

Rechargeable Batteries-drop offs at Office Depot, Best Buy , Target, Walmart, Radio Shack stores

Household Goods-Goodwill, Salvation Army, Ladies of Charity

Packaging Materials (bubble wrap, peanuts)-UPS Store

Sneakers-Reinstein Woods

Regional Environmental Websites with Calendars:

Rochester- <http://RocEarth.com>

Toronto- <http://www.greenontario.org/index.html>

Links to area/state environmental/community sustainability organizations and regularly scheduled activities:

Adirondack Mountain Club-Niagara Frontier Chapter Meetings 7:30, second Tues. from Sept.-June	http://www.adk-nfc.org/home.php
Animal Advocates of Western New York	www.animalswny.org
Aquarium of Niagara	www.aquariumofniagara.org
AWARE-Assoc. for Wild Animal Rehabilitation & Education	www.awarewildlife.com
Buffalo Audubon Society/Beaver Meadow Nature Center Volunteer Day every Wed. 10am-2pm at Beaver Meadow	www.buffaloudubon.com
Bond Lake Environmental & Beautification Committee	http://www.freewebs.com/bondlake/
Braddock Bay Bird Observatory	http://www.bbbo.org
Brush Up Buffalo	www.brushupbuffalo.org
Buffalo Astronomical Association	http://www.buffaloastronomy.com/
Buffalo Blue Bicycle	www.buffalobluebicycle.org
Buffalo CarShare	http://www.buffalocarshare.org/
Buffalo Earth Day	http://buffaloeearthday.com/EarthDay/
Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens	www.buffalogardens.com
Buffalo Environmental Management Commission	www.ci.buffalo.ny.us/Home/CityServices
Buffalo First	www.buffalofirst.org/
Buffalo Geological Society Meetings 7:30pm, first Fri. Oct-April, Parkside Lutheran	www.bgsny.org
Buffalo Green Fund	http://www.buffalogreenfund.org/
Buffalo Growing	http://buffalogrowing.org/
Buffalo in Bloom	www.buffaloinbloom.com/
Buffalo Institute for Urban Ecology	http://www.nfwhc.org/groups/buffalo.htm
Buffalo Maritime Center	http://www.buffalomaritimecenter.org/
Buffalo Microparks	http://www.buffalomicroparks.com/

Buffalo Museum of Science	www.sciencebuff.org/
Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper	www.bnriverkeeper.org/
Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy	www.buffaloolmstedparks.org
Buffalo Orienteering Club	www.buffalo-orienteeing.bfn.org
Buffalo Ornithological Society	www.bosbirding.org
Buffalo Recycles-City Information	http://www.buffalorecycles.com/
Buffalo ReUse	www.buffaloreuse.org/
Buffalo Urban Development Corp	http://budc.ecidany.com/
Buffalo Urban Outdoor Education	www.buoe.org
Buffalo Waterfront	http://www.buffalowaterfront.com/
Buffalo Weed and Seed	http://www.buffaloweedandseed.com/
Buffalo Zoo	www.buffalozoo.org
Campaign for Buffalo History, Architecture and Culture	http://greaterbuffalo.blogs.com/
Carvings for a Cause	www.carvingsforacause.com/
Celebrate the Waterfront	www.celebratethewaterfront.com/
Center for Environmental Information (Rochester)	http://ceinfo.org/
Center for the Study of Art, Architecture, History and Nature	http://buffaloah.com/h/center/index.html
Charles E. Burchfield Nature & Art Center	www.THEBNAC.org
Citizens Campaign for the Environment	www.citizenscampaign.org
Citizens' Environmental Coalition	www.cectoxic.org/index.html
Citizens Regional Transit Corporation	www.citizenstransit.org/
Clean Air Coalition of Western New York	http://www.cacwny.org/
Clean Communities of Western New York	http://www.cleancommunitiesofwny.org/
Clean Energy for Jamestown	http://www.cleanenergyforjamestown.com/

Community Action Organization of Erie County	http://www.caoec.org/
Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo	http://www.cfgb.org/
Cornell Cooperative Extension for Erie County	http://counties.cce.cornell.edu/erie/
Cornell Cooperative Extension for Niagara County	http://counties.cce.cornell.edu/niagara/
Daemen College Center for Sustainable Communities	www.daemen.edu/academics/centersinitiatives/CSCCE
Department of Environmental Conservation (NY State)	www.dec.ny.gov/index.html
Earth Spirit Educational Services	www.earthspiritedu.org
Eastside Redevelopment Task Force	http://eastsideredevelopment.org/
Eco-Island Nature Center	www.k12.ginet.org/resources.cfm?subpage=6518
Edible Buffalo	www.ediblebuffalo.com
Environmental Education Associates	http://environmentaleducation.com/
Environmental Protection Agency Local Office (716) 551-4410	http://www.epa.gov/region02/state/nylink.htm
Erie Canal Trailway	www.ptny.org/bikecanal
Erie County Department of Environment and Planning	http://www.erie.gov/environment/
Erie County Parks and Recreation	http://www.erie.gov/parks
Erie County Soil and Water Conservation	www.ecswcd.org/
Evergreen-Buffalo State College	www.buffalostate.edu/orgs/evergreen
Excalibur Leisure Skills	http://excaliburl.org
Field and Fork Network	http://fieldandforknetwork.com/
First Hand Learning	www.firsthandlearning.org
For A Clean Tonawanda Site	www.factsofwny.com/
Friends of the Lower Great Lakes	http://www.friendsofthelowergreatlakes.org/
Foothills Trail Club	www.foothillstrailclub.org

Gander Mountain Store (seminar listings)	http://gander.distanthorizon.com/seminars/index.asp
Garden Walk Buffalo	http://gardenwalkbuffalo.com/
Genesee County Nature Center	www.gcv.org
Good Going WNY	www.goodgoingwny.com
Gooseneck Hill Waterfowl Sanctuary Open Sundays July 5-Aug 30	www.gooseneckhillwaterfowlfarm.com
Grassroots Gardens of Buffalo	http://www.grassrootsgardens.org/
Greater Buffalo-Niagara Regional Transportation Council	www.gbnrtc.org/
Great Lakes Beach Sweep	http://greatlakesbeachsweep.com
Great Lakes Center at Buffalo State College	http://www.buffalostate.edu/greatlakescenter
Great Lakes Program/UB	http://www.eng.buffalo.edu/glp/
Great Lakes United	www.glu.org
Green Gold Development Corporation	http://greengold.org/
Green Options Buffalo	http://www.greenoptionsbuffalo.org/
Habitat for Humanity Buffalo Intro to Volunteering 9am-3 rd Saturday each month	http://habitatbuffalo.org/
Hawk Creek Wildlife Center, Inc.	www.hawkcreek.org
Heart of the City Neighborhoods, Inc.	www.hocn.org
Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge	www.fws.gov/northeast/iroquois/
Jamestown Audubon Center & Sanctuary	www.jamestownaudubon.org
JNK's Call of the Wild Sanctuary	www.jnkscallofthewild.org
Lake Ontario Ordinance Works Restoration Advisory Board	www.loowrab.org/
League of Women Voters of Buffalo Niagara	http://www.lwvbn.org/
Local Initiatives Support Corporation	http://www.lisc.org/buffalo/
Massachusetts Avenue Project	www.mass-ave.org

Messinger Woods Wildlife Care and Education Center, Inc	www.messingerwoods.org
Nature Conservancy-Central and Western New York Chapter	http://Nature.org/centralwestern
Nature Ed-Ventures	www.natureed-ventures.com
Nature Sanctuary of Western New York	http://www.nfwhc.org/groups/naturesanctuary.htm
New Millennium Group	www.nmgonline.org/
New York Forest Owner's Association	www.nyfoa.org
New York Power Authority	www.nypa.gov
New York Public Interest Research Group	http://www.nypirg.org/
New York State Association of Conservation Commissions	http://www.nysaccny.org/index.php
New York State Parks	www.nysparks.com
New York State Sea Grant	http://www.seagrantsunysb.edu/
New York State Sustainable Agriculture Working Group	http://www.nysawg.org/
New York Upstate Chapter of the Green Building Council	http://www.greenupstateny.org/
Niagara County Parks	http://www.niagaracounty.com/Parks/
Niagara County Soil and Water Conservation District	www.niagaraswcd.com
Niagara Frontier Botanical Society	http://www.acsu.buffalo.edu/~insrisg/botany/
Niagara Frontier Wildlife Habitat Council	http://www.nfwhc.org/
Niagara Heritage Partnership	http://www.niagaraheritage.org/
Niagara Restoration Council	www.niagararestoration.org/
Niagara River Anglers Association	http://www.niagarariveranglers.com
Niagara River Greenway Commission	www.niagaragreenway.org
Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York	http://nofany.org
Our Shared Waters	www.oursharedwaters.com
Our Water Future	http://ourwaterfuture.org/

Partnership for the Public Good	www.ppgbuffalo.org
Paths, Peaks and Paddles	www.pathspeakspaddles.com
Penn Dixie Paleontological and Outdoor Education Center Open Sat. 9am-4pm May-Oct. for fossil collecting	www.penndixie.org
Pfeiffer Nature Center (Portville)	www.pfeiffernaturecenter.org
Preservation Buffalo Niagara	http://www.preservationbuffaloniagara.org/
People United for Sustainable Housing	http://www.pushbuffalo.org
Queen City Farm-urban organic farm in Buffalo	www.queencityfarm.org/
Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve 10am Sat. guided tours, Self-guided trails 9am-5pm M-Sat, Env. Educ. Ctr M-F 9am-4:30pm, Sat. 1-4:30pm	www.dec.ny.gov/education/1837.html
Reptile Adoption, Rehabilitation and Education, Inc. (RARE)	http://rarerehab.org/
Retree Western New York	www.re-treewny.org/main.html
Roger Tory Peterson Institute	www.rtpi.org
Slow Food Buffalo	www.slowfoodbuffalo.org/
Sierra Club (Niagara Group of Atlantic Chapter)	http://newyork.sierraclub.org/Niagara
SPCA serving Erie County	www.yourspca.org
Street Synergy	http://www.streetsynergy.org/
Sustainable Earth Solutions	www.sustainableearthsolutions.com
Tifft Nature Preserve Wellness Walks, Thursdays 10-noon, \$2 donation, call 825- 6397 to confirm walk taking place	www.sciencebuff.org/tifft_nature_preserve.php
Tuscarora Environmental Task Force	http://tuscaroraenvironment.com/default.aspx
UBEN-UB Environmental Network Meetings Wednesdays at 7pm, 262 Capen Hall	http://wings.buffalo.edu/sa/uben/
UB Engineers for a Sustainable World	http://wings.buffalo.edu/sa/esw/events.html
UB Environmental Stewardship Committee	http://www.buffalo.edu/ub2020/environmentalstewardship

UB ERIE Program	http://www.erie.buffalo.edu/
UB Green Office	http://wings.buffalo.edu/ubgreen
Urban Design Project at UB	http://urbandesignproject.ap.buffalo.edu/
Urban Roots	www.urbanroots.org/
US Army Corps of Engineers-Buffalo District	http://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/
Voice-Buffalo	http://www.voice-buffalo.org/index.html
Wellness Institute of Greater Buffalo and Western NY	http://www.nysphysicalactivity.org/site_beactivenys/
Western Chapter New York Water Environment Association	www.wnywea.org/
Western New York AmeriCorps	http://www.wnyamericorps.org
Western New York Climate Action Coalition	wnyclimateaction@gmail.com
Western New York Earth Day	http://www.wnyearthday.org/
Western New York Herpetological Society	www.wnyherp.org/
Western New York Hiking Trails and resources	www.wnyhikes.com
Western New York Land Conservancy	http://www.wnylc.org/
Western New York Science Congress	http://wnysc.org/
Western New York Service Learning Coalition	www.wnyslc.org
Western New York Sustainable Energy Association	http://www4.bfn.org/wnyseal/
West Valley Citizen Task Force	www.westvalleyctf.org
Wild Ones, Native Plants and Natural Landscapes	http://wildonesniagara.org/
Wild Spirit Rehab and Release Center	http://www.wildspirit.org/
Wind Action Group	http://www.buffalowind.org
Working for Downtown	http://www.workingfordowntown.org/
Zoar Valley Nature Society	www.zoarvalley.org