

NeighBEARhood Watch Program

The New York NeighBEARhood Watch Program (NWP) is a pilot human-black bear education and communication program developed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (NYSDEC) Bureau of Wildlife and the Human Dimensions Research Unit (HDRU) at Cornell University.

Black bears, New York's largest carnivore and second largest animal (second only to moose), now inhabit almost every county in the state. With approximately 8,000 bears roaming the Empire State, people-bear conflicts have been steadily increasing, particularly throughout the Adirondacks, the Catskill Forest Preserve and Allegheny and Steuben counties in southwestern New York, along the Pennsylvania border. New York experienced its first documented bear-related human fatality in 2002 in Fallsburg, NY, in the Hudson Valley, where residents are experiencing some of the greatest bear problems.

The NWP was developed in response to growing human-bear conflict in New York and an identified need within the region for increased education. The program has three goals:

- 1) reach as many residents as possible in the pilot communities of Woodstock and Warwick, NY
- 2) reduce the level of human-black bear conflict in residential areas
- 3) provide a program evaluation component

Using communication and education theory, information from a regional mail survey, and biological data, eight materials have been specially developed for the Program: brochure, refrigerator magnet, lawn sign, bear management trunk (an educational kit with a bear hide, bear skull, photos of food bears eat and other materials to teach about bear ecology and management), billboard, BEARometer (a printed guide), fact sheet, and magazine article. Materials will be distributed May-September 2005 and evaluated in October 2005. Results will assist state-wide black bear educational efforts.



Participation in this Program is voluntary. Any questions or comments may be directed to Meredith Gore at Cornell University, mlg35@cornell.edu, 607-255-6578, or Matt Merchant at Region 3 NYSDEC, mlmercha@gw.dec.state.ny.us, 845-256-3163. More information about black bears in New York can be found at www.dec.state.ny.us.

Ann Brandt

Logo courtesy of Cornell University and the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation.

Websites of Note

In keeping with the theme of the 2005 Conference, the following websites are all related to wind and water.



- <http://www.crest.org>
Website of the Renewable Energy Policy Project of the Center for Renewable Energy and Sustainable Technology (CREST). The site includes a library of current and archived papers, as well as information on hydropower, bioenergy, geothermal energy and wind and solar energy.
- <http://www.epa.gov/owow/monitoring/volunteer/stream>
Website of the US Environmental Protection Agency, contains a methods manual for volunteer stream monitoring.
- <http://www.awea.org>
Official website of the American Wind Energy Association. Includes news releases on topics important to the future of wind energy, an online bookstore, and information on wind energy and renewable energy events.
- <http://www.eere.energy.gov/windandhydro>
Website of the US Department of Energy Wind and Hydropower Technologies. Contains information on the DOE wind and hydro energy program, wind power projects, wind turbine technology and research, and wind energy basics.
- http://www.on.ec.gc.ca/great_lakes/
Website of Environment Canada. Includes current information concerning the condition of the Lakes, management plans, newsletter, site map and links.
- <http://www.nyruralwater.org>
Website of the NY Rural Water Association, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting the development, improvement, and sound operation of rural drinking water and wastewater systems throughout NYS. Contains information on current projects, training sessions and no cost onsite technical assistance.
- <http://www.dsireusa.org>
Website of the Database of State Incentives for Renewable Energy (DSIRE). A comprehensive source of information on state, local, utility, and selected federal incentives that promote renewable energy.
- <http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com>
Website of a comprehensive and up-to-date renewable energy news and information network on the internet. You can register to receive their weekly newsletter.

Chesapeake Bay Watershed Farming

According to Lindsay Wickham, Field Advisor and Local Issues Specialist for the New York Farm Bureau, agriculturalists in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed believe it is as important as ever to continue, as well as improve on, the environmental stewardship that they have all practiced throughout the years. Unfortunately, agriculture is considered a major contributor to the Bay's impaired status. The onus to understand and solve the issues is on the farmer, part-time or full, to step up and be a leader to help head off any threat to their future.

With the possible regulations of the EPA hanging over their heads, farmers must stay vigilant on water quality. This may seem like a short term issue, when in reality it is an issue that will exist for generations. By initiating and improving sound agricultural practices and implementing new ones, farmers can continue to operate into the future without more oversight and regulations from government agencies.

In New York, farmers have several options to aid in making good management decisions. At the local level, the county Soil and Water Conservation District office (SWCD) is an invaluable resource for information, and hands-on assistance for setting up and implementing BMPs (Best Management Practices). Things like drainage, soil erosion and sediment control, wetland restoration, cover cropping, no-till planting, and nutrient management are a few of the program areas that they can assist with, as well as possible funding for these programs.

The SWCs also work closely with the NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service), FSA (Farm Service Agency), and the RC&D (Resource Conservation and Development), all part of the United States Department of Agriculture. These agencies also offer various programs and funding in the BMP and conservation arena. Often, SWCDs and these other agencies can assist with any paperwork that may be needed, including permits.

The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, in conjunction with local SWCDs, also offers AEM, Agricultural Environmental Management, a voluntary program to help farmers continue to be in the forefront of protecting natural resources. This proactive approach offers a comprehensive method for implementing BMPs to help conserve our environment on a local, state, and national level.

Agriculturists must all work together to help clean up the Chesapeake Bay. They must focus not only on how to improve their own water quality, also but that of their communities and state. In order to avoid further regulations farmers need to reach out and be proactive. This is about all farms, municipalities, businesses, and residents in the basin and their combined efforts will help overcome this serious issue.

Lee Hanle Younge, NYSACC Director, has worked with Lindsay Wickham in the Susquehanna River Basin Watershed.

Spotlight on Mikel Shakarjian NYSAEMC's New President

Mikel Shakarjian, New York State Association of Environmental Management Councils' new president, has been involved with EMCs since 1999, when she served as Tompkins County's EMC coordinator. Mikel is currently an associate member of that EMC and has been active on the NYS Association of EMCs Board of Directors since 2000. Her goals for the organization include improving communication and outreach amongst EMCs statewide and updating the Association's website. A large effort in this direction is to coordinate the 2005 Conference on the Environment. She is co-chairing the Conference Committee with NYSACC's Joy Squires.



Mikel was born and raised in Lewiston, New York along the Niagara River. She has been involved with environmental issues since 1990, on both a volunteer and professional basis in various parts of the United States. One of her favorite sayings is by Margaret Mead, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

Mikel has a B.S. from SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry, and an M.S. from the University of Montana. Her background includes extensive experience managing complicated technology and development projects, as well as ecological research. She has worked for various universities, federal and state agencies and local government, including the US Dept of the Interior, USDA Forest Service, the states of Montana, Oregon, South Carolina, and most recently New York. Mikel loves the outdoors, walking her dog, enjoying music and living in rural New York State.

NYSACC News

Arlene Kaufman, Editor
Joy Squires, NYSACC President

Newsletter Office
3 Andover Drive
Port Jefferson Sta.
NY 11776
631-928-3277
631-331-4526 fax
Teach2345@aol.com

NYSACC Office
P.O. Box 1732
Huntington, NY
11743
631-368-6949
631-368-4796 fax
joysq@aol.com

NYSACC News is published three times a year. CACs are encouraged to submit press releases, articles, artwork or photography to the editor. For additional copies of NYSACC News and address changes, contact the Newsletter office.

President's Message

Listed below are the Directors of NYSACC. Contact us for assistance or just to talk. See you at the Conference.

Joy Squires

President

Joy Squires
17 Clarissa Lane
E. Northport, NY 11731
Region 1
631-368-6949
631-368-4796 (fax)
joyssq@aol.com

Vice President

Simon Skolnik
53 Greenville Rd.
Katonah, NY 10536
Region 3
914-273-4266
914-232-9552 (fax)
*simon@lasberg
construction.com*

Secretary

Donald Duger
6186 Whiting Road Ext.
Jordan, NY 13080
Region 7
315-689-6361
donduger@aol.com

Treasurer

Ann Brandt
14 Evergreen Lane
Woodstock, NY 12498
Region 3
845-679-2113 ext. 8
845-679-8743 (fax)
abrandt@woodstock.ny.org

REGION I

Carole Wilder
631-842-1966
c25jw@aol.com

REGION VIII

Lee Hanle Younge
607-562-3988 (h)
lhy2@stny.rr.com

REGION III

Steven Otis
914-934-5250
steveotisrye@aol.com

Steve Noble
845-430-2547
weather1@aol.com

REGION IX

Eve Fertig
716-681-5918

Frank Mantione
716-992-3551
franknan@localnet.com

John Fava
914-273-8244
FFJJ@aol.com

Peter Rizzo
716-837-0627
pcrizzo@hotmail.com

Sam A kimbami
716-773-9600
patsam37@adelphia.net

NYSACC News
3 Andover Drive
Port Jefferson Station, NY
11776

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

SYRACUSE, N.Y.
PERMIT NO. 1362