

# ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS



# 2008 Final Report

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## St. Lawrence Youth Conservation Corps

32nd Year Anniversary 1976-2008

"Making St. Lawrence County A Better Place to Live"

### Introduction

For 32 years the St. Lawrence County Youth Bureau has sponsored the St. Lawrence County Youth Conservation Corps (YCC). Since 1976 the Youth Bureau has been responsible for employing over 1800 youth in St. Lawrence County through the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC). The YCC has performed over 1 Million Dollars worth of work in its 32 years of existence. The St. Lawrence County YCC is the main organization that maintains over 150 trails, beaches, and thousands of acres of forest in St. Lawrence County. Without the YCC this work could not be accomplished.

In 2008, the Youth Bureau employed 6 crews to work in St. Lawrence County. These crews were located in Potsdam, Canton, Edwards, Gouverneur, Ogdensburg, and Massena. Each crew consisted of 7-12 youth ages 14-18. The crews worked in various locations and on various projects. This work could not have been done without the financial support and sponsors the Youth Bureau Director has established and maintained through the years since she became director.

YCC has had a major impact on the County and the communities that it serves. I have been very proud to be associated with the YCC program and I hope that the organizations, County Government, and the financial supporters continue to support this outstanding program. It has not only helped to manage the State and County forests of St. Lawrence County, but has assisted our number one resource, the young people of St. Lawrence County attain conservation and workforce skills that they can use throughout their lives. Those who participate in YCC should be very proud of his or her association with this outstanding conservation and work-force development program. I would like to personally thank everyone who has contributed to making the organization a success in 2008. I hope that YCC will continue to grow and achieve as it has into the coming years.

--2008 YCC Support Staff Intern, Chelsea Snyder

## Financial Supporters

The St. Lawrence County Youth Bureau and Youth Conservation Corps would like to extend thanks to the financial supporters of the 2008 YCC program. It is because of the support we receive that we are celebrating our 32<sup>nd</sup> year of making the communities of St. Lawrence County a better place to live in through this wonderful program. The St. Lawrence County Youth Bureau is glad to have formed these partnerships with these supporters. The support, belief in, and dedication to the YCC program by the following people is greatly appreciated. The following supporters we would like to extend our gratitude to are:

- Board of Legislators
- Office of Children and Family Services
- Office of Economic Development
- McNeil Family- Dorothy McNeil Trust
- Senator Joseph Griffo, 48<sup>th</sup> District
- Sweetgrass Foundation
- Workforce Investment Act's Summer Youth Council
- (Youth Bureau's) Youth Advisory Board
- New York State Power Authority St. Lawrence River Research Fund (SLRRF)

## St. Lawrence County Youth Bureau

In 2008, the St. Lawrence County Youth Bureau, who is the main advocate for the YCC program, again took the lead role in keeping 6 YCC crews working in the field of forestry and conservation in St. Lawrence County. The Youth Bureau has been responsible for the raising of funds, coordination and administration of the YCC program for the last 32 years. This County department has worked hard to keep the program going in difficult fiscal times. This has only occurred with the dedication and leadership of Joanne Sevicke, whom is the Youth Bureau's Director. Mrs. Sevicke has been the leading advocate for the YCC program, always looking for new ways to keep the program in existence, and employing youth. The YCC program has not only grown in numbers, but also in recognition of the work the YCC does for the County and State. The Youth Bureau is also responsible for the work plan development, hiring of youth crewmembers, crew supervisors, and making sure the program is meeting program goals and expectations.

## Office of Children & Family Services

The Youth Bureau's Youth Conservation Corps program is partially funded through the Office of Children & Family Services (OCFS). The SLC Youth Bureau is working to leverage OCFS funding together with various resources in providing safe opportunities for positive youth development during non-school hours.

## Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Youth Council

The Youth Council funded two crews this season. One crew was funded with Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funds and one crew was funded with monies from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding stream. The youth funded through WIA and TANF were placed on crews in Canton, Edwards, Gouverneur, Massena, and Ogdensburg. This support enables more youth whom are able to work to be employed. The support of the WIA Youth Council has helped to preserve the program, maintain the public lands of St. Lawrence County, and has assisted many young adults, their families, and communities within the County.

## Senator Joseph A. Griffo Legislative Grant

This \$20,000 legislative grant presented by Senator Joseph Griffo has enabled the Youth Bureau to keep the YCC crew in Potsdam and the Youth Conservation Corps & Mt. Arab Restoration Project going strong. This project is a collaboration between the Friends of Mt. Arab (FOMA), State University of New York University (SUNY) Potsdam's Adirondack Environmental Studies Program, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC Region 6), and the St. Lawrence County Youth Bureau. Due to the economic climate and rural nature of St. Lawrence County, limited opportunities exist for place-based education and programs that promote the collaboration and integration of ideas and long-term outcomes. This project provides service to the forest preserve with its title and curriculum focused on the Adirondack Forest Preserve that also serves as an international model, and local model for other groups who desire to restore fire towers throughout the northern region. The project's core is an integration of economic growth and youth employment, cultural tourism, a humanities/science-based curriculum, interpretation and cultural preservation and history.

## Sweetgrass Foundation

The Sweetgrass Foundation has been a longtime supporter of the Youth Bureau's Youth Conservation Corps. Since 1993, the Sweetgrass Foundation has sponsored YCC Crews throughout St. Lawrence County. This year the Sweetgrass crew

was located in Ogdensburg. The Sweetgrass Foundation is an asset to the existence of YCC. The foundation has donated a large amount of money to employ the youth of St. Lawrence County and their supervisors. The money and support that is donated to the Youth Conservation Corps is greatly appreciated. In 2008, the Sweetgrass Crew began projects in invasive species management & identification along the St. Lawrence River between Ogdensburg and Lisbon. This expanded component of the St. Lawrence County Youth Bureau's YCC in Ogdensburg offered project activities in community education, natural resource management, and workplace skills. This crew carried out projects that monitor and collect data on invasive species, provide prevention strategies to the public in regards to exotic plant invasions, and identify strategies for invasive plant management. In addition to its focus on aquatic invasive plant locations the Ogdensburg "Sweetgrass" Crew took on specialized projects that needed to be executed by a crew with skills in conservation and outdoor leadership

### St. Lawrence River Research & Education Fund

In 2008, the St. Lawrence River Research & Education Fund (SLRREF) awarded the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) Wetland Watchers Crew a grant to assist the St. Lawrence River communities in manual invasive species control and management. Invasive species have been identified and mapped at the HIPs at Whitehouse Point (Town of Waddington), Coles Creek wetland complex (Towns of Louisville and Waddington, Richards Landing Dike, and Long Sault Dike (Town of Massena). Control of these species requires manual removal of the plants including the rhizomes and the disposal of invasive species. The program was also funded to provide workforce development, conservation education, and leadership training for members of the Corps. The SLRREF provided an amount not to exceed \$17,615 for YCC. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> year the Wetland Watchers Crew has received this funding.

### Youth Bureau Partnerships

Without the support of these departments and personnel it would not be possible for the St. Lawrence County Youth Conservation Corps to continue for 32 years. Each organization and person has been a major contributor to the YCC program. We thank you for your support and dedication to the program.

- Arne's Custom Printing, Gouverneur
- Central Printing & Mail- Richard Cassara, Susan Flanagan, Bobbie Jo Walker (Jody 1)
- Mt. Arab Partnership Support- Michael Wilson (SUNY Potsdam & FOMA)
- St. Lawrence County Youth Bureau- Director Joanne Sevicke

- St. Lawrence County YCC Coordinators- Greg Butler & John Morgan
- St. Lawrence County Highway Shop- Richard Stoner & Wes Zeller
- St. Lawrence County Sheriff Dept.- Kevin Wells
- Stewart's
- Summer Youth Employment & Opportunities Staff
- Norm Jobin, OED Account Clerk Support
- Kelly Reed, Purchasing Department
- Village/Town of Potsdam & Highway Department
- Village of Massena Support of Public Works- Hassan Fayad
- Town of Stockholm Supervisor-Lowell Kelsey
- Friends of Mt. Arab (FOMA)
- Massena School District
- St. Lawrence County Workforce Investment Board (WIB)
- St. Lawrence County Workforce Investment Act's (WIA) Youth Council
- St. Lawrence County Youth Advisory Board
- Soil & Water Conservation - Katie Maloney, Aaron Earl, Dawn Howard
- Rex Hardware
- Wood Chop Shop

### Administration of 2008 YCC Program

St. Lawrence County Youth Bureau

### YCC Conservation & Environmental Partnerships

Department of Environmental Conservation, Region 6

Soil & Water Conservation District

### Youth Conservation Corps Administrative Staff

- Youth Bureau Director-Joanne Sevic
- Youth Bureau Secretary I- Lisa Bartalo
- YCC YB Coordinator- John Morgan
- YCC Forestry Coordinator - Greg J. Butler
- Youth Bureau Intern- Chelsea Snyder



- Youth Bureau Intern - Ashley Perkins
- Youth Bureau Intern - Jennifer Sibert

### Youth Conservation Corps Crew Supervisor Staff

- Gouverneur Crew Supervisor - Maggie Simmons (2<sup>nd</sup> year)
- Ogdensburg Crew Supervisor - Molly Douglas (1<sup>st</sup> year)
- Potsdam Crew Supervisor - Andrea Muszynski (1<sup>st</sup> year)
- Massena Crew Supervisor - Jennifer Gray (3<sup>rd</sup> year)
- Canton Crew Supervisor - Jonathan Putney (2<sup>nd</sup> year)
- Edwards Crew Supervisor - Stephanie Wagner (1<sup>st</sup> year)

### Mt. Arab Summit Guide

- Maridee Rutledge

### Summer Youth Employment Opportunity (SYEO) Staff

- Jim Connor - Senior Coordinator
- Norm Jobin - Summer Account Clerk
- Pam Lewis - Summer Counselor
- Ruth Harmer - Summer Counselor
- Philip Horsley - Summer Counselor
- Nicole Belonge - Summer Counselor
- Jennifer Brady - Summer Youth Tutor
- Nancy Parish - Summer Youth Tutor

### YCC Coordinator Profiles

#### John Morgan, YCC Youth Bureau Coordinator

This is John Morgan's 2nd year as a Youth Bureau Coordinator. John worked for four years as Crew Supervisor for the Canton/Edwards crew. John has been a resident of Pierrepont for 8 years and a resident of St. Lawrence County for 32 years. He works as the Environmental Technology Instructor at St. Lawrence - Lewis BOCES and has done so for 7 years. Previously he was employed at the New York State Office of Real Property Services in Saranac Lake as a Forest Appraiser and at the South Carolina State Forestry Commission as a Forest Inventory Forester. He attended Clemson University in Clemson, South Carolina where he earned his Bachelor of Science and majored in Forest Resource Management. He attended the New York State Ranger School in Wanakena, New York and the State University of New York in Cobleskill, New York.



### Greg J. Butler, YCC Forestry Coordinator

Greg J. Butler is also an YCC Forestry Coordinator. Greg is a resident of Norwood and attended High School in Plattsburgh, NY. He attended SUNY Cortland where he received his B.S.E. in Physical Education and SUNY Potsdam where he received his Masters in Special Education. He is currently a Special Education teacher at Norwood-Norfolk Central School and has also coached JV Softball for the past 3 years. Greg previously was a Special Education teacher at Brushton-Moira Central School employed by F.E.H. BOCES and a Special Education teacher with Franklin County BOCES in Malone. In the summers of 2000-2002 he worked as a crew supervisor for YCC and in 2003 as a Forestry Coordinator for YCC. From 1993-1999 he had worked for Dandrow Painting Inc. in Plattsburgh, NY.

### 2008 YCC Educational Component

The St. Lawrence County Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) is a summer learning opportunity that engages adolescents and young adults aged 14 - 18 in conservation work and activities. The application of math and science skills through environmental activities and the modelling of an attitude and philosophy of stewardship have shown that YCC is a program of excellence.

YCC is a unique approach to youth development, career exploration, and educational skill attainment. The power of this program is exceptional, especially when one takes into consideration the geographic location, population, limited economic growth, social isolation, and low educational attainment levels of adolescents and adults within St. Lawrence County. These factors have a significant impact upon post-secondary pursuits, interests, and successes of young people who reside here.

The summer integration of the Educational Component has both immediate and long-range goals. Key elements of YCC include the integration of education, conservation practices, post-secondary training, and employment. The pragmatic use of school, life, and work related information assists crewmembers in gaining valuable experience. Our educational piece seeks to avoid summer learning loss, strengthen existing cognitive skills, and provide participants instruction in basic workplace competencies. This is achieved by implementing several educational strategies to all Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) members.

Enrichment activities offered during the 2008 YCC program are as follows:

- Conservation Education
- Leadership Training

- Teaching of Basic Skills through Environmental Activities
- Math & Reading Tutoring
- First Aid, Health, Wellness and Nutrition
- Tool Maintenance & Safety
- Personal, Academic & Occupational Counseling
- Post-Secondary Awareness & Planning
- Pre-Employment & Job Skills Training
- Speaker Presentations
- Environmental Summit for Climate Change Mitigation

The use of work and life-related information provides YCC crewmembers the foundation in which to perform specific job and life tasks. Even though our members differ in educational attainment levels, learning styles, and familiarity with the environmental workplace, all workers are expected to strive for the following environmental, educational, and basic employment goals:

#### Environmental Goals

- ➔ Develop an awareness and appreciation of this region's natural and cultural environment.
- ➔ Develop an understanding and knowledge of basic ecological concepts.
- ➔ To increase participant's knowledge of natural and cultural history.
- ➔ Model an attitude and philosophy of stewardship for our natural and cultural heritage.
- ➔ Provide a tangible focus and vehicle for youth development and job skills in the conservation field.

#### Educational Goals

- ➔ Develop the necessary skills to perform job tasks, convey the proper attitude and behaviors, which are important in producing quality work in a group setting.
- ➔ Maintain and improve existing skill levels.
- ➔ Remain open to new experiences and new ideas.

#### Employment Goals

- ➔ Develop the skills, attitudes, and behaviors necessary to produce quality work.
- ➔ To learn basic first aid and practice these work-safety procedures in the field.
- ➔ To improve basic pre-employment and on-the-job skills.
- ➔ To actively participate in group decision-making, leadership, and team work principles.

- To remain open to varied work experiences, this involves the use of different skills and a variety of tasks.

### Achievements of the Youth Conservation Corps 2008

The Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) prepares adolescents for the workplace experience. Visible evidence that youth are changing their communities within the framework of environmental and community service is a given. Work accomplishments for each crew are recorded on the YCC Daily Log Sheet, and work-sites are visited on a daily basis.

Other verifiable participant achievements include:

- High attendance rates during the program.
- School retention during the academic year.
- Lack of involvement in the juvenile justice system.
- Enhancement of science skills.
- Increased awareness about St. Lawrence County's natural heritage.
- The Practice of Environmental stewardship.
- The development of the skills, attitudes, and behaviors necessary to produce work and retain employment.

These records are evidence that YCC provides a much-needed service to the 14 and 15 year old that is not permitted to hold many jobs. The value of the YCC experience cannot be underestimated for this age group. YCC is a powerful career exploration tool for a young adolescent who needs direction, an incentive to stay in school, and a pragmatic experience in the work environment.

### 2008 YCC Work Projects & Crew Profiles

At the beginning of the Youth Conservation Corps program, each crew supervisor is given a YCC Work Plan for their assigned area. The crew supervisor also develops and seeks to find projects for their crew to "tackle". Most assignments involve maintenance of public, state, town and village lands. There are a variety of assignments, primarily oriented toward forestry, recreational development, and wildlife management. It is the responsibility of the crew supervisor and Youth Crew Members to develop a weekly work plan of projects, and to carry out their completion. Quality of work and teamwork is a major emphasis to the YCC staff. Safety is priority, always stressed and practiced throughout the summer program. Through the heat of summer, crews worked tirelessly to complete the work projects assigned to them.

## Canton Crew

### Canton Crew Supervisor:

Jon Putney is at the helm of this year's Canton crew. A North Country native, he grew up near Heuvelton and now resides in Waddington. He attended Hartwick College and graduated in 2001 with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and History. Jon went on to do his student teaching and to obtain his teaching license and was hired at Massena Central High School in February 2002. Jon places a great value on teaching 11<sup>th</sup> grade U.S. History & Government, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade Economics at Massena. Jon completed his Master's Degree in Social Studies education in December 2003. In addition to teaching Jon enjoys officiating boy's and girl's basketball, women's volleyball, and men's lacrosse and football. Jon has traveled extensively as he has been to China, Mexico, South Korea, Hawaii, and South Africa.

### Specific Work Accomplished

- ~ Catamount Lodge Trail System Development
- ~ Glen Meal State forest
- ~ Grass River Heritage
- ~ Whipponwill State forest horse/hiking trail
- ~ Indian Creek Nature Center

### Canton Youth Crew Members 2008

- Tyler Bleau - 1<sup>st</sup> year
- Nicholas D'Agostino - 1<sup>st</sup> year
- Matthew DeForge - 1<sup>st</sup> year
- Cody Matthews - 1<sup>st</sup> year
- Nick Monast - 1<sup>st</sup> year
- Denver Reagan - 3<sup>rd</sup> year
- Zebulon Tupper - 1<sup>st</sup> year
- Joshua Wright - 3<sup>rd</sup> year --- Crew Leader

## Edwards Crew

### Edwards Crew Supervisor:

Stephanie Wagner is this year's Edwards Crew Supervisor. Stephanie grew up in Dickinson Center and now lives in Parishville. She went to Clarkson University, and graduated with a B.S. in Business and Technology Management in December of 2004. After graduating with her B.S. she continued to further her education at SUNY Potsdam and then graduated in May of 2006 with her M.S.T. in Childhood Education. After the completion of her M.S.T. in Childhood Education she was hired at Franklin Academy in Malone to teach high school business. At Franklin Academy she teaches high school students Accounting, Business Math, Sports Management, Sports Marketing and Business Lifestyles. Stephanie also enjoys traveling, going on cruises, reading, playing sports and spending time with her family and pets.

### Specific work Accomplished

- ~ Whipporwill State Forest Horse Trails
- ~ Chisolm Trails
- ~ Donnerville State Forest
- ~ Cold Spring Brooke State Forest
- ~ Plumbrook State Forest
- ~ Indian Creek Nature Center
- ~ County Forest area #29, Parishville
- ~ Treefoil Girl Scout Camp
- ~ Village of Potsdam, fire hydrants
- ~ Potsdam Airport
- ~ Silver Hill Forest

### Edwards Crew Members 2008

- Jesse Ashley - 1<sup>st</sup> year
- Lacey Brown - 1<sup>st</sup> year
- Christopher Chambers - 1<sup>st</sup> year
- Brandon Church - 1<sup>st</sup> year
- Brad Mason - 1<sup>st</sup> year --- Crew Leader
- Tyler McDonald - 2<sup>nd</sup> year
- Anthony Mossow - 1<sup>st</sup> year
- Bradley Rafter - 1<sup>st</sup> year

## Potsdam Crew

### Potsdam Crew Supervisor:

Andrea Muszynski is new to the Youth Conservation Corps staff this summer. Andrea Muszynski is the Potsdam Crew Supervisor and helps the Wetland Watchers crew, supervised by Jenn Gray. Before joining the YCC staff Andrea was the assistant women's basketball coach at Clarkson University. Along with her coaching abilities Andrea also is a substitute teacher at Colton-Pierrepont Central School. Andrea is originally from Buffalo, New York. Andrea moved to the North Country to attend college at St. Lawrence University. In 2007 she graduated and obtained her Bachelors Degree in Psychology and minored in Sports Studies and Exercise Science from St. Lawrence University.

### Specific Work Accomplished

- ~ Painting at Brasher Falls Cemetery
- ~ Red Sand Stone Trail
- ~ Allen's Falls
- ~ Rutland Rail Trail
- ~ Pleasant Mound Cemetery
- ~ Clear Pond
- ~ Ashton Road #9; Four wheel trail clearing
- ~ Area 21, Cook Road; Parishville ATV Trails
- ~ Potsdam Fire Hydrants
- ~ Benson Road, CRA # 32
- ~ Gorge Trail

### Potsdam Youth Crew Members 2008

- Daniel Brouwer - 4<sup>th</sup> year
- Wade Carey - 2<sup>nd</sup> year --- Crew Leader
- Thomas Fitzgerald - 1<sup>st</sup> year
- Andrew Foster - 1<sup>st</sup> year
- Austin Kelly - 1<sup>st</sup> year
- Christine Phippen - 1<sup>st</sup> year
- Ashley Schiavone - 1<sup>st</sup> year
- David Witherell - 4<sup>th</sup> year

## Ogdensburg Crew

### Ogdensburg Crew Supervisor:

Molly Douglas is the Ogdensburg Crew Supervisor for the 2008 St. Lawrence County Youth Conservation Corps. Molly grew up here in the North Country in the town of Lawrenceville and attended St. Lawrence Central. She went to college at SUNY Potsdam for Sociology and Education. Molly has recently returned from Sao Paulo, Brazil where she had been a teacher and missionary for the last four years. She will be moving to Pennsylvania in the fall to attend a mission's training school for a year. She hopes to go back overseas as soon as she completes mission's training school.

### Specific Work Accomplished

- ~ Frederic Remington Art Museum
- ~ Ogdensburg Garden Club
- ~ Ogdensburg Public Library
- ~ Ogdensburg Parks and Recreation
- ~ Massena Town Highway Department
- ~ Massena Chamber of Commerce
- ~ Salvation Army
- ~ New Testament Church
- ~ The Rod and Gun Club
- ~ Fort La Presentation
- ~ St. Lawrence River Invasive Species Project

### Ogdensburg Youth Crew Members 2008

- Michael Dishaw - 3<sup>rd</sup> year
- Joshua Hitsman - 2<sup>nd</sup> year --- Crew Leader
- Payton Montroy - 1<sup>st</sup> year
- Sean Moore - 1<sup>st</sup> year
- Tyler Moore - 1<sup>st</sup> year
- Nicholas Steenkamer - 1<sup>st</sup> year
- Russell Tuttle - 2<sup>nd</sup> year --- Crew Leader



### Gouverneur Crew Supervisor:

Maggie Simmons has been with the Youth Conservation Corps for two years. This year she was the supervisor for the Gouverneur crew. Maggie graduated from Gouverneur Central in 2004. She has recently graduated from St. Lawrence University with a Bachelors Degree in Biology. She also minored in Geology and Education. In August she will be moving to Lawrence, Kansas where she will be attending the University of Kansas to study Paleontology.

### Specific Work Accomplished

- ~ Greenwood Creek State Forest
- ~ Aldrich Pond Wild Forest
- ~ Cranberry Lake State Forest
- ~ Moores Trail
- ~ Young Road Parking Lot
- ~ Canoe Trail to Racquette River
- ~ Little River Trail
- ~ Wolf Lake
- ~ Girl Scout Camp
- ~ Yellow Lake
- ~ Harrisville Central School
- ~ Streeter Lake Rd.
- ~ Lonesome Bay State Forest
- ~ Paint and Landscape Colton Cemetery

### Gouverneur Youth Crew Members 2008

- Allen Aldridge- 1<sup>st</sup> year
- Shayne Austin- 1<sup>st</sup> year
- Allen Brown- 1<sup>st</sup> year
- Thomas Bush - 2<sup>nd</sup> year --- Crew Leader
- Patrick Cryus - 1<sup>st</sup> year
- Richard Cryus - 1<sup>st</sup> year
- Johnathon Finley- 1<sup>st</sup> year
- Brian Hendrickson 1<sup>st</sup> year (MIA)
- Zachary House - 1<sup>st</sup> year

## St. Lawrence River Research & Education Fund (SLRREF)

### Wetland Watchers Crew

#### Wetland Watchers Crew Supervisor:

Jennifer Gray is the crew supervisor for the Massena "Wetland Watchers" crew. Jenn is originally from Potsdam and has recently moved to Bombay. Jenn has been a resident of St. Lawrence County for the past 23 years. Jenn will be teaching pre-kindergarten at Massena Central School in the Fall of 2008. Jenn also coaches the girl's varsity hockey team at Massena Central. Jenn graduated from SUNY Potsdam in 2005 with her Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education. Jennifer Gray completed her undergraduate work at Clarkson University. Jenn has a double major in Technical Communications and Business Administration from Clarkson. This is Jenn's 3<sup>rd</sup> year working as a crew supervisor for YCC.

#### Crew Supervisor Assistant:

Charlotte Berry is a 20 year old junior at Unity College located in Maine majoring in Marine Biology. This is Charlotte's second year on YCC. She is hoping to obtain a career studying marine mammals located in the ocean.

### Wetland Watchers Educational & Workforce Development Objectives

- Outdoor conservation/classroom activities for native & non-native plants
- Increase knowledge and awareness of the environment.
- Advanced knowledge of the St. Lawrence River ecosystem.
- Promote environmental education & stewardship for our natural and cultural heritage.
- Teach conservation education utilizing a seminar format.

#### Project Themes

- Natural Resource Management through monitoring & evaluation.
- Community Education: Media Public Service announcements, Climate Change Mitigation Summit Power-Point Presentation, & the Invasive Species Wallet Identification Card.
- Letter-writing campaign: Better Business Practices Letter to Local nurseries.

#### Project Objectives

- Invasive species identification.

- Conduct roadside inventories.
- Investigate and implement best management practices for control & containment.
- Monitor and measure success at Richard's Landing & designated boat launch sites throughout SLC.
- Continue surveillance to identify & record new locations.
- Increase public and agency awareness through education & outreach.

### Research

Focus-threats to local wetlands & management plans for invasive species.

### Public Awareness

Brochure, press releases and public service announcements, invasive species identification wallet brochure, and presentation at the Summit for Climate Change Mitigation.

### Conservation Education Partnerships

- Jon Montan: SLC Planning Department
- Steve vanDerMark, Cornell Cooperative Extension
- Patrick Whalen, Department of Environmental Conservation
- Aaron Earle, Soil & Water Conservation
- Bill LaPointe & Marilyn Mayer, Grant Educational Supporters

### Specific Work Accomplished

- ✓ Purple Loosestrife identification, tracking, and Removal
- ✓ Invasive Species Identification: Cow Parsnip, Swallow-Wort, Honeysuckle, Buckthorn, Japanese knotweed, Giant Hogweed.
- ✓ Public Service Announcement on Invasive Species.
- ✓ Public Awareness Video on Invasive Species.
- ✓ Invasive Boat Launch signs inventory.
- ✓ Invasive Species inventory at local greenery's.
- ✓ Massena Central School Maintenance work: mowing, tree trimming, staining, courtyard clean-up, weeding, and mulching.
- ✓ Mt. Arab building Maintenance.

## Educational Experiences

- ~ Steve Vandermark: Invasive Species workshop
- ~ Marilyn Mayer: Aquatic Invertebrates & Seining Workshop
- ~ St. Lawrence River Boat Tours, Alex Bay, NY
- ~ Hawkins Point Visitor Center & Power Project
- ~ 50 Years of Energy Video, St. Lawrence Seaway and Locks
- ~ Bill LaPointe's Buckthorn Wood Lot Research Project

## Wetland Watcher Youth Crew Members 2008

- John Kemison - 1<sup>st</sup> year
- Ethan Klemp - 4<sup>th</sup> year
- Damien LaShomb - 1<sup>st</sup> year
- Kurtis Moore - 1<sup>st</sup> year
- Tyler Perry - 1<sup>st</sup> year --- Crew Leader
- Josh Reedy - 1<sup>st</sup> year
- Sky Stoddard - 1<sup>st</sup> year

## SPECIAL PROJECTS IN 2008

### "Wetland Watchers" Crew

The Youth Conservation Corps Wetland Watchers Program is a program with a three-fold mission: prevention, management, and education. A crew supervisor and 8 youth crew members worked on Wetlands along the St. Lawrence River, Monday - Thursday, in varying weather conditions, from 7:30am - 3:30pm. This new component of the St. Lawrence County Youth Bureau's YCC will offer project activities in community education, natural resource and invasive species management, and workplace skills. YCC Wetland Watchers carried out projects that monitored and collected data on invasive species, provided prevention strategies to the public in regards to exotic plant invasions, and identified strategies for invasive plant management. In addition to its focus on aquatic invasive plant locations, the Wetland Watchers Crew also took on specialized projects that needed to be executed by a crew with more advanced skills in conservation and outdoor leadership.

(Please see Attachment Section for on-site reports, public awareness efforts, and invasive species wallet sized identification card.)

## Mt. Arab Youth & Restoration Project - Summit Guide & Interpretive Program

The Youth Conservation Corps and Mt. Arab Restoration Project is collaboration between the Friends of Mt. Arab (FOMA), State University of New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC Region 6), SUNY Potsdam and the St. Lawrence County Youth Bureau. Due to the economic climate and rural nature of St. Lawrence County, limited opportunities exist for place-based education and programs that promote the collaboration and integration of ideas and long-term outcomes. This project provides service to the forest preserve with its title and curriculum focused on the Adirondack Forest Preserve that also serves as an international model, and local model for other groups who desire to restore fire towers throughout the Northern New York State region. The project's core is an integration of economic growth, youth employment, cultural tourism, a humanities/science-based curriculum, interpretation, cultural preservation and history.

The abandonment of the Mt. Arab fire tower and adjacent observer's cabin in 1988 resulted in these facilities being severely vandalized. Local organizational restoration efforts began in 1996 to address rehabilitation and improvement of access to the fire tower for historical and educational purposes. In 1997, the Friends of Mt. Arab (FOMA) formed to restore the fire tower and observer cabin. The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) partnered with FOMA to help assist in the fire tower restoration. Between 1998 and 2000 significant trail maintenance was performed by the Student Conservation Association (SCA). Between 1999 and 2003, trail maintenance and transport of materials, needed to renovate the tower was performed by the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC). Use levels have increased as work on Mt. Arab progresses. A SUNY intern staffed the tower in the summer of 2000, providing information and education to the public. In 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007, the Youth Bureau secured funding for the Summit Steward and Assistant Steward Positions. In 2008 the Youth Bureau secured funding for the Summit Steward.

The Mt. Arab partnership is now prepared to develop a long-term public fundraising strategy and replicate the place-based education program for fire tower partnerships in several surrounding counties that aim to restore fire observation towers and develop local history programs in their locales.

### Illegal Dumping & YCC Public Awareness Campaign

In 2008 the YCC continues to work with the Department of Environmental Conservation in coordinating an illegal dumping & public awareness campaign. Since 2003 the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) have conducted a yearly county-wide garbage

collection and pick up event. In 2008, garbage was collected, bagged, and correctly disposed of in St. Lawrence County. This work project has a three-fold mission:

#1 to increase awareness about the impact of illegal dumping and the effects it has on the environment and our local communities.

#2 to meet an unmet community need,

#3 to manage and address the problems associated with illegal dumping,

#4 and, to promote a public awareness campaign that educates the YCC and community about the environmental and aesthetic impact of illegal dumping in St. Lawrence County.

The garbage collection and disposal process is conducted throughout the YCC season. Educational information is made available to the public, along with a media campaign that informs the public of this growing problem. YCC, in concert with the Department of Environmental Conservation monitors common dumping sites in St. Lawrence County. Currently, this DEC and YCC partnership is the only one in St. Lawrence County that addresses the community issue of illegally dumped garbage.

(Please see Attachment Section for 2008 Illegal Dumping Brochure.)

### The 2008 YCC Environmental Summit for Climate Change Mitigation & Recognition Ceremony

The distinguished teens of St. Lawrence County's Youth Conservation Corps were recognized Monday, August 4, 2008 for their astute attention to their communities and St. Lawrence County's environment. The YCC Environmental Summit & Recognition Ceremony took place on the SUNY Canton campus in the Kingston Theater with YCC staff members ("head honcho" Joanne Sevicke, Lisa Bartalo) hosting the ceremony. YCC "crews" from Canton, Potsdam, Edwards Knox, Gouverneur, Ogdensburg and Massena all displayed their summer achievements to one another with the Massena crew (also known as "Wetland Watchers") giving an "Invasive Species" video presentation with various important environmental facts. During the ceremony many YCC members expressed their interests in perusing outdoor-oriented careers in St. Lawrence County to guest speaker Peter Skomsky; who is not only an established hunting guide but also a co-chair to the Environmental Management Council. Skomsky gave many examples of the ever-changing natural life in the North Country and the job opportunities that correspond.

Recognition was given to the crew leaders that were chosen based on their demonstrated leadership ability during the first week of the program; these leaders

were Wade Carey of the Potsdam Crew, Joshua Wright of the Canton Crew, Joshua Hitsman and Russell Tuttle of the Ogdensburg Crew, Tyler Perry of the Wetland Watchers Massena Crew, Thomas Bush of the Gouverneur Crew and Brad Mason of the Edwards Knox Crew. The awards for Perfect Attendance was given to Tyler Perry (Massena Crew), Wade Carey, Andrew Foster, Christine Phippen, Ashley Schiavone, David Witherell (Potsdam Crew), Michael Dishaw, Russell Tuttle, Joshua Hitsman, Tyler Moore, Payton Montroy (Ogdensburg Crew), Denver Reagan, Joshua Wright, Nick Monast, Nicolas D'Agostino, Zebulon Tupper (Canton Crew), Brandon Church, Brad Mason, Bradley Rafter, Christopher Chambers, Lacey Brown, Tyler MacDonald, Anthony Mossow (Edwards Knox Crew), and Patrick Cyrus (Gouverneur Crew). The winners of the annual t-shirt design contest were Brad Mason (Potsdam Crew) and Damian LaShomb (Massena Crew). The 2008 Golden Grass Whip Award for outstanding work ethic in a first-year YCC member was awarded to Andrew Foster of the Potsdam crew. The crew that sold the most raffle tickets for the Friends of Mt. Arab Fire Tower Restoration Project was the Edwards Knox Crew which raised over three-hundred dollars for the cause.

The Youth Conservation Corps was established in 1970 by retired DEC Associate Roger Hutchinson. YCC members learn about environmental issues in their area and in turn educate the public with their discoveries while building team and management skills. Corps members are not only strongly involved in the community and the environment but also with the future.



## INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENTS & AWARDS



2008 Golden Grass Whip Recipient - Andrew Foster

### *2008 Golden Grass Whip Nominees*

- ☐ Zebulon Tupper, Canton
- ☐ Brandon Church, Edwards
- ☐ Patrick Cyrus, Gouverneur
- ☐ Brandon Church, Ogdensburg
- ☐ Andrew Foster, Potsdam

### *2008 Golden Grass Whip award*

*Andrew Foster*

*This award is given to a rookie corps member who has demonstrated an outstanding work ethic.*

### *2008 Highest Raffle Ticket Seller*

Edward's Crew

*This award is presented to a crew whom sold the most raffle tickets for the Friends of Mt. Arab Fire Tower Restoration Project.*

### *2008 YCC T-Shirt Award*

Brad Mason &  
Damien LaShomb

*This award was given to a corps member whose design is chosen for the yearly T-Shirt Design Contest.*

### *2008 Perfect Attendance Awards*

*This award was given to corps members who have perfect attendance while working in the 2008 YCC.*

Tyler Perry; Massena Crew  
Wade Carey; Potsdam Crew  
Andrew Foster; Potsdam Crew  
Christine Phippen; Potsdam Crew  
Ashley Schiavone; Potsdam Crew  
David Witherell; Potsdam Crew  
Michael Dishaw; Ogdensburg Crew  
Russell Tuttle; Ogdensburg Crew  
Joshua Hitsman; Ogdensburg Crew  
Tyler Moore; Ogdensburg Crew  
Payton Montroy; Ogdensburg Crew  
Denver Reagan; Canton Crew

Joshua Wright; Canton Crew  
Nick Monast; Canton Crew  
Nicolas D'Agostino; Canton Crew  
Zebulon Tupper; Canton Crew  
Brandon Church; Edwards Crew  
Brad Mason; Edwards Crew  
Bradley Rafter; Edwards Crew  
Christopher Chambers; Edwards Crew  
Lacey Brown; Edwards Crew  
Tyler McDonald; Edwards Crew  
Anthony Mossow; Edwards Crew  
Patrick Cyrus; Gouverneur

## *2008 Youth Crew Leaders*

*Potsdam Crew Leader: Wade Carey*

*Canton Crew Leader: Joshua Wright*

*Ogdensburg Crew Leader: Joshua Hitsman & Russell Tuttle*

*SLRREF Wetland Watchers Massena Crew Leader: Tyler Perry*

*Gouverneur: Thomas Bush*

*Edwards: Brad Mason*

*Bestowed upon one corps member from each crew that is chosen based on their demonstrated leadership ability during the first week of program.*

## PROGRAM LOG SHEET FOR YCC 2008

Project	Quantity	Total Corps Hours
Access Road Maintenance	7.2 Miles	25.2 hours
Boundary Line Maintenance	3.6 miles	83 hours
First Aid/Safety Training	16.2 Hours	16.2 hours
Garbage Removal	7 bags of garbage.	129.6 hours
Headquarter/Recreation Building Maintenance	N/A	1684.8 hours
Rutland Rail Trail	5.4 miles	243 hours
Woodland Improvement	3.6 Acres	189.9 hours
Trail Maintenance	29.5 Miles	2339.1 hours
Environmental Education	359.1 hours	359.1 hours
Invasive species Purple Loosestrife	Lbs. 9.5 bags	180 hours
Picnic Area Maintenance	Included with Headquarters/Recreation	
Total Hours:		5318.1 hours

### Appraised Value of Project Work

Each year the hours worked by each crew member and crew is recorded using the YCC Daily Log Sheet. At the end of the program project hours are calculated and pro-rated @ \$14.00 an hour. The appraised value of conservation work performed on State, County, and Municipal Lands by the 6 crews that worked in the 2008 Youth Conservation Corps program equals \$ 74,453.40.

### Closing Comments

The 32nd year of YCC went smooth and like clockwork. With all kinds of projects and running countywide, this year's success is attributed to the teamwork and coordination of many different individuals. First I would like to thank our Director, Joanne Sevick. Joanne had to work extra hard pounding the pavement to find every last dollar possible to enable this year's YCC to have 6 crews. Joanne has developed the YCC to be a premier summer employment opportunity for young individuals between the ages of 14 and 18. Without her hard work and dedication to all the youth of St. Lawrence County, this program would not exist. Because of Joanne and her support staff, the employees of YCC are getting valuable work experience along with an education unique to only YCC.

Once the program is up and running, the crew supervisors and crew members are the players who really make the work happen. This year there was an all-star cast that was led by returning veterans, Jennifer Gray Massena Wetland Watchers Crew Supervisor, Maggie Simmons the Gouverneur Crew Supervisor, Jon Putney Canton Crew Supervisor. Along with the returning veterans we also had a couple of new crew supervisors to add to the all-star cast. They were Stephanie Wagner, Edwards Crew Supervisor, Andrea Muszynski the Potsdam Crew Supervisor, along with Molly Douglas the Ogdensburg Crew Supervisor.

Major projects accomplished this year were the preparing of the Brasher and Colton cemeteries, Glenmeal ski trails, Plum Brook trail System, the removal of invasive plant species along the St. Lawrence River, Work at Harrisville Central School, Tree Foil Girl Scout Camp, Massena Rod and Gun Club and other various jobs for both the State and County forests and trail systems.

*Greg Butler and John Morgan, YCC Coordinator's*

### Public Relations 2008

*The Youth Conservation Corps would like to thank the following media for their support and positive coverage of the 2008 YCC program.*

*The North County This Week*

*Daily Courier Observer*

*Ogdensburg Journal*

*Watertown Daily Times*

*Gouverneur Tribune*

*St. Lawrence Plaindealer*

*WWNY-TV 7*

*Ogdensburg Courier Observer*

*Gouverneur Tribune Press*

*North Country Now*

## Potsdam Crew



Crew Supervisor Andrea Muszynski,

Crew Members: Andrew Foster, Austin Kelly, Tom Fitzgerald, Wade Carey, Christine Phippen, David Witherell, and Ashley Schiavone.



## Canton Crew



Crew Supervisor: Jonathan Putney

Crew Members: Nicholas D'Agostino, Denver Reagan, Tyler Bleau,  
Nicholas Monast, Corey Matthews, Joshua Wright,  
Zebulon Tupper

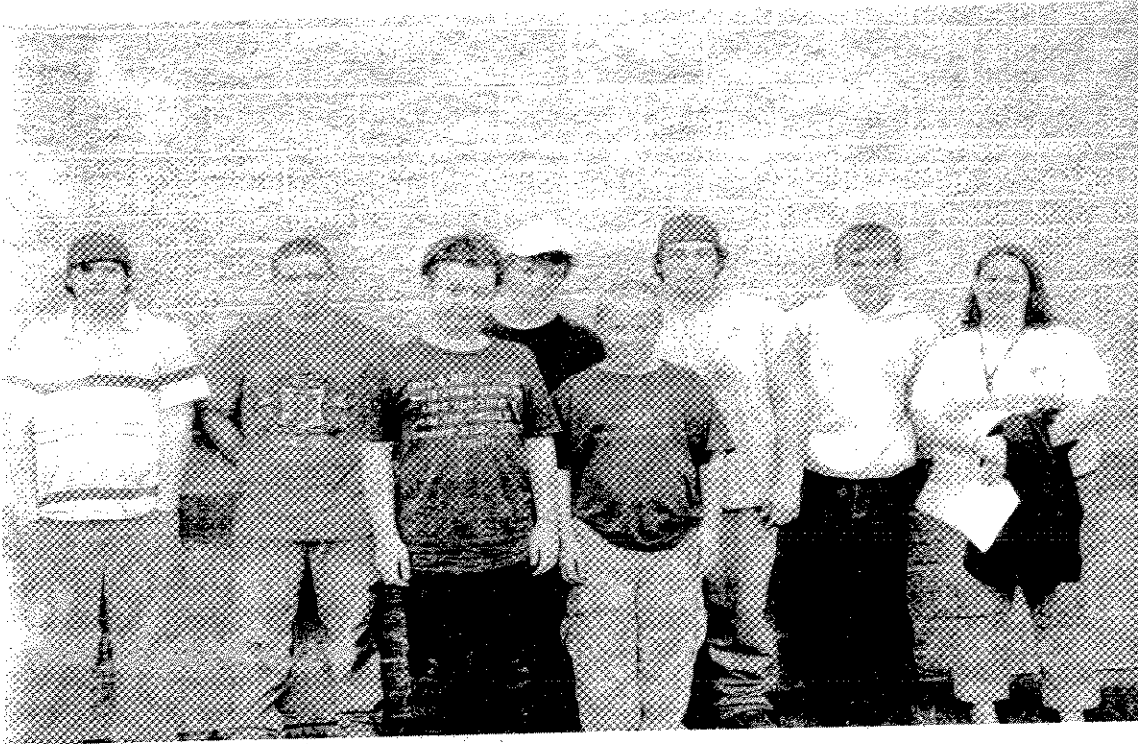
## Edwards Crew



Crew Supervisor: Stephanie Wagner

Crew Members: Tyler McDonald, Lacey Brown, Bradley Rafter, Anthony Mossow, Brad Mason, Christopher Chambers, Brandon Church, and Jesse Ashley

## Gouverneur Crew



Crew Supervisor: Maggie Simmons

Crew Members: 1<sup>st</sup> Row: Zachary House, Allen Aldridge 2<sup>nd</sup> Row: Allen Brown, Shayne Austin, Patrick Cyrus, Thomas Bush, Richard Cyrus.

## Massena Crew



Crew Supervisor: Jennifer Gray

Crew Members: Ethan Klemp, Kurtis Moore, Sky Stoddard, Crew Supervisor Assistant Charlotte Berry, Damien LaShomb, John Kemison, Tyler Perry, Joshua Reedy.

## Ogdensburg Crew



Crew Supervisor: Molly Douglas

Crew Members: Nicholas Steenkamer, Sean Moore, Payton Montroy, Michael Dishaw, Joshua Hitsman, Russell Tuttle, Tyler Moore.

## ATTACHEMENTS

### St. Lawrence River Research Fund Reporting & Youth Conservation Corps 2008

- A. Manual Removal of *Lythrum salicaria* @ Richard's Landing 2007-2008  
(Monitoring & Evaluation)
- B. 7-9-08 Manual Removal of *Lythrum salicaria* at Richard's Landing 2007-08
- C. 7-17-08 Invasive Species Workshop
- D. 7-24-08 Hawkins Point Visitor Center & Seaway Locks
- E. 7-28-08 Aquatic Invertebrates Field Workshop
- F. 7-29-08 Uncle Sam Boat Tour
- G. 2008 Aquatic Invasive Species Boat Launch Sign Inventory
- H. 2008 Invasive Species Greenery Inventory
- I. Invasive Species Identification Wallet Card
- J. 2008 YCC Illegal Dumping Project Brochure

**Date: 7-09-08 Monitoring & Evaluation**

**Manual Removal of *Lythrum salicaria* at Richard's Landing 2007-2008**

**Introduction:** *Lythrum salicaria* or commonly known as purple loosestrife is an invasive plant species that is becoming wide spread across the United States posing a threat to wetlands. The plant originated in Eurasia. It is found naturally throughout Great Britain and across central and southern Europe to central Russia, Japan, Manchuria, China, Southeast Asia and northern India. It was introduced as a contaminant of European ships and as medicinal herb treatment. By the 1830's *L. salicaria* was well established along the New England coast. In the 1880's construction of inland canals and waterways favored the growth of the plant into interior New York and the St. Lawrence River Valley. Increased development and road systems furthered the spread of the plant by allowing transportation of the plant for commercial use. It was and still is sold for ornamental and medicinal use. Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Illinois created regulations that prohibit the sale, purchase, and distribution of the plant. *L. salicaria* is now found in all contiguous states except Florida and all Canadian provinces. The problem with purple loosestrife is that it adapts readily to natural and disturbed wetlands. As it establishes and expands, it outcompetes and replaces native grasses, sedges, and other flowering plants that provide a higher quality source of nutrition for wildlife. The highly invasive nature of purple loosestrife allows it to form dense patches that restrict native wetland plant species, including some federally endangered orchids, and reduce habitat for waterfowl. As a result the plant community becomes suppressed and the structure and function of the wetland is altered. Dense patches of plants in irrigation systems impair water flow. There are several ways to remove purple loosestrife: the use of herbicides is non-selective but is costly, uprooting, mowing, cutting, burning, or introducing its natural enemies into the area. Our hypothesis is that manually removing purple loosestrife is the most effective way to remove the species.

**Methods:** From June 11<sup>th</sup> 2007 to August 13<sup>th</sup> 2007 a crew of five members known as the NYPA Wetland Watchers worked at Richard's Landing Dike Trail, Massena NY. Richard's Landing is along the St. Lawrence River on the north side of highway 131 just west of Massena Beach, Massena NY. Once the plant was identified we began to manually remove it from the wetland. We used trowels and shovels to dig up the roots. It is important to get the whole root system out of the ground because that is what causes the plant to keep growing back. We used five gallon buckets to collect the plants. Once the buckets were full we dumped them into a large black garbage bag. The garbage bags were taken to the Massena Transfer Station to be disposed. From July 10-16, 2008 a new crew went back to evaluate the results of the experiment.

**Data and Results:** 1,860 lbs. of *L. salicaria* was removed from Richard's Landing with total of 240 work hours. Plant size ranged from one inch to four feet. The densest area was on the north end and the least dense was on the south end which was more inland. Approximately 75% of plants removed had shown signs of the beetles eating them. When going back to evaluate the experiment it was concluded that 75% of what was picked grew back. Plant height had decreased to about one inch to two feet.



**Discussion:** The plant grows to the same height as its surrounding plants that grow within it. Plants that have been trampled or broken off at the base have bigger roots because the root still grows even if there is no shoot coming off the root. Since water and swampy soil are the prime habitats for the plant we found more plants along the water and less inland. The plant grows in cluster or individually. A matured bloomed plant can be any size. The results show that manual removal does not work as good as we thought. Manual removal could have been the reason for the decreased plant size. It also shows that there will be a lot of maintenance with this type of removal. The beetles showed sign of eating the plants leaves but not the roots that affect its growth. Using beetles to control the plant is an ineffective way because it does not target the root systems. Sources of error could be that you don't get every single plant out there and you can't get every part of the root. Also, seeds from plants upstream may float down in the water or be carried by wind and plant themselves at Richard's Landing where we were working. If this happened then the plants that were there this year (2008) were new and that could have been why the height was so much smaller. People working on the crew who are not passionate about it tend to not care about getting the root and thus not helping or doing any good to the project.

**Conclusion:** I think that manual removal of *L. salicaria* is not as effective as hypothesized. I think it is a battle that can't be won because there is always going to be that plant that you don't get or can't find. When weighed with the pros and cons of the use of chemicals I think it equals out. It is a choice between harming native plants or spending time and money to not have the man power to remove this invasive plant.

**Work Cited:**

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**Massena Wetland Watchers Crew  
Invasive Plant Species Workshop**

**Date:** 7/17/2008

**Location:** St. Lawrence County Ski Trail in Ogdensburg, NY & Bill Lapointe's Woodlot in Norwood.

**Activities:** The Crew met with Steve Vandermark from Cornell Cooperative Extension. We walked through the woods while he showed us invasive plant species that inhabit woody forests.

**Environmental Education:** We met Steve Vandermark in Ogdensburg first. He brought us to a section of woods along Route 37 and showed us an invasive plant called swallow-warts. He explained how the plant got here from Europe and why it was a big issue. He told us that this plant thrives better where there is more of it in an area unlike other plants. In this part of the woods it was everywhere. It was taking over seedlings and other little trees as well as growing up sumac trees. It has a toxic chemical that is given off in the soil that kills other plants living in it and makes it harder for new plants to grow. He said that there is no chemical that will kill it. It was very difficult to walk through. The Canadian name for it is "Dog Strangling Vine." While we were looking at swallow-warts he showed us two invasive trees: buckthorn and an exotic honeysuckle. These trees were introduced to promote wildlife because they both have berries that birds eat. Buckthorn has a little thorn at the end of each branch of leaves. The more we looked around the more and more buckthorn and honeysuckle we saw. Then we broke up into two groups and scouted two separate areas for invasive plants. We were able to identify all the species he had shown us.

At lunch we went to the community center in Ogdensburg. He talked about how the major issue with swallow-warts was that if it gets into the Adirondack Park what a problem it will be and the damage it will do. He gave us lots of packets of information to each person about all the invasive plants. We got stuff on the ones we saw and even ones we didn't see like; Giant Hogweed and Goutweed. He talked to us a little bit about an invasive common reed grass. He brought some in to show us and taught us how to identify it from the native one. He also brought in Spotted Knapweed and Garlic Mustard.

We went out to Bill Lapointe's Woodlot in Norwood to look at Buckthorn. His whole woodlot was being taken over by this Buckthorn. It killed all the native trees such as; Oak, Maple, Spruce, and other native trees to his lot. He was letting the DEC do an experiment using a burning technique to kill the Buckthorn. You torch the base of the tree where it meets the ground in a ring all the way around the tree with a flame thrower. He had certain trees marked that he burned for 2 seconds and ones for one second. He even decided to burn some for as long as he wanted. The deer and other animals do not eat the tree. Bill Lapointe said that the tree has so much sap in it that it will boil out when they are burning it and also that it will not go through a wood chipper because of all the sap. He says that some of the trees are slowly dying but other need to be burnt more than once with a few months in between.

Overall I think everyone learned a lot and none of us knew that there was this many invasive plants. The one that amazed everyone the most was the swallow-warts. I think the kids are starting to become experts on identifying invasive plants.



Guest Presenter, Bill LaPointe speaking with Wetland Watchers Crew

**Massena Wetland Watchers Crew  
Hawkins Point Visitor Center & St. Lawrence Seaway Locks**

**Date:** 7/24

**Location:** Massena, NY

**Activities:** Toured the Hawkins Point Visitor Center and watched a ship go through the Locks.

**Environmental Education:** At the Visitor Center crew members got to interact with a variety of hands on displays. For example they got to find out what they could supply electricity to by riding a bicycle. They did a trivia quiz of ten questions and learned how long the St. Lawrence River stretched, how big the dam is, and facts about electricity. An interesting fact was that the dam has built a special canal to protect the American Eel. As water is pumped into the dam the eels are sucked up through a pipe and then pushed out the other side of the dam into the river. We watched a twenty minute video on building the dam. They predicted that it would take seven years and it was finished in five. The video was great, it showed how the workers worked long days through winter and summer and didn't get days off until the project was completed. All the information presented in the video was excellent. The kids learned a lot of cool facts. We went to the locks and saw a ship bound for Montreal. They got to see the ship get lowered so it could go through the locks to the other part of the river. Some kids on the crew had never been to the Visitor Center or to the locks. I think they really enjoyed going to see the ship. It was a good learning experience and opportunity to see things they haven't seen before.

## **Massena Wetland Watchers Crew Aquatic Invertebrates Field Workshop**

**Date:** 7/28/2008

**Location:** Richards Landing Dike Trail and Wetland in Massena, NY

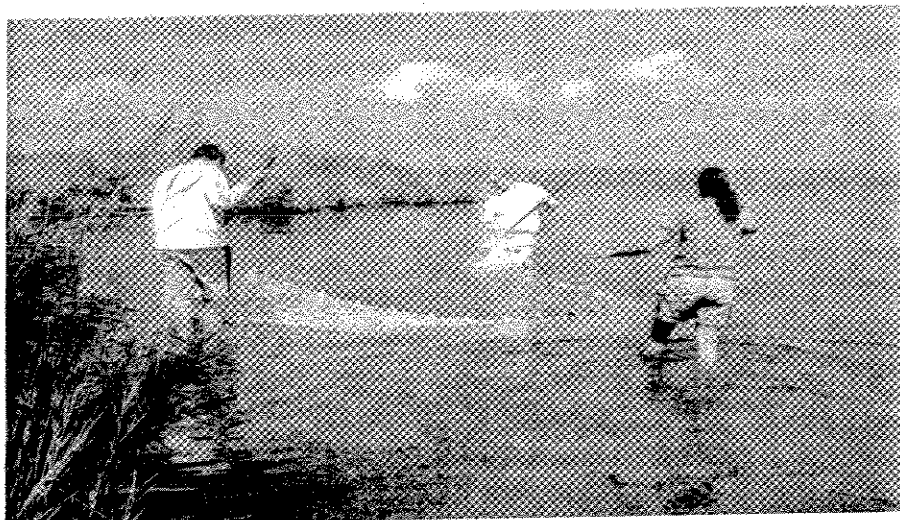
**Activities:** The crew participated in a 3 ½ hour workshop on aquatic invertebrates with St. Lawrence University Biology Professor, Marilyn Mayer.

### **Environmental Education:**

The crew learned about different types of aquatic invertebrates that inhabit the wetland in which they were working around. Crew members took samples of the water and samples of the wetland floor in order to identify aquatic invertebrates. Students learned about many different types of species including the Damselfly, the Strider Bug, the Whirligig Water Beetle, Water Mites, Zebra Mussels, and the May Fly. In addition to identify aquatic invertebrates, Professor Mayer also took advantage of a few "teachable moments" when we came across a garter snake, a milkweed beetle, and a monarch butterfly.

After the aquatic invertebrate search and identification, the crew went seining in the St. Lawrence River, where they caught several different types of fish. Professor Mayer provided the crew with the proper fish names. The crew caught the following fish in the seining net: Yellow Perch, Pumpkin Seed, Round Goby, and an assortment of minnows. The crew also set two fishing traps in the wetland. They caught the same variety of fish in their traps.

Throughout the workshop Professor Mayer gave the background and history of the different species the crew found. She discussed with the crew about invasive species such as the Round Goby and the Zebra Mussel. This wonderful learning experience gave the crew a first hand look at the organisms and different types of fish available in the region in which they work in.



Wetland Watcher Crew Members "Netting" w/ Marilyn Mayer.

## **Massena Wetland Watchers Crew**

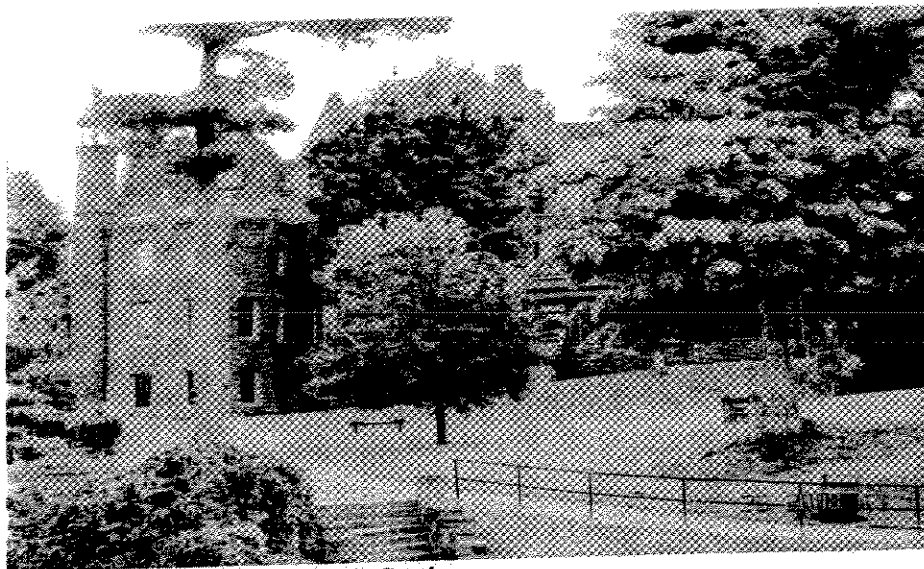
### **Uncle Sam Boat Tour**

**Date:** 7/29/2008

**Location:** Alexandria Bay, NY

**Activities:** The crew participated in a 2 ¼ hour boat tour of the St. Lawrence River and Thousand Islands.

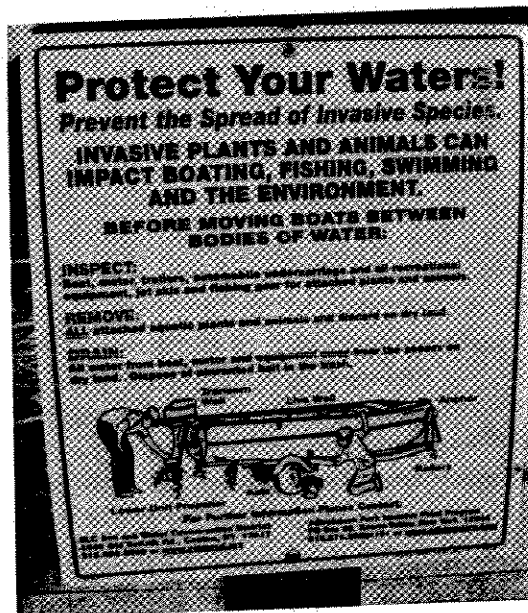
**Environmental Education:** The crew learned the history of the Thousand Islands, Bolt Castle, and how they all were developed and maintained. They also learned that power lines run underwater from the main land to supply power to their houses, while some of the property owners choose to power their real estate with generators. During the winter months people drive their vehicles across the ice to get to and from the main land; some are unfortunate and their vehicles break through the ice. We learned about how the Canadian islands and U.S. islands have different regulations, rules, and prices. We were also able to see the shortest international bridge in the world. One of the few Canadian bridges has to be hand painted and then slowly pieced together to prevent chemicals and paint from dripping into the water. Some of the kids on the crew had never been on a boat that big or even been on a boat at all. It was a great opportunity and experience for them to go out and observe the St. Lawrence River, and all of its surroundings.



Uncle Sam Boat Tours – Boldt Castle

LOCATOR #	FACILITY NAME	TOWNSHIP	SIGN PRESENT
73	Lake Ozonia	Hopkinton	Yes
112	Greenbelt	City of Ogdensburg	Yes
	Patterson Street Boat Launch	City of Ogdensburg	Yes
	Hawkins Point Visitor Center Boat Launch	Massena	Yes
	Massena Intake	Massena	Yes

## 2008 AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES BOAT LAUNCH SIGN INVENTORY



<b>Greenery Name</b>	<b>TOWNSHIP</b>	<b>SOLD INVASIVE SPECIES (Y/N)</b>
North Raquette	Massena	Yes, Purple Loosestrife
Home Depot	Massena	No
Wal-Mart	Massena	No
Miller's	Hopkinton	No

**2008 INVASIVE SPECIES GREENERY INVENTORY**



## SWALLOW WARTS

*Vincetoxicum nigrum* (black swallow-wort),  
*Vincetoxicum rossicum* (pale swallow-wort),  
*Vincetoxicum hirundinaria* (white swallow-wort)  
Swallow Warts now are naturalized in  
northeastern North America, and invasive  
in both natural areas and abandoned  
pastures

In central New York, *V. rossicum* forms  
dense monospecific stands in shrubby  
areas with a history of disturbance, and in  
the understory of successional woodlands.  
Loss of native plant species may reduce  
biodiversity and delay or redirect  
succession, as well as reduce the value of  
habitat to wildlife.



*Vincetoxicum  
nigrum* flower.  
(Photograph by R. A.  
Casselman.)



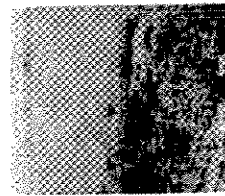
*Vincetoxicum nigrum*  
vine on pasture fence.  
(Photograph by H. E. Eubank.)

## EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL

*Myriophyllum spicatum*

Plants are rooted at the lake bottom and  
grow rapidly creating dense canopies  
throughout North America.

When the plants cover the lake bottom  
vegetation cannot grow through the thick  
canopies and fish are cut off from  
valuable resources.



Eurasian watermilfoil  
plant.

(Photo courtesy of  
Robert L. Johnson, Department of  
Ecology  
and Evolutionary Biology, Cornell  
University,  
Ithaca, New York)

Dense *Myriophyllum  
spicatum*  
canopy at lake surface.

(Photo courtesy of  
Robert L. Johnson)

## GARLIC MUSTARD

*Alliaria petiolata*

Garlic Mustard is a cool-season, shade-  
tolerant, obligate biennial herb, is currently  
one of the most serious invaders in forested  
areas of the northeastern and midwestern  
United States. *Alliaria petiolata* is one of  
the few non-indigenous herbaceous species  
able to invade and dominate the understory  
of North American forests. Garlic mustard  
is not known as a weed on other continents.  
It invades species-rich sites, damaging  
diversity. Presence of garlic mustard  
interferes with oviposition of the rare native  
butterflies.



Garlic mustard plant.  
(Photo by V. Blossey.)

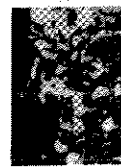


Dense garlic mustard.  
(Photo by V. Blossey.)

## WATERHYACINTH

*Eichhornia crassipes*

It spreads and degrades aquatic  
ecosystems and currently it is rapidly  
spreading throughout Africa, where new  
infestations are creating life-threatening  
situations as well as environmental and  
cultural upheaval. Damages to the  
economy: Waterhyacinth hinders  
irrigation by impeding water flow and  
by clogging irrigation pumps. Its dense  
mats reduce light to submerged plants,  
thus depleting oxygen in aquatic  
communities.



Waterhyacinth  
growing in the  
Marañon River, Peru.  
(Photo by T. D. Center, USDA  
APIS.)



A waterhyacinth infestation  
in southern Florida. (Photo by  
T. D. Center, USDA, APIS.)

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## COMMON REED

*Phragmites australis*

Widely distributed clonal grass species,  
ranging all over Europe, Asia, Africa,  
America, and Australia. In Europe it  
has important ecological functions. In  
North America (specifically along the  
Atlantic Coast) it invades and alters  
ecosystems in diverse marshes.



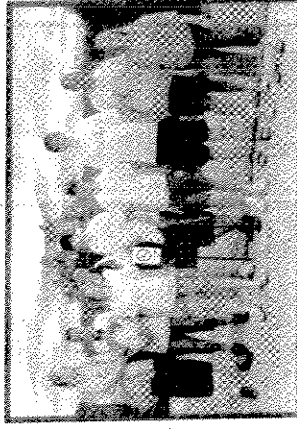
*Phragmites australis*  
invasion front  
at the Montezuma  
National Wildlife  
Refuge,  
New York. (Photograph by  
B. Blossey.)



Typical sign of attack  
of all *Lygus* spp. to  
the wilting  
of the top leaf.  
(Photograph by  
B. Blossey.)

# INVASIVE SPECIES

## St. Lawrence County Youth Conservation Corps



## Wetland Watchers Massena, NY

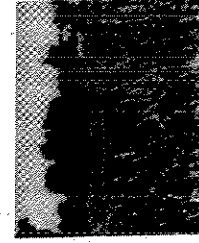
## PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE

*Lythrum salicaria*

It has spread across North America and  
has degraded many prime wetlands  
resulting in large, monotypic stands that  
lack native plant species. The invasion  
of *L. salicaria* alters biogeochemical and  
hydrological processes in wetlands.  
Specialized marsh birds avoid nesting in  
purple loosestrife and therefore loose  
nesting grounds.



Purple  
loosestrife  
stand. (Photo by B.  
Blossey.)



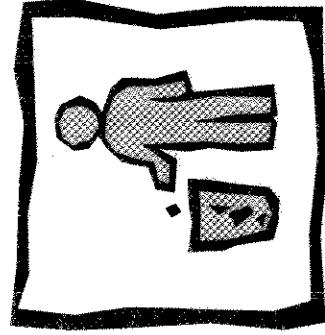
Wetland dominated by  
purple  
loosestrife. (Photo by B.  
Blossey.)

## TAKE ACTION!

- Don't Litter: Always dispose of trash in garbage cans or proper trash receptacles.
  - Report illegal dumping
  - Keep your trash cans covered:
- This can prevent garbage from blowing on the streets.*

### Ways to Solve Dumping Problems

- ⇒ Affordable garbage collection services
- ⇒ Reduce the amount of trash produced and reuse items
- ⇒ Recycle!
- ⇒ Public Awareness Campaigns



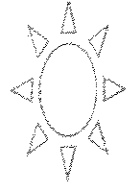
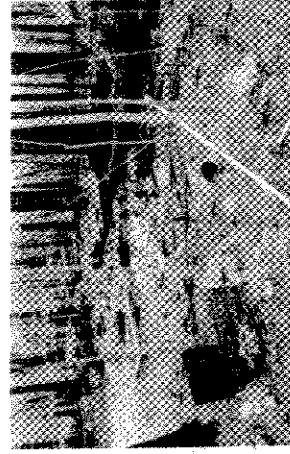
*Always put your trash in proper garbage receptacles!*

EN-15 St. Lawrence County should maintain a comprehensive approach to solid waste management which includes both education and enforcement activities.

As a county, St. Lawrence should embrace policies and programs which conserve the environment and natural resources. Such policies will have the added benefit of supporting the local economy and communities.

*- St. Lawrence County Board  
of Legislators, County Public Policy  
Guide*

\*\*For more information see the St.  
Lawrence County website: [http://  
www.co.st-lawrence.ny.us/](http://www.co.st-lawrence.ny.us/)



2008 Youth Conservation Corps

Administered through the

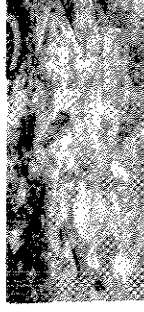
St. Lawrence County Youth Bureau

2008

## Youth Conservation Corps (YCC)

### Illegal Dumping Project

In partnership with  
Department of Environmental  
Conservation



Locations for garbage disposal:

Solid Waste Transfer Stations  
Locations:

- ♦ Ogdensburg, NY (315)393-7501
- ♦ Massena, NY (315)764-7312
- ♦ Star Lake, NY (315)848-3589
- ♦ Gouverneur, NY (315)287-0919

Waste Stream Management  
Potsdam, NY (315)265-3860

St. Lawrence County Youth Bureau  
[Youthcorps@st-lawrence.ny.us](mailto:Youthcorps@st-lawrence.ny.us)

315-379-9464 PH

315-386-8636 FX

## Why is illegal dumping a problem?

- Accumulation of rotten, decaying garbage attracts rats and other disease carrying creatures.
- Dumping hazardous waste exposes humans and the environment to health problems and ecological decay.
- If tolerated it sends a message to violators that it is acceptable to dump garbage in your neighborhood or community.

### Examples of illegal dumping:

- Any material dumped on public property such as city roadsides, alleys, or streets.
- One or more persons living on public property without permission.
- Mattresses or furniture dumped on the side of the road.

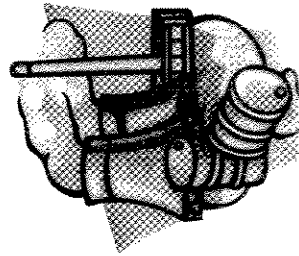


## Known and Policed St. Lawrence County Dumping Sites

- Southville State Forest
- Sodom State Forest
- Lost Nation State Forest
- Knapp Station State Forest
- Brasher State Forest

## Federal Legislation Regarding Dumping

- No federal legislation specifically addresses illegal dumping in American cities and towns.
- The federal government has rules for controlling and dealing with illegal dumping of toxic materials, but problems with rural and urban roadside litter and illegal dumping of common household wastes remains a local issue.



*Dumping of hazardous materials can be detrimental to the environment and to people.*

## Assessing an Illegal

### Dumping Problem

In an assessment the following topics should be addressed:

- The nature of the problem- locations of persistent dumping, commonalities of illegal dumping areas and incidents, possible driving forces for the illegal dumping.
- The players involved- departments or agencies responsible for enforcing laws and regulations, other organizations involved, level of coordination and communication among involved organizations.
- Past and Ongoing efforts- local laws and regulations, existing programs, methods of prevention, efforts that have been successful and unsuccessful and why.
- Resources- sources or funding for previous or existing efforts, resources needed to address the problem.

