

SPCA Fundraiser Features Tree Lighting Ceremony

The SPCA Serving Erie County is inviting individuals to honor cherished family and friends by providing a meaningful tribute to the special people and pets who you hold so dearly. For a \$20 donation, a white light will be placed in memory of a person or pet, or a colored light will be added in honor of a person or pet to our holiday trees. The SPCA will host a tree lighting ceremony and blessing of the pets on **December 5** from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The evening will also feature caroling by the Freudig Singers, holiday photos by Migz Media, and an appearance by Santa himself! Info at <https://www.yourspca.org/>.

Christmas Bird Counts

Every year thousands of volunteers throughout the Americas take part in an adventure that has become a family tradition among generations. Families and students, birders and scientists, armed with binoculars, bird guides and checklists go out on an annual mission to take part in the Christmas Bird Count which makes an enormous contribution to conservation. Audubon Society and other organizations use data collected in this longest-running wildlife census to assess the health of bird populations and to help guide conservation action. No matter what your birding skills, this is a fun event for all birding enthusiasts. A number of local counts take place from mid-December onward. For a searchable list, visit <http://www.nybirds.org/ProjCBC.htm>. The Beaver Meadow Christmas Bird Count takes place on **Saturday, December 21** at 7:30am. Contact Chuch Bartlett (cbartlett@buffaloudubon.org) for more information.

Buffalo Zoo Winter Camp

Are you looking for a place where your children can have loads of fun over their holiday break? Why not bring them to Winter Zoo Camp Workshops at the Buffalo Zoo! Morning and afternoon workshops allow great family flexibility; sign up for one half day session, a full day or all seven workshops. Activities include a combination of exhibit visits, animal information, games, songs, stories, crafts, and live animal contact. Camp will be offered December 26, 27, 30 and 31 with age-specific programs for those 5-12 years old. For topics, cost and registration info visit http://www.buffalozoo.org/winter_camp.html.

Olmsted Parks Photo Contest

In anticipation of the February Flurrious! Winter Festival, Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy (BOPC) has added a contest where you can share your best

Northeast Organic Farming Association Annual Conference

annual conference to be held **January 24-26, 2014** in Saratoga Springs, NY. The conference offers a great line up of workshops on a wide range of topics from dairy farming to urban gardening, from food policy to business
icious meals made from food donated
by our farmers.

Catch of the Day Texting

Buffalo Niagara RIVERKEEPER®

Anglers are encouraged to text COD to 877-877, which then directs them to online information about local fish consumption advisories and healthier ways to eat local fish. The campaign encourages picture sharing of webpage to show the incredible success of Western New York anglers! "Catch Of the Day" photos are posted to our facebook page: [facebook/BNRiverkeeper](https://www.facebook.com/BNRiverkeeper)

Congress for the New Urbanism

Congress for The New Urbanism is coming to Buffalo **June 1-4, 2014**. CNU promotes walkable, mixed-use neighborhood development, sustainable communities and healthier living conditions. The annual Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU) is the leading venue for new urbanist networking, collaboration, and education. Info, [here](#).

Online Courses for Aspiring, New, and Experienced Farmers

How Green is My State?

energy makeup, the gasoline consumption per capita and availability of public transportation. An interactive map has been created that allows you to compare states on various benchmarks of sustainability at <http://www.mphonline.org/green-states/>.

Brussel Sprouts Help Power Christmas Tree Lights

Southbank Center is displaying its latest holiday decoration: a Christmas tree powered entirely by Brussels sprouts! This is due to a vegetable-powered battery, which was created by scientists from The Big Bang UK Young Scientists and Engineers Fair. Over 1,000 of the sprouts provide power. Five power cells make up the battery system, each containing 200 of the bulbous green heads laced with copper and zinc electrodes that create a chemical reaction with the vegetable electrolytes, producing 63 volts to illuminate the strands of LED lights.

[2014 Youth Garden Grants](#)-The National Gardening Association has designed this award to support school and youth educational garden projects that enhance the quality of life for students and their communities. Any non-profit, school, or youth program may apply. The selection of winners is based on the demonstrated relationship between the garden program and education related to the environment, health and nutrition issues, character development, and entrepreneurship in the United States. Twenty award winners will receive \$1,000 in supplies and funding. Deadline: **December 6.**

[Starbucks Youth Action Grants](#) - The Starbucks Foundation is interested in supporting organizations that equip young people ages 15 to 24 years old - especially those not engaged in employment, education, or training - in business savvy, social conscience, and collaborative communication. They will consider grants between \$10,000 and \$30,000. Deadline: **December 15.**

[PON 2845 Agriculture Energy Efficiency Research and Evaluation of Technology Barriers](#)-NYSERDA seeks proposals to: (1) research or demonstrate innovative or novel applications of energy efficient technologies or designs for the agriculture sector that also have the potential to improve quality or yield of agricultural products; or (2) evaluate technology barriers for agricultural applications that currently limit energy savings, efficient transport to markets, or the application of novel crop production systems. Due Date: **December 16, 2013.**

[Fiskars' Project Orange Thumb](#) awards \$5,000 in cash and garden tools to help communities with beautification and garden projects. Deadline: **December 31, 2013.**

[Celebrate Urban Birds Mini-Grant Program.](#) an initiative of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, supports groups throughout the US that host neighborhood events that introduce the public and youth to birds found in urban areas. Mini-grants ranging from \$100 to \$500 are provided. Organizations working with underserved communities are strongly encouraged to apply. The application deadline is **December 31, 2013.**

[The Environmental Research & Education Foundation \(EREF\)](#), a private, grant making institution, whose mission is to support solid waste research and education initiatives, is inviting researchers to submit proposals on solid waste

[Interns for Clean Air Coalition of Western New York](#)-Unpaid positions to help with our organizing, community-based research, and leadership development. All internships include some operations and development work. Clean engaging community leaders in solving environmental health and justice organizations.

[Buffalo Niagara RIVERKEEPER Spring 2014 Internship Opportunities](#)-Join a community-based organization dedicated to protecting the quality and quantity of water, while connecting people to water. Internships are available in a number of different programs within the organization.

Citizen Science

[Project FeederWatch](#)-Sign up now for the 2013-2014 season which begins November 9. Join the thousands of FeederWatchers across North America who count the birds at their feeders from November through early April.

[Project Squirrel](#)- No matter where you live, city or suburb, from the Midwest to the East Coast, Canada to California, whether squirrels live in your neighborhood or not, you are encouraged to become a squirrel monitor. Take a look around your home, office, school, or anywhere you are and, whether you see squirrels or not, enter your observations at the website.

[Woodpecker Damage Surveys](#)-Calling all birders: Report woodpecker damage due to Emerald Ash Questions? Contact: imapinvasives@nynhp.org

Buffalo & Erie County Botanical Gardens-Docents needed. Training is provided. 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 Junior Solar Sprint-If you are interested in helping run the JSS Buffalo event or are interested in finding out more about the Leadership committee, please contact jssbuffalo@yahoo.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://bnriverkeeper.org/get-involved/volunteer/> for opportunities. RIVERWATCH Water Quality Monitoring, April - September- help collect water quality samples in local waterways. Call 852-7483.

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.

Clean Air Coalition of WNY-Help with mailings, phone calls, canvassing and Photovoice (documenting environmental challenges). To help, contact at 852-3813 or www.caewny.org.

Massachusetts Avenue Project needs volunteers from the 1st week in April through October on Saturdays from 10-1 PM. Anyone is welcome to come by the farm, pitch in and help on a project, or even just stroll around and
<http://mass-ave.org/>

Olmsted Parks-Volunteers are needed for tree plantings, special park events, office work and mailings. Please call (716) 838-1249 x. 33 for more info 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 & volunteers welcome. www.preservationbuffaloniagara.org.

Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve offers a variety of volunteer positions as well as internships for college students. On Trail Tuesdays volunteers help control invasive species. For more info about these and other opportunities, call 683-5959 or visit the volunteer page of Reinstein Woods' website: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/education/1960.html>.

Science Firsthand needs adult mentors to work with children in learning about science. All materials are provided. Mentors and students meet one hour per week after school at a community center. For info, 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:

Sunday, December 1

Green Options Buffalo Community Bicycle Workshop-1 to 5pm at Old Precinct 17 Building, 98 Colvin Avenue, Buffalo, NY. Volunteers and members can go and learn to repair and maintain their bicycles. They have complete refurbished bicycles for sale, along with a stock of used parts available to everyone. The shop also serves as a place to donate your used and / or unwanted bicycles. They are happy to provide you with a tax receipt for your donation. <http://www.greenoptionsbuffalo.org/>

Trek Tift-2-3:30 PM at Tift Nature Preserve, 1200 Fuhrmann Blvd. Buffalo, NY 14203. Join Friends of Tift for a guided tour of the preserve. This drop-in program

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Thursday, December 5

After-School Escape-4:30 PM at Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve, Depew. Enjoy a one-hour program for kids featuring a different, fun, outdoor activity each week. For kids in grades K through 5. No registration required.

- Sustainability Film Series at UB North, 107 Capen at 6:30pm.

<http://buffalo.edu/sustainability>. The film will be followed by a panel discussion including the filmmaker and experts from the campus and comm

Friends of Reinstein Holiday Party-1:00 to 4:00 PM. The Friends of Reinstein Nature Preserve will celebrate the beauty of winter at their annual holiday gathering. New members are welcome! Registration required; call 716-683-5959. Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve, Depew.

Deck the Halls- 10am to 4pm. Bring the family to a holiday celebration of fun at the New York Power at (716) 286-6661.

Breakfast With Santa-9am to noon. Enjoy a visit with the jolly old soul as you enjoy a homemade breakfast at the Beaver Meadow Audubon Center. Activities include crafts for kids, along with storytelling, and nature walks and talks. Admission includes breakfast: \$7 adults, \$5 children ages 4-12, 3 and under free. www.buffaloudubon.org

- -1:00 to 3:30pm, Earth Spirit is happy to partner with the Roycroft Campus Corporation for a combined lecture and walking tour of the historic Roycroft Campus. Participants will discover how this national landmark epitomized the ideals of the Arts and Crafts movement at the turn of the 19th Century: a return to Nature, simplicity and self-sufficiency. The focal point of the Arts and Crafts world in North America, Elbert Hubbard's Roycroft community brought these principles to life - from energy production to furniture, building materials to flowers, food to printed books. Advance registration is required (<http://www.earthspiritedu.org/events.html>). Cost \$20(members)/ \$25.

Julmarknad Swedish Christmas Market Day-10 AM to 4 PM at Roger Tory Peterson Institute in Swedish American hero, Roger Tory Peterson, including the Linnaeus Gold Medal presented by King Carl Gustaf XVI. Special Program-11am- Conservation & Outreach Coordinator and 1:00 PM Department Staff. www.rtpi.org

Sunday, December 8

Green Options Buffalo Community Bicycle Workshop-1 to 5pm at Old Precinct 17 Building, 98 Colvin Avenue, Buffalo, NY. Volunteers and members can go and learn to repair and maintain their bicycles. They have complete refurbished bicycles for sale, along with a stock of used parts available to everyone. The shop also serves as a place to donate your used and / or unwanted bicycles. They are happy to provide you with a tax receipt for your donation. <http://www.greenoptionsbuffalo.org/>

Trek Tiftt-2-3:30 PM at Tiftt Nature Preserve, 1200 Fuhrmann Blvd. Buffalo, NY 14203. Join Friends of Tiftt for a guided tour of the preserve. This drop-in program runs all year every Sunday except the third Sunday of the month. \$2 donation per person suggested.

Family Walk at Beaver Meadow-2pm at Beaver Meadow Audubon Center. Guided walk led by one of our naturalists. 585-457-3228.

Monday, December 9

Erie Canal Harbor Development Corp. Public Meeting-10:30am, 95 Perry St., Buffalo, NY 14203 <http://www.eriecanalharbor.com>

Tuesday, December 10

Green Options Buffalo Community Bicycle Workshop-6 to 9pm at Old Precinct 17 Building, 98 Colvin Avenue, Buffalo, NY. Volunteers and members can go and learn to repair and maintain their bicycles. They have complete refurbished bicycles for sale, along with a stock of used parts available to everyone. The shop also serves as a place to donate your used and / or unwanted bicycles. They are happy to provide you with a tax receipt for your donation. <http://www.greenoptionsbuffalo.org/>

Public Hearing on Invasive Species Legislation- 2pm at DEC Region 9 Headquarters, First Floor Conference Room, 270 Michigan Avenue, Buffalo, 14203. Info at www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/2359.html.

2013 C-SAAHN 'IMAGINE' Lecture Series- Noon to 1pm @ Downtown Buffalo & Erie County Public

Saturday, December 14

Second Saturday at Net+Positive- Noon to 5 pm at The Foundry, located at 298 Northampton Street in Buffalo, New York. In addition to a talented group of artisans, the sale will host local favorite musical guests. The Foundry provides affordable workspaces for artisans and artists, especially those who incorporate reclaimed or alternative materials in their creations. Shared tools, equipment and expertise are available to tenants and the community at large. The Foundry also serves as a community space for meetings, theatrical productions, celebrations and other group events. For more information visit The www.thefoundrybuffalo.org or www.netpositivefoundation.org.

Christmas Bird Count -10:30 a.m. Enjoy a guided walk through the woods and participate in the National

Wednesday, December 18

Thursday, December 26

After-School Escape-4:30 PM at Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve, Depew. Enjoy a one-hour program for kids featuring a different, fun, outdoor activity each week. For kids in grades K through 5. No registration required.

Wellness Walk at Tiff-10 am to noon. Drop by Tiff Nature Preserve and enjoy the fresh air and the sights and sounds of the season with a healthy outdoor walk! Offered Thursdays all year. \$2.00 per person donation appreciated. Please call 825-6397 to confirm walk will be taking place.

WNYEA Issues & Advocacy Meeting-4:00 PM - 5:30 PM at 726 Larkin, Suite 525. www.growwny.org

Family Walk at Beaver Meadow-2pm at Beaver Meadow Audubon Center. Guided walk led by one of our naturalists. 585-457-3228.

GROW WNY: New Local Website for Everything Environmental

GrowWNY (<http://growwny.org>) is a new hyper-local source of information about living green in Western New York. To showcase your local events or advertise a future event, be sure to submit to

Eco-Island Nature Center- www.k12.ginet.org/resources.cfm?subpage=6518

NY Sport Fishing- <http://www.fishny.com/>

Erie Canal Trailway- www.ptny.org/bikecanal

Niagara Watershed Alliance- <http://www.had-e-nuff.com/id6.html>

Rochester Roots-<http://www.rochesterroots.org/>

SOLE of Buffalo- <http://peapodriot.blogspot.com/2012/04/food-ethics-for-buffalo-is-now-sole-of.html>

Education Courses or Certificates:

Energy University Website with Schneider Electric- [Courses](#) are free
Green Classroom Professional Certificate- Online courses, info [here](#)

Eco-volunteering with Travel:

<http://www.planetfriendly.net/learn.html>

<http://www.globalteer.org>

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

<http://www.eco-volunteerusa.org/>

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

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

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

Miscellaneous:

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Erie Canal Harbor Development	http://www.eriecanalharbor.com/
Erie County Community College Going Green	http://eccgoinggreen.ecc.edu/index.html
Erie County Conservation Society	http://eccs-club.org/
Erie County Department of Environment and Planning	http://www.erie.gov/environment/
Erie County Environment Management Council	http://www2.erie.gov/environment/
Erie County Farm Bureau	http://www.ecfarm.com/
Erie	http://www.eriectyfsc.org/
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 Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge	http://www.friendsofiroquoisnwr.org/
Foothills Trail Club	www.foothillstrailclub.org
Gander Mountain Store (seminar listings)	http://gander.distanthorizon.com/seminars/index.asp
Garden Clubs of WNY	www.gardenclubsofwny.com
Garden Walk Buffalo	http://gardenwalkbuffalo.com/
Genesee County Nature Center	www.gcv.org
Good Going WNY	www.goodgoingwny.com
Gooseneck Hill Waterfowl Sanctuary	www.gooseneckhillwaterfowlfarm.com
Grassroots Gardens of Buffalo	www.grassrootsgardens.org/
Greater Buffalo-Niagara Regional Transportation Council	www.gbnrtc.org/
Great Lakes Beach Sweep	http://greatlakesbeachsweep.org/

Niagara Restoration Council

www.niagararestoration.org/

Niagara River Anglers Association

<http://www.niagarariveranglers.com>

Sierra Club (Niagara Group of Atlantic Chapter)

<http://newyork.sierraclub.org/Niagara>

Slow Food Buffalo Niagara

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

South Buffalo Alive

<http://www.southbuffaloalive.com/>

SPCA serving Erie County

www.yourspca.org

Street Synergy

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

SUNY Fredonia

Western New York AmeriCorps (Service Collaborative)	http://www.wnyamericorps.org
Western New York Earth Day	http://www.wnyearthday.org/
Western New York Environmental Alliance	http://www.growwny.org/
Western New York Herpetological Society	http://www.wnyherpsociety.org/
Western New York Hiking Trails and resources	www.wnyhikes.com
Western New York Land Conservancy	http://www.wnylc.org/
WNY Nursery and Landscape Association (PLANT WNY)	http://www.wnynla.org/
Western New York Science Congress	http://wnyssc.org/
Western New York Service Learning Coalition	www.wnyslc.org
Western New York Stormwater Coalition	www.erie.gov/stormwater
Western New York Sustainability Plan	www.sustainable-ny.com
Western New York Sustainable Energy Association	www.wnysea.com
West Side Ministries	http://www.westsideministries.org/
West Valley Citizen Task Force	www.westvalleyctf.org
Wild Ones, Native Plants and Natural Landscapes	http://www.wildonesniagara.org/
Wild Spirit Education	http://www.wildspirit.org/
Wind Action Group	http://www.buffalowind.org
Working for Downtown	http://www.workingfordowntown.org/