



Spring 2010

Utica Marsh Council

Utica Marsh Council, Inc., P.O. Box 73, Utica New York 13503

Inside:

- About Us
- Website
- Annual Cleanup
- BIOBLITZ
- Marsh Happenings
- Renew your membership
- Get Involved

About Us

The Utica Marsh Council is a non-profit, volunteer organization that promotes environmental education using the Utica Marsh. Several of our members are active in community education. Many educational resources are available to the public through our website (<http://www.uticamarsh.org>) including a Field Trip Guide for those who wish to lead nature walks through the marsh.

The Utica Marsh Council also works for conservation of marsh resources and advises NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) on matters affecting the Utica Marsh.

Website for Utica Marsh

Make sure you look at the new website for the Utica Marsh. We've added an easy URL to remember (<http://www.uticamarsh.org>), so you should be able to find it with ease. The website was designed by Bob George, and we much appreciate his wonderful efforts. The site is entertaining and informative. It makes a lot of information available, including maps, many photos, a field trip guide, a bird checklist, copies of past Marsh newsletters, a membership form, and information about research at the Marsh and the Purple Project (a project to use beetles for biological control of invasive Purple Loosestrife). Try it out! In the future, we want to add more photos and identification of every species shown in the photos. Feel free to contribute items for it, too. Contact Ernest Williams with contributions. (ewilliam@hamilton.edu)



ANNUAL CLEAN UP

Mark your calendars!!! This year's spring clean up will be held rain or shine on Saturday, April 24th from 9am until 11am. The cleanup is sponsored by the Utica Marsh Council and DEC. There are always refreshments available for hungry volunteers.

All helpers are asked to sign up at the cleanup headquarters located in the large parking area next to the Barge Canal by 9:00 AM. Dress for outside work; work gloves are helpful and bring along some plastic grocery bags for trash. Additional trash bags and latex gloves will be available.

Turnout has been very good the past few years. Last year, there were over 110 volunteers from the community, and local high school and college students. Thank you to all who participated!

Please join us to keep the marsh beautiful!!!



2009 BIOBLITZ

JUNE 2009 BIOBLITZ RESULTS

The first Bioblitz in central New York was held successfully at Utica Marsh on Saturday, June 27, 2009. A Bioblitz is a one-day intensive survey of all living organisms in a designated area, and because of its central location with wetland habitats, Utica Marsh is an ideal location to run such a survey. A Bioblitz has two primary goals: to document the species that live in that area and thus serve as a baseline for future management; and to raise public awareness

about nature around us. Nearly 70 people participated in the Bioblitz in one form or another. NYS DEC biologists were able to find and identify 18 species of fish in the marsh and nearby Mohawk River. Members of the Kirkland Bird Club observed 64 species of birds, and, led by Dave Moore of Utica College, Bioblitz participants identified 192 plant species. Only 8 species of reptiles and amphibians and 10 species of mammals were apparent

that day, but over 230 species of invertebrates were found. Some taxonomic groups were not as well sampled as we would have liked, including moths, zooplankton, ferns, and algae. For our first experience running a Bioblitz, this one was successful. Some year, we'll sponsor another Bioblitz at Utica Marsh.

Ernest Williams

Utica Marsh Happenings



Field trip to the Utica Marsh by local students

Annual Dinner and Speaker

Each year, the Utica Marsh Council holds their September meeting at a restaurant and invites someone to give a presentation relevant to the Utica Marsh. This year, we met at the Aqua Vino Restaurant. We enjoyed a wonderful meal and companionship. We received a recap of the Utica Marsh BIOBLITZ results compiled by Ernest Williams at Hamilton College.

Student Learning at the Marsh

Several schools that participate in the purple project, take their classes to the marsh. The students are able to see the extent of the loosestrife infestation as well as phragmites and Japanese knotweed, also invasive plants. Students enjoy the walk through the marsh seeing painted turtles, frogs, snakes, geese and other wildlife that inhabit the marsh. Teachers can show areas of the marsh where invasive plants have muscled-out cattails and other native plants animals rely on for food and shelter. The learning in the classroom comes to life.



Join or Renew Your Membership

Please help support the development of educational activities and general use of the Utica Marsh, and take advantage of activities, programs, and equipment that are available to our members, their families, and interested groups.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ E-mail _____

(all information is for internal use only; we do not sell personal information)

Check appropriate membership category (renewable each April)

- Individual \$10 _____
- Family \$15 _____
- Organization \$25 _____
- Lifetime \$100 _____

Check if interested in volunteering

- Annual Clean up Day _____
- Educational Programs _____

Check if enclosing a donation

_____ Donation

Check if interested in:

- Attending Meetings _____
- Receiving meeting minutes (e-mail only) _____

Please make your tax-deductible amount payable to the Utica Marsh Council, Inc., and mail this form and check to: **Utica Marsh Council, PO Box 73, Utica, NY 13503**

Thank you to all of our Donors !!!
 (Monetary and In Kind)

Bonide Products, Inc
 Bob's Barnes Auto Parts
 NYS DEC
 SUNYIT
 Walmart #2093
 Waste Management

Get Involved in the Utica Marsh

The Utica Marsh Council welcomes anyone who wishes to participate. We hold regular meetings on the third Thursday evening of each month at 6:30. Meetings are currently held at Utica College, 208 (Willard) DePerno Hall (check out www.utica.edu for a map of college campus).

This year's meetings will be held on:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| April 15 th | December 16 th |
| May 20 th | January 20 th |
| June 17 th | February 17 th |
| Summer TBA | March 17 th |
| September 16 th | April 21 st |
| October 21 st | |
| November 18 th | |

For further information contact
 Laura Weiser-Erlandson at
weiserl@sunyit.edu



Utica Marsh Council, Inc

P.O. Box73
Utica, New York 13503

E-MAIL:
weiserl@sunyit.edu

President: Laura Weiser-Erlandson
Secretary: Linell Machold
Treasurer: Charles Williams

We're on the Web!

See us at:
<http://www.uticamarsh.org>



Aerial view of the Utica Marsh

About The Utica Marsh...

The Utica Marsh is an urban wetland consisting of 213 acres that lie mostly within the city of Utica. The marsh provides a home for diverse plants and animals and is characterized by a mixture of different wetland habitats. Bordering the Mohawk River and New York Barge Canal, the Utica Marsh is a wildlife management area of the state of New York and is managed by the NYS Dept of Environmental Conservation. It is located at the end of Barnes Avenue and easily accessible. Come visit and enjoy the beauty of the marsh!

Utica Marsh Council, Inc

P.O. Box73
Utica, New York 13503