

Invasive Plants Art Show at Sam's Point Preserve

A show of original artwork showing invasive plants will be on display at **Sam's Point Preserve** until September 25th. The show, entitled "Alive in New York – a Growing Invasion," is being co-sponsored by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the Guild of Natural Science Illustrators and will be on display in the new **Conservation Center** at the **Preserve**.

The show features exquisite watercolors and etchings of invasive plants by members of the Guild of Natural Science Illustrators – Greater New York chapter (GNSI-GNY). It focuses on the spread of non-native plants, either accidentally or intentionally introduced, in New York State's ecosystems. Included in the show are common invasive plants, native wild plants at risk, and less invasive substitutes for landscaping and gardening.

An invasive is a species that is non-native (or alien) to an ecosystem and whose introduction harms or is likely to harm the environment, economy, or human health. Invasives come from other places and have no natural enemies here to



control their aggressive growth. Non-native invasive plants threaten our ecosystem by displacing many native plants necessary to sustain wildlife and environmental balance. (*purple loosestrife, left*)

"Most scientists consider the problem of invasive species as second only to habitat loss as a threat to biodiversity," said Cara Lee, director of TNC's *Shawangunk Ridge Program*. Invasive species put agriculture, forestry, and our natural and managed ecosystems at risk. This show will help people learn to recognize common invasive species that may pose a threat to our native species, as well as offering non-invasive landscaping ideas," she added.

This exhibit of scientific fine art is a wealth of beauty and information. The show features more than 30 works

by 29 artists from the Guild of Natural Science Illustrators – Greater New York Chapter. The show is curated by Chris Sanders, Kate Rivera, Roberta Rosenthal, and Jessie Salmon and is assisted by Eileen Hahn and Judy Aronow.

The 5,770-acre **Sam's Point Preserve** is owned by Open Space Institute and managed by The Nature Conservancy. The **Conservation Center**, a 3,000 square foot "green"

building which opened this past May, was designed to compliment and reflect the dramatic setting at **Sam's Point**. It offers permanent and traveling interpretive exhibits and serves as a base for the Conservancy's scientific research, land stewardship, and educational programs at the **Preserve**.

Sam's Point Preserve is in Cragmoor, Ulster County. Call **845-647-7989** for directions. The **Conservation Center** is open from 9 AM to 5 PM, Wednesday through Sunday. There is a \$7 parking fee.

For more information on invasive plant species, please visit the **Invasive Plant Council of New York** at:

<http://www.ipcnys.ene.com/default.htm>

To see the recently released report of the New York State Invasives Species Task Force, visit:

<http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/habitat/istf/index.html> 

Grant for Recycling Education

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development State Director of New York Patrick Brennan announced a \$99,000 grant to Hudson Valley Materials Exchange to fund the company's recycling education program, "ReUse-A-Bus: Learning with Leftovers." This bus, which will be powered by "green fuel," will go to community events and provide a basis for educational programming to promote waste reduction & appropriate recycling practices.

HVME is an educational waste prevention organization that fosters business and community development, art and culture, environmental protection, and sustainable living through its services, which include waste assessments, distribution of reusable business waste, and workshops illustrating possible uses for reusable materials.

"By teaching our children about recycling and protecting the environment, HVME seeks to ensure a good quality of life for our generation and future generations. I am proud USDA Rural Development is participating in this project, as it represents the mission of USDA Rural Development: improving the quality of life and creating economic development opportunities in rural communities," said Brennan.

This grant, available through the USDA Rural Development Solid Waste Management program, is the only one being awarded in New York this year. Solid Waste Management grants are made to public and private nonprofit organizations to provide technical assistance and/or training to associations located in eligible rural areas to reduce or eliminate pollution of water resources, and to improve planning and management of solid waste facilities. Assistance may be provided to enhance operator skills in operations and maintenance, identify threats to water resources, and reduce solid waste stream.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. USDA's web site: www.rurdev.usda.gov/ny 



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