Ithaca Plans Week-long Earth Day 40th Year Celebration

This year — the 40th anniversary of Earth Day - Sustainability at Ithaca, the Ithaca College Environmental Society (ICES), Residence Hall Association, Ithaca College Natural Lands, IC Organic Community, the Dining Services Sustainability Committee, the Roy H. Park School, and others have teamed to bring you a week of exciting and educational Earth Day events:

Monday, April 19, 2010
12:00 – 2:00 PM  IC Enviro. Society Organic Garden Clean-up (outside Williams Hall)
4:30 – 5:30PM Iscol Distinguished Environmental Lecture: Dr. James Hansen Call Auditorium, Kennedy Hall, Cornell University
6:00 – 7:00 PM  Dining Services “Weigh the Waste” event – Terrace Dining Hall
7:00 – 9:00PM Religion and the Environment:: A Conversation with the Twelve Tribes Clarke Lounge, Campus Center

Tuesday, April 20, 2010
12:10 – 1:00 PM  Ithaca College Organic Community Garden Tour meet at the lower entrance of the Park School
6:00 – 8:00PM ICES Sustainable Teach-In Dinner, Textor 103

Wednesday, April 21, 2010
12:00 – 1:00PM Energy Bike demonstration, IC Square Food Court
1:00 – 3:00PM IC Natural Lands Clean-up meet at the Campus Center flagpole
7:00 – 9:00PM ICES Film Screening: “Crude” with panel discussion, Textor 103

Thursday, April 22, 2010  EARTH DAY!
11:00AM – 12:30PM  “What on Earth is this Thing?” - the life cycle of ordinary items presented by students in Green Girls and Earth Mothers class Taughannock Falls Room, Campus Center
12:15 – 1:00PM “Sustainability in Action” Forum, 111 Park Center for Business
12:15 – 1:00PM Shaleshock presentation: “How Fracking Affects us All”, Textor 103
2:00 – 2:30 PM C2C Environmental Art Installation Unveiling, Campus Center quad
2:30 – 3:30PM IC Natural Lands Nature Walk meet at the Campus Center Flagpole
3:00 – 5:00PM Residence Hall Association Earth Day Event, Campus Quad
4:00 – 5:00PM IC Natural Lands Nature Walk meet at the Campus Center flagpole
6:00 – 7:00PM “Rate Your Plate” Healthy Living demo, Campus Center Dining Hall

Friday, April 23, 2010
12:00 – 1:30PM Sustainable Food demo, Fresh Food Market, Towers Dining Hall
12:00 – 1:00PM IC Natural Lands South Hill natural area kiosk dedication meet at South entrance to the preserve
3:00 – 6:30PM “Media for Social Change” mini-course, Park School

Saturday, April 24, 2010
10:00 – 5:00PM “Media for Social Change” mini-course continues, Park School
Sustainability-themed Talks at Whalen Symposium

We noted the following sustainability-themed presentations given at the Whalen Academic Symposium on April 8th: "An Agricultural Legacy: On an Organic Orchard in Central New York" (Rose Zonetti); "The Health Insurance of Organic Milk" (Nathan Breton); "The Industrial Organic Controversy" (Chelsea Robie); "On the Ethics of Animal Consumption" (Veronica Smith); "Our Environmental Apocalypse" (Christopher Lisee); "How to keep Cu2O active and stable for solar-hydrogen production from water" (Joshua Thomas); "Ithaca College's 2009 Greenhouse Gas Inventory" (Jonathan Thompson); "The Impact of Climate Change on Maple Syrup Production in Ithaca" (Ashley Bell); "How much AC? Climate Change and the Heat Index in Ithaca" (Brian McGauvan, Rachel Glassberg); "South Hill Maple Syrup Company" (Tyler Glassman); "Creating Community Through Food: The IC Organic Garden Project" (Emma Hileman, Taryn Hubbard); "Sustainable Food Systems: The Magic of Mushrooms" (Taryn Hubbard); "Ithaca College Natural Land Stewards: eyes and ears for our natural areas" (Emma Hileman); "Building Community around Biochar" (Shawn Ganz); "IC’s Mitigation Wetlands as an Educational Tool" (Peter Maser, Noah Mark); "Sustainably Charging Batteries Using Compost" (Caitlin Ahearn); "Archaeological Geophysical Surveys at Old Fort Johnson: A Pre-Revolutionary War House Fort near Albany, NY" (Kevin Hurley); "Archaeological Geophysical Surveys at a 400-year-old Native American Village in the Finger Lakes Region, NY" (Rebecca Grollman); "College Wind Speed Data" (Casey Byrne); "Solar Thermal Hot Water: A Demonstration Project for Ithaca College" (Sarah Burleson). Caitlin Ahearn and Josh Thomas used this opportunity to rehearse their respective presentations that were accepted for the National Conference on Undergraduate Research in Missoula, Montana.

“Media for Social Change” Earth Week Mini-Course

Students from all majors are encouraged to register for the 1-credit mini-course “Media for Social Change.” This immersive learning experience requires 12.5 hours of participation over the weekend of April 22-24. Students will learn how to communicate social responsibility and harness the power of media for positive personal and global transformation. Over the course of the weekend, teams of student participants will be coached to prepare media ‘pitches’ to deliver to representatives of major media, communication and entertainment companies. The course kicks off with a campus presentation by global activist Lynne Twist. For more info: http://www.ithaca.edu/rhp/community/socialchange/

Register for GCOM 29312-01 (see course schedule on page 1)

“Commit-to-Change” Funding Awards

The “Commit-to-Change” committee announces its funding awards:

Fellowships: $2,000—Taryn Hubbard (IC Organic Garden); $1,000—Sofia Johnson (sustainable seafood project); $500- Jeff Goodwin (campus shuttle)

Summer internships: On-campus ($4,000): Alex Bates and Alexis Ivor (IC Sustainability office projects); off-campus ($3,000): Margot Spiker (NYC bike project); Ben Smith (NYS Parks); Doug Indrick (ASI Energy); and Jeff Hatzel (small mammal conservation).

Research project funds: $500 - Sarah Araldi (mycoremediation)

The 2010 Cradle-to-Cradle Student Environmental Art Award was given to the team consisting of seniors Alyia Bettman (Art), Andrew Bradshaw (Biology), Seth Davidson (Art), and Nathan Meader (English), whose proposal best exemplified the “cradle to cradle” concept. Their art installation will be unveiled on Earth Day, April 22, at 2pm on the campus Quad. The team shares a $1,000 cash award.

Sustainability Certificate Program

The Division of Graduate and Professional Studies announces upcoming seminars in its Sustainability Leadership certificate program:

- A Systems Approach to Sustainability
- Designing Effective Communication Media
- Promoting Sustainability Initiatives
- The Sustainability Coordinator as Organizational Change Agent
- Establishing Sustainability as an Organizational Purpose
- Marketing Research for Sustainability Initiatives
- Tools and Techniques for Planning and Managing Sust. Projects
- Using Evaluation to Craft the Business Case for Sustainability
- How Green is Your Organization? Sustainable Infrastructure
- How Green is Your Organization? Sustainable Policy and Practice
- Communicating the Organization’s Sustainability Efforts
- Integrating Sustainability in Training and Curriculum

More info: http://www.ithaca.edu/gps/professional_programs/
More Sustainable Decisions

Facilities Grounds and the Office of Residential Life teamed to install 20 new bike racks near our residence halls, mostly under building overhangs. Roger Casterline, director of Facilities Grounds and Transportation, reports that his folks are awaiting arrival of a number of racks that will be located near administrative and academic buildings on campus.

The South Hill Pedestrian-Bicycling Safety Committee met in early April to finalize a letter—jointly signed by reps of the various member organizations - to the New York State Department of Transportation to request a review of the pedestrian/bicycling access and safety issues along Route 96B.

Bill Bartnik, supervisor of Facilities electricians, reports that new CFL lighting has been installed in the Towers Dining Hall, one of the recommendations of the comprehensive dining energy audit program. Also as part of the dining energy project, over Spring break, new variable speed exhaust hood fan controllers were installed in the kitchens in the Campus Center dining hall kitchen and IC Square snack bar. Using laser beams to "see" smoke and steam rising from the griddles and cooktop burners, these sophisticated new controllers on the kitchen ventilation system now respond to actual cooking conditions, automatically adjusting the ventilation fans so they do not run at full velocity when they don’t need to, saving us thousands in electricity costs.

The Bookstore has switched to Jostens Elements graduation gowns, made with biodegradable acetate fiber from sustainably managed forests, zippers from recycled soda bottles, and packaged in compostable bags.

Cortaca Climate Challenge

From Earth Week until the Cortaca Jug game later this Fall, members of the Cortland State campus and Ithaca College community will be challenging one another to reduce their collective climate impacts. The campus that has the most campus participants who pledge to reduce the most pounds of carbon will win this year’s Cortaca Climate Challenge. Best of all, if we all carry through on our pledges, EVERBODY wins! To track our individual emissions, we will be using Climate Culture’s carbon calculator http://climateculture.com/

When you create an account in Climate Culture using your ithaca.edu address, the pledges you make to reduce your carbon emissions will be automatically tracked as part of the Ithaca College team standings. If you have already set up an account in Climate Culture, please know that your personal account is still active, but in fairness to our competitors at Cortland State who are new to this effort, we asked for all existing Climate Culture accounts to be “wiped clean.” So you will need to re-enter your current emissions reduction behaviors, but this will give you a chance to take a fresh look at what you are doing now to reduce your carbon impact – and what additional commitments you can make to have an even more positive climate benefit!

Hood Hall is an Energy Star!

Ithaca College has been notified that Hood Hall has joined Clarke Hall in the elite ranks of residence halls that have been certified as meeting the energy performance standards of the Energy Star program. Hood achieved an Energy Star rating of 92.

Ithaca College currently has more Energy Star-rated residence halls than any other campus in New York State — in fact, there are only 50 Energy Star-certified residence halls nationwide!

Emissions Head in the Right Direction

Student researcher Jonathan Thompson ‘11, working with Biology professor Susan Swensen, has nearly finished his compilation of the College’s annual greenhouse gas emissions inventory for fiscal year 2008-09. The great news is that it is looking as though our emissions in all three emissions categories have gone down—Scope 1 and Scope 2 substantially so! —far exceeding our annual overall GHG emissions reduction goal of 2.5%.

Sustainability at Ithaca was included among the Campus Showcase exhibitors at Ed Tech Day in March; we also led a tour of the LEED Platinum-level features of the Peggy R. Williams Center.

In March, a delegation of representatives from King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals in Saudi Arabia came over from Cornell to tour our two LEED Platinum-level buildings and learn more about our campus sustainability efforts.

Change is inevitable. Growth is optional. Positive growth is intentional.
Apply to be a 2010 Jumpstart Leader!

The Office of Student Engagement and Multicultural Affairs and the Resource and Environmental Management Program present “Jumpstart,” a set of four programs designed to help new students transition into their IC experience. Two of the Jumpstart programs have sustainability themes.

The ECHO (Experience Connections by Heading Outdoors) program takes students on an overnight campus outing along the Finger Lakes Trail. Sustainable Community Challenge will again take students on a bioregional bus tour around Cayuga Lake to learn about our local “foodshed,” with stops at a large conventional dairy farm, an orchard, an organic farm, the SHARE farm, and a final stop at EcoVillage at Ithaca for a sustainable dinner. Applications for Jumpstart Leaders are due April 9th.

Apply: http://www.ithaca.edu/sac/osema/opportunities/isleader/

Finger Lakes Project Workshop

The annual Finger Lakes Project workshop, which will be held on campus from May 26-28, is aimed at college-level faculty, staff, and students who are interested in sustainability education. The workshop provides opportunities to learn about and experience examples of teaching sustainability in varied settings and disciplines. The 2010 workshop will include lectures and activities on the following topics:

- Defining Sustainability
- Exploring Connections between Sustainability and Social Justice
- Teaching about Connections: Systems Thinking and Sustainability
- Just Food Systems for the 21st Century
- Collaborative Approaches to Service Learning.

Nikki Henderson, executive director for People's Grocery, is a featured speaker for this year's workshop. People's Grocery is a community-based organization in West Oakland, California, that develops creative solutions to health problems in that community stemming from a lack of access to and knowledge about healthy, fresh foods. People's Grocery's mission is to build a local food system that improves the health and economy of West Oakland.

More info: http://www.ithaca.edu/fingerlakes_project/FLP2010/

The world premiere of the new film “Living Downstream” at Cinemapolis on April 3rd completely sold out. Both the filmmaker, Chanda Chevannes, and Sandra Steingraber, author of the book of the same name, were on hand for Q&A after the film. Steingraber, distinguished scholar in residence with IC’s Division of Interdisciplinary and International Programs, will reprise the film showing for the Finger Lakes Project workshop on May 26th.

Ithaca Carshare offers special student rates. Semester plans are good through May 31st. There is a $15 one-time application fee, and two membership levels:

- “Just In Case” plan: $20 membership; $15 in free driving credit; $7.95/hour charge; 20¢/mile
- “It’s My Car” plan: $70 membership; $75 in free driving credit; $4.95/hour charge; 20¢/mile

Faculty and staff members receive $50 in free driving credit.

For more information: www.ithacacarshare.org

TCAT bus unlimited ride semester passes - sold direct by TCAT - cost $110. TCAT works with our ID office to encode the semester pass permission right on your student ID card. Monthly bus passes cost $30 and 15 ride passes cost $15; both of these separate bus ride passes are sold at our Bookstore. For info on TCAT routes and schedules: www.tcatinic.org

Check out Becky Webster’s blog called EcoDump, for her unique take on campus and community sustainability efforts. http://theithacan.org/blogs/ecodump/

We maintain an active sustainability list-serve to advise members about campus and community events and activities of interest, and to facilitate discussion among members about sustainability topics. Our listserv is open to any and all members of the Ithaca College community. To join our “sustainability friends” listserv, simply send an email to majordomo@lists.ithaca.edu with the following text in the body of the message: subscribe sustainability

Looking for a Green Collar job? The Division of Graduate and Professional Studies and the Office of Career Services have teamed to join the Green Collar Community.  To join the listserv, simply send an email to: majordomo@lists.ithaca.edu with the following text in the body of the message: subscribe sustainability

Alumni Profile: Alex Wilson ’77 has parlayed his Biology degree into a career as a nationally known “green building” advocate. In 1985, Alex founded BuildingGreen, an independent company committed to providing accurate, unbiased, and timely information designed to help building-industry professionals and policymakers improve the environmental performance and reduce the adverse impacts of buildings. Through Environmental Building News and on-line member resources like GreenSpecs, BuildingGreen caters primarily to design professionals, builders, and contractors. But Alex’s book, “Your Green Home”, offers “owner builders” information about minimizing the impacts of buildings both on natural resource depletion and the occupants living inside.

News Brief

Marian Brown and Jeff Goodwin, Student Body President, will update listeners on campus sustainability on the “All Things Equal” program on WHCU 870 AM on April 27th. The show will be made available as a podcast from the station website.

In June, Marian Brown has been invited to present a workshop session on campus sustainability at a conference in Syracuse titled “A New Perspective: Making Sustainable Attainable.”

We’re on the Web!

A pdf version of this newsletter can be downloaded from the Sustainability at Ithaca website at: www.ithaca.edu/sustainability

This newsletter has been produced on recycled paper.