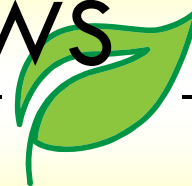


# UR GREEN NEWS

UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER  
April 8, 2012  
Volume 1, Issue 13



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### Grassroots Weekly General Interest Meeting

April 9, April 16  
8:00—9:00 p.m.  
Ruth Merrill Center, Wilson Commons

### Engineers for a Sustainable World Meeting

April 11, April 18  
8:00—9:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 507, Wilson Commons

### Sustainability Seminar: "Sustainability Initiatives at RIT" by Senior Sustainability Advisor to the President, RIT

April 12  
12:30—1:30 p.m.  
Goergen 110

### Earth Fest Meeting (Grassroots)

April 13, April 20  
8:00—9:00 p.m.  
Ruth Merrill Center, Wilson Commons

### Rays of Hope: Solar Cooker Competition and Picnic

April 21  
12:00—2 p.m.  
Genesee Valley Park

### Sustainability Seminar Speaker: Tom Wilber, Journalist and Author of "Under the Surface: Fracking, Fortunes, and the Fate of the Marcellus Shale"

April 24  
12:30—1:30 p.m.  
Hubbell Auditorium

### Sustainability Seminar: "Greening Fort Apache": Appropriate Technology as Environmental Justice in South Bronx"

April 26  
12:30—1:30 p.m.  
Goergen 110

## SUSTAINABILITY SPOTLIGHT



### Gearing Up for Competition: Solar Splash Club Prepares for World Championship

UR's Solar Splash Club, a fairly new cross-discipline engineering club whose mission is to design and build a solar-powered boat, is in the midst of preparing for "Solar Splash," the World Championship of Intercollegiate Solar Boating held June 13 to 17.

Affiliated with the IEEE Power Electronics Society – a branch of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers – the event will be based in Cedar Falls/Waterloo, Iowa, and will test student engineers on their ability to create the most maneuverable, efficient, and swift boat the sun can power.

The Solar Splash club encourages a hands-on learning approach to the hydrodynamics, material science, mechanics, and electronics involved in building an electric boat. The building process consists of three stages: design, fabrication, and testing. The design and building procedures happen concurrently; as some projects are being prototyped, others are being completed.

The UR club is currently concentrating on upgrading last year's boat. One area requiring a significant amount of attention is the redesign of the hull, the main body that rides in the water. Poor hydrodynamic properties of the hull could potentially undermine the progress achieved in other areas of the boat design.

According to the vice president of the Solar Splash club Jamie Gaewsky '13, another focus is the creation of a solar panel mount that will be capable of rotating on an axis in order to make the sun's exposure to the solar panel more effective. The increased generation of electricity will allow the boat's batteries to charge throughout the day during the competition.

Additionally, the motor controller is being reprogrammed to drive the motor up to full speed. The club wants to push the boat's motor to the maximum, as it ran at a fraction of its full potential in the 2011 competition.

Having the club place 11th out of 20 teams last year, Gaewsky and the club have high, but realistic, aspirations. The club aims to finish in the top five overall. However, as Gaewsky points out, this feat "will be difficult" because multiple teams with histories of performing well will be re-entering this year after taking a year off.

Beyond the technical aspects of the upcoming event, the biggest difficulty the club seems to face is recruiting new members. Membership primarily consists of juniors and seniors, though the club is open to all. According to Gaewsky, the club manages to recruit upperclassmen "better" than underclassmen.

Perhaps the upcoming competition will arouse and pique other students' interest in Solar Splash. For now, the event will act as a good measure of the versatility of the club's skills and will encourage students to embrace and master a big project through perfection of its details.





GREEN!

## HIGHLIGHTS

### UR Receives \$1,000 Prize for Tree Planting Event



The Arbor Day Foundation, a conservation and education nonprofit organization dedicated to planting trees, held its first

Tree Campus Spring Event vote from March 22 to April 4, in which UR was voted one of five Tree Campus USA schools to win \$1,000 from the Foundation to plant trees and recruit new volunteers for campus sustainability. According to the [press release](#), UR came in second, trailing Virginia Tech

by 488 votes. A total of 53,747 votes were cast in the contest. Dan Schied, manager of University Horticulture and Grounds, and the Grounds department plan to use this opportunity to plant new trees in the same area where the "Tree of Life," the University's lost iconic tree, used to be. The event is set for April 27 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Genesee Valley Park.

### CONTACTS & RESOURCES:

[Sustainability @ the University of Rochester](#)

Facilities  
[The Green Dandelion](#)

Dining Services  
[Team Green](#)

SA Student Sustainability Coordinator  
[Will Finnie](#)

The Environmental Sustainability UCIS  
[Karen Berger](#)

Council on Sustainability  
[Karen Berger](#)  
[Cam Schauf](#)

Sustainability within the community:  
[Center for Environmental Information](#)  
[EnvironmentRochester.com](#)

**E&E Publishing, LLC**  
Environment & Energy Publishing (E&E) is the leading source for comprehensive, daily coverage of environmental and energy policy and markets.

### Enter the Solar Cooking Competition and Picnic

Join the M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence at its first Solar Cooker Competition and Picnic on Saturday, April 21 from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. in Genesee Valley Park. Anyone – from students to faculty – interested in creating a solar cooker is encouraged to

enter the contest. There is no deadline for participation, though all contestants must email [Faye Gura](#) to enter. The entrance fee is \$5.00, though individuals who compete or bring food or beverages may enter free. All proceeds will benefit Solar Cookers International, an organization that aims to spread solar cooking awareness and skills worldwide.

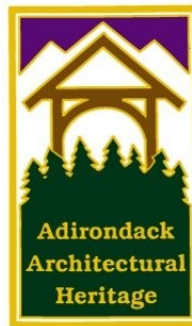
Prizes range from best overall solar cooker (\$100 award), best meal (\$50), and most creative solar cooker (\$50), all to be determined by group voting during the picnic. The cloud/rain date is scheduled for Sunday, April 29 at the same proposed time. For information on how to build a solar cooker visit "[Solar Cookers](#)," and for a more detailed information sheet, email [Faye Gura](#).

### Adirondack 2012 Semester Program Deadline Approaches

Clarkson University's Institute for a Sustainable Environment (ISE) is accepting applications until April 15 for the Adirondack semester in fall 2012. The Adirondack semester is a 15-credit exchange program for undergraduates interested in pursuing an off-campus study program that focuses on "global sustainability, and

examines the scientific, political and social challenges present in harmonizing economic, social and environmental goals," according to the [Clarkson University site](#). Students from any major who are interested in learning about environmental science, policy, economics and the human history and contemporary issues of the Adirondack

region are encouraged to apply. The program houses students in downtown Saranac Lake, a setting that offers recreational, educational and cultural opportunities. Taught by Clarkson University faculty, courses focus on the Adirondack Park's social and natural sciences: its expansive wilderness, residents, governing agencies, economics, and organizations and businesses that shape policies and commerce.



### SUSTAINABILITY:

Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

[United Nations](#)



UNIVERSITY of  
**ROCHESTER**

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