
OEC NEWSLETTER

Official publication of the Onondaga Earth Corps

A Busy New Year

BY ALEX COLEMAN-GRIDLEY

Onondaga Earth Corps been preparing for a busy year! This spring we welcomed new crew leaders, all of whom are returning OEC employees. We also hurried to get all our trees planted in the ground before turning our attention to our green infrastructure projects.

Many exciting new developments have happened in the past few months. We attended a Tree City conference in Albany as well as a Corps Network conference in Washington, DC. We added a new vehicle to our fleet, and most excitingly, we hit a major milestone by planting our 10,000th tree!

In this issue, we will catch you up to speed on all that has happened since the new year, with information about our new team members, upcoming events, as well as recaps of past events.



(l-r front) Tay, Yvonne, Nick (l-r back) Shad, Maurice, Meqdad, inside the new truck.

Upcoming Events:

Conservation and Professional Leadership Development (CPLD) Training

June 24-26, 2019
from 9am-3:30pm
@ SUNY EOC Building
Syracuse, NY
Hosted by OEC
Pre-register Online at
www.onondagaeearthcorps.org
or in person at the OEC Office

Annual ReLeaf Conference

July 18-20, 2019
@ Mount Saint Mary's College
Newburgh, NY
Hosted by the New York State
Urban Forestry Council

The Famous Michel Brunch!

October 9, 2019
from 11am-2pm
@ 185 Brookside Lane
Fayetteville, NY 13066
Hosted by Jackie Michel
An OEC Fundraiser and meet
and greet

Encore!

November 9, 2019
from 6pm-9pm
Save the Date
@ May Memorial Unitarian
Universalist Society 3800 E.
Genesee St., Syracuse, NY
Hosted by OEC Volunteers
Annual OEC Fundraising Event

Meet Our New Team Members!

My name is **Shad McKinney**, I'm am a Crew Leader here at OEC. This will be my 3rd spring season working with the Onondaga Earth Corps program, and I'm more excited today than ever before as I know that this program is truly heading in a great direction. I'm overly enthused about working with our youth and helping them develop personal & professional skills that will carry them beyond measure. I am proud to be an integral part in the success of our youth program, and I look forward to continuing making a difference this upcoming spring!

(Please Join Me)

My name is **Taveon 'Tay' Stenson**, I am the Crew Leader for OEC'S Advanced Young Adult Crew. I am looking forward to another year of beautifying our neighborhoods and educating those of the public on what it is that we do. I'm ecstatic to have two graduates from last year's Young Adult program join me for this year's next level of fun! I hope to help them advance in not only the workforce but also in their personal development.

My name is **Maurice Harris**. I am starting my third summer with O.E.C. This will be the third year that I lead the Clean Streets crew. I have learned a lot about the environment and my community from being a part of O.E.C. I have been blessed with the chance and opportunity to mentor at Dr. King elementary last year and help with the Salt City Games the past two years. I look forward to collaborating with other programs this summer to have a bigger impact within the community.

My name is **Yvonne Chu**, I am the new Office Manager for OEC and I am excited to be working with the crew members these upcoming seasons. One of my goals for this year is to help OEC develop a means of communication for all involved with the program to propel OEC forward. This includes participation from the crew, staff, board of directors, partners, and volunteers. I hope that my experiences and skills can contribute to the growth of OEC.



OEC Youth Crew w/ volunteers from Upward Bound at Springfield Gardens.

Youth Report

BY GREG MICHEL

OEC's youth crew has been busy in 2018 collecting air quality data at locations surrounding I-81 and I-690. The effort is part of a NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Environmental Justice proposal that was awarded to OEC to help community members better understand the impacts of poor air quality on our health and communities and to come up with some solutions to help improve the air we breath. In April and May OEC teamed up with over 30 volunteers on two separate community plantings to plant 24 trees at the Springfield Gardens Apartments adjacent to I-690. "I never really thought about the air I breath around here, but now I do and it's nice to know that these trees will help keep it clean," said one volunteer tree planter after hearing OEC youth present and planting trees with the team.

A Week in the Woods

BY ALEX COLEMAN-GRIDLEY

OEC welcomed its YA crew members with a three-day camping trip to Highland Forest County Park. Staying in remote cabins deep in the woods, the team enjoyed campfires, hiking trips, and team-building activities far off the beaten path.

Highlights of the trip include building a campfire, taking a hike under the stars, and shelter-building. The many activities the crew took part in provided a chance for both new and returning members to practice teamwork and get to know one another!



(l-r) Greg, Shad, Alex, Victor, Maurice, Shane, Nick, Yvonne, Tay, Jahkella, and Michael at Highland Forest.

Looking for VOLUNTEERS
Earth Corps Encore Planning Committee
To volunteer, contact Yvonne Chu (ychu@onondagaeearthcorps.org)

Encore 2019!

BY ANN KORNBLUTH

EARTH CORPS ENCORE 2019 will be held on Saturday, November 9, 2019, at May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society at 3800 East Genesee St., Syracuse, NY 13214 6:00pm-9:30 pm. The CNY community will celebrate the accomplishments of the exceptional Youth, Young Adult Crews and Staff of 2019. See our stories, accompanied by great photographs by JoAnn Cucci. Enjoy a lovely meal and entertainment. Don't miss it! OEC Fund Development Committee Leadership: Ann Kornbluth, Jackie Michel & Yvonne Chu.

Past Events:

Spring Arbor Day Celebration

May 19, 2019 @ Springfield Gardens, Syracuse, NY



Earth Day Tree Planting

April 27, 2019 @ Jamesville Beach, Jamesville, NY



Tree City USA Award Ceremony

March 21, 2019 @ Marriott Hotel in Albany, NY



Corps Network Conference

February 10-13, 2019 @ Fairmont Hotel in Washington DC



Big Trees!

BY NICK GARTY

While Syracuse is teeming with thousands of young trees planted by OEC, there are several massive, old trees scattered amongst the streets and parks. These hidden giants provide a glimpse of what our recent plantings can become, and inspire the work that we do. After spending weeks, months, or years driving the streets of Syracuse, OEC's staff and crew have identified several particularly interesting trees that we want you to go find. The next time you are out, be sure to stop by these sites:

- 867 W. Lafayette Ave. - **Northern red oak (quercus rubra)**
- 129 W. Pleasant Ave. - **London planetree (plantinus x acerfolia)**
- 206 Brookford Rd. - **Dawn redwood (metasequoia glyptostroboides)**
- 2506 E. Genesee St. - **Copper beech (fagus sylvatica)**
- 203 Paul Ave. - **Catalpa (catalpa speciosa)**
- James Pass Arboretum, SE Corner - **Northern red oak (quercus rubra)**
- James Pass Arboretum, Inside the Walking Loop, East Side - **London planetree (plantinus x acerfolia)**
- James Pass Arboretum, Inside the Walking Loop, West Side - **Kentucky coffee tree (gymnocladus dioicus)**



Row of Spruce Trees at Highland Forest

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ABOUT THE ONONDAGA EARTH CORPS

When the Eli MacDonald Green Team was restructured in 2005 as the Onondaga Earth Corps (OEC) for local communities, OEC was formed to:

- Help youth understand the relationship between people and the urban ecosystem
- Engage youth in hands-on community and environmental service learning projects
- Train youth for future jobs and careers in environmental fields
- Empower youth by developing their leadership abilities that help them analyze situations, solve problems and implement strategies to improve their communities