



AIR & WASTE MANAGEMENT
ASSOCIATION
SINCE 1907

Don't forget to renew your membership

Renewal can be completed online at the [AWMA Website](#) or using the hardcopy form provided on the website.

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THE RELEASE

Vol. 51 No. 1 May 2023

Peter Grasso — Editor

Message from the Chair

Christa Bucior

I want to start out by thanking everyone for attending this years A&WMA-NFS monthly dinner meetings, annual seminar, and annual Envirun event. This was a great year filled with great dinner topics and very interesting tours. I hope you all enjoyed the events and were able to take something useful out of them.

I also want to thank the A&WMA-NFS Board members and all those who volunteered for the various events. This year would not have been possible without all of your hard work. You all helped me to perform the responsibilities of Chair so nothing was forgotten. Thank you!

Looking ahead to next year, the Board is looking for your help on dinner and tour ideas. We want to ensure the membership is getting topics that are useful and interesting, so please let us know if you have any ideas for next year.

It has been a pleasure serving as Chair this past year. I have learned a lot and had the opportunity to collaborate with many great people. This Section is amazing and filled with great people who have helped me in my role as Vice Chair and Chair. I could not have done this job without everyone's support.

I wish everyone a great summer and hope to see you all back next year!

Christa Bucior
Chair

Monthly Meeting Schedule

MAY 2023 DINNER MEETING

The [A&WMA-NFS](#) May dinner meeting will feature a tour of Modern Landfill, followed by a presentation by Alan Davis and Krysta Cione. Scholarship winners will also be honored at this meeting.

The tour will begin at 4:30 PM at the entrance to the landfill at 1445 Pletcher Road, Model City. The dinner and presentations will be held at the Griffon Brewery and Gastropub in Lewiston. Social hour begins at 6:00 PM.

Register [HERE](#).

[Mark Your Calendars](#) for the Upcoming Monthly Meetings:

- September 28, 2023 — Dinner Meeting, TBD
- October 26, 2023 — Dinner Meeting, TBD
- November 16, 2023 — Dinner Meeting, TBD
- December 14, 2023 — Holiday Social, TDB

Please visit the website for updates on the Monthly Meeting schedule.

People on the Move**Peter Grasso and Mike Emery**

Recent changes in job status (that we are aware of) include:

- ⇒ **Damianos Skaros** has been promoted to the NYSDEC Region 9 Regional Water Engineer (RWE). As RWE he will be responsible for management of the SPDES permitting program in addition to climate resilience, flood protection, coastal erosion areas and dam safety.
- ⇒ **Cheryl Webster** has been promoted to the NYSDEC Region 9 Regional Air Pollution Control Engineer (RAPCE). As RAPCE, Cheryl will be responsible for supervising the air program staff and manage all air permitting, inspection, compliance, and enforcement activities.
- ⇒ **Pat Martin** retired from WSP where he was a partner and manager of the Amherst office.

If you have changed jobs, gotten a promotion or retired, let us know. Information can be sent to Peter Grasso (newsletter editor) at pxgrasso@gmail.com.

Program Year 2023 - 2024 A&WMA-NFS Board of Director's Elections

The Nominating Committee has proposed a slate of candidates to fill the expected vacancies on the Board of Directors for the 2023 – 2024 Program Year. The proposed slate includes:

Chair:	Peter Grasso - NYSDEC
Vice-Chair:	Lindsey Haubenreich – Phillips Lytle LLP
Treasurer:	Mark Hans - NYSDEC retired
Secretary:	Michael Emery - NYSDEC
Directors (4 vacancies):	Krysta Cione – Modern Corporation
	Sean Donahue – Phillips Lytle LLP
	John Hood – Erie County DEP
	Taylor Monnin - NYSDEC
	Mary Padasak – General Mills

Since we have more candidates than openings for the Director position, we encourage all members to cast their vote. All current A&WMA-NFS members (International or local) may vote. The voting will be conducting on the [A&WMA-NFS website](#) and all current members should have received an e-mail to advise that elections are open. The ballot also allows you to vote for a write-in candidate.

Scholarships**Lori Riker**

The Air & Waste Management Association – Niagara Frontier Section (A&WMA-NFS) awarded five College Scholarships. A total of \$3,500 will be awarded during the May 2023 dinner meeting. Scholarships were awarded to each of the following students currently enrolled in college:

Samantha Moeller is a junior attending Daemen University majoring in Childhood Education and minoring in Natural Sciences with expected graduation in December 2024. Samantha intends to pursue an MS in Education Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL). Samantha is a member of several SUNY organizations and was a scholarship recipient in 2022.

Thomas Riker is a junior attending Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN with expected graduation in May 2024. Thomas is pursuing a double major in Earth and Environmental Science, and Climate Studies, and a minor in history. Thomas is currently attending Victoria University in Wellington, New Zealand for a study abroad semester. Thomas plays on the Vanderbilt Club Baseball team, and was a scholarship recipient in 2021.

Emily Sciandra is a sophomore attending the University at Buffalo with expected graduation in December 2024. Emily is majoring in Environmental Engineering and is considering pursuing an MS in Water Resources. Emily volunteers at GoBike Buffalo.

Alyssa Vickrey is a sophomore attending the State College of Florida in Bradenton, FL. Alyssa is majoring in Chemistry with expected graduation in May 2025. Alyssa is a member of a group focused on STEM activities, and volunteers with the Lakewood Ranch Marching Band.

Victoria Walker is a junior attending the University at Buffalo with expected graduation in May 2024. Victoria is majoring in Civil Engineering and is a player on the UB Club Field Hockey team, and is an assistant coach for 3rd to 12th grade field hockey.

A&WMA's 116th Annual Conference & Exhibition**Peter Grasso**

The A&WMA's 116th Annual Conference & Exhibition entitled "Smart Growth: Balancing Development, Restoration and Resiliency" will be held in Orlando, Florida on June 5 – 8, 2023. This year, there are over 230 platform, panel, and poster presentations organized into focused technical tracks. For more information, you can check out the [conference website](#).



Membership

Kathy Moguel

Currently we have over 84 members in the Air & Waste Management's Niagara Frontier Section with roughly a 45/55 split between international and local affiliates. To check membership status, please log onto the [AWMA-NFS Website](#).

Corporate memberships are valid for one year from the date of renewal while local memberships expire on August 31st annually. New members and renewal applications can be found on our website. Payment can be made either through the website or via mail. Membership categories and dues are as follows:

Local Affiliate Member	\$36
Local Affiliate Member [Full-Time College Student]	\$11
International Member	\$195
International Member [Young Professional - 35 or younger]	\$98
International Member [Full-Time College Student]	\$35
Corporate Sponsor*	\$325
Web Sponsor**	\$500

* Corporate Sponsor includes an International Membership for one person and a local affiliate membership for a second person.

** Web Sponsor includes an International Membership for one person and a local affiliate membership for a second person. In addition, the corporate logo of a website sponsor will be displayed on the home page of the AWMA website.

If you have any questions about becoming a member or renewing your membership please contact Kathy Moguel at awmanfsmembership@gmail.com. A list of current membership can be found on the [AWMS-NFS website](#).

Earth Day Grants

Lori Riker

The Air & Waste Management Association – Niagara Frontier Section (A&WMA-NFS) awarded six Earth Day Grants this year. These grants are used to promote environmental awareness through creative and impactful educational activities and community engagement efforts. Each of the grants was funded at \$500, for a total amount of \$3,000 going back out into the community. For more information on each project, please visit our website at <https://awmanfs.wildapricot.org/2023-Earth-Day-Grant-Winners>

This years' awardees are:

Erie County Soil & Water Conservation District – The grant helped fund the Erie County Envirothon, a hands-on environmental program open to all high school students in Erie County. The Envirothon is a unique outdoor competition that challenges students in topics of forestry, wildlife, aquatics, soils, and the 2023 current issue topic “Adapting to a Changing Climate.” Students learned about each of the Envirothon topics by attending workshops presented by local natural resources and environmental field professionals, including biologists, ecologists, foresters, soil scientists, and field technicians. The Envirothon was held on March 30th (Workshop Day) and April 27th (Competition Day) at Village Green Park in Elma, New York. The Envirothon is a fun, positive



Earth Day Grants (Continued)

Lori Riker

Erie County Soil & Water Conservation District (cont.) – program that fosters development of students' research, presentation, and professional skills. Most importantly, it's a team-building experience where student cooperation and teamwork are essential to succeed.

Green Springville, Inc. This project is a community family-friendly, outdoor Earth Day celebration in Springville that was held on April 22nd. Building on previous year's successes, Green Springville once again threw an Earth Day party for the community with the goal of spreading awareness of all the great things going on in Springville. They had horse carriage rides, face painting, and Erie



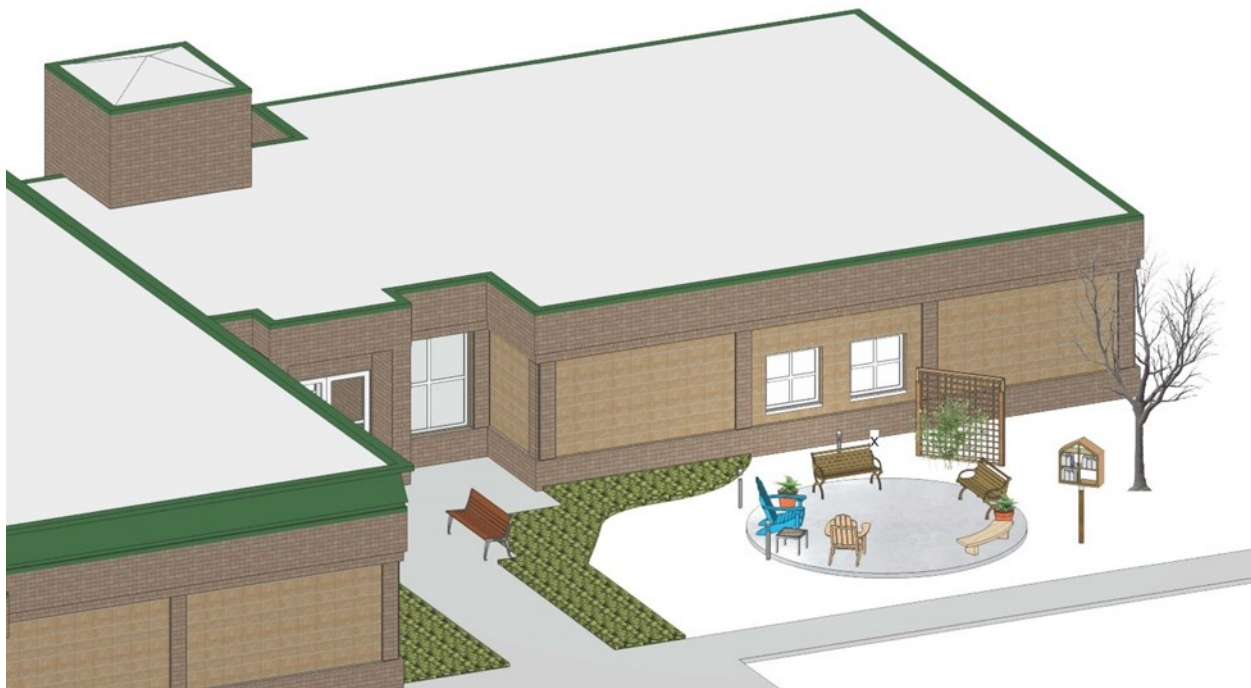
County Rail Trail lead guided walks. This year they engaged with the school district and hosted an earth-themed student art exhibit, as well as participation from the High School's Future Farmers of America club. Green Springville is planning an even bigger Springville's Earth Day celebration than last year. This year's event will benefit the next phase of the Trout Pond Project, an ongoing effort to restore and renovate a historic fishing spot in Springville.



Earth Day Grants (Continued)

Lori Riker

Friends of the Grand Island Memorial Library – The Earth Day Grant will be used to create an outdoor reading area that includes an expansion of the pollinator gardens and a little library stocked with free books on gardening, nature, wildlife, and sustainable practices. An outdoor reading garden committee has been established to prepare, design, and raise funds for the creation of the reading area. A small portion of the project will be sponsored by the Friends of the Library using the Earth Day Grant to purchase either the kit or the plans to construct a Little Free Library adjacent to the reading area. The outdoor reading area is scheduled to open this summer/fall and used by the Grand Island Community as a place to sit, read, and enjoy the gardens.



Daemen University – Daemen University's past campus Earth Day/Arbor Day celebrations have been limited to a single event and day each year. Given the importance of our impact on the planet and increasing awareness of the environment, we are planning to host a month-long series of events on the Amherst campus in April 2023. The month's events begin with a campus cleanup on April 1 as part of the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) Clean Earth Challenge. A campus ecochallenge will run from April 1st through 30th and will encourage students to engage with the outdoors, learn about environmental issues and make better lifestyle or behavioral choices to minimize their impact. In honor of Arbor Day, there will be a tree planting during the week of April 29th. Students will be encouraged to participate in the planting and commemoration of the new native tree (donated tree). The Student Activities Team will be leading a rock painting event to encourage nature-based designs on the rocks which could be used as tree borders. A "Tree-via" (trivia contest focused on trees and nature) will be hosted to help everyone learn more about the importance and identification of trees as well as nature appreciation.



"Tree-Via" Contest Winner

Earth Day Grants (Continued)**Lori Riker**

Monarch of Infinite Possibilities LLC – The Earth Day Grant will be used to support the 2024 MLK Day of Service (local effort), organized by Monarch of Infinite Possibilities LLC, with the help of numerous partners including Ameri-corps, MSAAHC, City of Buffalo, EMC, Erie County Environment and Planning Department and several corporate social responsibility groups. This will be the 4th year of an ever growing community engagement project. This project was originally designed to bring the WNY Community to the East side of Buffalo, to foster organic ways to connect people of all races, socio-economic backgrounds, and different disabilities to provide community service projects that make a significant impact in the spirit of unity in the community. The focus of the January 15, 2024 event will be on bringing light to being more sustainable, using more environmentally-friendly cleaning projects, and promoting a "Green/Clean" message at all the volunteer sites. Volunteers will be broken into groups to participate in environmentally-focused service projects to clean up Mother Earth on MLK Day.

NAACP – Buffalo Chapter Environmental Climate Justice Committee – The "Environmental and Health Benefits of Eating Fresh Vegetables and Fruits" project will be a joint venture with two of the NAACP Buffalo Chapter Committees: the Environmental and Climate Justice Committee and the Health Committee. The NAACP will host an informational in-person meeting in June with 4-6 panel speakers discuss the tragedy of food deserts in the Buffalo community, and the health disparities this epidemic has had on people of color, and moderate to low-income communities. The Erie County Climate Action Plan initiatives will be showcased through displays on natural climate solutions and the benefits of composting and planting native plants. The Earth Day Grant will be used to purchase "grow your own garden" starter kits and other supplies for hands-on activities.



Envirun 5K 2023

Mary Padasak

The 31st running of the Envirun 5k was a great success again this year which was held on Saturday, April 22, 2023. There were 168 fabulous finishers, which is up from last year! This means more funds were raised for environmental grants and scholarships. Though the skies were grey, the rain held off until it was awards time. It gave the band time to play, which is always a big hit! Our top female finisher was Colleen Carroll with a time of 21:56. Our top male finisher was Jacob Cone with a time of 18:25. Congratulations to all our runners on a job well done and a hotdog well earned! Results and photos can be found on our [Envirun Website](#).

This event would also not be possible without the support of our generous sponsors for monetary donations, but also donations of supplies, food, and labor. Support from The Knoer Group, Covanta, Linde, Waste Technology Services, Anovion Technologies, Republic, Modern, Alliance, and Tops Friendly Markets help to ensure the success of this event. The hospitality of NYS Parks and their staff allow us to ensure we have the "Most Scenic Run in WNY!" Shout out to the many volunteers who took time to help set up, tear down, register runners, hand out shirts, direct the race route, cook, and many other tasks. Finally, I want to thank my committee for another year's hard work on putting on a stellar event.



If you would like to join our planning committee, please let me know at awmaenvirun5k@gmail.com or 716-462-9105. Also, we are looking to find a cause or program to receive a grant with some of the proceeds for this event. If you know of a worthy environmental program in the WNY area, please send some information to me and I will share with the committee. Let's keep improving the WNY environment! Here's looking forward to next year!

Mary Padasak — Director



2023 A&WMA Annual Seminar**Mark Hans and Sean Donahue**

The 2023 Annual Seminar was held on January 26 at Templeton Landing and was jointly sponsored by A&WMA-NFS and Buffalo Area Professional Geologists (BAPG). We hosted 116 attendees and 7 exhibitors.

Our Keynote Speaker was Mike J. Finn, P.E. of the Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council (GBNRTC), and he gave a presentation on various transportation projects planned in Erie and Niagara Counties. The remaining presentations covered a wide-range of current topics and were well received. The money raised from this annual event is used to fund scholarships for High School Seniors, College students, and teens attending NYSDEC Summer camps. Presentations made at the 2023 seminar can be viewed on our web site at <https://awmanfs.wildapricot.org/Annual-Seminar>.

If you are interested in helping with the conference or if you have any ideas on presentations that you would like to see, please contact either Mark Hans (mjhans9@gmail.com) or Sean Donahue (sdonahue@phillipslytle.com).

Corporate Sponsors**Mark Hans**

We would like to thank our Corporate Sponsors for their continued support of our organization. The money provided through our prorate sponsorship program is used to help fund our various scholarships. A list of our current Corporate Sponsors follows:

- ⇒ **Alpha Analytical** (<https://alphalab.com>) is a full service analytical laboratory with offices located throughout the Northeast. The local office is in Tonawanda. For more information, please contact Pat Filey (pfiley@alphalab.com).
- ⇒ **Benchmark Civil/Environmental Engineering & Geology, PLLC** (<http://www.benchmarkturnkey.com/>) is a licensed professional engineering company that provides comprehensive civil and environmental engineering services. TurnKey Environmental Restoration, LLC is a sister company that provides site investigations, remediation and infrastructure construction, and environmental and site management services. They are located in Lackawanna. For more information, please contact Lori Riker (lriker@bm-tk.com).
- ⇒ **CADEX of Western NY** (<http://cadex.net/>) supplies industrial equipment, focusing on environmental and waste issues. For more information, please contact Will Wilesovich (will@cadex.com).
- ⇒ **C&S Companies** (<https://www.cscos.com/>) is national consulting firm which offers a wide range of services. They have a local office in Buffalo. For more information, please contact Dan Riker (driker@cscos.com).
- ⇒ **Glenn Springs** (<https://www.oxy.com/>) is part of OXY and they are responsible for maintenance of the former OXY waste sites in Western New York. For more information, please contact Timothy Bathory (timothy.bathory@oxy.com).

(Cont'd on p. 9)

Corporate Sponsors (Continued)**Mark Hans**

- ⇒ **Hodgson Russ LLP** (<https://www.hodgsonruss.com/>) is a legal firm with offices along the eastern seaboard. Their local office is in Buffalo. For more information, please contact Michael Hecker (mhecker@hodgsonruss.com).
- ⇒ **The Knoer Group** (<http://knoergroup.com/>) is a local law firm located in Buffalo. For more information, please contact Robert Knoer (rknoer@knoergroup.com).
- ⇒ **Linde, PLC** (<https://www.linde.com/>) is a leading global industrial gases and engineering company. They have a local office in Tonawanda. For more information, please contact David Copeland (dave.copeland@linde.com).
- ⇒ **The LiRo Group** (<https://www.liro.com/>) is an integrated construction, design, and technology solutions firm with offices located throughout the northeast. They have a local office in Buffalo. For more information, please contact Robert Kreuzer (kreuzerr@liro.com).
- ⇒ **Modern Corporation** (<https://www.moderncorporation.com/>) is a local waste and recycling management company. They are located in Model City. For more information, please contact Krysta Cione (kcione@modern-corp.com).
- ⇒ **Phillips Lytle LLP** (<https://phillipslytle.com/>) is a legal firm with offices along the eastern seaboard. Their local office is in Buffalo. For more information, please contact Lindsey Haubenreich (lhaubenreich@phillipslytle.com).
- ⇒ **Watts Architecture & Engineers** (<https://watts-ae.com/>) offers a wide range of architecture and engineering services. They are located in Buffalo. For more information, please contact Kevin Janik (kjanik@watts-ae.com).
- ⇒ **WSP** (<https://www.wsp.com/en-us>) is a worldwide, multi-sector consulting company. Their local office is in Amherst. For more information, please contact Bruce Wattle (bruce.wattle@wsp.com).

New/Returning Members**Mark Hans**

We would like to welcome or welcome back the following members to the Niagara Frontier Section of the A&WMA:

Jim Dodd – Glenn Springs

Stephen Frank – LiRo Engineers, Inc.

Katie Hoelscher - National Fuel

Robert Kreuzer – LiRo Engineers, Inc.

Olivia Mullen – Vinal & Vinal, P.C.

Zimmako Onyeme – Suny @ Buffalo

If you see them at a future meeting, be sure to welcome them to the group.

Future Cities**Kathleen Moguel**

The Western New York Regional Future Cities Competition was held on Saturday, January 28, 2023. The 2022-2023 theme was Climate Change. Teams identified a climate change impact and designed an adaptation and mitigation strategy for their city.

The Transit Middle school team received the A&WMA Pollution Prevention award. Jill Banaszak, Gary LaLiberty, Hal Pierce and Kathleen Moguel served as judges, and we were very impressed with the high level of knowledge the teams exhibited about the topic of climate change.



Transit Middle School Team



2023 Grand Prize Winners—Erie County Envirothon

Monthly Meeting Announcement

Peter Grasso



MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT Thursday May 25, 2023



TOUR of MODERN LANDFILL

**Followed by a Presentation by Alan Davis and Krysta Cione
of Modern**

Scholarship Winners will also be Honored at this Meeting

Tour Location: Modern Landfill 1445 Pletcher Road, Model City, NY 14107

(See attached map for tour meeting location – take first right after entering site, park
next to two-story building)

Meeting/Presentation Location: Griffon Brewery and Gastropub
115 S. Water Street
Lewiston, NY 14092

Tour: 4:30 - 5:30 pm Social Hour: 6:00 - 6:45 pm Dinner & Speaker: 6:45 pm

\$30 – A&WMA International Members
\$30 – Young Professional A&WMA-NFS Members (35 or younger)
\$35 – A&WMA-NFS Local Members
\$40 – Non-Members
\$15 – Full-Time Student
\$10 – PDH Credits (approval pending)

Reservations due no later than Thursday May 18, 2023

(No cancellations accepted after this date)

RESERVATIONS: www.awmanfs.wildapricot.org
awmanfs.reservations1@gmail.com

*If you have questions about reservations, please contact Taylor Monnin at (716) 803-7938

Monthly Meeting Announcement

Peter Grasso

Meet at Modern Landfill at 4:30 PM for Tour (Vans to be provided)



<i>Appreciation to our A&WMA-NFS Corporate Sponsors:</i>			
Alpha Analytical	Benchmark Civil/Environmental Engineering & Geology	Cadex	Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc.
C&S Companies	Hodgson Russ LLP	The Knoer Group	Linde, PLC
Modern Corporation	OXY Chem	Phillips Lytle LLP	Trinity Consultants
Watts Architecture & Engineering	WSP USA (Golder Associates)		

Please consider having your company become a corporate sponsor of A&WMA-NFS.
Please contact Mark Hans (mjhans9@gmail.com) for information.

2022-2023 A&WMA-NFS Executive Board

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The Niagara Frontier Section of the AWMA, Inc. publishes its newsletter, **THE RELEASE**, quarterly as a service to its members.

If you would like to submit an article for the next issue of **THE RELEASE**, please contact:

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Air and Waste Management
Association

Niagara Frontier Section

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