

New Partner Joins Eastern Lake Ontario Habitat Restoration Efforts

During summer 2007 the New York Sea Grant (NYSG) Steward Coordinator assisted Oswego County Soil & Water Conservation District (OCSWCD) in bringing a new partner to the Eastern Lake Ontario Dunes and Wetlands Area. The collaboration secured funds for a habitat restoration project and development of an interpretive brochure.

NYSG provided the proposal development and project oversight that brought Entergy Nuclear Corp. support to the Eastern Lake Ontario Dunes and Wetlands Area for the first time. A \$10,000 grant from Entergy made possible a habitat restoration day at Deer Creek Marsh Wildlife Management Area (WMA).

In August 2007, volunteers from Entergy, Eastern Lake Ontario Dune and Salmon River Stewards, and various personnel from NYSG, OCSWCD, and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation installed protective fencing and signage, and planted beachgrass to protect the fragile dunes area and heighten public awareness of the unique ecosystem at Deer Creek Marsh WMA.

In 2008, the NYSG Steward Coordinator will oversee the development of an interpretive brochure that will promote environmentally



Dune and river stewards helped install snowfencing during habitat restoration day. The stewards worked alongside Entergy volunteers to make the day at Deer Creek Marsh WMA a success.

Photo: Mary Penney, NYSG

sound use of Deer Creek Marsh WMA. Dune Steward Tyler Kukko, who will help develop the brochure, says, "This new brochure will showcase the unique resources here. I feel people will be more environmentally-friendly at Deer Creek if they know how fragile and important the dunes are."

Steward Program supporters appreciate what the new partnership with Entergy is making possible. Oswego County Legislator Margaret Kastler, says, "The program is working wonderfully well in educating the public on respecting and saving these fragile dunes. The continuation of the Steward Program is vital in the protection of Lake Ontario's dunes, one of the attractions that brings people to these areas to bird watch, walk our beaches and enjoy our gorgeous sunsets."

Entergy volunteers with Dune & River Stewards at the habitat restoration day, made possible by Entergy Nuclear Corp. funds, installed approximately 500 feet of protective snowfencing. Photo: Mary Penney, NYSG



New York Sea Grant is a cooperative program of the State University of New York and Cornell University. Sea Grant Extension administration is located at 112 Rice Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853.

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