

## Model Aviators - Stewards of the Land



**Model Aviators: “..provide long-term stewardship....  
they care for the areas they use....”**

**United States Environmental Protection Agency**

*From: The EPA and AMA Partnership Video*

- **Helping to protect the Edgewood Preserve since the 1970s**
- **Providing a family-oriented, community-based activity**
- **Teaching children in the community about science and nature**
  - **Offering The AMA Scholarship Program**
  - **Welcoming the public to join us**

Model Aviators have been helping to protect the Edgewood Preserve for 40 years since their first flights here in the 1970's. Today the Edgewood Flyers continue to provide the family-oriented and community-based activity of model aviation, in harmony with the environment.

Model aviation helps kids enjoy the outdoors and teaches hands-on skills, problem solving, and delivers numerous educational lessons in math and science. The Edgewood Flyers educational efforts are supported by The Academy of Model Aeronautics Scholarship Program.

The Edgewood Flyers continue to maintain the area, collect environmental data for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), and protect the surrounding environment to provide a clean and safe area for educational and developmental activities.

Our thanks to the community for your support  
**THE EDGEWOOD FLYERS**

For more information, photos, and videos please visit:  
[www.edgewoodflyers.com](http://www.edgewoodflyers.com)  
516-770-2480

## Our Mission

The primary mission of the Edgewood Flyers is to promote this outdoor family activity and foster educational advancement in model aeronautics through fun and fellowship. We wish to also provide guidance and direction to those individuals interested in maintaining the Edgewood Preserve and in furthering the mission of the Edgewood Flyers. The Edgewood Flyers is a sponsor of the AMA Youth Introductory Pilot Program. The AMA is a national organization with over 140,000 members. Our core values:

**PASSION:** The Edgewood Flyers is more than just a community group. It is an organization of people with dedication and enthusiasm for the hobby that conveys passion to others.

**FUN:** This is a friendly environment. A place you love to come and spend time outdoors with family. We respect our environment and enjoy our sport, our members, and community.

**INTEGRITY:** Doing the right thing. We communicate openly and honestly. That's how we earn trust from each other and the community.

**CARING:** Respect and understanding the environment are the hallmarks of who we are. Caring is what brings us together as an organization. Leave the field clean. If you see someone else's garbage pick it up.

**SAFETY:** It always comes first. It's everyone's job to ensure a safe environment for each other and that of others in the Preserve.

*"Any decision I make using the five values, I know I will make the right decision."* These are the values we all share. The Edgewood Flyers embody these five values. They are the foundation for our culture.



## Our History

The area we utilize is known today as the Edgewood Oak Brush Plains Preserve. It has come a long way over the years and the Edgewood Flyers have been a part of it since the beginning and have played a great role.

Years before the demolition of the abandoned Edgewood Hospital, many modelers from the area flew behind this building. This area was taken over by the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Once the building was demolished, several interested parties who wished to use this area, pursued a formal venue to establish the "Edgewood Flyers."

A small group approached the DEC and explained our purpose and goals. The DEC gave us a section to utilize. We had been given an area to utilize, basically where the hospital used to stand. We looked around and there was nothing but sand, construction material, pieces of coal residue and debris. We cleaned it up and fixed it to establish an area for our family pass time.

For many years this property had been neglected. Throughout the 70's, 80's and 90's we played a vital role as good ambassadors of this area. It was a dumping ground for many. It was not a safe place. Vandals and illegal activity was prominent. The Edgewood Flyers family oriented activity and cleanup efforts started to change things. Our presence became a deterrent for illegal activity and dumping. We helped the DEC in there efforts to catch many.

Over the last few years, we have seen a more family orientated area. We see families walking, joggers, biking, and many others. The Edgewood Flyers have been the longest user of the preserve. The Edgewood Flyers are, also, by far the largest group as well as the biggest user of the preserve. We represent almost 200 families with over 400 people involved with our passion. Fathers, Mothers, and children all come out and have a great time.

Our club and activity has been written into the use of the preserve by the DEC. We have been good neighbors and Albany has recognized that. However, we do not take this for granted. We are active within the community sponsoring special events, have field cleanup days, and promote the outdoor activity of model flying in a family setting. The Edgewood Oak Brush Plains Preserve is a wonderful area of nature and fun outdoor activities for all to enjoy.

Your Board Members Edgewood Flyer

## How Goes It...

The Edgewood Flyers Inc. has had a wonderful and active year. Our membership has grown to 200 families. We are the largest user group at the Edgewood Preserve and have contributed to the area for over 40 years. This year we will have a successful youth program with the Brentwood School district as well as with CAP (Civil Air Patrol Cadets.) Also Yuri Higuchi, one of the best modelers in the world came on out to sign autographs. We have a wonderful website with lots of information and events sponsored by the EWF as well as the AMA. [www.edgewoodflyers.com](http://www.edgewoodflyers.com).



*Model Aviation School Clubs, or MASC, is a new chartering program for school aero-modeling clubs! Benefits of this exciting program include:*

- FREE student and sponsor memberships*
- FREE charter*
- FREE club banner*
- Full access to AMA benefits, scholarships and insurance!*

*"Nurturing Friendships and Fellowship"*

*"Creating Passion and Curiosity in Youth"*





## Community...

The EWF held a few community events this year. We had a great time. Our last event was October 2nd. The Edgewood Flyers are giving kids a place to come and enjoy the outdoors with mentors who provide guidance and direction. It keeps them off the streets and focused on building skills, problem solving, math and science as well as aspiring to fly. We have a youth program at EWF with the AMA. Scholarships are also available. If anyone is interested in participating please email Gerry at: gargutto@gmail.com.



*"Providing Guidance and Direction"*

*"Supporting Family Values"*

## Local Kids at Cradle of Aviation/AMA EXPO....

The Cradle of Aviation Museum has invited us back again to help with youth interest groups. The dates this year are April 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. For more information and hours go to: [www.cradleofaviation.com](http://www.cradleofaviation.com). Last April we had a full house. At the Expo, Shuttle Commander/Astronaut Hoot Gibson was on hand at the event. As we know many of us had our first aviation experience with model airplanes at an early age as Commander Gibson did. It is not a surprise that Neil Armstrong, Chuck Yeager, Burt Rutan, and many other distinguished Americans have had their start in AMA. The kids took turns flying models in the back lobby of the museum and looked around at many historical pieces. Some news anchors also demonstrated the fun on prime time television!!



## Our Future...

Also, this year some of our members have become national stars, Alex Davis 12, won the NE Championships for precision flight. Eric Johnson a high school junior took second. Jonathan Sabini who is only 6 earned most accomplished tot of the year from the Academy of Model Aeronautics. At a model field we got to see the king of the sky overhead the Bald Eagle.



## West Babylon Community Youth Center...

Some of our members work for the Town of Babylon and have worked very hard to setup a program at the "West Babylon Community Youth Center" where during the winter months on Saturday and Sunday, 12pm-4pm, you can participate in flying indoor miniature models with school kids and family. It has gotten so popular that it is packed on weekends. Numbers are being taken for all who come and participate so all can have a turn. It has been a huge success with the local community and has been generating extra revenue for the Community Youth Center as well as for local Hobby and Craft shops.

## Victory Junction...

The EWF also participated in a special event called, Fly-For-Tots. This is a children's charity fly-in event. This year many of our families participated in the event. They helped raised almost \$30,000 for the Fly-For-Tots program. All proceeds were donated to "Victory Junction" a special camp for troubled kids and teens as well as special needs children. The website Fly-For-Tots has some great photos and videos and got national coverage. We were proud to be a supporter and our families also had fun.





## Edgewood Preserve...

We have also worked hard with the NYSDEC and the Friends of Edgewood in cleanup efforts as well as invasive removal. On Earth Day, we initiated a huge undertaking on removal of an invasive species know as the Autumn Olive. Over the course of the summer continued cutting and monitoring took place. Data was taken and compiled for continued removal over time. These events were done by the hard work and dedication of our members in order to continue to provide these activities for our community in a safe and great environment.



There are 3,000 like us in the US, 223 other organizations like the Edgewood Flyers in this country operate within Fish and Wildlife Reserves, Forest Preserves, Water Sheds and Reservoirs, Wetlands, and BLM Land. We continue to maintain the area and provide a clean and safe environment for our educational and developmental activities. We are thankful for the NYSDEC's help as well as for the members continued hard work.

## AMA Scholarships...

Each year, the Academy of Model Aeronautics awards Charles Hampson Grant Scholarships to deserving high-school seniors who will be pursuing a continuing academic program at an accredited college or university.

Applications received are processed by a four-person selection committee and roughly \$50,000 annually is distributed in various amounts based on AMA modeling activities, scholastic achievement, and citizenship achievement.

To be eligible for a scholarship, the applicant must:

- Have been an AMA member for the last full 36 consecutive months prior to the April 30 application deadline
- Graduate from high school in the year in which the award is to be granted
- Have been accepted by a college or university offering a certificate or degree program

The Charles H. Grant Scholarship Program contains other grants which involve specific factors for determining the award.

The Toledo Weaks Signals Scholarship is awarded to the top recipient of the AMA/Charles H. Grant Scholarship.

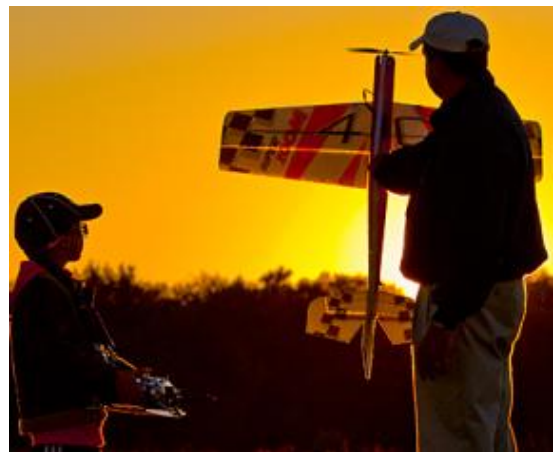
The Telford Scholarship is based on participation in competition activity in the AMA and FAI classifications listed in the applicant packet.

Scholarship information and applications or information regarding donations to the programs can be obtained by calling AMA Headquarters at 765-287-1256 ext 516 or email [education@modelaircraft.org](mailto:education@modelaircraft.org).

Applications are also available at:

[www.modelaircraft.org/education.aspx](http://www.modelaircraft.org/education.aspx)

Deadline is April 30, 2011



**Your Board Members Edgewood Flyers**

**Tel: 516-770-2480**

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