



Federated Conservatoinists of Westchester County

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You're Invited!

FCWC's 49th Annual Meeting

*
June 12, 2014
5-7:30pm
*

Kathryn W. Davis
RiverWalk Center,
Sleepy Hollow
*

Honoring:
Dani Glaser
Thomas Madden and
the Town of
Greenburgh
Ty Ingram

For more information:
www.fcwc.org/events

May 2014

FCWC'S FEDERATION MEETING

On Wednesday, May 7th, FCWC held its annual Federation Meeting, where 17 member organizations joined together to network and discuss ideas on collaboration. We heard about projects and initiatives that each of the member organizations is working on, shared some of what FCWC has been doing to benefit the member organizations.

One new resource that FCWC has set up, which is available to the environmental community in Westchester, is a LinkedIn group called 'Westchester County Environment'. This was formed to encourage dialogue among the environmental community in Westchester. This LinkedIn group provides a venue where members of the environmental community can post questions and respond to discussions, promote their events or calls for action, and post job and internship opportunities. To join the group, search for 'Westchester County Environment' and click join. We look forward to having active participation in this group.

The Executive Director of Friends of Westchester County Parks, Joe Stout, also proposed a new initiative which would involve FCWC and its member organizations to form a coalition to preserve and expand open space in Westchester County, including expanding the trail system throughout the County. A meeting to bring together interested parties will take place in June, and if you are interested, please contact FCWC's office.

Federation Members then had a chance to tell County Legislator Catherine Parker, chair of the Energy and Environment Committee, and FCWC what their hot topic issues were this year. While each organization had their own interests, many recurring themes existed amongst the groups as well. Below is a summary of what the member organizations are most concerned with in 2014: food waste

and leaf composting along with plastic bag bans or fees. In addition, educating youth on nature and watersheds and getting them outside were other issues that came up often during discussions. Other topics that were mentioned include: combatting and preventing invasive vines/species, safe routes to schools, creating and restoring trailways, green building codes, benchmarks for energy usage, restoring habitat and canopy trees, sea level rise along coasts, promoting wetlands, leaf blowers in municipalities and county parks, opportunities for financial savings and environmental benefits to municipalities, LED street lights, streamlined solar permitting, air quality improvement, stormwater runoff and the 287 corridor, and climate change.

The Federation Meeting is one of the most important days of the whole year for FCWC because it gives us a chance to gauge the pulse of the environmental community. We get to hear many ideas and concerns, and then FCWC can focus its agenda to address some of these topics. We thank those 17 member groups that attended the meeting. With that being said, we always want to hear from all of you, our members and friends, on what environmental issues are important to you. Please feel free to reach out to our office at any time to let us know your concerns. Our number again is 914-422-4053. We look forward to hearing from you.

CERTIFIED CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES

On Earth Day, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) announced the first 6 local governments in New York State to be designated as Certified Climate Smart Communities under the new Climate Smart Community Certification Program. Two of the first six municipalities recognized were from right here in Westchester; the Town of Cortlandt and the Village of Dobbs Ferry. Others from around the region include: the City of Albany, City of Kingston, Orange County, and City of Watervliet.

The Certified Climate Smart Communities have taken significant steps to combat climate change and are leading the State forward in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, saving tax payer dollars and preparing for the impacts of climate change. FCWC wishes to congratulate both Cortlandt and Dobbs Ferry for this important recognition and are proud of the examples they are providing for other municipalities throughout Westchester.

SAVE THE DATE: FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 12, 2014

For "Westchester Climate Change Summit" brought to you by FCWC, Pace University Law School's Center for Environmental Legal Studies, and Sustainable Westchester.

More information coming shortly.

QUICK BITS

Sustainable Westchester is looking for a launch manager. To apply please submit a cover letter and resume to swlaunchmanager@gmail.com by Friday, May 16, 2014 at 4PM EST.

Interested in purchasing a composter or rain barrel? Reserve yours today for pick up during Westchester's Earth Day Celebration. The Earth machine compost bin will cost \$58 and the System 55-gallon rain water collection barrel will cost \$75. To reserve yours <http://environment.westchestergov.com/yard-waste/reservation-form>.

The League of Women Voters, with the help of a generous grant from the Westchester Community Foundation, recently updated its popular brochure *Green Lawns Blue Waters*. It's free and ready for distribution by any organizations in Westchester County. To request brochures, please contact Susan Schwarz sdschwarz@aol.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

For a full list of our member organization's events and happenings, check out our newly created Federation Calendar at www.fcwc.org/events. Remember to always confirm events before attending. Check back regularly as we are always updating.

Frogs 'n Dogs

Sponsored by: Stewards of Cranberry Lake and Westchester County Parks

When: Saturday May 17, 1-4pm

Where: Cranberry Lake Preserve, 1609 Old Orchard Street, West Harrison

Spend the day at Cranberry Lake Preserve. Listen for sound of Spring in the woods. Go ponding to discover tadpoles and other animals. Be inspired by live animals from The Nature Company. Enjoy delicious hot dogs, veggies dogs, and s'mores! Free and open to the public. Fun for the whole family! (914)428-1005

Birds & Bees Garden Workshop

Sponsored by: Bedford Audubon Society, Mianus River Gorge, Westchester Land Trust, and Pound Ridge Land Conservancy

When: Saturday May 17, 10am or 1pm

Where: Bedford Audubon Society, 35 Todd Road, Bedford

Discover how to turn your home landscape into a wildlife oasis! Kim Eierman leads this exciting workshop on the whys and hows of native plant interactions with birds, bees, and

other pollinators. Please come dressed for getting dirty in the garden. This event is rain or shine. To RSVP, please email Tate Bushel at tate@westchesterlandtrust.org.

Earth Day Westchester

Sponsored by: Westchester County Department of Environmental Facilities

When: Sunday, May 18 10am-3pm

Where: Croton Point Park, 1A Croton Point Avenue, Croton-on-Hudson

Join Earth Day Westchester for a day full of environmental information, live entertainment, a "green" vendor exhibit, a small farmers market, a free "Green Raffle", children's activities and Sustainability/Recycling Awards presented by Westchester County and more. FCWC will have a table at Earth Day Westchester.

The Great Healthy Yard Project

Sponsored by: Bedford 2020

When: Thursday, May 22 7pm

Where: St. Matthew's Church Fellowship Hall, 382 Cantitoe Street, Bedford

Diane Lewis, MD, will give a talk on caring for our yards in a way that's good for our environment, good for our water, good for our health, and good for our families -- followed by a reception and book signing. To RSVP:

<http://bedford2020.org/healthyyard/>

Hike to Bald Mountain

Sponsored by: Teatown Lake Reservation

When: Sunday, May 25 9:30am-1pm

Where: Teatown Lake Reservation, 1600 Spring Valley Road, Ossining

Hike with Elissa Schilmeister to the top of Bald Mountain and back from Teatown. Look for emerging signs of spring along the way. Bring lunch, water and wear appropriate footwear for a moderate hike with one steep climb. Adults only. Free for members, \$5 for non-members. Programs require pre-registration. To register, call 914-762-2912 x 110.

First Annual Farm Fest 2014 Memorial Day at the Farm

Sponsored by: Friends of Hilltop Hanover Farms

When: Monday May 26, 10am-4pm

Where: Hilltop Hanover Farms, 1271 Hanover Street, Yorktown Heights

Open house, farm tours, farm stand, plants, kids games, craft and food vendors. Visit the Memorial Day Parade in Yorktown then come up the hill for a visit, celebrate farming in the region, and learn about other farms to visit in Westchester. For more information contact Helen at info@hilltophanoverfarm.org.

Maintaining Environmentally Sound Landscapes

Sponsored by: Westchester County Department of Planning, Westchester County Soil and Water Conservation District, Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation, The Native Plant Center at Westchester Community College and Cornell University Cooperative Extension of Westchester County

When: Friday May 30, 2014 8am-1pm

Where: Westchester County Center 198 Central Avenue, White Plains

Successfully managing and maintaining environmentally sound landscape practices is the focus of a half-day workshop. Five distinguished professionals with practical experience in managing and maintaining non-traditional, environmentally sound landscape practices will lead participants through the management and maintenance processes needed to achieve results. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Kay Eisenman, 914-995-4424 or kle1@westchestergov.com, or Rob Doscher, 914-995-4423 or rrd1@westchestergov.com.

Family Ponding at the Larchmont Reservoir

Sponsored by: Sheldrake Environmental Center

When: Sunday, June 1 2pm

Where: Sheldrake Environmental Center, 685 Weaver Street, Larchmont

Join Sheldrake as we look to see who's living in the pond. We'll scoop directly from the pond's edge to find tadpoles, dragonfly larvae, beetles, fish, and whoever else is there! Children 5 years and up along with their parents are welcome to attend. The cost is \$5 per child, but adults are free. Please RSVP at 914-834-1443 or at scheduling@sheldrakecenter.org to ensure ample supplies.

We hope you find the information contained within this E-News relevant and useful. As always, please keep in touch and let us know your thoughts and ideas regarding environmental issues throughout the County.

Sincerely,

Federated Conservationists of Westchester County

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