



Federated Conservationists of Westchester County

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Become a Member

Join FCWC today!

FCWC is an environmental coalition of individual and organizational members.

As an umbrella organization, we are well suited to foster the exchange of resources and ideas from local environmental groups and to channel their efforts to maximize our collective outreach.

If you would like to learn more, please visit www.fcwc.org/membership

July 2015

Our Mission and Vision

Our mission is to provide leadership that educates people about environmental issues, problems, and solutions; advocates sound decision making; and works with groups and individuals to protect Westchester's natural resources.

FCWC envisions a county in which an environmental ethic defines and shapes all public and private decisions affecting natural resources.

Hidden Gems of Westchester County

Three Westchester County parks to see this summer

By Kate Munz, Membership Relations Coordinator

July means that summer is fully underway, and you may be finding the seasonal early euphoria fading as you try to figure out what to do and where to do it. To help FCWC has composed a list of the three hidden gems from Westchester County

1) Cranberry Lake Preserve - White Plains, NY

Situated on a peninsula between the Kensico Reservoir and Rye Lake, Cranberry Lake Preserve offers 190-acres of land to explore and enjoy just outside bustling White Plains. One of Westchester County's parks, this area is unique to have such a large lake and 7-acres of bog and wetland so close to an urban area.



Photo Credit:
<http://www.danbalogh.com/cranberry.htm>

Cranberry Lake Preserve is also a place for viewing hard to come by plant species due to the quarry part of the park where minerals are leaching into the soil. Some of these species include pink lady slipper, sun dew, and of course the park's namesake, cranberry. A huge rock excavation, the quarry provided the

50th Anniversary Gala

Save the Date
September 26, 2015

At our 50th Anniversary Gala, FCWC is proud to honor three instrumental environmentalists in Westchester County.

This year's honorees are appropriate for a milestone celebration such as this, because they reflect the three founding values of FCWC: Advocacy, Education, and Science.

Pace Law School founded its pioneering environmental law program in 1980. In the next 35 years, it became one of the premier environmental law programs in the world consistently ranked among the top four programs in the USA. Its innovative environmental law specialties have been emulated nationally and even internationally. The faculty have been pioneers in developing and implementing environmental law and its students advance the practice through its many externships and internships.

Bedford2020 is a non-profit organization leading a grass roots effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 20% by the year 2020 in the town of Bedford, NY. They are reducing emissions and making a difference through community programs that span five action areas, including: Energy, Food & Agriculture, Transportation, Waste & Recycling, and Water & Land Use.

Dr. Cynthia Rosenzweig is a Senior Research Scientist at the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies, where she heads the Climate Impacts Group, a professor at Barnard College and a Senior Research Scientist at the Earth Institute at Columbia University. She was a Coordinating Lead Author of

granite for the Kensico dam and is an important feature in the County. Today, visitors can explore the site which has a landscape that would be more commm of areas Upstate.

2) Blue Mountain Reservation - Peekskill, NY

Known more for the sportsman center and mountain biking, Blue Mountain Reservation actually has a number of unique landscape features, making it a must-visit destination this summer. This County Park has the largest number of functioning vernal pools (over 136) in the County, offering important amphibian habitat and breeding area. The park features miles of trails, including challenging hikes to the tops of two park peaks, Mt. Spitzenberg and Blue Mountain.



Photo Credit:
<http://www.westchestermagazine.com/Best-Top-Parks-In-Westchester/>

3) Marshlands Conservancy - Rye, NY

The Salt Marsh at Marshlands Conservancy is one of the largest remaining salt marsh mud flats along Long Island Sound in Westchester County. Located along the Atlantic migratory bird flyway, this area is a great birdwatching location; over 230 species have been sighted there. Visitors to Marshlands Conservancy can participate in nature studies or just enjoy the forest, meadow, salt marsh, and shore.



Photo Credit:
<http://juliejournals.com/2015/01/06/westchest-hike-in-rye-marshlands-conservancy/>

FCWC thanks to John Baker, Director of Conservation and Ken Uhle, Landscape Architect for Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation, and Conservation for assistance in putting this list together.

[Click to Read of FCWC's Bl](#)

Update on #StopSpectra Pipeline Project

Save Blue Mountain

As FCWC has been reporting over the last few months, a massive pipeline expansion has been proposed by Spectra Energy, called the Algonquin Incremental Market (AIM) project. The project will run an expanded pipeline through part of Blue Mountain Reservation, a Westchester County park in the northern part of the County. The pipeline will serve the purpose of transporting fracked gas for export, a questionable venture for a state that has banned fracking within its own boundaries.

The project has been approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

the IPCC Working Group II Fourth Assessment Report. Dr. Rosenzweig was a keynote speaker at FCWC's Westchester Climate Summit last September.

Donations in Memory

Unfortunately we've recently lost two members of our FCWC family, former FCWC president Warren Ross of Rye, and husband of long time board member Nortrud Spero, Monroe Spero. Mr. Spero designated FCWC as the non-profit to which any donations in his memory can be made.

[Give in Memory](#)

Featured Member Organization



Sheldrake Environmental Center

Sheldrake Environmental Center is located on the Larchmont Reservoir and is part of the [James G. Johnson, Jr. Conservancy](#). It provides 60-acres of land and water for local wildlife habitat and public education. The Conservancy is a haven of natural landscape for thousands of visitors from Larchmont, Mamaroneck, New Rochelle, Scarsdale and other nearby communities.

This space is a major resource for quiet recreation, wildlife habitat, and nature study for children and adults.

(FERC), which allows the company to begin acquiring land for construction, despite shortcuts in environmental impact assess. **County Executive Astorino has signed off on a deal to give the Spectra organization a temporary license agreement to construct on approximately 18 acres of parkland inside the Blue Mountain Reservation.**

Please call the County Executive today at [914-995-2900](tel:914-995-2900) to ask him that the following items be included in the license agreement with Spectra to protect county taxpayer-owned parkland:

- Increased safety protection
- Additional resources for monitoring
- More specific details on how the park will be restored once construction complete
- Increased insurance coverage, including a performance bond

FCWC believes that New York, its residents, and its parks should not be a vehicle for exporting this unsustainable fuel source. Help urge the County Executive to uphold his obligations to our residents and properly protect Blue Mountain.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.senrg.org/blue-mountain-park/> and www.nylcv.org/

Keep the conversation going online by using [#StopSpectra!](#)

A Look Into Our Past

Westchester Environment Revisited

This is the seventh installment of our "A Look into Our Past" Series, honoring the past five decades of environmental work in Westchester County. This series revisits some of our best accomplishments by featuring past articles from our original publication "Westchester Environment." To see all of the other past articles visit our blog at www.fcwc.wordpress.com/?s=A+Look+Into+Our+Past

(Excerpts from "Westchester Environment" - Vol. 97 No. 3 - May & June 1997)

Ward Pound Ridge Reservation gets Biodiversity Preserves

By Gudrun "Goodie" LeLash,
FCWC Executive Director 1997

For several years FCWC studied how to protect biodiversity and habitat in Westchester. It received funds for computer hard and software for data gathering and public education through the good offices of State Assemblyman Richard Brodsky. Preexisting and new data were collected.



Formed in 2001 through a merger of the [L.I.F.E. Center \(Local Involvement for Environment\)](#) and [the Friends of the Reservoir](#), Sheldrake has a rich tradition of offering high quality, hands-on nature programs including:

- Year-'round Pre-K [programs](#), including Nature Camps;
- Backpack Babies program for children 6mos-24mos old;
- [School groups](#) from Kindergarten through AP Environmental Science;
- [College-level internship opportunities](#);
- Meadow and other habitat restoration projects;
- Community service clean-ups;
- Family weekend explorations.

In 1994, under the leadership of Michael Klemens, herpetologist at the Wildlife Conservation Society, a cooperative effort among the Westchester County Parks and Planning Departments, WCS and FCWC began in county parks - land already protected and accessible to us. Since it is public land, we felt we might be able to influence the management and protection of sensitive natural areas.

After three years of field study, two areas of Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, nearly 1,500 acres, were declared Biodiversity Preserves by the Parks Board. The land was deemed of significant value, and biodiversity protection will be a major consideration in future plans for the park. Although not as strongly worded as we would have liked, it is, however, a beginning in the effort to secure the species and habitat diversity.

Our efforts notwithstanding, safeguarding Westchester's natural resources will still depend on interested public citizens 50 or 100 years hence. If the Reservation were developed outside the Biodiversity Preserves, these protected areas would be at risk. For that matter, if the rural neighborhood bordering the Reservation were paved up to boundary, the preserves would be jeopardized.

As they say, in this democracy, educated citizens and eternal vigilance are vital. What we have achieved, however, is a heightened sense of awareness about the species and habitats that exist within Ward Pound Ridge Reservation and elsewhere in our region.

Parkland is for today and tomorrow

By Gudrun LeLash

Conservation component necessary for Parks Master Plan

It's good to see the new headquarters at the Edith G. Read Sanctuary on the Sound in Rye. However, attention must also be paid to the sensitive habitats and resources of that park and other passive parks in the laudable county system. They must be properly managed so that their natural assets thrive.

The loss of fish and lack of waterfowl at Playland Lake this winter was likely due to the bridge and tidal dam recently constructed by the county. Apparently no prior review of potential environmental consequences had taken place. Other threats to the Sanctuary come from its proximity to Playland Amusement Park and the diverse activities that take place on its perimeter such as the storage of chemicals.

As the county presses on with its Parks Master Plan, we expect to see more emphasis on the needs of its passive parks and conservation areas. The department responsible for this is called Parks, Recreation and

Conservation after all.

The Master Plan should include delineations and descriptions of each park's natural areas; the requirement that any potential development be properly reviewed for environmental impacts; that maintenance such as mowing of meadows be done on schedules that do not disturb groundnesting birds; that wetlands, watercourses, buffers and other highly sensitive areas be protected; and that funding needs be clearly stated.

Not only should conservation areas be properly protected for their own sake, but because walking, jogging, hiking, picnicking and visiting nature centers rank high on the county's 1996 Recreation Survey; birding is one of America's fastest growing leisure time activities; and the bubble of us baby boomers is moving along in age. The demand for passive open space parkland and natural areas in the county will surely increase.

Ward Pound Ridge Reservation gets Biodiversity Preserves

For several years FCWC studied how to protect biodiversity and habitats in Westchester. It received funds for computer hard and software for data gathering and public education through the good offices of State Assemblyman Richard Brodsky. Pre-existing and new data were collected.

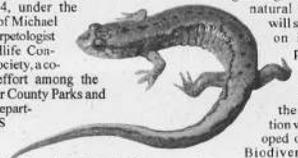
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[Click to Read on FCWC's Blog](#)

Good news for solar in Westchester!

Solar. Simple. Together.

Announced today in the [Journal News](#), 200 homeowners in 4 communities have signed up to have solar panels installed on their roofs in the first phase of Solarize Westchester's campaign to increase solar energy in Westchester.



Learn more about Solarize Westchester and how to get your community involved by visiting their website www.solarizewestchester.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Participation in our programs teaches ecological concepts to community members, encouraging them to become effective stewards of the natural world.

The center is focusing on expanding [programming](#) for this year, check out what is on tap for this month in the following Upcoming Events section of this E-News.

The trails are open every day from dawn until dusk.

685 Weaver Street
Larchmont, NY 10549
([Directions](#))

(914) 834-1443
www.sheldrakecenter.org

This section will feature a different FCWC Member Organization each month. Highlighting general information, we hope to spread the word about some of these amazing organizations.

If you are a part of an organization interested in becoming a member of Federated Conservationists, visit www.fcwc.org/#!/member-organization-form/ccj2

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

Marsh Munchers

Sponsored by: Groundwork Hudson Valley, Science Barge & Junior League of Bronxville

When: Saturday, July 12, 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Where: The Science Barge, 99 Dock Street, Yonkers, NY 10701

Every Sunday, from July through October, the Science Barge invites children for hands-on Art & Science workshops. To RSVP, call or email Pam Segura at 914-375-2151 or pamela@groundworkhv.org.

Science & Suds: Hands-on learning, Music, and Craft Beer Tasting

Sponsored by: Sheldrake Environmental Center

When: Thursday, July 16, 7:30 PM

Where: Sheldrake Environmental Center, 685 Weaver Street, Larchmont, NY

Join us here at the Conservancy for a fun night with Mamaroneck School of Rock's adult band providing entertainment. Naturalists will be on hand to teach all about what lives in our pond. Share the excitement of discovery that your children experience on a Sheldrake trip.

Learn more > <http://www.nycharities.org/events/EventLevels.aspx?ETID=8181>

4th Annual Firefly Festival

Sponsored by: Friends of Trailside Nature Museum

When: Friday, July 17, 7:30 PM

Where: Trailside Nature Museum, Routes 25 and 121, Cross River, NY

Join park staff and other area families for an ice cream social, a program detailing fireflies, and a delightful evening spent observing, catching and releasing these magnificent creatures.

Bring a lawn chair or blanket for a comfortable seat for the show. For more information contact Trailside Museum at (914) 864-7322. Co-sponsored by Friends of Trailside Museum and Ward Pound Ridge Reservation. Rain date of Friday, July 24th.

Butterfly and Dragonfly Survey

Sponsored by: Westmoreland Sanctuary

When: Sunday, July 19, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Where: Westmoreland Sanctuary, 260 Chestnut Ridge Road, Mount Kisco, NY

Volunteers Wanted! Some of our fastest declining species are our insects. The annual butterfly and dragonfly survey gives Westmoreland staff data to monitor population fluctuations of individual species. This data will be used in the long term management plan for the Sanctuary. Interested participants should bring binoculars, sunscreen, water, and wear long pants. A butterfly net is handy if

Meetings of Interest

Special Meeting of Nuclear Regulatory Commission on AIM Pipeline

Wednesday, July 15 at 2:00 PM

Hendrick Hudson Free Library
Montrose, New York

[Link to Facebook Page](#)

This will be a critically important presentation by national experts, Paul Blanch, nuclear expert, (in person) and Mr. Rick Kuprewicz, pipeline expert, (via phone) to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Petition Review Board via conference call

The public will have the opportunity to view/hear the experts' presentation to the NRC Petition Review Board about the dangerous siting of this new pipeline next to Indian Point, however, may not participate or speak during the official call.

A press conference, hosted by NYS Assemblywoman Galef, will precede the conference call, and a Q & A lead by Mr. Blanch and Mr. Kuprewicz will follow the formal presentation enabling full public participation. Informative resources will be provided.

Meetings of Interest

SUNY Purchase is offering a New Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Certificate Program

Interested in learning more about Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology? And at the same time earning a

you have one.

This program is free for volunteers. Interested participants should call or e-mail Steve at sricker@westmorelandsanctuary.org by Friday July 17th.

Day Trip: Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge

Sponsored by: Saw Mill River Audubon Society

When: Saturday, July 25, 5:30 AM to 7:00 PM

Where: Edwin B Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, Galloway, NJ

Travel with us to Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge in South Jersey to catch the spectacle of the shorebird migration beginning and all the other rich bird life in this wild protected coastal refuge. The refuge features an 8-mile drive through wetland and woodlands offering excellent viewing and photography.

REGISTER BY EMAIL OR PHONE to our office so we know to expect you.

Email: office@sawmillriveraudubon.org Phone: 914-666-6503

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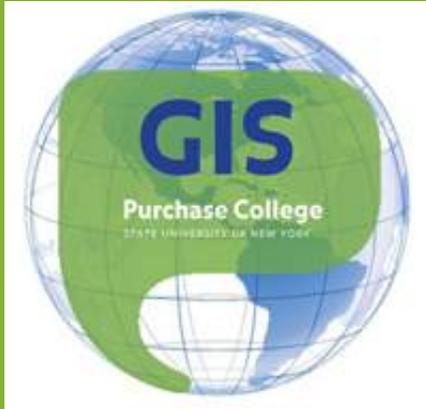
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For the last 50 years Federated Conservationists of Westchester County has been here to bring Westchester's environmental community to you. We want to continue that legacy by becoming an easy-to-use online resource. Let us help you stay informed.

professional certificate to expand your career and employment opportunities? If so, the new GIS Certificate program beginning fall semester at Purchase College is for you.



For more information or to register, please call or email the School of Liberal Studies & Continuing Education,

(914) 251-6500,
conted@purchase.edu or

Sam Wear at
sam.wear@purchase.edu /
stw1@westchestergov.com

[Link to Purchase GIS Certificate Webpage](#)

Join us and the conversation online today!

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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Try it FREE today.

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