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## Federated Conservationists of Westchester County

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September 2014

### WESTCHESTER CLIMATE CHANGE SUMMIT

The Westchester Climate Change Summit, sponsored by Pace University Law School's Center for Environmental Legal Studies, FCWC, and Sustainable Westchester is now less than two weeks away on September 12. If you have not yet purchased your ticket for this Summit, there are only a handful of tickets left, so we encourage you head over to our [registration page](#) and purchase yours today so you don't miss out. Deadline to purchase remaining tickets is 5pm on Friday, September 5.

We look forward to sharing this day of ideas and strategies with all of you. If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact our office at 914-422-4053 or [fcwc@fcwc.org](mailto:fcwc@fcwc.org).

### TRAILS ADVOCACY FORUM

On July 9, Friends of Westchester County Parks & FCWC co-hosted an open forum to discuss the state of the trail system in Westchester County. The meeting was well attended with individuals from many of FCWC's member organizations along with others who actively use Westchester's abundant network of bike, walking, and horse trails. To begin, attendees introduced themselves and spoke about their organization's goals and vision for the trails system. These goals ranged from the desire to reduce green house gas emissions by Westchester residents, to reinvigorating interest in walking, biking, creating safe, walkable streets in all Westchester communities, and utilizing trails and the rail trail for recreation and transportation.

After an afternoon of discussion, some overall themes and agreed upon priorities of the meeting emerged. We agreed as a group, we must be proactive in addressing issues and pushing for what people want in the trail system. There is an abundance of trails and open space in Westchester, but the system is disconnected and much is not easily accessible to

pedestrians/cyclists. Trail users don't necessarily care who owns what sections of trails, and we should figure how to we facilitate a prototype of trail mapping that incorporates all existing and planned trails, and what each group is working on. We can encourage the practical use of the trails by improving trail marking/signage, lights for commuters, and posting of rules. Developments needs mixed use space, including the addition of trails, and bike lanes, crosswalks, stoplights so that users can safely access the trails.

An initial goal that was developed as a group is to create an existing conditions map of Westchester's trail system. We hope to pool resources to show the existing inventory of trails, and this includes County owned property, municipality owned trails, and others that are on private property. We will then assess what condition they are in, map circles around the trail heads to draw access points, and create a common wish list to improve and expand the trail system within Westchester County.

We are hoping this group will meet quarterly to discuss issues and plan for action. The next meeting will be announced shortly, but we're aiming for a date in October. In the meantime, if you are interested in being involved in future discussions, please contact FCWC at [fcwc@fcwc.org](mailto:fcwc@fcwc.org) or 914-422-4053 to be added to our mailing list. Also, if you own or manage land with active biking, walking or horse trails, please reach out to either FCWC or Friends of Westchester County Parks so we can include your trails on our comprehensive trail map.

## LI SOUNDFEST

***By: Ann-Marie Cunningham, Producer of LI SoundFest***

Tap your toes for the Sound! On Sunday, October 5, LISoundFest, the first annual Long Island Sound Science Festival, will be at [SUBMERGE! NYC Marine Science Festival](#), a project of the [New York Hall of Science](#) and the [Hudson River Park Trust](#). LISoundFest will introduce two accomplished bands with strong ties to Westchester. The bluegrass musicians of [Breakneck Ridge Revue](#) include Westchester resident Andrew C. Revkin, respected environmental reporter and [New York Times blogger](#). Mr. Revkin also is Senior Fellow for Environmental Understanding at Pace University in White Plains.

The second band is Solar Punch, whose members also hail from Westchester. [Solar Punch](#) is a rock band electrified by solar power. The band has toured India as guests of the U.S.Department of State, and are on their way to Haiti. Band members double as environmental educators. At SUBMERGE!, one band member, physicist Alan Bigelow, Ph.D., will demonstrate a solar cooker at LISoundFest's tent. Don't miss this unique opportunity to hear Solar Punch!

And stay tuned! LISoundFest will hold a press conference and

reception in Westchester in late September 2014. At the press conference, LISoundFest will announce its other kickoff events, coming in October . These include an October 2 [presentation](#) and book signing at Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History in New Haven, CT, by Dr. Diana Reiss. A compelling speaker who began her career in theatre, Dr. Reiss studies animal intelligence and is a world-renowned advocate for dolphins and other marine life. Dr. Reiss was a consultant to The Cove, the Oscar-winning documentary about dolphin slaughter in Japan. If you've ever spotted a dolphin in Long Island Sound - or if you've ever wanted to, you will want to hear Dr. Reiss.

All LISoundFest's partners and prospective partners will be invited to join the press conference and reception in late September. The purpose is to introduce LISoundFest, its partner the statewide Connecticut Science and Engineering Festival, and invite new partners to collaborate with SoundFest on their own events---as SoundFest is doing with NYSci and HRPT for SUBMERGE!, and with the Peabody for Dr. Reiss' event. "We don't want to compete, but to convene," said SoundFest producer Ann Marie Cunningham. "Lots of groups are working on the Sound and have their own events. LISoundFest works to add value and bring more people to any Sound-related organization's events."

FCWC members will receive details of the LISoundFest press conference and reception as soon as they are confirmed. Meanwhile, please visit LISoundFest's new videos and photos on Tumblr ([LISoundFest.tumblr.com](http://LISoundFest.tumblr.com)) and follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

## PEOPLE'S CLIMATE MARCH

September 2014 is shaping up to be a month when awareness and action for climate change is increasing in our region. Along with the Westchester Climate Change Summit, there is a historic march planned for New York City on Sunday, September 21st, the People's Climate March. On September 23rd, world leaders are coming to New York City for a UN summit on the climate crisis. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon is urging governments to support an ambitious global agreement to dramatically reduce global warming pollution. The People's Climate March preceding this UN meeting will show the widespread support for immediate action to address the reality of climate change. The two following websites have information and resources needed for the various levels of participation: [www.peoplesclimate.org](http://www.peoplesclimate.org) and <https://secure.avaaz.org/en/>. Also you can text "Marching" to 97779 for the most up to date information.

We think the words from the People's Climate March organizers sum it up perfectly. 'With our future on the line and the whole world watching, we'll take a stand to bend the course of history. We'll take to the streets to demand the world we know is within our reach: a world with an economy

that works for people and the planet; a world safe from the ravages of climate change; a world with good jobs, clean air and water, and healthy communities'. Many groups from Westchester County are converging in New York City to participate in the march. Let us know if you need help linking up with one of these groups. We hope to see you down there.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

### **Harvest Party**

**Sponsored by:** Greenburgh Nature Center

**When:** Sunday, September 7, 2pm

**Where:** Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Road, Scarsdale

It's the season to reap the harvest of our organic garden and hives! Our naturalists prepare a sampling of tasty treats from our garden, and you learn about the fascinating social network of honeybees, beekeeping, and how honey is harvested from our hives. Honey is extracted by our beekeeper H. Peet Foster. There is a free tasting of fresh honey-from-the-hives, and the newly harvested honey is available for purchase. Members \$4. Non-members \$8. For more information: [www.greenburghnaturecenter.org](http://www.greenburghnaturecenter.org).

### **Economics For the Rest of Us**

**Sponsored by:** Tarrytown Environmental Advisory Council (TEAC) and Warner library

**When:** Monday, September 8, 7pm

**Where:** Warner Library, 121 North Broadway, Tarrytown

Join TEAC as Cheyenna Weber, co-founder of SolidarityNYC, leads a discussion about the connection between social justice and environmental sustainability. Cheyenna is an economic justice organizer, activist, writer and film producer who views organizing as an act of love in direct response to oppression. Cheyenna's talk will provide an overview of new tools and approaches that groups like SolidarityNYC are already using to create a more sustainable, cooperative and locally resilient economic system. To sign up, please call the Reference Desk at 914-631-7734 or email [savvypalates@optonline.net](mailto:savvypalates@optonline.net) with "Lecture RSVP" in the subject line. Light refreshments will be served.

### **Hydrilla Identification Workshop**

**Sponsored by:** Lower Hudson Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management, Teatown Lake Reservation, NY/NJ Rail Conference, and Allied Biological

**When:** Thursday, September 11, 10 AM - 2PM

**Where:** Teatown Lake Reservation in Ossining, NY

Sharp-Eyed Volunteers needed to spot aquatic invaders in the Hudson Valley! Hydrilla, or water thyme, arrived in the U.S. in the 1950s as an aquarium plant. Soon it was infesting freshwater lakes, ponds, canals and rivers in the South, and now it's been spotted in the Croton River. One of the world's most invasive plants, hydrilla blocks sunlight, decreases oxygen levels and chokes out native plants by forming thick, dense mats. It destroys waterfowl feeding areas and fish spawning sites. It grows up to an inch a day! Immediate intervention can eradicate hydrilla's threat. Alert volunteers are needed to identify and report new patches of hydrilla. Instructors Chris Doyle and Scott Kishbaugh will teach participants to distinguish hydrilla from benign lookalikes. The session is free. Please register by calling (201) 512-9348 or emailing Dr. Linda Rohleder at [lrohleder@nynjtc.org](mailto:lrohleder@nynjtc.org).

### **Who Lives at Sheldrake? Family Weekend**

**Sponsored by:** Sheldrake Environmental Center

**When:** Saturday, September 13, 10am

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

Many animals live on our trails: frogs, turtles, groundhogs, woodpeckers, etc. Come learn where and how they make their homes. \$5/child, free for accompanying adults. More information on Sheldrake and its programs can be obtained by visiting [www.sheldrakecenter.org](http://www.sheldrakecenter.org), or by contacting Amy at (914)834-1443.

### **Raptor Identification Workshop**

**Sponsored by:** Bedford Audubon Society

**When:** Sunday, September 14, 8-11:30am

**Where:** Bylane Farm, 35 Todd Rd, Katonah, NY

Sharpen your raptor identification skills before peak migration begins! This workshop, led by Bedford Audubon's Naturalist and veteran hawkwatcher Tait Johansson, will prepare you for the season. The workshop starts with a classroom session at Bylane Farm at 8am, and then moves to our Chestnut Ridge Hawkwatch at the Arthur Butler Sanctuary at 9:30am. Family friendly for kids 12 and up, but all children must be accompanied by a participating adult. Cost: Price includes 2 books: "Hawks from Every Angle" and "Hawks at a Distance" - Members \$40, and non-Members \$55 (and we'll credit \$15 towards your \$30 annual Membership if you join the day of the workshop). Please register with Ms. Jeanne Pollock at [jpollock@bedfordaudubon.org](mailto:jpollock@bedfordaudubon.org) or 914.519.7801 before September 5 (registrants after September 5 may not receive the books in time for the session).

### **Private Garden Tour and Reception**

**Sponsored by:** The Native Plant Center

**When:** Sunday, September 14, 4- 7pm

**Where:** Hartsdale, NY

Enjoy camaraderie, cocktails, and hors d'oeuvres at your

hosts' 1½-acre property that has been transformed into an oasis of native plantings within a typical suburban neighborhood. Features of this serene retreat include a rain garden, sunny and shady native perennial and shrub borders, a fern garden, a woodland garden, and a tiered wildflower meadow that replaces an area of front lawn. Guests will tour the gardens with knowledgeable docents who will discuss the plants and the distinct garden zones. Plant lists will be available. Savor an evening of leisure while learning how to incorporate native plants and sustainable practices into a home landscape. Click [here](#) to RSVP online or call 914-606-7870.

### **Public Hearing on the Algonquin Incremental Market (AIM) Expansion Project**

**Sponsored by:** The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

**When:** Monday, September 15 6:30pm

**Where:** Morabito Center, 29 Westbrook Drive, Cortlandt Manor

The comment period on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Spectra's Algonquin Incremental Market (AIM) Expansion runs until September 29. The only FERC public hearing in New York is scheduled for September 15. Please consider submitting a comment and/or attend the hearing!

SAPE (Stop the Algonquin Pipeline Expansion) and CPR (Concerned Residents of Peekskill) are hosting workshops to help people prepare comments to FERC. More information can be found at SAPE's website <http://sape2016.org/>. Please also sign the SAPE petition if you haven't done so. The hope is to deliver the 20,000+ comments to FERC at the hearing: <https://www.credomobilize.com/petitions/stop-the-algonquin-pipeline-expansion>.

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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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