



FCWC *Federated Conservationists of Westchester County*

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Join Our List

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Keep up with us!

Following us on social media is the best way to keep up with day-to-day announcements



Visit us at EagleFest!

February 7th, 9AM to 4PM
Croton-Point-Park

Sponsored by Teatown Lake Reservation, EagleFest is a daylong program that celebrates the Bald Eagles' return to the Hudson River and other waterways of the Hudson Valley!

Come find the FCWC table when you are there! We will be bringing some fun and interesting things that both kids and adults will enjoy.

[Click for more information!](#)

Help us grow!

Entering 2015 marks FCWC's

February 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.



The Future of Westchester County Parks Wrap-Up

Parks, Sanctuaries and Nature Centers



On January 23rd, FCWC and the Greenburgh Nature Center hosted a roundtable discussion on the future of Westchester's parks, sanctuaries, and nature centers.

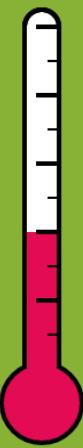
An amazing success - about 50 individuals concerned about preserving natural habitat and wildlife in Westchester, participated in the discussion about the major

resources at the various parks and preserves, the problems in preserving habitat and biodiversity and solutions that are planned or now being implemented. We were particularly interested in identifying the resilience needed for the challenges of climate change's impacts on Westchester County's open spaces.

At the beginning of the event, participants were asked to identify major resources, and those that were of importance to protect on properties that they managed, volunteered with, or recreated on. Next, they came up with top problems found on those properties, and many common problems

50th Anniversary

Target: \$20000



It is because of support from individuals like you, that we have been able to further our education, advocacy and programming efforts on environmental issues.

[**Help support us!**](#)

Notes from Past Presidents

Bill Lawyer

FCWC President 2001-2003

*(Former Executive Director,
Greenburgh Nature Center for 30
years)*

"I was on the board for 10 exciting years -- during that time I served as VP for 2 years and President for 2 years. I was particularly gratified with the way that FCWC brought local environmental issues into the larger, county-wide arena. FCWC provided important educational and "networking" opportunities for local groups to bring about broader solutions. Best wishes for continued success in the years ahead."

Featured Member Organization



**Hilltop Hanover Farm &
Environmental Center**

emerged such as invasive species, deer, and the proper way to manage various habitats. Discussion then moved to actions and solutions that are currently being implemented to address these problems, and what plans/if any are on the table to adapt and or recover from impacts of climate change.

One overarching theme that was present amongst participants was there was a lot of knowledge, skills and talent in the room, and that we need to tap into the collective knowledge so each area and group is not continuously re-inventing the wheel for their properties.

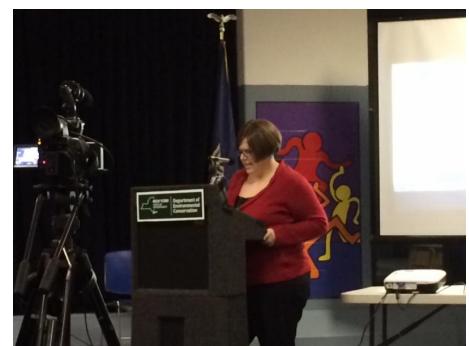
As follow up for this roundtable discussion, FCWC has created a [**Westchester Open Space Google Group**](#) where members will be able to start a discussion, pose a question, or make an announcement concerning management or preservation of any park, sanctuary, nature center or open space in Westchester County. This Google Group will be helpful to organizations to collaborate to manage and preserve Westchester's open space resources. We will be curating a list of resource and reference links on resource management that will be available on our website, fcwc.org, at a future date. We will also organize future workshops and conferences on natural areas with experts to address issues raised by this workshop. Please stay tuned for details about these initiatives as we move forward with them.

We want to thank everyone who came out and made this conversation so fruitful, and hope to play an integral part of protecting and improving Westchester County's natural areas going forward.

Algonquin Pipeline

New Independent Report on Environmental Impact of Proposed Gas Pipeline Expansion in County Park

And the battle continues as we try to cope with our Country's energy needs. New York Governor Andrew Cuomo set a positive precedent this past year when he passed the New York State ban on fracking - we must not trade away a healthy environment for natural gas production. However, currently our environment is under threat of being compromised by the Houston, Texas-based Spectra Energy Company.



FCWC Program Director, Alicia Molloy, reading at DEC hearing FCWC's position statement against the Spectra Energy project.

Spectra Energy has proposed an expansion project for the Algonquin natural gas pipeline; the proposed construction will replace and widen the existing pressurized gas pipe, built in the 1950s, from a 26" diameter pipe to 42" pipe. In the proposal for the project, there is planned construction activity to go right through the County-owned park, Blue Mountain Reservation.

A Draft Environmental Impact Statement has been completed by Spectra Energy, but the Westchester Board of Legislators felt that it was lacking in

With origins dating back to the 1600's, Hilltop Hanover Farm is a historic former dairy farm purchased by Westchester County in 2003 for open space conservation and watershed protection. Now a 50-acre demonstration farm, and a model for environmental sustainability, Hilltop currently grows an array of organic vegetables - many of which are heirloom varieties.

In 2011, The Friends of Hilltop Hanover Farm (FHHF) became an established 501(c)(3) non-profit organization to manage all the farming and educational programming on behalf of the County through a license agreement. The FHHF along with the generous support from the local community and hundreds of volunteers, work to ensure the property remains a working farm and education center for years to come.

The farm offers pick-your-own vegetables during the growing season in addition to a 150-member Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program and a farm stand. The farm also supplies many area food pantries with fresh organic produce to help those in need. The farm offers a diverse calendar of classes, events and programs for all ages including gardening, cooking, beekeeping and composting workshops.

We hope you'll visit us soon!

-The Friends of Hilltop Hanover Farm

Open Tuesday's - Friday's 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, weekends only as announced for events

1271 Hanover Street
Yorktown Heights, NY 10598
(914) 962-2368

many respects. Fortunately, Dr. Erik Kiviat, from the non-profit institute Hudsonia produced a new, independent environmental assessment of potential impacts to Blue Mountain Reservation was completed to find out the truth behind this proposed project.

On January 14 2015, the Westchester County Board of Legislators (BOL) Labor, Parks, Planning & Housing Committee (LPPH) met to receive and discuss this new report...

[Click to Read Full Article...](#)

A Look Into Our Past

Westchester Environment

In this second installment of "A Look Into Our Past" we are highlighting a piece from Westchester Environment written during 1980. Although this article a period piece, it speaks to many of the concerns that are affecting us today. 1980 was declared by President Carter to be "The Year Of The Coast," and FCWC brings to light what this will mean for 1980-Westchester.

"Westchester Environment" - Vol. 2 No. 1

1980: The Year Of The Coast

Shops, sailors, tourists, refineries, fishermen, beachcombers, power plants, developers, and dreamers - what do they have in common? They all want a share of that thin and fragile edge of land where terrestrial and aquatic life meet and overlap in intricate and productive ways. This irresistible lure, born of man's eternal fascination with the sea and his need for food, transportation, and commerce has led to intense competition for some of our richest resources. Within these coastal areas, complex ecological systems support large populations of fish, shellfish, birds, and plant life which, in turn, nourish and enrich human life. But today nearly 75% of New York State's population lives within 15 miles of its shorelines and careless use has diminished or permanently destroyed many of these irreplaceable resources. Where man-made structures have removed natural barriers, storms, high winds and waves have erased miles of shoreline and taken their toll in countless lives and dollars.

While delivering his Environmental Message on August 3rd, President Carter pronounced 1980 "The Year of the Coast" and provided us with a platform from which to launch a series of articles dealing with the most vulnerable and valuable of Westchester's coastal areas. We hope that they will serve to broaden your understanding and inspire your interest and activity on behalf of our coastline resources.

Preserving Our Coastline by Katherine Bregman

Long Island Sound may well be Larchmont and Mamaroneck's greatest resource. It provides us with countless recreational and educational opportunities, gives added value to our properties, boost business and the area's economy and, in all seasons, adds a bit of beauty to our lives. For many years, however, we have taken the Sound's beauty and bounty for granted. Along with our counterparts across the nation, we have made land use decisions without considering the environmental impact and have in the

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/memberorganizations

process, endangered some precious coast areas...

[Click to Read Full Article..](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

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.

Teatown's Hudson River EagleFest

Sponsored by: Teatown Lake Reservation

When: Saturday, February 7, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Where: Croton Point Park, Croton-on-Hudson, NY

Join Teatown Lake Reservation in a daylong program that celebrates the Bald Eagles' return to the Hudson River and other waterways of the Hudson Valley. The day includes birds of prey shows, children's activities, environmental exhibits, and more.

General admission to EagleFest allows you to participate in all EagleFest activities for one fee. Admission includes Entrance to the Eagle Headquarters Pavilion, Eaglet Stage Children's Shows, Bird Shows, Bird Walks, activities in the Kids Tent and more

For more information follow this [link](#).

Invasive Vine Cutting and Stewardship on the Saw Mill River

Sponsored by: Groundwork Hudson Valley, Saw Mill River Coalition

When: Saturday, February 7, 10:00 AM-1:00 PM

Where: Farragut Avenue (East Side), Yonkers, NY

Please join Saw Mill River Coalition with the on-going battle against the vines that are killing native trees and taking over the river habitat! As always, they will have loppers, clippers, and gloves; if you can bring your own, that's great. Please wear good shoes and dress in layers. They'll show you how EASY it is to get ride of these awful vines!

Hot chocolate and snacks will be provided. Check www.sawmillrivercoalition.org for weather-related information, or call Par at (347) 891-1743.

Lecture: The Gotham Coyote Project with Dr. Mark

Sponsored by: Bedford Audubon Society

When: Wednesday, February 11, 7:00 PM

Where: Katonah Village Library, 26 Bedford Road, Katonah, NY

Coyotes in New York City! Why are they here? Where do they live? How many are there? What do they eat (and do they use the Zagat?!)? Mark Weckel of the American Museum of Natural History will explain how the Gotham Coyote Project is trying to answer these questions and others. We'll see you at 7pm for refreshments, the lecture begins at 7:30pm

This is a free event. No registration required. Please bring a reusable mug

Meetings of Interest

Plastic Bag Ban

When: February 10th, 4:00 PM
Where: 148 Martine Avenue, 8th Floor Conference Room
White Plains, NY

Legislation has been introduced with the purpose of reducing single-use bags in Westchester County, while promoting re-useable checkout bags.

Legislators Catherine Parker, Catherine Borgia, MaryJane Shimsky, Peter Harckham, and Ken Jenkins are spearheading this legislation with aims to reduce the use of plastic bags county-wide.

Join FCWC and others in attending a meeting supporting this legislation. Increased attendance will show widespread support throughout the county.

Reforming the Energy Vision, NY Public Statement Hearing

When: February 10th, 6:00 PM
Where: Yonkers Public Library, 1500 Central Park Avenue, Yonkers, NY

Learn about how REV will make our energy infrastructure more reliable, resilient, and consumer friendly while reducing carbon output and profoundly encouraging conservation and consumer choice. The information session will be immediately followed by the Public Statement Hearing where all those wishing to comment on REV and the straw proposal will have an opportunity to make a statement on the record.

AmazonSmile

Give to FCWC when you shop on Amazon.com!

Here is another way to help out FCWC: follow this [link](#) and Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchase to us, at no cost to you! We thank you for your support!



You shop. Amazon gives.

to help reduce our ecological footprint. For more information please visit www.bedfordaudubon.org.

President's Week Camp

Sponsored by: Sheldrake Environmental Center

When: Monday-Friday February 16-20, 9:30AM- 12:30PM

Where: Sheldrake Environmental Center, Larchmont, NY

When school is out, the learning and fun continue at Sheldrake. Vacation week camp is a perfect time for your child to explore the great outdoors and make connections to the natural world at the 60-acre Larchmont Reservoir Conservancy. For ages 3-5; \$270 members, \$300 non-members. To [register](#).

Speaker on New Jersey Pine Barrens

Sponsored by: Central Westchester Audubon Society

When: Thursday, February 19, 7:00 PM

Where: Presbyterian Church, 39 North Broadway, White Plains, NY

The Pine Barrens is a heavily forested area of coastal plain stretching across more than seven counties of southern New Jersey. The unique ecology of the Pine Barrens supports a diverse spectrum of plant life, including orchids, carnivorous plants and pygmy Pitch Pines.

For more information visit Central Audubon [latest newsletter](#).

American Indian Sugaring

Sponsored by: Friends of Trailside Nature Museum

When: Saturday, February 21, 2:00 PM

Where: Trailside Nature Museum, Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, Cross River, NY

Northeast North America's history comes alive during a demonstration of the origins of this amazing product. For more information please visit www.friendsoftrailside.org.

How Does the Land Surface Affect Climate?

Sponsored by: Committee to Save the Bird Homestead

When: Saturday, February 28, 3:00 PM

Where: 624 Milton Road, Rye NY

Join Committee to Save the Bird Homestead for a talk by Dr. Alexis Berg. He will give an overview of how the land surface (e.g., vegetation) actively interacts with the atmosphere and eventually has an impact on climatic conditions like air temperature and precipitation. He will also discuss how man-made changes to the land surface (e.g., deforestation) can contribute to climate change - sometimes in unexpected ways.

Admission is free. For further information, please email birdhomestead.meetinghouse@gmail.com with subject line Berg.

For the March edition of the E-News, look forward to a few of FCWC's reactions to the wonderful Environmental Summit put on by Bedford2020!

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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