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# FCWC

## Federated Conservationists of Westchester County, Inc.

July 2016

### In This Issue

Con Ed Bill  
LED Streetlighting  
Westchester Grown Farm Trail  
Upcoming Events

### Join Our List

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### Keep up with us!

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



### Featured Member Organization

#### Westchester Land Trust



Founded in 1988, The Westchester Land Trust has worked together with public and private partners to preserve land and to protect as well as enhance the natural resources that make our community beautiful and unique. Their work improves the quality of life for Westchester

### Our Vision And Mission

FCWC, founded in 1965, envisions a county in which an environmental ethic defines and shapes all public and private decisions.

Our mission is to provide leadership that educates about environmental issues, advocates sound decision making, and unifies groups and individuals to protect and preserve Westchester's environment and address climate change.

### Congratulations to ConEd on this Report

by Carolyn Cunningham FCWC Board of Directors

I hope you also received "Your Home Energy Report" as we did in the mail from ConEd a month or so ago. It told us that our house had used 57% less energy last year than our neighbors and that it saved us about \$1,720 for the year. It also told us that we had used 30% less energy (than our neighbors) last month. These reports are provided to help us all "make smart energy decisions." It was gratifying to have them confirm that by not using my clothes dryer, but using the lines in the basement for drying our clothes plus being careful to turn off lights that we were not using it had paid off so handsomely. I had stopped using the dryer (almost entirely) as something I could do to fight climate change - I knew that would cut the Green House Gas (GHG) production from our personal energy use, but not by how much.

If you have any questions about these reports you are told to contact them at 1-212-460-4738 or at [energyreports@conEd.com](mailto:energyreports@conEd.com). I now suggest it would be a great idea if all FCWC members would contact them (even if you can't find your report any more) because I was told that this is a pilot program of theirs only being carried out in Brooklyn and Westchester. If the program is well received, they will expand the program. Congratulate them on the program and it may well reduce New York State's GHG production even more. FCWC thanks you.

County through encouraging and assisting in the creation of permanently protected open spaces and diverse landscapes.

Westchester Land Trust preserves land for future generations, having protected nearly 8,000 acres of land in Westchester and eastern Putnam Counties, and in doing so has protected land that surrounds public drinking water supplies and connects protected land that supports plant and animal communities. Their newest addition, Otter Creek, is open to the public at no cost. Located in Mamaroneck, the preserve is WLT's first large-scale holding in Lower Westchester and signifies their growing efforts to expand their projects throughout Westchester County.

WLT also partners with area farmers to increase access to local food. Their work to help strengthen local farms includes their Farmland Match Program, which connects farmers who need land with property owners who have land to lease. In recent news, they have just been approved for a grant to continue protecting local farmland, namely Westchester County's oldest working farm - the historic Stuart's Fruit Farm in Somers. This grant will ensure that the land remains available for agricultural use forever. For current updates, photographs and videos - visit (and like!) Westchester Land Trust's facebook page. Check out their website if you would like more information on the noble work that the Westchester Land Trust does by visiting [www.WestchesterLandTrust.com](http://www.WestchesterLandTrust.com).



## Scarsdale Lauches LED Pilot

### First in Westchester to Pilot Soft Colored Lights

by Ron Schulhof- Scarsdale Forum Sustainability Committee

Scarsdale has launched their LED streetlight pilot program which is the first in Westchester to pilot soft colored lights. After testing lights of various colors on multiple streets in Scarsdale, a softer colored light was chosen for Scarsdale's LED Streetlight Pilot Program. The lights provide the same energy and cost savings as cooler (or whiter) lights. If you are from a community that is interested in softer colored LED streetlights, the Scarsdale Pilot is open for all to see.

Scarsdale's LED pilot began with a report from the town's civic environmental committee about the environmental and financial benefits of switching the town's 2,000 streetlights to LEDs. Following the report a committee of volunteer residents and village staff was formed to research LED Streetlights and develop a pilot program. In addition to the environmental and financial benefits, the color and brightness of the lights are key considerations of the committee. Prior to launching the Pilot, multiple streets were setup with lights of various colors and brightness allowing for a side by side comparison of the different options available. These demo sites include lights of 4,000K (whiter), 3,000K (soft) and 2,700 (softer) colors, as well as lights of varying brightness (wattages). The demo sites are still installed and available to view.

If your community is interested in learning more about the Scarsdale LED Pilot or would like to view the Pilot Program lights, the committee can be reached at [LED@scarsdale.com](mailto:LED@scarsdale.com).

Copies of the committee's reports, including locations of the Pilot lights, are available on Scarsdale.com or by sending an email to [LED@scarsdale.com](mailto:LED@scarsdale.com).



The Frederick P. Rose Preserve in Lewisboro



Otter Creek Preserve in Mamaroneck



### 'Westchester Grown' Farm Trail

Late last month, the 'Westchester Grown' Farm trail was announced as a New York State Farm trail. The farm trail is a state designated route that spans 17 miles through Westchester County, including farms in Sleepy Hollow to North Salem.

The efforts to create the "Westchester-Grown" Farm Trail as a New York State Farm Trail have been made by FCWC member organization- Friends of Hilltop Hanover Farm, Inc. and the Westchester County Office of Film & Tourism. The trail is dedicated to local farmers who grow crops and raise animals locally, and will help Westchester residents experience the agricultural bounty that is growing right in their own back yard.

Many of these farms and farmers have a long history with the county with strong ties to the community and are supported by local shops and restaurants, which will be designated as the Friends of the Westchester Grown Farm Trail.

Farms and farm stands along the trail include:

- Harvest Moon Farm & Orchard
- Hemlock Hill Farm
- Hilltop Hanover Farm & Environmental Center
- Muscoot Farm
- Ryder Farm Cottage Industries
- Seedswell Vegetable Farm
- Stone Barns Center for Food & Agriculture
- Stuarts Farm and Orchard
- Sundial Farm
- The Farmer & The Fish
- The Meadows Farm
- Thompson's Cider Mill
- White Oak Farm
- Wilkens Fruit & Fir Farm



Baby pigs at Muscoot Farm

### Soil and Water Conservation Achievement Awards

The Westchester County Soil and Water Conservation District and Department of Planning invite your participation in their third annual Soil and Water Conservation Achievement Awards program for 2016. The awards recognize activities and projects that best promote the voluntary conservation, management and restoration of soil and water resources in Westchester County.

The following entities may be nominated for Soil and Water Conservation Achievement Awards:

- (1) public and private schools and school districts, including school classes and other school-supported groups (individual students are not eligible);
- (2) municipalities (individual agencies, boards, commissions and councils may apply);
- (3) county, state and federal

agencies; and (4) not-for-profit organizations for activities and projects that have been carried out or completed within the past three years in Westchester County.

The deadline for submitting nominations is October 14, 2016.

A copy of the awards solicitation letter and nomination form are attached. The letter and form also are available at: [www.westchestergov.com/soilwater](http://www.westchestergov.com/soilwater)

Last year, municipalities, an elementary school and not-for-profit organizations submitted nine nominations for activities and projects throughout the county. This year, we expect a similarly enthusiastic response.

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## Events

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

### Family Campout

**Sponsored by:** Greenburgh Nature Center  
**When:** Saturday July 16 and August 20  
**Where:** 99 Dromore Rd, Scarsdale, NY 10583, USA

You supply the tent and sleeping bag, we'll supply the nature, food, and fun! Enjoy a delicious BBQ, Explore our moonlit trails with a naturalist. Enjoy s'mores by the fire, Play on our Nature's Discovery Playground, and bring your own frisbees, bats and balls, and other entertainment items for fun on our Great Lawn!! Rain or Shine. No Refunds. Limited to 20 families each night. Each tent must include a minimum of one adult. Every family must have a valid membership on date of event. Reservations required. Fee: \$75/adult and \$25/child. Children 2 and under are FREE. [www.greenburghnaturecenter.org](http://www.greenburghnaturecenter.org).

### The Wizard Of Oz

**Sponsored by:** Westmoreland Sanctuary  
**When:** Friday, Saturday and Sunday July 22, 23, 24, 29, 30, 31  
**Where:** 260 Chestnut Ridge Rd, Mt Kisco, NY

Westmoreland Sanctuary, is pleased to announce that tickets are now available for purchase to its outdoor theatrical production of The Wizard of Oz. This is local community theatre at its finest where cast members - children and adults - hail from all over the county. For more information <http://www.westmorelandsanctuary.org>.

### 5th Annual Firefly Festival

**Sponsored by:** Friends of Trailside Nature Museum  
**When:** Friday, July 22  
**Where:** Trailside Nature Museum, Warm Pound Ridge Reservation

That special time of year has come again when we can witness the daily light show at dusk as fireflies light up the air all around us. Join park staff and other area families at the end of Michigan Road for an ice cream social, a fire, 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.

### Yoga in The Park

**Sponsored by:** Westchester Parks Foundation  
**When:** Wednesday, July 27 and August 10  
**Where:** Rye Playland Beach

This class will be open to any level of flexibility (or lack thereof!) Instructed by teachers at Tovami Yoga. Sign up here or find us on

Eventbrite. Bring your own mat or towel. See you there!

### **Riverkeeper Office Opening**

**Sponsored by:** Riverkeeper

**When:** Sunday, July 24

**Where:** Hudson River Maritime Museum Home Port, 50 Rondout Landing, Kingston

Riverkeeper invites you to the grand opening of our new office space upriver! Come celebrate with them as they mark a new milestone in their 50 years of service to the Hudson River. Riverkeeper now has an additional office in the Hudson River Maritime Museum in Kingston, NY, and they're looking forward to getting to know our neighbors in the community.

Click [here](#) for more details and to RSVP to this free event.

### **Nature Walk: Discover the Dragonflies of Muscoot Farm**

**Sponsored by:** Bedford Audubon Society

**When:** Sunday, July 31

**Where:** Muscoot Farm, 51 NY-100, Katonah, NY

Join Naturalist Tait Johansson and Friends of Muscoot Farm for an early summer dragonfly walk on the beautiful grounds of Muscoot Farm. Easy. No registration required. For more information

<http://www.bedfordaudubon.org>.

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

Federated Conservationists of Westchester, Inc., E House, 78 North Broadway, White Plains, NY 10603

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