



FCWC *Federated Conservationists of Westchester County*

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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



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

April 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.

A Celebration of the 45th Anniversary of Earth Day

Earth Day 2015

Kate Munz, Membership Relations Coordinator

2015 is certainly a year for anniversaries. **Federated Conservationists has entered its fifth decade, and Earth Day is celebrating its 45th year.** When looking back to the first celebration of Earth Day, it is easy to wonder if the 20 million Americans who gathered across the country knew what their movement would become.

An Earth Day Celebration

April 22nd, 1PM
Ward Pound Ridge Reservation
Pound Ridge, NY

**2015 marks 50 years since
FCWC's founding, and is also
the 45th Anniversary of
Earth Day!**

To honor half a century of environmental work, we would like to bring our friends outside to enjoy what these many years of work have been about: a greener, cleaner Westchester.

Please join us for an afternoon of socializing, and a hike around Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, led by curator and FCWC Co-President, Jason Klein.

[Register](#)

[Click for more information!](#)

Co-Sponsored by Westchester
County Department of Parks,
Recreation, and Conservation at
Ward Pound Ridge Reservation

FCWC's Federation Meeting

April 29th, 1PM
The Carriage House
Teatown Lake Reservation
Ossining, NY

It is time again for FCWC to bring together our Member Organizations and individual members to network, share resources, and talk about our environmental community.

At this year's Federation Meeting we will be discussing the most effective ways organizations can holistically plan for our shifting climate.



Cover of the first Earth Day, April 22, 1970, in The New York Times.

In 1970 the Beatles' "Let It Be" topped the charts for the year; the Vietnam War sparked anti-war protests among students nationwide; and the hippie and flower child culture was at its height. The United States of 1970 was a much different place than it is today.

The roots of the environmental movement stem from this period in history. Earth Day 1970 used the energy from anti-war protests to bring environmental concerns to the forefront of politics; it united those concerned individuals as activists under an environmental banner.

Prior to 1970, environmental degradation was not clearly in the public consciousness. There were only small rumblings that human activities were causing disturbances in the environment. For example Rachel Carson's Silent Spring was a NY Times bestseller in 1962, however the general consensus was that poor air and water quality was simply a product of successful development and economic growth.

On April 22nd, 1970 small groups of Americans gathered to support the Earth. There were teach-ins, organizational efforts to pick up trash, trees plantings, and peaceful marches. The next day the opening line of the New York Times read, "Huge, light-hearted throngs ambled down autoless streets here yesterday as the city heeded Earth Day's call for a regeneration of a polluted environment by celebrating an exuberant rite of spring." Earth Day 1970 brought environmental activism to the mainstream, and started the flow of important environmental legislation like the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act.

It's humbling to think that FCWC has been around long enough to witness the first Earth Day and the passage of environmental legislation that followed. To honor half a century of environmental progress and to celebrate our favorite holiday, we would like to bring our friends outside to enjoy what these many years of work have been about: a greener, cleaner Westchester.

We are co-sponsoring a hike with Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation, and Conservation at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation. We feel this is the perfect way to reflect on where we've been, where we're going, and

[Click for more information!](#)

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

Notes from Past Presidents

Oreon Sandler

FCWC President 2003-2006

"Being President of FCWC can be challenging and fun. Until [my term], each board member was probably pursuing his or her own personal interests within the framework of the mission. Having previously worked in environmental studies and education, I was lucky to pursue several Westchester County and NYS interests.

By the time your turn arrives, most Presidents know the "drill." Personally, the prime role for me was stimulating more board members to pursue their individual passions, and working with staff to support that role. We each joined the organization for personal environmental passions. Being a Federation usually meant we were supporting other groups with the same or similar goals."

Featured Member Organization



Saw Mill River Audubon

For more than 60 years, Saw Mill River Audubon (SMRA) has

illustrates the importance of our environmental work. We hope you'll join us.

To register, please visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fcwcs-earth-day-celebration-tickets-16207926344>. Happy Earth Day!

An Update of Westchester's solar development: Solarize Westchester



In 2012 the Cuomo administration announced its NY-SUN initiative, and followed up with a 10-year \$1 billion commitment to developing a self-sustaining solar market in New York State in April 2014. The program is designed to incentivize solar electric system installations across New York State, and hopefully lead to 3,000MW of photovoltaic (PV) installations by 2022.

Since 2012, Westchester County has had over 950 PV installations, making it the county with the 2nd most installations in New York State. A new program, Solarize Westchester, is creating further momentum in the growth of the Westchester's solar market.

A new force behind Westchester's solar development: Solarize Westchester

Solarize Westchester, an initiative funded by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) through NY SUN, is designed to promote the solar industry and make solar technology more affordable and accessible to all New Yorkers. A public-private partnership, Solarize Westchester includes two program components: 1) to provide support for the adoption of solar-friendly permitting and removal or reduction of zoning restrictions and, 2) to achieve a dramatic increase in solar installations in select

Contact Information

Website:

www.solarizewestchester.com

Nina Orville

nina@abundantefficiency.com

Upcoming Events

Each Solarize coalition features workshops and other events to educate residents about the benefits of Solarize Westchester.

For a full list of upcoming events see below.



connected people with nature as part of its three-fold mission: [to protect](#) wildlife and habitats; [to educate](#) all ages about the natural world; and [to advocate](#) for environmental initiatives that will preserve and protect nature for future generations.

Founded in 1953 by a small group of environmentalists, protecting six acres of wetlands; today SMRA unites over 1,100 members, maintains more than 300 acres of open space in eight sanctuaries, and oversees eight miles of trail in northern Westchester County. All sanctuaries and trails are open to the public year-round at no charge.

To help share the wonder of the natural world, SMRA offers dozens of [classroom and community programs](#), and more than 80 public field trips; SMRA also awards a [Larry Light Youth Scholarship](#) to help a high school student further his/her environmental education.

Simply stated in SMRA's mission, this organization's role is not only to protect and educate about wildlife habitat, but to also advocate for natural ecosystems. In 2014, SMRA addressed issues pertaining to a local community's attitudes towards coyotes, and the importance of protecting nesting sites of migrating Arctic birds.

SMRA has blossomed into the organization it is today thanks to its vibrant community of members, volunteers, and friends - but there is still more to come!

Visit the [SMRA website](#) to discover more ways to explore the natural world with SMRA.

(Saw Mill River Audubon is one of the original member organizations of FCWC)

municipalities in a short period of time.

Since late January, when the first Solarize campaigns launched, **over 500 inquiries for information and solar site visits have been fielded and over three dozen solar contracts have been signed.** These initial pilot campaigns, ending in June, are expected to result in up to 200 new solar installations in participating communities.

How the program is designed

The Solarize Westchester Campaigns help to make solar energy system installations more accessible by combining education, marketing and outreach efforts with a tiered pricing opportunity. This means the more people that sign up for a solar installation, so adding to the group rate, the lower the price will be for everyone.

The Solarize Westchester program includes two rounds of Solarize campaigns, each approximately five months long. During each round, the Solarize Westchester Team partners with municipalities or coalitions of municipalities. Round 1, includes the following campaigns:

[Solarize Bedford-Mt.Kisco](#)

The Town of Bedford and the Village of Mt. Kisco

[Solarize Cortlandt-Croton](#)

The Town of Cortlandt and the Village of Croton

[Solarize Larchmont-Mamaroneck](#)

The Town of Mamaroneck and the Villages of Larchmont and Mamaroneck

[Solarize Ossining-Briarcliff](#)

The Town of Ossining and the Villages of Ossining and Briarcliff Manor

What's coming next: dates and deadlines

Current Solarize Westchester campaigns end in June (deadlines range from June 1st to 22nd depending on the campaign). With these deadlines approaching quickly (despite the chilly weather!), a number of important dates should be noted.

For home and business owners within those municipalities with campaigns in Round 1 (Town of Bedford, Village of Mt. Kisco, Town of Cortlandt, Village of Croton, Town of Ossining, Villages of Ossining and Briarcliff Manor, Town of Mamaroneck, and the Villages of Larchmont and Mamaroneck) **interested property owners should explore the opportunity quickly and if they intend to participate in the program, should sign their solar contract by the end of May, to ensure the group rate.**

Additionally, municipalities that did not participate in Round 1 of the Solarize campaigns should consider applying for inclusion in the second round of campaigns. More information about this process is available here [\[http://www.solarizewestchester.com/solarize-campaigns/solarizing-your-town/\]](http://www.solarizewestchester.com/solarize-campaigns/solarizing-your-town/) **The Solarize Westchester Round 2 Request for Information will be available by mid-May and will be due at the end of June.** If you would like your municipality to have a Solarize campaign, it is suggested that you start organizing your application soon.

Office: 275 Millwood Road
Chappaqua, NY 10514
(914) 666-6503
office@sawmillriveraudubon.org
Monday, Wednesday, Friday
10:30 AM to 3:30 PM
www.sawmillriveraudubon.org

Grounds and trails are open daily
from dawn to dusk

[Brinton Brook Sanctuary](#)
[Cameron-Murtfeldt Sanctuary](#)
[Chernick Sanctuary](#)
[Choate Sanctuary](#)
[Graff Sanctuary](#)
[Haas Sanctuary](#)
[Pinecliff Sanctuary](#)
[Pruyn Sanctuary](#)

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

Urgent Action Needed

#StopSpectra **Please Call Elected** **Officials TODAY**

Protect Blue Mountain
Reservation and tell County
Executive Astorino that
Westchester County residents say
NO to the AIM pipeline expansion.
Clear cutting of old growth trees,
and disturbing vernal pools and
wetlands would be detrimental to
the biodiversity of critical
habitat.

Please keep calling

Upcoming Solarize Events

Bedford-Mt. Kisco

The Town of Bedford and
the Village of Mt. Kisco

Workshop: Thursday, April 9, 7:00-8:30 PM

@ Bedford Hills Community House, 74 Main Street
Bedford Hills

Workshop: Tuesday, April 21, 7:00-8:30 PM

@ Boys and Girls Club, 351 Main St., Mt Kisco

Workshop: Sunday, April 26, 3:00-4:30 PM

@ Katonah Village Library, 26 Bedford Rd.,
Katonah

Cortlandt-Croton

The Town of Cortlandt and
the Village of Croton

Workshop: Tuesday, April 7, 7:00-8:30 PM

@ The Black Cow Coffee Co., 4 Old Post Rd S,
Croton-on-Hudson

Workshop: Saturday, April 25, 2:00-3:30 PM

@ Hendrick Hudson Free Library, 185 Kings Ferry
Road, Montrose

Larchmont-Mamaroneck

The Town of Mamaroneck
and the Villages of
Larchmont and
Mamaroneck

Open House: Sunday, April 12, 4:00-5:00 PM

@ 433 Beach Ave., Mamaroneck

Ossining-Briarcliff

The Town of Ossining and
the Villages of Ossining and
Briarcliff Manor

Green Ossining's 5th Annual Earth Day Festival, Sat. April 18, 11:00 AM-4:00 PM

@ Louis Engel Waterfront Park, Ossining, NY - will
feature Solarize info

Update: Algonquin Pipeline Expansion

Don't give parkland for pipeline expansion

Carole Griffiths, FCWC Co-President

Blue Mountain Reservation is a 1,538-acre county-run park in the northwest
section of Westchester County. It features miles of trails and offers challenging
hikes to the tops of two large peaks, Mt. Spitzenberg and Blue Mountain. The
park is used heavily by the public.

There is also a natural gas pipeline running though the park. [Spectra Energy](#) is
proposing to enlarge this 26-inch diameter pipeline, installed in the 1950s, to a
massive 42-inch diameter, high-pressure (850 pounds per square inch)
transmission pipeline. The construction would require an expanded work
easement of up to 130 feet, 55 feet beyond its present 75-foot right of way.

Enlarging this pipeline and the expansion of the easements will have negative
impacts on the park. There will be permanent destruction of trees and habitat fo
animals. New edges will be opened a few hundred feet into the forest on either
side of the expansion, which will allow invasive species to further infiltrate the
park...

**Westchester County
Executive Rob Astorino at
914-995-2900**

Tell County Executive Astorino to deny a license for Spectra Energy to expand the Algonquin pipeline in Blue Mountain Reservation. The park and its biodiversity must be preserved, not fragmented and destroyed.

**Please keep calling other
elected officials**

**US Senator Kirsten Gillibrand
845-875-4585**

**US Senator Charles Schumer
914-734-1532**

**Congresswoman Nita Lowey
914-428-1707 or 845-639-3485**

**Congressman Eliot Engel
914-699-4100**

**Congressman Sean Maloney
845-561-1259**

**Governor Andrew Cuomo
518-474-8390**

**Secretary Jeh
Johnson, Department of
Homeland Security
202-282-8000**

(ask to be connected to comment
line/voice mail)

[Click to Read More](#)



[Click to Read More](#)

(This article was first published in The Journal News, March 24th 2015
Written by Carole Griffiths, Co-President of FCWC)

Meetings of Interest

"Trash Talk"

April 9th, 7:00-9:00 PM

Greenburgh Town Hall Auditorium
177 Hillside ave, Greenburgh, NY

Mamaroneck Town Supervisor

Nancy Seligson and Columbia Capstone Project Leader, Stacy Kotorac, will discuss the Capstone's report "A Near Zero Solid Waste Strategy" for the Town of Mamaroneck. Come hear about the Report's findings and recommendations and the practical realities of changing our waste management practices including Pay As You Throw and other programs.

Sponsored by Sustainable Westchester

+++++

"Deer Management in Suburban Communities: Understanding opportunities and challenges for your municipality"

April 30, 8:30AM-4:30PM

Westchester County Center
198 Central Ave, White Plains, NY

Biologists, land managers and government officials will discuss the complexities of managing deer in a suburban setting. Management strategies and long-term goal setting for a deer management program will inform decision-makers on regional approaches and options available for their municipality. Two panel question-and-answer sessions will allow for dialogue.

Click [here](#) to register.

Sponsored by:
Westchester County Parks,
Recreation and Conservation

A Look Into Our Past

Westchester Environment

This is the fourth installment of our "A Look into Our Past" Series, honoring the past five decades of work done by Federated Conservationists of 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

In this post we would like to celebrate FCWC's favorite holiday, Earth Day. Follow along as J. Henry Neale, Jr., a previous FCWC board member, recount the first Earth Day and the start of "Earth Day '80."

"Westchester Environment" - Vol. 2 No. 4 - April 1980

Earth Day: Progress and Promise

By J. Henry Neale, Jr. (Excerpts from)

April 22, 1980 will be "Earth Day '80". It has been declared to be the start of the "second decade of environmental progress."

The Earth Day celebration this year had an auspicious and impressive beginning. It was officially announced on January 1, 1980, on the first day of the new decade, in a Presidential Proclamation. President Carter's proclamation called upon all citizens and government officials "...to observe this day and appropriate ceremonies and activities" and that "...special attention be given to community activities and education efforts directed to protecting and enhancing our live-giving environment."

Although the characterization of this year as being the start of the "second decade of environmental progress" may seem overly optimistic about our future and excessively charitable about our recent past - there have been many changes during the past ten years. Several of these changes might be considered improvements. Perhaps these are reasons for describing the last decade as one of progress and hoping that this progress will continue in the future...



[Click to Read More](#)

FCWC's 2014 Annual Report is now available on our website under our [About Us](#) page. Please take a minute to read through the year we had in 2014 and what we're looking forward to achieving in 2015!

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.

Lecture: Ecological Impacts of Fracking on Plant and Animal Life with Dr. Erik Kiviat

Sponsored by: Bedford Audubon Society

When: Wednesday, April 8, 7:00 PM

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

High-volume horizontal hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking," for mining natural gas from the Marcellus and Utica shales is widespread in Pennsylvania, and potentially across the expansive Appalachian Basin. Join Hudsonia's Erick Kiviat for an exploration of "fracking" from an ecological standpoint, and a discussion on the disposal of fracking wastes from other states.

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/BedfordAudubonSociety

Welcome to Spring Program

Sponsored by: Saw Mill River Audubon Society

When: Sunday, April 12, 6:00 PM

Where: New Castle Community Center, 10 Senter Street, Chappaqua, NY

The evening will feature a potluck supper; brief annual meeting; and guest speaker Carole Gracie, author of *The Natural History of Spring Wildflowers: A Closer Look* for discussion and book signing.

All are invited, and there is a welcomed donation of \$10 at the door.

To register: www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/Dinner.html

New Monthly Homesteader Series - 6 Workshops Lawn to Garden

Sponsored by: Hilltop Hanover Farm

When: Sunday, April 19, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Where: Hilltop Hanover Farm, 1271 Hanover Street, Yorktown Heights NY

Join Friends of Hilltop Hanover Farm in their new homestead series which will look at many of the things you can do at home to increase your food independence and peace of mind by closing the gap between yourself, your food and the land. The second class focuses on transforming your lawn into a vegetable garden. 6 Classes - Series Fee: \$180/non-members, \$150/members. Workshop Fee: \$35.

To register visit: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/1278843>

Earth Day & Arbor Day Celebration

Sponsored by: Greenburgh Nature Center

When: Sunday, April 19, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Where: Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Road, Greenburgh NY

Join us for an Earth Day Celebration where you can roll up your sleeves and make a difference! Learn how to gather fresh rainwater for your gardens and turn your food scraps and garden waste into rich compost that will build up your soil! Join us as we plant a tree in recognition of Arbor Day. Enjoy sun-powered music and a solar cooking demonstration by Solar Punch.

[Check out the schedule of activities](#)

FCWC's Earth Day Hike

Sponsored by: FCWC and Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation

When: Wednesday , April 22 at 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Where: Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, 4 Reservation Road, Pound Ridge, NY

To honor half a century of environmental work, we would like to bring our friends outside to enjoy what these many years have been about: a greener, cleaner Westchester. Please join us for an afternoon of socializing, and a hike around Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, lead by curator and FCWC Co-President, Jason Klein.

For more information visit www.fcwc.org and **to register** visit www.eventbrite.com/e/fcwcs-earth-day-celebration-tickets-16207926344

Trail Maintenance 101: New York-New Jersey Trail Conference

Sponsored by: Westmoreland Sanctuary

When: Saturday, April 25, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Where: Westmoreland Sanctuary, 260 Chestnut Ridge Road, Bedford Corners

Do you have a trail you love or a park that is special? Consider becoming a trail maintainer to pay it forward. Find out more about this volunteer position at the Introduction to Trail Maintenance class, offered by volunteers of the NY-NJ Trail Conference. No previous experience necessary!

To register: <http://www.nynjtc.org/workshop/introduction-trail-maintenance-trail-u-936>

FCWC's Federation Meeting

Sponsored by: Federated Conservationists of Westchester County

When: Wednesday, April 29, 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM

Where: The Carriage House, Teatown Lake Reservation 1600 Spring Valley Road, Ossining, NY

It is time again for FCWC to bring together our Member Organizations and individual members to network, share resources, and talk about our environmental community.

At this year's Federation Meeting we will be discussing the most effective ways organizations can holistically plan for our shifting climate. We plan to elaborate

upon what land preparations are being/ can be done. **For more information visit our events page:** www.fcwc.org/events

Save The Date

FCWC's Annual Meeting

June 3rd, 2015
@ Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, Rye

More details to follow

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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