



FCWC *Federated Conservationists of Westchester County*

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



Westchester County Parks App



Take a look at Westchester County Park's all-inclusive, free app, that will be any Westchester explorer's best friend.

Issue: November 2014

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.

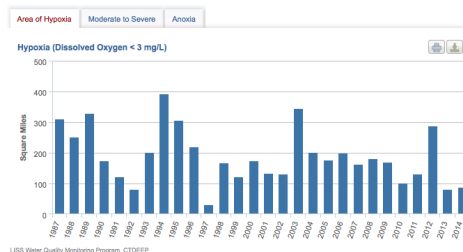
WATER QUALITY IMPROVES IN THE LONG ISLAND SOUND

By: Kate Munz, Asst. Program Director

Despite ongoing pollution struggles, things are looking up for the Long Island Sound. According to the Long Island Sound Study (LISS), 2014 marks the second consecutive summer that O₂

concentrations were higher than the long-term average. This success can be attributed to the combined efforts from New York, Connecticut, local governments and the EPA to upgrade sewage treatment plants. In 2013, Connecticut and New York facilities discharged 35 million fewer pounds of nitrogen than in the early 1990s.

Over the last 2 years, oxygen (O₂) levels in the Sound have been increasing - a good sign for the ecosystem. For many years, bottom waters of the Sound have been experiencing hypoxia, a decrease in dissolved O₂ levels to less than 3 mg/L, stressing animals that reside at that depth. In some extreme cases, these areas are even experiencing anoxia, which is when O₂ levels drop below 1mg/L, the threshold below which most fish cannot survive.



LISS Water Quality Monitoring Program, CTOESD
Dissolved Oxygen Levels 1987-2014

Advanced GPS and GIS mapping technology allows users to track trails, mark waypoints, locate landmarks, and stay update with park advisories and weather announcements.

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In the Long Island Sound, hypoxia is caused by an overload of nitrogen into the ecosystem; the main sources of these excess nutrients are sewage and runoff, from sewage treatment plants, septic tanks, lawn fertilizers, or deposits of air pollution from cars and power plants. This excess nitrogen fuels growth of algal blooms. When the algae dies the excess organic matter sinks to the bottom of the Sound where it decomposes. As bacteria break down the organic material, oxygen is used up at a greater rate than can be replenished.

Efforts cannot halt at this success - the discussion must be continued. In early 2012 the LISS began updating its Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP), modernizing its plan for Long Island Sound improvements; and LISS is opening up this conversation to the public, holding public forums once again.

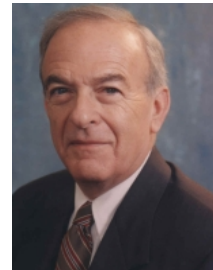
The Long Island Sound Study, sponsored by the EPA and the states of Connecticut and New York, is a partnership of federal, state, and local agencies, universities, businesses, and environmental and community groups with a mission to restore and protect the Long Island Sound.

Visit www.longislandsoundstudy.net for more information.

COMMEMORATING RICHARD OTTINGER

By: Carolyn Cunningham, FCWC Co-Treasurer

Former Pace University Law School Dean, Richard Ottinger, recently received yet another award for his work in the field of Energy. Dean Ottinger received a lifetime achievement award at the WARD Annual Meeting and NYSERDA Combined Heating and Power (CHP) Expo on October 15. The World Alliance for



Decentralized Energy or "WADE" recognized Dean Ottinger's long involvement in the field of energy: energy law as a Congressman for eight terms in the 1960s and 1970s, and as a professor in Pace's Environmental Law Program; then as Dean of the Law School and founder of the Pace Energy Project. He has remained a strong promoter of energy conservation and renewable energy, has written widely on energy topics from the social costs of energy to the external environmental costs of electric power and other electric power topics.

Dean Ottinger has long been a friend and strong supporter of FCWC and a participant in our recent "Westchester Climate Change Summit." FCWC congratulates him on another well-deserved award for his lifetime of achievement.

IN MEMORY OF SAM PRYOR



As a life-long conservationist, Sam Pryor's commitment to the preservation of open space was felt both locally and nationally. Sam was a member of Westchester Land Trust's Board of Directors for more than twenty years - serving as Chairman for twelve of those years, until 2007. During his tenure he was instrumental in the protection of more than 7,500 acres of environmentally sensitive lands in Westchester and Putnam Counties.

A champion of land conservation at both the local and national level, Sam's leadership was inspirational and far reaching. He served in key positions at the following organizations: Land Trust Alliance, Scenic Hudson, New York Audubon, National Forest Foundation, and the League of Conservation Voters (both nationally and in New York State), among others.

FCWC also honored Mr. Pryor for his many environmental achievements in Westchester County.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Hike: Wild Edibles

Sponsored by: Trailside Nature Museum

When: Saturday, November 1, 10:00 AM

Where: Trailside Nature Museum, Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, Routes 35 and 121

There is plenty of sustenance to find in the forests and fields of the Reservation, even at this time of year. We will take a walk to discover and collect some edibles to bring them back for a pre-lunch appetizer. For more information visit the Friends of Trailside [calendar](#) or call (914) 864-7322.

Skull-tastic

Sponsored by: Teatown Lake Reservation

When: Saturday, November 2, 1:00 PM-2:00 PM

Where: 1600 Spring Valley Rd, Ossining, NY

They say you can't tell a book by its cover by can you tell a skull by its teeth!? What's the difference between predator and prey? We'll examine mammal, reptile and bird skulls in this fascinating program to see what lies beneath the furs, scales and feathers.

Registration is required for all programs. Unless otherwise noted, all programs meet in the Nature Center and are \$7 per person or FREE for members. VISA, MasterCard, American Express, Discover, cash or check are accepted. Please register by calling (914) 762-2912, ext. 110. Open Daily 9am-5pm. Visit our [Facebook](#) page!

Trail Work Volunteer Day

Sponsored by: Mianus River Gorge

When: Saturday, November 8, 1:00 PM-4:00 PM

Where: 167 Mianus River Road, Bedford, NY

Come to the Gorge for some good (not so) clean fun! The Gorge's mile of trails are designed to allow visitors to get close to nature. We keep them narrow and well maintained so they have as little impact on the forest as possible. In order to accomplish this, we need your help. Come spend a fund afternoon helping Gorge staff with time sensitive trail projects that will keep them in good shape for all to enjoy.

This is a family-friendly event for ages 12 and up. Limited to 20 people. Please register by November 3rd by emailing sarah@mianus.org or call (914) 234-3455.

A Powerful Merger: What's The Plan For Green Economic Development in Westchester?

Sponsored by: Sierra Club and the Greenburgh Nature Center

When: Wednesday, November 12, 7:00 PM

Where: Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Road, Scarsdale, NY 10583. This is a handicapped-accessible location.

The Northern Westchester Energy Action Consortium (NWEAC) and the Southern Westchester Action Consortium (SWEAC) have been blazing new paths toward sustainability by assisting their respective member municipalities in reducing reliance on fossil fuels, adopting sustainable policies and practices, and stimulating new "green" economic activity. These two dynamic organizations have merged to form a new non-profit entity, Sustainable Westchester. Meet the leaders of Sustainable Westchester, and learn about SW's initiatives to facilitate regional scale cooperation, turning environmental challenges into opportunities to improve the quality of life, economy and future prospects of our county. Refreshments by Greenburgh Nature Center at 7:00, program starts at 7:30. For more information visit sierralowerhudson.org



NWEAC - YouTube

Introduction of NWEAC: Northern Westchester Energy Action Consortium (www.nweac.org)

Public Program: Birder's Journey to South Africa

Sponsored by: Saw Mill River Audubon Society

When: Thursday, November 13, 7:00 PM

Where: Croton Free Library, Croton-on-Hudson, NY

26 Days, 2400 Miles, 424 Life Birds. Join SMRA Vice President Christine McCluskey as she shares stories while highlighting her best photos from this epic trip! For more information visit www.sawmillriveraudubon.org or call (914) 666-6503.

Fire Making Workshop: The Bow Drill

Sponsored by: Read Wildlife Sanctuary

When: Saturday, November 15, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Where: 1 Playland Parkway adjacent to Playland Park, Rye, NY 10580

No matches? No problem, IF you know how to start your campfire the primitive way. Cost \$5. For more information visit Friends of the Read Wildlife Sanctuary [Events](#) page or call (914) 967-8720.

Ecology Club for Families with Special Needs

Sponsored by: Rye Nature Center

When: Saturday, November 22 9:30 AM

Where: 873 Boston Post Rd, Rye, NY 10580

Children with special needs are invited to bring a family member with them to the Nature Center and enjoy animal programs, hikes, and other fun science and sensory adventures. For more information about this program, e-mail marygillick@ryenaturecenter.org. There is no fee for this program but pre-registration is required.

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