



FCWC

Federated Conservationists
of Westchester County, Inc.

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Meeting of Interest

Birds, Bugs, and
Bushes: the effects
of climate change
on local flora and
fauna

Thursday, March 2nd
7:00 - 8:30pm
Chappaqua Library

Co-Sponsored by:
Chappaqua Library &
New Castle Sustainability
Advisory Board

Shifting and shrinking
ranges of habitat caused
by climate change will

January 2017

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.

Updates on Indian Point & the Empire State Trail

This year's "State of the State" addresses included two major announcements that will have direct impacts on our environment in Westchester County: the closure of Indian Point and the construction of the Empire State Trail.

The Indian Point nuclear power plant includes two reactors, which will both be closed by April 2021. According to the [New York Times](#), the plant currently provides a quarter of New York City and Westchester's energy. [Governor Cuomo's announcement](#) states that there will be "no net increase of emissions due to closure."

We've written before about the need to [reexamine our energy sources](#). With the combination of falling prices for [renewables like solar](#) and the [state's commitment](#) to generate half our energy from renewable sources by 2030, we look forward to seeing our energy supply become safer for our community and have a lower impact on our planet.

The New Empire State Trail

From Buffalo,
to Canada,
to Manhattan.

#EverUpward

Source: [Twitter - @NYGovCuomo](#)

In addition, [Governor Cuomo announced](#) plans for the Empire State Trail, which at 750 miles long, would be the "largest state-run, multi-use trail in

have serious implications throughout our natural world. In fact, Audubon's findings classify nearly half of all North American birds as severely threatened by global warming.

Sea level rise will put pressure on estuarine marshes and the birds and other wildlife they support. Plant community shifts within the forests in our region where trees with northern range distributions are becoming locally extinct and southern ranged trees are migrating in will have impacts on this region's carbon storage capacity. Larger and more frequent insect outbreaks may occur, but in other cases, recurring outbreaks may be disrupted or diminished.

Please join us on March 2 to learn about the effects climate change is likely to have on local flora and fauna and some simple action steps we can all take to help mitigate these effects.

Help FCWC without even trying!

When you shop online with Amazon, simply use smile.audubon.com instead of amazon.com.



On your first visit, select FCWC as your organization to support. Amazon will then donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible Amazon Smile purchases to FCWC at no cost to you. Every bit

the nation." According to [The Journal News](#), it would build off of the Erie Canalway Trail and Hudson River Valley Greenway, which includes Westchester County. This would not only provide space for residents to safely walk or bike but would also improve the connectivity of our trail systems, linking us across the state to the Canadian border and Buffalo.

We applaud the state's attention to these issues and to the installation of [electric vehicle charging stations](#) and [investment in clean water](#). These will have positive impacts on our environment in Westchester County and beyond, and we look forward to continuing efforts on a local and state level to create a cleaner environment.

Wanted: Environmental Regulations

By Sandy Morrissey - President of Bronx River-Sound Shore Audubon Society (BRSSA)

Our president-elect is on record saying the EPA shouldn't exist. He has taken the first step by putting Scott Pruitt, a climate-change denier, in charge of the agency. As Oklahoma's attorney general, Mr. Pruitt is currently suing the EPA on behalf of big oil and gas. Meanwhile, Oklahoma is now experiencing earthquakes because of extensive fracking. He's on record, along with our president-elect, that he wants to get rid of the Paris agreement, a global plan signed by 118 countries to mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse emissions.

Clean air, water and a healthy ecosystem don't happen by volunteerism. Businesses are in business to make money, and humans want convenience and comfort and at the cheapest price. As industrialization advanced and the human population multiplied, it became clear we needed "regulations" to protect ourselves.

When I fill out our annual report for National Audubon, I feel good about what our chapter accomplishes - bird walks, educational programs, youth outreach, our bluebird project - but we are always weak in the category of "advocacy." I think that must change in the coming year. If indeed the new administration tries to throw out the regulations that protect our air, water, and ecosystems, as Audubon members, we must speak out and get our voices heard. Let's hope not through the din of dense smog.

FCWC is in complete agreement with the above excerpts written by BRSSA President Morrissey. We believe the key to moving the environmental agenda forward during the next 4 years is through education and advocacy. We look forward to working with BRSSA and the rest of the environmental community in Westchester to create a greener future, starting here at home.

Bedford 2020 Food Forum

Bedford 2020 Invites the Community to Dig into Local Food!

Saturday, March 4th: 8:30am - 3:00pm
Fox Lane High School - Bedford, NY

On Saturday March 4th, Bedford 2020 will celebrate local Hudson Valley food, farming, cooking and more at the first Bedford 2020 Food Forum.

adds up!

Participants will have an unparalleled opportunity to engage with experts about our food system, the benefits of local farms and food, and explore initiatives to eliminate food waste and increase food distribution to needy recipients. Bedford 2020 Food Forum welcomes all community members- home gardeners, chefs, cooks, teens, parents, activists, health conscious individuals and anyone who wants to learn more about local food in our area.

The event is organized around four central food themes:

Eat: Celebrate and drive action around local food topics- including strategies for better local cooking

Buy: Explore ways to evaluate, purchase and afford healthy, delicious local food

Grow: How to grow and enjoy your own backyard harvest

Share: Learn about local food security, accessibility, eliminating food waste and how to get involved and help throughout the community.

Tickets are \$25 dollars and include keynote sessions, three self-selected workshops, the Expo and a delicious lunch featuring seasonal local fare. Student admission is free. Scholarship tickets are available. Tickets can be purchased via the Bedford 2020 website: www.bedford2020.org. The event is anticipated to sell out.



Food Forum Sponsors include:

Northern Westchester Hospital,

Bambi's Bar at the Bedford

Playhouse, Bedford Central School District, Bedford Magazine, Curtis

Instruments (list is in formation).

Bedford 2020 is seeking volunteers to help with the event. To sign up to volunteer or for more information about the Bedford 2020 Food Forum, contact Bedford 2020 at info@bedford2020.org or call (914) 620-2411.

Events

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

Wellness Book Club

Sponsored by: Hilltop Hanover Farm

When: Tuesday, January 31st, 7pm

Where: Hilltop Hanover Farm, Yorktown Heights, NY

The Winter Wellness Book Club will meet once a month to gather and discuss books and magazine articles focused on farm life and keeping ourselves healthy through the winter. Come and enjoy a relaxing evening at the farm. Email Helen Iral at hbiral@hilltophanoverfarm.org to join.

Volunteer Corps Conservation Work Days

Sponsored by: Westmoreland Sanctuary

When: Sunday, February 19th, 10:45am - 12:45pm

Where: Westmoreland Sanctuary Nature Center & Wildlife Preserve, Mount Kisco, NY

Westmoreland is offering monthly Volunteer Corps conservation work days. These are a great opportunity to help with Westmoreland's conservation efforts and to learn about conservation and wildlife. This is great for students needing community service hours as well. These work days are open to all volunteers ages 16 to adults. Come once or joins us each month and be part of our regular Volunteer Corp. More information available [here](#).

Young Explorers' Storytime (3-5 years old)

Sponsored by: Greenburgh Nature Center

When: Monday, February 6th, 13th, and 27th, 1pm - 2pm

Where: Greenburgh Nature Center, Scarsdale, NY

Join us for a unique storytime experience as children, with a parent or caregiver, are immersed in a nature-themed story with opportunities to engage with our animals and enjoy GNC's fields and forests. Dress for outdoor activity as a portion of each class is spent outdoors, with the exception of extreme weather conditions. Held rain or shine. Fee per class: Members: \$9/child. Non-Members: \$12/child. Visit greenburghnaturecenter.org to learn more.

Spring Landscape Conference - Inspired by Nature: Designing with Native Plants

Sponsored by: Native Plant Center

When: Monday, March 14, 2016 (snow date, March 18th), 8:30am - 3pm

Where: Gateway Center, Westchester Community College

Native plants are versatile, indispensable, and essential to landscape designs of every size. Discover how to develop beautiful designs that create a sense of place and mimic the natural world while providing important habitat for wildlife. Find out how to use regionally appropriate plants that are colorful and seasonal, encourage natural processes, and limit the challenges presented by deer. [Click here](#) for more details.

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