



# 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



## 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.

November 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.

## Westchester County Parks

### The Value of Our Parkland

With the peak of fall foliage upon us, it is time once again to step out and marvel at the trees in full bloom. As residents of Westchester County we are immensely lucky to witness this beautiful season, but even more lucky to have world-class parks to enjoy it in.

County parks are free for everyone to use and are diverse in what they offer. The parks system includes pools, open spaces, trail ways, and farmland. These places are places of recreation, solace, wildlife habitat, and nature education.

Within the County park system there are [six nature centers](#) (Cranberry Lake Preserve, Croton Point Nature Center, Read Wildlife Sanctuary, Lenoir Preserve, Marshlands Conservancy, and Trailside Nature Museum), which provide environmental education programming for children and adults. Parks offer hundreds of miles of [hiking trails](#), of all levels of difficulty; and there are important environmental habitats for rare species of plant life. A survey done by the Friends of Westchester County Parks revealed that [75% of people that live in the county have used a county park or program](#), showing how much Westchester residents value these spaces.

Our parks have environmental benefits as well. Many of these areas are habitat for rare species plant life; Cranberry Lake Preserve is home to pink lady slipper, sundew, and cranberry. These parks also protect delicate eco-systems; Blue

If you would like to learn more, please visit [www.fcwc.org/membership](http://www.fcwc.org/membership)

## Featured Member Organization



### League of Women Voters, Rivertowns

The League of Women Voters (LWV) is a grassroots, nonpartisan civic organization promoting democracy and political responsibility at the local, state, and national levels through voter education, issue advocacy and the active participation of the electorate.

The Rivertowns League group now spans from Yonkers to Croton. We are NOT for women only; we now have more than 90 members, 25% of whom are men. We are happy to be members of FCWC! Please visit our website at [www.lwv-rivertowns.org](http://www.lwv-rivertowns.org).

#### On the Issues:

Our [environmental committee](#), under the leadership of Emma Lou Lewis, has been active for many years and takes special notice of waterfront issues and development.

Among the Issues taken up have been hydrofracking, Indian Point, and the Tappan Zee Bridge. Most recently, the committee launched a letter-writing campaign to County Executive Astorino to express the need for a full-time curator at the

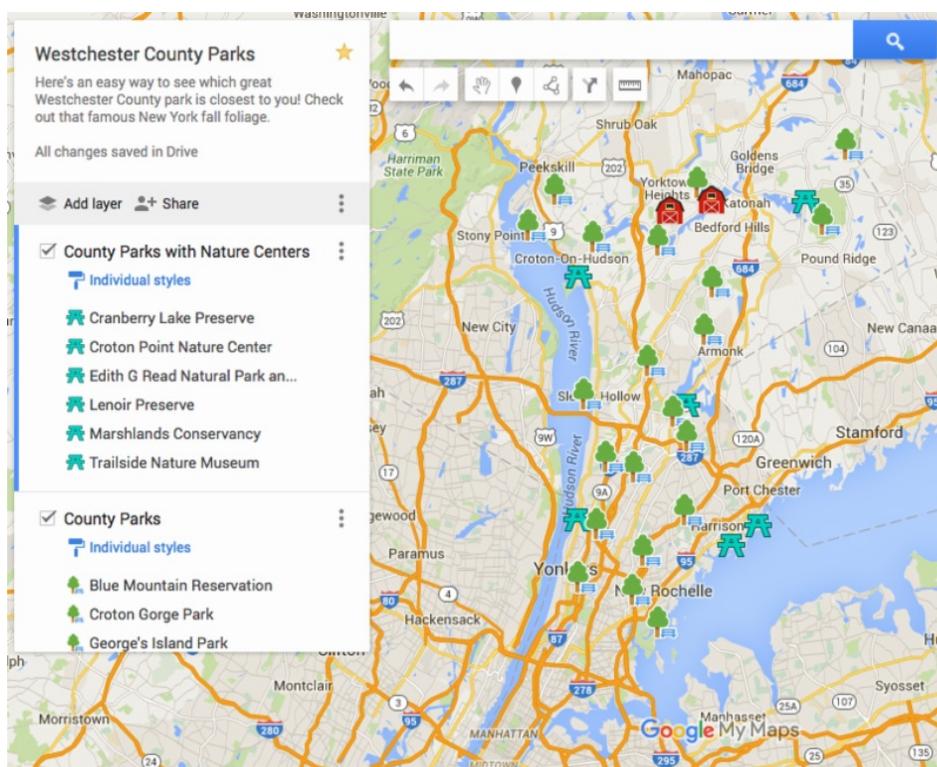
Mountain Reservation has over 136 vernal pools, providing amphibian habitat and breeding area. Our parks are also a benefit for New York City. Certain preserved areas are critical in maintaining the health of the watershed, and subsequently the health of the reservoirs and drinking water.

With the onslaught of climate change, our parks will be facing some difficult challenges such as increased volatile weather and encroaching invasive species. Therefore it is imperative that we provide our park system with as much assistance as possible.

Go outside today (especially with the run of exceptionally beautiful weather we've been having) and show your local county park how much you care!

### FCWC has put together an interactive Google Map showing the locations of Westchester County's Parks.

Information was gathered from [www.parks.westchestergov.com](http://www.parks.westchestergov.com).



FCWC has put together a google map of the County's parks with help from the Westchester County Parks website.

[Click to see full interactive map](#)

## ZEPHYR TEACHOUT Speaks LIVE on CLIMATE SOLUTIONS!

### The Climate Change Solutions Tour

Climate change is the **most** urgent issue facing our generation!

Lenoir Nature Center in north Yonkers. Similarly, the committee actively lobbied in Dobbs Ferry to oppose the Rivertowns Square development, due to its adverse environmental impact, and opposed the Algonquin pipeline expansion.

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**Waterfront/Environment Group Meeting**  
**Nov. 16, 1:30PM**

All are welcome to a discussion of local, regional, and national issues. Plus what ever you suggest!

We meet at the home of Emma Lou Louis, 125 Bellair Drive, Dobbs Ferry, NY.

914-693-1726, elsailors@mail.com  
[www.lwv-rivertowns.org](http://www.lwv-rivertowns.org)

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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](http://www.fcwc.org/#/member-organization-form/ccj2)

**Solarize Westchester Workshops in Your Area**



**Solarize Westchester Round 2**

**WHAT CAN WE DO AS INDIVIDUALS & AS A SOCIETY? WHAT ARE THE SOLUTIONS?**

**WHERE:** Temple Israel Center, 280 Old Mamaroneck Road, White Plains, NY  
**WHEN:** Sunday, November 8, 3pm



ZEPHYR TEACHOUT Breakaway 2014 Candidate for NY Governor galvanized voters throughout the state in 2014 with her anti-corruption challenge to Gov. Cuomo, winning an astounding 35% in the Democratic Primary.

**Zephyr Teachout will speak on the solutions to climate change, the most urgent environmental problem of our time!**

Expect to roll-up-your sleeves organizing against expansion of fossil fuels and an inspiring vision for clean energy solutions, like no other on the planet!

**Great music by Bethany and Rufus and a Solar Home Companion**  
a mock variety show on clean energy solutions, and a preview of Josh Fox's new feature film.

**Get your ticket today!**

(Suggested donation \$12 in advance/\$15 at the door)

**Linked to the Climate Change Solutions Tour Facebook page**



**Co-Hosts :** Sierra Club, Rockland Water Coalition & Temple Israel Center Green Team, and Federated Conservationists of Westchester County (FCWC).

**"Peekskill to Paris" at the Peekskill Riverfront Green**

**Join us at the Global Climate Rally!**

Sponsored by FCWC, WESPAC Intergenerate, Grassroots Environmental Education, Sierra Club Lower Hudson Valley, Connie Hogarth Center for Change, Clearwater, SAPE, IPSEC, Concerned Families of Westchester, SENRG and Croton Climate Initiative

Solarize Westchester's Community Campaigns, the Solarize Westchester Team will assist local communities to select competitively chosen solar photovoltaic ("PV") installers to make residential and small commercial solar energy more accessible and affordable for residents and businesses in participating cities and towns.

Learn More:

[www.solarizewestchester.com](http://www.solarizewestchester.com)

**Upcoming Public Solarize Workshops:**

<p><b>Solarize Hastings-Dobbs Ferry</b></p>	<p><b>Sat. 11/7 - 3-4pm,</b> Dobbs Ferry Public Library, 55 Main Street, Dobbs Ferry, NY</p> <p><b>Weds. 12/2 - 7:30-9:30pm,</b> Hastings-on-Hudson Public Library, 7 Maple Ave, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY</p>
<p><b>Solarize Tarrytown</b></p>	<p><b>Sun. 11/8 - 1pm,</b> Warner Library, Tarrytown</p>
<p><b>Solarize Somers-New Castle</b></p>	<p><b>Weds. 11/18 - 7-8:30pm,</b> Somers Livrary, Reis Park, 82 Primrose St., Katonah, NY</p> <p><b>Thurs. 11/19 - 7-8:30pm,</b> Horace Greeley HS Academic Commons, 70 Roaring Brook Rd, Chappaqua</p>

**Journal News: Yonkers Named a Wildlife Refuge**

*To be honored by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*  
Originally featured in *The Journal News*, October 10, 2015



YONKERS The ongoing restoration of the Saw Mill River downtown has earned the city federal attention.

## New Workshop! Healthy Soils, Healthy Plants



### "Healthy Soils, Healthy Plants: Laying the Groundwork for Success"

**Tuesday, December 8th  
8:00am to 1:00pm**

**Westchester County Center**  
198 Central Ave, White Plains

#### **Sponsored by:**

Westchester County Department of Planning  
Westchester County Soil and Water Conservation District  
Cornell University Cooperative Extension of Westchester County  
The Native Plant Center at Westchester Community College

#### **Details:**

This half-day workshop will address the critical role soils play in the environment and people's survival.

It also celebrates the United Nations' proclamation "2015, International Year of Soils."

The workshop will feature four speakers representing Cornell

On Tuesday, officials from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are expected to visit to declare Yonkers an urban wildlife refuge. The designation means new internships and jobs for Yonkers students, money for additional local environmental efforts and improved habitats for urban wildlife.

Nesting boxes will be installed in Van der Donck Park to encourage occupancy by the eastern phoebe, a small, migratory songbird. The bug-eating bird likes nests near water and the goal is to increase biodiversity at the park, which already has eel, herring, turtles and ducks, among other critters.

The designation comes with a \$30,000 grant for Groundwork Hudson Valley, a nonprofit group that is restoring the Saw Mill River and building small pocket parks around Yonkers.

See full Journal News story here: [Yonkers Becoming a Wildlife Refuge](#)

## Looking for Input!

### Planning YOUR future FCWC

In this coming year FCWC will embark on an updated strategic plan. This effort is most timely following our 50th Anniversary year. As you, our members, are the core of the organization, we would like to offer you an opportunity for your input. We welcome your suggestions regarding new goals, purposes, and other future changes.

We will of course stay true to our founding as a member-based organization, speaking with a strong unified voice on local environmental issues, but we hope to adjust our plan to better serve the current community and local environment.

To contact FCWC with your input call (914) 422-4053 or email [fcwc@fcwc.org](mailto:fcwc@fcwc.org). Additionally, if you know any of our [current Board members](#), you can share your thoughts with them.

## UPCOMING 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.

### Conservation Cafe: Bag the Plastic

**Sponsored by:** Conversations on Conservation Consortium

**When:** Friday, November 6, 8:30AM-10:30AM

**Where:** Greenburgh Public Library

Join the next Conservation Café for a discussion on plastic bags and their

University's Urban Horticulture and Waste management institutes, Rutgers University/New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, and Cornell University Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County.

This is approved for 4.0 HSW hours for landscape architects and 4.0 NYS ISA continuing education units for arborists, and qualifies for professional development credits from other organizations.

**Full Details**

impact on the environment. Speakers include: Patti Wood, co-founder and ED of Grassroots Environmental Education; Anne Bobroff-Hajal, member of Eco-Neighbors and member of the White Plains Sustainable Advisory Committee to the Mayor; Catherine Parker, Westchester County Legislator; and Nancy Seligson, Supervisor of the Town of Mamaroneck.

### **Leatherman's Hike**

**Sponsored by:** Friends of Trailside Nature Museum and Ward Pound Ridge Reservation

**When:** Saturday, November 7, 2pm

**Where:** Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, Cross River, NY

Come hear the lore of the Old Leather Man. Join us on this annual 2.5-mile hike with renowned Storyteller Jonathan Kruk. Meet at the Michigan Road parking area. For more information visit [www.friendsoftrailside.org](http://www.friendsoftrailside.org)

### **Film: Queen of the Sun: What Are the Bees Telling Us?**

**Sponsored by:** Committee to Save the Bird Homestead

**When:** Saturday, November 7, 3PM

**Where:** Rye Meeting House, 624 Milton Road, Rye

This film is a profound look at the global bee crisis. Nearly half of our food production depends on bee pollination. This ultimately uplifting film weaves a dramatic story of the heartfelt struggles of beekeepers, scientists, and philosophers from around the world. Free admission. Donations gratefully accepted. For further information contact [birdhomestead.meetinghouse@gmail.com](mailto:birdhomestead.meetinghouse@gmail.com) or 914-967-0099.

### **Free Public Lecture on Winter Tree ID**

**Sponsored by:** Bedford Audubon Society

**When:** Wednesday, November 11, 7PM

**Where:** Katonah Village Library's Garden Room

Bedford Audubon will welcome Michael Wojtech for a free public lecture on winter tree identification, entitled "Bark: Get to Know Your Trees". This program will be useful to nature enthusiasts with all levels of experience.

Refreshments will be served at 7 pm and the lecture will begin at 7:30 in the Garden Room. No registration is necessary. Please bring a reusable mug to help us reduce our ecological footprint. For more information visit <http://www.bedfordaudubon.org/events.html>.

### **Zero Waste Your Event**

**Sponsored by:** Greenburgh Nature Center and Lower Hudson Sierra Group

**When:** Wednesday, November 11, 7PM

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

Pete and Toshi Seeger's Clearwater Festival, the largest annual environmental celebration in the US, reduced waste by over 15 tons in the last three years. Festival Co-Coordinator MJ Wilson will share practical and proven ways for reducing waste dramatically, whether at a family gathering or a large community event. Program is FREE. For more information visit <http://greenburghnaturecenter.org/programs-and-events.html>.

### Keeping Parrots Flying Free in Latin America

**Sponsored by:** Bronx River Sound Shore Audubon

**When:** Wednesday, November 18, 7:30PM

**Where:** Community Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 468 Rosedale Ave, White Plains, NY

Parrots are the most endangered group of birds in the wild, mostly because of the illegal wildlife trade. Despite this, conservationists in Latin America are doing amazing work preserving and cherishing their biotic communities. Rev. Dr. LoraKim Joyner, wildlife veterinarian and Unitarian Universalist minister, works alongside these courageous people in her role as Director of One Earth Conservation ([www.oneearthconservation.org](http://www.oneearthconservation.org)). For more information please visit <http://www.brssaudubon.org/index.php?>.

### Keeping a Nature Journal

**Sponsored by:** Friends of Edith Read Wildlife Sanctuary

**When:** Saturday, December 5, 1PM

**Where:** Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, Rye, NY

Before the digital age, naturalists would keep detailed journals with sketches and notes about their observations. Bring a journal or sketchbook, and your favorite pens, pencils or colored markers. For more information visit <http://www.friendsofreadwildlifesanctuary.org/news-and-events/>

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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