



# FCWC *Federated Conservationists of Westchester County*

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[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.

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

March 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.

## We Have a New Website!

As we announced at the start of the New Year, 2015 marks FCWC's 50th Anniversary. In celebration, we want to make our five decades of experience in environmental policy, education, and advocacy even more accessible to the public. The first step in this direction was the complete reconstruction of our website [www.fcwc.org](http://www.fcwc.org).

## Coping with Deer

March 8th, 3PM  
Mercy College, Main Hall  
Large Lecture Room

Sponsored by The League of Women Voters of the Rivertowns, and co-sponsored by FCWC, Hudson River Audubon Society, and Teatown Reservation

Join us for a workshop discussing the many difficulties associated with deer management, and how to handle them.

[Click for more information!](#)

## Notes from Past Presidents

*Unfortunately in this issue we feature sad news. Last month's passing of Warren Ross, marks the loss of an significant environmental leader.*

FCWC recently lost one of its former presidents and a ten-year board member, when Warren Ross of Rye died on February 9th, 2015.

Warren, a committed environmentalist, had strong environmental credentials. He joined our Board in 1998, soon becoming FCWC president - from 1998 to 2001. Even before his time with FCWC, Warren served on the Rye Conservation Commission from 1981-1987, and served as Rye City mayor from 1989-1993.

Since Warren edited professionally, he was the excellent editor of our FCWC newspaper "Westchester Environment" for many years. He was truly a gentleman and a scholar and will be missed greatly by those who knew him.

## Featured Member Organization

Our goal was to create a site that better suited the needs of Westchester's environmental community. We have since spent months crafting a site that will not only inform about environmental issues affecting our county, but a help direct you in what to do about them. FCWC is your resource!

### Green Resources

As an educator on environmental and sustainability issues we have constructed a space dedicated to the distribution of helpful environmental tips and knowledge on non-prc development. We call this section our "Green Resources". We hope that this space will be used as a forum to share ideas and answer common questions.

### Issues

Each year FCWC decides which of Westchester County's environmental issues to focus on for the coming year. In 2015, we will be working on (1) Climate Change; (2) Sustainability; (3) Reusable Bag Initiative; (4) Open Space Preservation. Each of these issues has been given a page featuring FCWC's position statement, as well as other useful information (reading lists, useful links, information about communities already working on projects, videos,



## Friends of Rye Nature Center

The story of Rye Nature Center, and the Friends of Rye Nature Center (FRNC), is one of far-sighted citizens coming together for the protection of open space during a time of increasing development. Originally a private twenty-five room estate owned by the Parson's family, the land was abandoned and mansion suffered a devastating fire following the death of its last resident in the early 1940s.

As vacant property, it presented an opportunity to establish protected open space in the growing City of Rye. Lead by Mrs. Bayard (Edith) Read, a group of Rye residents persuaded the City to not develop the area; and in 1956, the Council voted to set aside the property as natural area.

For over forty years the Friends of Rye Nature Center (FRNC), a non-profit organization, has supported the Rye Nature Center and helped to provide a full range of environmental education programs and activities. Today, a 47-acre urban wildlife sanctuary, the nature center is committed to spreading a message of widespread environmental stewardship.

FRNC's work encourages the protection of our natural resources and promotion of environmental awareness in Rye and surrounding communities. The Friends are a keystone to the successes of Rye Nature Center, and are dedicated to the ongoing improvement of the facility, and to creating a quality experience for all visitors.

and updates on the status of these issues in Westchester county).

## Events

To make attending local environmental events easier, check out our Events Page. On our Federation Calendar, we post upcoming programs from around the county. Though we reserve special publication for our member organizations, we allow this space to be open to all organizations so the public can connect with more people in the conservation community.

We also now have a spot dedicated to information about the popular **Conservation Cafe Series**, so check back with that frequently to make sure not to miss out on the conversations on conservation!

## E-News

Every month we release the FCWC E-News, one of the main resources for members to share information and for the public to receive it. Each month we publish interesting articles related to current environmental concerns in Westchester County and featured stories and upcoming events from our member organizations.

## 2014 Annual Report

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

## Hastings-on-Hudson's plastic bag and "Styrofoam" ban

***Press Release: Hastings-on-Hudson edges out NYC in implementing a ban on "Styrofoam."***

In 2015, FRNC plans to continue spreading education, conservation, and advocacy by presenting a number of exciting programs. Of the larger projects, work will be concentrated on turtle tracking, deer enclosure data collection and monitoring of forest regeneration, and eel surveying in the Blind Brook.

Visit soon!

- Friends of Rye Nature Center

(Friends of Rye Nature Center was one of the original member organizations of FCWC)

*Open Tuesday's - Saturday's  
10:00 AM to 4:00 PM*

*Grounds, trails, and playground are open daily  
from dawn to dusk*

*873 Boston Post Road  
Rye, NY 10580  
(914) 967-5150*

[www.ryenaturecenter.org](http://www.ryenaturecenter.org)

*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/memberorganizations](http://www.fcwc.org/memberorganizations)*

## Announcements

Two great environmental organizations in Westchester County are currently seeking staff.

### **Save the Sound**

Full-Time Staff Position  
Water Quality Manage for Western Long  
Island Sound Program  
[Click for full posting](#)

### **Sustainable Westchester**

Full-Time Staff Position  
Executive Director  
[Click for full posting](#)

Hastings-on-Hudson's ban on single-use plastic bags and expanded polystyrene ("Styrofoam") took effect January 1, 2015. A leader in promoting environmental initiatives that better the health and safety of the Village, the Hastings Board of Trustees unanimously voted to amend the Village's solid waste code to include a ban on single use, plastic checkout bags and single use Styrofoam containers in June, 2014.

"The overwhelming support for the ban from our residents, coupled with the positive experiences of other local towns, made the ban attractive for our community in order to combat litter and protect our animal life and waterways," says Peter Swiderski, Mayor of Hastings-on-Hudson.

There are bans on single use plastic bags in countries, states, cities and throughout the world, and closer to home in Rye, the Village of Larchmont and the town of Mamaroneck. However, Hastings is the first municipality in Westchester to ban expanded polystyrene (EPS). In addition to the health impacts related to EPS, NYC has determined that EPS cannot be recycled and has banned it as well, with legislation to take effect July, 2015.

[Click to Read Full Press Release](#)

*For more information contact:*

*Bruce Jennings, Trustee, Hastings on Hudson at  
[trusteejennings@hastingsgov.org](mailto:trusteejennings@hastingsgov.org) (or) Haven Colgate, Hastings Conservation  
Commission at 917- 312-6074.*

## A Review of Environmental Summit & Solar Action Day

### ***Congratulations Bedford 2020!***

A warm congratulations to Bedford 2020, and the many who worked hard to make their Environmental Summit & Solar Action Day a huge success. More than 550 attendees marked Bedford 2020's 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the launch of Solarize Bedford-Mt-Kisco on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015.

## Urgent Action Needed

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

FERC issued its Certificate for the AIM project yesterday despite safety, security, and environmental concerns.

Please call the government officials listed below TODAY to ask them to make a public statement about your concerns related to this pipeline expansion and Westchester's environment.

**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)

[Read More](#)

## Meetings of Interest

**Consumer's Guide to a Green  
Home: Indoor Air Quality**



The day was filled with a wealth of impressive environmental speakers and presentations. Keynote speakers included: Richard Kauffman, Chairman of Energy and Finance, Office of Governor Andrew Cuomo; Amory B. Lovins, physicist and nationally known innovator in energy who has advised the energy and other industries as well as the U.S. Departments of Energy and Defense; and Andrew Revkin, the Senior Fellow for Environmental Understanding at Pace University. The day's 15 workshop sessions featured a variety of topics, including solar energy, home efficiency, electric cars, and reducing trash, among others.

Not only did summit attendees learn from so many environmental experts, the event also featured an Environmental Expo. With 50 business and organization participants, all of which provided either 'green' products or services, there was plenty of opportunity to connect with someone new.

This 2015 Summit focused on how much we can accomplish in the next five years. As of February, 3<sup>rd</sup> 2015 there have been over 88 sign-ups for Solar Bedford Mt. Kisco (for new solar panels) a NYSERDA-funded program, and sign-ups for Energize/Home Energy Efficiency projects. For a list of everyone involved in the Summit go to [www.bedford2020.org/summit2015](http://www.bedford2020.org/summit2015).

Bedford 2020 will also be hosting a Solarize Bedford-Mt.Kisco workshop on Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm, held at the Mount Kisco Library.

Again, congratulations Bedford 2020!!

[Links to Bedford 2020 social media sites:](#)



When: Fridays 10:30 AM-11:30 AM  
March 6th & 13th  
Where: Wainwright House

Join Judith Martin, Founder and Principal of Green Home Consulting, LLC along with Guest Speakers in this workshop covering green building materials as well as everyday product choices to reduce toxins in your home. Live **Green**.

**The topics of these two upcoming workshops are:**

1. How to build or renovate a green home (March 6th)
2. Easy ways to increase energy efficiency (March 13th)

[Click to read more](#)

## A Look Into Our Past

### *Westchester Environment*

*This is the third 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."*

*In this post we would like to highlight an issue still prominent in the environmental community today: how do we best spread the message of conservation? While thirty-five years after the article was written we are still trying to find the answer, it is interesting to look back and see how we have come.*

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*"Westchester Environment" - Vol. 2 No. 3 - March 1980*

### **Doom is The Spur**

By Patrick Allen

In the early '70s the prevailing orthodoxy amongst conservationists was doom-gloom - the view that very nasty things will very shortly occur unless we very quickly mend our wicked ways. This was the period of **A Blueprint for Survival**, jeremiads from the Club of Rome - notably (or notoriously) **The Limits to Growth** - and the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment.



For a time a great many people were mightily exercised by these warnings and even a few of the mighty took time off from (mis)directing affairs of state to Express Considerable Concern. But when the end, so widely heralded as nigh, quite failed to show up, the boom went out of the doom business. Books with titles like *The Hungry Future*, *Standing Room Only*, *Our Polluted World*, *Timetable for Disaster*, no longer poured from the printing presses, and in the western world earnest young men and women, so lately converted to the edifying values of cycling and recycling, quietly reoccupied their former niche in the gas-guzzling, throw-away society. For all but a hard core of the faithful doom-gloom was out.

Yet despite nature's well-known abhorrence of a vacuum, no revised versic

of the gospel took its place. Nor has done since. With the result that conservation has joined the long list of Worth Causes of Our Time about w all men of goodwill are agreed that something should be done tomorrow o Pressing Matters have been dealt with today.

### **Doleful finding**

But of course the main characteristic of Pressing Matters is that they are always with us. Which means that for other matters - conservation for example - tomorrow arrives, if at all, very late in the day.

Nowadays even those who should be beating the drum for conservation appear instead to be beating a retreat. A recent polling of environmental journalists produced the rather doleful finding that while most of them acc that the loss of species leads to a world that is aesthetically poorer, most c them do not believe that the loss of species leads to a world that is economically poorer.

[Click to Read Full Art](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

For a full list of our member organization's events and happenings, check 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.

### **Beginner Birder Program**

*Sponsored by:* Central Westchester Audubon Society

*When:* Saturday, March 7, 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

*Where:* Marshlands Conservancy, 220 Bedford Post Road, Rye, NY

(This program includes a series, other dates include 3/15, 3/28, and 4/12

Join CWA for the first in the Beginner Bird Walks led by Chris Mignone and Lisa Curtis. With spring migration just beginning, it's time to get started thinking about the birds of spring and get our identification skills dusted ( We plan to be with you for about 90 minutes with some of that time indo and some of it outdoors, closer to the birds we want to see. Want to go longer? Lisa and Chris won't need much temptation to stay and help you learn the difference between a chickadee and a tufted titmouse!

For more information, contact [info@cwasociety.org](mailto:info@cwasociety.org) and visit the page [he](#)

### **Coping with Deer**

*Sponsored by:* The League of Women Voters of the Rivertowns, FCWC, Hudson River Audubon, and Teatown Lake Reservation

*When:* Sunday, March 8, 3:00 PM

*Where:* Mercy College, Dobbs Ferry- Main Building, large lecture hall

Program for the day:

*Dr. Mike Rubbo* (Director of Conservation Science, Teatown Lake Reservation): environmental impacts of deer in Westchester County.

*Mayor Peter Swiderski* (Mayor, Hastings-on-Hudson): effects of deer on

Lyme disease and automobile accidents; deer control measures considered by the Hastings government.

**Ms. Melissa Shandroff** (Science teacher, Hastings High School) and her Advanced science students: an ongoing experiment comparing areas of Hillside Wood accessible and inaccessible to deer; plan and implementation of the study; results achieved so far; results expected by year-end.

### **Transforming New York's Energy System: Consumer Choice Will Drive Efficiency & Pricing**

**Sponsored by:** Greenburgh Nature Center & Sierra Club

**When:** Wednesday, March 11, 7:00 PM

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

New York State's energy system is in transition, and consumers will be in the driver's seat. To optimize your direct benefit from the changes, you need to understand the tools and elements of the new system. **Mike Gordon, Founder & CEO of Joule Assets and Sustainable Westchester's Energy Committee** will explain the changing energy terrain and how we can all participate and benefit from the transformation. Visit [www.greenburghnaturecenter.org/programs-and-events](http://www.greenburghnaturecenter.org/programs-and-events)

### **Spring Landscape Conference - Natives that Nourish: Plant an Edible Landscape**

**Sponsored by:** The Native Plant Center

**When:** Monday, March 16, 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM

**Where:** Gateway Center, Westchester Community College (Enter Grasslands East Gate, Park in Lot #1)

The Native Plant Center's spring conference will teach attendees how to incorporate native edible plants into their landscapes, providing beauty and a food source for people and wildlife alike. They will find out about the historical and present-day uses of native edible plants and how to mimic natural systems when designing their own native edible garden.

[Click to register](#), and for more information, please visit [www.sunywcc.edu/about/npc/npc-events/](http://www.sunywcc.edu/about/npc/npc-events/)

### **Pancake Brunch and Hike**

**Sponsored by:** Teatown Lake Reservation

**When:** Saturday, March 21

Seating times are 8:30 AM, 9:45 AM, 11:00 AM, & 12:15 PM

**Where:** Teatown Lake Reservation, 1600 Spring Valley Road Ossining, NY

Bring your appetite for Teatown's tastiest annual tradition - the Pancake Brunch! Then visit Warren's Sugar House to watch a demonstration about how their 'liquid gold' is produced. Members: Adults- \$10, Children under 12- \$5. Non-members: Adults- \$15, Children under 12- \$7. Later, join Bill Wallace and Charlie Roberto for a half-hour bird walk after your delicious pancake breakfast. Free. All Welcome. Programs require pre-registration. To register, call 914-762-2912 x 110 [www.teatown.org](http://www.teatown.org)

### **SWARM #4 on The Bronx River**

**Sponsored by:** Groundwork Hudson Valley

**When:** Saturday, March 28, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

**Where:** Bronx River Site, Exit 21 (Fisher Lane) off the Bronx River Parkway

This SWARM host will be at the Bronx River Conservatory. Please join in tackling one big invasive vine area and make a BIG visible difference! To register click [here](#).

**New York State's New Invasive Plant Species Regulations: Impacts and How to Adapt**

*Sponsored by:* Westchester County Soil & Water Conservation

*When:* Thursday, April 2, 8:00 AM to 12:30 PM

*Where:* Westchester County Center, 198 Central Avenue White Plains, NY

Speakers will be Leslie Surprenant, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; Christopher Logue, New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets; Carolyn Summers, RLA, author of *Designing Gardens with Flora of the American East*; and Thomas Knezick, Productic Analyst at Pinelands Nursery & Supply, Columbus, NJ. For questions or to request a flyer and registration form, contact Robert Doscher (914) 995-4 or [rrd1@westchestergov.com](mailto:rrd1@westchestergov.com). Or Kay Eisenman (914) 995-4424 or [kle1@westchestergov.com](mailto:kle1@westchestergov.com).

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## Member Organizations!

# Save The Date FCWC's Federation Meeting April 29th, 2015

The Carriage House  
Teatown Lake Reservation

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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 kno your thoughts and ideas regarding environmental issues throughout the County.

Sincerely,

Federated Conservationists of Westchester County

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