



FCWC

Federated Conservationists
of Westchester County, Inc.

In This Issue

[Climate Change in Your Landscape](#)
[National Wildlife Refuge](#)
[Environmental News](#)
[Upcoming Events](#)

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



New! Follow us on LinkedIn

Are you searching for an environmental job or have one to share? [Follow our new LinkedIn page](#) for job postings, event updates, and more!

Call for Young Environmental Leaders!

We are working on programming for young environmentalists and would love your help! If you or someone you know would be interested in learning about opportunities to get involved, please contact info@fwc.org

Featured Member Organization



April 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.

Dealing with Climate Change in Your Landscape

First of all, a couple of follow-ups to "Birds, Bugs, and Bushes: the Effects of Climate Change on Local Flora and Fauna":

The full video of the event is available now - a huge thanks to Chappaqua Library and the New Castle Media Center for filming it!

[Read the recap over on our blog](#) and watch the full presentation below:



Birds, Bees and Bushes: The Effects of Climate Change on Our Local Flora and Fauna

Continuing the discussion started at "Birds, Bugs, and Bushes," Kim Eierman from [EcoBeneficial](#) gave a talk at [Untermeyer Gardens](#) about what exactly we can do about climate change in our own yards. Here are a few tips:

- Think about a **plant's function**, not just how it looks! Include plants in your garden with "persistent fruit" that can serve as a nutritional source for migrating birds and local pollinators.
- Try to pick **species that can survive** in a variety of hardiness levels and have deep roots, which may be able to withstand extremes in precipitation and shifts in our climate.
- Find plants that have been **grown from local seeds and without pesticides** (the [Native Plant Center's annual sale](#) on April 29th is a place to

Green Ossining promotes environmental sustainability community-wide by creating a forum for those in the community who are concerned about the environment and promoting sensible "green" methods and practices.

In addition to:

- Developing a climate action plan
- Being an outreach partner for both the Energize Ossining and Solarize Ossining programs
- Executing a single-use plastic bag reduction campaign at the Ossining Farmers Market
- Successfully lobbying our municipality to discontinue use of glyphosate (Round-Up)
- Launching a successful documentary & discussion series ([see our Facebook page](#)), and
- Running our 6th semi-annual community-wide tag sale (facilitation of keeping "stuff" within our community/encouraging folks not to throw things away/meeting your neighbors),

Green Ossining will also be holding its 7th Annual Earth Day Festival:

Saturday, April 22nd
11:00am - 4:00pm
Louis Engel Waterfront Park
(adjacent to the Ossining Train Station)

Did you know we host Westchester County's largest Earth Day Festival of its kind? Join some 80 vendors and the Greater Ossining community in our annual celebration of Earth Day. Bring your family and friends. Learn how to live a more sustainable life, visit artisan vendors, and enjoy food and live music on the Hudson River. The Festival has grown from roughly 300 attendees in its first year with an expectation to surpass last year's nearly 4,000 attendees.



This year, as we celebrate the 47th Anniversary of Earth Day, we will focus our theme on food sustainability, including such issues as food waste, cooking and food preservation, nutrition,

start!).

For more on how to rethink traditional gardening practices, reduce emissions, and select native plants, [read the full recap over on our blog](#).

A huge thanks to everyone who came and to co-sponsors Untermyer Gardens and the Native Plant Center!

A Sight for Sore Eyes

One of the suggestions made by Eric Lind, the Director of the Constitution Marsh Audubon Center, at "[Birds, Bugs, and Bushes](#)" was to "focus not just on the impacts of climate change, but also to continue appreciating the beauty of the natural world around us."

[Here's a post](#) by Devin Griffiths about our wild spaces, complete with gorgeous photos of birds:

The National Wildlife Refuge System Turns 114

"On March 14, 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt gave the wildlife and citizens of the United States a grand gift by founding the National Wildlife Refuge System. More than a century later, the system is still going strong: it protects more than 150 million acres of habitat-land and water-for the benefit of an incredible variety of wildlife, and remains one of our best resources for wildlife conservation and enjoyment.



Hermit Thrush - Sandy Hook Gateway National Recreation Area - New Jersey - By Devin Griffiths

Today, on its 114th birthday, I'd like to share some images of birds I've taken over the years throughout our nation's wonderful wildlife refuges, parks, sanctuaries, and recreation areas." [Read more here](#).

In the News

Here's some environmental news from right here at home and around the world:

Local

["Save the Sound gives tips to halt pollution"](#) by Dan Reiner

This article includes information on pollution in the Long Island Sound and what you can do about it. A couple of tips:

edible gardens, backyard food and permaculture, and access to food.

Visit [the event's Facebook page](#) to learn more!

Hosted by Green Ossining in partnership with both the Town and Village of Ossining, the Ossining Recreation and Parks Department, and with sponsorship support from a variety of community businesses

Meeting of Interest

People's Climate Change March

Saturday, April 29th
Depart at 6:00am to Washington DC

Sponsored by: Yonkers Committee for Smart Development

Ride the Yonkers bus! This bus to the People's Climate Change March in Washington DC departs from the Yonkers Parking Lot at Nepperhan Avenue and Myrtle Street. It costs \$70.82 per ticket, which will be reduced to \$50.00 if the bus reaches full capacity. [Click here to reserve seats](#) and please contact info@yonkers-csd.org or 914-969-4142 with any questions.

Meeting of Interest

State of the Woods

Our Local Ecology and What We Can Do to Restore It

Sponsored by:

Hastings-on-Hudson Conservation Commission, Hastings-on-Hudson Parks & Rec Commission, Hastings Historical Society, Hastings High School Environment Club, The Hillside Nature Guides Program, The Hastings Vine Squad and The Hudson River Audubon Society, Dobbs Ferry Conservation Advisory Board

Explore strategies Hastings and neighboring communities can employ to repair and maintain a healthy regional ecosystem at the following events:

Healing the Woods: Woods Walk
Wednesday, May 3rd
4:00 - 5:00pm

This is a guided walk, and children are welcomed. It leaves from Hillside Elementary School (120 Lefurgy Avenue).

- "Care for your pipes. Properly dispose of harmful chemicals, grease and used cooking oils."
- "Reduce or eliminate fertilizer use. Nutrients can run into the waterways and throw off the ecosystem."

["Pipeline vigil at Cuomo's house in New Castle"](#) by Richard Liebson

About 25 demonstrators came together against the Algonquin Pipeline. "We're just normal people who love the environment, love our kids and want to ensure a safe future for them." Click on the image below to watch video from the vigil:



Activists gathered in front of Gov. Andrew Cuomo's house in New Castle on Sunday to raise concerns about the Algonquin Pipeline project and other environmental issues. By Kurt Beebe - For Iohud

National

["In Planned EPA Cuts, U.S. to Lose Connection to At-Risk Communities"](#) by Deborah Morrison and Nicole Smith Dahmen

An important read about how environmental justice work will be impacted by changes at the EPA.

["As Trump halts federal action on climate change, cities and states push on"](#) by Steven Mufson and Brady Dennis

Check out this hopeful piece about how we can all work together at the city and state level to make progress on reducing emissions, no matter what's happening at the national level.

Global

["Scientists made a detailed roadmap for meeting the Paris climate goals. It's eye-opening."](#) by Brad Plumer

How exactly are we going to limit warming to 2°C? Here's a plan laying out one way to go about it.

["Climate change: global reshuffle of wildlife will have huge impacts on humanity"](#) by Damian Carrington

Here's a recent article about the impact of climate change on wildlife at a global level. A few highlights:

- "The mass migration of species now underway around the planet can also amplify climate change as, for example, darker vegetation grows to replace sun-reflecting snow fields in the Arctic..."
- "Citizen science can really help..."

Want more updates like this? [Like our page on Facebook](#) and [follow us on Twitter](#).

Do you have news or any environmental successes to share? Let us know at

Healing the Woods: Panel Discussion and Q&A

Wednesday, May 3rd

7:00 - 9:00pm

This panel will be at James Harmon Community Center (44 Main Street). The panelists include:

Dan Aitchison, Sr. Curator of Wildlife,
Westchester County Parks

Dr. David deCalesta, Certified Wildlife Biologist,
Halcyon-Phoenix Consulting

Brendan Murphy, Watershed Forester,
Watershed Agricultural Council, Yorktown
Heights

Tom Rawinski, Botanist, U.S. Forest Service,
Durham, NH

For more information, please
contact conservationcommission@hastingsgov.org

Meeting of Interest

Westchester GIS User Group Meeting

Thursday, May 11th 8:00am - 4:00pm
Purchase College

Co-Sponsored by: Westchester GIS User
Group and Environmental Studies Program at
Purchase College

This annual meeting is the largest gathering of
geospatial professionals in the Lower Hudson
Valley.

Best of all - it is FREE.

At the day-long event, attendees can participate
in a wide range of activities including:

- * Presentations from local GIS programs and industry-leading geospatial representatives
- * Meet and greet with supporting vendors during breaks in the exhibit area
- * Network with GIS professionals across Westchester and neighboring counties
- * Get updates from Westchester County GIS staff on new products and services including Spring 2017 aerial photography to support the new countywide base map update
- * Participate in the Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) or How to Build Great Web Apps with ArcGIS.com workshops
- * Season 2: GeoJeopardy at lunch with our own Albert Trebek!
- * Free Lunch, door prizes, and much more!

Events

Earth Day is coming! Looking for an event near you? We've got at least 8 listed on our calendar with more being added constantly, along with tons of clean-ups coming up soon around Westchester.

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.

Field Trip: Garret Mountain Park in Paterson, New Jersey with Naturalist Tait Johansson

Sponsored by: Bedford Audubon

When: Sunday, April 23rd, 8:00am - 1:00pm

Where: Bylane Farm, Katonah

This truly excellent "migrant trap" provides sweeping views of northern New Jersey and the NYC skyline. Tait will lead the group on trails around a beautiful pond for migrating songbirds, especially warblers. Depart Bylane Farm at 6:45am. Cost: Free. Level of Difficulty: Moderate. Bring a lunch. Please register with Susan at info@bedfordaudubon.org or 914.302.9713.

Mutts on the Mountain: 5K and 1 mile Fun Run

Sponsored by: Westchester Parks Foundation

When: Saturday, April 29th, 8:00am

Where: Blue Mountain Reservation, Peekskill

Benefiting the Westchester Parks Foundation (thewpf.org), the 2nd Annual Mutts on the Mountain 5K and Lazy Dog 1M Fun Run is back for more tail-wagging, trail-running fun! Our event is the only timed trail race (of any length) in the Tri-State area that allows you to run with your canine companion.

Not feeling up for a run or a walk? Be a spectator, join us to cheer on the runners and their canine companions! [Register online.](#)

Compost Bin Sale & Workshop

Sponsored by: Sheldrake Environmental Center

When: Sunday, April 30th, 10:00am - 11:00am

Where: Sheldrake Environmental Center, Larchmont

Healthy starts with pesticide-free compost. Make your own at home! Buy an Earth Machine Compost Bin and participate in a complimentary workshop. Limited number of bins available. Pre-registration required: \$85. [Purchase a bin/register here.](#)

Yonkers Arts Weekend 2017

Sponsored by: Groundwork Hudson Valley

When: Saturday, May 6th and Sunday, May 7th, 12:00pm

Where: Van Der Donck Park, Yonkers

In collaboration with the City of Yonkers, join Groundwork in celebrating Yonkers Arts Weekend. Come experience all the art Yonkers has to offer. Visit Groundwork during the arts weekend in the Daylighting Park as we explore Yonkers histories and Wildlife mysteries. Enjoy special guided tours of the Daylighting projects with Groundwork's Young Urban Rangers. For more information visit yonkersartsweekend.com.

Got a minute? Here are three quick ways to help us out (for free!):

Register today! [Click here to register.](#)

For more information and to obtain a copy of the latest/tentative agenda, visit our [website](#). See you on May 11th at Purchase College!

1. Follow us on social media: [Like us on Facebook](#) and [follow us on Twitter](#) to get updates throughout the month about local events, action alerts, environmental stories and more!

2. Help us with your purchases: If you're already planning on making a purchase through Amazon, simply use [smile.amazon.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 adds up!

3. Share with your friends: Find yourself forwarding our newsletter to your friends? [Please send this link to them](#) so they can sign up too!

Already doing all that? Thank you so much - we really appreciate your support! Please consider becoming a member if you aren't already; [here's a link with more information!](#)

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