FCWC

Federated Conservationists of Westchester County, Inc.

2012 Annual Report

Federated Conservationists of Westchester County, Inc 78 North Broadway E House White Plains, NY 10603 **T** 914.422.4053 **F** 914.422.4180 fcwc@fcwc.org www.fcwc.org

This report highlights a few of our new and continuing efforts during 2012 towards a greener and more sustainable Westchester.

Education, Advocacy, and Meetings:

FCWC's Annual Meeting was held in June at the beautiful Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary. The Board voted in new president Jason Klein, and vice president Carole Griffiths. Steven J. Levy was appointed President Emeritus. We honored retiring state senator Honorable Suzi Oppenheimer and Journal News environmental reporter Greg Clary with FCWC's Green Seal awards for their outstanding environmental work throughout their careers. The White Plains Youth Bureau's Greening Project was awarded the Edith G. Read award for their inspiring work to green both their city and the county.

The Federation Meeting in May brought together our member organizations to network and share resources. The keynote speaker, Westchester Community Foundation's Executive Director Catherine Marsh, gave an overview about the financial state of non-profits throughout the county, and provided tips for fundraising. About 20 of our member organizations were represented. In the Fall, FCWC organized a meeting bringing together our Federation members and the Environment and Energy Committee of the Board of Legislators to discuss the environmental concerns throughout the county.

Education:

FCWC once again participated in the Teatown's EagleFest, and enjoyed a beautiful day providing information about Westchester's Environment..FCWC also had information tables at the Sustainable Scarsdale Day, Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary's Fall Festival, and Tarrytown's Harvest Fest. FCWC continued to co-sponsor the **Conversations on Conservation** programs, which included topics on managing community forests, invasive vines, and the current waste situation in Westchester County.

In March, FCWC co-sponsored a forum with Pace Center for Environmental Legal Studies at Pace Law School entitled "Sustainability: How to Get There". This program highlighted nine sustainability initiatives across the County involving universities, religious institutions, community coalitions, businesses, and residences. In April FCWC co-sponsored, in conjunction with White Plains Earth Week and New York City Lower Hudson Valley Clean Communities, several events focused on electric cars. The documentary "Revenge of the Electric Car" was screened, and was followed by a panel discussion and reception with White Plains Mayor Tom Roach, Chris Paine (director of the film), and John Shipman of ConEd. As part of the Sustain White Plains Earth Day event, FCWC organized an electric vehicle showcase with a number of electric vehicles available for attendees to experience. Alternative vehicle fuel education was further highlighted with a workshop titled, "From Waste to Wheels: Turning Organic Wastes into Vehicle Fuel," co-sponsored with the Pace Energy and Climate Center and Energy Vision and others.

Finally in April, FCWC also co-sponsored the African American Men of Westchester's Annual Environmental Luncheon that included a discussion on fracking covering both pro and con arguments.

Policy:

FCWC participated in a consortium of environmental organizations that provided wording for legislation banning fracking waste in Westchester County. Additionally, FCWC board members participated on three different working groups for the Mid Hudson Regional Sustainability Plan: Water; Transportation landuse and liveable communities; and agriculture and foodsheds.

Communications:

During the past year, FCWC has increased its reach with a variety of different communications. In January of 2012, the first ever, digital Westchester Environment was released including significant environmental topics throughout Westchester. The E-News continues to be published monthly and a new twitter account was created to keep members and the community up-to-date on issues and events. A series of blog posts was created on our website entitled 'Westchester Going Green' that features environmental aspects of municipalities throughout the County. In addition to help spread the word about events that FCWC's member organizations are hosting, we have created a 'Federation Calendar' on our website that advertises these events.

Advocacy:

FCWC continued to advocate for a ban on hydrofracking in New York State.

We supported legislation to ban fracking waste from being accepted into Westchester County's sewage treatment plans or used as de-icer on our roads.

FCWC rallied our member organizations and gave testimony again to oppose the defunding of several parks Curator positions in the proposed 2013 Westchester County budget.

FCWC wrote letters in support of the open space and public access components of Echo Bay development in New Rochelle and of the proposed strengthened Rye Tree Ordinance.

FCWC encouraged Governor Cuomo to make a public commitment to find funding for mass transit for the new Tappan Zee Bridge.

FCWC voiced support for the Land and Water Conservation Fund provision included in the Senate-passed Transportation Bill.

Looking Ahead in 2013:

FCWC's work is critical in bringing together diverse interests and moving the County's environmental agenda forward. FCWC continues to be a leader in educating citizens about environmental issues, problems, and solutions. 2013 will see a strengthening of the Federation by bringing together every member and member organization using meetings, seminars, conferences, our online FCWC E-News and social media.

In 2013 FCWC will continue to fight for mass transit on the Tappan Zee Bridge; continue to support Westchester County Parks and Long Island Sound water quality projects; and, in the wake of Hurricane Sandy, we will increase our advocacy for sound decision making focused on climate change and sea level rise.
FCWC is eager to continue to meet environmental challenges in Westchester County, but we need your support. Please consider joining FCWC with a gift donation, any denomination helps. FCWC needs your help in preserving our environment and working towards sustainability in Westchester.

2012 FCWC Board

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Maureen Morgan
Larry O'Connell
Sharon Pickett
Oreon Sandler
Mindy Swope Quintero
Nortrud Spero
Rick Turner

Program Director
Alicia Molloy

We also want to thank our wonderful interns who have provided significant contributions to our organization over the past year. Alex Santa is a graduate student at Portland State University and interned with us in the summer of 2012. Ryan Rafferty is a senior at SUNY Stony Brook and is currently interning with us.

FCWC Thanks our 2012 Supporters

We gratefully thank our many individual and organizational members and donors for their support. The latest issue of our Westchester Environment can be found on our website: www.FCWC.org.

Conservationists Circle
$1,000 and above

The Paul Mazzilli and Sharon Pickett Family Fund
Ruth and Seymour Klein Foundation, Inc.
Ms. Nortrud Spero

Preservationists
$250-$500

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Ms. Judith Widmann
Ms. Judith Wine

Member Organizations and Partners

Bedford Audubon Society
Bedford Garden Club
Bike Walk Alliance of Westchester and Putnam
Bronx River Parkway Reservation Conservancy
Bronx River Sound Shore Audubon Society
Citizen's Campaign for Environment
Cortlandt WATCH
Croton Arboretum & Sanctuary, Inc.
Croton Watershed Clean Water Coalition
Environmental Advocacy Group of Rye
Friends of Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary
Friends of Hilltop Hanover Farm
Friends of Marshlands, Inc.
Friends of Rye Nature Center
Friends of Trailside Nature Center
Garden Club of Irvington
Grassroots Environmental Education
Green Acres Garden Club
Greenburgh Nature Center
Groundwork Hudson Valley
Hands Across the Border
Hudsonia Limited
Hudson River Valley Environmental Education Institute
Jay Heritage Center
Louis Calder Center of Fordham University
Native Plant Center
Pace Law Center for Environmental Legal Studies
Purchase Environmental Protective Association
Rusticus Garden Club
Rye Garden Club
Saw Mill River Audubon
Sheldrake Environmental Center
Stewards of Cranberry Lake
Tarrytown Environmental Advisory Council
Teatown Lake Reservation. Inc.
The Garden Club of Larchmont
Tri-State Transportation Campaign
Watershed Agricultural Center
Westchester Land Trust
Yonkers Environmental Coalition
Yonkers Land Conservancy

We wish to apologize for any mistakes or omissions we have made in recognizing our supporters. Please let us know of any corrections. You may also find our list of supporters on our website: www.FCWC.org.

Become a Member!

Individual Membership

( ) $20 Student/Senior
( ) $35 Basic
( ) $50 Contributing
( ) $100 Sustaining
( ) $250 Patron
( ) $500+ Benefactor

Organizational Membership

( ) $50 Not for Profit (under 100 members)
( ) $100 Not for Profit (over 100 members)
( ) Other Amount $_____

Name:_____

Address:_____
_____

Phone:_____

Email:_____

Please make your tax deductible checks payable to FCWC and mail to:
Federated Conservationists of Westchester County, Inc.
E House ~ 78 North Broadway
White Plains, NY 10603.

Federation Members Meet with Board of Legislators

By: Alicia Molloy

Last November, FCWC Federation member organizations had a chance to meet with the Environment and Energy (EE) Committee of the Board of Legislators to discuss the current environmental topics of interest throughout the County. Member organizations represented included: Westchester Land Trust, Bedford Audubon, Friends of Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, Yonkers Environmental Coalition, Friends of Rye Nature Center, Friends of Trailside Nature Center, Yonkers Green Policy Task Force, Yonkers Land Conservancy, Bronx River Sound Shore Audubon, Greenburgh Nature Center, Grassroots Environmental Education, along with several members of the FCWC Board.

Chairman of the EE committee, Michael Kaplowitz began the meeting by informing the Federation members of recent environmental legislation that has been passed by the county government, including bills to: provide funding for the rehabilitation at the Croton Landfill and to study the potential of a 'Gas to Energy Program'; allow the Westchester County Department of Public Works to conduct a feasibility review to determine the cost effectiveness, viable application, and efficiency of alternative energy generation on County-owned facilities; relieve individuals who install solar energy devices from needing to hold a home improvement license, which would allow for quicker installation of solar panels, and ban hydro-fracking waste from being accepted into sewage treatment plants or being used as road de-icer across the County.

The Federation members then had an opportunity to let the members of the EE committee know what their respective organizations are working on and concerned about. Many of the member organizations present spoke of their support of Westchester County Parks and nature centers, and their desire to keep these entities funded during the next budget session. Many other issues were brought up including open space protection, hydrofracking, clean water and watershed protection, clean air, sea level rise and climate change, retrofitting and managing sewage treatment plants, reduction of waste, advocacy through education, food security, alternative transportation options, recreational opportunities throughout the county, sustainable development and reduction of emissions in both residential, municipal, and transportation sectors of Westchester County.

We want to thank our member organizations for taking on the important work that they are doing to keep Westchester County a great place to work, live, and play. We hope that meetings such as this one will encourage County government to reach out to the environmental community for ideas on what actions they should be taking, and for support for legislation that they would like to pass.

FCWC is a 501(c)3 organization dedicated to providing 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.

Meet the President

By: Jason Klein

At the annual meeting in June, 2012 I was honored to become the next President of the Board of the Federated Conservationists of Westchester County. Having lived nearly my entire life in Westchester, and currently raising a family in the County, I feel a strong bond to this area and am therefore very interested in the environmental aspects and sustainability of Westchester's natural resources.

After graduating from Colby College in 1997, I returned to Westchester and, after working for area environmental organizations, began working in 1998 for the Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation, and Conservation as a naturalist at Trailside Museum located within Ward Pound Ridge Reservation. In 2001, I became the Curator at Edith G. Read Natural Park and Wildlife Sanctuary. In this capacity I was lucky to be able to meet and work with Edith Read, who was also a founding member of FCWC and for whom an annual award given by FCWC is named. In 2009, I returned to Trailside Museum where I am currently the Curator.

Through my employment with Westchester County I have been able to meet many of the representatives of FCWC's member organizations and have been involved with Westchester County's environmental initiatives. While working with one such member organization in Rye during my tenure at Read Sanctuary, I became familiar with FCWC and its mission. It was soon after this that I joined the board of directors, very excited to be part of an organization with such a long tradition and admirable goals. As I have become more involved with FCWC my appreciation has grown for what the organization can offer to aid in the overall environmental health for Westchester County and

therefore the quality of life for Westchester's residents.

It is with this in mind that I take on the role as President of the Board; to help move FCWC toward achieving its goals of sustainability in Westchester and toward helping better represent the member organizations and their admirable missions and goals. I appreciate the board's confidence in me and look forward to collaborations among the Federation and to helping move environmental issues forward in Westchester County as a whole.

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fcwc@fcwc.org
www.fcwc.org
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