



# FCWC

Federated Conservationists  
of Westchester County, Inc.

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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



## 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@fcwc.org](mailto:info@fcwc.org)

## Featured Member Organization

Edith G. Read  
Wildlife Sanctuary

July 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.

## Survey

We'd love to hear from you about your thoughts on FCWC and would be incredibly grateful if you'd complete this short survey (should take a couple of minutes!).

[Please click here to take the survey!](#)

## Scarsdale Composting Program

We're thrilled to feature a guest post about Scarsdale's food scrap recycling program by Darlene Haber, Michelle Sterling, and Ron Schulhof:

**Scarsdale Launches the First Food Scrap Recycling Program in Westchester County...and wants to share the program with other municipalities in Westchester!**

In January of this year, Scarsdale launched the first municipal food scrap recycling program in Westchester County! Residents Ron Schulhof and Michelle Sterling partnered with the Village of Scarsdale to launch this program. The first six months have been a resounding success with over 67,000 lbs. of food scraps collected and recycled into useful compost!

The program is set up as a voluntary municipal drop-off site where residents can bring their food scraps. Residents collect their food scraps at home in a fully sealed countertop pail lined with a compostable bag. Once the countertop pail fills up, the bags can be stored in larger storage and transportation bin until the homeowner is ready to bring their food scraps to the drop-off site. The larger bin, which locks for transportation, is taken by the homeowner to the Scarsdale Recycling Center and dumped into larger totes at the drop-off site. From there the food scraps are picked up and brought to an off-site composting facility and turned into useful compost!



The Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary is a 179-acre wildlife sanctuary adjacent to Playland, in Rye, NY. The sanctuary, tucked in behind the historic Playland amusement park, features a shoreline on Long Island Sound, Manursing Lake, salt-marsh wetland, trails through a deciduous forest, a bamboo grove, and fields of native grasses and wildflowers. The National Audubon Society has acknowledged the sanctuary as an Important Bird Area and is a critical migratory and nesting site for hundreds of species.

Created and named in 1985 after its founder and environmental steward, Edith G. Read, the sanctuary has become renowned for its diverse wildlife populations. For birders especially, the sanctuary has become a literal "must see" featuring a rich array of migratory and resident birds, including an annual nesting ground for a pair of osprey. Edith Read also includes a year-round nature center building, featuring interactive nature exhibits and bird viewing window. But it's not all for the birds, so to speak: the sanctuary is also home to diverse plants and animals and presents tours and educational programs on tracking and identifying the different species.



"Starter kit" offered to residents, which consists of a countertop pail, roll of compostable liner bags for the pail, transportation bin, and program guide

Just six months into the program 67,000 lbs of food scraps has already been collected recycled into compost! Each week more than 2 tons of food scraps are brought to the Scarsdale Recycling Center! There are currently more than 750 Scarsdale households (13% of the community) participating and the number grows every day!

If you are interested in starting a similar program in your community, please email the Scarsdale Food Scrap Recycling Committee at [composting@scarsdale.com](mailto:composting@scarsdale.com) and they would be happy to give your community everything you need to get started!



Food Scrap Recycling Drop Spot at our Scarsdale Recycling Center

Together we can reduce our waste and help our towns and Westchester County be an environmental leader. Together we can all do it!

## FCWC's Annual Report: Highlights from 2016 & Upcoming Plans

Our 2016 Annual Report is now available for view online! Here are a few highlights:

In addition to the unique and exciting wildlife, the sanctuary is also home to a bevy of educational programs and family events ranging from our biennial Fall Fest (that features an array of educational events, food trucks, live music and family activities) to the walk-in Pollinator Garden - showcasing native plant species that attract bees, butterflies, and humming birds - to our Observation Beehive, to other year-round educational programs, including the recently launched grant program to fund school children's field trips.

The sanctuary is supported by a 1,000+ member nonprofit organization called the Friends of Edith Read. For more information about the programs, [volunteering](#) or [joining the Friends of Edith Read](#) please visit our [website](#) or contact Curator, Michael Gambino at (914) 967-8720.

Regardless of the season, Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary is truly a vital, thriving natural jewel open to everyone.

## Meeting of Interest

### A Panel Discussion on Carbon Tax

Wednesday, July 26th  
7:00pm - 10:00pm

2nd Floor Conference Room -  
425 Cherry Street,  
Bedford Hills, NY

[From the event page:](#)  
"Our panelists Charles Komanoff, Gaylord

- We offered programming that provided a hyperlocal perspective on climate change, such as the potential impacts on local wildlife and actions we can all take
- We also collaborated with local organizations on topics such as the potential privatization of Westchester County Airport and pollution in Long Island Sound
- We continued to host our Federation and Annual Meetings to strengthen our network of local environmentalists and to create a dialogue with local elected officials about environmental issues
- We expanded our outreach and advocacy efforts, including through our Facebook, Twitter, and E-News

Here's a preview:

*This past year, we continued our 'over 50 years' of work to preserve and protect Westchester's Environment. We did this with the help of the many organizations and individuals in Westchester that are concerned about the environment. For the coming year, in light of the federal government's attempts to destroy the EPA and ignore the evidence of climate change, it is imperative that we continue to move the County's environmental agenda forward. We can do this when we work with the many diverse voices in Westchester's environmental community.*

[View the full report here.](#)

We'd like to thank all of you for your support in the past year. We're excited to expand upon these efforts and to work even more closely with you in 2017!

## Updates on Westchester County Airport Privatization

On July 17th, FCWC joined with a coalition of other local environmental organizations for a rally against the privatization and expansion of the Westchester County Airport. Click below for a short video from the rally:



Video: Rally Against Westchester County Airport Privatization and Expansion

[And here's a short segment from News12.](#)

Interested in getting involved? We would love for you to join us at a public hearing about the draft master plan for the Westchester County Airport:

July 27th, 7:00pm - 9:00pm  
Little Theater at the Westchester County Center  
198 Central Avenue, White Plains

Holmes and Sara Hsu will be giving an overview and covering questions such as:

- What is it?
- How might it affect you?
- What are the pros and cons?
- What are the pending proposals?

We hope to see you there!"

#### Co-sponsored by:

Sustainable Westchester, Westchester Power, Pace Energy and Climate Center, Bedford 2020, Federated Conservationists of Westchester County, Inc., Teatown Lake Reservation, League of Women Voters of Westchester, Greenburgh Nature Center, and New York League of Conservation Voters

### Save the Date

#### FCWC's Fall Benefit: Clearwater Sail

Sunday, September 24,  
2017  
10:00am - 1:00pm and  
2:00pm - 5:00pm  
Clearwater, Yonkers

This fall, FCWC will be hosting two sails aboard Clearwater!



Photo by National Park Service

The current version of the master plan "calls for massive expansion of the number of flights and development of a corner of the airport that drains into the Kensico Reservoir," a key source of drinking water. [RSVP at the official event page](#) for up-to-the-minute updates.

If you'd like to prepare a statement, [please read this white paper about the draft master plan](#) for an even more in-depth explanation of the potential environmental impacts of the current master plan.

### Events

For a full list of our member organizations' 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.

#### Art & Science Sundays 2017

**Sponsored by:** Groundwork Hudson Valley

**When:** Sundays from July 2nd - October 29th, 2:00pm-4:00 pm

**Where:** Science Barge, Yonkers

Every Sunday, from July through October, the Science Barge on Yonkers' waterfront invites children ages 4-10 for hands-on art and science workshops. Children and adults can cross the gangplank and come aboard the Barge to do planting activities, arts and crafts, and get up close and personal with baby eels, oysters, and blue claw crabs. So get your sea legs ready and climb aboard! [More info here.](#)

#### Sixth Annual Firefly Festival

**Sponsored by:** Westchester Parks Foundation

**When:** Friday, July 28th, 7:30pm - 9:00pm

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

An ice cream social and an evening to learn about and admire these magnificent insects. Bring a chair or blanket. Meet at the end of Michigan Road. [Click here for more information.](#)

#### Sneak Peek of New Garden: Open Days Free Tours

**Sponsored by:** Native Plant Center

**When:** Sunday, July 30th, 12:00pm - 4:00pm

**Where:** Westchester Community College, Valhalla

The Native Plant Center will again host free tours of its demonstration gardens as part of the Garden Conservancy's Open Days event. Check in at the greeting station at the far end of Parking Lot #1 by the Lady Bird Johnson Demonstration Garden. This year we have a special sneak preview of the fabulously renovated garden behind The Native Plant Center's headquarters.

#### Birders U: Shorebird ID Refresher/Intro

**Sponsored by:** Saw Mill River Audubon

**When:** Thursday, August 3rd, 7:00pm - 8:30pm

**Where:** Croton Point Nature Center, Croton-on-Hudson

Join us for this refresher/intro multimedia workshop on identifying shorebirds. Cost is \$15/person for members of any Audubon group or youth age 10-18 and includes an ID book and handouts; \$30/nonmember adult which include above plus new membership in Saw Mill River Audubon. Space limited.

Register by emailing us at [office@sawmillriveraudubon.org](mailto:office@sawmillriveraudubon.org) or by calling 914-

Please join environmentalists from across Westchester County as we sail the Hudson River. More details coming soon!

666-6503. Payment at the door. Best for adults and youth age 10 and up.

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

- 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](https://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