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# FCWC

Federated Conservationists  
of Westchester County, Inc.

May 2016

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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



## Welcome Riverkeeper!



**RIVERKEEPER.**

**Riverkeeper joins  
FCWC**

**We are pleased to welcome  
Riverkeeper into the federation!**

Riverkeeper has joined FCWC and

## 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.

## FCWC's 51st Annual Meeting

### Join Us as we Honor some of Westchester's Finest Environmental Leaders

At its 51st Annual Meeting, Federated Conservationists of Westchester County (FCWC) will honor three outstanding environmental leaders. **Anne Jaffe Holmes**, Director of Conservation and Sustainability Education at Greenburgh Nature Center is receiving FCWC's Green Seal Award for her passion, commitment and leadership for many County-wide initiatives including leaf mulching in place, food waste composting, plastic bag bans, and promoting green energy. **Grassroots Environmental Education**, a non-profit environmental health organization is also receiving a Green Seal Award for their work informing the public about the health risks of common environmental exposures such as cell phones and wireless radiation, fluoride, and fracking and fracking waste. **Mianus River Gorge Research Programs for Students** is receiving our Edith G. Read Award for producing high-level research studies that have significant applications to natural resource management in Westchester and beyond.

The event is **Thursday, June 9th** from 5:30-8 p.m. at **Lasdon Park and Arboretum**, in Katonah, NY. We encourage those attending to arrive early to enjoy the magnificent 234-acre property before the meeting begins.

Presentation of the awards will be at 6:30 p.m. following a short business

we are excited to begin working with this group of environmentalists and advocates.

Founded in 1966, Riverkeeper is currently celebrating five decades of work for the Hudson River and its tributaries. They are a member-supported watchdog organization dedicated to defending the Hudson River and protecting the drinking water supply of nine million New York City and Hudson Valley residents.

Riverkeeper uses a variety of methods, including: enforcement & litigation, boat patrols, policy and legislation advocacy, and outreach and education to Hudson valley residents.

Riverkeeper has successfully challenged the illegal activities of some of the largest and most notorious polluters of the Hudson River including: Exxon-Mobil, General Electric, Consolidated Edison, Metropolitan Transit Authority, the City of New York, and the New York State Department of Transportation. In addition, they maintain a 36-foot patrol and research boat, the R. Ian Fletcher. Riverkeeper's full-time presence on the river enables it to respond to and investigate new reports of illegal discharges, facilitate scientific research on the Hudson, and provide access to the river to its members, public officials, and the media.

Riverkeeper realizes that protecting and restoring our waterways takes the effort of every citizen, and uses a wide of variety of media to educate and engage citizens of the Hudson Valley. About 2,000 people participate in an annual day of service, Riverkeeper Sweep, encompassing cleanups and plantings in more than 100 locations

meeting to re-elect Class of 2019 Board members Sara Goddard (of Rye), Chuck Lesnick (of Yonkers), Larry O'Connell (of Pleasantville) and Anthony Sorrell (of Larchmont) and incoming officers.

We hope many of you will join us to support and celebrate these three fine honorees. They truly represent the great environmental works that are taking place throughout the County. Tickets for the Annual Meeting which include a picnic supper can be purchased on our [website](#).



## FCWC Annual Report for 2015

FCWC's [2015 Annual Report](#) is available to view on our website. Pleasetake a minute to read through the fantastic year we had in 2015 and what we're looking forward to achieving in 2016!



Federated Conservationists  
of Westchester County, Inc.  
2015 Annual Report

## No Change to Westchester's Control of Airport



on the shores of Hudson from Albany to New York City, this year's taking place last weekend. Talks, film screenings, rallies, conferences and other events are held throughout the year.

To learn more about the River and how you can get involved with this organization, please visit <http://www.riverkeeper.org>.

### Next Conservation Cafe

#### Conversations on Conservation-

#### Sound Science on the Sound

June 10, 2016  
8:30 am - 10:30 am

Pace University  
861 Bedford Road  
Pleasantville

Join Conservation Café-a consortium of eight Westchester County-based partners for a discussion on Long Island Sound. Learn about what the issues plaguing Long Island Sound and some of the solutions in effect for cleaning these precious waters.

**Get your ticket**

### Meetings of Interest

Over its 50 years, among the many environmental issues Federated Conservationists of Westchester County (FCWC) has educated about and advocated action for - none has loomed larger than Westchester County Airport's ongoing pollution and impact on our quality of life. The potential impacts of the airport have always loomed larger than the current impacts. This is because a legal agreement between the County and the airlines put controls on the expansion of commercial aviation at the airport in the form of 4 gates at the terminal, 4 flights per half hour, and 240 passengers per half hour (either leaving or coming). These controls on commercial flights have been in existence since the mid 1980s and Westchester County has benefitted greatly from these controls.

Last fall, County Executive Astorino proposed to the Board of Legislators (BOL) changes to the current commercial passenger limitations at the airport. It is important for residents throughout Westchester to know of the importance of the current legal stipulation (now called the terminal use agreement) that has remained in effect for the airport for decades. Our county law predates a federal law that does not permit local controls on access to airports anymore. The three parts of Westchester's legal control over WCA were put into the county code in 2004, but this control is under threat because of this recent proposal. An attempt to change any one of the three controls is risky and dangerous. These controls are almost unique in the country and FAA does not like them. The BOL must be very sure, with confirmation in writing, that FAA does not consider any attempt to change the passenger cap to be an invalidation of the entire control.

There are serious concerns associated with any change to the current terminal use agreement. One is the airport's proximity to the Kensico Reservoir, which provides drinking water for millions of people in NYC and Westchester. The County has invested much money to try to prevent the water pollution of the Reservoir from the fuel spills, and deicing fluids from operating airports. This location right next to a significant source of drinking water would not be permitted today. Other concerns include many quality of life issues, including air and noise pollution, and the impacts on our property values. It is not hard to convince people that they would not like to live near LaGuardia or JFK, but it is harder to make Westchester residents understand that they must give up some convenience - and travel to the larger existing airports - or experience the impacts on our quality of life that come with living near a large airport.

The County Executive is pushing for a change in the passenger cap, but FCWC believes residents should remind him and their legislators that any change to our control on the size of the airport needs assurances in writing that we are not giving up the controls, thorough environmental review, and more discussion from all parties as to whether the proposed change is necessary and what other less disruptive alternatives may be.

### MRF now Accepting Beverage Cartons for Recycling



## Growing the Green Workforce in Westchester County

May 20, 2016  
8 am - 10 am

Westchester Community College- The Gateway Center  
75 Grasslands Road  
Valhalla, NY 10595

Join an exciting networking event and panel discussion with leaders on the forefront of Growing the Green Workforce in Westchester. Learn about the newly defined 'green workforce' and pathways to employment in this emerging sector.

**Get your ticket**

Member Organizations  
You have a new benefit!

**WESTCHESTER  
Shared Resources Program**

New Initiative by FCWC for  
Member Organizations

As part of FCWC's 50th Anniversary initiatives we are introducing a FCWC Member Organization-only shared resources program.

On Earth Day, it was announced that residents of Westchester County's Refuse Disposal District will be able to include beverage cartons when they put their recyclables out for collection. These beverage cartons (consist predominantly of cardboard and include waxy cartons used for juice and milk) can now be included with commingled metal, glass, and plastic containers collected curbside. This expansion is the result of new equipment recently installed at the county's Material Recovery Facility (MRF). The new equipment allows for the redistribution of facility personnel to sort additional materials.

For more information, please see the County's website at: <http://www3.westchestergov.com/>



## Meadow Restoration at Croton Point Park

This year's State budget provided a historic \$300 million funding level for the Environmental Protection Fund. In addition, Senator Terrence Murphy was able to secure a \$500,000 appropriation for a critical meadow restoration project at Croton Point Park.

This funding will be used for grasslands design and management specifications on the constructed meadow cap of the old Croton landfill.

This project is key to the ecological health of the capped Croton landfill for both the park itself and its year-round habitat for our Hudson River bald eagles. This will keep Croton Point Park beautiful for generations, expand recreation opportunities, support key economic drivers like Eagle Fest and protect our Hudson River Estuary from invasive species.

## 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.

### 2016 Bird-A-THON

**Sponsored by:** Hudson River Audubon

**When:** May 14th (rain date, May 15)

Teams will cover Westchester County to find as many bird species as we can. We should see over 100 species. Money collected will be used for the Butterfly Garden at Lenoir, their adult and children educational programs and to keep their printed newsletter.

You can help by making your pledge today. A BIRD-A-THON is like a walk-a-thon, in that we ask people to pledge X amount of per bird species seen, within a 24 hour period. The combined list for the teams should be between 90 to 125 species. Pledges can be given for a flat rate such as \$25.00 or you can pledge per species such as 25 cents/bird. If they see



**An online directory, this searchable list will have items organizations are willing to loan out.** This will enable better collaboration between environmental groups and smarter use of resources.

Each item will have details and contact information, allowing groups to make connections.



#### Check it out!

Take a look at our new page [fwc.org/shared](http://fwc.org/shared)

120 species your pledge will come to \$30.00. For more information visit [www.hras.org](http://www.hras.org).

#### Go Native U: Plant Identification in the Field

**Sponsored by:** Native Plant Center

**When:** Saturday May 14, 10am-12pm

**Where:** Westchester Community College

Move outside the classroom to learn how to identify plants using a taxonomic key. Try your skills in the field by exploring the demonstration gardens of The Native Plant Center and the grounds of the college campus. Newcomb's Wildflower Guide is required. Cost for this class is \$55. For more information about this class and others see their [Spring Class schedule](#).

#### Migration Madness

**Sponsored by:** Bedford Audubon Society

**When:** Tuesday May 17, 7-9am

**Where:** Maple Avenue in Katonah

Join Naturalist Tait Johansson at this local hotspot in search of spring warblers and other newly arrived songbirds- and breeders here include Yellow-billed Cuckoo and Indigo Bunting. New and experienced birders alike are welcome to join us-it's the perfect way to start the work day! Easy. Register with Ms. Jeanne Pollock at [jpollock@bedfordaudubon.org](mailto:jpollock@bedfordaudubon.org) or 914.519.7801.

#### Greenlight Award Competition

**Sponsored by:** Bedford 2020

**When:** Friday May 20, 7pm

**Where:** Fox Lane High School

Students from Fox Lane High School and Middle School will compete for the 2016 Greenlight Award and a cash prize. Come watch eight inspiring teams of finalists present their climate action projects before the "Shark Tank" of renowned environmental and community leaders who will select the winners.

#### Heart of a Lion- A Lone Cat's Walk Across America

**Sponsored by:** Westmoreland Sanctuary and Saw Mill River Audubon

**When:** Saturday May 21, 3pm

**Where:** Westmoreland Sanctuary, 260 Chestnut Ridge Road, Bedford

Don't miss this special program. William Stolzenburg, author of the just-released book "Heart of a Lion: A Lone Cat's Walk Across America" will be present with readings from his book. Chris Spatz from the Cougar Rewilding Foundation will give an overview about the presence of cougars in the northeastern US. Seating is limited. Reserve your spot today via email - [Info@westmorelandsanctuary.org](mailto:Info@westmorelandsanctuary.org)

#### Teaching Trails: Weekend Walks for All Ages

**Sponsored by:** Greenburgh Nature Center

**When:** Saturday May 21, 11:30am

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

Join us on our community path for environmental education, generously supported by Con Edison. Guided trail experience through our woodland forest. Our specially trained "Trail Ninja" volunteers provide information

on trees, plants, wildlife and seasonal changes. Conversation varies each time. An ideal way to get acquainted with our trail system. Program runs approximately 45 minutes. FREE!

#### **Hudson Valley Wildlife**

**Sponsored by:** Teatown Lake Reservation

**When:** Sunday May 22, 11am-12pm

**Where:** Kathryn W. Davis RiverWalk Center in Kingsland Point Park, Sleepy Hollow

What's living in your backyard? Live animals, mounts, furs and bones will be used in this lively program about the species found in Hudson Valley. There is a parking fee of \$5. All welcome.

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

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