



FCWC

Federated Conservationists
of Westchester County, Inc.

In This Issue

[EPA Updates](#)
[County Airport](#)
[Single-Use Bags](#)
[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



Featured Member Organization

Native Plant Center

The Native Plant Center was founded in 1998 as a program of the Westchester Community College Foundation and the first affiliate of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Texas. Located on the campus of Westchester Community College in Valhalla, NY, The Native Plant Center's mission is to educate people about the environmental necessity, economic value, and natural beauty of native plants.

These versatile, important plants provide valuable sources of food and shelter for wildlife and help to protect water quality by filtering stormwater pollutants and reducing soil erosion. Also, they require less maintenance and provide a regional identity, a geographic sense of place.

Education and demonstration in the use of native plants are the central elements of the Center's rich programming. These are achieved through: classes on sustainable gardening and a continuing education certificate program,

February 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.

Oppose Scott Pruitt's Appointment and Other Updates Related to the EPA

Urgent action is needed against the confirmation of Scott Pruitt for head of the EPA. Pruitt's confirmation vote is expected to be held tomorrow (Friday) afternoon. As noted in [the Atlantic](#), "His [own website](#) calls him 'a leading advocate against the EPA's activist agenda.'"

Please call your Senators TODAY and let them know that you disapprove of his appointment:

Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand: (202) 224-4451

Senator Charles E. Schumer: (202) 224-6542

Here's a sample script from [Climate Truth](#):

"Hello, I'm calling to strongly oppose Scott Pruitt's confirmation as EPA Administrator. Mr. Pruitt is a climate change denier who has actively worked against the mission of the agency.

We need an EPA administrator that respects science and supports clean air, clean water, and a healthy environment. Pruitt is the wrong choice for our nation and MUST be rejected."

Also, just so we're all aware of what is happening, a bill was introduced to [eliminate the Environmental Protection Agency](#) at the end of next year. Please do whatever you can to support the EPA and its mission.

landscape conferences on timely environmental topics, presentations to community groups, an annual sale of thousands of native plants (more than 11,000 sold in 2016), volunteer work days in the gardens, a personal shopper/free workshops weekend at Rosedale Nurseries, and more. The Center's native plant teaching gardens provide wildlife habitat and are open to the public year-round free of charge.

Coming Soon

March 13:

Registration is under way for the Center's popular annual landscape conference. This year's event, Going Public: Native Plants Take Root from Parks to Parkways, explores successful designs in parks, along roadsides, and beside waterways. For more information and to register, visit nativeplantcenter.org.

April 29: Mark your calendar for the 18th annual Native Plant Sale, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Westchester Community College where thousands of native perennials, grasses, ferns, vines, shrubs, and trees will be offered. For information or to volunteer, call 914-606-7870.

In addition, according to a [report](#) out from Reuters, EPA staff have been told that they should prepare for a handful of executive orders over the next few weeks that will reshape the agency.

FCWC will do our best to keep you up to date on these stories, and will work tirelessly to advocate for the environment here at home, despite the current situation on the national level.

Perils of Privatization: Discussion on Westchester County Airport

Here in Westchester, we have a unique opportunity to have input on our local airport, thanks to the County's control over its passenger capacity. This allows the airport to serve the community while limiting the harm of extra air traffic. FCWC has been working for decades on ensuring that expansion of the airport does not impact our local environment, including drinking water in the Kensico Reservoir, air quality, and noise levels. More details are available in our [May 2016 E-News](#).

Currently, legislators are putting out a request for proposals for private companies that would take over control of the airport from the County, potentially reducing accountability to residents. We'll be continuing the dialogue from our [March 2016 Conservation Cafe](#) at our next event:

Perils of Privatization: How leasing off Westchester County Airport is bad public policy

Tuesday, February 21st: 6:00 - 8:00 pm
Humanities Theater, SUNY Purchase

Please join us for a discussion with FCWC Board Member Carolyn Cunningham, who has been [working on the airport issue for decades](#), and David McKay Wilson, Tax Watch columnist at the Journal News. Check out [his recent update on the airport here](#). This event is free and open to the public. We hope to see you there!

Meeting of Interest

Birds, Bugs, and Bushes: the effects of climate change on local flora and fauna



The effects of climate change on our local flora and fauna

Thursday, March 2nd 7:00 - 8:30pm
Chappaqua Library

Co-Sponsored by: Chappaqua Library & New Castle Sustainability Advisory Board

Shifting and shrinking ranges of habitat caused by climate change will have serious implications throughout our natural world. In fact, Audubon's findings classify nearly half of all North American birds as severely threatened by global warming.

Please join us on March 2 to learn about the effects climate change is likely to have on local flora and fauna and some simple action steps we can all take to help mitigate these effects.

Greening our Towns - Single-Use Bag Ordinance

Whether your town is working on passing a reusable bag initiative or already has one in place, many of the ideas discussed at our recent Greening Our Towns event could be helpful!

On Thursday, January 19, 2017, representatives from 10 municipalities that have not yet passed single-use bag legislation came together to hear from New Castle, Hastings, and the City of Rye to learn how they passed it in their towns.

Learn more about the discussions from this meeting in [our latest blog post here](#).



Meeting of Interest

Unfortunately on Tuesday, Governor Cuomo has [approved a bill](#) that would prevent New York City from adding a 5-cent fee for plastic bags.

Bedford 2020 Food Forum



Saturday, March 4, 8:30am - 3:00pm
Fox Lane High School, Bedford NY

- Keynote addresses from Mark Bittman and Michel Nischan
- 20 workshops and panel discussions with experts
- Track for students
- Expo with chefs, farmers demos, NGO's, farm market and much more
- Over 30 partnering organization
- Fabulous eats

Register today [here](#).

Internship Opportunity

Seasonal Watershed Forestry Educator

The Watershed Agricultural Council seeks a Seasonal Watershed Forestry Educator to primarily provide support for teacher training programs associated with the WAC Forestry Program's Urban Rural Education Initiative. This is a 10 week position that pays \$14.00 per hour. Must have dependable vehicle, insurance and a valid driver's license. Will be reimbursed for mileage incurred on the job. E.O.E. Send resume, cover letter and writing sample to Amy Faulkner, WAC, 33195 State Highway 10, Walton, NY 13856, fax (607) 865-4932 or email afaulkner@nycwatershed.org.
Job description: www.nycwatershed.org.
Deadline: February 24, 2017.

While the passage of this law does not directly affect any Westchester County towns since it's for municipalities with over 1 million in population, it certainly does impact what we are trying to achieve in encouraging people to bring their own reusable bags to stores and reducing our addiction to single-use bags.

Please call Governor Cuomo at (518) 474-8390 and express displeasure at the passage of this bill.

Events

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.

Animal Survival in Winter - Nature Walk

Sponsored by: Sheldrake Environmental Center

When: Saturday, February 18th, 10:00am - 11:00am

Where: Sheldrake Environmental Center, Larchmont, NY

When winter comes, the forest grows quieter. Where have all the creatures gone? Some migrate, but most stay here through winter. How do they survive the frigid temperatures? Brave the cold and come out for a hike with us. Learn about the survival tactics of our local forest animals.

Free for members, \$5 for non-members (ages 2 and up). Meet at the Sheldrake main building at 685 Weaver Street. Register at sheldrakecenter.org.

Sugaring Sunday

Sponsored by: Teatown Lake Reservation

When: Sunday, February 26th, 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Where: Teatown Lake Reservation, Ossining, NY

Stoke up the fire, it's sugaring time at Teatown! From tapping to collecting, boiling to bottling, Teatown's naturalists will be in Warren's Sugarhouse sharing facts and folklore about this sweet time of year! Register for 1pm, 2pm or 3pm time slots.

All welcome. Members Free, Non-members \$7. Programs require pre-registration. To register, call 914-762-2912 x 110.

Saw Mill River Summit

Sponsored by: Center for the Urban River at Beczak, Riverkeeper, Groundwork Hudson Valley & Saw Mill River Coalition

When: Thursday, March 2nd, 12:00pm - 4:30pm

Where: SLC Center for the Urban River at Beczak, Yonkers, NY

Please join us for an important afternoon of updates and discussion about the state of the Saw Mill and help strengthen intermunicipal cooperation throughout the watershed. [Click here](#) for a complete agenda. Target Audience: Municipal officials and staff (local and county), CAC/CAB members, non-profits, and interested residents.

RSVP by 3/1 to Ryan Palmer: rpalmer@sarahlawrence.edu or (914) 377 1900 x15

Mushroom University

Sponsored by: Connecticut-Westchester Mycological Association

When: Saturday, March 4th, 10:00am - 1:30pm

Where: Muscote Farm, Katonah, NY

Every spring, Gary Lincoff -- leading mycologist and author of the Audubon Field Guide to North American Mushrooms -- leads a six-session class for serious mycology enthusiasts. This year's program surveys a number of mycological topics.

Open exclusively to COMA members. Visit comafungi.org for more details.

Agriculture: A Carbon-Free Diet

Sponsored by: Greenburgh Nature Center

When: Wednesday, March 8th, 11:00am - 3:00pm

Where: Greenburgh Nature Center, Scarsdale, NY

We make food choices multiple times daily, and the aggregate pollution of those decisions hugely impacts our global climate. Experts discuss the carbon intensive industrial agriculture system. Topics to be explored include food labeling, homesteading, and regenerative food systems. In partnership with the Lower Hudson Sierra Group. Refreshments at 7:00pm, program starts at 7:30pm. Free!

This program is a part of the Climate Science, Climate Action series. Visit greenburghnaturecenter.org to learn more.

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