



FCWC

Federated Conservationists
of Westchester County, Inc.

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Following us on social media is the best way to keep up with day-to-day announcements



Featured Member Organization

Central Westchester Audubon Society



The Central Westchester Audubon Society is about birds, as its name suggests, but it is also about education: education for the community about what birds, animals, rivers and streams, trees and plants mean to the Earth.

It serves Elmsford, Greenburgh, Harrison, Rye, Rye Brook, Port Chester, Purchase and White Plains.

March 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.

Staff Changes at FCWC

Hi! We're the new staff of FCWC and wanted to introduce ourselves. But first, we want to say a huge thank you to Alicia Molloy, who's served as FCWC's Program Director for the past 5 years.

In just the past few weeks of learning from her, we've been in awe of her many talents and skills and the very impressive amount of work that she's been able to accomplish, and we know that we have huge shoes to fill. She's been the heart and soul of this organization, and we're sad to see her go.

We're incredibly grateful to her for leaving us with such a solid foundation and we wish her lots of happiness, success, and all the best!



Although it's bittersweet, we're both thrilled to be working with such an amazing group of people on the FCWC Board - and with all of you! As we move forward together, here's a bit about us:

Victoria Alzapiedi, Program Director: Greetings everyone! I'm so excited to

Programs are open to all and free to the public although donations are appreciated! The Society strives to offer programs which you have expressed an interest in; if there's something you'd like to see offered, contact info@cwasociety.org.

Here are some upcoming programs:

Report on Hog Island Camp

Presenter: Cristina Ortiz
Saturday, April 1, 3:00 PM
Harrison Library

Christina Ortiz was awarded the CWAS Scholarship which paid part of her expenses to attend Educators' Week at Audubon's Hog Island Camp in Maine. She will share her experiences and beautiful photographs.

Fifty Years of Change - Differences in the Flora and Fauna of the Rye Nature Center (and Lower Westchester)

Presenter: Taro Ietaka, Director of Conservation & Land Stewardship
Thursday, May 4, 7:00 PM
Rye Nature Center

What can we learn by comparing the results of a 1963 plant survey with those from 2013? How have animal distributions changed? We'll get the answers and share our own observations in the lecture and slide show.

Learn more at cwasociety.org.

Meeting of Interest

Dealing with Climate Change in Your Landscape

Thursday, April 6th 3:00 - 5:00pm
Untermeyer Gardens Conservancy

Co-Sponsored by: Untermeyer Gardens Conservancy and Native Plant Center

Climate change is here and it is impacting our landscapes - increased flooding, more frequent droughts, more extreme weather events and increasing temperatures. Want to help fight climate change at home?

Join us on April 6th where you will hear

be joining FCWC! I have a deep love for the environment, wild birds, wildlife, native plants, and our cherished wetlands and woodlands here in Westchester. I'm a public interest attorney, nonprofit leader, public policy advocate, organizational strategist, and grassroots community educator.

I hold a Masters Degree in Public Administration from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, a J.D. from Hastings College of the Law, and I received my B.A. in Political Science, Psychology, and Women's Studies right here at SUNY College at Purchase.

I've held leadership positions at Consumer Reports, HBO, Weil Gotshal & Manges, LLP, and at the Title IX Advocacy Project and I'm currently the Founder and Principal of Breakthrough Insight Consulting. I'm Co-Chair of the New Castle Conservation Board, former Chair of the New Castle Coyote Awareness & Safety Advisory Committee, and the Founder of The Nature of Westchester Facebook group.

I look forward to meeting and working with all of you on the issues that impact each of us, our organizations, and our communities. Please feel free to reach out to me anytime - with questions, suggestions and ideas, or just to introduce yourself! I can be reached at victoria@fwc.org.

Bhavya Reddy, Member Relations Coordinator: Hi all! I'm thrilled to be your new member relations coordinator, a role previously held by Kate Munz.

My interest in the environment started a while back, when I decided to create an environmental club and recycling program at Briardiff High School. I also worked as a local foods intern at Vassar College and completed my BA in biology and cognitive science at Williams College. I recently finished a master's degree in water resources and environmental engineering while serving as founder/chair of the Sleepy Hollow Environmental Advisory Committee.

I've also worked as an educator, tour guide, photographer, and writer. I've created environmental education curricula as an English language assistant in France and while teaching ESL in New York. In addition, I've published articles about environmental issues such as the intersection between gender and climate change for *the Guardian*, *the Hudson Independent*, and [on my blog](#).

Please feel free to get in touch with questions about anything to do with being a member or just to say hi - I'd love to hear from you! My email is bhavya@fwc.org.

In addition to our upcoming events on climate change, we also have a few events in the works for young environmental leaders, about environmental justice, and more - we hope to meet you soon!

Effects of climate change on local wildlife

On March 2nd at the Chappaqua Library, we were joined by over 50 attendees for our "Birds, Bugs, and Bushes" event. We heard from experts about the effects climate change is likely to have on local flora and fauna. They also gave us some simple action steps we can all take to help mitigate these effects.

[Here's a short recap](#). Learn more about the potential impacts of climate change and answers to questions like "Why should we care?" and "What can we do?"

Missed the event? Join us virtually as we live-tweet our events by [following us on Twitter](#).



from Kim Eierman, founder of Ecobeneficial on how the plants you choose and the landscape practices you use can help reduce the impacts of climate change and improve the environment around you. [Check out some of her tips here.](#) Also hear from staff from Untermeyer Gardens on how they have had to adapt to climate change.

Admission free. Donations will be gratefully accepted. [Click here to register.](#)

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!

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

For more information and to obtain a copy of the latest/tentative agenda, visit

Local Environmental News

We're excited to see tons of environmental progress happening here in Westchester!

Bedford 2020 Food Forum

We were thrilled to be a partner for Bedford 2020's Food Forum, where we learned about food waste, school gardens, and more. Here were a couple of takeaways:



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@FCWC1

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Rethink what's considered edible vs inedible: start by thinking of "scraps" as "sparks" - @Bedford2020

[#foodforum](#) [#reduce](#) [#waste](#)

10:23 AM - 4 Mar 2017



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See students as "agents of change" - empower them to eat healthier, don't shame them - @ESYNYC [#foodforum](#)

[#HealthyEating](#) [#schools](#)

1:58 PM - 4 Mar 2017



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Can't fix our food system without addressing immigration, gender, racism - @markbittman @Bedford2020 [#justice](#) [#intersectionality](#) pic.twitter.com/dZP4GhIJ2E

9:37 AM - 4 Mar 2017



Learn more [about the Food Forum here.](#)

Community Solar

PowerMarket (thepowermarket.com) has just launched the first community solar project in Westchester! According to [Project Economics](#), "Community solar allows individuals and businesses the ability to share in the benefits of solar with no upfront cost and without installing panels on their roof." This should allow households to not only save on their energy costs, but also to support local renewable energy.

While Hawthorne's 220 kW project is the first in Westchester, Mount Vernon is

Municipal Composting

Scarsdale recently started the first municipal composting program in Westchester County, allowing residents to drop off food scraps at a central location and reduce the amount of waste that goes in the trash. Check out the video below for more about the program:



Video: How Scarsdale's food scraps recycling works - by @Ricky_Flores

Congratulations to Bedford, Hawthorne, and Scarsdale on their recent environmental successes! Do you have news to share? Let us know at bhavya@fwc.org

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.

"How's Your Water?" - Water Conversation Series

Sponsored by: Save the Sound

When: Tuesday, March 21st, 1:00pm - 2:00pm

Where: Mamaroneck Public Library, Mamaroneck, NY

How clean is your beach? How's the water you swim and boat in? Come learn about Save the Sound's robust water quality monitoring work throughout the Sound shore communities of western Long Island Sound. To register, [click here](#).

Life in a Vernal Pool

Sponsored by: Teatown Lake Reservation

When: Saturday, March 25th, 1:00pm - 2:30pm

Where: Teatown Lake Reservation, Ossining, NY

The snow is gone, spring is upon us and love is in the air. Vernal pools are the place for action as frogs and salamanders return to mate and lay eggs. Hike with an educator to Hidden Valley in search of life and love in a vernal pool.

Registration is required. Online registration available until noon the day before the event. If online registration is not available, call (914) 762-2912 x110 to register.

Home Energy Efficiency Workshop

Sponsored by: Rye Sustainability Committee

When: Saturday, April 1st, 3:00pm - 5:00pm

Where: Rye Free Reading Room, Rye

Frustrated by high utility bills? Join us for a free workshop to learn how to make your home energy efficient while saving money:

- Industry experts will present and answer questions about free home energy assessments.
- Sign up for a free energy audit to make your home more comfortable and healthy.
- Learn about green, sustainable homes and New York State programs to help homeowners finance energy efficiency projects, such as solar.
- Learn about residential renewable energy options, including solar, geothermal and pellet stove heating.

[Register here.](#)

"Hometown Habitat: Stories of Bringing Nature Home" Screening

Sponsored by: Native Plant Center and Town of New Castle Conservation Board

When: Monday, April 3rd, 7:00pm - 8:00pm

Where: New Castle Town Hall, Chappaqua, NY

"Hometown Habitat: Stories of Bringing Nature Home" addresses why native plants are important to local ecosystems. The film features Doug Tallamy, author of *Bringing Nature Home*, and spotlights individuals and organizations that are making a difference by creating natural areas in their communities.

Planting for Pollinators

Sponsored by: Hilltop Hanover Farm

When: Saturday, April 8th, 10:00am - 12:00pm

Where: Hilltop Hanover Farm, Yorktown Heights, NY

"Bee" inspired to learn about the fascinating world of honey bees and beekeeping during a workshop series offered at Hilltop Hanover Farm. The workshop will introduce you to the basic terms used in beekeeping, bee biology, and a brief history of beekeeping, along with learning about the members of the colony and their function, as well as the various types of hives and equipment required. In addition, guidance will be provided as to how to purchase bees and how to get started with your own hive. Fee is \$2.

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