



FCWC

Federated Conservationists
of Westchester County, Inc.

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Keep up with us!

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



Climate Change and the Arts

We are working on
programming related to
climate change and the
arts. If you would be
interested in getting
involved, please contact
info@fcwc.org

We're hiring!

FCWC's Member Relations Coordinator

The Member Relations
Coordinator is the
primary liaison between
the organization and its
members. This position

October/November 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.

2017 Election Focus: What are our Westchester County Executive Candidates positions on the environment?

New York League of Conservation Voters Candidate Forum

By Kate Munz

Are you ready for November 7th? With so many environmental protections being lost on the national level, there's so much more at stake now in our county and local elections than ever. Election day is right around the corner, it is important to know where your Westchester County Executive candidates stand on environmental issues.

On Wednesday, October 11th the New York League of Conservation Voters Education Fund (NYLCVEF) partnered with the Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University Environmental Law Program, Federated Conservationists of Westchester County, the Pace Energy and Climate Center, Greenburgh Nature Center, and Save the Sound to bring the candidates to you.

The event, held at Pace Law School in White Plains, was a public forum featuring candidates Rob Astorino and George Latimer. The event also featured panelists from local environmental organizations: Victoria Alzapiedi, Federated Conservationists of Westchester County; Tracy Brown, Save the Sound; and Karl Rabago, Executive Director of the Pace Energy and Climate Center. Each panelist had the opportunity to publicly ask questions of the candidates.

The panelists were in the hot seat during the evening, pushing both candidates to confront important environmental concerns. One focus of FCWC's in particular was the proposed expansion for Westchester County Airport.

The event was approximately one hour long and provided an opportunity for questions from the public. NYLCVEF streamed the discussion live through their Facebook page so that constituents who were not able to attend could still hear the candidates responses. This Facebook Live video is still available for viewing.

works to cultivate a community through the annual Federation Meeting, one-on-one assistance to member organizations, and more. [Click here for the complete job description.](#)



And for more local environmental jobs, please [follow our LinkedIn page.](#)

More on Implications of LEDs on Wildlife



From *The Atlantic*, **Confirmed: Night Lights Drive Pollinators Away From Plants**

"These disruptions matter to plants because a lot of pollination is done after dark-not by the usual bees and butterflies, but by moths, bats, beetles, and more. This night shift is often unappreciated."

[Click here to view link](#)



From *DarkSky.org*,

If you missed the event this video is a must watch!



League of Conservation Voters - 10-11-17

From Antonio Soares 2 Weeks ago

We heard from our candidates and now it's time to take their answers into consideration this November.

The New York League of Conservation Voters and the Sierra Club of Lower Hudson has released their Public Election Endorsements for 2017.

- [New York League of Conservation Voters List of Endorsements](#)
- [Sierra Club of Lower Hudson List of Endorsements](#)

Additionally, for further information about New York State Proposition 3 Forest Preserve Land Bank Amendment provided by the New York League of Conservation Voters, visit <http://nylcv.org/news/importance-land-bank-proposition/>

To learn about important election dates and polling locations, visit <http://citizenparticipation.westchestergov.com/election-dates-and-calendars>.

A Summary of FCWC's Clearwater Sail

FCWC's Fall Benefit: Clearwater Sail

By Kate Munz

Effects of Artificial Light at Night on Wildlife

"Artificial night lighting harms species directly by triggering unnatural periods of attraction or repulsion that lead to disruptions in reproductive cycles, by disorientation, or by interfering with feeding and sustenance. Light pollution has been shown to disorient migratory birds and hatchling turtles, disrupt mating and reproductive behavior in fireflies and frogs, and interfere with communication in species from glowworms to coyotes."

[Click here to view link](#)



For this year's fall benefit Federated Conservationists of Westchester County chose to take our friends and supporters on a hands-on, outdoor experience by spending a few hours aboard Pete Seeger's historic Hudson River Sloop Clearwater. Both memorable and educational, attendees learned about the Hudson River's history and its current environmental concerns.

The event was held on Sunday, September 24th - an unusually warm and steamy day for early fall - and featured two two-hour sails departing at 10:00 am and 2:00 pm. Guests boarded the sloop Clearwater, a [historic replica of the cargo sloops that traveled the Hudson River in the 18th and 19th centuries](#), at the historic Yonkers Pier and were greeted by a warm and welcoming educational staff.

Clearwater boasted their sails to be "[an ecological adventure as well as a voyage of discovery, learning more about the Hudson, and joining in songs about sailing and environmental concerns](#)" and we have to say, they certainly didn't disappoint!

Guests aboard dined on local apple cider and donuts provided by Thompson's Cider Mill. They were then able to take part in various tasks that are important researching the health of the Hudson River.

Thank you again to all who attended. We had a wonderful turnout and were so pleased to spend a few hours together on the scenic Hudson River. Additionally, we would like to say a particular thank you to our sponsor Sprague Energy for supporting this event and local environmental causes, as well as Thompson's Cider Mill for their generosity.

If you would like to learn more about Clearwater sails, visit <http://www.clearwater.org/>.

Special thanks to our sponsor:



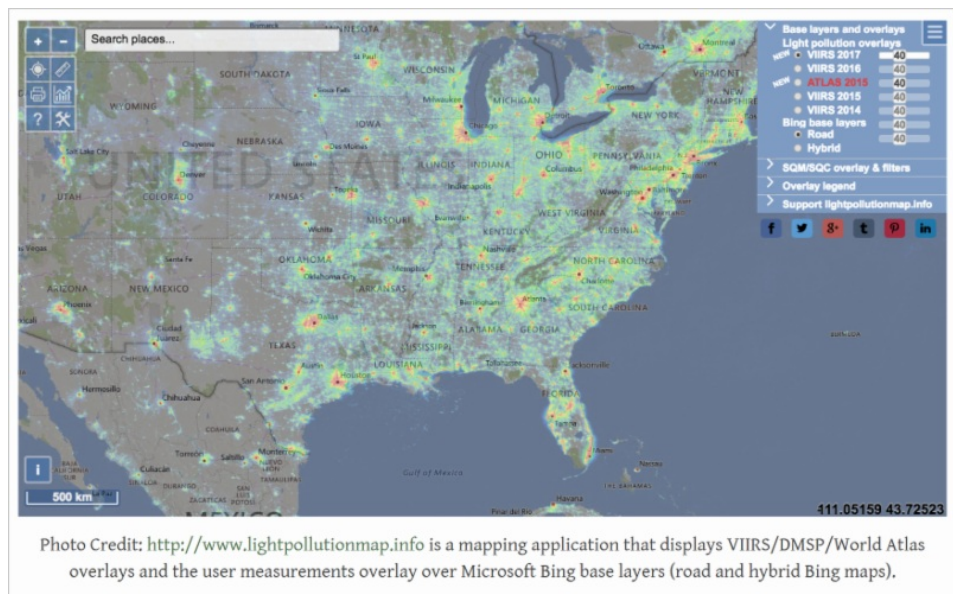
Thank you for your generosity:





Little Known Environmental Impacts - LED Light Pollution by Our Guest Writer!

Thank you to the Westchester Amateur Astronomers for their assistance with this wonderful guest post!



An Astronomer's View of Street Lighting

By Lawrence L. Faltz MD, President, Westchester Amateur Astronomers

When the Northridge earthquake cut power in Los Angeles in January 1994, [the Griffith Observatory received phone calls from concerned citizens asking about a mysterious cloud overhead that they had never seen before](#). The Milky Way, our galaxy, had probably not been visible from downtown LA for half a century.

It's estimated that more than two-thirds of the people in the world cannot see the Milky Way from their homes. We light up our environment for safety, to allow us to move about at night, and to decorate our homes and businesses. But this light is also obliterating the stars-a source of inspiration and information for diverse cultures across the centuries.

Light pollution doesn't just wash out the glories of the night sky and frustrate amateur astronomers. It wastes energy and money. Poor lighting design creates glare that actually makes it difficult to see well at night. Misdirected light crosses property lines and intrudes into homes, disturbing sleep. Hundreds of studies have documented the adverse effects of light pollution on the environment. It has devastating impact on some animal behaviors. More than 1,600 investigations into its impact on human health have been published. It may be a carcinogen. The American Medical Association is sufficiently concerned to have voted to "support light pollution reduction efforts and glare reduction efforts" and to "support efforts to ensure all future streetlights be of a fully shielded design or similar non-glare design to improve the safety of our roadways."

Municipalities all over the United States, including towns in Westchester, are replacing their older streetlights with brighter LED streetlamps. The main reason is economic: LED streetlamps use much less power and have very long lives, reducing costs. New York City is replacing a quarter of a million street lamps and each year expects to save \$6 million in energy costs and \$8 million in maintenance. Another positive factor is that these fixtures are better shielded than the old "cobra head" sodium vapor lamps, projecting more of the light where it's needed and not uselessly up to the sky. However, while shielding is better than before, it's not as good as it could be. New York City's LED streetlamps still project 5% of the light upward and up to 20% into the "glare zone" at or above 80 degrees. Many municipalities are installing similar "semi-cutoff" street lamps.

In addition, most of the fixtures installed to date use LED's that emit light that is enriched in the blue part of the spectrum. Blue-rich LEDs produce three times as much skyglow as the older lights because blue light scatters much more efficiently than light in the "warmer" (yellow) part of the spectrum, a phenomenon known as "Rayleigh scattering." The daytime sky is blue because our atmosphere scatters blue light in the sun's spectrum more than other colors. Blue-rich light also causes more glare, poses greater difficulties for older eyes, has more damaging ecological impacts, and more readily disrupts human circadian rhythms. LED's that have a warmer color temperature and produce nearly the same amount of light per watt consumed as blue-rich LEDs are now available for outdoor use...

[To read the full article visit our blog here!](#)

For more information, check out www.darksky.org, the web site of the International Dark-Sky Association.

Lawrence L. Faltz MD, President, Westchester Amateur Astronomers

Dr. Faltz is a life-long amateur astronomer. He was Chief Medical Officer of Phelps Memorial Hospital Center from 1994 to 2017 and is Clinical Professor of Medicine at New York Medical College.

Events

For a full list of our member organizations' events and happenings, check out our Federation Calendar at www.fcwc.org/calendar. Remember to always confirm events before attending. Check back regularly as we are always updating.

Science in Action: Experience the Miracle of Migration at the Chestnut Ridge Hawkwatch

Sponsored by: Bedford Audubon Society

When: August 25, 2017-November 22, 2017

Where: Arthur Butler Sanctuary on Chestnut Ridge Road, Bedford Hills

The HawkWatch starts August 25! Join us at the Chestnut Ridge HawkWatch at the Arthur Butler Sanctuary on Chestnut Ridge Road in Bedford Hills everyday from 9am to 5pm, weather permitting, to experience the miracle of raptor migration. Our data is combined with other sites across North America to create powerful population and migration analyses that help us better protect raptors and their habitat. Contact info@bedfordaudubon.org for questions and to learn more.

Grassroots Environmental Farm-To-Table Fall Fundraising Dinner

Sponsored by: Grassroots Environmental Education

When: Thursday, November 16th 7:00 pm - 9:30 pm

Where: Wainwright House, 260 Stuyvesant Ave, Rye, NY

Join us for an evening of amazing organic food, fine wine and extraordinary conversation as we highlight our work of the past year and honor Judith Enck, former EPA Region 2 administrator and the Honorable George Latimer of the New

York State Senate. We look forward to seeing you there! [RSVP here!](#)

2017 New York State Conference on the Environment

Sponsored by: City of Kingston, City of Kingston Ulster County Department of the Environment, New York State Association of Conservation Commissions, and New York State Association of Environmental Management Councils

When: Friday, November 17th & Saturday, November 18th

Where: The Chateau, 240 Boulevard, Route 32, Kingston, NY

This year's conference theme is, "*Living Local: Linking Local Economies and the Environment.*" Conference workshops will take place at The Chateau, and hotel accommodations can be booked at the Best Western Plus in Kingston.

This conference has been designed to appeal to a wide audience, with dynamic workshops, networking events, and a field tour relevant to citizens, business owners, economic and environmental organization members and staff, local officials and staff, and especially members of municipal Conservation Councils and Boards, and county Environmental Management Council. Scholarships are available for students and persons appointed to county Environmental Management Councils.

The 2017 New York State Conference on the Environment is presented by NYSACC and the New York State Association of Environmental Management Councils (NYSAEMC), in partnership with the City of Kingston.

For more information [click here](#).

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](#) 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!](#)

Become a Member!

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