



ECOS NEWS



ECOS: The Environmental Clearinghouse
Celebrating Our 43rd Year in Environmental Education

Vol. XLIII

Number 3

February 2015

ECOS Requires 5 New Board Members

ECOS is in need of at least five new Board members this year. And, we also have the unusual task of replacing every officer except our Treasurer. This is needed to conform with the ECOS by-laws which set Executive Board and Board Member term limits. Terms are for two years, with the number of consecutive terms limited to 2. Regular Board meetings take place on the second Tuesday of the month at 4:30 PM at the Niskayuna Senior Center on Aqueduct Road.

If you or someone you know has an interest in helping EC OS provide environment education programs for schools and the general community, continue the production of new and presently in print ECOS publications, and work for the protection of the environment, as has been done for over forty years, please contact Will Seyse of the Nomination Committee at 369-4254 or wseyse@nycap.rr.com or Patrick Clear, Executive Director, at 370-4125.

Union College Environmental Science, Policy and Engineering Winter Seminar Series Nott Memorial 7:30pm Open to the Public

Wednesday, Jan. 28: Anthony Leiserowitz (director, Yale Project on Climate Change Communication). Leiserowitz and his project have led some of the most careful studies of public opinion related to climate change science and policy. Their reports on "Global Warming's Six Americas" have fascinating implications for effective environmental communication.

Wednesday, Feb. 18: Cheryl Charles (co-founder, president and CEO Emerita of the Children & Nature Network (C&NN)). Charles has been instrumental in developing the worldwide movement to reconnect children and nature. She is also the former founding national director of Project Learning Tree and Project WILD.

For questions contact Professor Jeff Corbin, 388-6097

2015 Mohawk River Symposium Friday, March 20 Union College

Registration will open in mid January 2015. Pre-registration for this meeting is required. Badges will be provided at registration, and are required for entrance to the meeting. Registration fee includes lunch and coffee/tea at breaks. The banquet and Keynote address is a ticketed event - BANQUET REGISTRATION will end one week before the meeting.

Professional \$20; Students \$10. REGISTRATION AFTER 1 March: \$35. Pre-registration and prepayment for this meeting is required. The evening Banquet is \$25 (Closes on 15 March). Union College's Alumni Office is sponsoring our registration this year and therefore able to process credit card payments.

<http://minerva.union.edu/garverj/mws/2015/symposium.html>

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ECOS: The Environmental Clearinghouse is a non-political, not-for-profit organization. Our mission is to provide environmental information and educational opportunities that enhance appreciation of the natural world, to build a community that is aware and knowledgeable about environmental issues, and to advocate informed action to preserve our natural resources. ECOS is funded through the support of our members and the community.

ECOS is now a member of Facebook.

Please visit and Like ECOS on Facebook.

iGive.com

Shopping online this Holiday Season? If you are then you can support your favorite charity, AT NO EXTRA COST TO YOU, by visiting www.iGive.com. Over 800 of your favorite stores and catalogs participate in this program in which the retailer donates a portion of your purchase to your favorite charity. In addition, there are special discounts and sales available through iGive.com. ECOS: The Environmental Clearinghouse has raised over \$200 through this program so far.

**Attention Business Owners
ECOS Recycling Inkjet & Laser Ink Cartridges**

Help ECOS raise money to support our programs by recycling your empty inkjet and laser ink cartridges. ECOS will provide you with a drop off bin for your office and will collect empty cartridges monthly from your office. All you need to do is drop them in the bin. Help save the environment and help ECOS raise money at the same time. Call the ECOS office at 370-4125 to get involved.

eBay Giving Works

Did you receive a holiday gift you don't want or need? Sell it on eBay and support ECOS. eBay Giving Works is the dedicated program for charity listings where you can buy or sell items to support nonprofit organizations. eBay Giving Works is the dedicated program for charity listings on eBay, enabling you to list items on eBay and donate part or all of the final sale price to your favorite nonprofit organizations. Since 2000, more than \$81 million has been raised for charity from listings sold on eBay worldwide. To learn how the program works visit ebay.com and click on Giving Works. ECOS: The Environmental Clearinghouse is participating in this program.

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Richard L. Endres



Blenheim-Gilboa Power Project Visitors Center
1378 State Route 30 • North Blenheim, NY 12131
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Visitors Center Exhibits on energy and the environment.
Open daily 10 a.m.-5 p.m. except some holidays.
Lansing Manor Historic Estate open 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
May - October; closed Tuesdays.
Contact steve.ramsey@nypa.gov



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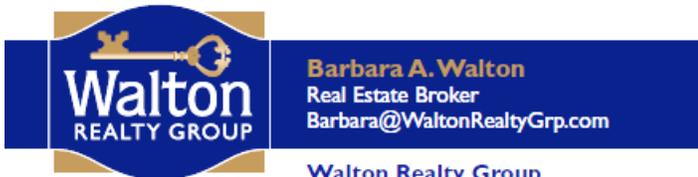


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President's Report

Executive Director's Report

As I write this column we are experiencing some very cold weather. Let's hope that the snow falls, the sun shines and temperatures get a tad warmer so that we can all enjoy our cross country ski trips and/or snowshoe walks. If you are looking for places to go, do not forget to pick up the booklet ECOS Ski & Snowshoe Tips, which is a seven county guide to cross country ski areas that includes maps, directions, terrain descriptions and tips.

Thank you all who have contributed to our annual appeal. If you have not done so yet, please consider a donation to assist ECOS educational programs. Your contribution will not only assist our local programs, but increase the appreciation of our natural environment as we create a more knowledgeable community.

I also mentioned in my last column that you may want consider giving an ECOS membership or donation to ECOS as a gift. Donations will be used towards our educational programs and you may designate to a particular program/project if you like. We have developed a lovely card (in color) which highlights our mission that you may give in recognition. Thank You Pauline Bono for the beautiful artwork of the Virginia Creeper vine.

Enjoy the winter!
Visit us at www.ecosny.org for all updates.

Denise Cashmere



Welcome to 2015. Thank you to everyone for the very successful and entertaining ECOS Holiday Party.

Looking ahead for 2015 please save the dates for the ECOS Annual All Member Meeting on March 9 at the Niskayuna Library and the ECOS Annual Dinner on April 9 at Schenectady County Community College, details for both will be in the next issue of ECOS News. Following up on our very successful conference at Union College last year, ECOS will be busy planning the next installment of our conference series. Our Program Committee will also be planning new activities for 2015.

A big thank you to the following foundations for their support of ECOS programs:
The Fairbanks Family Charitable Foundation
The John C. and Susan K. Hubbard Foundation, Inc.

Patrick Clear

Winter Tree ID
Tuesday, January 27 10:00 AM
Saratoga Spa State Park

Join us for a walk through the woods where we will learn how to identify trees using bark and twigs. All ages are welcome, but the trail is not stroller friendly. Snowshoes will be available for rental if there is snow. Fee is \$3 per person or \$5 per family. Please call (518) 584-2000 ext. 150 to register.

Registration: Required

ECOS Membership
ECOS: The Environmental Clearinghouse, Inc.
P.O. Box 9118, Niskayuna, NY 12309 (518) 370-4125

Please check your membership contribution level.

- ___ \$30. Individual ___ \$55. Donor ___ \$250. + Benefactor
- ___ \$40. Family ___ \$125. Sustainer \$___ Additional Donation

Please make your check payable to: ECOS

Name _____ Phone _____
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Email: _____

- ___ As a GE employee (or retiree) my contribution is eligible for GE Foundation Matching Funds. I have registered with GE for the matching gift by computer at www.gefoundation.com. (If you do not have computer access, call customer service at 1-800-305-0669.)
- ___ My employer will match my contribution. I've enclosed my matching gift form.
- ___ I would like to be a volunteer. Please send me more information.

Join us under the dome for the very best folk music...



A PLACE FOR FOLK 2015

Unitarian Universalist Society of Schenectady
1221 Wendell Avenue, Schenectady 12308

Vance Gilbert

Friday, February 27, 7:30 pm

With ten critically acclaimed albums, VANCE GILBERT continues to refine his unlikely union of humor, virtuosity, and the unexpected. Whether with classic, original songwriting or ageless interpretations of covers, his is a presentation steeped in deep humanism and bravery, stunning artistry and soul, and contagious, unbridled joy.

Reservations recommended. Tickets \$20. Students \$10. Children with parents \$5. Support our great music, become a Folk Friend. www.aplaceforfolk.org 518-377-0002

Re-Clothe-NY

By Jeff Edwards, Schenectady County Recycling Coordinator

In November, the New York State Association for Reduction Reuse and Recycling [NYSAR3] (www.nysar3.org) teamed up with The Association of Wiping Materials, Used Clothing and Fiber Industries [SMART] (<http://www.smartasn.org/>) and the Council for Textile Recycling (<http://www.wearonaterecycle.org/>) to kick off the Re-Clothe-NY, textile reuse and recycling campaign (<http://www.nysar3.org/page/re-clothe-ny-78.html>). Textiles have been recyclable for many years. In fact, SMART formed in 1932, in part to promote textile recycling. A number of Not-For-Profit agencies such as the City Mission, Goodwill and The Salvation Army have been collecting textiles for a long time, both to serve their clients directly and to raise money to support their services. More recently a number of other not-for-profits have teamed up with textile recycling companies to set out clothing collection boxes to raise money. Check the labeling on the drop off box to find the organization benefiting from the items dropped in that box. You may wish to contact the organization to confirm they are the beneficiary as there have been reports of fraud due to the value of the material.

The US Environmental Protection Agency estimates only fifteen percent of textiles are reused or recycled, the other eighty-five percent are disposed of. The agency reports two million tons of used clothing are recycled every year but twelve million tons are disposed of.

Of the used clothing that is reused or recycled, forty percent is re-used for its original purpose, thirty percent is cut into industrial wiping materials, twenty-five percent is reduced to fiber and the remaining five percent is disposed of due to mildew or solvent stains.

When we throw out used clothing and other textiles we are throwing out valuable items and materials. Many of us realize the value of wearable clothing that no longer fits an older child and by giving it to a younger child as a hand-me-down that it now fits; saving money we would have spent buying new clothes. Some of us sell lightly used clothing to consignment shops including Plato's Closet and The Clothes mentor promi-

nently located in the Crosstown Plaza, or sell them at garage sales. Even un-wearable clothing has value, Fox News (<http://www.myfoxtampabay.com/story/23224902/2013/08/21/clothes-donations-going-for-profit-not-for-the-poor>) reported that textiles rejected for store shelves by agencies as the Salvation Army can be sold for an average of about thirty-five cents a pound.

Besides the value of the used textiles, recycling textiles is a very effective means of reducing greenhouse gas emissions that cause global warming. Recycling the two million tons of textiles that we recycle in the U.S. annually is equivalent to removing one million cars from the road. Recycling two million tons of plastic by comparison would only remove 640,000 cars and recycling two million tons of aluminum (whose recycling reduces greenhouse gas emissions the most) is only the equivalent of removing 1.3 million cars from the road, slightly better than textiles.

What can be reused or recycled? Any kind of clothing, shoes, belts, purses, hats, stuffed animals, drapes, linens, pillows, towels and rags. It's OK if it is ripped, stained (other than with solvents), missing buttons or one of a pair. Don't recycle items that are dirty, damp, or have an odor.

Visit the Re-Clothe-NY website (<http://www.nysar3.org/page/re-clothe-ny-78.html>) or the organization websites listed above for more information on textile recycling and like Schenectady County Recycles! on Facebook for updates on the Schenectady

Learn About Groundhogs at Five Rivers

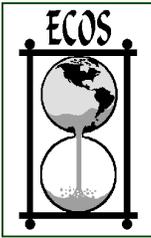
Come to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, 56 Game Farm Road in Delmar, at 10 a.m. on Saturday, February 7, to learn about groundhogs. During this family-friendly program, visitors will explore the life of the groundhog through interactive games, activities and crafts. Afterwards, the group will head outside for an easy stroll to look for signs of this amazing rodent and its relatives. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Later in the day, at 2 p.m., visitors are invited to join a Five Rivers naturalist for a guided walk along the Old Field Trail. This half-mile trail meanders through upland fields and brushlands, and serves as a living exhibit of the ecology of abandoned farmland. An experimental crabapple plantation is alive with deer, rabbits and songbirds. The trail also visits former duck-rearing ponds where, on rare occasions, we have found signs of otter activity in winter. Info, contact Five Rivers at 518-475-0291.

Candlelight Ski & Snowshoe

Friday, January 30 6:00pm - 8:30pm Saratoga Spa State Park

Families are invited to enjoy an evening at Saratoga Spa State Park's CANDLElight Ski and Snowshoe fundraiser event. Admission is a minimum of two canned food items. In addition to a one mile candlelit loop, the park will offer a bonfire, ice skating and hot food and drinks. Snowshoes available to rent. Event will take place at the Warming Hut. Food will be donated to the Franklin Community Center Food Pantry. Please call Alli Schweizer at (518) 584-2000 ext. 116 for more information.



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2682 Aqueduct Road, Niskayuna, NY.**

Citizen Science Mammal Monitoring Project Seeks Participants

Grafton, NY- Tamakoce Wilderness Programs is initiating a multi-year mammal monitoring survey this winter at Dyken Pond Environmental Education Center in Grafton, New York. Volunteer "citizen scientists" will receive in-depth training in animal tracking this winter and spring. Once certified as trained monitors, they will walk prescribed routes after snowfalls, collecting ecological data that will help paint a picture of land use by animals on the Rensselaer Plateau.

This is the initial portion of a study that will be duplicated at other sites on the Rensselaer Plateau. The purpose of this survey is to record the evidence of mammal presence and attempt to identify patterns of use and travel by certain species. Bear, Gray Fox, Coyote, Otter, Fisher, Moose and Bobcat will be our focal species while also recording the presence and usage patterns of Deer, Beaver and small rodents. Ultimately we wish to compile enough data to be able to identify core feeding, denning/resting, mating/birthing areas and travel routes. Maps will then be created to illustrate the findings.

Training Schedule:

1/31 Field Day 10:00-3:00
2/11 Evening Slideshow/data collection 6:00-9:00
2/28 Field Day 10:00-3:00

3/8 Field Day 10:00-3:00
3/21 Field Evaluation 10:00-3:00
5/9 Field Day 10:00-3:00

Cost of training, made up of six sessions, is \$250. Discounts are available for those who have done some of this training in past programs. The mammal monitor training is led by Dan Yacobellis, a local tracker and wilderness awareness teacher. He founded and runs Tamakoce Wilderness Programs which has run wilderness awareness programs for children and adult groups since 2006. Dan has taught tracking workshops for Dyken Pond Environmental Education Center, Hopkins Memorial Forest, The Adirondack Folk School, Grafton Lakes State Park and Emma Treadwell Thacher Nature Center and is also teaching a Winter Study Course in animal tracking for the second year at Williams College. He has been studying the art and science of animal tracking for almost 20 years and received a Level 3 Track and Sign certification from Cyber Tracker International. Contact: Daniel Yacobellis 518-928-7897

Vale Cemetery Seeks Volunteers

Vale Cemetery is seeking volunteers to help in the process of becoming an Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary. Anyone interested in helping should contact Bernie McEvoy 421-0079 or bmcevoy@juno.com