

ECOS NEWS



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

Vol. XLIV

Number 5

April 2016

Schenectady County League of Women Voters &
ECOS: The Environmental Clearinghouse
present

Water Infrastructure in Schenectady County

Thursday, April 14th 6:30-7:45 PM

Downtown Schenectady Library McChesney Room

Paul LaFond, Director of Water and Wastewater for the City of Schenectady, and Jason Pelton, Schenectady County Groundwater Management Planner, will discuss the state of the water infrastructure in Schenectady County.

BIRDS & BRUNCH with Nancy Slack

Friday, April 29th or Saturday, April 30th 9-11 AM
at the Slacks, 3442 Ridge Rd. Scotia

Winter and spring birds -- at least 15 different ones.

Last time we had 20 and a mink!

Indoors at the picture window and outdoors in the yard.

\$15 per person. Contact ECOS at 370-4125 or info@ecosny.org to register.

“Drawing Teaches Us To See”

Learn to portray plants with botanical accuracy
using pencil, pen and ink, and watercolor.

Local botanical artist Anne Jaster will teach this 6 week course on Fridays from May 13th through June 17th at the ECOS office in the Niskayuna Community Center from 9:00 am to Noon. Class size is limited to 10. Course fee is \$60. Contact ECOS at 370-4125 or info@ecosny.org to register.

ECOS NEWS

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ECOS: The Environmental Clearinghouse, Inc.

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10 am — 3 pm and by appointment.

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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.

**JOIN THE
LOCAL FOOD
REVOLUTION**

We are building a new, full-time cooperative market featuring local, organic and sustainably produced natural foods in downtown Schenectady.



Electric City Food Cooperative
PO Box 1416, Schenectady, NY 12301

Contact: Kat Wolfram
(518) 322-6628
www.electriccityfood.coop

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 you 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.

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
800-724-0309

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: samantha.vannness@nypa.gov



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Rentals Lessons Repairs
2855 Aqueduct Rd. Schenectady, N.Y. 12309
(off Balltown Rd. at Rexford Bridge)

President's Letter

I ended last month's letter with the mention of our Annual Membership Meeting, to be held at the Niskayuna branch Library. I'd like to start this letter by noting (at the suggestion of a member) that I intend to see that next year's meeting be again held at the Town Recreation Center where our office is actually located, and at a later starting time so that more members who work a normal schedule can attend. I appreciate the suggestion and look forward to a larger turnout for our annual meeting.

I have previously mentioned the Board has approved a new committee for "Communications". They will work to improve our web site, Facebook, and other electronic methods of making ourselves better known to the public. Traditional news items for the press, and anything else that can prove beneficial will be pursued. If you are interested in helping with this committee, or know of someone with experience or particular useful skills, please contact our office or me. We need the help, and we recognize the importance of this committee's work to help us share Environmental Education with the general public of this area.

Will Seyse

Canal Clean Sweep

The 11th annual Clean Sweep is scheduled for Friday - Sunday, April 22-24. Celebrate Earth Day and show some love for the Canal and Canalway Trail by volunteering! To find an event near you visit www.ptny.org/events/canal-clean-sweep

Executive Director's Report

Wow, what a winter. Every ECOS ski and snowshoe outing was either cancelled or an enjoyable winter walk. Thank you to all our volunteers who planned to lead outings this winter and to our winter walk leaders.

As usual we are gearing up for our busiest time of the year. April means Earth Day and Arbor Day, which means a lot of school programs on the ECOS calendar, as well as the ECOS Annual Dinner and our spring walks. May will bring the environmental field days and spring festivals. That means the ECOS office will have limited hours during April and May. I will respond to messages and emails as quickly as possible but please be patient if it takes a couple of days.

Our new year begins April 1 at ECOS. I'd like to thank our outgoing board members Kyle Lanzit, Jean Walters, and Dee Strnisa for their service on the board. I'd also like to thank Art Clayman and Holly Hawkes for becoming new officers on the ECOS board.

Be sure to mark your calendars for all the great upcoming events. The new Earth Day Festival and Bicycle Parade sounds like a fun filled day. Stop by and see our display at the event or ride along with me in the bicycle parade

Patrick Clear

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/Organization ____ \$250. + Benefactor
____ \$40. Family ____ \$125. Sustainer \$____ Additional Donation

Please make your check payable to: ECOS

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____
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.

Save the Date Migration Festival at the Mabee Farm Festival Saturday, May 1st

ECOS: The Environmental Clearinghouse, Audubon Society of the Capital District and the Schenectady Historical Society have come together to bring you this great event. Save the date and see your next issue of ECOS News for details.

Celebrate Arbor Day

National Arbor Day is Friday, April 29th. So let's get together and celebrate the importance of trees! For information on Arbor Day and to find events near you visit www.arborday.org

Earth Day Friday, April 22nd Trees for the Earth

Over the next five years, as Earth Day moves closer to its 50th anniversary, we're calling on you to help us achieve one of our most ambitious goals yet — we're planting 7.8 billion trees and we're starting now.

Trees will be the first of five major goals we are undertaking in honor of the five-year countdown to our 50th anniversary. On their own and together, these initiatives will make a significant and measurable impact on the Earth and will serve as the foundation of a cleaner, healthier and more sustainable planet for all.

Why Trees?

Trees help combat climate change.

They absorb excess and harmful CO₂ from our atmosphere. In fact, in a single year, an acre of mature trees absorbs the same amount of CO₂ produced by driving the average car 26,000 miles.

Trees help us breathe clean air.

Trees absorb odors and pollutant gases (nitrogen oxides, ammonia, sulfur dioxide and ozone) and filter particulates out of the air by trapping them on their leaves and bark.

Trees help communities.

Trees help communities achieve long-term economic and environmental sustainability and provide food, energy and income.

www.earthday.org

SCEAC Establishes New Committee to Address Invasive Species

The Schenectady County Environmental Advisory Council has established a new committee to address invasive species threats to Schenectady County including the twin threats of the hemlock woolly adelgid and the emerald ash borer. The Committee hopes to expand these concerns to threats to public health from invasive pathogens borne by ticks, mosquitoes and other vectors.

This committee will partner with Cornell Cooperative Extension and the County Health Department to bring together homeowners, municipal officials, arborists, tree disease specialists, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and Department of Health experts and other stakeholders concerned about the spread of invasive species and diseases within the County. The work will address concerns of health officials and citizens about invasive pathogens as well as homeowners who have ash and hemlock trees on their properties, municipalities with street and other plantings that will present a risk to public health, and the County Preserves and County Forest.

Possible activities include monitoring and reporting to the New York State Invasive Species database; development of an information repository; and outreach to homeowners and municipal officials on management strategies. If you are interested in joining this committee, please contact Jeff Edwards at 518-386-2225.

Thacher Nature Center Native Plant Sale

Spring is just around the corner and it's time to think about plants. This year's Native plant sale is all about Biodiversity! The wide variety of perennials, shrubs and trees are available to order before the on site sale, May 21st and 22nd, 10am-3pm at Thacher Park Overlook.

If you're interested in starting a new garden, or adding to your existing habitat, then the plant kits are right for you! Laurel has carefully chosen plants for each of the four kits to suit a range of soil moisture and sunlight needs.

We have two Monarch and Butterfly Garden kits (depending on your soil moisture) with plants specifically chosen for their ability to attract and provide egg-laying sites for many species of butterflies, including the beautiful but imperiled Monarch!

If you've got plenty of shade, then the Semi-Shade and Woodland garden kit is just the ticket, with six shade-loving perennials that offer bursts of color in early spring!

Need a Mother's Day gift for your mom? Consider the Mother's Day Garden kit, which offers a nice variety of colorful blooms that any mom is sure to love!

The kits range in price from \$50 to \$75 and include 10 or 15 quart-sized plants. (Sorry, no substitutions!)

For further information regarding the pre-order, garden kits or the on site sale, please call Thacher Nature Center at 872-0800.



A PLACE FOR FOLK 2016

Unitarian Universalist Society of Schenectady
1221 Wendell Avenue, Schenectady 12308
www.aplaceforfolk.org

An Evening with Tracy Grammer

Friday, April 22nd at 7:30 pm

\$20 per adult, reservations recommended.

Renowned for her springwater-clear alto, perfectly intoned violin, and guitar playing that is by turns percussive and delicate, Grammer is also a masterful storyteller with an ease and charisma on stage -- not to mention a riotous sense of humor.

The Schenectady County Historical Society,
ECOS: The Environmental Clearinghouse,
and the Audubon Society of the Capital Region present:

MIGRATION CELEBRATION

AT MABEE FARM

Live birds!
Nature hikes!
Crafts! Games!
Erie Canal talk!
Demos!

FREE!!

Sunday May 1, 11-3



schenectadyhistorical.org

Earth Day EXPO & Bicycle PARADE

Washington Park Lake House

 **Sunday April 17** ☐

11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

**Celebrate Sustainable Living in the
Capital Region**

Lots of Good Stuff!

*** Live Music & Entertainment**

*** Electric Vehicles Show**

*** Children's Activities**

*** Solar Energy Displays**

*** Composting & Recycling**

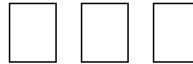
Exhibits

*** Model Solar Car Race**

*** Green Fashion Pageant**

*** Vendors featuring Earth-Friendly
Products, Services and**

Delicious Wholesome Foods



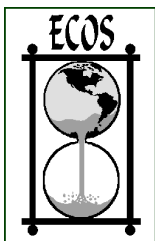
BICYCLE PARADE:

**Join us for a 12 mile escorted bike
ride to award-winning
"green" buildings.**

**Ride begins
at Lake House at 9 AM.
Returns to Washington Park
at 11:30 am**

**where "tykes on trikes"
can join in the fun.**

Helmets required by all. Under 18



ECOS: The Environmental Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 9118
Niskayuna, NY 12309

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**ECOS: The Environmental Clearinghouse is located in the Niskayuna Community Center,
2682 Aqueduct Road, Niskayuna, NY.**

Earth Day Clothing and Textile Collection

You can help our Earth on Earth Day by bringing clothing, footwear, backpacks, handbags, etc to the Schenectady County Community College parking lot on Saturday, April 23rd from 8:00 to noon.

This event was organized by the Recycling Committee of SCEAC (Schenectady County Environmental Advisory Council); ECOS is participating by providing volunteers through its Schenectady Recycles! Committee. You may contact ECOS if you wish to volunteer.

The City Mission will provide a truck. In addition to clothing, you can also donate old sheets and blankets, towels, curtains, stuffed toys, etc. Items that aren't reusable will be sent to textile recycling facilities. But the City Mission prefers to get the items they can reuse. All articles must be clean and dry. Stains and missing buttons are okay, but please, no grease or solvents.

Everyone knows that donating reusable clothing helps low-income people. But how many people think about how it helps the environment? According to the State DEC website, New York residents and businesses throw away almost 1.4 billion pounds of usable and recyclable textiles every year. Recycling

m textiles helps reduce the amount of pesticides needed to grow more cotton, the amount of water and petroleum used in manufacturing new textiles, and the amount of green house gases produced in the landfills by decomposing textiles. Even the economy can be improved by reusing and recycling textiles. The expense to municipalities of discarding these materials in landfills is reduced, and new jobs are created for people processing textiles. Much of this material is also exported to third-world countries where the need is great.

u You can learn more about this by going to <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/100141.html> Another good resource is NYSAR3 (NY State Association for Reduction, Reuse, and Recycling) at <http://www.nysar3.org/page/re-clothe-ny-78.html>

**SEE YOU WITH YOUR OLD CLOTHES ON 4/23 AT
SCHENECTADY COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**