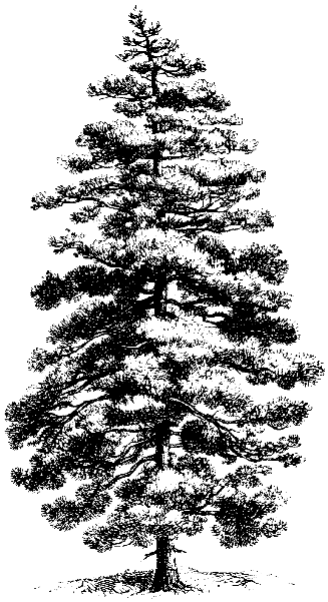
ECOS NEWS

ECOS: The Environmental Clearinghouse

Celebrating Our 43rd Year in Environmental Education

Vol. XLIV *Number 2* *December 2015 / January 2016*



ECOS Annual Holiday Party

Friday, December 11 5:00 to 7:00

Niskayuna Recreation Center
2682 Aqueduct Road, Niskayuna

Holiday Snacks & Appetizers
Raffle Baskets
Re-Gift Treasure Sale
Bring a Friend
Bring a dish to share if you'd like

RE-GIFTING- The Ultimate in Recycling

Keeping with the environmental theme of reduce, reuse and recycle, ECOS is asking you to donate a "treasure" that you many have in your home. We will then offer these treasures at a gift sale at our annual holiday Party on Friday, December 11th.

Please help the environment, support ECOS and come shopping for a "new to you gift" just in time for the holiday season. Items should be in very good to new condition. Please pre-price the items.

Donations may be dropped off at the ECOS office. Please call (370-4125) if you have any questions.

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ECOS: The Environmental Clearinghouse, Inc.
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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.

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

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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
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President's Letter

ECOS members have been busy improving trails for hiking and cross country skiing at Featherstonaugh State Forest, and picking up litter along Aqueduct Road as part of our 'Adopt a Highway' responsibilities.

The ECOS Board held a retreat last month and will continue to work for several months to refine our ideas to keep your organization strong and with a "purpose" to exist.

Thanks for thinking of ECOS well enough to share this newsletter with your friends and family. We need and appreciate your continued support and especially all efforts to expand our membership base.

Will Seyse

Executive Director's Report

Winter is almost here which means ECOS ski and snowshoe outings are soon to begin. But first we need volunteers to help lead the trips. Please consider volunteering to lead an outing.

It's also almost ECOS Holiday party time. Be sure to stop by and visit on Friday, December 11 at the ECOS Holiday Party, and bring a dish to share if you'd like while you meet friends and shop at our Holiday Re-gift sale.

Thank you to Schenectady Recycles, NYSDEC, SCEAC and the students of the Emma Willard School and all the volunteers for their help and participation in the ECOS Woodlawn Elementary School Recycling Fair.

And finally, a BIG thank you to all our trail work and road clean up volunteers. You did a great job this fall!!!

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.

Ski/Snowshoe Leaders Needed!!!!

ECOS is looking for volunteers to help lead or co-lead ski and snowshoe outings this winter. Trips are Tuesday mornings from 9:30 to noon. Leaders can choose a location of their choice. Anyone interested in being a leader or volunteer, please contact ECOS at 370-4125 or info@ecosny.org.

Award-winning Audubon Bird App Field Guide is Now FREE

Nothing beats Audubon mobile field guides. With more than 2 million downloads, they are the most trusted authoritative field guide collection in North America.

Audubon Bird Guide: North America is an outstanding mobile field guide resource completely updated to the current AOU checklist. The app includes 821 species; advanced gallery view for easy comparison and search; field mark call outs; a "Find Birds with eBird" feature powered by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology; and a social community of birders who observe, identify, and share their observations and photos in the mobile app and online.

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- Use "Find Birds with eBird" to locate birds seen recently around you, drawing on the continuously updated database from the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and eBird.

Post, keep lists, and share sightings with friends and followers with Audubon Nature Share's easy and user-friendly interface. Visit http://www.audubon.org/apps for details.

Shop Online and Help Support ECOS with Amazon Smile

Amazon Smile is a program where Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization you select. To register for Amazon Smile and start helping ECOS visit smile.amazon.com and choose ECOS The Environmental Clearinghouse as your charity.

BOOKS SANDWICHED IN

Monday, January 4

H is for Hawk, by Helen Macdonald, reviewed by Patricia Rush, past president of ECOS: the Environmental Clearinghouse. Part memoir, part elegy for a dead father, the author, a Cambridge scientist and falconer, resolves to train the most difficult and fiercest of the raptors, a goshawk.

NOTE: A special pre-BSI program will be held at 11 a.m. in the McChesney Room on the northern goshawk, the species of hawk which is the subject of Macdonald's book.

All programs meet in the McChesney Room of the Central Library in downtown Schenectady, and run from Noon to 1 p.m. The Friends provide coffee and tea, attendees are encouraged to bring their lunches.

New Group Membership Rate

ECOS now offers a membership rate for organizations. In an effort to encourage groups like PTA's, PTSA's, PTO's, neighborhood associations, Rotary Clubs, etc. to learn more about ECOS and become active in our programs and activities. The new Organization membership rate is $55, same as the ECOS donor rate, and will include one newsletter mailed to that organization's address.

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.

ECOS Adopt a Natural Resource Volunteers at Featherstonhaugh State Forest.

Due to the significant amount of work that remains to be done on the Featherstonhaugh ski trails, a second ECOS trail work day is tentatively planned for Tuesday, December 22. Celebrate the first day of winter by volunteering on the trails. Please call ECOS after 3:00 pm on Monday, December 21 to confirm the trail work day plans, time and meeting location or check our Facebook page after 3:00.