



We hope you will join us at these upcoming events and programs to:

--engage in the effort to "reimagine the canal" at our ***Conversations About the Canal***,
--*experience* the dance of light envisioned by Schenectady's ***Operation Railbridge***, and
--*enrich* your children's connection between science and writing at our ***ECOS Kids Lab***.

--Art and Leah, ECOS Programs

ECOS ONLINE



Website



Blog



Facebook



Leah Akins, ECOS Executive Director



Art Clayman, ECOS Vice President for Programs

Conversations About the Canal

DISCOVER THE MOHAWK

New York State is celebrating the bicentennial of the Erie Canal's creation this year with a campaign to "Reimagine the Canal." As part of our ***Discover the Mohawk*** initiative with the City of Schenectady, Schenectady County Metroplex Authority, and LandArt Studio, we are hosting a series of conversations focused on economic and environmental sustainability of the historical Mohawk river towns. These events will kick-off with a presentation by some of our region's leading experts on the Erie Canal, followed by dialogue on how reimagining the canal and river can help community revitalization and sustainability in our region.

Thurs., March 8, 7 p.m., The first speaker will be *David Brooks*, education director at the [Schoharie Crossing Visitors Center](#) and a canal buff. Mr. Brooks' talk, titled "Through the Mire," will take a look at the environmental factors and impact of constructing the canal. *Location: [ECOS Headquarters](#), Niskayuna Community Center, 2682 Aqueduct Rd. --Please join us at the ECOS annual



all-member meeting at 5:30 p.m. to discuss 2018-19 priorities and elect new board members (membership required to vote, but all are welcome).

Wed., March 21, 6 p.m., The next speaker will be *Brad Utter*, senior historian and curator for science and technology at the New York State Museum in Albany. Mr. Utter curated the museum's current exhibit, "[Enterprising Waters: New York's Erie Canal](#)," which is at the museum through October 2019. He will talk about the exhibit and how he put it together, as well as his favorite stories about the canal and those who conceived and built it. *Location: McChesney Room, [Schenectady County Public Library](#), 99 Clinton St., Schenectady

Tues., April 24, 7 p.m., Next, we will hear from *Jack Kelly*, of Ulster County, author of the book "[Heaven's Ditch: God, Gold and Murder on the Erie Canal](#)" (St. Martin's Press). Mr. Kelly is a journalist, novelist and historian whose book, according to a New York Times review, "engagingly juxtaposes the challenges confronting the dreamers who envisioned a link between the Atlantic, the Great Lakes and the apocalyptic cauldron brewing upstate.... [as] Mormons and Freemasons, joined with Welsh and Irish laborers recruited from Manhattan's Five Points, carved the canal from rock and mud, thrusting them into a volatile existence." ** Location: [Schenectady Community College](#), 78 Washington Ave, Schenectady

*RSVP is encouraged, but not required for the March events.

**Tickets for the April 24 event will be available for sale on ECOS' website in April.

Operation Railbridge

USING ART TO REVITALIZE OUR COMMUNITY

Wed., Feb. 21, 6 p.m. *Kristin Diotte*, Founder of Operation Railbridge and the City of Schenectady's new Director of Development, will present her vision to revive the city's nine railway overpasses by translating the acoustic energy of passing trains into a visible dance of light, accompanied visual or audible information on the train's schedule, origin, destination and cargo. RSVP encouraged but not required. Location: [Mopco Improv Theatre](#), 10 N. Jay St., Schenectady



ECOS Kids Lab

CONNECTING SCIENCE, NATURE, AND JOURNALISM

Wed., Feb. 28, 4 p.m. Calling all families interested in science, nature and writing! *ECOS Kids Lab* will be a monthly after-school club to explore nature, conduct scientific studies, and publish our findings in our new ECOS Kids Newsletter (a publication for kids, by kids). This club, held on



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Wednesdays afternoons at the Niskayuna Community Center or nearby natural areas, will be family-led, requiring participation by both adults and youth writers. ECOS volunteers will help coach youth in scientific methods and writing. Siblings are welcome to join for parent-supervised play in Community Center or playground. RSVP is encouraged, but not required. Location: [ECOS Headquarters](#) in the Niskayuna Community Center, 2682 Aqueduct Rd., Niskayuna

National Skip the Straw Day

JUST SAY "NO STRAW PLEASE"



Help ECOS volunteers make buttons for National Skip the Straw Day on February 24.

See our [blog](#) for more details on button-making sessions in Schenectady this Thursday- Saturday. Please let Roberta at roberta@ecosny.org know if you would like a button to wear on Skip the Straw Day and beyond. Remember to just say "No Straw Please" to help keep our ocean and rivers clean!

Spring Wildflower Walks

DID THE GROUNDHOG SEE HIS SHADOW?



ECOS needs a volunteer to plan and coordinate the wildflower walks this Spring. Please let Leah know if you are interested. We are hoping that an ECOS member is willing to volunteer to ensure that this long-standing ECOS tradition will continue this year.