

ECOS NEWS



ECOS: The Environmental Clearinghouse

Celebrating Our 46th Year in Environmental Education

Volume XLVI

Number 3

October/November 2018

17th *Annual Rachel Carson Celebration*

Nov. 12, Monday, 5 - 8 p.m.

Van Curler Room, SUNY Schenectady (SCCC)

Join us for the 17th Annual ECOS Rachel Carson Celebration in the Van Curler Room of SUNY Schenectady. As always we'll have the Arts and Services Silent Auction, raffles, wine and hors d'oeuvres reception, and a buffet dinner.

ECOS is very excited to have **Mark Castiglione** the guest speaker. Mark has been executive director of the Capital District Regional Planning Commission since 2013. Before that he was director of the Hudson River Valley Greenway and the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area. Mark has a master's degree in regional planning from the University at Albany. His talk will be about this region's growth patterns and their impact on the environment.



The 2018 Rachel Carson Award will be presented to the Honorable **Daniel McCoy**, Albany County Executive, in recognition of his outstanding leadership and tireless efforts to promote environmental awareness and to tackle climate change, dirty fuels, and the removal of polystyrene from our waste stream.

SCHEDULE

5:00 – Wine and Hors d'oeuvres Reception, Arts and Services Silent Auction, Raffles

6:00 – Buffet Dinner

7:00 – Presentation of the 2018 Rachel Carson Award

7:15 – 8:00 Guest Speaker

Tickets can be purchased for \$50 per person. Please see the enclosed reservation form. For more information email ECOS info@ecosny.org; or contact Jen Insull at insullj@gmail.com or 518-269-0387, or Nancy Parry at parrywt@aol.com or 518-362-6145.

DONATIONS

Donations are needed for the Arts and Services Auction. Last year we had wonderful donations such as a night at Camp Fowler, gift certificates to Starbucks, a day in the Adirondacks, and many more. Let's repeat last year's success and come up with some wonderful new donations. Perhaps someone could donate a bike tune-up, a few hours of raking, painting, or handy work? How about pet sitting, or dog walking? Even small donations can be added together in a basket to make a nice prize for someone. If you have any good ideas or items you'd like to donate, please email Nancy Parry at parrywt@aol.com or call 518-362-6145. Thanks!

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ECOS NEWS

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ECOS:

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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, build a community that is aware and knowledgeable about environmental issues, and advocate informed action to preserve our natural resources. ECOS is funded through the support of our members and the community.

Rachel Carson continued

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP?

If you would like to volunteer to help with the celebration in any of these ways please contact Jen Insull at insullj@gmail.com or 518-269-0387, or Nancy Parry at parrywt@aol.com, or 518-362-6145, or the ECOS office at info@ecosny.org or call 518-370-4125.

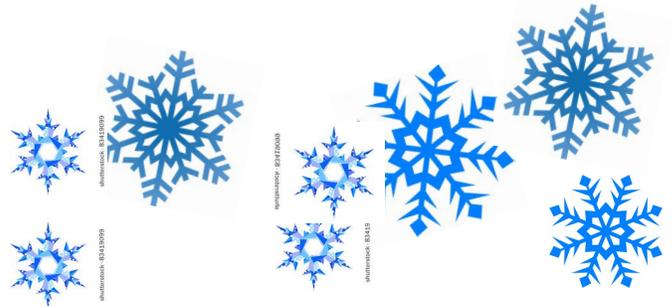
- Can you ask a business for a donation?
- Help assemble raffle baskets?
- Transport donated goods to SCCC?
- Help arrange tables or take photographs?

ECOS TRAIL CLEARING

Featherstonough State Forest
Tuesday, October 16, 9:30 a.m.



Help clear trails for our winter ski trips. This area can be wet and muddy so boots are recommended. If you have loppers, weed wackers or small saws, please bring them. Meet at 9:30 at the intersection of Lake Rd. and Hardin Rd. in Delanson.



ECOS HOLIDAY PARTY

Thursday, December 13, 2018
6 PM—8 PM
Niskayuna Town Recreation Center
2682 Aqueduct Rd. Niskayuna, NY
Bring a food dish to share
Please consider bringing a new or nearly-new item for our re-gifting sale.

ECOS PARTNERSHIPS

Art Clayman, ECOS Vice President for Programs

The Capital Region is fortunate to have many organizations doing good environmental work. Too many, it sometimes seems. A look at their calendars shows them often offering the same kind of hikes, programs, and other activities – and this at a time when membership and participation in most voluntary organizations are declining. What to do to avoid duplication and get more people to come to these events?

The answer appears obvious: partnerships, both formal and informal, one-time and continuing. There’s no need to reinvent the wheel. When something has been shown to work, two or more organizations can make it work even better by joining forces. If another organization has a good new program or event, piggyback on that and encourage ECOS members to participate or go – and vice-versa.

So, look for ECOS to be involved in more activities like the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy’s “Reading the Landscape” hike in Schenectady County, scheduled for November 4. And for more ECOS-inspired activities, like the creation of a children’s garden at Vale Urban Farm. Or the training in invasive species identification and reporting that ECOS has arranged for October 25, which will be done by Capital Mohawk PRISM, a non-profit with expertise in that area.

Not only do partnerships have the potential to increase participation, these days they are about the only way to win grant money from governments and foundations. They make sense. We look forward to the first-ever countywide environmental summit in 2019, where we might find more partners.

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE SEEKS MEMBERS

ECOS is in the process of forming a Governance Committee to review our by-laws and policies, both to ensure legal compliance and to consider any changes that might serve us better. Current committee members are Steve Jones, Alex Lykins, and Holly Hawkes, chair. If you can help with this important work, please contact Holly at hollyh.mct@gmail.com or 518-399-2596.

Those who dwell among the beauties and the mysteries of the earth are never alone or weary of life.

—*Rachel Carson*

A PERSONAL RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Jeff Leon

I have conserved my land as a personal response to the reality of our changing climate. I thought about what I could give to make the world slightly better and think globally while acting locally, and decided to protect my 118 acres in Amsterdam, NY.

It was one of many choices I've made in the last 15 years that have led me to live a net-zero life. I tightened up my 100-year-old house; I installed two solar arrays that provide 95% of my electricity; I moved to geothermal HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning); I drive electric cars. Recently, I opened the more than two miles of nature trails around my land, Strawberry Fields, to the public. Every time I notice a car in the parking area I feel a pulse of pleasure.

My local land trust, Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy, has added a climate lens to their land protection and community engagement activities. Hopefully all land trusts will do the same. It's the least our future generations deserve.

There are 52,337 miles of rivers and streams in NYS.

—*NYS Department of Environmental Conservation*

AMERICA RECYCLES DAY

Keep America Beautiful’s America Recycles Day is the only nationally recognized day dedicated to promoting and celebrating recycling in the US. It encourages registration for businesses, community organizations, government entities, and individuals to host an event on an America Recycles Day theme. America Recycles Day takes place on and in the weeks surrounding November 15, and urges people to pledge to reduce, reuse, repurpose, and recycle in every aspect of their life. Available online and via paper pledges, the BeRecycled Pledge is a promise to actively choose a “recycled” lifestyle, by recycling at home, work, school, and on the go; buying products made with recycled content; and educating and encouraging friends, family, and neighbors to take the BeRecycled Pledge. Aside from the pledge, people can participate in or host their own America Recycles Day event. Keep America Beautiful offers valuable resources for planning, promoting, and hosting an event on the America Recycles Day website, www.americarecyclesday.org.

ECOS EVENTS

HIKE THE BOZENKILL

Oct. 1, Monday, 9 a.m.



This is a newly created, 214-acre preserve, made possible by a partnership between the Open Space Institute, the Nature Conservancy, and the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy.

Meet in the preserve parking lot on Westfall Road, off Bozenkill Road, Altamont. The walk leader will be Darwin Roosa. Bring hiking boots or sturdy shoes, as well as sunscreen and insect repellent. Please call ECOS at 518 370-4125, or email info@ecosny.org, to let us know that you will be joining us.

FALL FOLIAGE RIDE

Oct. 9, Tuesday, 11:33 a.m.

ECOS board member Art Clayman will serve as a guide for the Park Service's Annual Fall Foliage Ride through the Adirondacks on Amtrak's dome car. The ECOS group will leave from Schenectady's station and get off in Port Henry to return on the regular train coming down from Montreal. We should be back in Schenectady around 5 p.m. You can buy your own tickets online or at the Schenectady train station; the fee is \$29 each way (\$58 round-trip), but discounts of 10% are available for seniors, and 15% for purchasing in advance and online. For more information contact Art Clayman at artclayman@gmail.com.

LAST TUESDAY WALK OF THE FALL

ESCARPMENT TRAIL, THACHER PARK

Oct. 9, Tuesday, 9:30 a.m.

Enjoy autumn views from an easy route along the cliff top, with colorful sugar maple, oak, hickory, juniper, beech, basswood, birch, and witch hazel. Beside the path we'll look for maple-leaved viburnum, roundleaf dogwood, and snowberry. Our leader is Nancy Engel. Be aware that Thacher Park Rd. / Rt. 157 will be closed in the middle of the park through late November, and this may affect access to the Thacher Visitor Center, where we will meet. Please call the Park Office at 518-872-1237 for up-to-date information on detours.

There is a parking fee of \$6 per car. For carpooling meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Crosstown Plaza on Rt. 7 and Watt St., in front of Ocean State Job Lot.

SPOTTING INVASIVE SPECIES

Oct. 25, Thursday, 10:30 a.m.

Kelly Adirondack Center

897 St. David's Lane, Niskayuna



Learn how to identify invasive species and report them to New York's Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) via a smartphone application called IMap. This workshop is conducted by Capital Mohawk PRISM (Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management), which contracts with the DEC to plan regional invasive species management, develop early detection and rapid response, implement eradication projects, recruit and coordinate PRISM partners and volunteers, educate, and support research. Cosponsored by ECOS. For more information on PRISM contact Kristopher Williams at kbw44@cornell.edu or visit the organization's website at www.capitalmohawkprism.org. For more information on the training session contact Mr. Williams, or ECOS at 518-370-4125, info@ecosny.org

ECOS AT THE IMPROV

Nov. 9, Friday, 7:30 p.m.

Attend a performance by the talented improvisational troupe MOPCO at their theater at 10 North Jay St. in Schenectady. The evening will include skits on environmental topics or themes – with ECOS members participating if they wish. The Mopco Improv Theatre was established in Oct. 2016; its home, a historic former firehouse, underwent a total renovation and is now the Capital Region's premier hub for improv and entertainment. Mopco offers classes, shows, and special events. The theatre is also the active headquarters for Koppett, the development consultancy and world-renowned leader in applied improv – as well as The Mop & Bucket Co., formerly the residential improv company at Proctors for nearly a decade, and voted the Capital Region's best in comedy three years in a row and counting. Come early for wine and cheese, or coffee and cookies, at 6:30 p.m.

continued

PARTNER EVENTS

LANDIS ARBORETUM EVENTS

OLD GROWTH FOREST HIKE

Oct. 6, Saturday, 1- 3:30 p.m.

A hike through the old growth forest and its amazing tree giants.

HALLOWEEN OWL PROWL

Oct. 21, Sunday, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

This is the Arboretum's traditional program for the end of the warm season. Explore the Arboretum woods to listen for these nocturnal birds of prey.

Both events are led by George Steele, science educator. Gather at the Meeting House. Fees for each event: members \$5/person, \$15/family; non-members \$15/person, \$25/family. For more information contact Nancy Stuebner at the Arboretum, info@landisarboretum.org.

MABEE FARM

FALL FOLIAGE FESTIVAL

Oct. 15, Sunday, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

A community celebration of all things fall, featuring live music, hayrides, pony rides, petting zoo, and more – all free! Be sure to stop by the ECOS booth, where we'll be doing activities inspired by this summer's monarch butterfly plantings. Sponsored by Schenectady County. For more information contact Mary Zawacki at the Schenectady County Historical Society, 518-374-0263 x 4 or e-mail to director@schenectadyhistorical.org.

REPAIR CAFE

Oct. 13, Saturday, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

McChesney Room, Schenectady County Central Library

Sponsored by Friends of the Library, Repair Cafe is a neighborhood initiative that promotes repair as an alternative to throwing out broken items. People can bring their broken items to the cafe, where they are fixed for free with the help of volunteer repair coaches. This includes small electrical appliances, furniture, wood items, clothing, jewelry, dolls, toys, clocks and watches. Limit two items per household. Cornell's Schenectady County Recycles will also be there to "fix your recycling habits." What actually belongs in the recycling bin? Are you trying to recycle the wrong things? What happens to the things we recycle? Educators will answer these questions, play recycling trivia games, and provide information about recycling. No reservation necessary.

ALBANY PINE BUSH

At 3,300-plus acres, the Albany Pine Bush Preserve (APBP) protects one of the best remaining inland pitch pine/scrub oak barrens in the world. This extraordinary fire-dependent ecosystem provides habitat for 75 of the state-designated wildlife Species of Greatest Conservation Need, including the endangered Karner blue butterfly.



The rolling sand dunes and miles of trails offer many recreational opportunities including hiking, bird watching, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, mountain biking, hunting, fishing, and canoeing.



The APBP Commission is a public-private partnership created by the New York State Legislature in 1988 to protect and manage the preserve. Admission to the Visitor Center is free, and programs are too (unless noted). *Reservations are required for all events*, except Smokey Bear Day (for which they're appreciated); call 518-456-0655 or visit www.albanypinebush.org/events.

Location: Albany Pine Bush Discovery Center, 195 New Karner Road, Albany, NY

Oct. 5, Friday, 10:00 a.m. – Morning Meander for Adults

Oct. 6, Saturday, 11:00 a.m. – Brilliant and Bristly Buckmoths

Oct. 8, Monday, 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. – Smokey Bear Day

Oct. 13, Saturday, 11:00 a.m. – Fall Foliage Hike

Oct. 18, Thursday, refreshments 6:30 p.m., lecture 7:00 p.m. – Biological Soil Crusts for Adults

Oct. 20, Saturday, 10:30 a.m. – Pine Bush GPS Adventure

Oct. 21, Sunday, 1:00 p.m. – Discover the Pine Bush

Oct. 24, Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. – Full Moon Owls and Hors d'oeuvres for Adults (\$5/person)

Oct. 27, Saturday, 11:00 a.m. – Cunning Coyotes for Adults

Oct. 30, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. – Sensory Night Hike

PARTNER EVENTS

MHLC EVENTS

AUTUMN FLOWER WALK AT STRAWBERRY FIELDS

Oct. 6, Saturday, 10 a.m.

Embrace the beauty of October in the Mohawk River valley at the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy (MHLC) Strawberry Fields Nature Preserve in Amsterdam, NY. The preserve's open fields will be full of color from eight species of asters, eight goldenrods, and most special of all, the rare fringed gentian. If Oct. 6 is rainy or overcast, the walk will be rescheduled for Oct. 7, since the fringed gentian will only open in sunshine.



Fringed gentian

READING THE LANDSCAPE

Nov. 4, Sunday, 1- 4 p.m.

MHLC, ECOS, and Dave Muska of Ondatra Adventures are offering a special guided tour through a private property which has been protected by MHLC with a conservation easement. Dave will focus on how to learn the history of the land from contextual clues in the landscape. What can the fields, stone walls, and large oak trees tell us about how humans and animals have lived on it in the past? Address provided to those who register.

For registration or more information on either event contact Daron Blake at 518-436-6346, or go to MHLC's website, www.mohawkhudson.org/events.



WANT TO PLANT SOME TREES?

ReTree Schenectady is an all-volunteer organization dedicated to the planting, care, and conservation of trees in the

City of Schenectady. It was founded in 1991 to combat the rising loss of trees due to aging, disease, or injury. The city itself has limited funds for maintaining its urban forest, and discontinued its municipal tree planting program back in the 1980s. ReTree Schenectady has facilitated the planting of over 3,000 trees, trained volunteers to plant and maintain trees, and participated in community events to educate the public regarding tree planting and care. Alliances with other local organizations such as Schenectady 2000, Union College, Schenectady High School, the Boy Scouts, several churches, and the General Electric Elfunns have helped tremendously.

The fall planting date is tentatively Oct. 27, 9 a.m. - 12 noon, with place(s) to be determined. They'll be planting 35 trees – and ECOS volunteers are very welcome. For more information contact Steve Jones at 518-381-1826, dophin.jones@gmail.com.

SARATOGA RECYCLES DAY

Oct. 20, Saturday, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

SPAC Parking Lot (west side of Route 50)

Re-purpose unwanted items – protect the environment – help the community! Sustainable Saratoga's first ever Saratoga Recycles Day in 2017 was a great success, collecting more than 11,000 pounds of textiles, at least 80 bikes, and tons of scrap metal – and they're doing it again this year. Check their map at the following address:

www.sustainablesaratoga.org/projects/zero-waste/recycles-day, which shows what materials will be accepted at each collection station in the parking lot. There is a \$5 entrance fee per vehicle, and televisions and monitors carry an additional fee of \$20 each, to offset the cost of getting these items properly recycled. Please note that they cannot accept pillows, carpeting, batteries, thermostats, smoke detectors, fluorescent light bulbs, and toxic/hazardous materials. For additional information please contact: zerowaste@sustainablesaratoga.org.

THACHER STATE PARK EVENTS

For the Oct. 7, 14 (H₂O), and 21 events call 518-872-1237 to register; for the rest call 518-872-0800. For the Oct. 14 (H₂O) and 21 events there is a park entrance fee of \$6 per vehicle; for the rest parking is free. Descriptions can be found at parks.ny.gov/events.

Oct. 6, Saturday, 10 a.m. – Fall Foliage Hike on Fred Schroeder Memorial Trail. Thacher Park

Oct. 7, Sunday, 10 a.m. – Leave No Trace Awareness Workshop. Thacher Park

Oct. 13, Saturday, 10 a.m. – Guided Walk on the Indian Ladder Trail. Thacher Park

Oct. 14, Sunday, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. – Autumn Birches Children's Art Class. Thacher Nature Center (materials fee \$10)

Oct. 14, Sunday, 2 p.m. – The Power of H₂O. Thacher Park Visitor Center

Oct. 21, Sunday, 2 p.m. – Geology of the Blue Trail. Thacher Park

Oct. 26, Friday, 6:30 p.m. – Critters of the Night Hike. Thacher Nature Center

Oct. 27, Saturday, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. – 'Nature's Creepy' Mystery Trail. Thacher Nature Center

Nov. 3, Saturday, 3:30 p.m. – Nature's Engineers. Thacher Nature Center

PARTNER EVENTS

WANT TO HELP CLEAN UP?

The Vale Urban Farm in Schenectady's Vale Cemetery has been growing. Fifty-four member families now work, eat, and feed their households from the farm. After a long hot summer, the farm will be heading into fall with a harvest festival in October and a final clean up day on **Nov. 4, 1 - 3 p.m.** Come join in, take home some kale and brussels sprouts, and learn about the plans for a community orchard and model vacant-lot farm in 2019.

For more information contact Melissa MacKinnon at thevaleurbanfarm@gmail.com.

Albany International Airport presents

Landmark

Visual artists and writers reflect upon a changing

American landscape

September 29, 2018-March 25, 2019

Presented in partnership with the Thomas Cole

National Historic Site

Also featuring essays and poems by Sandra Dutton, William Jaeger, Jennifer Kabut, Herbert Nichols, Stephanie Nikolopoulos, Justin Nobel and Sara Pruikisma

Albany Airport Gallery, 3rd floor

Open Daily 7 AM—11 PM

“The enlightened of all ages and nations have found pleasure and consolation in the beauty of the rural earth.”

—Thomas Cole, 1801-1848

Founder of the Hudson River School of Painting

VOLKSPORTERS

Empire State Capital Volkspporters (ESCV) is the local club for the American Volkspporting Association, America’s Walking Club. In October and November they will hold a number of walks, including:

Oct. 6, Saturday, 10 a.m. – Cooperstown. Starting at the Clark Sports Center, 124 County Road 52.

Nov. 14, Wednesday, 10 a.m. – Schenectady. Starting at the Apostrophe Café, Proctor’s Theater Arcade.

The complete list is available at www.walkescv.org. Walking pace is relaxed, and distances vary with the walk. Registration is ½ hour before any walk, fee \$2.00. Return address labels will speed the registration process.

ECOS SEVEN PRESERVE CHALLENGE

ECOS is challenging people to explore the wonderful natural preserves in our region. Hidden away in our forests is a wealth of wildlife, natural rock formations and unique plant life. A visit to these unspoiled areas is a visit to another world away from the bustle of our daily lives.



Left: Indian kill



Right: Schenectady County Forest



Below: Sanders

The challenge is easy to take. Enclosed in the newsletter is a form listing the preserves on the challenge. Record the date visited and any observations you wish to share. When all sites have been visited, fill out the box on the bottom left and return to the ECOS office, P.O. Box 9118, Niskayuna, NY 12309



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

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
Paid
Permit #20
Rexford, NY

Ecoss: The Environmental Clearinghouse is located in the Niskayuna Community Center,
 2582 Aqueduct Road, Niskayuna, NY.



ECOS Membership

ECOS: The Environmental Clearinghouse, Inc.

P.O. Box 9118, Niskayuna, NY 12309 518-370-4125

Please check your membership contribution level.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$30. Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> \$55. Donor/Organization | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250. Benefactor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$40. Family | <input type="checkbox"/> \$125. Sustainer | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500. Patron |
| | | \$ <input type="text"/> 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.