

# Greenburgh Nature Center

E3 Newsletter - E-mailed, Economical & Environmental  
February 2010



## Mission

Our mission is to educate and to promote conservation, research, and appreciation of nature and the environment while preserving the natural and historic character of our property.

## Vision

The Greenburgh Nature Center will be the leader in nature and environmental education, igniting a lasting desire to preserve and protect the natural world.

## Quick Links

[Home Page](#)  
[In The News](#)  
[More About Us](#)

---

## Green Tip of the Month

Adjust your thermostat:  
Moving your thermostat just 2 degrees down in winter and up 2 degrees in summer could save about 2,000 pounds of CO2 a year.

---

## → What's Not To Love About A Tree?

The Nature Center is a 33-acre woodlands preserve, and trees help to define who we are. More than 100 species of trees and shrubs can be found on our property, helping to make us a true oasis of greenspace off



Central Avenue. With growing concerns about the sustainability of our planet, scientists and planners are looking closely at the role that trees play in reducing greenhouse gases. Trees provide us with so many benefits and deserve to be recognized as the true heroes that they are.

That's why our 2010 natural history exhibit, "Trees: Heroes of Our Planet," will spotlight trees. The exhibit opens Saturday, February 7th, and will be on display in our large exhibit room until October 3rd. So come by and learn how trees enrich our soil, help control erosion and improve our water quality. Share with your children how trees produce oxygen and absorb carbon dioxide. Go on our tree habitat hunt, see how sap runs through a sugar maple, and make a leaf rubbing to take home. Be a part of our effort to celebrate trees. And while you're here, be sure to get in a walk on our beautiful woodland trails. We thank our exhibit sponsors, Houlihan Lawrence, Westchester County Parks, and Whole Foods of White Plains for their generous support.

## → New Year, New Animal Ambassadors

Recently, the GNC's animal collection has gained some new members, adding a welcome diversity. Last fall, two Tunis sheep joined our barnyard collection of domestic farm animals, coming to us from the Klose Family Farm in Red Hook, NY. In January, three barred owls and a great horned owl joined our birds of prey collection, coming from the Anniston Museum in Alabama. "These new species open up opportunities to



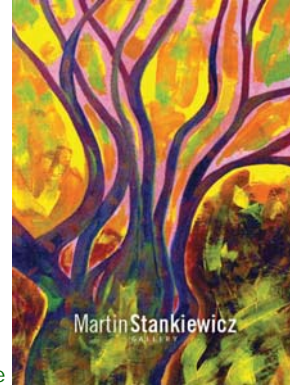
## Our Supporters



expand our birds of prey program and to showcase sustainable uses of animals, such as wool-shearing," said Travis Brady, GNC's Curator of Living Collections. A barnyard opening celebration for members is slated for early May.

## → Chappaqua Art Show To Benefit the GNC

Friends of the Greenburgh Nature Center exist in all sorts of places! Recently, Chappaqua art gallery owner and GNC member Martin Stankiewicz contacted us about possible collaboration. We're happy to announce that a portion of proceeds from his gallery's new exhibit, "Life Interpretations," by Breno Castagno, will go the GNC!



Breno Galli Castagno was born in the city of Pelotas, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. Son of a pianist and a poet, he was raised amidst the arts. A self-taught artist, Breno's paintings tend to be in line with Expressionism and Impressionism. The exhibit shares his life interpretations through works of diverse color infused on canvas by his relaxed and unconventional brush strokes. It runs through March 4th, with the opening reception scheduled for Friday, February 5th, from 6 to 8 p.m. For more information, go to [www.stankiewiczgallery.com](http://www.stankiewiczgallery.com). Please stop in to see the show!

## → Additional Funding for Stormwater Management Planning

The Westchester Community Foundation has recently extended grant funding to the GNC, providing an additional \$10,000 to continue to facilitate a project for inter-municipal stormwater management and flood damage reduction planning in the Town of Greenburgh. Last year, with funding from the Westchester Community Foundation and in partnership with Groundwork Hudson Valley/Saw Mill River Coalition and the Federated Conservationists of Westchester County, the GNC initiated an ongoing process between the municipalities of Greenburgh for cooperative stormwater management and the protection of drinking water.



During the coming year and working through the now-established Greenburgh Environmental Forum, the project will focus on four areas: revising and aligning village codes and ordinances relating to stormwater; identifying site design elements for incorporation into the code review process; investigating shared stormwater engineering consulting services; and public education regarding a regional watershed perspective.

The support of the Westchester Community Foundation has been and continues to be essential to the GNC's ability to pursue this critical inter-municipal work, and the GNC is grateful to be a funding recipient. For more information about the Westchester Community Foundation, go to [www.wcf-ny.org](http://www.wcf-ny.org).

## → Wanted: Adult Volunteers



The Nature Center is fortunate to have a volunteer base of about 60 high school students and a dozen adult volunteers who help keep our facility functioning smoothly - but we're always looking for more! Particularly of need are adults who are interested in helping with animal care/presentation



and adults with an interest in marketing/fundraising projects and events. Adult volunteer Judy Fritsch, seen here with some of our young visitors, has been volunteering at the Nature Center since 1999. Prior to that, she was an early childhood teacher for 26 years in the Bronx. "As a former teacher, I love meeting the young visitors and introducing them to the wonderful world of animals and nature," says Judy. "It's a great way to start them off in thinking about how important it is to conserve our environment." To learn more about volunteer opportunities, contact Managing Director Penny Berman at 813-1834 or [pberman@greenburghnaturecenter.org](mailto:pberman@greenburghnaturecenter.org).

### ➔ It's Winter: Think Summer Camps!

The Nature Center has some fabulous children's summer camp programs that feature small groupings, environmental activities, and lots of outdoor fun. Our five-day Eco-Travel Camps are for children entering grades 4-8 and will run July 12-16 and August 9-13. Adventure Camp, for children entering grades 4-6, will run July 19-23. For the younger set, our half-day End-of-Summer Camps are always popular, and they will be held August 16-19 and August 23-26 (when most other camp programs are already concluded). Please see more details on our website, or call our main number, 723-3470, for more information and to register.



### ➔ Upcoming Programs

**Saturday, February 6th, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. - Hudson River Eaglefest --** GNC is partnering with Teatown Lake Reservation and other environmental organizations in a daylong program that celebrates the bald eagles' return to the Hudson River and other waterways of the Hudson Valley. Most activities take place at Croton Point Park, with a shuttle bus leaving from there and traveling to other eagle viewing sites along the river. For tickets and more information go to [www.teatown.org](http://www.teatown.org), or call 762-2912, ext. 110.



**Sunday, February 7th, 2-4 p.m. - Natural History Exhibit Opening - Trees: Heroes of our Planet -** This new exhibit is sponsored in part by Houlihan Lawrence, Westchester County Parks, and Whole Foods of White Plains. Come meet the exhibit's creators and hug a tree! Entrance included with Nature Center admission; refreshments will be served.

**Wednesday, February 10th, 7:30 p.m. - YES In My Backyard! Backyard Biodiversity is for Every Resident -** Learn how to contribute to the overall health and beauty of your backyard by

using native plants and organic nutrient systems. Featured speakers: Darrin Duling, Director of the Native Plant Center in Valhalla, and Al Krautter, Owner of Sprainbrook Nursery in Scarsdale. This free program is co-sponsored by the Lower Hudson Chapter of the Sierra Club.

**Saturday, February 13th, 10:30 a.m. - Winter Wonderland Puppet Show** - Puppeteer Jill Liflander brings her creative talents to the Nature Center in a program recommended for ages 2-7. Members-\$2, Non-members-\$6 per person. See [www.jillypuppets.com](http://www.jillypuppets.com) for a preview!

**Thursday, February 18th, 2 p.m. - Meet the Animals!** - It's vacation week, so come for an hour of fun as one of our naturalists shows off some of our favorite animals. Recommended for ages 5-12. Members-\$2, Non-members-\$6 per person.

**Sunday, February 21st, 2 p.m. - Let's Celebrate Snow** - Naturalist Educator Jennifer Sloan will still lead an exploration into the world of snowflakes, and you'll have a chance to make a one-of-a-kind snowflake that you can take home. Pre-registration requested. Members-\$2, Non-members-\$6 per person.