

Greenburgh Nature Center

E3 Newsletter - E-mailed, Economical & Environmental
MAY 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.

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Green Tip of the Month

SWITCH TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

Solar, wind, and geothermal power are renewable, sustainable, safe and CLEAN (no CO2 emissions!)

Our Supporters



→ Grand Barnyard Opening For Members

It's official: we've completed the first of several Master Plan projects that will serve to renew and revitalize our Nature Center and better serve the community. We extend our appreciation to Con Edison and Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins for support of this important teaching exhibit. And we're pursuing additional funding to expand the exhibit to include a solar energy system and composting operation, thus enabling us to offer a fuller sustainable outdoor classroom learning experience.



So come join us on Sunday, May 2nd, from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m., when we'll celebrate Members Day and officially unveil this new barnyard area. Travis Brady, our Curator of Living Collections, will introduce our collection of barnyard animals, which include Tunis sheep (a new species at the GNC), eastern turkeys, and our Boer goat, Billy. Learn about what domestic animals eat, how they're raised, and what role they can play in the bigger picture of promoting sustainable lifestyles. There'll be craft activities for children and refreshments for all.

→ Earth Day at the Greenburgh Nature Center

Many hands made light work at our Earth Day Clean-Up! About one hundred volunteers of all ages came out to help us mark the 40th anniversary of this special day, designed to inspire awareness and appreciation for the Earth's environment. They all pitched in to help clear our grounds of winter's debris and prepare our garden beds for the spring planting season. State Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins presented



a Greenburgh Nature Center Earth Day Proclamation to GNC Executive Director Kurt Hundgen (above). Then Senator Stewart-Cousins assisted girl scouts from Yonkers/Crestwood and boy scouts



from Edgemont (left) in planting a Star Magnolia tree in our barnyard area, and new plantings were also added to our demonstration rain garden and other areas. With the azaleas and redbud and cherry trees in bloom, our grounds are now fit for royalty!

And that's just how we like it for visiting school groups and families who come to our Center to reconnect with nature and learn about the environment.

→ Students Focus on Land Use Decisions

Last month, the Greenburgh Nature Center partnered with other environmental organizations to present the Westchester County Student Land Use Symposium, a unique "classroom" on land planning and decision-making for high-school



and middle-school students. The symposium gave students from Edgemont, Lakeland, Pelham, Tarrytown, and White Plains the opportunity to learn about land use planning and the decision-making process, as well as the environmental considerations and impacts of those decisions. The property featured in the real-life



study was the Alexander Street Waterfront Project on the Hudson River in Yonkers. Students met with a variety of professionals from fields involved in development planning, including planners, attorneys, environmental and economic development specialists, open space groups, local officials and residents. They then used the information gathered to collaboratively create a plan to revitalize the deteriorated industrial district.

→ Butterflies are Coming!

This summer, the Nature Center will present its first live butterfly exhibit, scheduled to run from June through September. The exhibit, located in our walk-through greenhouse, will highlight the important role that butterflies play in our ecosystem. Visitors will be able to



enjoy up-close encounters with native butterfly species and learn about their interaction with the plant world. We're anticipating that this exhibit will draw many visitors, new and old, and we thank the following exhibit sponsors for their generous support: Geraldine Stutz Trust, Bartlett Tree Experts, Cablevision, Hitachi America, Central Animal Hospital and HSBC. (Pictured: Gennie Hays, Chairperson of Hitachi's Community Action Committee, presents a check to

GNC Executive Director Kurt Hundgen)

→ Volunteers: Spotlight on Joan Livingston



Joan Livingston is a perfect example of the volunteer spirit here at the Greenburgh Nature Center. Since 1994, Joan has served as an animal care provider and docent in our live animal museum, greeting visitors with a friendly smile and gently introducing children to our animal collection. She has also assisted at many of our special events over the years.

A former school nurse practitioner, Joan came across the Nature Center when she retired and moved to Westchester County from Orange County. "It seemed so congested here, but then I came across the Nature Center, and it was like an oasis," Joan said. "I've always felt so appreciated here, and the staff has been wonderful to work with."

We've come to count on Joan's helpful presence every Monday morning, and now that she's considering a move to warmer climates, we recognize how hard it will be to fill her shoes. Thank you, Joan, for your many hours of labor and your commitment to our mission of environmental education.

→ Open-Air Music Fest



If you enjoy live music and are looking for a great way to spend time with your family out-of-doors, be sure to attend our Open-Air Music Fest on Saturday, May 15, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. (rain date: Sunday, May 16th). This event, held

in conjunction with [Common Ground Community Concerts](#), a leading producer of music and performing arts series in Westchester County, promises a spectacular line-up of national, regional and local artists. Many thanks to our sponsors, Westchester County Parks Department, Whole Foods Market White Plains, Levitt-Fuirst Insurance, People's United Bank, and Capital One, for their support of this event.

Featured performers include:

- the celebrated folk rock duo [Nerissa and Katryna Nields](#), (pictured above) who have been a part of the coffeehouse/festival scene since 1991 and whose most recent CD is targeted to kids of all ages and their families;
- the Binghamton NY-based group [Driftwood](#), who incorporate a mix of old-time, blues, jazz and rock into their sound;
- [Solar Punch](#), which hails from Hastings-on-Hudson and uses solar energy to convey its message of environmental sustainability;
- Hope Machine, known for traditional folk tunes and their own





blend of old-time, modern, Native-American, folk, and rock;
 - Matt Turk, a veteran Westchester performer who has engaged audiences around the world, both as hard-rocking bandleader and acoustic folk troubadour; and
 - Walkabout Clearwater Chorus, a singing group founded by folk music legend Pete Seeger.



Bring your own lawn chairs or blanket...stay for an hour or for the whole afternoon! Refreshments will be available for purchase, and WFAS radio will be broadcasting live and giving away prizes. It's sure to be a fun-filled day! To purchase tickets in advance, go to <http://openairmusicfestival.eventbrite.com/>



 **Upcoming Programs**

Sunday, May 2, 11 AM - 2 PM - MEMBERS' DAY - Check out our collection of barnyard animals, now residing in their spacious new digs. Members-free, Non-members-\$6 per person.



Sunday, May 9, 2 PM - MAKE MOM A MEMORY - Make Mom's day special at the GNC. Join naturalist/storyteller Dean Fausel for a Mothers Day tale, followed by making a floral window hanging just for Mom. Members-\$2, Non-members-\$6 per person.



Saturday, May 15, 11 AM - 4 PM - OPEN AIR FAMILY MUSIC FEST - Entrance fee includes a great line-up of musical entertainment, plus an opportunity to visit our indoor exhibits, walk our woodland trails, and view our birds of prey exhibit and our new, expanded barnyard Members-\$8, Non-members-\$12. All children 2 to 12 years of age-\$4. (Rain date: Sunday, May 16)



Sunday, May 23 2 PM - CREATURES OF WOODFROG POND - Join naturalist John Mancuso as he explores the world of Woodfrog Pond. A brief introduction features live animals; then walk to our pond and use a net to try and find some of the creatures living there. Members-\$2, Non-members-\$6 per person.



Sunday, May 30, 11:30 AM - GNC HIGHLIGHTS TOUR - Take a guided tour of the gardens and grounds, and learn about the treasures on the Nature Center's 33 acres. Trail maps provided. Free.

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