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# Greenburgh Nature Center

E3 Newsletter - E-mailed, Economical & Environmental  
November 2009



## 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

Compost: Use organic wastes from your home to return nutrients to the soil and reduce trash.

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## Our Supporters



## → Green Magic Party Celebrates the Past, the Present and the Future



*Executive Director Kurt Hundgen and GNC Board Member Bennett Fradkin with longtime supporter Erika Hall*

The Greenburgh Nature Center has developed a core Master Plan to identify short- and long-term goals for the growth and improvement of the Center's educational programming and visitor experience. At last month's Green Magic Party, Executive Director Kurt Hundgen shared schematic renderings for a new barnyard exhibit, a nature's discovery zone for children, a Westchester wetlands waterfowl aviary, and a sustainable schoolhouse - all new capital projects that will be pursued over the next three years. Supporters had the opportunity to envision how these projects will help the Center to pursue its core mission: to educate and promote conservation, research, and appreciation of nature and the environment.



*Visitors survey the silent auction offerings*

In addition to looking at the Nature Center's plans for the future, the Green Magic Party was also an opportunity to inaugurate the first GNC Environmental Awards, which recognizes members of our community who have shown leadership in their commitment to a healthy environment. This year's honorees were Westchester Legislator Tom Abinanti and the fellow legislators on Westchester County's Committee on Environment and Energy for introducing the "No Idling" Law, and MINI USA, a Division of BMW of North America, LLC, for its Electric Car Pilot Program. Margaret Goldberg, former GNC Board President, was recognized for her service and commitment to our organization.



*Westchester County Legislator Tom Abinanti*

We are so grateful for all the support we receive from our various partners and friends and thank them for sharing a wonderful evening with us!



*Town of Greenburgh Supervisor Paul Feiner with MINI USA Electric Car Program Specialist Hugo VanGeem*

### ➔ New Bronx River Watershed Exhibit



Recently, the Nature Center unveiled a new indoor aquarium exhibit that focuses on the Bronx River Watershed. Thanks to funding from the New York City Environmental Fund, the Long Island Sound Futures Fund, and the Bronx River Parkway

Reservation Conservancy, a 180-gallon tank has been installed, and educational programming about the Bronx River Watershed will be provided to target audiences. The aquarium (located in our solar room just off our main exhibit room) features local fish species, arthropods, and mollusks that make their home in the Bronx River. This 24-mile-long river flows from the Kensico Dam to the Long Island Sound, and its ecological health was severely impacted by industrialization. Now, thanks to stewardship efforts by the GNC and other environmental organizations, the Bronx River habitat is being restored, and wildlife is flourishing. Protection of the Bronx River Watershed area, 48 square miles of land that surrounds and drains into the Bronx River, will help to continue this restoration.

### ➔ Corporate Volunteers Chip In!



During the past several months, the Nature Center has been the beneficiary of some significant volunteer labor, thanks to the generosity of The

CENTRAL  
ANIMAL HOSPITAL



Dannon Company,  
Hitachi America, Ltd,  
Kraft Foods, and IBM.

Just this past week, 15 volunteers from the IBM location in Somers spent an afternoon on our grounds, helping to prepare sites for our Barnyard Exhibit and other future capital projects. In October, a team of 19 Kraft Foods employees from Kraft's Tarrytown headquarters worked side by side with Nature Center staff all day to help prepare the Barnyard Exhibit, restore our Rock Garden, and prune and clear some of our woodland trails. This activity was part of Kraft's "Delicious Difference" Week, the company's global community service event, and also included a donation of tools and equipment. A team of six staffers from Hitachi's Tarrytown office (photo above) spent an August afternoon helping to improve our birds of prey aviary, transplanting native ferns to the enclosure and enhancing the birds' perches for better animal welfare. And back in June, 37 interns and managers from Dannon's White Plains office came for an afternoon of grounds projects, including garden and trail maintenance and invasive vine removal. Thank you to ALL our corporate partners for helping us out with these important projects.

### → Deer and Biodiversity Forum

On Thursday, November 12th, at 7:30 p.m. the Greenburgh Nature Center will host a public forum focused on deer and biodiversity. This informational program will help explain the ways that the deer population is being studied and addressed in our area. Presentations by members of the County Deer Task Force will include details on the history and ecological context of local deer populations and proposed ways of protecting biodiversity in the face of increased deer populations. Following the panel presentations, there will be time for public discussion, moderated by Dr. Fred Koontz, Executive Director of Teatown Lake Reservation. The general public is invited to attend this free program.

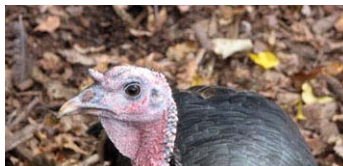
### → Mannahatta: A Natural History of New York City



On Saturday, November 14th, at 2:00 p.m., Dr. Eric Sanderson, landscape ecologist and author, will be at the Nature Center to give a presentation about the Wildlife Conservation Society's Mannahatta Project. Using historical and present-day mapping techniques, Dr. Sanderson has been working for the past decade to uncover and reconstruct the original ecology of Manhattan. Come see how the center of one of the world's largest and most built-up cities was once

a natural landscape of hills, valleys, forests, fields, freshwater wetlands, salt marshes, beaches, springs, ponds and streams, supporting a rich and abundant community of wildlife. This program is recommended for ages 12 and up; members are \$4/person, non-members, \$8/person. Seating is limited, so pre-registration is required.

### → Turkey Scavenger Hunt



On Sunday, November 15th, at 1:30 p.m., the Nature Center will hold its annual Turkey Scavenger Hunt, when



families come to look for "turkey tokens" along a nature trail, meet our resident turkeys, and make a turkey craft for the Thanksgiving

table. This event is recommended for ages 6 and under, and pre-registration is recommended; members are \$4/person, non-members, \$8/person. This event is sponsored in part by Westchester County Parks.

### → Hunters of the Sky



On Saturday, November 21st, at 2:00 p.m., Curator of Living Collections Travis Brady will give a birds of prey program. Come learn all about hawks, owls, and eagles, as you meet the GNC's birds of prey up-close and personal. Seating is limited, so

pre-registration is recommended; members are \$2/person, non-members, \$7/person.

### → Going Green For Homeowners

On Sunday, November 22nd, at 10:30 a.m., Certified Green Professional and Home Energy Conservation Consultant Norm Jen will give a presentation intended for homeowners interested in implementing green practices at home, with an emphasis on energy conservation and cost savings. Come see what you can do to "green" your own house! The presentation will be approximately 45 minutes, with time afterward for your questions. We'll be serving a light brunch of bagels and coffee; members are free, non-members are \$7/person.

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