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Greenburgh Nature Center Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2011



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

→ NEW HOME FOR OUR CHICKENS!

Barry and Felicia Rosen, the parents of our long-time and dedicated volunteer Evan Rosen, have donated \$1,600 towards the purchase of a new chicken coop. We are very excited that soon our chickens and pheasants will be strutting their stuff in a more spacious setting by the barnyard. We thank the Rosens for their contribution which covers the majority of the costs for this project.

→ GREENBURGH NATURE CENTER'S STRATEGIC PLANNING RETREAT

The Board of Directors, staff members, a Town representative and community members met on a Sunday in October for a full-day strategic planning retreat, led by Molly Penn of Penn Consulting, LLC. The goal of the meeting was to help shape the future vision of the Nature Center and to help us become a leader among nature center's in the 21st century. A sincere thank you to:

- WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY FOUNDATION for their support in helping to build our capacity.
- EILEEN FISHER for their in-kind matching donation.
- NAZANINE SCHEUER - her input was invaluable.

We greatly appreciate our supporters' continued dedication to our programs and to the future of the Greenburgh Nature Center.

→ THANKS ALSO GO TO:

- CARLOS E. SERRANO, our resident professional photographer, who has donated his services and time. His photos allow us to share memorable moments from our events with the public.

→ STUDENT DRIVEN INITIATIVES

In the last few weeks, you may have noticed students working in the Rock Garden. This work is thanks to an Eagle Scout project by Robert Maida of White Plains. Robert has also worked here over the last few years with the White Plains Youth Bureau Greening Project. If you have a chance, please take a look at what Robert and his group of

ENERGY

Solar, wind, and geothermal power are renewable, sustainable, safe and CLEAN.

Our Supporters



scouts have done to revitalize the Rock Garden and the trail.

→ 2011 ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

The holiday season is almost here and it is often a time of personal reflection, reconnection and charitable giving. Please help us so that we can build a stronger community by educating everyone about nature and the environment. Look for our Annual Appeal in the mail this month. We rely on your support so that we can continue to provide high quality and relevant programming.

→ SPEND PART OF YOUR DECEMBER BREAK AT THE NATURE CENTER

This year, the Nature Center's Animal Museum and indoor exhibits will be open from 9:30am-4:30pm on December 26th through December 29th and 10am-1pm on December 31st so come visit us!

→ MANOR HOUSE CLOSED

Every Friday
November 24 - Thanksgiving Day
December 24 - Christmas Eve Day
December 25 - Christmas Day
December 31 - ½ Day New Year's Eve Day
January 1 - New Year's Day

→ NATURE'S DISCOVERY PLAYGROUND

SNAKE HIDE

Just try it...slither like a snake.



Snakes shed a few times a year. When a snake is ready to shed its old skin, it will rub up against a rough surface, like a rock, to rip the skin and then slide right out. Just like taking off a sock!

Thanks to the recent donation by Con Edison, we are closer than ever to our goal. But we still need your donation to make this happen in early spring 2012. Please make a [tax-deductible donation](#) on our website or at the Nature Center to help build the Nature's Discovery Playground, Phase II of our Core Master Plan. Together, we can create a great, green future for everyone.

→ CHECK OUT OUR NEW MEMBERSHIP LEVELS



AND BENEFITS:

Valuable benefits including:



- Free admission to the Greenburgh Nature Center's indoor exhibits
- Discounts to special events and weekend programs
- Discounts to early childhood, drop-in programs
- Discounts and early announcements to our camp programs, held during summer and school breaks
- 10% discount at the Nature Gift Shop for purchases over \$5 and an additional 5% discount during the month of December
- Subscription to the Greenburgh Nature Center's quarterly newsletter and this monthly e-newsletter
- Invitation to members-only events and the Annual Meeting
- Eligibility to hold a fee-based birthday party onsite or off site, based on space availability (Family level and above)
- Eligibility to rent the indoor facilities and/or outdoor spaces for meetings or events, based on space availability (Benefactor level and above)

New levels of membership ([see website for details of each level](#)):

Family (\$75)

The Grand Family (\$90)

Family Fun Package (\$150)

Individual (\$50)

Senior 62+ (\$40)

Grandparents Special (\$60)

Sustainer (\$250)

Benefactor (\$500)

Patron (\$1000)

And remember that your membership is a tax-deductible contribution.

→ FALL FESTIVAL AND SCARECROWS & PUMPKINS PARADES ENJOY RECORD BREAKING TURNOUTS!



Sunny skies and warm weather helped to make both our annual Fall Festival and Scarecrows & Pumpkins Parades events a huge success. Pumpkins were carved and painted, scarecrows built and placed along the property and trails, and a great time was had by all.



Many thanks to our sponsors and volunteers who helped make this day so much fun for our visitors. Look for some photos from the day on our [Facebook Page](#).



→ **NOVEMBER PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS:**

WED, NOVEMBER 9, 7PM REFRESHMENTS / 7:30PM PROGRAM IT'S NOT SO HARD BEING GREEN: BEST IDEAS FOR REDUCING CARBON EMISSIONS IN YOUR DAILY LIFE

Come share what you are doing to reduce your carbon footprint and move toward a more sustainable lifestyle. Bring up to ten digital photos on a usb and tell about your efforts to go green. If you don't have photos, bring a show-and-tell object that you use that reduces your greenhouse gas emissions or just tell us about your carbon reducing discoveries. We'll learn from each other about what works best, how much it costs, how much it reduces our greenhouse gas emissions and how much we save. At the end of the evening, we'll add up how much we saved, both in dollars and in greenhouse gas emissions. This program, designed for adults and high school students, will be held at the Nature Center in partnership with the Sierra Club Lower Hudson Chapter. FREE

THURS, NOVEMBER 10, 7PM CHALLENGES OF NATURE DEFICIT DISORDER: THE IMPORTANCE OF CONNECTING CHILDREN WITH THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Courtney White, Executive Director Greenburgh Nature Center, will discuss the Challenges of Nature Deficit Disorder and the need for time outside. This program will be held at the Nature Center in partnership with the CAC. FREE

FRI, NOVEMBER 18, 10AM-NOON FOREST PEST PRESENTATION, QUESTION & ANSWER SYMPOSIUM Michael Singho, an inspector with the New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets, in conjunction with the Greenburgh Nature Center, will provide the latest information about the spread of the Emerald Ash Borer and the Asian Longhorned Beetle.

The Emerald Ash Borer is an invasive forest pest which attacks ash trees, killing the tree within 2-4 years. The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has been found as close as West Point this past summer. Estimates are that the Emerald Ash Borer will be in our area soon. New York has more than 900 million ash trees, representing 7% of all trees in the state. All are at risk should the EAB become established. Another tree-killing invasive insect, the Asian Long Horned Beetle (ALB) has broader tastes, attacking maple, elm, willow, horse chestnut, birch, poplar, ash, and others. The ALB is currently in Manhattan, and quarantine zones have been established in the boroughs.

The talk will include an overview of the quarantine status of both insects, as well as everything you need to know in case Westchester

County gets included in the quarantine. A question and answer session will be held immediately following the presentation. FREE

NOVEMBER PROGRAMS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN:

NATURE BUGS (2-5 years old):

Meet a museum animal, hear a story and do a craft or nature game.

Members: \$5 adult; \$4 child; Non-members: \$9 adult; \$7 child.

Mon: 1:30-2:30pm; November 7, 14, 21, 28

CRITTERS, CRAFTS AND KIDS (18 months-5 years old):

Enjoy wonderful crisp fall days at the Nature Center with walks, live animals and stories. Members: \$5 adult; \$4 child; Non-members: \$9

adult; \$7 child. Wed: 10-11am; November 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

NOVEMBER PROGRAMS FOR EVERYONE:

SAT, NOVEMBER 5, 2PM - LIVING PRIMITIVE - HOW'D THEY DO THAT?

Come spend the afternoon with us and learn how people got their food before there were grocery stores, and how they made fire before there were lighters. Get a hands-on history lesson about the basic living skills of our native ancestors; try throwing spears and playing games that were popular thousands of years ago. Best for ages 5 and up. Members \$3, Non-members \$6

SUN, NOVEMBER 6, 2-4PM - EXHIBIT OPENING - CATHERINE LATSON: BRINGING NATURE INDOORS

Catherine Latson, an artist from Tarrytown, uses the invasive vine Oriental bittersweet to make works of art. Catherine shares, "Harvesting Oriental bittersweet is a healthy, low-tech, leave-no-trace process requiring only a limb-lopper, garden clippers, and a bow saw. Trees are saved, tools are minimal, raw materials are nature made, and waste is compostable. It's a beautiful thing." Reception with refreshments. FREE

Exhibit runs through Sunday, January 29, 2012 and is FREE with Museum admission.

SUN, NOVEMBER 13, 1:30PM - TURKEY SCAVENGER HUNT

Bring your toddlers to join in our traditional "turkey token" hunt along a nature trail. After the hunt, we'll have refreshments and nature crafts for all "gobblers" present. Sponsored in part by Westchester County Parks. Pre-registration recommended. Member \$5, Non-members \$8

SUN, NOVEMBER 20, 2PM - FALL DISCOVERY WALK

Join naturalist John Mancuso as he looks for fall happenings in our

forest. Search for unique native trees and wildlife along the way.
FREE with Museum admission.

SUN, NOVEMBER 27, 2PM - A WEEKEND STORYTIME

Join naturalist Greg Wechgelaer for Storytime, based on our popular Nature Bugs class held weekly on Monday afternoons. If you haven't been able to make it during the week, here's your chance! The hour will include a story, animals, craft, and activity, all based on a common nature theme. Recommended for children ages 2-6. Member \$4, Nonmembers \$8

 **ONGOING EXHIBIT:**

THROUGH SUN, JANUARY 8, 2012 - ARTHUR BEACH: AN ARTIST'S VIEW OF THE GREENBURGH NATURE CENTER

Arthur Beach, an illustrator and painter, was a member and past president of the Scarsdale Art Association (SAA). A longtime resident of Scarsdale, he developed a close relationship with the Nature Center when his teenaged son began volunteering here in the 1980's. Using the buildings, grounds, animals and programs as his muse, he created wonderfully evocative oil and watercolor paintings. Many of the paintings were donated to the Nature Center; some remain in his family's private collection, which they generously loaned to us for this exhibit. Come see Mr. Beach's paintings of the Nature Center, as well as other paintings by this treasure of a local artist. FREE with Museum admission.

The Greenburgh Nature Center's community weekend events, environmental forums, public programs and nature education programs are supported, in part, by Westchester County Parks and the Town of Greenburgh.

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