



Marsh Sanctuary



December, 2023

Season’s Greetings to our friends and neighbors,

We are wrapping up another productive year for Marsh Sanctuary fulfilling our mission “to provide a place for outdoor recreation and engagement with our natural landscape while safeguarding its biodiversity, protecting wildlife, conserving our historic buildings, inspiring the arts, and fostering environmental stewardship”. **Thank you to all who helped us this year.**

The Sanctuary is comprised of various different habitats including meadows, forest, wetlands, freshwater marsh and a lovely pond. It provides a healthy habitat for endless species of birds and wildlife.

We continue to **improve our biodiversity** by following the **Forest Management Plan** developed by Jim Nordgren and the Watershed Agricultural Council. Native plants are returning to our meadows and with grants from the Bedford and Rusticus Garden Clubs we have established a beautiful native plant riparian buffer around Cook’s Pond. **Fox Lane Juniors volunteered** to plant Trees 4 Tribes donated by the Watershed Agricultural Council, and clear invasive species from around the pond.

The Rewilding School continues to flourish holding classes six days a week, teaching students of all ages, connecting with nature through exploration and activities that create a lifelong love of nature.

Preserving our historic buildings and amphitheater is an important element of our mission. This year our main capital project was the new roof on the historic stable and attached house on our Meadowside campus.

As the **Community Garden** plans its 15th year, approximately 25 gardeners will tend 40 plots, including 4 plots planted and tended by the students of Rewilding School. Our gardening friends share their successes and failures and learn helpful tips from one another. Many a lasting friendship has been formed over fresh tomatoes and basil under the hot August sun.

At the historic **Brookside Amphitheater and Cottage** site several dead or overgrown trees were removed for safety reasons. A major project in the very near future is to protect the driveway and stream from the source of dangerous runoff which floods the site after every severe rainstorm, of which there are too many.

We have accomplished much but there is always more to do!

Our plans for the future depend on your generosity. We thank you for supporting our Annual Raise the Roof Fundraiser. It’s always a fun, informal gathering of like-minded folks in our beautiful setting. Marsh Sanctuary has no endowment and therefore relies completely on the generosity of our many friends and neighbors like you who love the Sanctuary and respect the hard work and many hours our volunteers commit to keep it healthy and thriving.

So please head over to Cook’s Pond or take a walk on one of our many lovely trails, have a picnic, watch or photograph the birds or sip a cocktail with friends while watching the sunset. It will be a refreshing reminder of how lucky we are to live in this unique neighborhood. We look forward to hearing from you soon!

Donations may be made by check to Marsh Sanctuary Inc. or by credit card when you visit our website, **www.marshsanctuary.org** and use the “Make A Donation” icon found under the **Support** tab.

On behalf of the Board of Directors we sincerely thank you for your support.

With deep appreciation,

Anne and Tim

Anne Niemann and Tim Ghriskey, Co-Presidents

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114 South Bedford Road Mount Kisco, NY 10549
Protecting 156 acres of open land and fresh water marshland