



Marsh Sanctuary

Hello Neighbors and Friends of Marsh Sanctuary,

It has been another busy and productive year at the Sanctuary. Supported by our generous neighbors and friends we continue to protect and preserve 156 acres of open space in Bedford, Mount Kisco and New Castle.

If you have driven up Sarles Street this year you can't help but notice all the work that has been completed clearing non-native, invasive trees and plants around the parking lot, the pond and on both sides of the beautiful stone wall that was rebuilt several years ago. Fields have been rough cut, all as part of our continued **Forest Management Plan** developed for us by the Watershed Agricultural Council.

The Marsh Community Garden was fully subscribed but got off to a slow start due to all the wet weather last spring. Ideas are afoot to increase the number of plots available, and to continue to improve growing conditions and production.

This summer we were approached by the **Rewilding School**, which now brings 4 to 14 years olds to the Sanctuary twice a week. Rewilding teaches wilderness skills, including: tracking, woodworking, building shelters, identifying wild foods, stealth movement, and creating camouflage. The Cub Scouts have hiked trails and are looking for Eagle Scout projects. These are wonderful opportunities for Marsh to teach our youth useful skills they will remember for a lifetime, as well as open their eyes to the beauty and abundance of the natural world.

Ongoing projects have include repairing much of the interior of our **Brookside Cottage**. Jason Garritt, our naturalist, has done a wonderful job refurbishing the interior of the house. Much remains to be done on the outside, as the exterior needs staining, and new doors and windows need to be installed. The recent storms have brought down the fence and part of the wall on route 172 in front of Brookside creating an eyesore that needs immediate attention. The roof on the cottage at **71 Sarles Street** is about 15-20 years old and needs to be replaced. Together these projects will be a significant expense that we will have to find a way to fund.

Marsh Sanctuary relies on your generosity as we continue to build on our mission to preserve the land and wildlife, maintain our trails, and provide programs for our community.

Please give generously.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank you for your support!

Sincerely,
Tim Ghiskey, President