



Marsh Sanctuary



Hello Neighbors and Friends of Marsh Sanctuary,

As Cornelia Marsh said in 1977, “**Marsh Sanctuary** is your sanctuary, and your friends’ and neighbors’.” This year more than ever it has been a true sanctuary for so many. As is often true when tragedy strikes, COVID-19 has come with a few blessings. The necessity for outdoor activities has brought families flooding to Marsh Sanctuary and they have helped spread the word about the safe and peaceful refuge found here. The trails have been in constant use. People sit by the pond for picnics, painting and, while socially distancing, even sharing a cocktail or two.

Jason Garritt, our naturalist, has been hard at work making improvements to **Brookside Cottage** on Rte. 172. He has redone the floors in three bedrooms, hall and living room, painted and renovated two bedrooms, soundproofed walls and added ceiling fans. The stockade fence along Rte. 172 came down last year and was finally replaced with the help of our friend Casey Brooks, owner of Stonehill Management. Casey is also overseeing the replacement of windows and doors at the Cottage. A complete facelift for Brookside will be finished soon.

Our historic **amphitheater**, restored with the help of the Bedford Garden Club several years ago, was damaged by Tropical Storm Isaias. Frankie Milito, a Bedford Village Eagle Scout from Troop 129-Bedford Village is applying to repair it. Over the years the Eagle Scouts have completed numerous Merit Badges at Marsh and improved the Sanctuary in many different ways.

The **First Annual Harvest Celebration** was held on October 1st. **The Marsh Community Garden** was officially dedicated, with thanks to the support of the Rusticus Garden Club and the Friends of the Sanctuary. A sign designed by Carol Bouyoucos and created by our naturalist Jason Garritt marks the entrance. Carol, our Resident Caretaker, organized an art show accompanied by a live band, with proceeds to the Sanctuary. The evening included a spectacular sunset. Precautions were taken to ensure the sanctuary is a truly safe outdoor place for events during the pandemic. A wedding and birthday parties have been held safely at the Sanctuary this year.

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The Rewilding School has found a home at Marsh. In July and August, 74 kids ages 7-14 had 5 weeks of day programs. They explored and learned in the wild spaces of Marsh, from the forested trails to the meadows and pond. In the fall, there were 96 kids for weekly programs as well as Family Forest Weekends and a free Black and Indigenous People of Color Mentoring Program offered twice a month from November to June.

Many plans are afoot for 2021 such as planting native plants around the pond and stream, new road signage, picnic tables, and plans for more events to use our beautiful property to the fullest potential. As you know **Marsh Sanctuary** is supported by YOU! Our friends and neighbors. Many have already given this year, but if you haven't, please consider giving generously so we can continue to protect our land and provide a safe and beautiful environment for wildlife, insects and you.

For more information visit our Facebook page, Instagram, and our new website where you will find a link to donate to the Sanctuary. We count on your generosity to carry out our mission.

Please visit often, and have a safe and healthy holiday season!

Tim Ghiskey,
Anita Stockbridge and the
Marsh Sanctuary Board of Directors
www.marshsanctuary.org

114 Sarles Street Mount Kisco, NY 10549

Protecting 156 acres of open land and
fresh water marshland