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## **New York State Association of Conservation Commissions**

### **2013 Environmental Project Awards**

#### **Amherst Conservation Advisory Council Community Action Award *Amherst State Park***

Amherst State Park was created in 2001 with the purchase of the property from the Franciscan Sisters who used the site as their convent. Through the years, since the parks formation hardworking volunteers representing many groups such as Veterans Groups, Boys Scouts, Sisters of St. Francis, NYSDEC, Town of Amherst, Arboretum Committee and Committees in the Town have worked tirelessly to make this a better park. This hard work, spearheaded by Lois Shriver, is best documented by the countless stories in the local newspapers.

Amherst State Park is a great success story on how many different groups across a community can contribute to a single mission and make a place as special as Amherst State Park an even better place for the community to treasure. Explore the website [www.amherststatepark.org/asp](http://www.amherststatepark.org/asp) see pictures and stories of all the great activities that are occurring.

#### **Town of Bedford Conservation Board Environmental Excellence Award *Town of Bedford Conservation Board Green Awards for Environmental Excellence***

The Conservation Board for the second year presented its “Green Award for Environmental Excellence” to private individuals, not-for-profit groups, businesses, and schools. The purpose of the award is to publicize members of our municipality whose projects have bettered our town’s environment. We especially nominate and select awardees that are not well known for their work. The awards are presented at a Town Board meeting as near to Earth Day as possible. Past awards have gone to a food retail store who sells locally raised food; a golf course who constructed over 100 blue bird houses; an individual who has cut down oriental bittersweet vines from street trees. A physician has brought his patients to his Bedford property as a means of melding the natural environment of his farm into their therapy; a not-for-profit group whose program goal has been to let your fall leaves alone and compost at your home, rather than ship off site; a garden center who has concentrated on selling native plants; a landscape architect whose projects in our town have been characterized by good environmental planning; a not-for-profit group who has assisted financially and in planning the planting of native trees to neighborhood treescapes; and a girl scout troop who has recycled bottle caps as a troop project. “Green Awards” can be

utilized by other CACs in NYS.

For information about this project contact Simon Skolnik [simon@mskolnik.com](mailto:simon@mskolnik.com)

## **2013 Environmental Project Awards**

### **Town of Ithaca Conservation Board**

#### **Community Action Award**

#### ***Saving Ithaca's Scenic Views***

In the early 1990s, the Town of Ithaca Conservation Board became concerned about losing some of the magnificent scenic views we enjoy around the Ithaca area.

Our Scenic Resources Committee has designed and installed the first in a three-part series of signs to highlight important scenic resources in our community. The goals of the Scenic Resources Committee of the Town of Ithaca's Conservation Board are to:

- Identify, evaluate and catalog significant views
- Build citizen interest in protecting views
- Develop enforceable legislation for protecting views

The volunteer-based Scenic Resources Committee has visited, photographed, and inventoried all the town scenic sites that are available to the public. They have developed a grid map and criteria for evaluating the views. These views have been ranked with particular attention to the need for protecting or the opportunity for enhancing them. A scenic tour map is also available, with directions for a route around the Town's ten top scenic locations. Now that this report has been favorably received in Town Hall, the committee is working at getting its recommendations implemented.

The first sign in this series was successfully established at the East Shore Public Park on Cayuga Lake in Ithaca this summer, and features a graphic and map representation of the lake. East Shore Park receives considerable traffic from Ithaca residents and visitors alike and represents an excellent opportunity to pilot this first sign and its impact on visitor awareness of the area's natural and scenic resources. This achievement is the culmination of several years of planning and coordination, including sign design and development and site dedication. The long-term objective is to inform Ithacans of this Scenic Resources work, especially the Scenic Tour Map and signs throughout our area.

This work supports our belief that our scenic views, especially those seen from roads, parks and other public places, are great assets to the community. They

are valuable to the local residents, who see them all the time, as well as to visitors and tourists, who often come here because they are attracted to the natural beauty of the Town and surrounding area.

For more information <https://www.facebook.com/lthacaConservationBoard>

## **2012 Environmental Project Awards**

### **Town of Montgomery Conservation Advisory Council *Rainbarrel Workshops***

With stormwater pollution as a serious threat to clean water, the Town of Montgomery Conservation Advisory Council became interested in promoting rainwater collection as a way to cut down on overflow. Moreover, they felt it would also appeal to homeowners who want to reduce their summer water bills. Most commercial rainbarrels are from a recycled barrel seemed even more enticing. The CAC envisioned it as a way for people in the community to get together, help each other and the environment at the same time.

The CAC members visited Cornell Cooperative Extension in Dutchess County to pick up some demo barrels and collect advice from their staff. For promotion of the events, they displayed the barrels in the library and at the Town Hall. Two local artists decorated barrels to be displayed and later raffled off.

The CAC planned on four workshops of 15 participants each in the three villages and the Town. Each participant had to sign up ahead of time with the Town Clerk at a charge of \$15. Each workshop was sold out and the CAC had to get additional barrels. As a result of the project 62 homeowners are now collecting rainwater and reducing the impact of stormwater on local streams and rivers.

Members of the Council include Patricia Henighan, Chairperson and co-grant applicant, Gary Leather, co-grant applicant, Heather Barnum, Brant Winum and Richard Phelps. For further information contact Patricia Henighan at [phenighan@yahoo.com](mailto:phenighan@yahoo.com)