

Volume 2 Issue 10
October 2020



**Climate Smart
Communities**
Certified Bronze

New Paltz Climate Smart Newsletter

Meetup:

Water Management Tips for Residential Landscaping with Climate Change in Mind

Tuesday, October 6, 2020 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM EDT

<https://zoom.us/j/95552198750?pwd=Z0dPRldORERVcEJPd1B1ZDNaRGR5UT09>

Note that for the first time since March, this Meetup will be both online through Zoom and in person at Kalleco Nursery at 801 Route 32 in Tillson NY. In person Meetup will be limited to 10 people wearing masks and socially distanced. If you plan to attend in person, please email newpaltzclimatesmart@gmail.com to make sure there are still slots available.

The climate vulnerability study completed for the New Paltz area shows that we will have more extremes in terms of precipitation - more big rain events as well as longer periods of drought and excessive heat. For this reason, we have invited an expert, Mark Masseo, to teach us as homeowners how to create more adaptable landscaping.

Mark Masseo is a degreed horticulturist and a stormwater management expert certified by NYS Nursery Landscape Association and Cornell Cooperative Extension. He's owned and operated Masseo Landscape, Inc. for over 20 years and its sister company, retail/wholesale operation Kalleco Nursery Corp., since 2008. Through Masseo Landscape, Inc., Mark has gained a reputation as a landscape drainage innovator, providing creative and customized water-management strategies for residential landscapes throughout Ulster County. His approach focuses on solving problems while creating functional and beautiful landscapes that will last. He'll be discussing three major areas of water management in the landscape:

- drainage systems like french drains, gutter drains, and catch basins
- permeable hardscape applications like permeable paver patios and driveways
- landwork including proper grading and swales.

Mark will also be touching on the opposite problem: managing your landscape when there isn't enough water, including the importance of soil and mulch, drip irrigation systems, and proper plant selection.



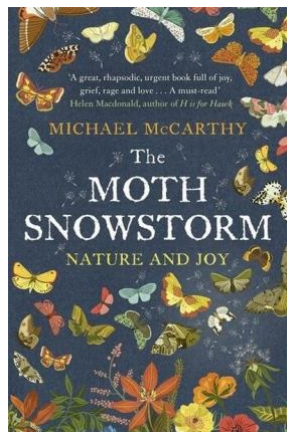
Climate Smart Book Club October Selection is “The Moth Snowstorm: Nature and Joy”

Tuesday, October 20, 2020

7:00 PM to 9:00 PM EDT

Online event

<https://zoom.us/j/95145008010?pwd=WFNRUFQvM0hiNzFqQkE1M3pMV3hwUT09>



The author of our book pick for October is Michael McCarthy, an environmental journalist in Britain. Jennifer Senior, book reviewer for the New York Times, writes “Mr. McCarthy writes about the natural world as if he’s of it, not apart from it, in language both sumptuous and attuned. He too has a mystical sense of place. “The Moth Snowstorm,” however, is much more than a paean to the Earth’s beauty, it is also an elegy for it, and a particularly distressed one at that...The past few years have seen a number of fine books about environmental depredation, including the possibility of a “sixth extinction,” or great dying off, for the sixth time, of a majority of the world’s species but the “The Moth Snowstorm” is far more personal. As one of the 7 billion-plus stakeholders in the planet’s fate, Mr. McCarthy is clearly desperate, anguished, overcome. Absent having a specific chief executive to write to, he’s writing to us, hoping we’ll look beyond the dun-colored conventions of conservationist arguments — statistics, abstractions — when we consider our despoiled planet.”

You can sign up for notifications of this monthly Book Club by going to our Meetup page at <https://www.meetup.com/Climate-Smart-Book-Club/>

Dark Skies and Bright Stars

By Mark Varian

Residents of New Paltz and Gardiner are so fortunate to have a view of the beautiful night sky once they leave the lights of the town center. Astronomers and photographers travel to our area just to take advantage of a clear view of the stars and milky way.

On Tuesday, Sept. 1st, at the Climate Change Solutions Meetup, James Brigagliano, a local Night Skies lighting specialist, offered many ways for us to limit light pollution so that there will be a beautiful nighttime vista for us and our children and grandchildren to enjoy for years to come. New LED lighting fixtures are now available that will help us avoid the sky-glow, light trespass and glare produced by older streetlights and exterior lighting. These LED fixtures produce a warm mellow glow that can be shielded to keep excess light from escaping into the sky and from glaring through our bedroom windows. And they cost no more than standard lighting.

Through the power of the internet and the ZOOM platform, Hudson Valley residents were joined at the Meetup by a student from Colorado and a scientist from Bali, who joined the conversation at 3:00 AM, her local time! Apparently, even in Bali and Colorado, people are concerned about artificial light destroying their access to the starry night sky.

Other victims of light pollution are birds and insects, as well as larger animals. Insects are attracted to artificial light and often perish as a result. Migratory birds drawn off-course by nighttime lighting use up their energy supply and arrive at their destinations underweight and vulnerable. Turtles interrupt their normal egg-laying pattern when distracted by bright lights from beachfront resorts. Use of dimmer, warmer, properly shielded LED lighting can reduce artificial lighting's negative impact on nature.



It is also healthier for humans, whose circadian rhythms can be disturbed by bright, blue, high intensity lighting. For those of us who use outdoor lights to illuminate walkways and patios, Mr. Brigagliano recommends the use of sensors and timers. Turning lights off when they are not absolutely necessary is the cheapest way to eliminate pollution and to save money and energy.

New Paltz Climate Change Solutions Meetups are held on the first Tuesday of the month. Previous topics include Responsible Sustainable Investing, Electric Vehicles, Creating Your Own Pollinator Meadow and Backyard Composting. Next month's program will be Water Management Tips for Residential Landscaping.

Green Group Purchase Program

Sustainable Hudson Valley's Green Group Purchase Program has been extended until October 31st, 2020. This is a great opportunity for residents of Ulster & Dutchess to get discounts on products like heat pumps, solar, building insulation, battery storage and more.



For more details, go to: sustainhv.org/green-group-purchase-program/

Reuse and Regift

By Wendy Rudder

Here's a fun way to Reuse and Regift - two of the 6 Rs that help reduce waste. Gather up your clothing and household items that you no longer use and plan to bring them to Hasbrouck Park

for the next "Really Really Free Market". Simply display your stuff on a blanket or table and enjoy. It's ALL free. Check out this Facebook page link for more details and upcoming dates: [Really Really Free Market](#)

Community Preservation Fund: VOTE YES

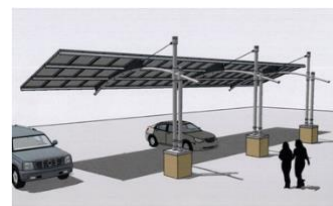
This November New Paltz voters will have the opportunity to VOTE YES for a Local Law No. 1, a ballot measure that will enable our town to create a Community Preservation Fund to protect Clean Water, Working Farms and Natural Areas. Revenues from a local 1.5% real estate transfer tax will go into this dedicated fund. This tax is a one-time tax paid by the buyers of properties in New Paltz and will not affect taxes for current residents.

VOTING YES on Local Law Number One will provide our community with a sustainable source of funds to protect our drinking water sources, invest in protecting our natural assets and preserve our cherished natural landscapes for future generations. Note that you need to flip the ballot over to cast your vote on this referendum.



With opposition to our community ballot measure from a realtor's lobbying group in Albany, we need to make sure people understand the measure and will VOTE YES. Click here to see [six things](#) we need volunteers *like you* to do to make sure Local Law Number One passes.

Ulster County Solar Parking Canopy Working Group



On September 10th a group of us gathered on Zoom and began a discussion of solar parking canopies. Together we decided to expand the group to all of Ulster County rather than limiting it to New Paltz and came up with our name Ulster County Solar Parking Canopy Working Group. We plan to meet monthly and our next meeting is tentatively set for October 8th at 11:00 on Zoom. On September 23rd many of us attended an online training that went into much detail about the issue. We learned about both the benefits and challenges of getting these systems in place but came back with a renewed sense of wanting to make this happen. Are you interested in helping us encourage the development of solar canopies? Please contact Janelle at newpaltzclimatesmart@gmail.com and put solar canopies in the subject line.

New Paltz Climate Smart Ongoing Projects

- **Climate Smart Resiliency Planning Tool**

The Climate Smart Resiliency Planning Tool and report that was generated by Cornell Cooperative Extension for the Village with input from Village staff was presented to the Village Board at the September 9th Board meeting which you can now watch online here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mA1KBrLsl7c>

- **Natural Resource Inventory**

The Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) subteam and consultants continue to review the 28 detailed maps that will be used in the online version of the NRI.

- **100-year Floodplain Mapping**

The Woods Hole Research Center is approaching the final stages of the flood modeling process and they will be sharing their initial results with a few of us on Friday morning. They are preparing a report with the methodology and maps and we be discussing a rollout strategy at our meeting. This data will be useful in decision making to help prevent future flood problems by directing decision on build-out, guiding potential code changes and augmenting the Town and Village Comprehensive Plans. Stay tuned for more information!

Green Transportation: Henry W Dubois Bike and Pedestrian Project

Please consider attending the important informational virtual meeting on October 7th beginning at 6:00 – 7:30 pm about Henry W. Dubois. Alta Planning + Design will present information about the project, the alternatives under consideration, and address comments, concerns, and questions. The meeting will begin with a 30-minute presentation followed by a question and answer session. Everyone has to register to attend this meeting. There is a survey for participants to fill out in advance of the meeting.

WALK/BIKE HENRY W. DUBOIS



VIRTUAL PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 7, 2020
6:00 - 7:30 PM

REGISTER: [HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/HWDZOOM](https://tinyurl.com/HWDZOOM)

Visit the project website to take the online survey and to find out more information:
www.walkbikeHWD.weebly.com

This virtual public meeting will share information about the bike and pedestrian project planned for Henry W Dubois Drive (PIN 8762.48).

- Two alternatives are being considered:
- Sidewalk on one side and bike lanes
 - Sidepath/shared use path on one side



Zoom Registration Link: <https://tinyurl.com/HWDzoom>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar

We also encourage you to complete the online survey, found here:

Online Survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SurveyHWD>

Concrete Change Needed to Address Climate Change: The Decarbonization of Concrete

By **Conor Warren**

In the crusade to mitigate climate change, humanity's attention is most commanded by what it sees: the clusters of fuel-burning vehicles on roadways and the abundant electrical plants out their windows. After all, these *are* the main culprits, accounting for over 50% of the United States' greenhouse gas emissions ("Sources of Greenhouse Gas Emissions"). But a comprehensive solution cannot ignore the lesser-known actors – the carbon contributors who happen to work in silence, largely hidden from the world's inquiries. One of these underground offenders is concrete.

Buried under the most average and impressive architecture, forming sidewalks in communities large and small, and providing the literal foundation for many industries, concrete is important. Unfortunately, however, its manufacture consumes a great deal of energy and emits a great deal of carbon dioxide. Portland cement, one of the active ingredients, is largely responsible for this: in order to calcinate and form "quicklime," its limestone component heats to a temperature above 2,600° F. Not only does this require the burning of fossil fuels, but the chemical process of calcination itself emits a large amount of CO₂ – so much so that producing one ton of cement releases one ton of carbon dioxide. This poses a serious threat to the atmosphere, but the situation is far from hopeless.

The task of decarbonizing concrete has been met with some clever solutions and proposals. One suggestion is that, before altering the manufacturing process, concrete plants should transition to cleaner fuels and improve their energy efficiency. After this preliminary change, manufacturers should adjust their cement formulas by reducing the amount of limestone and subsequently adding more supplementary cementitious materials (SCMs) like fly ash, blast furnace slag, and glass pozzolan. Going a step further, machines can also inject carbon dioxide into the mixture, transforming concrete into a carbon capture instrument with a neutral or net-negative effect. These modifications yield stronger, more durable, and more sustainable concrete. Local support and initiative are instrumental in making these changes. Local governments can lead the way by requesting low-carbon concrete for their sidewalks and public works, raising awareness, and eventually altering building codes to encourage or require the use of decarbonized concrete. The very future of our planet depends on considerations like these.

During the September New Paltz Climate Smart Task Force meeting, members learned about this new topic from Chris Neidl and will be exploring how this issue can be addressed locally. Please contact Janelle at newpaltzclimatesmart@gmail.com for more information or to get involved with this issue.

Introducing our student intern Conor Warren...

My name is Conor Warren, and I am currently a senior at Wallkill Senior High School. My favorite subjects are math, science, and English – I just love to learn! In college, I plan on studying physics and math or physics and computer science – I haven't decided yet. With this foundation, I aspire to work in an engineering or medical field. I began volunteering with Climate Smart towards the end of summer because I felt a deep conviction to help contribute to the local fight against climate change and the leading factors behind it.



Calendar

Tuesday October 6th, 6:00 – 7:30 pm NP Climate Solutions Meetup at Kalleco Nursery or on Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/95552198750?pwd=Z0dPRldORERVcEJPd1B1ZDNaRGR5UT09>

Wednesday October 7th 6:00 to 7:30 Henry W Dubois Bike and Pedestrian Project <https://tinyurl.com/HWDzoom> (sign up ahead of time)

Monday October 19th 7:00 pm New Paltz Climate Smart Task Force meeting

Tuesday October 20th 7:00 – 8:30 PM Climate Smart Book Club
<https://zoom.us/j/95145008010?pwd=WFNRUFQvM0hiNzFqQkE1M3pMV3hwUT09>

Every Thursday: New Paltz Climate Action Coalition 5:00 – 6:30 PM
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82087830742?pwd=MCTRnzZTWThQWsoMDVEUktRdnF5QT09>