



Earthplace

The Nature Discovery Center

“Cocktails & Clams”
took place dockside on
Saturday, September 17th

Over 100 friends of Harbor Watch @ Earthplace gathered at Norm Bloom and Son’s scenic dockside location on Norwalk Harbor for an evening of honoring volunteers, enjoying fresh oysters and chowder, as well as celebrating a successful season of our award winning water quality monitoring program. Volunteers Karen and Gerry Larocque and Susan Malloy of the Sun Hill Foundation were on hand to collect the Harbor Watch Lifetime Achievement Award. In addition, Matt Silver of Staples High School, won the HW Outstanding Student Volunteer Award.



Harbor Watch Quality Assurance Officer Nikki Cantatore, admiring the abundant clams at Cocktails & Clams.



Timon Malloy, Pete Fraboni, Susan Malloy and Dick Harris at the event, where Susan received a lifetime achievement award.

News

Fall 2011

From the Executive Director’s Desk

John Horkel, Director of Earthplace, posing with a dapper bear at last year’s Gala.



Rebuild, renovate, repair, rejuvenate, renew: these were the themes of our summer.

● With very special thanks to Fiona and Roger Prichard of Westport, the outdoor Bird and Butterfly Garden was rejuvenated with an influx of colorful plants mixed with the existing and well-established shrubs and trees that provide habitat for the various butterflies, moths and birds that visit this area.

● The Animal Hall is being re-arranged to focus on the display of native species found in and around Connecticut. This separation is intended to make clear the distinction between domestic and wild animals. Your favorite domestic animals are still with us and available for animal programs and birthday parties.

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A Night Out for Nature

The 26th annual auction
to benefit

Earthplace

The Nature Discovery Center

**Saturday, November 12, 2011
Brooklawn Country Club
500 Algonquin Avenue
Fairfield, CT**

**Silent Auction - 6 p.m.
Live Auction and Dinner
at 7:30 p.m.**

**Tickets - \$150 per person
Raffle for 2012 Red Vespa -
tickets \$25**

**Honoring this year's
award recipients:**

Outstanding
environmental
advocate:

JULIA LANG MALLY

Outstanding
junior advocates:

**KATIE BLACKBURN
& DAVID MALLY**

Tom Appleby,
News Director and Co-Anchor,
News12 Connecticut,
will host the gala.

**A few of our
auction items:**

- A week of luxury in a 4-bedroom villa in Cabo San Lucas for up to 8 people
- A week in a 2-bedroom beachside condo in Vero Beach, Florida
- An on-location 2-hour family portrait photography session

**Call 203-227-7253,
extension 102 to register,
or send an e-mail to
j.richardson@earthplace.org**

From the Executive Director's Desk, continued from page 1

● This spring, our courtyard garden will feature a new design that will retain the pond and native ironwood trees and adds four raised bed structures with intersecting paths. One bed will have plants with scented flowers and leaves for children to explore and another bed will feature native plants. The third will house an aquatic garden and the last quadrant will have vegetables. We are looking to you to give us some ideas about decoration. Colorful sculptures? Recycled objects as art? Give us some feedback—it's your garden, too!

● Auditorium improvements include a brand new floor and renovated kitchen with new appliances, upgraded lighting and HVAC. The auditorium is available for rentals and is widely used by outside groups for meetings as well as for birthday parties, school groups and scout overnights.

● The outside entrance of our Nursery School features a new covered walkway leading to the outside doors and school playgrounds, which protects parents and children when they enter our school during inclement weather as well as provides a new outdoor activity space for school activities. Another benefit – no more drainage issues!

● Another major project – not very glamorous, but critical to everything that happens at Earthplace – is the installation of a new leaching field for the septic tank system. The leaching fields, which were installed about fifty years ago, have finally failed. This new field will not only meet the daily needs at Earthplace but will enable the old field to recover and be available for use in the future too.

● The sugar maples and hemlocks in front of Earthplace, which were planted about 45 years ago, have had to be cut down due to stress and danger from falling limbs. The Ardwin family donated two 12-foot sugar maples to replace our once glorious ones and Binky Bernard's donation will pay for their planting.

**Earthplace Nursery School:
Notes from Laurie Linton,
Education Director**

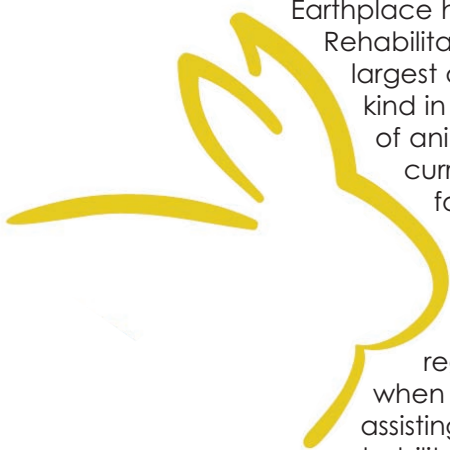
This fall we immediately filled enrollment on a new Monday-Wednesday-Friday 2's class that meets from 8:45 to 11:30 a.m. Plans are beginning to set up a new classroom and launch a 5's program for next year. We continue to take our classes on the trails for weekly hikes and an animal from the Animal Hall visits each week.

This year we will be hosting a Book Fair, toy sale, children's art fundraiser and silent auction to help raise money to support our Nursery School programs. We will also be enjoying a school-wide campfire, an ice cream social and Saturday Family Days. Everyone is welcome to play on the playground and check out the new walkway on the weekends or after 3:00 p.m. during the week.

**EARTHPLACE
AVAILABLE:**

Meeting rooms, a newly renovated kitchen and exhibition space are all available for group or individual rentals. Contact Joan Richardson for more information: j.richardson@earthplace.org

Wildlife Rehabilitation



Earthplace has discontinued its Wildlife Rehabilitation Program. Ours was one of the largest and longest running programs of its kind in Fairfield County, serving hundreds of animals on an annual basis. The current economic downturn has forced us to focus our resources and the wildlife rehabilitation program was simply too costly to continue. As always, we will continue to educate the public regarding appropriate choices when dealing with wildlife issues and assisting them if necessary with finding rehabilitation options.



**PRESERVE
OPEN SPACE:**
GIVE THE GIFT OF AN
EARTHPLACE MEMBERSHIP
TO FAMILY OR FRIENDS!

Youth Programs

Harbor Watch Senior Internship Program

Twelve seniors from area high schools including Staples, Darien, New Canaan, Weston, Wilton and Fairfield Ludlowe worked with Harbor Watch for their Senior Internship Program, an option to classroom studies for eligible seniors during the last weeks of school. In the HW internship the students received an intensive hands-on experience in water quality monitoring research. After a short training workshop, students were given sampling sites on a river or stream and worked in a team to perform field tests and laboratory analysis of collected samples.

Upon completion of data collection they analyzed the results and compiled a scientific report on their findings. The students also went on field trips to view the workings of a commercial oyster and shellfish harvesting company, an energy-generating facility and a wastewater treatment plant. The program offers a way to activate young scientists in real-life exercises that gather valuable, credible data that can better identify and correct pollution problems.

Earthplace extends its thanks to the Fairfield County Community Foundation for providing important financial support for the internship program

Junior Staff (JS) Update:

Andrea Zullo has been hired to co-teach the Junior Staff Program with Grit Ardwin. Andrea loves kids and natural history, has her BS in Biology and is finishing up an MS in Biology with teacher

certification. Twenty-two teenagers are enrolled in the Junior Staff program this fall, ranging in age from 11 to 17. Every Saturday, they arrive at our doors to learn more about the natural sciences, help with running educational programs, work on the trails, and hang out with their friends in a place they love.

The program began in 1960 and hundreds of children have participated, enriching their lives, our lives and the natural world around us.

Two of our "old kids" recently called to tell us of their successes. Mark Frey, JS 1989-1995 and also a Nursery School graduate, now has a position with the National Park Service in D.C. at the Exotic Plant Management Team for the National Capital Region. Robin Donohue, JS 1999-2005 and a summer camper, is now the deer management biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge on Long Island. Both the boys are also Eagle Scouts. We are proud to have played a part in teaching these two of our many wonderful kids!

Youth Science Programs

NATURE FUN

Monthly on 3rd Wednesdays at 4 p.m., grades K-5.

Registration required.

One of the best ways to foster empathy during childhood is to cultivate relationships with animals. Children feel a natural kinship with and are intuitively drawn to animals. Nature Fun will explore the animals around us and their role in nature and the environment.

SCIENCE FUN

Monthly on 2nd Tues/Wed/Thurs at 4 p.m., grades K-5.

Drop-In program.

Looking for a Drop-In Program: Science Fun will be exploring Crystals, Pressure, Human Body, Planets, Magnetism, Friction, Airplanes, Geology and Optical Illusions. \$12 member; \$22 non-member

Planning Ahead:

Beginning in February, a combination of staff, trustees and volunteers gathered on Saturday mornings, under the direction of Jim Hood, Earthplace trustee, to review Earthplace programs and operations. The objective was threefold:

1. Identify paths of improvement.
2. Identify areas of inefficiency or overlap.
3. Recommend ways to better integrate our activities and programs with the Earthplace mission.

The committee drafted a plan with specific guidelines and this fall you may notice some changes already implemented, including new features and formats at Natureplace, consolidation of our animal collection, introduction of our full year Harbor Watch Environmental Education and Scientific Internship Program (EESIP) for high school students and a new 2's program at the Nursery School to name a few.

WISH LIST FOR ANIMAL CARE

Pet Store gift cards
Grocery gift cards
Laundry detergent (scent-free)
Gallon bottles of bleach & white vinegar

Thank yous!

KEITH TURCIOS was honored by the Voluntary Action Center. Keith is a unique individual whose knowledge and commitment to the well-being of the animals make him a valued partner on the Earthplace Animal Care Team. Keith also brings his wonderful sense of humor and a light hearted nature to everything that he does. We are truly lucky to have him on our team!

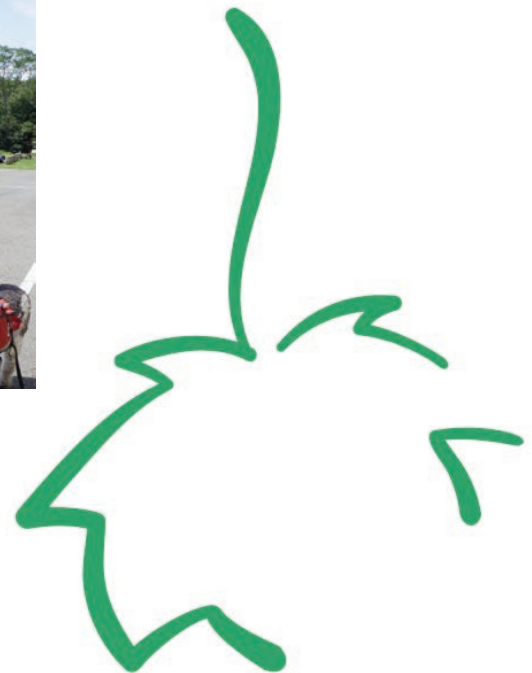
The Animal Care Team would like to recognize CHARLES RIVER LABORATORIES and STEW LEONARD'S for their generous, on-going donations of food for our hungry raptors. These substantial in-kind donations go a long way toward allowing us to focus our resources where they can do the most good.

Walk for Wildlife

The 3rd Annual Walk for Wildlife fundraiser to support the Earthplace wildlife education and animal care programs took place on Sunday, September 11. Walkers enjoyed a presentation by Christine Clark of Resources in Search and Rescue, a demonstration of Pet CPR given by Dani Silverman, and a Police K-9 demonstration by Officers Joe Morales and Mark Martocchio and K-9 Riko of the Bridgeport K-9 Unit, and a lecture on chemical-free pet and kid-safe cleaning and pest control solutions, by local author, Joanna Greenfield. Watering holes were sponsored by Canine Manners/Canine Fence, Insight Tutors, LLC., Fairfield Veterinary Hospital, Triple S Carpet & Drapery Cleaners and Southport Veterinary Center. Vendors offered a variety of pet products and services as well as sustenance for dogs and their owners and many bargains were had at the silent auction. The weather was beautiful for a walk in the woods with friends and family. A very special thank you to all the volunteers who worked tirelessly to make this event so successful, and most especially to the Service League of Boys – affectionately known as SLOBs! More photos of the event can be viewed at www.earthplace.org.



Families - furry or not - all had a beautiful walk at Earthplace at the Walk for Wildlife Event.





Earthplace

The Nature Discovery Center

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P.O. Box 165
Westport, CT 06881

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Stories by Firelight	Friday, October 14, 7 p.m.	Enjoy stories and s'mores by campfire by Miss Lynn from the Westport Library.
Time to HiBearNate - Family Fun Day	Saturday, October 15, 10 - 4 p.m.	Make and take nature activities for all ages. Learn how animals (and humans) prepare for the coldest season of the year
Nature Fun, K-5	Wednesday, October 19, 4 p.m.	Focus on spiders - registration required
Pumpkin Carving	Saturday, October 29, 10 - 1 p.m.	Tools and decorations provided
Night Out for Nature	Saturday, November 12, 6 p.m.	26th Annual Auction to benefit Earthplace, Brooklawn Country Club, Fairfield
Turkey Walk and Talk	Saturday, November 26, 2:30 p.m.	All ages

Coming Events

