



*Managing for Diversity:
Challenges and Successes in the Shawangunks*

Shawangunk Ridge Free Public Lecture Series

January–February 2010

From January 14–February 18, the Shawangunk Ridge Biodiversity Partnership will present five lectures about the conservation work underway across the region to protect and manage wildlife and natural systems. **Lectures will be held on Thursdays from 7-8:30 p.m. and are open to the public and free of charge** (no advance registration is necessary). The series combines four lectures in New Paltz and one in Ellenville. This series is sponsored by the State University of New York at New Paltz Biology Department.

For more information, visit <http://www.mohonkpreserve.org/index.php?events> or contact Nadia Steinzor, Mohonk Preserve, at (845) 255-0919, or Cara Lee, The Nature Conservancy, at 845-255-9051. **Cancellations due to winter weather** will be listed on area radio stations. Effort will be made to reschedule any cancelled lectures in early March.

New Paltz Lectures

(For Ellenville lecture on February 18th, see other side)

All lectures will take place at the SUNY New Paltz Lecture Center, Room 100. For directions and a campus map, see www.newpaltz.edu/map. The Lecture Center is located between the Library and the Humanities Building on the west side of the campus. No parking permit is required if you park after 6:30 p.m.

January 14 (New Paltz). *Precious Oaks.* The region's signature oak forests provide habitat and food for dozens of animals and are at the center of complex and rapidly changing natural systems. John Thompson, Natural Resources Specialist at Mohonk Preserve, and Jonathan Rosenthal, Research Associate in Biology at Vassar College, will share ongoing research on the importance of oak forests and how to manage them for the future.

January 21. *Oh Deer! (New Paltz).* The population and habits of white-tailed deer have changed over time, and so has the need for and approaches to management of deer in our region. Ethan Pierce, Deer Program Manager at Mohonk Preserve, and Dick Henry, Biologist with the Hudson Valley Quality Deer Management Association, will discuss the changing role of deer in our landscapes and what's being done to address their impacts.

January 28 (New Paltz). *Bats on the Wane.* Several species of native bats are in rapid decline across the Northeast (as well as other regions) due to the puzzling "white nose syndrome" and other problems. Carl Herzog, wildlife biologist with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, will share current information about this widespread trend, what the loss of bats means, and what conservationists can do.

February 4 (New Paltz). *Invasives: Here to Stay?* Careless human activities move species around the world and establish new populations outside of their native ranges—often resulting in significant, long-lasting changes to natural environments and costing billions in economic damage. Our local forests, fields, and waters contain hundreds of non-native species, and more arrive each year. Dave Strayer of the Institute of Ecosystems Studies will discuss origins and impacts of these invaders, as well as possible solutions.

Composed of non-profit and public agencies, the Shawangunk Ridge Biodiversity Partnership is dedicated to protecting the sensitive wildlife habitat and other natural resources of the Shawangunk Mountains. Informed by field research and scientific analysis, partners manage over 40,000 protected acres of the Shawangunks, provide environmental education, and work with local communities to preserve open space on the slopes of the ridge. For more information, visit www.gunksfireplan.org.



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Ellenville Lecture

(For New Paltz lectures from January 14-February 4, see other side)

Lecture will be held at the Ellenville Public Library & Museum, 40 Center Street, Ellenville. Parking is available on Route 52 (Canal Street), just west of Route 209.

Thursday, February 18 (Ellenville). *Songbirds on the Move*. Every fall and spring, the region is graced by hundreds of species of songbirds that rely on the land to rest and breed during their long migrations. Valerie Freer, president of the Sullivan County Audubon Society, will share the findings of her years of backyard research on both familiar and unusual species and discuss management efforts underway to help support their survival.

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