

SPECIES MANAGEMENT

# DEER BIRTH CONTROL LAGS

Rough winter hampers efforts, 4G

Business: Save on vacation hotel bill, 6G



# My Valley

**RAINBOW OIL**

Tired of Kissing  
Your Furnace  
& Begging it  
to Work?

**845-229-9418**  
Like us on

THE DIRT

## Artists can help raise awareness

The following is a Q&A by Terry Platz of Beacon Institute for Rivers and Estuaries of Clarkson University and Amy Lipton, an independent curator and co-director of ecoartspace, a nonprofit organization providing opportunities for artists who address environmental issues. Lipton has organized numerous exhibitions for museums, galleries, sculpture parks, environmental centers and in the public realm, including BiodiverCITY, presented by the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities in Washington, D.C. Lipton will participate in a discussion based on her experience with art-science collaborations on April 17 at Beacon Institute's Center for Environmental Innovation and Education at Dennings Point in Beacon.



Terry Platz



Amy Lipton

**As curator for ecoartspace you have experienced the power of collaboration and its gut-level impact on public thinking about the environment. Can you describe the dynamics of how artists and scientists (and others?) are creating this effect when combining forces to solve environmental problems?**

**Lipton:** My work with ecoartspace has focused on ecological artists and their projects. Over the past 14 years I have worked with hundreds of artists covering a wide spectrum of environmental issues. Collaboration with scientists, engineers, public policy makers and others is the key to implementation of these projects and their success. The intention behind ecological art is to use a variety of artistic processes — including traditional means such as crafts, drawing, painting, sculpture, mapping, design, photography and digital media — to represent and bring awareness to environmental problems. In many cases, the artist's goal is to actively engage directly in the damaged ecosystem to restore, remediate or transform the landscape and ecological system. This work takes an interdisciplinary team. Measuring the success of these projects is a worthy long-term goal, but success can be viewed in terms of community involvement and subsequent action as well as in educating and bringing public awareness to specific environmental problems.

Though still an under-known movement in the mainstream, there are ecological artists working globally on every conceivable environmental challenge. Artists are covering topics such as climate change to food and agriculture/soil depletion to species and habitat preservation, to oceans, rivers and stream water quality. They differ in their methods and approaches to collaboration with scientists and science institutions in this newly emerging and fertile ground that is still regarded with cautious optimism. Ecological artists continue to search for definitions for this genre and those definitions are changing as projects evolve. The touted collaborative aspects of current "social practice art" is the way ecological artists have been working for the past

See Q&A, Page 3G

**COMING NEXT WEEK IN MY VALLEY**

Visit [www.poughkeepsiejournal.com/myvalley](http://www.poughkeepsiejournal.com/myvalley) next week for this story and the latest environmental news:

**Tuesday:** Earth Wise looks at safety of golfing given chemical use on grass.



## Clear debris, rake lawn, trim growth and keep it natural

By Karen Maserjian Shan  
For the Poughkeepsie Journal

Randi Sackheim likes to keep things organic. Especially when it comes to gardening. "There is really, in a normal ornamental garden, there is no need at all for chemicals," said Sackheim, an organic home gardener and garden designer based in Clinton. Getting garden beds ready for the growing season doesn't require chemicals, either, she said. What it does involve is some manual labor. "Whatever perennials didn't get cut back in the fall, now's the time," she said. Trim away old and dead growth from ornamental grasses and other perennials, going down to within a few inches of the ground. "You want to help slough off last year's growth, otherwise you have a lot of mess," Sackheim said.

See GREEN, Page 2G

EARTH TALK

## Earth Day 2014 to focus on cities

**What's going on with Earth Day this year and how can I get involved?**  
— Christine B., Boston

This coming April 22 will mark the 44th annual celebration of Earth Day, and the focus this year will be green cities.

"As the world's population migrates to cities, and as the bleak reality of climate change becomes increasingly clear, the need to create sustainable communities is more important than ever," reports Earth Day Network, the Seattle-based nonprofit that helps coordinate Earth Day celebrations and serves as a clearinghouse for related information and resources.

The group hopes to galvanize the support of more than a billion people across 192 countries this Earth Day for increasing the sustainability and reducing the carbon footprints of urban areas everywhere.

By focusing on buildings, energy and transportation issues in cities this year, Earth Day Network hopes to raise awareness about the importance of making improvements in efficiency, investments in renewable technology and regulation reform in the urban areas where half the world's population lives today. By 2050, three quarters of us will live in cities, making it more important than



The Earth Day Network hopes to galvanize support of more than a billion people across 192 countries this Earth Day for increasing the sustainability and reducing the carbon footprints of urban areas everywhere. MATTHEW RUTLEDGE/FLICKR

See EARTH, Page 2G

# Pub fare with a twist

## Towne Crier caters to vegetarians, vegans and omnivores



JUDY EISELE

GREEN GOURMET

Some of you may remember when the Towne Crier opened in Beekman in 1972, a local place where you could sit back and enjoy a nice meal along with live blues, folk and jazz music. Not too long ago, the Crier relocated to Beacon.

On the Sunday evening we decided to go to dinner, snow and ice still covered the sidewalk. The restaurant's warm and inviting atmosphere was welcome after coming in from the cold.

The owner and manager Phil Ciganer told us they had some dining-only seats still available, but added that we would have to finish our dinner by 8:30 p.m. or pay an additional charge for a show ticket. Although we were still finishing up our desserts at 8:30, the staff was very pleasant and didn't make us feel rushed. I would recommend making reservations, especially on evenings when they have live entertainment as it filled up very quickly right before the music started.

Although the aim is to use locally sourced ingredients, The Crier focuses more on ingredients that are hormone- and pesticide-free. It caters to vegetarians, vegans and omnivores. Chef James Kane also tries to use organic produce when possible.

Some local producers include Bread Alone lo-

cated in Woodstock and cheeses from Coach Farm in Pine Plains.

We ordered the squash and apple arancini appetizer; breaded, creamy risotto balls studded with sautéed butternut squash and apples. It was served with a cayenne-cream dipping sauce (which I was able to save a little to use later on my hamburger). For dinner I order a 100 percent natural Angus beef hormone-free hamburger on a pretzel bun (which seems to be the new "it" bun at many restaurants). It was tender, juicy and served medium rare. My son, Tyler, went with the grilled free-range chicken quesadilla with pepper jack cheese, red onions and tomatoes in a flour tortilla, served with pico de gallo. Judging by the rate at which he inhaled it, I'd say he thoroughly enjoyed it. Our server mentioned that the chicken comes from Coleman Natural Foods in Pennsylvania. Andrew, my husband, ordered the house-smoked barbecue pulled pork sandwich on a toasted ciabatta bun.

We decided to share one or two of the decadent looking desserts prominently displayed by the front door. The Crier bakery chef, Mary Ciganer, formerly of Le Cirque in New York City, offers a vegan poppyseed cake made with no butter, eggs or sugar, which Andrew tried. I went with the cheesecake. Decadent and creamy, but not over-the-top, it was delicious.

The menu is classic pub fare with a bit of a twist. Hopefully in time,



The outside of the new Towne Crier Cafe on Main Street in Beacon. SPENCER AINSLEY/POUGHKEEPSIE JOURNAL FILE



Squash and apple arancini appetizer at Towne Crier Cafe in Beacon. JUDY EISELE/THE POUGHKEEPSIE JOURNAL



Sour lemon pound cake is made on the premises at Towne Crier Cafe in Beacon. JUDY EISELE/FOR THE POUGHKEEPSIE JOURNAL

more locally sourced produce will make its way to the menu selections. The Crier is another nice addition to the mecca of restaurants on Main Street.

Judy Eisele, a former Dutchess County resident, is a health counselor with a practice in White Plains. Green

Gourmet is a column about sustainable eating in the Hudson Valley. Go to [www.BeWellOrganically.com](http://www.BeWellOrganically.com) for more information.

### ON THE WEB

Towne Crier Cafe: Visit [www.townecrier.com](http://www.townecrier.com) for more information on hours and entertainment.

## Q&A

Continued from Page 1G

four decades and demands forms of collaboration that are rare among studio artists. Art schools train artists to work independently as solo agents, emphasizing preparation for the system of gallery and museum exhibitions. Ecological artists work from a mindset that is oriented toward natural systems. Collaboration is not only a worthy goal, but also a necessity in order to further community-based/public/infrastructure projects and to learn from specialists in other disciplines. Often these art projects aim to function as components in ecological systems, operating outside of art spheres altogether.

In order to succeed with their projects, ecological artists must take into account the needs of specific communities with all constituents of these communities — human and non-human. Some key elements include: 1. The artist/s having a shared purpose over and beyond their individual expression. 2. A non-hierarchical decision-making process with team members. 3. Emphasis on process over product. 4. An interest in crossing disciplines. 5. Flexibility and a willingness to accept unpredictability. 6. An understanding that these projects demand a long-term commitment and often take years to implement.

**Ecological art is a growing global movement with great potential for sparking innovative ideas to answer environmental issues by combining art and science. What effect, if any, do you think this might have on art playing an integral role in mainstream corporate and public planning?**

**Ecological art is on the cutting edge of environmentalism, bridging the worlds and languages of art, science, biology, botany, architecture and engineering.**

**Lipton:** The sooner the better in terms of bringing more artists into an active role in public planning — as well as early into the discussion. Though artists are not often trained to think in a linear or solution-based process, they are creative and imaginative thinkers, which can lead to innovative and unforeseen solutions. Ideally, artists need to be included in projects from the initial stages of conceptualization, planning and implementation and not as an afterthought. Often in large public projects, artists are invited to bring finishing touches with the desire for a certain look or style to be "added on." This is unfortunate and can lead to difficulty for the artist's component to succeed. It seems that more organizations both within and outside of the arts are coming to the

realization that artists can play an early and beneficial role in terms of strategic thinking and innovation.

Ecological art is on the cutting edge of environmentalism, bridging the worlds and languages of art, science, biology, botany, architecture and engineering. It calls into question some of the most basic premises of what is considered "art." However, both pressing ecological issues and the need for broad social co-operation in global society necessitate the shift to a collaborative model where art can be embraced as a welcome partner. Ecological artists infuse aesthetic and poetic sensibilities to functional projects that aim to solve large environmental problems while raising awareness for the general public.

### IF YOU GO

**What:** "Understanding Understanding & Inspiration: The Symbiotic Nature of Art, Science and the Environment." Ecological artists are affecting a new world of thinking about 21st century water challenges with the combined power of art and science. Join ecological artists Lillian Ball, Betsy Damon and ecoartspace curator Amy Lipton in a dialogue for new ideas, facilitated by Hudson River environmentalist John Cronin.

**When:** 7 p.m. April 17.

**Where:** Beacon Institute for Rivers and Estuaries, Clarkson University, Center for Environmental Innovation and Education, 199 Dennings Ave., Beacon.

**Cost:** Free and open to the public. Advance online registration is requested.

**Web:** [www.bire.org](http://www.bire.org)

## SUSTAINABLY SPEAKING

# Cap and trade succeeds

Calif. program creates jobs, curbs emissions

By Anne Lapera

In 2013, California initiated its groundbreaking cap and trade system as one mechanism to mitigate greenhouses gas emissions produced in the state. Despite predictions by opponents of the cap-and-trade system and the broader California Global Warming Act that California's proactive stance on climate change would create job loss and lead to economic downturn, in its first year this system has proven to be successful without harming the state's economy.

Emily Reyna, senior manager, Partnerships and Alliances for Environmental Defense Fund's U.S. Climate and Energy Program, discussed how the California cap and trade system works and what has made it so successful with Bard Center for Environmental Policy during a National Climate Seminar.

Cap and trade is a market-based approach to reducing greenhouses gas emissions by limiting the amount of greenhouses gases that can be emitted (cap) by business, but allowing companies to sell their excess allowances or purchase more allowances if they exceed their limit

(trade). The cap becomes stricter every year, and in 2015 the industries not falling under the system including transportation fuels, natural gas, and other types of fuels will also go under regulation. This system will keep reducing greenhouses gas emissions over time without negative effects to the environment.

Why is California successful?

The Environmental Defense Fund provides four main reasons for the success of California's cap-and-trade system.

First, Emily Reyna claims, "It's a well-designed program off to a promising start."

In the first year, California has conducted five auctions that have all been successful. In addition, prices were constant, participation was high, and all emission allowances were sold.

Second, California's economy continues to recover from the 2008 financial crisis even with the continuation of the cap-and-trade program. Reyna argued that in contrast to the expectations of critics, the free market system allows companies to determine how to reduce their pollution and reduces strain with the purchase of allowances. The cap-and-trade system has created and stimulated the incentives for an expanded clean energy market. Clean energy entrepreneurs have been able to thrive and contribute to the economy both by creating products and offering alternative services. These new innovations will have positive environmental effects, increase green technology and create jobs.

Third, the system is constructed to increase in both size and effectiveness over time. In addition to regulating natural gas and fuel from the transportation sector, the state has also discussed extending the program past the 2020 goals. This clearly laid out regulatory path enables companies to plan to conform and gives them the flexibility mechanisms including both the purchase of credits and offsets to make a smooth transition over time.

Finally, the program is viewed by many as precedent setting, continuing California's history of policy innovation and leadership. The program is so successful that other states such as Oregon and other countries including Canada are linking into California's cap-and-trade system in an effort to address climate change, thereby widening the scope of this system.

Reyna explained that given all of the positive achievements, California's cap and trade will not only address climate change at the state level but also spread internationally to contribute to global efforts to address climate change. The Environmental Defense Fund is also confident that cap and trade not only successfully addresses climate change but also thrives in difficult economies and even contributes to their improvement.

Anne Lapera is a first-year master's student at the Bard Center for Environmental Policy. *Sustainably Speaking* is written by students, staff and faculty of the center.