

Sampling of previous Orange Environment OE Awardees:

2013 Annual Harvest Award Dinner

Peter Lai – Developer of OE’s Permaculture Design Certificate Training Course

Wanda Knapik – Instructor of OE’s Permaculture Design Certificate Training Course

Sacha Spector – For educating the public on climate change and its impact on the Hudson Valley

Debbie Lester - Master Gardeners Program, Cornell Cooperative Extension

Gar Wang – Organic Farmer of Warwick

Becca Tucker of Dirt Magazine – Media Award for Environmental Reporting

The Bellvale Community – For service to the community

2006 Orange Environment Annual Awards Dinner:

Responsible Government Official Award

Carol Ash - for her work with the Palisades Interstate Park Commission and the Highlands

Jay Beaumont - Recognizing his contributions as Director of the Orange County Water Authority

Ann Botshon Protection Award

Simon Gruber - for his work as a steward to our Wallkill and Moodna watersheds.

Sandra Kissam Award

Tony Award for efforts that protect almost 7,000 acres for public passive recreation and wildlife habitat as Stewart State Forest.

Environmental Education Award

Kate Fox and Ed Helbig - for sharing their understanding of ecology and respect for nature through the Free Spirit Nature Camp.

Sustainable Art Communities Award

Shawn Dell Joyce - a sustainable artist and founder of the Wallkill River School which combines environmental activism with plein air painting.

Press Award

Pamela Chergotis - for making environmental issues priority coverage in the Chronicle

Renewable Energy Award

Harriman Brotherhood of Electricians/IBEW LU #363 - for spreading the technology of solar power through leadership and cooperation.

Community Agriculture Award

Rev. William A. Scafidi - for his role as guardian of the “People’s Garden” in the City of Newburgh.

Ben Kissam Activist Award

SOS Group - who organized to protect 127 acres of land on the last open space in the Town of Newburgh.

Renewable Energy Award

Warwick Valley CSD - for promoting energy conservation and reducing the consumption of diesel fuel on their buses by using waste cooking oil as an additive.

2005 Orange Environment Annual Awards Dinner

Lifetime Achievement Award - Jean Strong

Jean Strong represents a breed of tenacious Orange County residents who bear witness to the environmental and historical resources of our County and stand for their protection and preservation. Rooted in an area beset by threats from Orange County and Al Turi Landfills, the Marcy South Power Line, and the Waste Management Transfer Station, Jean along with her husband Bill have devoted the past three decades to fighting for the Wallkill River and for us.

Alternative Energy Award - Bill & Mary Makofske

As a former director of OE, a member of Warwick's Conservation Board, and a thirty year Professor of Environmental Studies at Ramapo College of NJ, Bill Makofske has long been the region's strongest voice for renewable energy and a soft energy path. But the best demonstration of this commitment is Bill and Mary's design and construction of an affordable home in Warwick that demonstrates the application of renewable energy and permaculture. Their willingness to make this negative energy home into a public education demonstration offers us our best model for future housing.

Responsible Government Official Award

Fred Budde, Planner, Orange County Planning Office

The future of Orange County has quickly devolved into a question of whether we can maintain future mobility given the loss of service on our key roadways. To address this problem, one must first understand it clearly. Fred Budde's long service to Orange County is demonstrated in his foundational work on transportation which gives us an expert basis to question casinos and other overwhelming growth dynamics, to focus on transportation hotspots, and to envision alternatives.

Responsible Government Award - Honey Bernstein, Goshen Supervisor

Across the spectrum, Honey Bernstein has steered Goshen toward a sustainable direction. In her time in office, during review and passage of Goshen's revised master plan, new visions for Goshen were solicited, the Salesian property was acquired as future parkland, and an ambitious open space initiative was passed.

Strong Activism Award - Warwick Action Group

The Warwick Action Group is a grassroots group in Warwick, NY. W.A.G.'s effort's put an end to a large scale illegal mulching operation on Penaluna Road in Greenwood Lake. This facility had operated without challenge for ten years and was in the process of being sold in order to enlarge the mulching operations. W.A.G. continues to remain vigilant as to the clean up and the future of the site.

The Ben Kissam Activist Award - Debbie Marone

While successful change occurs through group efforts, no group effort succeeds without the kind of selflessness and leadership that we recognize Debbie Marone for. She represents the tireless and creative energy that activists must put forth to succeed, and her work has been instrumental in the success of the Goshen Open Space Initiative.

Orange Environment Preservation Award -Citizens for Open Space of Goshen

Citizens for Open Space mobilized to make open space and farmland preservation a reality for Goshen, NY in 2004. We congratulate you all on a job well done!

Media Award - David Richardson, Times Herald Record

The press plays a vital role in calling attention to issues that demand attention. In his writing about Jones Chemical, Times Herald Record Reporter David Richardson took a major step toward waking up Warwick to the dangers of a catastrophic accident, putting company and community on notice that preventative steps can be taken now and hopefully end a long term denial on the part of all.

Sustainable Agriculture Award - Guy & Cindy Jones Blooming Hill Farm

The “Sustainable Agriculture” Award goes to Guy and Cindy Jones of Blooming Hill Farm, Blooming Grove, for their commitment to producing organic fruits and vegetables, as well as herbs, flowers, and other organic products. Blooming Hill is a family run farm and part of the Community Supported Agriculture network. Their produce can be found at green markets around the region, their store in Blooming Grove, and in organic restaurants in New York City. Guy and Cindy have a unique way of showcasing their wonderful organic foods by hosting a monthly vegetarian dinner cooked by gourmet chefs from the area.

Annual Awards Dinner 2004

Kissam Award:

The Preservation Collective: Tracy Schuh, Kathy Parrella and Bob Fury For their work in central Orange County with historic and scenic preservation, preservation of the Cold Spring Farm area in Sugar Loaf, efforts to force the Town of Monroe to properly close the old Monroe Landfill and to discourage development in the immediate vicinity of the landfill site.

Media Award:

Times Herald Record: Chris McKenna / Greg Cannon

Chris McKenna for his superlative coverage of growth and development issues in Central Orange County.

Greg Cannon for his exceptional canoe tour of the Wallkill River, observing the beauty and the problems of the river from a perspective too few have experienced.

Government Award

Orange County for Passage of The Orange County Open Space Plan This broad and inclusive effort addresses the fundamental question of how we preserve the environmental integrity of a magnificent county under siege from rampant growth.

Sustainable Agriculture Award

The Rogowski Farm The Rogowski Farm in Warwick has taken a major step for Black Dirt farming by reorienting their operation as a farm that grows a diversity of crops and health foods. They offer CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) services to a variety of urban markets

Private Entrepreneur

Taylor Recycling Taylor Recycling is a pioneer recycling company located in Orange County that has moved from composting into the most sophisticated approaches to materials recovery. They have been nationally noticed for their work addressing material identification and recovery at the World Trade Center site.