Westchester GIS User Group Meeting

Speaker Profiles
(Confirmed speakers as of May 15, 2018)

May 17th, 2017 • Natural Science Building • Purchase College

George Latimer – *County Executive*, Westchester County

George Latimer, a third generation Westchester native was born Nov. 22, 1953 in Mt. Vernon to the late Stanley and Loretta (Miner) Latimer. After attending Mt. Vernon public schools, George graduated with a B.A. from Fordham University in the Bronx as well as a Master's Degree in Public Administration from New York University's Wagner School.
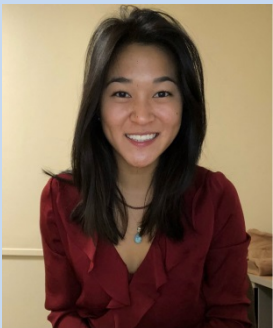
Elected in 2004 to the State Assembly, George Latimer has established a solid record of accomplishment, sponsoring legislation and advancing funding for environmental issues (including protection of the Long Island Sound), housing, transportation, healthcare, lower property taxes and a myriad of other issues.

Dr. Ryan Taylor – *Associate Professor*, Purchase College

Dr. Ryan W. Taylor is an associate professor of environmental studies in the School of Natural and Social Sciences at Purchase College. He has more than 19 years of professional experience applying GIS technologies to environmental and natural resource management decisions. He also has been teaching upper-level required and elective courses in GIS for undergraduates for more than seven years. He holds a BS from Mount Vernon Nazarene College, an MA from the University of Illinois, and a PhD from Oregon State University.

Angie Kim – *Sustainability Coordinator*, Purchase College

Angie Kim, Purchase College's Sustainability Coordinator, is a Virginia native who received a degree in Environmental Sciences from the University of Virginia in 2017. She was involved with sustainability throughout her college career which had made an immense impact on her and enriched her college experience; therefore she would like to return that favor. Through building relationships and collaborating with many departments and students she hopes to increase awareness of sustainability and have it become part of the culture that students take with them beyond campus. Since her time at Purchase she has been updating the college's climate action plan, sustainability goals, managing the website and implementing campus-wide waste reduction initiatives.

Amanda Stevens – *Project Manager*, NYSERDA

Amanda is a Project Manager in the Environmental Research Program at the New York State Energy Research & Development Authority (NYSERDA). There, she manages the program's climate change adaptation research projects. She has been with NYSERDA since 2006. Before beginning work at NYSERDA, Amanda was an intern in the Environmental Protection Bureau of the NYS Attorney General's Office. She has a Bachelor's degree in geology from Hartwick College.

Mark Lowery – *Climate Policy Analyst*, Office of Climate Change, NYSDEC

A 30-year veteran of NYSDEC, Mark Lowery has served as a climate policy analyst in DEC's Office of Climate Change since 2007. He previously worked as a wildlife biologist and citizen participation specialist. He serves as coordinator of OCC's Adaptation and Municipal Support Group, which includes support of the Climate Smart Communities program and implementation of the Community Risk and Resiliency Act. He holds a bachelor's degree in biology from Franklin and Marshall College, and a master's degree in environmental and forest biology from the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry.

Emily Goldman – *Assoc. Dir. of the Civic Innovation Fellowship*, BetaNYC

Emily Goldman is Associate Director of the Civic Innovation Fellowship, a joint program of the Manhattan Borough President's Office, the City University of New York, and BetaNYC, which helps guide New York City's growing open data and civic tech community. She has served on Beta's leadership committee since 2014 when she was conducting her dissertation research in Brooklyn. Emily has a Ph.D. in City & Regional Planning and a Master of Arts in Historic Preservation Planning from Cornell University. She also worked for four years at the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission. Balancing her interests in historic preservation, housing, open data and civic tech, she views the city's historic buildings and neighborhoods as its most fundamental technology!

Bill Parco – *GIS Lead*, SUEZ North America

Bill Parco is the GIS Lead for SUEZ New York and is in charge of maintaining the performance and accuracy of the geographic data, maps and asset management systems. This includes both paper and digital products used by all departments from Engineering to Operations. His focus is on using GIS technology to increase water system awareness and making the sharing of maps and data easier for both field crews and back office workers.

Laura Rossi – *Executive Director*, Westchester Community Foundation

Laura Rossi is the Executive Director of the Westchester Community Foundation, a public charity dedicated to improving the quality of life in Westchester County. She provides leadership and expertise in working with elected officials, business, community, and philanthropic partners to make Westchester a welcoming and vibrant community for all.

Laura's philanthropic leadership began in 2007 when she joined the Foundation as a program officer, developing and implementing strategic grants programs in multiple issue areas. She became the Foundation's Executive Director in 2015, and works closely with donors to help them identify and achieve their philanthropic goals.

She has practiced criminal, employment, and civil rights law; taught constitutional law at local universities; and worked for local and statewide nonprofits. A 2015 graduate of Leadership Westchester, she serves on the boards of the Support Center and Sustainable Westchester.

Nina Orville – *Principal*, Abundant Efficiency LLC

Nina Orville creates and implements innovative solutions to environmental and business challenges for local governments, businesses and organizations. Specializing in public-private initiatives that generate environmental and economic development benefits, Abundant Efficiency administers and implements the Solarize Westchester program, is a partner in the Mid-Hudson Streetlight Consortium and is developing a community solar and a clean heat program in partnership with Sustainable Westchester. Previously, as founding Executive Director of the Southern Westchester Energy Action Consortium, Ms. Orville contributed to the formation of Sustainable Westchester, the successor organization to SWEAC. Earlier in her career, Ms. Orville was a member of the management team of a $40 million community development venture capital fund. She holds a BA from Oberlin College and an MBA from Columbia Business School.

LTC Jay Ware – *Geospatial Science Program, U.S. Military Academy*, West Point

Lieutenant Colonel Jared Ware teaches Remote Sensing, Cartography, GIS and Environmental Geography at the United States Military Academy, West Point, NY. M.S. Geospatial Science, Cranfield University (England) Lieutenant Colonel Ware has an M.S. Engineering Management, University of Missouri-Rolla B.S. Geography, United States Military Academy Research. His interests include Geospatial Science and applications for defense and emergency management/disaster relief.

Ron Kaman – *CEO*, EarthKind Energy

Ron Kamen develops public-private partnerships that catalyze clean power transformations for governments, non-profits, businesses, and communities. Ron brings decades of expertise in the creation of cutting edge sustainable energy programs, projects, and policies.

While President of the NY Solar Energy Industries Association, Ron led the campaign that culminated in the $1B NY Sun program. He built and managed successful wind power & solar energy marketing, sales, and public education programs, and is a recognized coalition builder with the renewable energy industry, distribution utilities, Energy Service Companies (ESCOs), government leaders, and environmental organizations.

Sustainable Westchester retained Ron and his consulting company, EarthKind Energy, in 2017 to create the Clean Transportation Program, which aims to triple the number of Electric Vehicles (EVs) in the county by 2020. In its first year, the program secured dramatic discounts for Electric Vehicles (EVs) and gained grants that built municipal charging station infrastructure. Sustainable Westchester's Clean Transportation Program is now increasing the number of EV charging stations, expanding aggregation discounts for electric sedans, buses and trucks – and extending the aggregation discount model to clean, green landscaping equipment.

Rich Slingerland – *Village Administrator*, Village of Tarrytown

Rich Slingerland has approximately thirty years of experience in local government, starting in 1987, and obtained his Masters in Public Administration from NYU's Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service in May, 2000. During his thirty one years working for different governments, he accumulated over fifteen years of experience working in waterfront communities, including the City of Yonkers, and the Villages of Tarrytown and Mamaroneck. His years in Mamaroneck included significant time working with staff, consultants, the Department of State and involved Boards updating the Village of Mamaroneck's Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan (LWRP), as well as on a 7-year study for an $80 million Army Corps of Engineers Flood Remediation capital project. He has worked on sustainable issues such as recycling, storm-hardening, energy efficiencies in electrical use and vehicle fuel consumption, among other issues for nearly the length of his career.

Kevin Kain – *Dir. of Planning and Sustainability*, City of New Rochelle

Kevin has significant experience in land use planning, zoning and urban design. He understands the complex nature of downtown development, and knows how to identify problems, providing creative, but targeted solutions. Kevin has helped create communities that are livable, walkable and foster vibrant commercial development.

Kevin has been accepted as an expert witness and testified before numerous development boards. He has prepared master plans, housing plans, and redevelopment studies. Kevin is certified by the American Institute of Certified Planners and licensed as a Professional Planner in the State of New Jersey.

Carolynn Sears – *Chair of the Conservation Board*, Town of Pound Ridge

Carolynn Sears moved to Pound Ridge, a place of outstanding natural beauty, in 1984. After retiring from a career as a science teacher, she joined the Conservation Board in 2010 and was appointed chair in 2015. Protecting and enjoying the environment is a long-standing passion for her.

Helen Meurer – *Chair of the Conservation Advisory Council*, Village of Pleasantville

Helen is the chairperson for the Village of Pleasantville Conservation Advisory Council (CAC). The CAC's recent projects include: updating the Open Space Index; Wetlands Mapping; and wetlands ordinance revision. The next projects are a tree ordinance and a Street Tree Inventory.

Helen has been involved with the Citizen Science Water Quality Monitoring (through Riverkeeper/Sarah Lawrence), sampling the upper reaches of the Saw Mill River for the past 3 years.

As a member of the Pleasantville Recycles committee Helen is a co-coordinator for zero waste at the annual Pleasantville Music Festival (this year – July 14th).

Helen is also on the Climate Smart Community taskforce (Village of Pleasantville), working on innovative ways to reduce Pleasantville's carbon footprint and to make the community more resilient to weather events.

Helen organized a grade-wide Middle School Sustainability Day, annual Earth Day, and mentored for Science Olympiad (Green Generation and Ecology).

(Originally from the UK, Helen worked in the programming/analysis corporate world in the UK and here in the USA.)

Dan Farkas– *Conservation Board*, Town of Bedford

Dan Farkas is a Professor of Information Systems in the Seidenberg School of Computer Science and Information Systems at Pace University. He is the founder and current Chair of the AIS Special Interest group on GIS (SIGGIS).). He is also the founder and Director of the new Location Analytics and GIS Lab for Education and Research at Pace. At Pace, he has been innovative in developing curriculum in Computer Networking and Geographic Information Systems. With his colleagues on the Bedford Conservation Board, Dan has been involved in number of projects including ridgeline, habitat and open space mapping. Several years ago the Conservation Board, using GIS analysis did an inventory of lake and pond usage in the Town. Interdisciplinary at heart, he holds a BA in History, an MS in Computer Science and a PhD in Educational Technology from New York University. Supporting his interest and research in Environmental Conservation, he has an MS in Environmental Science and Policy from Johns Hopkins University.

Moderator:

Anjali Sauthoff – *PhD, Independent Environmental Health Science Consultant,* <u>Westchester County GIS</u>

Anjali Sauthoff is an environmental health scientist who is currently working for Westchester County, analyzing the effect of future sea level rise on Westchester County assets. Previous research at the Energy Institute at the University of Wisconsin at Madison focused on potential mitigation strategies for reducing transportation-related climate emissions. She received her PhD from Columbia University, where she developed an air pollution exposure model, and received training in the health effects of environmental exposures. Her Master's degree is in Neurobiology, from SUNY Stony Brook.