

The full program includes:

February Lectures: Held at **SUNY New Paltz Lecture Center, Room 100**. For directions and a campus map, consult www.newpaltz.edu (About New Paltz/Campus Map).

March Lectures: Held at **Ellenville Public Library & Museum, 40 Center Street**, just west of **Route 209**, parking on **Canal Street**.

Thursday, February 6th, 7 PM:
Where the Wild Things Walk

Naturalist and habitat specialist Susan Morse helps us to understand our persecuted predators. Her organization, *Keeping Track*, has developed an effective and unique track and sign survey protocol that is at the cutting edge of wildlife research in the U.S. today. *Keeping Track* trains volunteers to read animal tracks and sign, to record the movement of animals, and to understand how to protect "wildways" (corridors for wildlife).

Thursday, February 13th, 7 PM:
Mountain Majesties

2002 was the International Year of Mountains. Lawrence S. Hamilton is the Vice-Chair for Mountains of the World Commission on Protected Areas (IUCN). He is Emeritus Professor at Cornell University and was formerly on the Advisory Committee for the *Mohonk Trust*. He will give a global perspective on Mountain Ecosystems. A slide show will illustrate the universal values and unique characteristics of mountains and the aspects of mountains that make them so vulnerable to threats. This lecture will lift our sights from local concerns to a global level, reinforcing the care we need to give to the "Gunks." Many mountain conservation topics will be addressed including the question, "How big is big enough?"

Thursday, February 20th, 7 PM:
What Do Deer Do?

The over-abundant Virginia White-tailed Deer has a huge impact on the landscape on a large scale and locally. What can and what should we do about it? Brad Roeller, Manager of Display Gardens and Grounds at the Institute of Ecosystem Studies, will discuss environmental and biological factors that influence deer and their choice of food, and the impact deer have on our forest ecosystems.

Thursday, February 27th, 7 PM:
Essential Amphibians

Protecting a web of life for the webbed-of-feet. Dr. Michael Klemens founded the Metropolitan Conservation Alliance (part of the Wildlife Conservation Society) in 1997 to develop innovative, locally based strategies that tackle ecosystem loss at the suburban-rural frontier. They have produced a manual for conserving critical vernal pool habitat for amphibians and many other species within developments. Dr. Klemens has been a member of the American Museum of Natural History's scientific staff since 1979, and was instrumental in the creation of the Museum's Center for Biodiversity and Conservation. He also serves as Chairman of the City of Rye Planning Commission.

Thursday, March 6th, 7 PM:
Where Mastodons Roamed

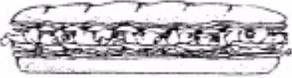
During the last glacial period, ice atop the Shawangunks was about two miles thick, and mastodons – an extinct, elephant-like mammal – roamed the landscape. Dr. John Chiment, Director of The Mastodon Project at the Cornell Institute for Biology, will talk about the ancient ecology of this area, sharing research findings from the examination of soil found with the bones of mastodons. This project provides a view of the area's history of changes in climate, flora, and fauna.

Thursday, March 13th, 7 PM:
From Mountain Harvests to Mountain Havens; Changing Land Use in the Northern Shawangunks

How did people use the Shawangunks in 1700, 1800, and 1900? How about today? Join local author Robi Josephson for a slide presentation on changing land use using photographs from her new book, *Mohonk: Mountain House and Preserve*. Released last October by Arcadia Publishing, her book is a picture history of the northern Shawangunks' world-famous resort and of the **Mohonk Preserve**, the largest member-and-visitor-supported nature preserve in New York State. Robi will focus on mountain hamlets and industries of long ago, the era of grand mountain houses, and the creation of nature preserves that today form a 25,000-acre protected landscape. ➔

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