

**Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 7 PM:  
*Fire on the Mountain***

Fire has played a key role in the establishment of the pitch pine barrens and oak forests that exist today in the northern Shawangunks. Large fires were a frequent occurrence on the ridge until the 1950s. Since then, fire suppression and the lack of fire have resulted in an increase of highly flammable fuels. These conditions may lead to wildfires of devastating intensity, which may threaten ecosystems and adjacent residential communities. Similar circumstances exist throughout the United States, as evidenced by several years of severe wildfire behavior. The comprehensive wildland fire management program of Boulder, Colorado has been twelve years in the making. Situated at the base of the Rocky Mountains, Boulder's 50,000 acres are located in the urban interface "Red Zone." Balancing wildfire mitigation and ecosystem management is the job of the Division of Wildland Fire for the Boulder Fire Department. Marc Mullenix, the Division Chief and Type II Incident Commander for the Rocky Mountain Region, has implemented a policy of mitigation over suppression. Learn how a fire management plan of prescribed burns, mechanical fuel reduction, and the creation of "defensible space" around homes can enhance land protection and emergency response.

**Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 7 PM:  
*About The Plants That Got Away***

Judy Sullivan, a reformed garden landscaper (also known as "the maven of muck") oversees the Native Plant Program at the Institute of Ecosystem Studies in Millbrook, NY where her goal is to put herself out of a job by making the need for native plant education virtually obsolete. She lectures (and occasionally admonishes) on a wide range of subjects pertaining to native plants and native plant communities. Learn about the impact of non-native plants (the plants that got away) on biodiversity, and ways to combat this problem in your garden and beyond.



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*Dr. Richard H. Craft*  
Supervisor, Town of Wawarsing