

## For Immediate Release

Date: 5-13-13

From: Town of Bedford Conservation Board

Contact: Simon Skolnik, Chair (cell phone: 203-943-5670)

The Town of Bedford Conservation Board is awarding its 2013 Green Award to six recipients at a presentation ceremony to be held at the Bedford Town Hall, 321 Bedford Road, Bedford Hills, NY on Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 8:00PM. The Bedford Conservation Board Green Award, first presented last year, seeks to recognize individuals, businesses, not-for-profit organizations, and schools who have bettered our town's natural environment. In 2013, the Conservation Board is awarding the following groups and individuals:

- Mr. William A. Colavito – a member of Bedford's Planning Board, who has tirelessly championed the removal of the invasive imported oriental bittersweet vine from public street trees. These vines eventually weaken and kill our trees, which besides damaging the natural environment, can present a dangerous condition to motorists and pedestrians. Bill has single-handedly adopted a section of town roadway and removed these invasive vines, thereby saving or prolonging the lives of many of these trees.
- Branch Out! – in partnership with the Bedford 2020 Coalition, Branch Out! is a tree planting program initiated and funded by the Bedford Garden Club to celebrate 100 years of civic commitment to Bedford. To date, Branch Out! has been instrumental in planting over 200 trees towards its eventual goal of planting 2,020 by 2020. In addition, Branch Out! through a grant from Bedford 2020 has proactively begun planning and initiating tree-plantings along our Town's public roads in partnership with businesses and residents with the goal of developing comprehensive tree-scapes for individual neighborhoods.
- Table Local Market – a retail food purveyor and café located in downtown Bedford Hills, Table Local Market has pioneered connecting local farmers with Bedford residents, in effect creating a year-round indoor farmer's market. Everything in their store reflects an intense desire to leave as small a carbon footprint as possible. They truly believe: YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT!
- Katonah Village Improvement Society – one of the oldest improvement societies in America, KVIS was formed in 1878, in part to provide the hamlet of Katonah with a rich and varied public street tree-scape. This heritage of concern for street trees continues to this very day. KVIS is presently involved in a master plan to renew tree plantings where age and weather have removed these stately old trees from the Katonah Historic District.
- Glenn Ticehurst – a long-time Katonah resident, who's involved in public service through his membership in Bedford's Open Space Committee and Tree Preservation Law Working Group, his board membership on the Westmoreland Sanctuary, and as advisor to KVIS's multi-year tree planting project, is also a principal in the landscape architectural firm of Benedek and Ticehurst. Through the years, Glenn has perfected the sometimes difficult blend of land use development with environmental protection. Andrew Messinger, chairman of the Bedford Wetland Control Commission, has stated: "Glenn Ticehurst is a wonderful example for the rest of us!"
- Dr. Michael Finkelstein and SunRaven – SunRaven, the Bedford farm of Dr. Michael Finklestein, a physician and healer, provides an excellent backdrop with the essential elements of the natural world all around. SunRaven's land is being restored to its beginnings as a pastoral farmland, with gardens, waterways and animals intact. Part of the land is being used for growing vegetables and he often brings patients out to experience the land and get involved in the gardening. The farm is also open to visitors. SunRaven is an outstanding example of what is valued most highly in our town, the healing and revitalizing aspect of our landscape.