



## HUDSON RIVER ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIETY

**Box 279**

**Marlboro, NY 12542**

<http://www.hres.org>

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Dear HRES members and friends:

First, I want to thank you for another great year for the Hudson River Environmental Society.

Our Spring Conference was a well-attended and fascinating exploration of changing energy landscapes in the Hudson Valley and watershed. Ten speakers enlightened us on energy issues and promises in the Valley (see PowerPoints on our web site, HRES.org) and these talks were followed by a social hour and poster presentations. Next Spring, we will reconvene at SUNY New Paltz on May 2<sup>nd</sup> to examine contaminants in the Hudson River, status and trends. We hope to see you there. Also, please let me know if you have ideas for future conferences.

In September, Geologist Steve Schimmrich from SUNY Ulster led us on a wonder filled trip up Bear Mountain and back through time to understand the shape of the Hudson Valley today and the River's role in the Revolutionary War. The trip was fully subscribed and enjoyed by all. Next year, Simon Litten will again be our guide for a trip to the northern Hudson – stay tuned for further details. Do you have an idea for a field trip that you would like to be on or to run? We are always on the lookout for trips that will enhance our understanding of this lovely valley.

October brought our Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony at River Station in Poughkeepsie. In addition to all enjoying good food and conversation, I reviewed the year and introduced the Board of Directors, whose names you see at the left. Our new member, Eli Dueker, is an Assistant Professor of Environmental and Urban Studies at Bard College. Jim Morrison reported that our financial health is good, which has prompted us to create a new fellowship program, which I will report on below. Jeff Levinton presented a memorial minute for Bob Boyle, Elizabeth (Betsy) Blair was presented with HRES's highest award, the Distinguished Service Award, and Robert (Bob) Schmidt was presented with the Outstanding Environmental Researcher award.

The Board of Directors has created a small grant program for high school, undergraduate, and graduate students interested in undertaking research on Hudson Valley environmental issues. These McKeon Research Grants will honor the more than 20 years of service by Warren McKeon as the Society's Executive Director. Awards will support special one-time projects that enhance the Hudson River or advance the Society's research goals. The public

announcement of these grants will be available shortly, and the first grants will be announced at the 2018 Symposium.

Finally, we urge you to renew your membership or to join the society and encourage your friends and colleagues to join as well. The Board has created a new 4-tiered individual Membership structure. You can see the details of the costs and benefits for each category at [www.HRES.org](http://www.HRES.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lucille Lewis Johnson". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Lucy Johnson,

President, for the Board of Directors