



Sarah Crosby

## New Director at the Helm of Harbor Watch



Earthplace welcomes **Sarah Crosby, PhD** as the new Director of Harbor Watch. Sarah is a marine ecologist with training in conservation science and extensive research experience with coastal and marine ecosystems. Sarah earned her BA in Biology from Tufts University and an M.Sc. in Biological Oceanography from the University of Rhode Island (URI). After finishing her master's degree, she completed a PhD program in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Brown University. While at URI, her research focused on the marsh fish community and

the human impact on the landscape. Sarah's doctoral research investigated the resilience of coastal ecosystems to both human and climatic impacts. Sarah's academic fieldwork positions her well to take over the reins from Harbor Watch founder and long-time director Dick Harris. In addition to her academic background, Sarah has prior work experience in development and has been awarded grants for her research from multiple government agencies and private foundations. Sarah grew up locally and is happy to be back in Fairfield County where she now lives in Riverside with her husband, Alex, and her dog, Daisy. 🐾

## Deck the Pond Update

Construction will begin soon on an observation deck that will be built right next to our newly dredged pond at the end of the Swamp Loop Trail. The wooden platform will allow for up-close viewing of the active pond life and help us protect the delicate wetland shore from erosion. (Don't worry kids; we still do in-stream walks!) The pond

was dredged last fall, a process that saw heavy equipment dig through a thick layer of clay that was preventing the spring fed pond from refilling. The results were immediate, and with the addition of new plantings of indigenous species (including high bush blueberry!) the pond area will soon be an attractive picnic destination. 🌿



Architectural rendering

### IN MEMORIAM

The Earthplace family mourns the passing of our longtime friend and loyal Harbor Watch champion, **Susan Malloy**. Susan was a generous benefactor in addition to being an Honorary Trustee. Her early support of the Harbor Watch lab was critical to earning certification from the State of CT. She also funded the Susan Malloy Meeting Room which is used daily by students and teachers. Susan was a regular attendee at the Harbor Watch Annual Meetings and visited the Animal Hall in January of this year. We will all miss her quiet spirit and steadfast commitment to Earthplace.



Susan Malloy with former Earthplace Director John Horkel.

Photo: WestportNow.com

### WOODSIDE LEGACY SOCIETY

## Planned Giving

The Board of Directors has announced the launch of the **Woodside Legacy Society** to recognize donors who have chosen a planned gift to honor their commitment to the Earthplace vision "where conscious regard for the natural world guides individual action." A planned gift to Earthplace will allow the board and the staff, through time, to continue to expand the reach of its mission and to pursue its guiding aspirations. From time to time we will feature legacy members and their connection to Earthplace.

Elizabeth and Harris Falk moved to Westport in 2011 from New York City. Liz Falk commented, "We came and looked at the Nursery School for our daughter and didn't bother looking anywhere else. We knew we were home. Earthplace is a large part of my family and of our community. I love what Earthplace has done for my kids and for my whole family. I firmly believe in their model of education—teaching through nature, exposing young kids to the outdoors, teaching kindness, community and care as well as teaching kids to ask questions and be curious. The program creates a strong foundation for future leaders even at such a young age. Making the decision to remember Earthplace in our wills was easy. I feel that we have a responsibility to the future, not just the present, and that it's easy to make a difference if you try."

Have you included Earthplace in your estate plans? We'd love to know so we can follow your wishes, acknowledge your gift and welcome you into the Woodside Legacy Society. 🐾



Elizabeth Falk



Harris Falk



### COMPLETING THE MURAL:

## Tiles on Sale—Now With Discounts!

The Wall of Nature Tile Collection greets each visitor as they come through our doors. Now is the last chance to participate in one of our most successful and enduring legacy projects. We have just a few tiles left and are motivated to sell them all. With special pricing a named tile is a wonderful opportunity to honor a loved one for a birthday, anniversary or graduation or to recognize a shared love of nature. For more information contact Faith Taylor at [f.taylor@earthplace.org](mailto:f.taylor@earthplace.org). 🐾

### SPRING CLEANING AT HOME OR AT WORK?

We are in serious need of the following items:

**Office furniture:** desks, chairs or tables to replace some of our tired pieces.

**Refrigerator:** for safe storage of water samples for the Harbor Watch lab.

**Mini-van:** 6-8 passenger vehicle for summer camp transportation.

We are happy to arrange pick up. Email Tony at [t.mcdowell@earthplace.org](mailto:t.mcdowell@earthplace.org).



### TEREX CORPORATION

Terex Corporation is a proud sponsor of Earthplace. By living their purpose, mission and vision, Terex consistently demonstrates a commitment to the sustainability and betterment of our world. Terex exists to serve the needs of people and communities globally with their quality products and services. In June, they are sending a group of employees to Earthplace to help remove invasive species and revitalize our sanctuary.

## Would You Like to Meet a Raptor?



Peregrine Falcon "Peri"

Earthplace is announcing a new program on the first Sunday of each month at 3:00 pm called "**Winged Wonders.**" The program offers the public a chance to view our magnificent birds of prey up close, as the birds and you interact with their handlers. You can meet Ladybird, the one-eyed Great Horned Owl, and learn about her diet, natural habitat and how she came to Earthplace. There's also Talon, the Red Tailed Hawk, whose adult red tail has just grown in.

These raptors are non-releasable, injured wildlife who reside permanently at Earthplace. Visitors will have the chance to see the birds dine, ask questions and learn more about how our individual actions can help our native raptors survive. You will be amazed at how these birds evolved and now play a significant role in the New England ecosystem. 🐾

Cocktails and Clams 2014



## FUNraising

Sincerest thanks to Kerry Fitzgerald and Elizabeth Falk, the co-chairs of Mad About Earthplace, our recent auction fundraiser. These dedicated and talented volunteers put on the party of the season that proved to be our most successful auction ever and exceeded our fundraising goals.

And, if you missed Mad About Earthplace, mark your calendars for our next event, Cocktails & Clams on Saturday, June 27. In its fifth year, Cocktails & Clams has grown into one of the best social events on the Sound. We'll be feting the hard work of Harbor Watch at the dockside venue at Norm Bloom & Son oyster processing facility in Norwalk, including a raw bar straight from the boat to your plate, cocktails and live music. 🐾

A MESSAGE FROM  
THE EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR

## Spring is a Time of Change

Photo: Julia Matly



**Change is in the air here at Earthplace.** The sights and sounds of springtime beckon through open doors as children run into the sunshine discarding jackets as they go. It's fun to watch the excitement and harken back to youthful days spent exploring the woods and finding cool things like tadpoles in secluded pools. As a staff, we spend a lot of time talking about how nature entered our consciousness as we

look to introduce these time tested experiences into our program curriculum.

**New Preschool Director Named.** This spring we say goodbye to retiring Nursery School Director Laurie Linton. She is leaving our education programs in excellent shape, and her warm, measured leadership style will be missed. As testament to Laurie's legacy, we are pleased to have the opportunity to promote from within. With a strong endorsement from Laurie, members of the Board and the staff, it is my pleasure to name current Assistant Director Ameer Borys as the next Earthplace Preschool Director. There is no one as versed in the Earthplace brand of childhood education, and we are fortunate to have her join our leadership team.

**New Director of Harbor Watch off to a fast start.** We had a changing of the guard at Harbor Watch over the winter with Sarah Crosby joining the team as the new program director. Sarah hit the ground running, adding a strong scientific background to a solid foundation of citizen science. Her arrival coincides with the construction of our new water quality lab scheduled to open later this spring, as well as new funding from Social Venture Partners (SVP) of CT. The SVP engagement model includes a volunteer team of partners who will help evaluate changes to our business model as we seek to expand our geography and educational programs.

**Community Support propels us forward.** Last year we put our trails on Google maps. This year we are tracking our topography with aerial views and many on the ground features to aid the design of a new trail map, thanks to a grant from the Westport Woman's Club. In June, work will begin on an observation deck to allow closer viewing of life in and around our woodland pond. None of these exciting improvements could be accomplished without support from the many individuals in our community who contribute financially or with volunteer hours to get the projects off the ground. Our list of needed improvements is still long, but we are very encouraged by swelling attendance numbers and community support.

Thanks to all of you!

*Tony Mjama*

Tadpoles (above) are starting to hatch in the pond and bloodroot (right) is now blooming in the courtyard garden.

### A FOND FAREWELL

Laurie Linton spent 12 years creating an environment at Earthplace that embodies the best combination of excellence and fun, integrating nature, exploration and discovery in ways that allow children to grow in confidence and prepare for a full life of learning. We wish her all the best as she moves to Pennsylvania.



### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Photo: Julia Matly



**Earthplace**

*The Nature Discovery Center*

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# Earthplace News

www.earthplace.org

*The Nature Discovery and Environmental Learning Center*

## Ameer Borys Named New Preschool Director



**AMEER BORYS HAS BEEN AN EDUCATOR FOR 17 years** and has taught at every level from pre-school to 5th grade. In her current role as Assistant Director of the Nursery School, she plans and leads staff meetings, hires and coaches staff and has taught all the age groups across the curriculum. Ameer is also the Summer Camp Director and was the driving force in establishing our After-school Enrichment Program for K-5th graders.

Ameer is a welcome leader for our preschool as her calm consideration—with children, staff or parents—sets the tone for others to follow.

Ameer earned a master's degree in education from Fordham University where she also studied as an undergraduate. She has recently completed her director's credential in early childhood education.

Ameer is a longtime resident of Westport and the Earthplace neighborhood where she and her husband are raising two children ages 9 and 12. Both children attended the preschool at Earthplace and continue to enjoy the Animal Tech and Junior Staff programs. As we head into the last months of the school year, we invite you to introduce yourself to Ameer, as she and Laurie close out the spring season together.

Earthplace provides a 74-acre wooded oasis tucked away in a bustling community where people can explore nature at their own pace and in their own way.

Earthplace sponsors learning programs on a variety of environmental issues that invite lively discussion among community members.

Harbor Watch trains high school and college interns in field research as well as lab science techniques, preparing them for careers that will produce positive environmental change.

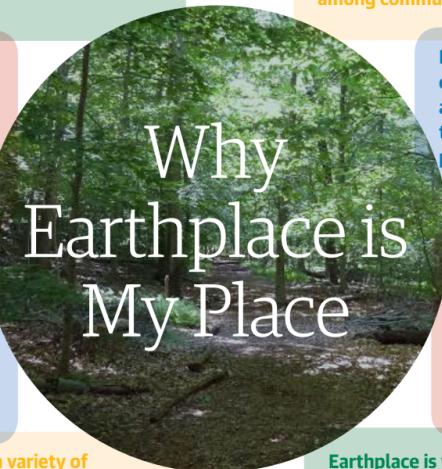
Earthplace educators help children discover the world around them by creating a year-round, nature-based learning environment that uses the outdoors as the playground and 35 animals as teaching assistants.

Earthplace is home to Harbor Watch, the only water-quality research program dedicated to protecting the local waterways that flow into Long Island Sound.

Earthplace hosts a variety of outdoor events that connect families to a community of new friends with a shared appreciation of the natural world.

Earthplace is where volunteers of all ages satisfy their love of nature and the outdoors by helping care for our animals, trails and waterways.

Earthplace is the local environmental learning center that promotes understanding and study of the natural world while protecting our fragile environment. Earthplace has been "home" to generations of nature lovers since 1958.



## Why Earthplace is My Place