



**March 25, 2024**

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## **Seneca Park Zoo Society Announces 2024 Environmental Innovation Awards and Symposium Nominees and Speakers**

*Winners for 2024 will be honored at the Environmental Innovation Awards and Symposium on March 28, 2024, at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center.*

**Rochester, N.Y.** – Seneca Park Zoo Society is thrilled to announce the 2024 nominees for this year’s Environmental Innovation Awards and Symposium. Seneca Park Zoo Society’s Environmental Innovation Awards honor local and regional innovators working to create solutions to current environmental issues. This event celebrates leadership in environmental stewardship and brings together people seeking sustainable solutions and working for a greener tomorrow. The event, held March 28, 2024 at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center, features an awards breakfast followed by a question and answer symposium. For more information, and for tickets, visit [senecaparkzoo.org/EIAS](http://senecaparkzoo.org/EIAS)

The 2024 symposium keynote will be presented by Dr. Richard M. Juang. Juang is the Senior Manager for Environmental Justice Policy at Ceres. A nonprofit, Ceres works with major businesses and institutional investors to support environmental sustainability and decarbonization, both domestically and internationally, leveraging capital market actors and public policy to help companies accelerate their transition to a more sustainable economy. CEO of The Community Foundation Simeon Banister will moderate the conversation.

The awards breakfast, emceed by Evan Dawson, host of *Connections with Evan Dawson* on WXXI, will announce one winner for each of the following categories: youth, individual, civic/non-profit, small business, and large business. Nominations representing a myriad of industries and backgrounds were submitted. Here are the final nominees:

## **CIVIC/NON-PROFIT CATEGORY**

Carbon Forestry Trust

John Oster & Jen Gillen

Color Penfield Green

Katie Rygg

Goodwill of the Finger Lakes

Joyel Bennett

Monroe County, Vape Collection Program

Clement Chung

Rochester Ecology Partners

RENEW

Elizabeth McDade

Saunders Finger Lakes Museum

Natalie Payne

Town of Pittsford, Food Scraps Program

Paul Schenkel

## **YOUTH CATEGORY**

Noah Moretter

'Noah's Recycling'

Rhianna Yates

'Nature Awareness on Ontario Pathways'

## **INDIVIDUAL CATEGORY**

Simeon Banister

Genesee-FLX Climate Collective

Lisa Baron

Greentopia



Greg Benoit

Seed Library at Irondequoit Public Library

Jane Daloia

Women of Wastewater (WOW)

Dena De Leo-Heath

Upcycle Irondequoit

Jon Schull

EcoRestoration Alliance

Dominic Sherony

Conservation of High Acres Nature Area

Kyra Stephenson

Nature Based Learning Coach at Anna Murray Douglass Academy School No. 12

Dan Switzer

Keep Gates Clean

### **SMALL BUSINESS CATEGORY**

Broccolo Lawn & Landscape

Laurie Broccolo & Jessica Demasio

Dutton Properties Group

Glenny Building, Luke Dutton

ROC Paper Straws

Karrie Laughton & Kathryn Laughton

Western New York Energy

E85 + PHEV: Fueling Fresh Air

## **LARGE BUSINESS CATEGORY**

CooperVision

Net Plastic Neutral Initiative

Rochester Regional Health

Decarbonization Programs

Wegmans

Sustainable Packaging

Staples, Inc

National Recycling Services Campaign

***For more information, and for tickets, visit [senecaparkzoo.org/EIAS](https://senecaparkzoo.org/EIAS)***

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Internationally, and in our own backyard, Seneca Park Zoo plays a key role in species survival. Chartered as an educational institution in 1957 by New York State, the Seneca Park Zoo Society plays an integral role in supporting Monroe County, the owners and operators of the Zoo. Together, we are working to bring animals back from the brink of extinction.