

The Westport Green Task Force announced winners of its 2013 WeGreen Westport Awards



Since 2008, the Green Task Force has recognized the efforts of outstanding individuals, businesses and community organizations that have demonstrated a commitment to protecting and improving the environment in Westport.

This year, Nick Mancini and two other recipients were recognized for WeGreen Awards.

First Selectman Jim Marpe congratulated the group, saying their contributions make Westport more sustainable and environmentally friendly.

"They truly deserve our thanks and recognition for their commitment to a wide variety of environmental initiatives," said Marpe.

Green Task Force chairperson David Mann echoed Marpe's sentiments.

"I'm thrilled. I can't imagine anyone who is doing more for green issues in our town that Mike Aitkenhead in

educating our next generation about sustainability and environmental science," said Mann. "Along with Nick Mancini, the area's go to organic gardening guru, and our community's fixture Gilbertie's, this year's awardees are among the most deserving we've ever had."

Nick Mancini has been living sustainably for many years, long before "being green" became fashionable. He is credited with being the mentor and teacher of many in Fairfield County, and has encouraged people to start living more sustainably. Besides his being a wonderful person and teacher, he has walked the talk for years, and teaches the skills to grow an incredible organic garden in a small space, demonstrating that one can live sustainably on a small yard, that you don't have to live on a farm to live "green". Organic methods, composting, vermiculture and crop rotation are a few examples of what he teaches. He has been a valuable advisor to the school gardens in Fairfield county, involved in the Granges, NOFA, Norwalk Community College, Bartlett Arboretum, the Master Gardeners Program, The Gardening Education Center of Greenwich, and countless Green Events. He has also recently published a book, "The Complete Organic Garden".

Nick comments: "An organic garden on every lawn will keep us healthy and adds to our longevity."