

Kaleidoscope Eyes

Naming Contest for Soon-to-Arrive Falcon Chicks

Posted April 9, 2017

One of the fascinating parts of covering this project includes writing about what makes this bridge different from the others: its resident falcons.

Jacob Tanenbaum's 3rd-grade class at Cottage Lane Elementary School in Blauvelt is studying climate change that includes a discussion about what they can do to lessen the problem. Peregrine falcons — like those living atop the Tappan Zee Bridge — were among raptors affected by the pesticide DDT 50 and 60 years ago.

"Talking about how we stopped using DDT gives the kids hope that they can effect change in the future," Tanenbaum emphasized.

This will be the last year mama falcon hatches her eyases (chicks) on the current bridge. She's due soon and will hatch next season's eggs on one of the westbound span's towers.

Thus, the project team — keeping keen eyes on all that happens, including high above the river in a nest box on the Tappan Zee Bridge — said it's time for another falcon naming contest!

I'd like to know what you think.

