

Westchester Land Trust

Onward and Upward



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The Next Chapter... Onward and Upward

I began writing a book at the ripe age of seven. It was a nature story about an orphaned African ocelot (okay, so I didn't realize that ocelots aren't from Africa...). I had no idea how to write a book, but how hard could it be? My not-quite-honed "kid logic" told me to just take a book off my parents' shelf, and make it look sort of like that. Start with a pile of blank paper. Bind it (staples would do). Write a title on the first page, and then make up a Table of Contents. Come up with some names for chapters (five seemed good), then number the pages. After all that's done, I would decide what the story is about.

I laugh about it now, but you can imagine my frustration when this approach didn't work so well. I find myself thinking about this experience as I reflect on WLT's upcoming 30th anniversary. It is remarkable that a few passionate individuals back in 1988 identified rapidly disappearing open space as a concern in their local community, and executed a plan to write the first chapter of a brand new effort that would become a professional, regional land conservation organization - the Westchester Land Trust. Our founding authors probably didn't envision the hundreds of pages and inspiring chapters that fill the WLT book today.

We know that in order to ensure our continued success we can't shoehorn our future into a prefabricated Table of Contents. Our next thirty years will undoubtedly look

different from our first thirty. While land conservation remains the core of our mission, how it is done, and what it looks like is changing every day. Projects are more diverse, with urban land protection being an increasing part of our focus. Projects are more complex, with ever-changing plot twists - existing buildings, multiple owners, land needing restoration, or a complicated land use history. Projects are costlier today and funding sources are scarcer.

In response to this, I see an organization that honors all that we accomplished in our first pages, but one that is open to new and changing dynamics. You have encouraged us to be nimble and eager to explore what lies just beyond our traditional comfort zone. As a result, WLT engages diverse partners from all sectors in our effort to identify innovative solutions to land conservation challenges. We set a high bar for best practices and ethical standards, and expect excellence of our partners. Your support has helped us build, strengthen and lead regional partnerships to increase the pace of land preservation and to improve how we care for the land we hold in trust.

As we set out to draft our next chapter, I am thrilled to announce we have just marked a major milestone—our 200th conservation easement has just been completed!! As always, we are grateful to you, our longtime and new supporters alike, for everything you do to shape and share in the writing of our inspiring stories.

Warmly,

Lori J. Ensinger, President

Westchester Land Trust (WLT) is a member of EarthShare New York, a nationwide network of America's most respected environmental & conservation charities. To find out how you & your employer can support WLT through an EarthShare workplace giving campaign visit their website at earthshareny.org or contact Vice President, Kara Whelan—kara@westchesterlandtrust.org or 914.234.6992 ext. 12

Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) Number: 77308



Land Conservation Projects on the Horizon

Next year will mark Westchester Land Trust's 30th anniversary, and we have certainly come a long way from the small, grass roots organization that was founded back in 1988. In the intervening years, you, and the generosity of dozens of landowners, have helped WLT permanently protect almost 8,000 acres of sensitive lands in Westchester and eastern Putnam Counties. Our conservation work has become regional, with projects spanning from **Yonkers** to **Patterson**, from **Mamaroneck** to **Cortlandt**, and twenty other communities in between.

We are excited to report that we have just completed our 200th conservation easement, a beautiful 16 acre conservation project in **Bedford** that preserves a forested wetland system in the Mianus River watershed. Another pending easement is on 35 acres in **Ossining** that will forever preserve an important Hudson River viewshed as well as function as a natural filter for the stormwater runoff coming from busy Route 9 before it reaches the river.

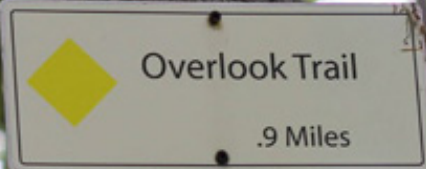
We are putting the finishing details on the preservation of the oldest working farm in Westchester County, the 172-acre Stuart's Fruit Farm in Somers. Together with partners New York State, Westchester County, the Town of **Somers**, Scenic Hudson and Somers Land Trust, WLT is working to ensure that the land remains forever viable as working agricultural land.

We have recently gone to contract to acquire a special 25-acre parcel in **Yorktown**, contingent on securing full funding by year-end. Conservation of this land,

adjacent to the spectacular Turkey Mountain Preserve, will ensure protection of a direct tributary to the New Croton Reservoir (drinking water supply for 9 million people), and will extend Turkey Mountain Preserve itself which boasts great trails and summit views of the Croton Reservoir, Hudson River, Manhattan skyline, Hudson Highlands, and Shawangunk Ridge.

To round out our land projects, we are working with several urban municipalities to acquire vacant building lots and convert them to neighborhood parks or urban greenways. These projects, while small in terms of acreage, are incredibly significant when measured by the community they impact.

Our conservation project channel is as full and diverse as it has ever been. **We encourage you to reach out** to us if you would like to support any of these efforts, or **if there is a special property in your community that you are interested in preserving**. We would love to hear from you!



Introducing the 40 Acre Overlook Conservation Easement

Otter Creek Forest Restoration Project Is in Good Hands



Otter Creek Preserve in Mamaroneck, NY is a coastal classroom for local students. Preserve manager, Dr. Shaun McCoshum teaches students about native plant propagation at the Mamaroneck Avenue School.



“The Overlook property connects families and outdoor explorers of all ages to the wonderful Hudson River landscape,” said Kim Elliman, OSI’s president and CEO. **“OSI is proud to have preserved this significant and storied acreage, and prouder still to pass it to Teatown Lake Reservation and Westchester Land Trust to ensure its permanent enjoyment.”**

Westchester Land Trust now holds a conservation easement on the 40-acre “Overlook” parcel adjacent to Teatown — a project that was completed this spring. Two decades after first conserving the Yorktown land, the Open Space Institute (OSI) announced its plan to donate the parcel to the nature preserve. Since its acquisition in 1996, OSI has monitored the Overlook property, while Teatown has managed it. Looking ahead, Westchester Land Trust will monitor the property, while Teatown Lake Reservation will hold the underlying fee interest.

Lying contiguous to the 1,000-acre nature preserve, the property contains upland field habitat that is ideal for birding programs and studies of transitional habitats. The land is home to one of the Teatown’s most beloved trails, Overlook Trail, and two vernal pools with tadpoles that delight summer campers every year. This collaboration adds 40 acres to the nearly 8,000 acres of open space protected by WLT in Westchester and Putnam Counties.

In May, 2017, WLT along with 50 volunteers - planted 267 native trees and shrubs (15 species) at Otter Creek Preserve as part of its Coastal Forest Restoration Project which will reclaim 12 acres of the preserve previously dominated by invasive plants. Restoration will benefit the quality of water entering Long Island Sound and wildlife habitat.

Over 100 species of birds have been observed at Otter Creek, which is part of the Atlantic Flyway migration route. Birds rest and refuel there on their way north (Spring) and south (Fall). The native trees and shrubs selected for the project (oaks, maples, birch, dogwood, bayberry, viburnums, and spicebush to name just a few) will support insects that nourish these birds during migration and nesting. All of the trees and shrubs were specifically chosen because they are naturally found in a coastal environment like Otter Creek.

HELP, PLEASE !
On October 13th - 16th we will plant another 300+ native trees and shrubs and we need your help! Contact our Director of Stewardship, Tate Bushell (Tate@westchesterlandtrust.org or 914.234.6992 ext. 10) if you would like to help plant trees in October. This opportunity is ideal for a company or social group.

OTTER CREEK – A COASTAL CLASSROOM
Using Otter Creek as a venue for education has always been part of the Coastal Forest Restoration Project. Hundreds of students have visited Otter Creek to learn about the project and land stewardship/ecology in general:

- Atmosphere Academy (The Bronx)
- Mamaroneck Avenue School
- Mamaroneck High School
- STEM Alliance of Larchmont Mamaroneck
- Shel Drake Environmental Center
- The Nature Conservancy’s LEAF Program

FROM CLASSROOM TO COASTLINE: STUDENTS GROW PLANTS FOR RESTORATION PROJECT
Through a collaboration with Mamaroneck School District, and STEM Alliance of Larchmont-Mamaroneck, we are working with teachers and students from the Mamaroneck Avenue School – just down the road from Otter Creek Preserve - to grow native flowers and trees that will eventually be planted at Otter Creek. Our Preserve Manager and Educator, Dr. Shaun McCoshum, is training teachers in plant propagation and plant cultivation; teachers will incorporate these skills into their science classes and pass them along to their students. Students will visit Otter Creek Preserve during the school year to assist with plantings, and to study the forest restoration project first-hand.

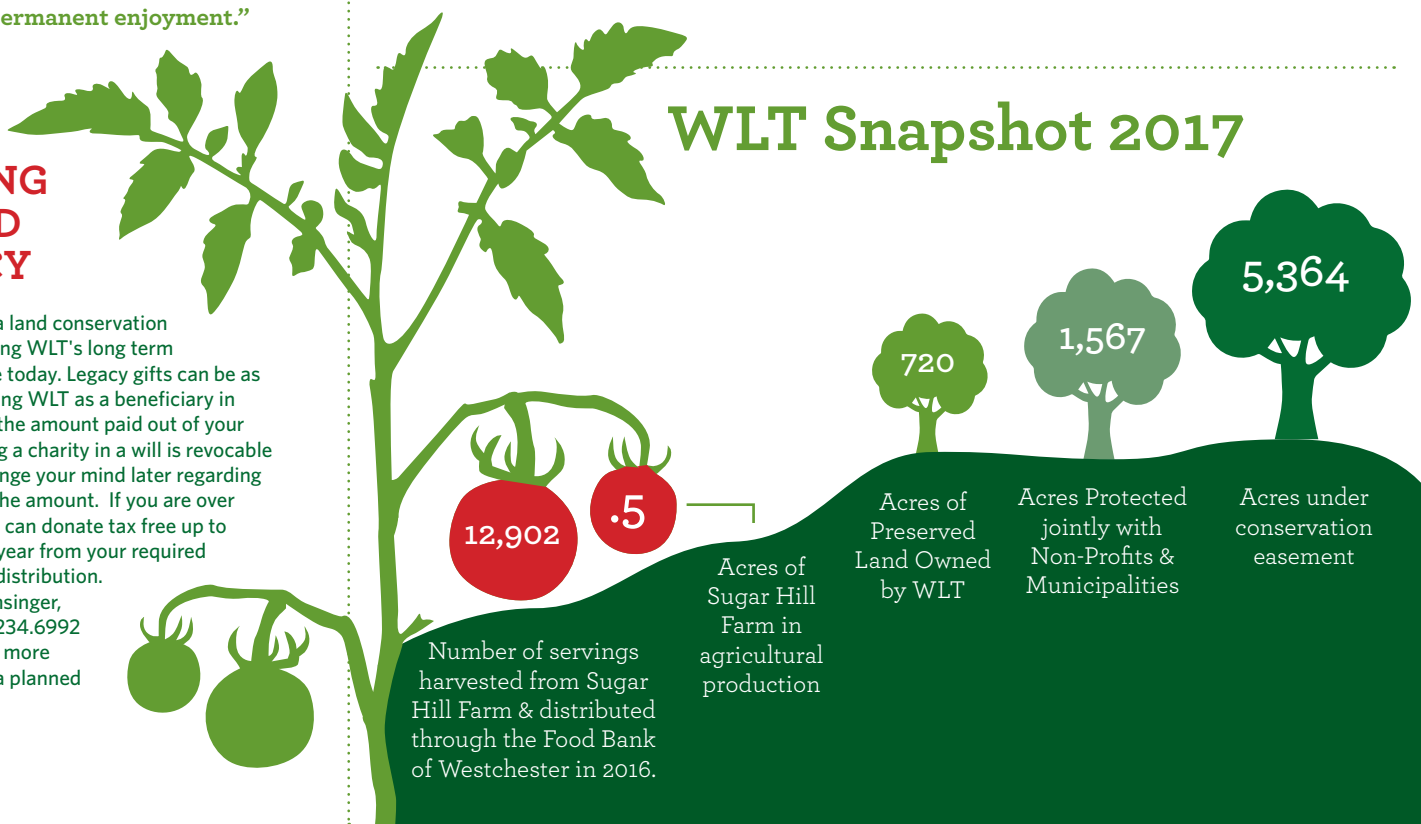
HELP US BRIDGE THE GAP! BY MAKING A GIFT TO THE OTTER CREEK PRESERVE PROJECT TODAY.

In 2016, WLT received a \$55,000 grant from the Long Island Sound Futures Fund to support this \$90,000, multi-year restoration project. Make a gift today to help us improve habitat for over 100 species of nesting and migratory birds and restore a beautiful coastal forest on the shore of Long Island Sound.

LEAVING A LAND LEGACY

You can leave a land conservation legacy by helping WLT’s long term financial future today. Legacy gifts can be as simple as naming WLT as a beneficiary in your will, with the amount paid out of your estate. Naming a charity in a will is revocable so you can change your mind later regarding the charity or the amount. If you are over age 70 1/2 you can donate tax free up to \$100,000 per year from your required minimum IRA distribution. Contact Lori Ensinger, President 914.234.6992 ext. 10 to learn more about making a planned gift to WLT.

WLT Snapshot 2017



MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK!
We are grateful to the dozens of volunteers who pitched in to support our land stewardship work including preserve neighbors, students of all ages, local families, corporate volunteers from REI Yonkers, and many dedicated WLT volunteers. Many generous preserve neighbors shared their water with us to help care for the new plants all summer. Thank you!

The project is partially funded through the Long Island Sound Futures Fund, which combines monies from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The views and conclusions contained in this document are those of the authors and should not be interpreted as representing the opinions or policies of the U.S. Government or the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and its funding sources. Mention of trade names or commercial products does not constitute their endorsement by the U.S. Government or the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and its funding sources.

THANK YOU

to all of our incredibly generous contributors and volunteers.

It is with your support that we are able to make a difference in our community!

Support, Revenue & Expenses

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2016

SUPPORT & REVENUE

Individual Donations	\$462,243
Foundation Donations	\$229,807
Corporate & Government Donations	\$78,689
Special Events, net of expenses	\$276,782
Endowment Donations	\$22,895
Endowment Investment Income, net.....	\$297,225
Miscellaneous.....	\$14,672
Total Support & Revenue	\$1,382,320

EXPENSES

Program Services.....	\$864,789
Fundraising	\$191,329
Management & Administration	\$166,089
Total Expenses	\$1,222,207

Change in Net Assets..... \$160,113

Net Assets, beginning of year\$19,740,907

Net Assets, end of year.....\$19,901,020

Net Assets include land held for conservation, Sugar Hill Farm assets, endowment funds, & other Board designated & restricted funds.

Please visit our website or contact us for a copy of our audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2016.



We gratefully acknowledge the following individuals, businesses and organizations that made gifts or pledges to WLT from January 1 through December 31, 2016.

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Your tax deductible support is the backbone of our organization and makes our investment in future land protection and stewardship projects possible. Annual gifts have an immediate impact on every aspect of WLT's mission and ongoing programs. Please use the enclosed envelope to send your yearly gift of support to WLT or visit our website westchesterlandtrust.org to make a donation online. **THANK YOU!**

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Cathy & Gary Perusse
Pound Ridge Veterinary Center
Virginia & Jonathan Powers
Patricia & Erling Pytte
Nancy L. Bloom & Stephen B. Real
Eric & Ellen Reimer
Janice & Douglas Robbins
Lee & Ken Roberts

George Roberts
 Ms. Kathryn Walsh
 & Mr. Wesley Romansky
 Benjamin Romney
 Elizabeth Rosen-Mayer
 Marjorie Rosefield
 Josie & Hugo Samoyoa
 Mr. & Mrs. Camillo M. Santomero III
 Inger & Roger Savitt
 Robinson Sawyer
 Danielle L. Perillat
 & C. Stephen Schmitt
 Polly & Gordon Schnell
 Julie Pollack & Richard Shulman
 Beth Haller-Schweitzer
 & Herbert Schweitzer
 Laura & Stuart Seeley
 Doris & Richard Seidlitz
 Veronica Sessler
 John A. Settembrino
 Diane & William Shannon
 Margaret Henry & Dan Shapiro
 Geraldine & Albert Shapiro
 Albert F. Sheehy
 Barbi & James Shorser
 Cheryl & John Silver
 Lynne Quittell & Eric Skolnick
 Susan & Chris Smith
 Barbara S. Smith
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 Mr. & Mrs. Louis S. Sorell
 Candice Stafford
 Stephen Tilly Architect
 Dana & Mary Stetson
 Susan & Michael Stillman
 Nathalie & Ted Strauel
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard W. Stuart
 Janet Sullivan
 Ann & Elliot Sumers
 Adele & John Talty
 Donna & Edward Taylor
 Sharon Churcher & Michael Taylor
 Dr. Joan Taylor
 Barbara & Lewis Terman
 Sarah Timpson
 Charles W. Trippe
 Nancy & George Truitt
 Linda & Vincent Vaccaro
 Margaret M. & Michael
 H. Van Vranken
 Michele Rudolph
 & Marc Vandenhoeck
 Theodora Vardis
 John Velonis
 Alan Viani
 Waccabuc Country Club
 Julie Schaut & Stehen Waldman
 Rebecca & Steve Walkley
 Dr. & Mrs. William Walsh
 Elizabeth Wattles
 Betsy Weir
 Teed Welch
 Marian & Gray Williams
 Dr. & Mrs. Jack Wilson
 Robert F. Wise, Jr.
 Barbara & Alan Wolfert
 D + E.H. † Wolff
 Robin & Bruce Zablow
 Zarin & Steinmetz
 John Zline

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES & INDIVIDUALS FOR THEIR IN-KIND DONATIONS

Balloons Over Westchester
 Bedford Center Tree & Landscaping
 Bedford Gourmet
 Bedford Post Inn
 Bedford Sportsman
 Bedford Village Frame Shop
 Benchmark Title Agency, LLC
 Benedek & Ticehurst
 Bertoia Chair
 Best Made Company
 Bijou of Katonah
 Brew & Co
 Bruce & Christine Churchill
 Café of Love
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Clay
 Delamata Designs
 Ms. Nanette Bourne
 & Mr. John Delfs
 Dema Landscape LLC
 Diamond Properties
 Ms. Page Dickey
 Duralée Fabrics

Green & Tonic
 Grove & Vine Olive Oil
 Ms. Robin Ashley
 & Dr. Martin Gubernick
 Hen of the Wood
 Katonah Nursery
 Klaffs
 Sarah & David Kowitz
 Ms. Lori Ensinger
 & Mr. Bill Kuebler
 Betsy & Lowell Lifschultz
 Lucky & Laura Bhalla
 Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Malloy
 Mrs. Vivien Malloy
 Mill Street Bar & Table
 Mt. Kisco Seafood
 MTC Limousine &
 Corporate Coach, Inc.
 Kathy & Benjamin Needell
 Samantha & Bryce O'Brien
 Pamela Einarsen Photography
 Robert & Veronique Pittman
 POP - Katonah
 Pound Ridge Golf Club
 Purdy's Farmer & the Fish
 Rivera Toyota
 Serendipity Magazine,
 Unger Publishing
 Stowe Mountain Resort
 Sweet Lisa's Exquisite Cakes
 Tesla Motors
 Mrs. Julie Testwuides
 The Inn at Pound Ridge
 by Jean-Georges
 The Simple Self
 Tradewind Aviation
 Ms. Francine Walker
 Watson's Catering
 Mr. Teed Welch
 Westchester County Parks
 Wildlife Conservation Society
 Wine Enthusiast
 Patty & Russell Wolf
 Ms. Renee Ring & Mr. Paul Zofnass

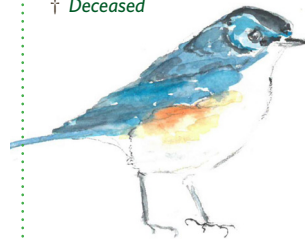
GIFTS IN MEMORY OF:

John L. Behler
 Michelle E. Boffa
 Monty Gerbush
 Alfred & Adele Greenberg
 Heidi Harris
 Roger Perry
 Candace Schaffer
 Stanley W. Starr
 Sam Pryor

GIFTS IN HONOR OF:

George Bianco
 Cathy Biddle
 Frances Bright
 Patrick Brunner
 Bruce Churchill
 Joyce Dixon
 Susan Henry
 William Lauder
 Betsy & Lowell Lifschultz
 Vivien Malloy
 Vicki Marwell
 Ben Needell
 Rob Powell
 Lori Trirsch
 Kara Whelan
 WLT Staff
 Paul Zofnass

† Deceased



Although we have carefully reviewed this list for accuracy, there may be inadvertent errors or omissions. If you do not see your name please contact WLT's Development Associate, Michelle Pleim—michelle@westchesterlandtrust.org or 914.234.6992 ext. 22

THANK YOU TO OUR 2016-17 VOLUNTEERS!

Valerie Adams
 Robin Ashley
 Robert Athanasidy
 Katherine Bang
 Poppy Baldwin
 Alison Bamford
 Michael Barnhart
 Wendy Bartley
 Meghan Bazaar
 Michaela Beitzel
 Amy Benerofe
 Susan Berenzweig
 Ellen Best
 James Best
 Alan Bietsch
 Fred & Jeannette Bogart
 Boyscout Troop 2,
 Mamaroneck Village
 Holly Brown
 Emma Buck
 Jack Buck
 Robert Buck
 Judi Butler-Levy
 Allison Capozza
 Cathy Carter
 Emily Chingay
 Mickie Chow
 Heather Clay Frelinghuysen
 Liza Clymer
 Debby Cohen
 Mary Cox
 Sarah Colley
 Judy Collins Turi
 Steve Conaway
 Joyce Corrigan
 Catherine Coult
 Megan Cowan
 Mary Cox
 Beth Crowell
 Wendy Cushman
 Austin Cutler
 Corissa Damato
 Laura Danner
 Doug DeCandia
 Andrew Delligatti
 Delta Sigma Theta-Pi
 Lambda Chapter
 Marcela Denzer
 Jeff DeToro
 Ginnette Diaz
 Kyoko Donaldson
 Misti Duvall
 Juliet Faust
 Vicki Feiner
 Terry Feldman
 Sarah Fey
 Margaret Fitzgerald
 Melissa Fleming
 Food Bank for Westchester Staff
 Victoria Foulke
 Elyne Germaise
 Ann Marie Gilligan
 Terry Gilmore
 Jaclene Ginnell
 Girl Scout Troop 2308
 Lana Grauer
 Greenburgh Police Summer
 Youth Camp
 Marisa Grittini
 Caroline Grubb
 John Hancock Employees
 Randy Hall
 Laura Harris
 Ben Harvey
 Beth Harvey
 Judi Hausman
 Yoko Hayata
 Jennifer Heintzman
 Lisa Hennessy
 Don Heppner
 Catherine Hiller
 Jack Horvath
 Samuel Hovanec
 Wendy Hsu
 Hudson River Sweep Volunteers
 Kate Hutchinson
 Ben Indictor
 Kristen Ippolito
 Nami Ito
 Susan Janot
 Carl Jean
 Annie Johansmeyer
 John Jay High School Students



Patricia Johnson
 Wildlife rehabilitator Patricia Johnson came to our call when WLT staff rescued a turtle that had been hit by a car. Under Patricia's care "Rose" made a full recovery & released back to her home in the Frederick P. Rose Preserve in late July.

Rod Kast
 The Käufer Family
 David Kaufman
 Marjorie Kaufman
 Alan Keeley
 Bill Kuebler
 Carolyn Kiernan
 Charlie Kilman
 Saeko Komatsu
 Alexandra Kotur
 Kate Lanfer
 Heather Langham
 Kevin LeBlanc
 Kelli LaTorre
 Sarah Leavy
 Walter Lehneis
 Barry Leibowitz
 Mitchell Lew
 Velma Lewis
 Lions Club of Lewisboro
 Patrick Locke
 Michelle Lowry
 Heather & John Magnan
 Mamaroneck Avenue
 School PTA & Families
 Alisa Mannis
 Melissa Marcogliese
 The Marinelli Family
 Stuart Marwell
 Tao Marwell
 Vicki Marwell
 Janice McCarthy
 Courtney McGinnis
 Christine McKenney
 The McPhearson Family
 Nicole Mercede
 Mary Mora
 The Morales Family
 Morgan Stanley Employees
 Scott Mori
 Samantha Mortlock
 Joyce Morrone
 Kim Moskowitz
 Mount Kisco
 Interfaith Food Pantry
 Charles Mullin
 Payson Murray
 Brendan Murphy
 MVP Healthcare Employees
 Seth Nalven
 The Nature Conservancy
 Volunteers
 Claudia Neary
 Kathy Needell
 Chikako Nemoto
 New York Power
 Authority Employees
 Joanne Nielsen
 Kyle Nisonger



Jim Nordgren
 Lends his time & talent to many of our stewardship & conservation projects like this H2H field workshop in June.

President's Junior Leadership
 Council of Northern
 Westchester Hospital
 NUK Employees
 Samantha O'Brien
 PACE University Students
 David Pakman

Maryanne Palumbo
 Ben Paseltiner
 Marc Paseltiner
 Cari Pattison
 Anna Petit Lee
 Marina Pia DeLuca
 Alison Posa
 Amanda Posa
 Jaime Posa
 Alex Rabinowitz
 Ionel Raducanu



Ramapo College Students
 This enthusiastic bunch of college students spent their Alternative Spring Break helping clear invasive plants from one of our rare meadow habitats.

The Ramos Family
 Ellen Reimer
 REI Yonkers Employees
 Emma Risley
 Rippowam Cisqua 5th, 6th, 7th
 Grade Teachers & Students
 Riverkeeper Volunteers
 Joseph Rodriguez
 Amanda Sackey
 Jennifer Santillan
 Gary Sapolin
 Eliza Schwartz
 Hadley Scully
 The Sherrid Family
 Caroline Sears
 Philip Sears
 Matt Sesti
 Steve Shapiro
 Sheldrake Environmental Center
 Carol Sheridan
 Jes Siart
 Norma Silva Guzman
 Maria Simonetti
 Derek Smith
 Quint Smith
 Benjamin Smotrich
 Something Good in the World
 The Spaeth-Gilbert Family
 Noelle Spizzirio
 Allison Stabile
 Candice Stafford
 Suzanne Steers
 STEM Alliance of Larchmont-
 Mamaroneck
 Dana Stetson
 Glenn Sungela
 Mike Surdej
 Swiss Re Employees
 Allison Tamburelli
 Muriel Ten Dyke
 Tinkergarten Families
 Verizon Employees
 Nancy Wagner
 Ben Weinstein
 Margaret Whelan
 Declan Whelan
 Nonie Whelan
 Aimée Whitman
 Courtney McGinnis
 Whole Foods Market Employees
 Shari Winard
 Tina Winchester
 Frazer Winsted
 Daniel Wolff



John Zeiger
 John spent a month between jobs lending incredible support to our stewardship field work & the coordination of H2H — we miss him!
 Vic Ziminsky

ANNUAL BENEFIT CELEBRATES THE TIME & TALENTS OF

Women in Conservation

For the first time our beloved Sugar Hill Farm headquarters was the featured venue!



BENEFIT COMMITTEE

Beth Crowell
 Board Liaison
 Robin Ashley
 Liza Clymer
 Melissa Marcogliese
 Honorary Co-Chairs
 Poppy Baldwin
 Meghan Bazaar
 Michaela Beitzel
 Nanette Bourne
 Holly Brown
 Judi Butler-Levy
 Sarah Colley
 Joyce Corrigan
 Mary Cox
 Wendy Cushman
 Terry Feldman
 Amy Ferguson
 Jaclene Ginnell
 Caroline Grubb
 Randy Hall
 Laura Harris
 Susan Henry
 Ben Weinstein
 Annie Johansmeyer
 Tino Kamarck
 Lee Manning-Vogelstein
 Keelin McCormack
 Courtney McGinnis
 Kim Moskowitz
 Payson Murray
 Claudia Neary
 Kathy Needell
 Samantha O'Brien
 Mary Ann Petrilena
 Dana Ramos
 Ellen Reimer
 Anne Rybicki
 Hadley Scully
 Suzanne Steers
 Mike Surdej
 Muriel TenDyke
 Nancie Tripodi
 Nancy Wagner
 Cecelia Wolfson
 Dana Worlock



1 Left to right: Joe Edgar, WLT Board member, Lori Ensinger, WLT President, Bruce Churchill, WLT Board Chair, Andrew Bowman, Land Trust Alliance President, Michael Blakeney, Nanette Bourne, WLT Board member; 2 Samantha & Bryce O'Brien & Allison & John Ryan; 3 Norma Silva, Aimée Whitman, Susan Carpenter; 4 Cindy Swank, Aimée Whitman, honoree & Libby Whitman; 5 Dana & Jason King; 6 George Bianco, WLT Advisory Board member; 7 Johnny Emus & Amy Chan



WLT welcomed more than 320 supporters—both long-standing and new—who came together to celebrate Susan Carpenter with the Lifetime Achievement Award and Norma Silva and Aimée Whitman with Preservation Angel Awards.

Thanks to the generosity of event hosts, Carol and Frank Nickell, beautiful sailcloth tents were placed in the meadow overlooking our Sugar Hill Farm headquarters. Guests enjoyed views of the rolling fields and stonewalls, as well as our native plant meadow, and organic vegetable gardens.

Our exceptional committee ensured that every detail of this year's event was impeccable. Watson's Catering of Greenwich, CT conceived a delectable menu featuring the early season bounty of local farms including Sugar Hill Farm. Live music kept supporters dancing the night away. An inspiring new video debuted and kicked-off a wildly entertaining live auction and paddle raise led by charismatic Bedford-native, and son of honoree Aimée, Cutler Whitman.

Among those who attended Celebrating Women in Conservation were New York State Senator George Latimer, Bedford Town Supervisor Chris Burdick, and Lewisboro Town Supervisor, Peter Parsons. Also in attendance were Andrew Bowman, President of the Land Trust Alliance, and leadership from local and regional conservation organizations.

Benefit Funds support WLT's work to protect priority land and to steward and manage 29 public preserves we own.

Watch the new video:
[youtube.com/user/WestchesterLandTrust](https://www.youtube.com/user/WestchesterLandTrust)

See event photos:
[facebook.com/WestchesterLandTrust](https://www.facebook.com/WestchesterLandTrust)

Dozens of talented volunteers support the production of WLT fundraisers. We are always looking for motivated, creative thinkers to help. Contact WLT's Vice President, Kara H. Whelan at kara@westchesterlandtrust.org or 914.234.6992 ext. 12 to get involved.



Hudson to Housatonic Regional Conservation Partnership (H2HRCP)

WHO?

H2HRCP is a network of dozens of New York and Connecticut organizations working across a vast landscape to increase the pace of conservation in our region. Partners work together to improve drinking water quality, promote habitat connectivity, engage municipalities, incorporate climate science into regional planning, and encourage sound stewardship practices for the health of people, plants, and wildlife. H2HRCP is co-coordinated and co-hosted by WLT and Highstead (Redding, CT).

WHERE?

The partnership spans **two states** and **four counties** between the Hudson River (NY) and Housatonic River (CT) and includes groups from Westchester, Putnam, Dutchess (NY) and Fairfield (CT) counties.

WHY?

Without regional coordination, landscape-scale conservation efforts can be inefficient, and response to threats is often delayed. As a result, our most sensitive lands fall victim to irreversible habitat fragmentation.

WHAT?

After a successful two-year pilot project funded by the U.S. Forest Service, the formal Regional Conservation Partnership formed in 2016. H2HRCP works to advance regional conservation priorities using a strategy for the urban-to-rural H2H region that will guide land protection and stewardship projects. H2H partners engage landowners, municipal leaders, and community members in stewardship and conservation.

HOW?

The work of RCP is guided by a shared vision for the landscape and advanced through the guidance of an inter-state steering committee, four working groups, regular meetings, programs, and workshops of the partnership.

LEARN MORE

To learn more about the Hudson to Housatonic Regional Conservation Partnership, visit H2HRCP.org or call Kara Whelan, WLT Vice President and Co-Coordinator of H2HRCP at kara@westchesterlandtrust.org or 914.234.6992 ext. 12



TOP: H2H partner organizations co-hosted an educational woods walk and land stewardship presentation for residents of the Green Briar Home Owners Association in Somers, NY.

ABOVE: In addition to engaging landowners and municipal leaders in the Hudson to Housatonic landscape, partners participate in peer-to-peer professional development opportunities like this Hayfields and Meadow Management workshop held at North Salem Open Land Foundation's beautiful Baxter Preserve in May. Fall workshops will focus on native seed banking, plant

GOT LAND? NEED LAND?

WLT LINKS LOCAL FARMERS AND LANDOWNERS WITH RESOURCES – AND TO EACH OTHER

Are you a farmer looking for land? Are you a landowner interested in exploring the agriculture potential of your land?



Check out hudsonvalleyfarmlandfinder.org. WLT is a proud member of the Hudson Valley Farmlink Network – a partnership to ensure the availability of farmland in the Hudson Valley for the farmers of today and tomorrow. HVFN offers a secure online database of available farmers and farm properties in 13 counties, including Westchester, and is designed to provide applicants with a more proactive venue for securing matches as well as robust resources for small farm enterprises.

In addition to hosting community volunteer days at Sugar Hill Farm (on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, see calendar for details) – we also host monthly potluck meetings of the Bedford Chapter of the Bionutrient Food Association (BFA). All are welcome to share seasonal dishes and discuss timely issues about growing nutritious food. Farmer and BFA co-coordinator Doug DeCandia presents topics such as nurturing good soil, using cover crops and taking advantage of local resources.



“The meetings, graciously hosted by Westchester Land Trust, connect farmers, backyard gardeners and like-minded folks who value good food and want to make sure that “organic” guarantees nutrition. Come join us – it’s free –no previous experience is necessary.” — Doug DeCandia

Find the “Bionutrient Food and Farming in Westchester” group on Facebook and YouTube

WHAT ARE YOUR ASPIRATIONS?

Thank you to superstar student volunteer **Emily Chingay** from Fox Lane High School who chose to intern with us for her ASPIRE project. The ASPIRE program allows Fox Lane High School seniors to choose an internship to complete during the end of their second semester. During her time with us, Emily provided invaluable support for our community engagement and communications work.

Branching Out: New Native Plant Propagation Area Takes Root at Sugar Hill Farm

Building on a sustainable landscape design that was conceived by WLT summer intern Mike Kaminski in 2014, WLT has turned a small corner of our headquarters into a native plant propagation area. Over the winter, stewardship staff cleared shrubs and fenced in a 4,000 square foot area to grow native species from seed and create planter beds for future seed collecting. All plants raised at Sugar Hill Farm will be used on site or transplanted to restoration projects at WLT preserves throughout Westchester and eastern Putnam Counties.

With support from Rusticus Garden Club, WLT has converted an overgrown invasive shrubland into a native plant propagation site with more than 20 species thriving, nine from our own seed stock.

BEFORE



DURING



AFTER



Emily Chingay and Aubrey Carter

Thank you to Rusticus Garden Club for underwriting our native plant internship which allowed us to hire Aubrey Carter. Aubrey worked alongside WLT's Preserve Manager and Educator, Dr. Shaun McCoshum to convert and manage the native plant propagation site.



Westchester Land Trust
403 Harris Road
Bedford Hills, New York 10507

914.234.6992

westchesterlandtrust.org

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FALL EVENTS

BIONUTRIENT FOOD ASSOCIATION POTLUCK & MONTHLY MEETING

An informative monthly potluck for farmers & gardeners interested in learning more about growing nutrient dense fruits & vegetables using sustainable methods.

Co-facilitated by Doug DeCandia & Ellen Best

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17 | 5:30 – 7:30 PM
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15 | 5:30 – 7:30 PM
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14 | 5:30 – 7:30 PM
Sugar Hill Farm, 403 Harris Road, Bedford Hills

Admission is free. No registration required.

HUDSON RIVER VALLEY RAMBLE SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1 | 10:00AM – 12:00 PM

Hike our flagship preserve alongside WLT staff & directors at one of our favorite annual traditions!
Westchester Wilderness Walk / Zofnass Family Preserve – Upper Shad Road, Pound Ridge

Admission to this event is free.
Full details provided upon RSVP.

RSVP FOR WALKS & PROGRAMS

Contact Development Associate,
Michelle Pleim at 914.234.6992 ext. 22
or michelle@westchesterlandtrust.org

WELLNESS WALK & GUIDED MEDITATION

Learn the process of mindful walking & reap the benefits – changes in mind-body systems – that accrue to those who practice mindfulness in nature. Pine Croft is a gently sloping, open meadow full of native grasses, wildflowers, rushes, sedges, & shrubs. The trail easy to navigate & crosses a small bridge over a stream & then follows a mowed path through the meadow.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27
(Raindate: Thursday, September 28th)
10:00 – 11:30 AM
Pine Croft Meadow Preserve,
Mead Street, Waccabuc

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7 | 10:00 – 11:30 AM
(Raindate: Thursday, November 9th)
Sugar Hill Farm Garden, 403 Harris Road, Bedford Hills

Admission to this event is free.
Full details provided upon RSVP.

GUIDED FIELD WALKS

FALL 2017

FALL FOLIAGE HIKE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4 | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Enjoy the breathtaking colors of fall & explore the vast trails at our flagship preserve.
Westchester Wilderness Walk/Zofnass Family Preserve

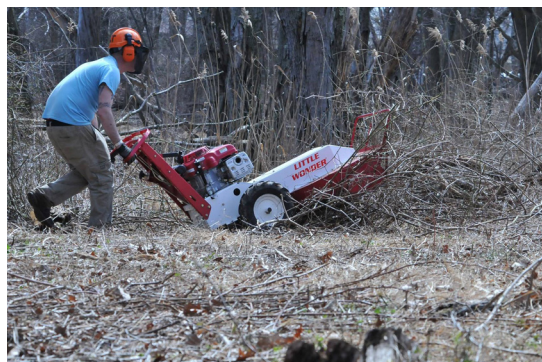
EARLY WINTER HIKE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2 | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Spend an early winter morning exploring the beautiful rock outcrops & peaceful trails.
Old Church Lane Preserve

Admission to the guided walks is free.
Please RSVP to secure a spot.



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OTTER CREEK STEWARDSHIP DAYS

During the weekend of OCTOBER 13-16 we will plant another 300+ native trees and shrubs and we need your help!

Contact Director of Stewardship,
Tate Bushell at tate@westchesterlandtrust.org or 914.234.6992 ext. 10 to learn more.

Your Commitment Means the LAND to Us.

I would like to contribute:

- \$1,000 \$500 \$250 \$50 \$25 Surprise Us \$.....
- My gift is in honor/memory of
- I have enclosed/will send a matching gift form from my employer.
- I wish my gift to remain anonymous.
- I have remembered the Westchester Land Trust in my will.

WLT is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and your contribution is tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Name

Address

City State Zip

Phone

Email

Entering my email indicates my consent to receive occasional enews from Westchester Land Trust.
We never share this information.

Enclosed is my check payable to Westchester Land Trust.
Please mail to: 403 Harris Road, Bedford Hills, NY 10507

For other ways to give, including by credit card, visit us online at: westchesterlandtrust.org