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## 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Because you make amazing things happen



### Ensuring a special place stays that way

Dutchess County is a special place. We're fortunate that the people who live here understand how important our natural environment is and that conserving land helps to keep it intact. I've chatted with folks from all over the county – farmers, business owners, life-long residents, and people who have just moved to the area - and the overwhelming message I've received is that the people who live and work here - people like you have a special love for our area.

You appreciate the slower pace and the rural feel, the hiking trails and the scenic views, and the abundance of local foods at farmstands and community farmer's markets. You love that your children have a backyard to play in and local nature preserves where they can get outside to run, climb, romp, and discover. You cherish the fact that it's a place where you can see the stars at night; where you can hear birdsong; where you can breathe fresh air and enjoy your surroundings. And you want to protect that - forever.

Working together, we're doing just that. With each family who partners with the DLC to conserve their land, with every farmer who sells their development rights to preserve precious farmland, with every town who seeks guidance when planning for public recreation areas, our treasured rural landscape is being protected.

So I'd like to say thank you. Thank you for working together with the DLC and for accepting the responsibility to ensure that this special place will always remain special - for all of us.

**Becky** Thornton President

Photo: Kathy Landman

Having worked in the land conservation field for over thirty years, I know there is always more work to do. I'm reminded of a quote by Rachel Carson, renowned author, marine biologist, and environmental champion: "Conservation is a cause that has no end. There is no point at which we will say our work is finished." But because of you, we're making huge strides. Your steadfast support of land conservation has led to the protection of more than 42,000 acres of land - land that will stay largely the same for generations to come.





# Protecting a family's legacy

In 2018 the Vincent Family permanently protected their 50-acre Brookby Farm - the last remaining dairy farm in Dover Plains. With the help of his wife Jaime, Steve Vincent is the fifth generation to work the farm, originally started in 1850. Their children, Steven, William and Elyssa will be the sixth. Visit our website to learn more about the Vincents and how they protected their historic farm.



Photos courtesy the Vincent Family



### Farming on the Rise in Dutchess County

While we're still losing farmland at an alarming rate nationwide, locally we're seeing some encouraging signs of growth.

- More than one-third of Dutchess County's 512,000 acres is in productive agriculture<sup>1</sup>
- In the eight years prior to 2016, the number of acres of land in the County's Agricultural Districts grew by 19%<sup>2</sup>
- In the last fifteen years, the value of agricultural products sold has increased by 58%<sup>3</sup>
- In the same timeframe, livestock sales have grown by \$13 million and crop sales by \$5 million.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>"Agriculture," Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County, March 30, 2018, http://ccedutchess.org/agriculture

² ibid <sup>3</sup> ibid ⁴ibid

We're not able to preserve the thousands of acres that we have protected over the years without strong partnerships and the folks on the ground who know the work best. And one of our strongest partners is the Dutchess Land Conservancy." – Dutchess County Executive Marcus Molinaro



## Strength in Numbers: Working with Valued Partners

We all need help at times. Even in nature, there are many examples of animals working together for the good of the group. Take ducks. By flying in a v-formation, scientists say that the entire flock can travel about 70% farther with no extra exertion. This is because flying together helps reduce wind resistance and provides additional lift.<sup>5</sup> The same is true of conservation work. When we partner with others, whether it be state and local government or other land trusts, our work goes farther.

When Dutchess County began its Partnership for Manageable Growth (PMG) program to provide matching funds to protect farmland and open space, the DLC worked with them to preserve Mead Orchards in Red Hook. The Meads, in turn, used the money to buy the neighboring farm to expand their orchard. Since then, the DLC and Dutchess County have partnered to protect seventeen more farms. In fact, of the twenty-one farmland protection projects that the County has funded, the DLC has been involved in all but three. Our partnership with them has yielded over 3,000 acres of agriculturally rich land that is available for farming now and into the future.

County funding was also a key component of the addition of 59 acres to the Stone Church Preserve in the Town of Dover. The preserve provides residents and visitors with hiking trails and scenic views from protected land as well as the unique cavern that gives the preserve its name. And our partnership continues as we're currently working on four more projects to protect almost 800 additional acres of farmland that will help to secure our local food supply.

5https://www.loc.gov/rr/scitech/mysteries/geese.html; Why do geese fly in a V?; Everyday Mysteries: Fun Science Facts from the Library of Congress; 7/31/2017; visited 7/10/19

"Alone, we can do so little; together we can do so much."

Helen Keller

Dutchess County is just one of the DLC's many partners. We're proud to work with government agencies, many local land trusts, conservation organizations, and grant funders.

Our sincerest thanks to the following for their steadfast support to protect more of our precious landscapes, farms, historic places, and our rural way of life.

Columbia Land Conservancy

Housatonic Valley Association

Hudson Highlands Land Trust

New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets

**Oblong Land Conservancy** 

Scenic Hudson Inc. and Scenic Hudson Land Trust

Most recently the Towns of Amenia, Clinton, Dover, North East, Pine Plains, Pleasant Valley, and Red Hook

The 1772 Foundation

Winnakee Land Trust

Sun warmed, breeze rippled Flower speckled sea of green Birds rejoice in flight



# Helping them keep their home in your meadow

Pastures, hayfields, abandoned fields...even active croplands have some characteristics of a meadow. From a distance we may see nothing but an open area filled with grasses, but taking a closer look can reveal a lively habitat that is home to a great diversity of plants and animals. And as you get to know them, you'll find that many of these species need our help to continue calling our meadows home.

Of course when you make a new acquaintance it's polite to make eye contact, but as a human you're much bigger than most of what lives here. So let's plop down on the ground for a few minutes and meet the neighbors. First, take a look at the soil. Is it nice and loamy? Heavy clay? Soil characteristics can have a strong influence on the species of plants that will grow here.

Next, pick out a few square feet of ground and see how many different kinds of plants you can find. Keep your eyes open for insects - you may find beetles munching on plants, bees collecting nectar and pollinating flowers in the process, dragonflies munching on deerflies, and butterflies flitting about on the same mission as the bees. Sit quietly for a while and you may see a bluebird fly by, or a northern harrier swoop down on a field mouse. Listen for the burbling call of a bobolink. A complex web of plant and animal life swirls around vou!

"Land, then, is not merely soil; it is a fountain of energy flowing through a circuit of soils, plants and animals." Aldo Leopold

To sustain this special place that is home to so many plants and animals, we humans must take action. By carefully timing when we mow a field we can improve the breeding success of ground-nesting birds. Pasture rotation, an important practice in soil conservation, can prevent erosion caused by overgrazing. And by minimizing the use of chemicals we can safeguard pollinators. Much of the tantalizing variety of produce found in our local farmstands - peaches, cherries, apples, tomatoes, peppers, squash and cucumbers comes from flowers that were pollinated by those bees and beetles, butterflies and flies, and even some birds and bats...all of whom depend on our good stewardship of meadows.

### Tips on managing your meadow habitat

- Rotate livestock among pastures to prevent overgrazing
- If a meadow is not in agricultural production, delay mowing until August or mow every 2 – 3 years
- For meadows in hay production, delay cutting hay until late June - early July if possible, after grassland birds have nested
- Raise mower blades six inches or more and use flushing bars to reduce mortality of groundnesting birds
- Have more questions about your meadow habitat? Call Julie Hart at our office 845-677-3002.

(Recommendations from Hudsonia's Meadow habitat fact sheet: https://hudsonia.org/ wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Meadows.pdf)

"In the end we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand; and we will understand only what we are taught." - Senegalese forester Baba Dioum

Bees? Yes, please!

As a child, when you'd step out into your backyard in spring and summer, you'd hear it: that gentle buzzing sound signaling "Bees at Work." You didn't think much about them busily moving pollen between flowers to allow them to yield seeds. You were more concerned with stepping on a bumblebee working a clover bloom in the grass. You didn't know then that the bumblebee was performing a service: pollination, the process that is necessary for over 85% of our flowering plants to reproduce.<sup>6</sup> You also had no idea that their fruit and seeds provide food for wildlife from songbirds to grizzly bears.

But pollinators are also essential to human life. According to the Xerces Society, an invertebrate conservation organization, "More than 2/3 of the world's crop species, whose fruits and seeds together provide over 30% of the foods and beverages that we consume, require the presence of a pollinator." Wow. So that's one of every three bites we take that would no longer exist. Ask your child to imagine no apples to pick from the trees of local farms, no pumpkins to carve at Halloween, or no blueberries left for grandma's famous cobbler. Only crops that are pollinated by wind, like corn and wheat, would remain.<sup>8</sup>

Wanting to spread the word about this critical issue and introduce the concept to the younger generation, the DLC welcomed expert beekeeper Joe Krein of 5 Arrows Beekeeping who spoke to our members and their children about beekeeping basics and the importance of pollinators. His talk had quite an impact on at least one person there: nine-year-old Molly secured a promise from her parents to keep bees at home before she even left the event!

<sup>6</sup>https://xerces.org/pollinator-conservation/ <sup>7</sup>ibid



## Dutchess Land Conservancy

joins conservation organizations every year to help inspire the love of the land and bring learning to life through partnerships with local schools. It's part of our commitment to ensure conservation will last in perpetuity as today's youth become the next generation to care for, and about, the lands we all love.

# Teaching our children

You can understand now why it's alarming for adults and children alike that in many areas our pollinators are in decline. You've probably read about the loss of honeybees in the last few years, but some of our wild native bees are disappearing too. And this could spell disaster for the health and vitality of crops and native plants and the people who depend on them - including our children.

For more information on bees, beekeeping, threats to our pollinators, and how you can help, visit our website at www.dutchessland.org or www.bringbackthepollinators.org.



Not every child has the opportunity to keep bees like Molly, but there are other ways to make a difference.

- Planting flowers that attract bees and butterflies and bloom from spring to fall ensures a steady supply of pollen and nectar.<sup>9</sup>
- Using organic methods of getting rid of garden pests instead of using pesticides helps avoid harming or killing pollinators and it's safer for children too!<sup>10</sup>
- · Welcome pollinators to your backyard by leaving patches of bare ground and brush piles where they can build nests.<sup>11</sup>
- Kids can also help by spreading the word about pollinators to their classmates and friends.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>12</sup>ibid

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup>Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, www.bringbackthepollinators.com

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup>ibid <sup>11</sup>ibid

"If we could first know where we are, and whither we are tending, we could better judge what to do, and how to do it." – Abraham Lincoln



Remember the fable about the ant and the grasshopper? The ant worked diligently to gather food for the winter during the summer months. The grasshopper, believing he had plenty of food, lounged around and played music all summer. When winter came, the grasshopper went hungry while the ant was well fed. The moral? Plan ahead.

Just like the ant knew he needed food for the winter to survive, we know that our continued success as a non-profit organization depends upon planning ahead for the DLC's future. When we take on the stewardship of a protected property, it's forever. So our sustainability is something that we take very seriously. We're constantly planning ahead to ensure that we're around to meet our stewardship obligations.

In 2018, with the help of volunteer Bryant Seaman, IV, the DLC completed a financial model to help us plan for the sustainability of our organization. Why do we need a financial model? In order for our Board to make the best decisions about the future of the DLC, we must have a clear picture of our financial health. With a financial model, we have the tools we need to inform our decision-making and to create a stable future for our organization.

into the future.

And the DLC likes to help others too! In the spirit of cooperation fostered among land trusts and conservation organizations nationwide, we shared our model at the 2018 Land Trust Alliance Rally (conference) in Pittsburgh, PA. We even created a simple shell version of the model for others to use so that they can plan ahead too. This year we will be back at Rally in Raleigh, NC with a second presentation titled "Sustainability Modeling: Taking Your Financial Model to the Next Level." And the DLC too, will be working to take our organization to the next level.

## A Plan for our Future

Using historical financial data and past trends, our team came up with a model that stemmed from the question, "How do we know what we'll need and how do we get there when reality doesn't match best laid plans?" We used three scenarios: one where the DLC would "ramp up" and grow larger, adding more projects

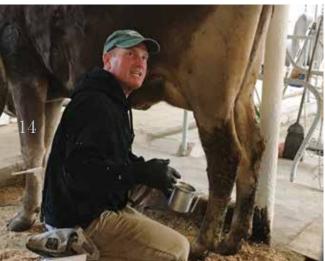


Photo: (left to right) DLC Board Chairman Rebecca Seaman, DLC President Becky Thornton, DLC Volunteer Bryant Seaman, IV at the Land Trust Alliance Rally in Pittsburgh, PA

and programs; one where we would remain at a "steady state" and continue to do projects at a modest growth rate; and one called "bare bones" which analyzed what our needs would be if we'd protected everything we wanted to, and our focus was to maintain our long-term stewardship responsibilities. The model addressed these scenarios, provided us with contingency plans for each, and will help guide our actions to ensure the DLC's sustainability







"Most New Yorkers did not grow up on a farm, and many have never visited a farm. Giving people a chance to learn about farming and celebrate local farms is an important, and enjoyable, learning experience!" – American Farmland trust



# Fun, Farms and Families - Enjoying the outdoors at local farms

Children squeal with laughter at the antics of young pigs rolling in the mud. Coos come from around the pens where new lambs and a calf await petting. Nearby a grill sizzles with fresh pork and burgers. Neighboring farms offer tastings of fresh cheese, produce, and milkshakes. This is FarmFest in full swing at Black Sheep Hill Farm in Pine Plains.

On a sparkling early summer day, spectators line the hilltop looking down on a grassy meadow. From below, calls of "lie down," "come bye," and "away" drift up. In the crowd, dogs strain at their leashes and whine anxiously. This is a glimpse of the annual Caora Farm Sheep Dog Trials underway in Millerton.

Spending time in a natural setting is good for you. Whether you're enjoying the day at FarmFest, watching exciting competitions like the Sheep Dog Trials, hiking, biking, or soaking up nature at a local preserve like the Dover Stone Church, being outdoors has been shown to benefit your health.<sup>13</sup>

Steve Vincent, of Brookby Dairy in Dover Plains, is happy to welcome visitors to his family's farm and says, "[People] have no idea where their food comes from. They love watching the milk go from the cow, to the hose, to the receiver jar, and into the tank." Brookby's new farm store offers their fresh raw milk, local cheese made from their milk, meats, homemade jam and other local farm products.

Irene and Jack Banning of Black Sheep Hill Farm in Pine Plains hold FarmFest each year on Memorial Day weekend to give folks a look at all that our local farms have to offer. Whether it's local meats, cheeses and other dairy products, or a CSA share of vegetables you're looking for, it's at FarmFest. You can also meet local craftspeople, learn skills such as wool felting, or take a guided woods walk on the farm. The event features children's activities as well.

Caora Farm in Millerton hosts their Sheep Dog Trials annually in June. Owners Mich Ferraro and Kathie Weathers protected their 78-acre farm in 2017 and are happy to welcome spectators to the trials to learn about working dogs. Mich says, "It is a way to educate the general public about alternative agricultural practices and land conservation, in addition to enjoying the sheer beauty of a herding dog as it handles the sheep through a course. This course stimulates many of the skills a dog and handler need to accomplish everyday chores on the farm."

For more info on local farms you can visit, check out our website at https://dutchessland.org/our-work/farmland-protection/supporting-local-farms/

So why not combine your outdoor activities with supporting your local farms? Knowing the importance of fresh air and sunshine as well as the amazing bounty provided to us by our local farmers, the DLC strives to provide people with opportunities to enjoy outdoor activities on working farms. Not only do they reap the benefits nature offers, but also they can learn about the work it takes to produce the food they enjoy at home.



- In 2018, the DLC held 15 education programs in 6 different towns with over 900 attendees.
- Partnering with local farmers to hold education programs on their land is a great way to introduce people to land conservation and to show them where their food comes from.
- Do you have an idea for a community education program? Let us know! We'd love to brainstorm with you. Contact Julie Hart, Senior Manager of Stewardship and Education at (845) 677-3002.

<sup>13</sup>Loria, Kevin. "Being outside can improve memory, fight depression, and lower blood pressure – here are 12 science-backed reasons to spend more time outdoors." BusinessInsider.com. https://www.businessinsider. com/why-spending-more-time-outside-ishealthy-2017-7 (accessed 6/18/19).

"The Dutchess Land Conservancy is the institutional manifestation of what draws so many of us to this community: a shared love and respect of our natural surroundings, the preservation of those surroundings, our agricultural heritage, and of course our commitment to protecting our ever more precious environment.

I am extremely proud to be an easement holder, a former DLC Director, a Trustee of the Land, a member of The Legacy Society, and a member of the *Advisory Council. It is a privilege and an honor.*" – Kathleen V. Augustine



### Thank you to the DLC's Advisory Council:

Our Advisory Council is our go-to for advice in varying capacities ranging from farming to finance. Thanks for your willingness to share your thoughts, guidance, and support!

Kathleen V. Augustine Gavle Bontecou Theodora S. Budnik Russell L. Carson David C. Clapp Farnham F. Collins

Everett R. Cook, II Wendy C. Curtis Willem de Vogel Constance I. DuHamel Frank Martucci Marta Nottebohm

Simon C. Roosevelt Gilbert P. Schafer, III Dorothy Whitmarsh Sprague Peter Tcherepnine Oakleigh B. Thorne Donald G. Tober



"After lengthy and thoughtful discussion within our family, we decided to move forward with selling the development rights through a sense of responsibility to maintain my ancestors' commitment to Locust Grove Farm in perpetuity. I am confident that our children, and their children, will continue to support the farm as long as they are able. However, I am also comforted in knowing that, by selling the development rights to the farm, the property will remain open and available for agriculture should there come a time when the property leaves the family ownership." – Betsy Atkins, Locust Grove Farm, Salt Point



## Protecting the land is just the first step

Every year we celebrate the families who have made the decision to conserve land that is important not only to them but to our entire community. But our relationship doesn't stop there. We continue to work closely with each of the 400 families who have preserved their land to answer questions about their easement and to provide guidance about land and water management. In fact, many of our education programs are designed to help our easement owners learn about their land and how to make good management decisions.

And remember - conservation work like this doesn't happen without people like you who understand the importance of managing our resources for the future. Families like the Atkins, who protected their historic 170-acre family farm in Salt Point, can rest assured that with your support, the DLC will be there for them, and their property, as a partner in conservation.

Look how we've grown!

**245 ACRES** 1985 16,861 ACRES 2002

42,075 ACRES 2018

## Did you know?

- In 2018 the DLC worked to conserve 18 properties and more than 3,300 acres, completing 5 projects totaling 660 acres by year-end. We now oversee the conservation agreements of more than 400 properties.
- As part of our commitment to adhering to national standards for land trusts, the DLC visits each protected property at least once a year to ensure that conservation agreements are upheld.
- In 2018, the DLC's stewardship staff walked more than 246 miles while visiting conserved properties.
- We are happy to provide support to conservation landowners throughout the year, free-of-charge, to help them stay current on management techniques.



Luncheon hosts Jane and Shepard Ellenberg



Luncheon Co-Chairs Monica G.S. Wambold and Sarah von Maltzahn

### Gathering together to Celebrate the Land









The 27th Annual Fall Country Luncheon was held on Sunday, October 7th at Jane and Shepard Ellenberg's gorgeous Hallmark Farm. The rain held off and more than 400 supporters gathered at the farm to support land conservation. Guests were also treated to "Horses of the Hudson Valley." Conceived and orchestrated by Tom and Maddie Duggan of Kildare Stables, the demonstration was a fascinating showcase of the many ways that horses are a part of our lives here in Dutchess County. Visit our

website to watch the video.























The weather was chilly but the sun came out in time to set as over 300 of you gathered to support land conservation at the annual Spring Barn Dinner Dance at the Hitchcock Hay Barn. Catered by the Farmer's Wife, the night featured a delicious family style dinner followed by dancing to the sounds of Harlem Line. A paddle raise to fund the protection of six local farms raised more than double our goal and your willingness to come to the aid of these farm families is truly inspiring! Visit our website for more.



Barn Dance host Tom Hitchcock

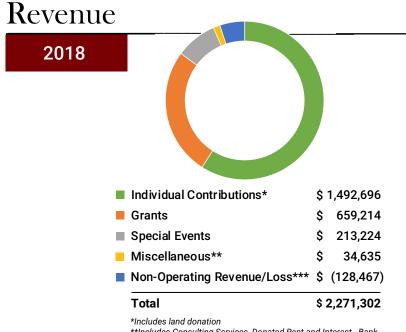
Left: Barn Dance Co-Chairs (left to right): David Thieringer, Felicity and Tim Bontecou

# Thank you to all donors

Your support makes land conservation possible. With every gift you make, you're protecting more of our precious rural landscape for the future.

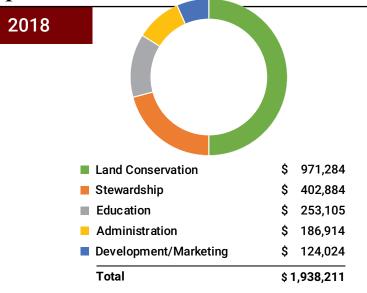
It's because of you that more than 42,000 acres of land have been conserved in our area – because you make amazing things happen.





\*\*Includes Consulting Services, Donated Rent and Interest - Bank \*\*\*Includes Investments, Stewardship Endowment Contributions and Income Tax Benefit

### Expenses



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Photo: Kathy Landman

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Kristen Anderson, Stewardship Associate

Karen Karis, Senior Manager of **Events & Programs** 

Elena Dyer, Financial Manager

Kristen Bernard, Communications Manager

Sandra Tanner, Office Manager





Dutchess Land Conservancy (DLC) is dedicated to preserving the scenic, agricultural and environmental resources of Dutchess County, New York, and the surrounding area.

DLC, as a private non-profit land conservation organization, carries out its mission primarily by obtaining conservation easements on privately held land and monitoring these easements in perpetuity. Conservation easements, acquired through either donation or purchase, are legal agreements limiting future development in order to protect land for conservation purposes.

In addition, DLC provides professional assistance to landowners and municipalities to encourage environmentally sound planning, and educates the public on matters of land conservation and stewardship.

# Stewards of the land

### **Conservation Easement Donors** and Property Owners as of December 31, 2018

Mr. Stephen Abel & Family - O. Vincent Abel, Inc. Mr. and Mrs. Munir Abu-Haidar Mr. and Mrs. Ramzi Abu-Haidar Mrs. Binti Ackley Mr. Armin Brand Allen Mr. Frederick Allen and Ms. Erica De Mane Ms. Saralyn Allen Ames. LLC Anra's Nest, LLC Mr. James Archer Mr. and Mrs. Jon Arnason Ms. Eve Ashcraft Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Atkins Mr. Al Attara - 2Attara Foundation, Inc. Mr. Ionathan Auerbach Ms. Kathleen Vuillet Augustine - Sunnyside Farm, LLC Mr. and Mrs. Jack Auspitz Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Babcock - F.H.B. Resources, LLC Mr. and Mrs. John B. Babcock Mr. Aldo Badini Mr. Elton V.V. Bailey, Ir. Mr. David Bain Mr. and Mrs. Jack Banning Mr. and Mrs. Lee Barba Mr. and Mrs. Rutgers Barclay Mr. Richard Barrale Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bartow Mr. Michael Bassett and Mr. Darren Henault Mr. Jeremy Bean and Ms. Alice Benson Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Beatson-Hird Ms. Karen Bechtel Mr. Justin Beeber Mr. and Mrs. Steven Benardete Mr. Steven Berger and Ms. Cynthia Wainwright Mr. J. Addison Berkey, III Ms. Stephanie Bernheim

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Our very important partners - our Stewards of the Land - are essential allies who manage and steward their conservation easement protected properties into the future. (Please note that while some of our easment donors have passed away, we still list their names out of great respect for their commitment to land conservation.)

> Casperkill Game Club, Inc. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Cassara Dr. Carol Caton Ms. Mukti Nurva Cerio Mrs. Jane Chaffee Mr. Michael Chamberlin and Ms. Margaret O'Brien Mr. and Mrs. William Chappell, Jr. Dr. Stephen Chernay Mr. Craig Cheslev and Ms. Eileen Naughton Mr. and Mrs. Michael Citrin Mr. and Mrs. David Clapp Clark Hill Farm, Inc./Country Lands Clark Hill, LLC Dr. Amory Y. Clarke Mr. and Mrs. Eliot C. Clarke Mr. Eliot C.L. Clarke Mr. and Mrs. Richard Coffin Mrs. Cynthia Cogswell Mr. and Mrs. John Colgate, Jr. Mr. and Mrs. Richard Coller Mr. and Mrs. Farnham F. Collins Columbia Land Conservancy Common Fire Foundation Connecticut Audubon Society, Inc. Mr. and Mrs. Richard Conniff The Conservation and Preservation Association, L.P. Mr. and Mrs. Everett R. Cook. II Mr. and Mrs. Stanley G. Cooke Mr. and Mrs. John Coppell Mr. and Mrs. Peter S. Corbin Mrs. Cynthia Cornnell Mr. David Cote - Sunny River, LLC CRE Fiduciary Services Inc. Crescent Road, LLC Crestcram. LLC Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Cunningham

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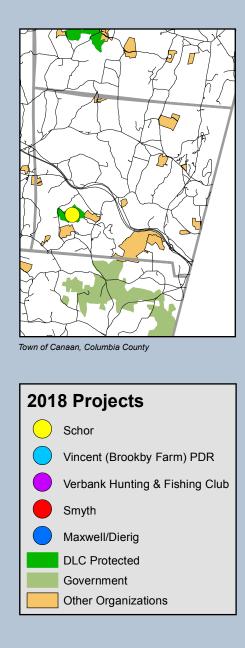
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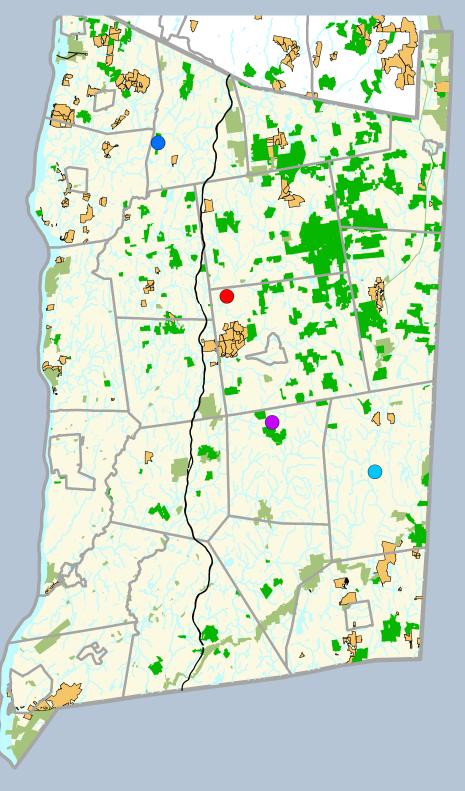
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