

COLUMBIA
LAND CONSERVANCY



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conservancy news



Keepin' It Rural



Peter Paden

The moment you enter Columbia County from any direction, you know you're in a different kind of place. It's a place that's less developed, less manicured, and less populated than its neighbors, with many more working farms, open lands, and historic hamlets and villages. It just feels different and here's why – it's got genuine rural character. I think that's what most everyone who lives here values about this particular corner of the world. Indeed, if you look at the comprehensive plan of almost every town in the county, you'll see that protection of the community's rural character is virtually always identified as a principal, if not the principal, planning objective.

So what is rural character? Well, it's not a concept that can be defined in a few words – rather, it's shorthand for a whole bundle of ideas. In my mind, these ideas are intertwined with the conservation qualities that make Columbia County such a special place. No other part of the Hudson Valley has a comparable abundance of excellent farm land, vast forest tracts, and rivers, lakes, streams and wetlands – all of which together comprise endless scenic landscapes, rich habitats and ecosystems. For a variety of reasons, Columbia County has largely escaped the intense development pressures that have markedly altered the character of neighboring counties. And we have maintained an active and highly diverse farming sector, which is currently experiencing a resurgence that points to a new era of growth and productivity.

Sometimes I hear people say that CLC is doing so many different things they're unsure what our mission is. It may seem complicated to find the connection between our objectives, which are private land conservation, public conservation lands, support for good land use practices, affordable access to farmland and education about the natural world. But the connection is really quite simple. All of these efforts are part of a mindful, multi-faceted strategy with a single goal: to retain the very special rural character of Columbia County.



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About CLC's Founders' Fund for Outdoor Experience and Education



Deborah E. Lans

When Michael Polemis decided to take a break after 16 years as CLC's Board Chair, the Board and Staff looked for the right vehicle by which to honor the sustained, inspired and strategic leadership that Michael and his wife, Barbara, had brought to the Conservancy since it was founded in 1986. Michael was emphatic that we needed to ensure that CLC continues to address the "nature deficit" experienced by so many in our society – from children, to teens, to adults, to government and community leaders and decision-makers. As he said, *If you don't understand the importance of protecting open space, of sustaining local agriculture and maintaining biological diversity in your community, these issues will be ignored or at best given only cursory attention.*

CLC accordingly created the Founders' Fund for Outdoor Experience and Education. Its purpose is to assist in financing experiential programming at our ten publicly accessible conservation areas for families, children, teens, adults, seniors and people with special needs; maintaining and expanding publicly accessible lands having special scenic, biological or habitat values; and continuing education and technical support to elected and appointed officials charged with making land use decisions as well as community groups.

On a beautiful evening in late September of 2012, 118 friends of Michael and Barbara Polemis and supporters of local conservation gathered at Deep Deene Farm in Old Chatham to celebrate Michael's and Barbara's work and the launch of the Founders' Fund. Sixty-seven donors committed more than \$402,000. Leading the way were the Ellsworth Kelly Foundation with a \$100,000 grant and an anonymous friend with another \$50,000.

Because of the Founders' Fund, a number of projects will be possible this year: creating walking trails for access to the 310 acres of spectacular ridge-line property in southern Columbia County generously donated in December, 2012 to CLC by Saida and Woody Baxt and Elizabeth Gilmore (see, the story inside about the Round Ball area expansion for details). A CLC partnership with Greenagers, a youth conservation organization built on the ethics of service and stewardship, will hire and train eight to twelve Taconic Hills High School students to build walking trails this summer through three miles of woods in the new properties. In addition, CLC will expand our weekend outdoor education programs for families held at our conservation areas and we will expand our Down to Earth programs that focus on agriculture–farmland leasing, farm financing and CLC's new program to match farm sellers with buyers dedicated to maintaining those lands in farming and continuing our creative efforts to provide farmers with affordable access to farmland.

We offer our continuing thanks to the Founders' Fund benefactors, as we look forward to sharing news with all of CLC's members.

For more information about the Founders' Fund, or to contribute, contact Peter Paden at 518-392-5252 ext. 213 or email peter@clctrust.org

Large Woodlands Protected by Noted Author Malcom Gladwell



"It's a gorgeous piece of property and I'd love to make sure future generations can enjoy it as much as I have."

So began the conversation with award-winning author, Malcolm Gladwell. This welcome discussion led to the permanent protection of his 300-acre property with a CLC conservation easement. As with all easements, Gladwell can continue



Ghent Farmland Gets Protected

Driving along George Road in Ghent and looking west across the open pastures, it's hard not to be impressed by the panoramic views of the Catskills. But if you can take your eyes off the distant mountains and look in the fields in front of you, you'll see a herd of champion Black Angus cattle grazing on the lush grass. Those cows belong to Trowbridge Farms, which leases the fields from Robert and Linda O'Mara. Working with the O'Mara's, CLC project managers have created a conservation easement that permanently protects this working farmland as well as the views they provide.

"Both Linda and I believe that farming is an essential part of the character and economy of Columbia County," says Robert O'Mara. "Working with the Columbia Land Conservancy to permanently protect this farmland will help ensure that agriculture forever remains a vibrant part of this place."

The 103-acre property contains significant woodlands and wetlands, which provide excellent wildlife habitat. Many species require larger blocks of land for suitable habitat, so the fact that there are three other properties nearby that

to live on and enjoy the land, and the property can also be used for agricultural and sustainable forestry activities.

This beautiful property is largely made up of woodlands that are part of an almost 13,000 acre forest tract. Forests like this one provide water quality protection, carbon sequestration, and wildlife habitat. The property also contains more than 10 acres of wetlands and multiple streams that feed into the Roeliff Jansen Kill, a major tributary of the Hudson River. One of these is designated as a trout-spawning stream by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Under the terms of the easement, the woodlands will be managed for conservation forestry, which encourages timber growth.

"This property exemplifies many of the qualities that make this county so rich in conservation values and we are very pleased to include it among our protected lands," says Peter Paden, CLC's Executive Director. "We are deeply grateful for Malcolm Gladwell's commitment to conservation and his gift to the community and to future generations."

The Whys and Hows of CLC's Expanding Farmland Protection Program

With crucial support from the local farm community, Scenic Hudson, the Land Trust Alliance and the Federal Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program, CLC has been able to expand its farmland protection program despite the face of state and federal program cuts.

There are many benefits to preserving Columbia County farmland, among them maintaining scenic diversity; keep-

al farms that have applied for funding in 2013 will have better odds of meeting these challenges. For example, in 2012, Rick Skoda and his family – fourth-generation owners of a 487-acre dairy farm in Taghkanic (the largest working farm in the town) – were able to monetize the development rights on their farm while continuing to own and operate the farm while permanently protecting its agricultural



ing a living expression of our regional history and the rural character of our communities; supporting a crucial sector of New York's economy; retaining open space; saving our communities the money that would be spent in providing services to residential development; enabling us to eat locally-grown food and enhancing food security; and encouraging agritourism.

Purely from an economic point of view, farming and farm-related sectors (farm commodity production, forest

New York is home to some of the nation's hardest working farmers, who spread their locally-grown products across the globe. Ensuring that our farmers have the appropriate space to grow their products is paramount to the economic success of the agricultural industry in New York. This preservation of farmland in the Hudson Valley is an excellent way to ensure that New York's farmers have a stage to share their crops with the local community and the world.

U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand

and agricultural services, food manufacturing, wholesale food and beverage and ag equipment and nursery) contribute more than \$90 billion to the state's economy annually; in 2007 Columbia County farms alone generated \$66 million in annual revenue. Moreover, working farmland and open spaces are less costly for towns – they consume far less in community services dollars than residential uses (\$0.35 for open space to \$1.16 for residential).

The forces endangering farming are well-known, and include the challenges of sustaining a viable business and transitioning a farm to the next generation, given high land values in communities like Columbia County and hence daunting estate taxes.

The five farm families that participated in CLC's farmland protection collaboration in 2012 and the five addition-

character and resources. In exchange the Skodas were paid for the development rights they relinquished. The resulting funds will enable them to retire debt and make capital improvements, enhancing the viability of the farm. At the same time, the value of the farm has been reduced, so that estate taxes will be also be reduced, facilitating a transition of the farm to Rick's sons Josh and Ryan.

As with all such projects, the Skodas participated voluntarily and will continue to own, live on, farm and enjoy their property, as well as pay property taxes.

In all, the 2012 projects (including two in Dutchess County) preserved 1,265 acres, at a cost of \$5.2 million – all of which went to the farmers; in addition to the Skoda's 487-acre Triple Creek dairy farm, the Columbia County farms are Mountain View

(136 acres, Stuyvesant – corn and hay), Dow & Begin's (146 acres, Stuyvesant – high quality hay); Heron (56 acres, Stuyvesant – feed hay and vegetables); another farm wishing to remain anonymous (137 acres, Livingston – grains).

As Columbia County Board of Supervisors Chairman Pat Grattan said:

The award of this grant is a great boost to Columbia County agriculture. We are very grateful to these families for their commitment to farming.

JUNE

Saturday, June 1 – 10:00am-12:00pm

NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

CLC Office - 49 Main Street, Chatham

Ooms Conservation Area at Sutherland Pond
480 Rock City Road, Chatham

All Ages – Free



Led by photographer Nic Flood, this workshop will teach participants about the process of taking creative photographs. Beginning indoors at the CLC office, the program includes hands-on guidance on the techniques for making compelling nature and landscape images. The class will then head to Ooms Conservation Area at Sutherland Pond to take photographs in a supportive group setting. The program is open to photographers of all skill levels. To register, go to clctrust.org/event-education or contact Jenny Brinker at 518.392.5252, ext. 210.

Saturday, June 1 – 2:00pm-4:00pm

EXPLORE COLUMBIA COUNTY OUTDOORS

Harvey Mountain State Forest

East Hill Road, Austerlitz

All Ages – Free



Join CLC naturalists for National Trails Day with a hike to the top of Harvey Mountain, a beautiful state forest that CLC helped protect. Note that this is a 3-mile strenuous round-trip hike to the highest point in Columbia County (but the views are worth it!). The event is part of a series featuring natural areas listed in the excellent guidebook *Columbia County Outdoors*, available at the CLC gift shop. To register, go to clctrust.org/event-education or contact Jenny Brinker at 518.392.5252, ext. 210.

Thursday, June 13 – 5:30pm-7:30pm

COLUMBIA COUNTY CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL ROUNDTABLE

Location To Be Announced

Free



The Roundtable is a forum for Conservation Advisory Council members to share information about their conservation activities. It's also a way for interested citizens to learn more about what a CAC can do for their town, including issues related to groundwater, wildlife habitat, open space recreation, and scenic views.

For more information, contact Ellen Jouret-Epstein at 518.392.5252, ext. 208 or ellen@clctrust.org.

June 26 – 10:00am-12:00pm

WEDNESDAY WANDERING

Ooms Conservation Area at Sutherland Pond
480 Rock City Road, Chatham

All Ages – Free



Join CLC naturalists for a hike through gorgeous open fields and rolling hills. Part of an ongoing series held on the final Wednesday of the month, participants take pleasure in being outside together and learning from one another about the animals and plants they encounter. To register, go to clctrust.org/wandering or contact Marcia Cary at 518.392.5252, ext. 202.



COLUMBIA LAND CONSERVANCY

Thursday, June 27 – 10:00am-11:00am

POUND PALS

Schor Conservation Area – Pavilion
58 Shoreview Drive, Canaan

Ages 3-6 – Free



Explore the pond and the wet and wiggly creatures that call it home. We'll use nets to get a closer look at noisy bullfrogs, twitchy tadpoles, and crazy crayfish then make a frog mask to take home. It's this season's kickoff for the Knee-High Naturalist series – all events include story time, arts and crafts, an educational program, and free play. To register, go to clctrust.org/event-education or contact Jenny Brinker at 518.392.5252, ext. 210.

JULY

July 9, 10, 11, 16, and 24

DIG IN TO READING WITH SOIL AND SEEDS!

Tues, July 9-2:00pm-4:00pm – Chatham Public Library

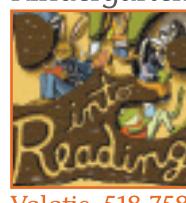
Wed, July 10-6:30pm-7:30pm – Valatie Library

Thurs, July 11-2:00pm-4:00pm – New Lebanon Library

Tues, July 16-10:00am-11:30am – Hudson Area Library

Wed, July 24-1:30pm-3:00pm – Kinderhook Library

Kindergarten-4th grade – Free



This summer's reading theme is "Dig Into Reading," and we're investigating the world beneath our feet. Learn why soil is so important for animals, plants, and people then create a seed paper bookmark to take home and plant next spring. Register by calling the library hosting the event: Chatham – 518.392.3666, Valatie – 518.758.9321, New Lebanon – 518.794.8844, Hudson – 518.828.1792, or Kinderhook – 518.758.6192.

Saturday, July 13 – 10:00am-12:00pm

ALL ABOUT SNAPPING TURTLES

Ooms Conservation Area at Sutherland Pond
480 Rock City Road, Chatham

All Ages – Free



Ever wonder what snapping turtles eat or what they do in winter? Join Casey Tompkins, wetland biologist and owner of Tompkins Ecological Group, as we explore Sutherland Pond. We'll check special turtle traps to get an up-close and personal look at snappers' behaviors, habitat needs, and diet. Get your picture taken with one of our new friends and then release it back into the pond. To register, go to clctrust.org/event-education or contact Jenny Brinker at 518.392.5252, ext. 210.

Saturday, July 13 – 2:00pm-4:00pm

EXPLORE COLUMBIA COUNTY OUTDOORS PADDLE

Ooms Conservation Area at Sutherland Pond
480 Rock City Road, Chatham

Adults and Older Children – Free



Join CLC naturalists for a paddle on the 35-acre Sutherland Pond. Explore charming coves and a floating island in your own kayak or canoe. The event is part of a series featuring natural areas listed in the excellent guidebook, *Columbia County Outdoors*, available at the CLC gift shop. To register, go to clctrust.org/event-education or contact Jenny Brinker at 518.392.5252, ext. 210.

For more information go to clctrust.org/events

Thursday, July 18 – 10:00am-11:00am

SCAVENGER HUNT

Ooms Conservation Area at Sutherland Pond
480 Rock City Rd, Chatham

Ages 3-6 – Free



Attention scavenger hunters! Come find cool discoveries in nature including animal tracks, pinecones, and bird nests then take home a prize for participating. Part of the Knee-High Naturalist series, this event includes story time, arts & crafts, an educational program, and free play. To register, go to clctrust.org/event-education or contact Jenny Brinker at 518.392.5252, ext. 210.

July 31 – 10:00am-12:00pm

WEDNESDAY WANDERING

Harvey Mountain State Forest

East Hill Road, Austerlitz

All Ages – Free



Join CLC naturalists for a 3.5 mile round trip hike at Harvey Mountain, a beautiful state forest which CLC helped to protect. This is a strenuous hike (the views are worth it!) to the highest point in Columbia County and passes through an impressive wild blueberry patch (snacking encouraged). Part of an ongoing series held on the final Wednesday of the month, participants take pleasure in being outside together and learning from one another about the animals and plants they encounter. To register, go to clctrust.org/wandering or contact Marcia Cary at 518.392.5252, ext. 202.

AUGUST

Saturday, August 3 – 11:00am-3:00pm

EXPLORE COLUMBIA COUNTY OUTDOORS PADDLE

Nutten Hook

Ferry Road Launch, Stuyvesant

All Ages – Free



Weather permitting, we'll head north on the Hudson River, stopping at Coxsackie Island for a bring-your-own lunch. Next stop: the cove at Nutten Hook to explore the remains of the old icehouse. Paddling experience is required; bring your own canoe/kayak, equipment, PFD, and water. Space is limited and pre-registration is required so sign up soon! The event is part of a series featuring natural areas listed in the excellent guidebook *Columbia County Outdoors*, available at the CLC gift shop. To register, go to clctrust.org/event-education or contact Jenny Brinker at 518.392.5252, ext. 210.

Thursday, August 8 – 10:00am-11:00am

ANIMAL AUTOGRAPHS

Hand Hollow Conservation Area

4079 County Route 9, New Lebanon

Ages 3-6 – Free



Look for animals and their "autographs" in different habitats – we might even get to see the tracks of the river otter that likes to play in the stream! Make your own tracking booklet to take home. Part of the Knee-High Naturalist series, this event includes story time, arts and crafts, an educational program, and free play.

To register, go to clctrust.org/event-education or contact Jenny Brinker at 518.392.5252, ext. 210.

Tuesday, August 20 – 8:00pm-9:30pm

FULL "STURGEON" MOON WALK

Greenport Conservation Area

Joslen Blvd, Greenport

All Ages – Free



View the Hudson River and beyond by the light of the Full Sturgeon Moon. We'll talk about the conservation efforts for Atlantic sturgeon in the Hudson River and other creatures along the way. To register, go to clctrust.org/event-education or contact Jenny Brinker at 518.392.5252, ext. 210.

August 28 – 10:00am-12:00pm

WEDNESDAY WANDERING

Beebe Hill State Forest

County Route 5, Austerlitz

All Ages – Free



Join CLC naturalists for a hike to the fire tower at this spectacular 2,500 acre state forest. Part of an ongoing series held on the final Wednesday of the month, participants to take pleasure in being outside together and learning from one another about the animals and plants they encounter. To register, go to clctrust.org/wandering or contact Marcia Cary at 518.392.5252, ext. 202.

Thursday, August 29 – 10:00am-11:00am

WHERE BUTTERFLIES GROW

Harrier Hill Park

Rod and Gun Road, Stockport

Ages 3-6 – Free



Magnificent monarch butterflies are "growing" in the fields at Harrier Hill Park – come see them! Make and decorate your own butterfly wings, look for butterflies and become a citizen scientist. Part of the Knee-High Naturalist series, this event includes story time, an educational program, and free play.

To register, go to clctrust.org/event-education or contact Jenny Brinker at 518.392.5252, ext. 210.

SEPTEMBER

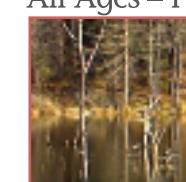
Saturday, September 7 – 10:00am-12:00pm

EXPLORE COLUMBIA COUNTY OUTDOORS

Wilson M. Powell Wildlife Sanctuary

Hunt Club Road, Old Chatham

All Ages – Free



Explore this beautiful 145-acre sanctuary with panoramic views of the Hudson Valley and Catskill Mountains. We'll hike to Dorson's Rock to check for early migrating hawks. The event is part of a series featuring natural areas listed in the excellent guidebook *Columbia County Outdoors*, available at the CLC gift shop.

To register, go to clctrust.org/event-education or contact Jenny Brinker at 518.392.5252, ext. 210.

Saturday, September 7 – 2:00pm-4:00pm

MAGNIFICENT MONARCHS

Greenport Conservation Area

Joslen Boulevard, Hudson

All Ages – Free



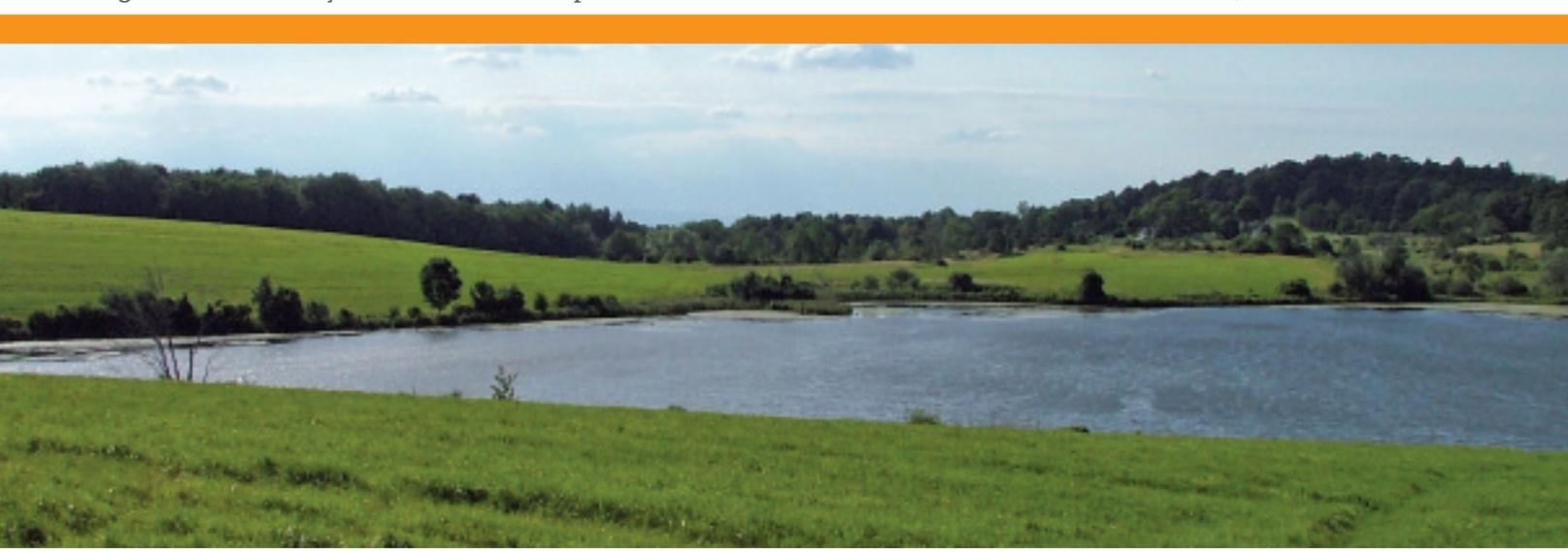
Following a talk about monarchs, we will capture, tag, and release them at this designated Monarch Waystation. To register, go to clctrust.org/event-education or contact Jenny Brinker at 518.392.5252, ext. 210.

CLC Accepts Ownership of Community Treasures

Many people consider the Greenport Conservation Area and Ooms Conservation Area at Sutherland Pond to be the centerpieces of CLC's public lands program. But what they may not know is that until earlier this year, these two CLC-managed sites were actually owned by the Open Space Institute. That's no longer the case since the conservation organization formally transferred ownership to CLC.

"Conservation of these preserves' natural resources is a true gift to the community, and we would not have been able to accomplish this work without such a vibrant partner as the Columbia Land Conservancy."

The Greenport Conservation Area, with five miles of trails, has excellent Hudson River and Catskill Mountain views from the one-mile "Access for All" trail, which is flat and



"Thousands of people visit these properties and value the scenic beauty, vibrant wildlife habitats, and opportunities for outdoor recreation," says Peter Paden, CLC's Executive Director. "The Open Space Institute has been a great partner in creating these Public Conservation Areas, and we grateful for their contributions to Columbia County."

Both sites were created through a partnership between the conservation organizations. In 1992, CLC facilitated the purchase by OSI of 265 acres that now comprise the Greenport Conservation Area. At CLC's prompting, OSI made additional acquisitions, bringing the total size to 625 acres.

In 2001, CLC worked with OSI on their purchase of the 180-acre property that now makes up the Ooms Conservation Area at Sutherland Pond, permanently ensuring its availability to the public. More than 100 neighbors contributed funds toward the purchase.

"OSI is pleased that the Columbia Land Conservancy will continue to manage these properties for the benefit of the public, as it has for many years," said Kim Elliman, OSI's CEO and president.

Ways to Help!

There are a number of ways you can help protect the county's rural heritage and provide public open spaces for future generations:

- *Become a supporter—over 80% of our program support comes from our donors*
- *Donate a tradeland—The Conservancy accepts donations of a wide variety of property and other appreciated assets to enhance its conservation efforts throughout the county*
- *Volunteer—help out at public conservation area workdays, during special events, and with membership mailings*
- *Protect your land—ensure your property will be available for limited residential development, agriculture, forestry and wildlife habitat*
- *Host neighborhood gatherings—these get-togethers allow interested landowners to talk about conservation opportunities in their area and learn more about CLC*

Please contact Peter Paden at 518-392-5252 ext. 213 or email peter@clctrust.org for more information.

eight properties in Columbia County that CLC manages, visit www.clctrust.org/public-conservation-areas.

Round Ball Conservation Area to Expand

If you've never been to the Round Ball Conservation Area in Ancram, you'll soon have a beautiful reason to make the trip. Recently, two adjacent landowners donated a total of 310 acres of spectacular ridge-line property to the north of the existing site.

"These properties exemplify many of the qualities that make this county so rich in conservation values," says Peter Paden, CLC's Executive Director, "and we are very pleased to include them as part of the Round Ball Mountain Conservation Area."

The donated land – from Elizabeth Gilmore and from Woody and Saida Baxt – had previously protected the ridge just west of Route 22 with conservation easements through CLC. But the voluntary agreements did not provide for public access. That's now changed as both parties share a vision of a ridgeline trail that would provide future generations with access to great hiking and gorgeous views.

"Years ago, when CLC opened the Round Ball Mountain Conservation Area to the public, I thought it was an amazing amenity for this corner of the county," says Elizabeth Gilmore. "Then I thought how much better it would be if a trail could be developed from there to run north along the ridge with increased view of the mountains, farmland, and wildlife of our beautiful region."

"Why give away about a third of our dairy farm?" said Woody Baxt. "Because by donating our land to the Columbia Land Conservancy, we are ensuring that the public will always have access to this property that links to additional publicly-accessible lands along a magnificent ridgeline. We consider our family extremely lucky to be able to participate in something like this and leave a legacy of which we can all be proud."

"With these generous gifts, the Baxts and Elizabeth Gilmore have once again demonstrated their deep commitment to conservation and to the community, and we are enormously grateful," stated Board Chair Deborah Lans.

The Round Ball Mountain Conservation Area was established in 2008 and includes a 1,318 foot summit with views of the Harlem Valley and Taconic Mountains. The original 105 acres are characterized by steep slopes, rocky outcrops, cascading streams, and woodland habitats rich with mosses and ferns. The new additions run north up the Harlem Valley along a predominantly wooded ridge.

While a master-plan for the property is still being developed, a north-south trail has been marked and work is planned for this summer. The new property will be formally opened to the public in 2014.



Greenagers to lend a Helping Hand

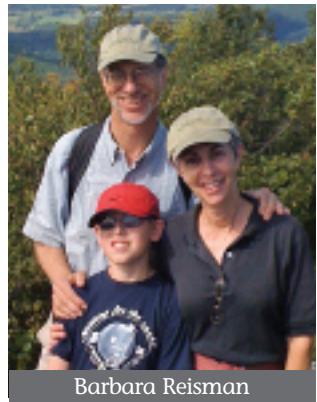
How do you build a trail through nearly three miles of thick woods? You enlist a group of strong local teenagers! CLC has entered into a partnership with the Greenagers, a Berkshire-based youth conservation group whose mission is simple: youth working to strengthen the environment and our community.

Greenagers Executive Director, Will Conklin describes the organization as "a program built on two ethics: service and stewardship. Within these ethics local youth find programming that builds work skills, improves their community, and garners community recognition of their efforts."

Together, CLC and Greenagers plan to recruit an eight-person crew who will work under the guidance of a crew-leader alongside CLC staff. Initial recruitment efforts have been assisted by the Taconic Hills School District and the Town of Ancram, but any local high-school aged student is welcome to apply. The crew will be paid for 24 hours of work per week, and will also receive training in personal finance, resume writing, and job-seeking skills.

"The Greenagers program is a terrific fit for CLC," explained Tom Crowell, CLC's Director of Outreach and Resource Development. "This type of direct engagement is exactly the sort of programming we hope to foster. Hopefully, this will be the first of many such projects in Columbia County."

CLC Welcomes New Board Members and Extends Thanks to Two Departing Trustees



Barbara Reisman

CLC welcomes Barbara Reisman to its Board of Trustees. She is the Executive Director of the Schumann Fund of New Jersey and has launched several influential education initiatives and collaborative partnerships. When she was Executive Director of the Child Care Action Campaign, she grew the organization from a 2-person staff with a \$100,000 budget to an 18-member staff with \$1.9 million in revenues. She has a Master's in Business Administration from Harvard University and has served on the Board of several prestigious organizations.

"I love to visit the areas that CLC has preserved, and am grateful for the educational programs CLC offers," says Reisman. "I am delighted to join the Board, and to help CLC continue and expand its effective work."

Reisman lives part-time in a family home in Ghent that her father-in-law purchased in the 1950's. Now, his two children and their families share it.

Hearty Thanks and a Fond Farewell

CLC's staff and board extend a hearty thank you to Gale Bury and Brewster Pettus, both of whom rotated off the board at the end of their terms this year. Gale served as Secretary to the Board and continues to volunteer as a mentor for CLC's farmer-match program and as an ad-hoc member of the Agriculture Committee. Brewster served as a member of the Development and Outreach Committees. Both provided valuable leadership during our 25th anniversary.

CLC wins the Crystal Apple Award!

CLC is honored to have been selected as the 2013 recipient of the Columbia County Chamber of Commerce's Crystal Apple. The award is presented to a Chamber member business to recognize an extraordinary contribution to economic progress, community improvement, and the quality of life in Columbia



County over the previous year. The apple, according to the Chamber of Commerce, symbolizes Columbia County's simple beauty, agricultural heritage, and quality of life. CLC, whose mission is to conserve the county's scenic beauty, farmland, and rural quality of life, is a perfect match for this award.



Volunteers Make Conservation Happen!

Volunteers make a difference in our community by donating their time to land conservation. To find out more about upcoming volunteer opportunities or to fill out our volunteer information form visit our website at www.clctrust.org. You can also contact our volunteer coordinator, Marcia Cary, at 518-392-5252 ext. 202 or marcia@clctrust.org. Special thanks to the following individuals who have made an extra effort this spring:

Mike Brenner, for spending time in the woodshop preparing blue bird boxes;

Arlene Brown, for being named the Senior Volunteer of the Year by the Columbia County Office of the Aging;

David Konigsberg, for taking on the monitoring of the Harrier Hill Connector trail;

Sara McWilliams and Mary Gerlach, for providing professional guidance to the Greenagers;

Faruk Ortbas, for leading a group of fellow volunteers to troubleshoot and spotcheck the current trail marker systems on all CLC public lands'

Carol Pinkowski, for providing weekly office assistance;

Andreas Stressemann, for photographing CLC events and programs (when he is not monitoring three conservation areas!);

Susan Wendelboe, for giving a CLC gift membership to all real estate clients who purchased a new home in the county.



Loyal CLC volunteers and Eagle Scout candidate Adam Day from troop 114 out of Valatie, NY pitch in for Earth Day at the Borden's Pond Conservation Area.



Students from the Darrow School's Hands to Work program helped bench cut a trail at the Ooms Conservation Areas this spring.

Growing up in Columbia County...

I had the privilege of being surrounded by some of the most beautiful landscapes in the world. This love and respect I had for the resources we have only increased as I spent 24 years in the Army, living in many different places. No matter how far my travels in the military took me, Columbia County was always home and the place to which I returned with my own family after I retired.

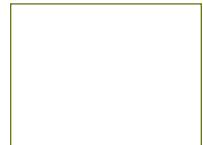
It is because of the work of the Columbia Land Conservancy that we are today able to still appreciate our rural landscapes. Their stewardship has allowed Columbia County to retain its agricultural roots and beauty while also becoming a destination for visitors from around the world. This has allowed for expanded economic development as well as is essential for our local farmers. Through the careful use of farmland protection projects the shepherded by Columbia Land Conservancy, has along with an excellent team of partners, we've preserved some of our most valuable land in perpetuity.

I will always be an ally and advocate for the Columbia Land Conservancy locally and through improving our conservation programs in Congress. I look forward to building on the progress that has been made already as we continue our efforts to ensure that Columbia County retains its unique rural character, beautiful landscapes, and economic opportunities that make this such a special place to call home. U.S. Congressman Chris Gibson, R-NY 19

COLUMBIA LAND CONSERVANCY

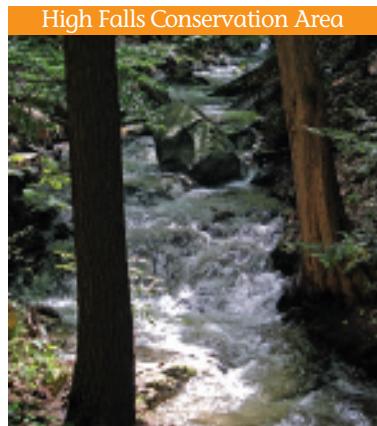


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In This Issue:



High Falls Conservation Area

You will notice some changes to the Conservancy News starting with this issue. We've incorporated the events calendar as a pull - out and we will be sending you three editions instead of just two. These changes will save paper and postage while keeping our members better informed about all of the exciting conservation news and opportunities in Columbia County.

3 Message From the Chair: In the fall of 2012 friends and loyal supporters of CLC celebrated the Michael Polemis' 26 years of leadership with the establishment of the Founder's Fund for Outdoor Experience and Education.

4 Land Protection: Two properties owners have entered into voluntary conservation agreements with CLC and an innovative partnership has protected 600 acres.

6 Calendar of Events: Summer is the best time of year to enjoy all of the wonderful places Columbia County has to offer. Here is your complete guide to CLC programs.

8 Public Lands: Two of Columbia County's most beloved tracts of public land are now owned by CLC. An environmental youth service organization will help build trails in Ancram this summer.

10 Organizational News: CLC welcomes two new trustees and gives a hearty thanks to two departing trustees. Volunteers a critical part of CLC's accomplishments. Congressman Chris Gibson reflects on what makes Columbia County worth conserving.

Mission Statement

The Columbia Land Conservancy works with the community to conserve the farmland, forests, wildlife habitat and rural character of Columbia County, strengthening connections between people and the land.

Vision Statement

The Columbia Land Conservancy will be a dynamic force in supporting and sustaining a strong and vibrant rural community, where agriculture plays a central role in the economy, where development respects historic traditions and natural resources, and where there are accessible open spaces and abundant, healthy natural lands and wildlife habitats.

Create a Conservation Legacy

Have you named CLC in your estate plan?

If so, please tell us so we can include you in our the Jonathan Schor Society. Contact Peter Paden at 518-392-5252 ext. 213 or peterpaden@clctrust.org to let us know your intentions or for information on how to achieve your estate planning goals while leaving a conservation legacy for future generations.