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Spring '09



Orange County Land Trust

OpenSpaceNews

Protecting your Local Treasures

Land Protection News

Orange County Land Trust Leads Successful Arrow Park Preservation Effort; 259.8 Acres Protected in 2008 and Added to Sterling Forest State Park

The Orange County Land Trust recently completed the protection of 259.8 acres of Arrow Park lands in a cooperative 5.3 million dollar effort with the State of New York Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. These lands have been added to the adjacent Sterling Forest State Park and are in addition to the 145.6 acres of Arrow land previously protected by the Land Trust.

The new parcel includes 241 acres in the Town of Monroe and 18 acres in Tuxedo. The lands are now managed by the Palisades Interstate Park Commission.

A total of 405.4 acres of Arrow Park land is now protected in perpetuity, with the Land Trust playing the lead role in negotiating easements, purchase options and landowner agreements over a ten plus year period. The success of this conservation effort was also due to the support of the Highlands

Coalition, the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and other conservation organizations.

OCLT Executive Director Jim Delaune said "In addition to their scenic value, the protection of these lands are important to Orange County - helping to ensure a clean water

supply, providing recreational opportunities that encourage healthy lifestyles, and protecting corridors of natural areas for wildlife habitat, all helping to reduce our carbon footprint."

A total of 405.4 acres of former Arrow Park land in the towns of Monroe and Tuxedo, including Arrow Lake, is forever protected as a natural area for wildlife habitat and scenic beauty with 259 acres now a part of Sterling Forest State Park.



Letter from the Executive Director: Redefining the Land Trust: Our Outlook for the Future



In 2008, the Orange County Land Trust protected almost 600 additional acres of land, partnering with the county on the protection of two working farms, closing on our first conservation easement in nearby Sullivan County, receiving a donation of land for a new public access nature preserve in Warwick, and, after ten years in the making, closing on 259 acres of Arrow Park in Monroe and Tuxedo, now part of Sterling Forest State Park!

In the current uncertain economy, however, we, like land trusts across the country, have had to take stock of our finances, reassess our strategic plan, and consider the opportunities that the current economy offers. In good times and bad, conserved land has always been a good investment, offering great future returns such as clean air and water, fresh local food, places to play and recreate and, for Orange County, the preservation of our working farms and rural character. There are great opportunities to make these investments now, when land prices are low and the demand for new housing in our county has declined.

Our focus is holistic, centered on preserving land in Orange County that is not only scenic or biologically sensitive, but that also promotes healthy lifestyles for our residents, sustains our communities both economically and culturally, and fosters green practices that can positively impact global climate change.

In this issue, you will read about our continuing plans for a universal access trail at Hamptonburgh Preserve, our work with the county's three cities in supporting urban community gardens, our flood mitigation efforts in the black dirt region of the county, the grand opening of The Tadpole Trail at Hunter Farm Preserve in Wawayanda, and smart growth planning programs such as the development of Conservation Advisory Councils within our municipalities. Programs such as these will help Orange County remain a beautiful and vibrant place to live, work, and raise a family.

We hope you will continue to support our efforts through this uncertain economic time by responding to the enclosed appeal letter. The current economic climate won't last forever, but once developed, our natural areas and working farms will be gone forever.

Thank you always for your continuing support of your Land Trust.

Jim
James Delaune
Executive Director

Doing More with Less: Going Green... Reducing Costs

Like many nonprofit organizations, we now find ourselves in a different economic climate for 2009 and have made internal adjustments so we can continue to move forward with a full agenda of land protection projects. The Land Trust has resolved to do our part to reduce costs, minimize expenses and become more efficient, while still working to protect and steward our important natural and working landscapes. To accomplish this, we have reorganized job responsibilities among current staff, lowered our thermostat, turned lights off when rooms are not in use and have unplugged "vampire appliances" when not in use. We are also working to reduce our paper and postage costs through the use of more e-mail news. In effect, we are a green organization....and going greener!

Why not keep up with our local conservation news and event updates by receiving our monthly e-newsletter and full bi-annual newsletter online? Please let us know by contacting caroline@octl.org.

Welcome New Board Members

The OCLT welcomes two new board members: Albert C. Valk, (photo left) former supervisor of the Town of Montgomery and David A. Getz, PE (photo right) of Lehman & Getz, PC of Warwick.



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Orange County Land Trust is to preserve the fields, forests, wetlands, ridgelines and river corridors in and around Orange County through voluntary land conservation for the benefit of people.

Orange County Land Trust Annual Benefit Dinner and Silent Auction Friday, June 5th!

Join us as we celebrate the preservation of the county's natural and historic treasures on the grounds of Glenmere Mansion, an elegant 100-acre country manor undergoing an extensive restoration and opening this autumn as a premier 19-suite boutique hotel, restaurant and spa!

This year, the Land Trust is delighted to honor the following Leaders in Land Preservation:

Carol Ash, Commissioner of New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation will be recognized for her vital advocacy role in protecting open space and adding to Sterling Forest State Park.

Paul Dolan, Executive Director of ABC News International and **JoAnn Dolan**, former Executive Director of New York-New Jersey Trail Conference will be recognized for their pioneering and continuing efforts in the protection of Sterling Forest State Park and Arrow Park.

As the third group of honorees: **Orange County**: Office of the Orange County Executive, Orange County Legislature, Orange County Department of Planning, and the Office of the County Attorney will all be honored for their active and vital commitment to the protection of the land and water resources of Orange County.

This year's Annual Benefit Dinner and Silent Auction will be held on the grounds of the historic Glenmere Mansion overlooking Glenmere Lake in the Town of Chester. Photo by Nick Zungoli



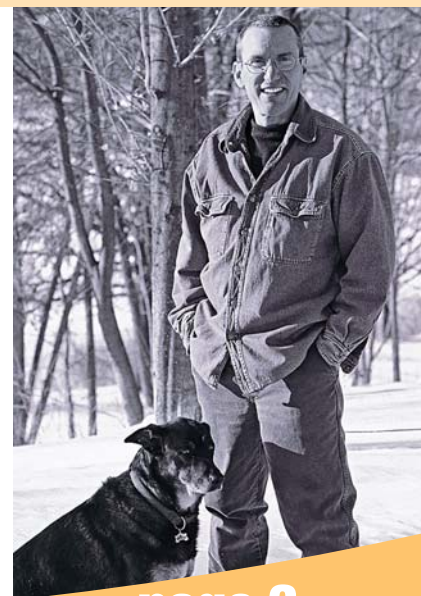
2009 Annual Benefit Dinner & Silent Auction sponsors

Glenmere
Gusciora Construction
The Walt Disney Company
DeGraw & DeHaan, Architects
Blue Spruce Construction
J.M. Electric and Son
First Federal Savings of Middletown
Esposito & Associates
Ira Wickes Arborists
Morgan Wheelock, Inc Landscape Architects
Faith Ferguson Productions, Inc.
N.A.S. Security Systems
Earth and Sun Energy Systems
Arrow Park, Inc
C.R. Wolfe Heating
Voss Excavation
Pietrzak & Pfau Engineering and Surveying
DJM Enterprises
Jacobowitz & Gubits, LLP
RJ Smith Realty
Turner Miller Group
Bank of America
Dayne Losee, Inc
S.E.T. Designs
Gerard Associates Consulting
Mid Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union

Why I Volunteer with OCLT

"OCLT's work is important in helping the county preserve its beauty and while doing so, ensuring a quality of life for residents that has real economic value."

*~Photographer,
Nick Zungoli, SugarLoaf*



Stewardship News:

The OCLT owns and manages nine nature preserves that are open to the public free of charge for passive recreation and nature study. For a full description of each, and directions, please visit our website at oclt.org and click on "Protected Lands". Guided nature walks and educational outings are sponsored by the Land Trust throughout the year for people of all ages.

This year we will be focusing our efforts on making improvements to the following preserves, with each having its own distinct area of interest.

Hamptonburgh Preserve, Hamptonburgh

The Land Trust is partnering with Independent Living, Inc. to create a Universal Access Natural History Interpretive Rail Trail that is ½ mile in length and leads to a viewing platform along the Wallkill River. For this handicapped accessible trail, we have raised \$13,000 in donations and are seeking grant funding from various government and private sources. Giving levels for this trail are listed below.



Adopt-a-Trail Program

Adopt-a-Trail: Trail Section: \$100

Plaque engraved with individual or family name on ten foot stretch of the trail.

Adopt-a-Trail: Natural History Informational Sign: \$500

12" x 20" along the trail dedicated to an individual or family, with engraving on sign.

Adopt-a-Trail: Natural History Illustrated Display: \$2,000

20" x 30", permanent, natural history display dedicated to an individual or family, with engraving on display.

Adopt-a-Trail: Trailside Bench: \$5,000

Dedicated to an individual or family, with an engraved plaque.

Adopt-a-Trail: Viewing Platform: \$10,000

One of two Hamptonburgh Preserve viewing platforms along the Wallkill River dedicated to an individual or family, with an engraved plaque.

Indicate "Adopt-a-Trail" on enclosed envelope or call 845 343-0840, x12 to make a donation

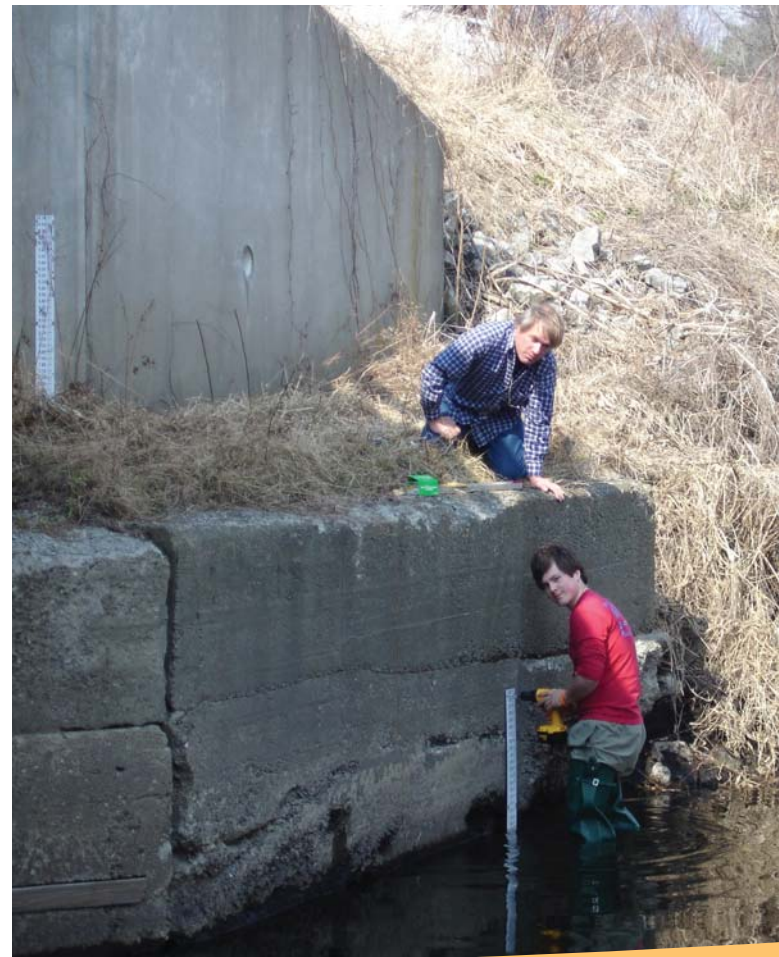
Hunter Farm Preserve, Wawayanda

The Tadpole Trail is a children's exploratory nature trail supported with a grant from Orange and Rockland Utilities. Opening in July of this year, this trail will feature 10 activity sites with information on the natural world that children find especially exciting: frogs, salamanders, butterflies, birds and even sightings of beaver activity!

Laurel Hill Preserve, Minisink and Fuller Mountain Preserve, Warwick

Funding from NYS Legislative Initiative grants will be utilized for the building of information kiosks at trail heads and the design and construction of a trail system that will highlight the natural fauna and flora at each of these preserves.

Kevin Sumner, District Manager for Orange County Soil and Water Conservation District, works with volunteer Cole Hamling placing staff gages along Quaker Creek in the Black Dirt Region. Projects that address flooding issues are a major focus of the Orange County Land Trust's Wallkill River Task Force.





Karin Roux, OCLT's Director of Stewardship and Conservation, was a guest on County Legislator Frank Fornario's WTBQ Monday morning radio talk show "Life, Love and Chocolate Chip Cookies". Karin spoke about her new position as Director of Stewardship and Conservation and how the Land Trust preserves the county's natural areas and working farmland through the placement of conservation easements.

How the OCLT Protects Land

The Orange County Land Trust has preserved over 3,500 acres of land in communities throughout Orange County, and one in Sullivan County. Working with landowners who want to keep their land undeveloped or remain working farmland, the Land Trust preserves land in perpetuity with the placement of a deeded conservation easement. While the land remains in private ownership, the Land Trust is responsible for seeing that the agreement is upheld, conducting annual site visits to the property to ensure the property remains undeveloped. Conserving land for the future is a way to help our communities remain healthy and sustainable, protect clean air and water resources, set aside natural areas for wildlife habitat and public recreation, and protect our local food resources.

Congress has extended the federal tax incentive for donating conservation easements to a Land Trust through the end of 2009. As the average easement takes about 6-8 months to complete, there is still time for landowners who donate an easement to take advantage of the federal tax incentive covered in the Farm Bill of 2009. Specifically, this incentive:

- Raises the deduction a donor can take for donating a conservation easement from 30% of his income to 50% during a given year.
- Allows qualifying farmers and ranchers to deduct up to 100% of their income.
- Extends the carry forward period for a donor to take tax deductions for a voluntary conservation agreement from 5 to 15 years.

The Wallkill River Task Force

The Wallkill River Task Force is a project of the OCLT that focuses on issues concerning the Wallkill River and its tributaries. The task force works to improve the quality of life for humans and wildlife within the river's watershed. Two major projects include:

The Wallkill River Corridor Protection Program:

This program consists of seeking flood mitigation projects on the Wallkill River and its tributaries for the combined benefit of conservation and the farming communities of Orange County. Most notably, these flood mitigation projects will involve riparian buffer plantings to enhance water quality, control erosion and help reduce the impact of future flooding. Another project involves the placement of U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Staff Gages on the Wallkill River and its tributaries to track the movement of water in the Black Dirt Region in an effort to prioritize flood mitigation work.

The Wallkill River Watershed Better Site Design Roundtable Program:

This program is in partnership with the Orange County Planning Department with funding from the NYSDEC Hudson River Estuary Program. Better Site Design, also known as Low Impact Development, is an approach to residential and commercial site design that seeks to reduce the amount of impervious cover, increase the natural lands set aside for conservation, use pervious areas for more effective stormwater treatment and ultimately achieve a marketable, cost-effective product. The towns of Wallkill, Warwick, Wawayanda and Goshen are participating in this program.

Art Show Benefits OCLT

Mainframe Art Gallery in Middletown hosted an art opening in December "Local Art for Local Landscapes" to benefit the OCLT. Pictured is Middletown artist Ann Kelly with one of her paintings.



Remembering Bob Augello



In November of 2008, the OCLT lost one of our founding members and a trusted advisor, Orange County Land Trust Counsel, Robert P. Augello. Bob will always be remembered as an extraordinary man and a leader in the preservation of the county's natural areas.

Bob's advice and counsel guided the Land Trust through 16 years of growth. First introduced to land protection issues during the struggle to preserve Sterling Forest, Bob was asked by Louis V. Mills in 1992 to help form the Orange County Land Trust. Bob subsequently became a trusted friend and advocate for land preservation throughout the region, working not only with the OCLT but with New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, Scenic Hudson and Open Space Institute. His dedication, hard work and endless hours spent on complicated land protection projects both large and small had made him an invaluable asset to the Land Trust and we were honored to have him as part of our advisory council. We miss him dearly.

Bob's loss was felt throughout the Orange County community. We are so very grateful to the many people, listed below, who made gifts to the Orange County Land Trust in his memory.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Abt
Mrs. Georgia Anderman
Mr. William Arnold
Ms. Thais Ashkenas
Mr. Charles Augello
Mr. Ben Augello
Mrs. Joan Augello
Ms. Dawn Berry
Ms. Bobbette Biddullph
Mr. & Mrs. Martin Borko
City of Middletown IDA

Laurence Clemente
Nancy Cohen
Ms. John Compitello
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Conklin
Ms. Colette De Thomas
Ms. Nancy Depalma
Mr. Peter Diamond
Mr. Edward Diana
Mr. & Mrs. Martin Dlugatz
Barbara Doty
Phyliss Dunitz
Harold Einbinder

Ms. Michele Ellerin
Mr. Donald Ellison
Archie & Alice Fellenzer
Ms. Stacey Finkelstein
Charles & Kathleen Finnerty
Ms. Rita Forrester
John Gebhards
Linda Gette
Dr. and Mrs. Michael Gilman
Beverly Goetschius
Ms. Lila Green
Ms. Penny Gullette
Hill-N-Dale Abstracters, Inc.
Dr. & Mrs. Richard Hull
Ms. Nanci Itzla
Jacobowitz & Gubits, LLP
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Judelson, Giordano & Siegel
Mr. & Mrs. Warren Kelly
Dr. & Mrs. Stuart Kleeman
Mr. Jeffrey Kramer
Mr. Lester Lain
Deborah Lain
Marlena Lange
Mrs. Carol Levine
Ms. Minna Levine
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Steven Lindemann
Mr. Lawrence Lissauer
Mr. James Lowe
Ms. Kathleen Lupino
Dr. Kenneth Madoff, D.D.S.
Hedda Maleh
Richard Mamelok
Eleanor Mamelok
Maple Hill Elementary
Nancy Markoff
Sandra Martin
Dr. & Mrs. Douglas McBride
Middletown Housing
Associates L.P.
Rick Minkus
Ms. Kate Morris
Ms. Janice Nappo
New York-New Jersey
Trail Conference
Ms. Evelyn Noelle
Kevin O'Shea
Mr. Larry Osofsky
Nancy Portnoy
Mr. Stanley Price
Mr. & Mrs. Carman Prisco
Mrs. Robin Rabinowitz
Lynn Riccardulli
Mr. David Rider.
Ms. Betty Roberts
Ms. Nancy Roberts
Ms. Edna Rosen
Sandra Sciortino, Esq.

Mr. Stephen Shaw
Ms. Barbara Shuster
Mr. and Mrs. Scott Shuster
Mr. and Mrs. William Siegel
Mr. James Steenrod
Mr. & Mrs. David Stewart
Ms. Beatrice Sustack
Mrs. Thelma Swana
Mr. & Mrs. James Tarvin
Mr. Bruce Thompson
Ms. William Usis
Ms. Celeste Van Fleet
Donald Walton
Mr. Paul Wasmund
Ms. Susan Webber
Cynthia Weintraub
Laura & Raymond Wong-Pan
Mr. & Mrs. John Yrizarry

The OCLT also received these gifts during the first quarter of '09:

Gift Honorariums

In Honor of Rodger Friedman,
~Ms. Joan Slyker

In Honor of Marlena Lange
~"Happy Birthday" from
Cathie Swyka

Gift Memorariums, Made in Memory of:

Steve Bogart
~Mr. & Mrs. Art & Jane Groves

Our brother Zimri
~Allen Ethos, Randy Enos and
Doug Milne

Dorothy Fishbeck
~Mrs. Joan Augello

Margaret Theresa Kennedy
~Mr. & Mrs. Jan van Heerden

In loving memory of
Gertrude H. Miller and
Faye Hubler Deichler
~Cornelia Miller



Ways of Giving to the OCLT

We invite you to consider a planned gift with the Orange County Land Trust. When the Land Trust protects a piece of land in Orange County, that piece of land is protected in perpetuity.

Our commitment to preservation is absolutely long-term, and we ask our supporters to think long-term when considering a gift to the Land Trust. Some ways of giving long term charitable gifts are to:

- Contribute to the Louis V. Mills Planned Giving Club, a 3-year pledge to support the operations of the Land Trust.
- Consider naming the Land Trust in your will
- Make a gift to one of our endowment funds managed by the Community Foundation of Orange and Sullivan Counties, or start your own endowment fund. The interest provides long term gifts to the OCLT for stewardship of our preserved lands.

There are many other ways to support your local land trust and make a lasting contribution to the future of your community:

- Donate cash to one or both of our annual appeal campaigns
- Donate land for private use or public nature preserve
- Attend one of our fundraisers or host a house party for friends
- Make a gift to the OCLT in honor or in memory of someone
- Explore a matching gifts program with your employer
- Donate land or conservation easement by will, remainder trust or gift annuity
- Volunteer at the OCLT and help us plan fundraising events or steward our public nature preserves! Donated trees are also needed for plantings along the banks of the Wallkill River and its tributaries to prevent bank erosion.

To find out more about these initiatives, call us.

Kenneth Abt (seated, left) Chairman and CEO of First Federal Savings of Middletown, presents Jim Delaune, Executive Director of the Orange County Land Trust, with a donation to kick off the Land Trust's 2008 Annual Year End Appeal, as Margaret Smith, FFS President (standing, right) and FFS Vice President Patricia Horton (standing, left) look on.



Why We Support OCLT

Thanks to the Orange County Land Trust our farm will always be a farm. We are grateful for this and support their efforts to protect land for future generations, as well as to educate all of us about the natural world. It is vital to human survival!

~ Jan and Sandra van Heerden, Clove Brook Farm, Salisbury Mills

Sandra van Heerden with OCLT advisory council member Dr. Douglas McBride



ORANGE COUNTY LAND TRUST

STAFF DIRECTORY

| | |
|--|---|
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| CAROLINE HAMLING (845) 343-0840 ext 14 | Communications Director |
| SARAH HUTTON (845) 343-0840 ext 10 | Office Manager |
| DEBBIE MARTUCCI (845) 343-0840 ext 15 | Bookkeeping Consultant |
| JONATHAN MOGELEVER (845) 343-0840 ext 11 | Development Director |
| KARIN ROUX (845) 343-0840 ext 16 | Director of Stewardship and Conservation |
| MEREDITH TAYLOR (845) 343-0840 ext 13 | Project Coordinator |



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