

# Open Space News

## Second Mt. Eve Parcel Protected

Stanley Kocot grew up on the Black Dirt farm on Mt. Eve that his family had tilled for at least two generations before him. So it was with great enthusiasm that Stanley worked with the Orange County Land Trust to protect his 50-acre tract in perpetuity.

Mt. Eve is a special place: it rises abruptly out of the flat Black Dirt farming area, making it highly visible throughout central Orange County, and is also an important sanctuary for wildlife. This is the second Mt. Eve parcel that has been protected by the Land Trust and brings the total land protected on Mt. Eve to 131 acres. This mountain, a priority protection area for the Land Trust, is part of the open space plans of both New York State and the Town of Warwick. The Land Trust is interested in helping landowners and the community protect as much of Mt. Eve as possible.

Part of the original Wawayanda patent, Mt. Eve was settled by some of the first farmers to arrive in Orange County in the early 1700s. There was an active granite mining community here for a short time. Today largely forested, the mountain is favored by black bear, long-tailed weasel, and other mammals. Vernal pools provide habitat for salamanders. Rare butterflies and uncommon plants make Mt. Eve their home.

Acquisition of the easement on this property was made



*Landowner Stanley Kocot (ctr.) congratulated by Land Trust Executive Director John Gebhards and by Board members Elmire Conklin, Louis V. Mills and Doug McBride for donating a conservation easement on his Mt. Eve property.*

possible through funding from Orange County, the Open Space Institute, and the New York Conservation Partnership Program administered by the Land Trust Alliance Northeast Program.

## Grants Awarded to Orange County Land Trust

The Orange County Land Trust has been awarded two grants by the New York Conservation Partnership Program administered by the Northeast Land Trust Alliance. A \$5,000 transaction grant was made to help cover costs for conservation of land in an area that the New York State Open Space Plan considers a priority protection area.

The second grant, for \$4,000, has helped to foster organizational development. This grant defrayed costs associated with development of our new five-year strategic plan.

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## Supporters Respond To Verizon Challenge

Thanks to the efforts of volunteer Jeffrey Hunter, the Land Trust has received a challenge grant from Verizon Communications. The company will match, dollar for dollar, every donation received in connection with our May 31 Spring Bird-a-Thon.

On that day, ten volunteers from Verizon, led by expert naturalists from the Land Trust, will explore the grasslands, marshes, rivers and farmlands in Orange County to garner as high a count of bird species as possible.

Meantime Land Trust volunteers and board members, led by volunteer Marlena Lange, have been calling supporters to let them know of this wonderful opportunity to see their donations doubled. If you haven't heard from us, but would like to have your donation matched this year, send your check to P.O. Box 2442, Middle-

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Please call the Land Trust office, 343-0840, to confirm time and place

#### May 17

Canoe the Wallkill with Jim Ullrich and the Wallkill River Task Force

#### May 31

Verizon Bird-a-Thon, 9 AM-4 PM

#### June 7

Tenth Annual Dinner Celebration and Silent Auction at Arden House. Call our office (343-0840) for information and reservations

#### June 22

Celebrate Orange County Day with an outing at our bucolic Hunter Farm Preserve, 1-3 PM.

#### September 7

Special Outing for Leadership Circle Members, 1-3 PM (Chairman's Circle, Land Conservators, Land Protectors)

#### September 21

Hudson River Ramble. Participate in this celebration of our beautiful Wallkill River, a major tributary of the Hudson. Sponsored by Wallkill River Task Force

#### October 19

Fall outing at Moonbeams Sanctuary. Experience the diversity that has made this preserve a field station for biology studies at OCCC. Then join us for cider and donuts

*Members of the Leadership Circle receive personal notification of special events planned to thank them for their generous support of open space in Orange County.*

town, NY 10940 by May 31, or call the office at (845) 343-0840 for further information.

## Pepsi-Cola of the Hudson Valley Hosts Reception for Land Trust

It was a festive evening at Pepsi-Cola of the Hudson Valley in Newburgh, as prominent Newburgh-area businessmen Tim and Scott Tenney hosted a reception to introduce the Orange County Land Trust to community leaders. Land Trust board members were on hand to meet guests and discuss open space preservation issues in Orange County.

Land Trust Executive Director John Gebhards gave a brief slide presentation showing some properties protected by the Land Trust, sparking a lively question-and-answer session afterward. Several guests expressed an interest in learning more about our land protection work.

"We really appreciate the Tenneys' generosity in hosting this affair," said Land Trust President Louis V. Mills. "It was a wonderful way to help people become more familiar with the Land Trust."

### Boy Scouts Build Bluebird Boxes for Moonbeams Preserve



Photo courtesy Wynn Gold

For the Orange County Land Trust's Moonbeams Preserve in the Town of Wallkill, Boy Scout Troop 118 (l to r: David Casazza, Nicky Duckworth & Justin Munkelt) assembled bluebird boxes with lumber donated by Doug Spaulding's sawmill in Cornwall and precutting provided by local resident John Thorp. According to Boy Scout troop leader and Land Trust volunteer Ron Jurain, the project is not for a specific badge but for the benefit of the community. Moonbeams Preserve, a mix of woods and meadows that offers great habitat for bluebirds, is open to the public.

### Welcome to Board, Mike Gilman!

When retired veterinarian Mike Gilman became concerned about the increasing pace of development in Orange County, he went to see his old friend and fellow veterinarian Doug McBride, Vice President of the Land Trust.

Doug wasted no time in recruiting Mike as a volunteer with the Land Trust, on both the land protection and land stewardship committees, and now as a full board member. Says Mike, "It feels great to be part of a team that is giving this gift of land preservation to the community."



## Land Trust Calls for Countywide Conservation Alliance

Thirteen public and private conservation organizations attended two organizational meetings to create a countywide conservation alliance, in order to advance protection of Orange County open space.

The idea of a county alliance of land conservation organizations was proposed by Louis V.



Mills, President of the Orange County Land Trust, "so that we can coordinate our efforts to ensure protection of critically important areas of Orange County." The idea is based on the highly successful Westchester Open Space Alliance.

*Organizational meetings of an Orange County open space alliance were hosted at Bear Mtn. by Carol Ash (r.), Commissioner of the Palisades Interstate Park Commission. Land Trust President Louis V. Mills (l.) and county Commissioner of Planning Dave Church attended the first session.*

## Guidelines Reviewed at Stewardship Training Session

On a warm, sunny Sunday afternoon in April, Land Trust volunteers attended a stewardship training session—not in an office or conference room, but in an apple orchard on Prospect Hill, overlooking the Hudson River. As Jim O'Herron, owner of the orchard, pruned his trees, Land Trust Executive Director John Gebhards explained the guidelines our stewards follow when monitoring the lands we protect.

The orchard is a part of what used to be Jim O'Herron's family's farm.

Several years ago Jim donated a conservation easement on his property in order to ensure that this land will never be developed.

For information on becoming a steward contact Land Stewardship Chair Deanna Prisco at the Land Trust office, 343-0840.



*Recent Land Trust stewardship training session was held on Jim O'Herron's land on Prospect Hill, overlooking the Hudson.*

### Support the Orange County Land Trust--Please make a Financial Donation Today!

Yes, I want to help the Orange County Land Trust protect locally important meadows, forests, farmlands and places for public enjoyment and recreation.

Here is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Also enclosed is my company's matching gift form

Every dollar goes directly to land preservation work in Orange County!

**\$1,000+ Land Conservator**

**\$500-999 Land Protector**

**\$250-499 Land Champion**

**\$100-249 Land Steward**

**Under \$100 Friend**

Names of all contributors of \$100 or more will be listed in our 2003 Annual Report. Please indicate how you would like your name to appear.

Please keep my gifts anonymous

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to include the Land Trust in my will. Please call me.

I would like to volunteer at the Land Trust.

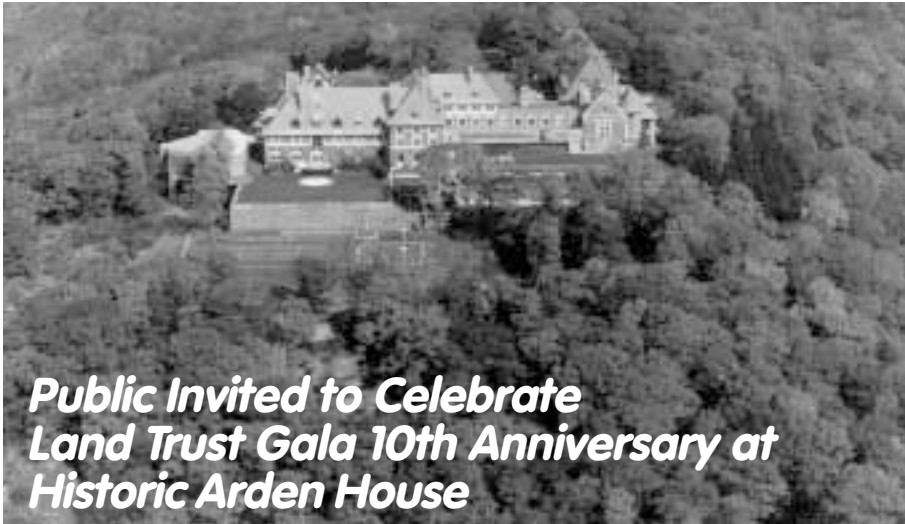
I would like to learn more about how to donate land.

The Orange County Land Trust is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt public charity; all donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. A copy of the Orange County Land Trust annual report may be obtained by calling or writing to John Gebhards, Executive Director, Orange County Land Trust, PO Box 2442, Middletown, NY 10940; (845) 343-0840, or by writing to the NYS office of the Attorney General, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271.

**ORANGE COUNTY  
LAND TRUST**  
**PO Box 2442**  
**Middletown NY 10940**  
PHONE: (845) 343-0840  
email: oclt@warwick.net

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## *Public Invited to Celebrate Land Trust Gala 10th Anniversary at Historic Arden House*

The Land Trust will celebrate ten years of open space preservation in Orange County with a festive dinner and silent auction to be held on June 7 at historic Arden House at Harriman State Park.

"Arden House, the Harriman family home, is a fitting place to celebrate our accomplishments in open space preservation," said Land Trust President Louis V. Mills, "since the first significant tract of open space protected in Orange County was given to the state by the Harriman family in 1910, comprising what is now the heart of the Palisades Interstate Park system."

The magnificent 96-room Arden House commands a ridge overlooking the Ramapo River Valley on the west

and Forest and Cranberry Lakes on the east. The technical challenges of building a home in this location delighted E.H. Harriman, who built a cable railway to haul materials up the mountain.

Half a century later, Ned Northrop, a direct descendant of E.H. Harriman, became the first major donor to the fledgling Orange County Land Trust.

An extra feature will be our first silent auction, including such unusual offerings as a private eco-tour of Jamaica Bay or Sterling Forest, a Florida vacation condo, and tickets to a US Tennis Open or Giants game.

Please call the Land Trust office, 343-0840, for reservations and info.

### **ORANGE COUNTY LAND TRUST**

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.

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

#### **Officers**

Louis V. Mills <i>President</i>	Joseph Fowler <i>Treasurer</i>
Douglas McBride <i>Vice President</i>	Jean Wort <i>Secretary</i>

#### **Board Members**

John Baranowski	Bruce Lott
Albert Buckbee	Andrew Mills
Elmire Conklin	Stefan Neuhaus
Ralph Decker	Deanna Prisco
Peter Garrison	Norman Shapiro
Mike Gilman	Dennis Smith
Seymour Gordon	Herb Stein
Art Lain	T. Marshall
Jacques Levine	Swartwood
	Mary Yrizarry

#### **STAFF**

John Gebhards <i>Executive Director</i>	Ann Botshon <i>Walkkill River Task Force Coordinator</i>
Linda Gette <i>Development Director</i>	