



Orange County Land Trust

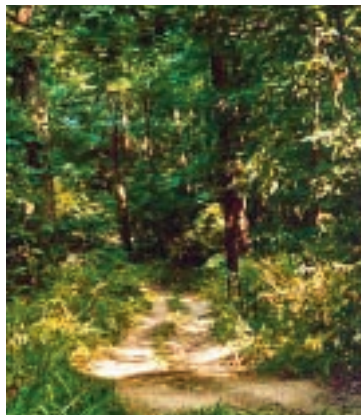
# Open Space News

## New Preserves offer Public Recreation and Wildlife Protection

### Fuller Mountain Preserve in Warwick

Steve and Liz Roland wanted to do something for their community. So when they decided to sell their land in southern Warwick, they donated 255 acres to the Land Trust, along with an endowment to ensure the land would be permanently protected.

The preserve is the largest protected by the Land Trust since its founding in 1993. The ecologically rich woodland stretches from north of Black Rock Road to the New Jersey border, with a sparkling stream running the length of the preserve. Frogs, toads and salamanders live in the wetlands around the stream. The fertile woods are full of ferns and wildflowers, an abundance of bird life, and many mammals including long-tailed weasel, otter and black bear.



We are planning a nature walk on the property on June 11. See the Calendar page at [www.orange-countylandtrust.org](http://www.orange-countylandtrust.org) for details or call 343-0840.

Funding for this acquisition was provided by Orange County, the New York State Legislature's Conservation Partnership Program, and the Town of Warwick.

### Laurel Hill Preserve in Minisink

After five long years of negotiations, the Land Trust has closed on our new 89-acre Laurel Hill Preserve in the Town of Minisink!

Most of the land is forest, dominated by oak and maple, with some successional species as well. There is a small alfalfa field in one corner. Tunkamoes Creek, a tributary of the Wallkill, runs along the northern border, paralleled by wetlands and vernal pools. This wide variety of habitats creates niches for a great variety of plant and animal species.

In addition to protecting a portion of the Wallkill watershed and the biologically diverse habitats, this preserve will provide a wonderful outdoor experience for residents of the fast-developing western part of our county. This summer, Land Trust volunteers will work to create a blazed trail through the woodland.

The land was donated by Alan Wolpert, with acquisition costs paid in part by support from Orange County.



*Celebrating the announcement of the new Fuller Mt. Preserve: Jason Rashford from Sue Kelly's office, Dan Moscato from Sen. Morahan's office, Liz & Steve Roland, County Executive Ed Diana, Land Trust President Doug McBride & Warwick Supervisor Michael Sweeton.*

## Land Trust Teams Up with Scenic Hudson on Snake Hill Stewardship

At the request of Scenic Hudson, Inc. Orange County Land Trust has agreed to share stewardship of Scenic Hudson's recently acquired Snake Hill property. Plans are being developed to create public access to this 95-acre landmark property, with breathtaking views of the Hudson River and the Highlands. The site is adjacent to San Gioacomo Park in the Town of New Windsor.

"We are delighted to work with Scenic Hudson on this project," said Land Trust President Doug McBride. "New Windsor and Newburg are growing communities whose citizens are yearning for places to recreate and relax. This land contributes to the beauty and character of our community, and we are happy to work to preserve and enhance it."



## New Agreements Protect the Shawangunk Ridge, Mt. Eve & Greenville Lands

*View from the Shawangunk Ridge*



### Shawangunk Ridge

“One of the Last Great Places.” That’s how the Shawangunk Ridge, which runs through Orange County, has been described. This land is so special that New York State, the County of Orange, and the Orange County Land Trust have all encouraged its preservation in their Open Space Plans.

In November, we completed an agreement to preserve 44 acres along the ridge, bringing the total acreage our Land Trust has protected on the ridge to 97. This deal protects the view of this landmark ridgeline from the valley below. In addition, plans are in place to relocate the Shawangunk Ridge Trail, linking Mohonk and Sam’s Point to High Point State Park in New Jersey, onto this protected land.

“Preservation of the woodlands on these steep slopes will help ensure protection of clean drinking water and flood protection for residents of the valley below,” said Land Trust Executive Director John Gebhards, “and will provide a ridge corridor for animals such as black bear and coyote.”

Funding for this project came from the County of Orange and from the New York State Conservation Partnership Program.

### Mt. Eve

An additional 26 acres of land at the base of Mt. Eve has been protected through the generosity of Elmire and Howard Conklin, who have donated the land to the Land Trust along with a generous endowment to ensure the land’s protection. This latest acqui-

### 2005 Outings Schedule

*Preserves are held in trust for residents and visitors to Orange County. Join us to explore these special places. Call for details and directions or visit the Calendar page at our website:*

[www.orangecountylandtrust.org](http://www.orangecountylandtrust.org)

**Sunday, June 26, 1 pm,** Hunter Preserve: Celebrate Orange County Day with Kelly Dobbins and OCCC biologist Dr. Jennifer Merriam.

**Sunday, July 17, 9:30 am:** Butterflies Galore. Join John Yrizarry in a hunt for butterflies at several sites. Call for details.

**Saturday, September 17:** Canoe the Wallkill in your boat or reserve a spot in one of ours. Part of the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Hudson River Ramble. Reservations required.

**Sunday, October 16, 1 pm,** Moonbeams Preserve: Autumn Leaves Walk with OCCC Biology Professor Monty Vacura.

**Saturday, November 5, 10 am,** Moonbeams Preserve: Winter Storage in Woods and Fields with OCCC’s Dr. Jennifer Merriam.

### Warwick Artists Donate Proceeds

Two Warwick artists were chosen for inclusion in this year’s Craft Show at the Smithsonian. Laura Breitman’s landscapes are worked in fabric collages, while Gary Genetti creates glass jars and vases with natural motifs. Both artists have generously donated a portion of the proceeds from their sales to the Land Trust. “The beauty of Orange County is an inspiration,” said Laura, “and we’re happy to help preserve it for us and for the future.”



*Gary Genetti and Laura Breitman*

sition brings the total acreage protected on this landmark mountain to 171. Mt. Eve is a focus area for protection by our Land Trust, as well as the Town of Warwick, Orange County, and New York State.

### Greenville

In the town of Greenville, G&G Boynton have donated a conservation easement on their land. The old barn, shed and stone walls tell a tale of the land's past life as a farm, but trees have grown up in the abandoned pastures – maple, hickory and oak, with an understory of spice-bush and blueberry bushes. Orange County's recently adopted Open Space Plan ranks this land as a high priority for protection because it helps ensure clean drinking water for thousands by protecting part of the headwaters of the Shawangunk Kill, an important supplier of Middletown's reservoir.



### Sold-Out Land Trust Gala to Honor Leading Conservationists

Jean and John Wort are being honored this year at our sold-out benefit dinner at the Hotel Thayer for their extraordinary accomplishments in land and historic preservation. Seymour Gordon will receive the Louis V. Mills award for his work in farmland protection. Winthrop Aldrich, former NYS Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation, will be the keynote speaker. The evening promises lots of excitement, with a fabulous lineup of silent auction items, including exclusive use of the Carousel at Bear Mountain, private tours of Sterling Forest and Constitution Island, fly fishing lessons, Giants football tickets, and our traditional "gardener's pile of poop."

### Bat Mitzvah Benefit

"As my Bat Mitzvah came closer, I wondered what I would do as my Mitzvah (act of human kindness and decency)." After some thought, Oriane Rosner, decided to invite her Bat Mitzvah guests to honor her by making a donation to the Orange County Land Trust. "Land conservation is close to my heart, for it saves land and wildlife as well."



### Comings and Goings

Our Land Trust has accepted with great regret the resignations of three long-time board members. Mary Yrizarry, Art Lain and Norm Shapiro have been with the organization since its earliest days, and we owe much of our success to their hard work. We will miss all three at our board meetings, but know they will remain involved as volunteers and supporters of our organization.

On a happier note, we are delighted to welcome two new members to our board. One of our original board members, Lucy Joyce, is returning after a 5-year hiatus. Lucy is Agriculture Issues Leader at Cornell Cooperative Extension. And we're pleased that long-time volunteer Lynn Barber has agreed to join our board. Lynn is a realtor and the president of Orange County Audubon. Welcome, Lucy and Lynn!

### Grants Received for Equipment

Thanks to generous grants from the Dyson Foundation and Orange & Rockland Utilities, Orange County Land Trust will be upgrading our computer equipment. As our support base and staff have grown, our computers just haven't been able to keep up. We very much appreciate the support from our grantors, and from long-time volunteer Marian McDermott, who has helped design our new system.

### Your Future and Ours!

Would you like to support the Land Trust and provide retirement income for yourself? This is the program for you! Donation of a charitable gift annuity to the Land Trust will give you a tax deduction today, and tax-deductible income in the future.

Here's what donor Marlena Lange said about her Orange County Land Trust Charitable Gift Annuity:

"I've been searching for a "green" investment – something that would help protect our environment in Orange County and provide a secure return for my retirement. The return this investment will provide is higher than that from many investments, and will help keep Orange County green, too.

Since I've been volunteering with the Orange County Land Trust for several years, I've gotten to know the people who run it. They are dedicated and trustworthy, and they're doing a terrific job in preserving air and water quality and open space here in Orange County. What better place to invest!"



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**“Best friend of land preservation in the Hudson Valley.”** – *Hudson Valley Magazine*

## DOUBLE YOUR MONEY TO PROTECT ORANGE COUNTY'S SPECIAL PLACES

Orange County Land Trust is thrilled to announce a **matching grant** from Verizon again this year. Every dollar you donate during our 2004 Bird-a-thon event will mean two dollars for land protection! Our dedicated volunteers will be calling you soon to ask for your support. Please make a generous pledge when they call, or mail your donation marked “for the birds” now in the enclosed envelope.

THANK YOU!



### 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

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Linda Gette, *Development Director*

Open Space is Published by the Orange County Land Trust