



FALL 2012



# WESTCHESTER LAND TRUST

Protecting Westchester's lands and communities...

## How Will You Enjoy the Fall? *We have some ideas...*



Join a guided hike and explore a new preserve. p. 4



Visit a local farm and come home with a fall bounty. p. 3



Volunteer at Sugar Hill Farm for food bank. p. 4



Celebrate the season at our Open House.

Save  
the date:  
**OPEN HOUSE**  
**October 26th**  
See p. 4

Bedford's Clean Water & Open Space Referendum - p. 2





**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

Jonathan L. Wiesner, Chair  
Nancy Karch, Vice-Chair  
Benjamin F. Needell, Vice-Chair  
Steve Beckwith, Treasurer  
Susan S. Henry, Secretary  
George Bianco  
Nanette Bourne  
Lori J. Ensinger  
Amy Ferguson  
Jerome R. Goldstein  
David Grech  
Peter Hauspurg  
Peter Kamenstein  
Elizabeth Kilgallon  
Douglas M. Kraus  
Vivien G. Malloy  
Lee Manning-Vogelstein  
Peter Menzies  
David H. Small  
Elizabeth A. Taggart  
Paul J. Zofnass

**CHAIRMAN EMERITUS:**

Samuel F. Pryor, III

**FOUNDER:** Louis McCagg

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:**

Candace M. Schafer

**Development Director:** Hannah Stein  
**Director of Art & Events:** Bobbe Stultz  
**Director of Conservation Programs:**  
Kara Hartigan Whelan  
**Director of Stewardship:** David M. Emerson  
**Consultant, Land Preservation  
and In-House Counsel:** Susan E. Carpenter  
**Assistant Development Director:** Grace Buck  
**Office Manager:** Betty Sue Hanson  
**Preservation Associate:** Kate Sann  
**Land Steward:** William Kuebler  
**Administrative Assistant:**  
Evelyn Tapani-Rosenthal

914-241-6346 /fax:914-241-4508  
e-mail: info@westchesterlandtrust.org



WLT is a member of Earth Share, a nationwide federation of the country's most respected environmental and conservation charities.

Learn how you and your workplace can support us through an Earth Share charitable giving campaign: Contact Grace Buck, 914-241-6346 x23 or go to earthshare.org.

# Partnerships for Clean Water

Westchester Land Trust and WAC (Watershed Agricultural Council) are teaming up to help protect drinking water by planting trees at our preserves. Pictured here (top), staff members from each organization planted 60 new trees at Hunter Brook and removed harmful, invasive plants that can grow at quick rates and compete with native species. Native plants are essential to fostering a diversity of wildlife. Planting trees along streambanks helps protect against erosion and downstream contamination.

Hunter Brook Preserve is a natural filtration system for a major tributary stream of the Croton Reservoir, which provides clean water for



Corporate volunteer groups have also helped protect Hunter Brook, including Ernst & Young and Pepsi (lower photo).

residents in Westchester and New York City.

This 45 acres of protected woodlands and wetlands is an

important natural buffer between the farm land to the west and residential development with houses, yards, and roadways to the east.

Our efforts at Hunter Brook started in 2000 when it was donated from Wilder-Balter Partners. As part of our commitment, WLT will ensure that Hunter Brook and all our properties remain in a natural state forever. ▲

## Clean Water, Open Space: Vote Yes!

Land conservation is a group effort, made possible by neighbors, municipalities and conservation groups coming together and making a commitment to protect our lands and waters. This November, Bedford residents have an opportunity to continue the open space fund that makes it possible to protect valuable land forever.

These open space funds are part of many Westchester town budgets and have served to protect significant portions of the County for more than a decade. WLT is working with several conservation partners to spread the word to Bedford residents about why these funds are essential to protecting clean water and undeveloped, natural lands. These funds could be at risk in many Westchester communities, and we urge residents to keep open space

funds as a top priority for our future.

For 12 years, Bedford's open space funds were used to protect more than 70 acres of Croton watershed land, which helps provide clean drinking water. Now, residents must vote yes on November 6 to keep the open space funding.

Each Bedford household would pay \$20/year to help permanently protect our most valuable natural resources. A recent poll shows protection of clean water and open space is still a top priority for Bedford residents. WLT will continue its advocacy work in Bedford and beyond, informing residents about the many ways we all can make clean water and open space a priority. ▲

[bedfordcleanwateropenspace.weebly.com](http://bedfordcleanwateropenspace.weebly.com)

Proud to be a corporate sponsor of WLT



National Leader in Energy Procurement and Energy & Environmental Reporting

# Local Farms, New Beginnings

**F**arming is an intimate business. You grow, pick and sell produce to someone that you meet at the farm stand who will serve that food for dinner with their family. Producing something that nourishes people and their families is pretty cool," says Josh Frost.

Ashley Frost, and her husband Josh, owners and operators of Seedswell Vegetable Farm at Tanrackin Farm in Mount Kisco, represent a growing

soon add a new greenhouse; and in 2013 will begin CSAs. The couple follow organic principles and grow all of their produce naturally, without chemicals, in the highest quality soil for nutritionally rich food.

How did they do it? Ashley and Josh credit the support of other farmers. According to



Seedswell Farm owners, Josh and Ashley Frost, with their dog, Niko.

**"It's important to have our land used in a productive manner. We are pleased that the farmstand serves the community and that the land has enabled Ashley and Josh to start their business."**

*~ Bob Mancini*

movement of young people committing their lives to agriculture, producing healthy food, selling locally, and connecting people directly to their food source.

Young farmers face huge barriers. In Westchester, the cost of land and housing are two main concerns. Westchester also represents a foodshed for New York City, where demand for high quality, local produce is substantial and growing.

Seedswell's opening in March 2011 could not have been possible without Tanrackin Farm owners Bob and Beth Mancini, who are providing a land lease. WLT matched the Mancinis with their first farmer in 2009. Bob and Beth are deeply committed to land conservation and protected 345 acres of Burdick and Jensen Farms in Patterson and part of Tanrackin Farm. The two couples found each other because Ashley's grandparents owned Burdick Farm, which was one of Patterson's last commercial dairy farms and closed in the 1980s.

In one year, the Frosts doubled the size of their operation to 1.5 acres; will

everyone wants to help each other out. There are no trade secrets. We share a common goal. Farming is hard enough, and there are plenty of people to feed!"

The couple started small and grew

**Seedswell Farmstand is open Tues. & Thurs. 1-5pm and Saturdays 10-4 pm  
284 Guard Hill Road, Mount Kisco, NY  
[www.seedswell.com](http://www.seedswell.com)**

Josh, "Farming is one of the few jobs that

seedlings in their basement in Patterson, along with plantings in a garden bed during the first winter. Josh scoured every Craigslist ad and farmers' auction for years in search of affordable equipment. They were tenacious about their goal and used every available resource to make Seedswell happen. Ashley and Josh say they chose this path because nature is always complicated and unpredictable, there is always something to learn.

For more about how WLT supports farmland expansion and the Mancini's preservation efforts:

[westchesterlandtrust.org/farmers-network](http://westchesterlandtrust.org/farmers-network)  
[westchesterlandtrust.org/mancini-easements](http://westchesterlandtrust.org/mancini-easements). ▲

## WELCOME! NEW BOARD DIRECTORS

**Nanette Bourne:** "WLT realizes that there is more to stewardship than land acquisition-there needs to be forethought, planning, and follow through to truly protect environmentally vulnerable land. WLT gets this and the future for Westchester County is that much better." Nanette is a Senior VP and Managing Director of the Hudson Valley office of AKRF, Inc., an environmental planning and engineering firm. She is a member of several boards and chairs the New York League of Conservation Voters in Westchester, the White Plains Beautification Foundation, and Friends

of Westchester County Parks.

**Amy Ferguson:**

"It is very important to me that we are taking a proactive approach to protecting both the environment and the character of our community for future generations." Amy volunteers in her local community of Mt. Kisco. She has been an active volunteer for WLT for almost a decade while raising her three young children.





WESTCHESTER LAND TRUST  
403 Harris Road  
Bedford Hills NY 10507

Foleys:  
add per  
mit info  
here

## Volunteer and Re-Charge Your Day with WLT!

*"This day made me very nostalgic about the time I used to spend in upstate NY. It brings back a lot of good memories.* -- Filipe Covas, Ernst & Young

We love to say, "We planned it this way. Our volunteers always leave really happy!"

You can volunteer for WLT and become part of a unique experience that requires getting a little dirty, a little tired and a little happier for a day well spent building trails or harvesting for the Food Bank for Westchester.



To learn how you can volunteer with WLT contact [Bobbe@westchesterlandtrust.org](mailto:Bobbe@westchesterlandtrust.org)

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

To register or for more info, go to [www.westchesterlandtrust.org](http://www.westchesterlandtrust.org)



**3rd Annual Open House  
& Harvest Celebration  
Friday, October 26  
4:30-6:30  
Sugar Hill Farm  
403 Harris Rd, Bedford Hills**

**Enjoy wine and fall treats, live music by "The Woes," and pumpkin decorating. Thin-crust gourmet pizzette from Via Vanti! with ingredients from our farmers. Non-perishable items for local food banks are requested. Bring the family. Reservations not required.**

**Thursday, Oct. 25, Sugar Hill Farm Volunteer Day, 10am- 2pm.** Harvest our final crops of the season for The Food Bank for Westchester. Contact [kate@westchesterlandtrust.org](mailto:kate@westchesterlandtrust.org)

**Tuesday, Nov. 6, Election Day. Bedford's Clean Water and Open Space Referendum. Vote Yes!**



Come out for birdhouse building on November 10th and bring the family!

**Saturday, Nov. 10, Build It, They Will Come, Sugar Hill Farm, 403 Harris Road, 10am - noon.**

Build a birdhouse designed for your backyard (woods, lawn, streams). Makes a great holiday gift! All ages welcome. Reservations required: 914-241-6346 x.23 [grace@westchesterlandtrust.org](mailto:grace@westchesterlandtrust.org)

**Saturday, Dec. 8, Take A Hike: Sleeping Beauties, Taxter Ridge Preserve, Greenburgh, 1-3pm.**

You'll never see a leafless tree the same again! The branches may be bare, but you will learn how to identify various types of trees and learn about the life of our local woodlands during the winter season at this beautiful preserve. Difficulty level: Easy.