

Westchester Land Trust

Another
115 acres
preserved!



It's Our Nature



*Introducing the
Dextra
Baldwin
McGonagle
Preserve*



*An Update
from our
Summer
Interns*



*2013 Annual
Report*



*An Evening
Under the Stars*

Dear Friends,

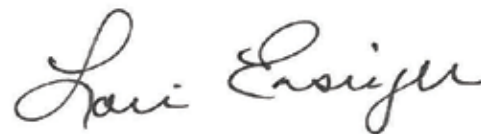
I first had the chance to hike the 115 acre parcel of land on Abbeyfield Lane in Patterson, New York last year. As part of the Ice Pond Conservation Area in the Great Swamp in Putnam County, the area is home to a wide variety of plant and animal species including a newly discovered leopard frog, more than 120 species of birds, and 600 species of vascular plants, mosses, and lichens. It was obvious that this was a piece of land that needed to be protected and preserved for future generations. In a unique collaboration, the Westchester Land Trust (WLT) worked with Putnam County Land Trust (PCLT) and Friends of the Great Swamp (FrOGS), to protect this land. Today, the parcels have been named the Dextra Baldwin McGonagle Preserve (p. 3) in honor of the foundation of the same name which was a lead donor to the project. PCLT will maintain ownership of the Preserve, while WLT will hold the conservation easement, thus ensuring the continued stewardship of the land and protection of this acreage forever.

This project is a shining example of what our organization can achieve with the collaboration and support of the community. And, as important, it is another in what we expect to be many conservation successes completed in the near future. The number of projects in our pipeline is burgeoning, and it is the most geographically diverse it has ever been — stretching from the Long Island Sound and the Hudson River to Putnam County, with many locations in between.

It is an exciting time to be protecting and enhancing the natural resources in the community we all share. But much like the fact that it takes many hands to care for the land, it is my privilege to continue the work of WLT's former Executive Director, Candace Schafer. **WLT was proud to honor Candace Schafer at our Annual Benefit** (p. 10) this past June and recognize her for the many successful projects she spearheaded during her tenure — protecting more than 450 acres including the Maryknoll Center in Ossining, Jensen and Burdick Farm in Putnam County, and many others. Protecting the land is just the first step. We have the responsibility to manage and steward it forever — clearing trails, building boardwalks, removing invasive plants, and restoring native trees and shrubs.

As we preserve and care for the land, we also have been training the next generation of conservationists. This summer, we had two interns engaged in several strategic projects at WLT preserves (p. 4). Their work will provide our stewardship team with ecological baselines and surveys that inform future land management decisions. We're proud of their efforts, and who knows, one day, they may be the future custodians of WLT's important work.

So, I invite you to join me and take a walk at one of our preserves, volunteer to clear a trail or harvest vegetables at our farm, and make a contribution in support of our efforts! We can't do it without your participation.



Lori J. Ensinger
President



Left: Lori J. Ensinger, WLT President, presents Jon Spanier, President of the Dextra Baldwin McGonagle Foundation with an aerial photo of the preserve.

Below: Laurie Wallace, Secretary/Treasurer of FrOGS, Susan Spear, Hudson Valley Regional Director for U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, Jonathan Wiesner WLT Board Chairman, Judi Terlizzi, President of PCLT, Jon Spanier, President of the Dextra Baldwin McGonagle Foundation, and Lori Ensinger, President of WLT.



Introducing the new 115-Acre

Dextra Baldwin McGonagle Preserve

HOW IT HAPPENED!

WLT worked with our conservation partners, PCLT and FrOGS to acquire three contiguous parcels on Abbeyfield Lane in Patterson, NY. In addition to funding from the Dextra Baldwin McGonagle Foundation, WLT and PCLT utilized internal funds earmarked for land acquisition, and FrOGS leveraged federal funding through the North American Wetlands Conservation Act for the project. Additionally, WLT also received a generous contribution from an anonymous private donor.

The protection of the preserve was celebrated at a ribbon cutting ceremony on July 22nd. More than 50 people were in attendance to celebrate this major conservation project. In addition to hearing about the path to protection and learning about the unique ecological and community value provided by this preserve, guests in attendance took a guided hike.

Lori J. Ensinger, WLT President, recognized the unique partnership that resulted in the protection of these 115 acres, saying, "This project is a shining example of how collaboration and cooperation with the community and like purposed organizations can result in outcomes that benefit the common good. Truly, without the generosity of so many different partners, we would never have been able to protect this vital wetland system."

PCLT will be working on creating a number of hiking trails on the preserve as well as identifying a formal entrance with parking area before they officially open the preserve to the public.

Located less than 60 miles from New York City, the Great Swamp is a vital 6,000-acre watershed in the Croton Reservoir system that supplies drinking water to millions of residents in southeastern New York. It is also one of the largest freshwater wetlands in the state stretching nearly 20-miles across the five municipalities of Southeast, Patterson, Pawling Town, Pawling Village, and Dover. **The Great Swamp improves water quality, recharges the aquifer, reduces flooding, provides critical habitat for plants and animals and creates open space for recreation and scenic views.**

The Ice Pond Conservation Area is a 52-acre glacial lake consisting of a peat-based wetland, shrub-scrub habitat, herbaceous marsh, and open pools **inhabited by beaver.** The surrounding ridges shelter the broad central wetland, reducing wind velocity through the corridor, retaining humidity, moderating the local climate, and fostering a wide diversity of flora and fauna.

The Ice Pond Conservation Area is home to a wide variety of plant and



animal species. "In addition to a newly discovered species of leopard frog and more than 120 species of birds, there are as many as 600 species of vascular plants, mosses, and lichens in the area. **It is also a major stopover roost for migrating waterfowl with as many as 5,000 ducks spending the night,**" said Dr. Jim Utter, Chairman of FrOGS.

Despite the value of this ecosystem, it is located on the edge of **swiftly advancing suburban development expanding north from New York City and Westchester County.**

The transformation of the property from developable land into protected

open space will yield a significant public benefit and furthers both established local and State governmental conservation policy. As stated in the 2009 New York Open Space Plan, one of the urgent priorities is the protection of drinking water-supply watersheds and water quality. In this regard, the protection of the Ice Pond Conservation Area, the Great Swamp, and the surrounding area - which drains into the Croton Reservoir system affecting the drinking water supply of more than 9.5 million people living in New York City and surrounding areas - was and continues to be a **"Priority Project"** for WLT. 🦉

A Successful Summer for WLT's Interns

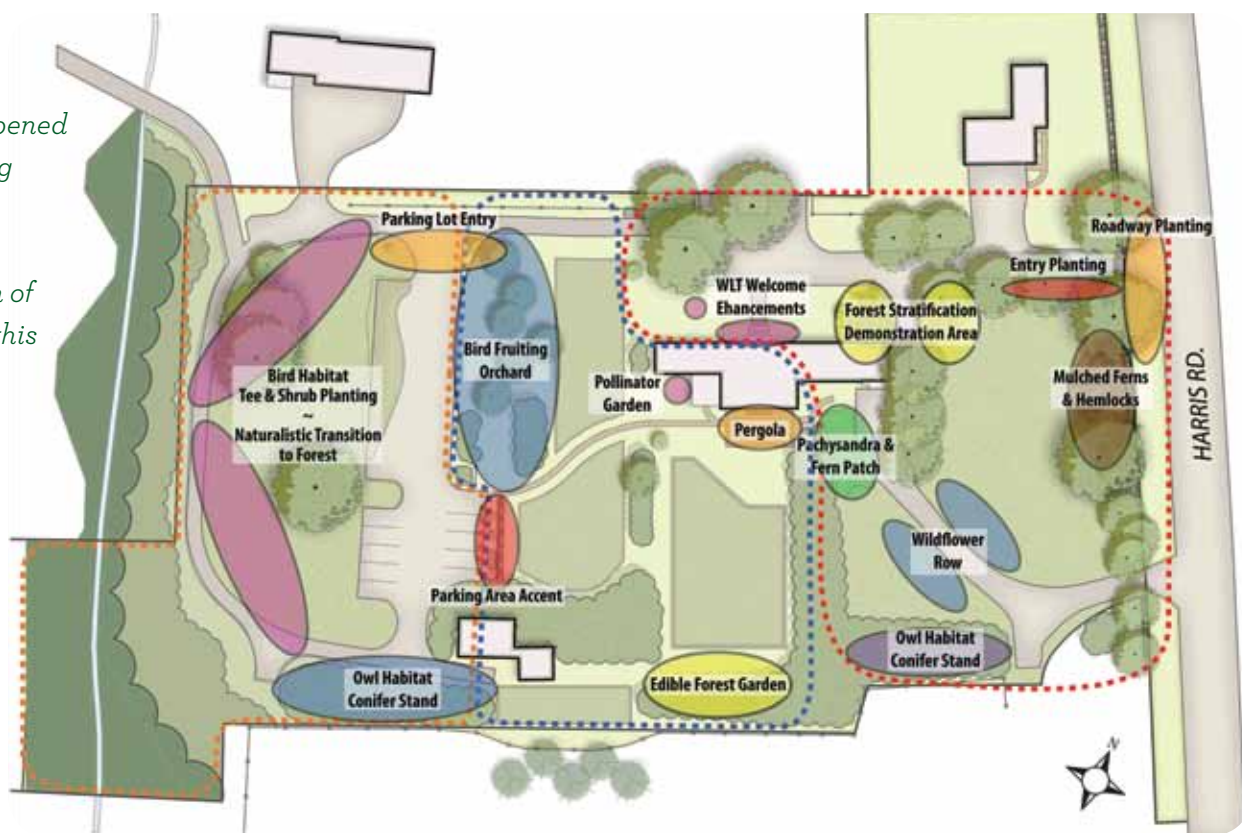
WLT's summer interns, Mike Kaminski & Kristen Gamboa, applied their skills to a dynamic roster of conservation projects in the fields of Landscape Architecture and Plant Ecology.



Mike Kaminski—a native of Yorktown Heights and a recent graduate of University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources and Environment—worked on several projects this summer. He designed enhanced parking areas at the Westchester Wilderness Walk/Zofnass Family Preserve (Pound Ridge), the Frederick P. Rose Preserve (Waccabuc), and the Rock Shelter Preserve (Waccabuc) using industry-specific computer programs like AutoCAD, Photoshop, and GIS. Additionally, Mike developed a sustainable landscape design plan for Sugar Hill Farm, WLT's Bedford Hills headquarters. Mike created clear visuals so that WLT can, in turn, transform each of these projects from the conceptual to the buildable. In addition to his extensive design work, Mike researched local building ordinances and permitting requirements and met with various town officials and planners to ensure that his designs would be successfully implemented.

Special thanks to Rusticus Garden Club for their support of our Landscape Architecture Internship.

"These diverse perspectives deepened my understanding of how to craft truly sustainable solutions for each of my assignments this summer."
— Mike Kaminski



Kristen Gamboa, a third-year student at Sterling College, focused her summer internship pursuits on an exhaustive inventory of plant species found at a number of WLT's public preserves—Westchester Wilderness Walk/Zofnass Family Preserve (Pound Ridge), Frederick P. Rose Preserve (Waccabuc), Rock Shelter Preserve (Waccabuc), and Pine Croft Meadow Preserve (Waccabuc). These surveys were critical, providing WLT's stewardship team with ecological baselines that best inform future land management decisions.

"Working for nature, rather than against it, is one of the powerful lessons I have learned during my time at WLT. I am truly grateful knowing that this is the field where I belong."
— Kristen Gamboa



METHOD
Kristen's survey at WWW/ZFP was conducted within the newly-erected deer enclosure—a fenced area that keeps deer out so that vegetation within the enclosure can be compared over time with vegetation outside the enclosure. These initial plant inventories allowed WLT to better demonstrate the effects of deer browse on forest vegetation and, hopefully, encourage the return of native plant species.



DISCOVERY
The Baltimore Checkerspot, a threatened butterfly species, was discovered at Pine Croft Meadow Preserve. It is discoveries like these that gave Kristen insight into the unique and ever-changing character of our landscape.



ACTION
Burning bush was found growing amongst native blueberries, huckleberries, and bayberries in the scrub-shrub habitat of the Frederick P. Rose Preserve. Kristen's thorough on-the-ground analysis ensured a swift intervention to stop the further spread of this pesky invasive.



Operating Support, Revenue & Expenses

January 1, 2013 – December 31, 2013

SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Individual Donations	\$615,018
Foundation Donations	345,400
Corporate & Government Donations	14,909
Special Events net of expenses	202,462
Special Projects	8,000
Miscellaneous	5,412

Total Operating Support and Revenue \$1,191,201

EXPENSES

Program Services	\$747,466
Fundraising	211,510
Management and Administration	178,550

Total Operating Expenses \$1,137,526

Non-Operating Endowment Donations:	\$127,881
Endowment Investment Income, net:	\$505,977
Net Assets (December 31, 2013) *	\$28,068,752

* Includes land held for conservation, Sugar Hill Farm, endowment funds, and other Board designated and restricted funds.

Please visit our website or contact us for a copy of our audited financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2013.

Thank You

to all of our incredibly generous donors and volunteers. It is only because of your support that we are able to accomplish all that we have. We are all in this together!

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WLT STATS!

Total Population in our Service Area
1,051,718

Total Population affected by our Service Area
9,457,555

Total Acres Protected
8,073

Preserves Owned
26

Total Acres of Preserves Owned
661

Conservation Easements
181

Miles of Trails on our Preserves
15

Total Acres Farmed at Sugar Hill Farm
1/2 Acre

Total Servings of Food harvested at Sugar Hill Farm and donated to the Food Bank for Westchester
4,604

Total # of Donors
815



Total Acres of WLTs Sugar Hill Farm HQ Currently in Agricultural Production?
5 Acres

Total Number of Servings Harvested from Sugar Hill Farm and Distributed Through the Food Bank for Westchester in 2013?
4,604



EXCITING NEWS!



Westchester Land Trust (WLT) has been awarded a two-year grant by the United States Forest Service (USFS) to advance the vision of our Hudson to Housatonic Conservation Initiative, or H2H. H2H is an inter-state collaboration between WLT (NY) and Highstead Foundation (CT)—working on behalf of the Fairfield County Regional Conservation Partnership—with additional support from Mianus River Gorge (NY) and the Housatonic Valley Association (CT). Its focus is an area spanning Westchester, Fairfield, and eastern Putnam Counties that is home to climate resilient habitat and mostly privately owned watersheds contributing to reservoirs which provide drinking water to millions of people in NY and CT.

Few programs exist to educate ex-urban family forest owners about the stewardship and conservation of their lands. H2H has been designed to convene, educate, and empower more than two dozen local and regional conservation organizations and municipal partners in 13 focus areas selected for their significant conservation values. These partners will be trained using curriculum developed by Yale University and the USFS Sustaining Family Forest Initiative to engage family forest landowners in the adoption of conservation practices that are known to sustain or enhance water and habitat quality, adapt to climate change, and support NY and CT land conservation and watershed protection priorities.

WLT understands that regional partnerships like these are the face of conservation. We are proud to have been recognized in this way and excited for the work to begin. Please stay tuned for updates on H2H's progress and for ways to get involved. For further information please contact Kate Sann at 914-234-6992 ext 15 or kate@westchesterlandtrust.org.

This project was funded in part through a grant awarded by the, U. S. Forest Service, Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Stew on This!

Field Notes from our Stewardship Team



The plants we see around us in summer use the fall to get ready for the winter. To ensure the survival of each unique species that is part of our landscape, nature has produced a unique packet of life that we call a seed. WLT preserves with meadow habitats are great places to observe ripening seeds of all shapes and sizes. Plan a visit to the Pine Croft Meadow Preserve in Waccabuc, the Tom Burke Preserve in Bedford, and the Danner Family Preserve at the Yorktown-Putnam Valley border and look for the seeds of trees, shrubs, and wildflowers including the common milkweed, the quintessential seed producer of our local meadows. Bring along a good field guide to native plants and a magnifying glass.



WLT's stewardship team identified the Baltimore checkerspot butterfly at the Pine Croft Meadow Preserve (Lewisboro) this summer. The preserve's wet meadow provides this declining invertebrate with essential host plants. Over the coming months WLT will work to increase the size of the wet meadow by removing invasive shrubs.



This 'red eft'—spotted by WLT Board member, Bruce Churchill—is the land-loving life stage of the eastern newt, an amphibian that transforms from a fully aquatic larval stage to a juvenile, terrestrial stage (red eft) and back to an aquatic adult. Red efts roam across the forest floor for 2-5 years hunting worms and insect larva and spend their winters hibernating under logs or leaves.

See something interesting on one of our Preserves, like a plant or animal? Don't know what it is? Take a picture and post it to our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/WLandTrust

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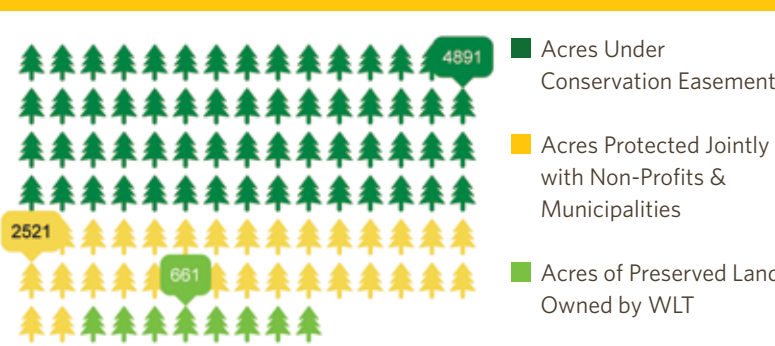
Susan Westlake
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Audrey and Richard Zinman
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Lynn Becker
Dana Bernbach
Ellen and Jim Best
Alan Bietsch
Young People from Blue Star Youth Movement
Sonja Borsari
Tracy Brown
Gabriele Burns
Members of Cardinal McCloskey Community Services
Cathy Carter
Rod Christie
Christine Churchill
Arnie D'Alessio
Maria Gorordo-Daly and Patrick Daly
Leah Menzies DeSantis
Flore Desjardins
Derek DiGuglielmo
Young People from Earth School
Hans Elsevier
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*denotes a gift to a land project or the Fund for Westchester Land Trust

At the request of the donor, some of the gifts included in this report have been specifically earmarked for chapters of Westchester Land Trust.





AN EVENING UNDER THE STARS

annual benefit

JUNE 14, 2014,
OLD SALEM FARM IN NORTH SALEM



Every June, the Westchester Land Trust holds its annual benefit honoring a group or individual whose commitment to our mission has been outstanding. This year was no different as 300 of our closest friends gathered to celebrate our preservation work and the achievements of former WLT Executive Director, Candace M. Schafer.

Guests marveled at the extraordinary view from Old Salem Farm's double decker tent, generously donated by Ellen and Kamran Hakim and Pamela and David Small. Tastefully Yours catered an amazing meal, and there was dancing, a silent and live auction, and the premiere of WLT's new video "Voices of Conservation." (Visit westchesterlandtrust.org to view the video.) But the highlight of the evening was Candace who was honored with the Preservation Angel Award.

Jonathan Wiesner, Chairman of WLT's Board of Directors applauded Candace's commitment to the organization, saying, "She worked to revive regional thinking across county and state borders through partnerships with other land conservation organizations and municipalities and she oversaw the protection of almost 450 acres of land."

WLT applauds the outstanding generosity of all of its friends, supporters and sponsors. As we know we couldn't do it alone, we are especially grateful to the members of the Benefit Committee including: Nanette Bourne & John Delfs, MD, Amy & Keith Ferguson, Susan & James Henry, Jackie & Peter Kamenstein, Vivien G. Malloy, Gretchen & Peter Menzies, Mary Ann Petrilena, and Pamela & David Small.

All of the funds raised through this year's Benefit will support WLT's efforts to protect environmentally-important open space and care for and manage the 26 preserves it owns. **Be a part of next year's fabulous event! To join the gala committee, email Tom Gabriel at Tom@westchesterlandtrust.org.**

Photos clockwise from top: Candace Schafer and WLT Board Chair, Jonathan Wiesner; (Standing) David and Pamela Small, Joan and Edward Cohen; (Seated) Kamran Hakim, Wendy Hakim Jaffee, and Ellen Hakim; Board Members Paul Sisson, Peter DiCorpo and Pete Menzies; Lisa Schwartz and Karen Sabath; Candace Schafer, WLT President Lori Ensinger and Easement Donors from Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic, Sister Janice McLaughlin and Sister Bitrina Kirway; Old Salem Farm Double Decker Tent.



(L-R): Lee Roberts, WCF Board Member; Catherine Marsh, WCF Executive Director; Lori Ensinger, WLT President; and Susan Henry, WLT Board Member.

WLT RECEIVES \$25,000 GRANT from Westchester Community Foundation

WLT recently received a \$25,000 grant from the Westchester Community Foundation's (WCF) H.P. Kraft Memorial Fund in support of our efforts to improve 35 acres of wetland habitat along the Long Island Sound in Mamaroneck.

"The Westchester Land Trust is dedicated to protecting and caring for the local environment — from the Long Island Sound and the Hudson River to Putnam County, with many locations in between," said Lori Ensinger, WLT President. "We are delighted that one of the area's most engaged foundations recognized our efforts and decided to partner with us to improve this wetland habitat in Southern Westchester."

WLT's efforts will take place at the 35-acre Otter Creek Preserve -- the largest privately-owned tidal wetland designated and protected as a nature sanctuary in Westchester County. Wetlands are one of the most threatened ecosystems in the United States according to the National Wildlife Federation, and according to the EPA, they benefit communities by providing nutrient regulation, filtering water, offering habitats for migratory birds, fish and mammals, and of course, serving as a critical flooding buffer during significant storms. "WLT's work at Otter Creek will complement the Foundation's support of other efforts to restore the Long Island Sound ecosystems and increase public access to its shores," said Catherine Marsh, Executive Director of the Westchester Community Foundation.

WLT RECEIVES \$36,000 GRANT from the New York State Conservation Partnership Program Administered by the Land Trust Alliance



New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Joe Martens with WLT President, Lori Ensinger

WLT was awarded \$36,000 in New York State Conservation Partnership Program grant funds through the state's Environmental Protection Fund (EPF), administered by the Land Trust Alliance.

This New York State Conservation Partnership Program grant specifically supports WLT's efforts to protect 115 acres in the Ice Pond Conservation Area of the Great Swamp — a region of statewide ecological significance — in the Town of Patterson, New York in Putnam County (see story on page 3).

"The Westchester Land Trust applauds the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Commissioner Joe Martens, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, and the Land Trust Alliance for recognizing the importance of investing in the local conservation efforts of land trusts like ours as we work to preserve New York's natural resources for generations to come," said Lori Ensinger, WLT President.

YES! I want to make a contribution to protect the environment and enhance natural resources right here in Westchester and Eastern Putnam Counties:

- \$2,500 \$1,000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 other \$.....
- I have enclosed/will send a matching gift form from my employer.
- I wish my gift to remain anonymous.
- I have remembered the Westchester Land Trust in my will.
- I am interested in volunteering. Please contact me.

Name

Address

City State Zip

Phone

Email

- Enclosed is my check payable to Westchester Land Trust.
- Please charge me credit card: Amex MasterCard Visa

Account no. Exp. CSV

Signature

Your contribution is tax deductible to the full extent of the law. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and our tax ID# is 13-3507910. For more information, please call us at 914-234-6992.

To contribute online, please visit westchesterlandtrust.org



Westchester Land Trust
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Bedford Hills, New York 10507



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WHAT'S GOING ON



WLT NOW OFFERS NAMING OPPORTUNITIES AT ITS PRESERVES

WLT exists first and foremost to protect land, and since our founding more than 25 years ago, we have protected more than 8,000 acres from the Long Island Sound and the Hudson River, to Putnam County, and many locations in between. But it costs money to protect land... at times, a lot of money. And when we do, we have the responsibility to manage and care for the property forever!

That's why, in an effort to support our ongoing and perpetual land management and stewardship efforts, WLT is proud to now offer select naming opportunities on some of its preserves. These opportunities include: adopting a trail, underwriting a specific enhancement project (such as tree planting, invasive plant removal, boardwalk construction, and the like), and supporting a front entrance kiosk. There are also opportunities for businesses and individuals to underwrite WLT's website and/or newsletter.

If you'd like to show your support for WLT's efforts through one of our new naming opportunities, please contact WLT's Development Director, Tom Gabriel, at 914-234-6992 ext 18.

Check out the latest WLT events and news at westchesterlandtrust.org

CHECK OUT OUR NEW VIDEO!

After premiering at WLT's Annual Benefit in June, 'Voices of Conservation' is live on our website and ready to watch and share.



"We're within a fifty mile radius of one of the most densely populated developed areas in the world—New York City. To have the opportunity to preserve open spaces for other people to actually be able to visit is something that I think is extremely important attribute for a major metropolitan area."

—Bob Mancini

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DOES YOUR COMPANY HAVE A WORKPLACE GIVING CAMPAIGN?



The Westchester Land trust is a member of EarthShare New York, a nationwide federation of the nation's most respected environmental and conservation charities. Supporting our organization is easy through EarthShare New York which works with your employer to organize workplace giving campaigns. By donating a small amount from your paycheck every week you can help WLT protect open space in Westchester. These gifts add up!

More and more companies now allow their employees to contribute to through Earth Share. Among them: Accenture, American Express, HBO, Hewlett Packard, Thomson Reuters, JP Morgan Chase, Toyota Motor Sales, UnitedHealth Group, and Walmart.

For more information about EarthShare New York, including how your employer can host its own campaign, view EarthShare New York's Web site at www.earthsharenyc.org or directly at 646-496-0319. You may also contact WLT's Development Director, Tom Gabriel at 914-234-6992 ext. 18 or Tom@Westchesterlandtrust.org.