

Westchester Land Trust

Otter Creek 35 new acres of ecologic diversity



*Introducing the
Otter Creek
Preserve in
Mamaroneck*



*2014 Annual
Report*



*WLT Interns
having
IMPACT*



*It's Our Nature
Annual Benefit*



Dear Friends,



If you ask the average person where they got their love of nature, most will tell you it came from their parents, or a close family member. I got the bug from my Dad, but not in a way that you might expect.

My parents weren't hikers. We never went on a family camping vacation. We never owned a tent, a canoe, a fishing rod or a pair of hiking boots. Rather, my Dad had an unassuming, quiet appreciation for the land and the restorative power that the land can bring to one's everyday stressful life.

My Dad was raised in New Rochelle in the 1920's and 1930's in a household without a father. His mother struggled to raise him and his twin brother with no source of income other than the generosity of a close-knit extended family. Even back then, New Rochelle was comparatively dense and urban, and my father would tell us stories of how his mother pledged to give them a healthy upbringing, including finding places for them to develop a love for nature.

The extended family was fortunate enough to own a tiny bungalow on a lake in the Berkshire Hills. My father remembered the journey from Westchester taking five hours (this was before 1964; the Taconic had just been partially built, and the speed limit was probably 35 mph!). It was an ordeal at the time, but it made arriving at the destination that much sweeter. Once they pulled down that long dirt road through the pine trees, everything changed, and he felt like he and his brother had been transported to another world.

The simplest pleasures would engage them for hours on end. Their cousins taught them how to catch "sunnies" off the dock with a stick, handmade hook, and some balled up Spam and white bread. They first learned how to swim in the cold lake water, and how to identify the constellations in a sky that had no competition from the lights of civilization. They reveled in catching fireflies at dusk... gorging on wild blueberries up in the old field... walking for hours out on the land. Time spent outdoors making one's own fun, exploring at one's own pace, no rules, no structure, no money... just pure immersion in nature.

That collection of experiences affected my father so deeply that he, in turn, pledged to provide a similar experience for his children. He taught my sister and me to fish with a stick off that very same dock, to swim in that lake, and to love walking in the

continued on page 3 >



A Stunning Oasis for Everyone to Enjoy

WLT Takes Ownership of 35-Acre Otter Creek Preserve in Mamaroneck

When you think of Southern Westchester, you immediately think of a dynamic and densely-populated, suburban setting with more development than open spaces... more asphalt than trees. There are few natural areas where one can be "in place" with nature... hike, bird watch, or just listen to the sounds of the natural world. One of the more dramatic is the 35-acre Otter Creek Preserve in the Village of Mamaroneck along Taylor's Lane, off Boston Post Road.

The Westchester Land Trust (WLT) is proud to now own this natural gem after acquiring the Preserve as part of a transfer from The Nature Conservancy in April. Otter Creek represents **WLT's largest preserve in Southern Westchester, and the most ecologically diverse of its 29 land-holdings.**

Otter Creek Preserve was designated a Geologic Area of Particular Concern by the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation in 1978, and shortly thereafter, the Village of Mamaroneck declared it a Critical Environmental Area. It is unique in that it is the largest privately owned tidal wetland designated and protected as a nature sanctuary in Westchester—meaning that it receives no governmental support for its care and stewardship.

The Preserve is located along a three-mile stretch of coastline on the Long Island Sound within which is found 90 percent of the remaining productive salt marshes in Westchester County. The vibrant mix of coastal waters, marsh, wooded wetlands and uplands, vernal pools, and edge habitats, makes the Preserve an important site for migratory birds, marine life, insects, reptiles and amphibians, fish, and mammals. "The Otter Creek Preserve,



with its unique landscape and critical role that it plays in the health of Long Island Sound, is a stunning oasis in the middle of densely populated Southern Westchester,” said Lori J. Ensinger, WLT’s President.

But Otter Creek is more than a just a natural treasure to be protected. It is a special place where the community can go to reconnect with the natural world and explore, observe, meditate, and make memories. The viewshed afforded from being nestled along the Mamaroneck coastline is spectacular. The 3/4 mile trail snakes in and out of different terrains, and provides great views of the vernal pools and the active osprey platforms which welcome nesting pairs each year. You can even, when the tide is right, kayak up the creek from the Sound. All these settings combine to make the Preserve a great place for families, birdwatchers, wildlife lovers, photographers, and so many others looking to spend a relaxing moment in nature.

“More than 70,000 people live within 3-miles of the Preserve, and we are honored to care for this natural treasure for their benefit,” said Tate Bushell, WLT’s Director of Stewardship. In fact, WLT has already begun a Habitat Enhancement Initiative to improve the visitor experience at the Preserve, funded in large part by the Westchester Community Foundation. The project includes updating the signage, clearing the entrances and trail, and removing invasive plant species. WLT has also been reaching out to the local community by hosting “Meet & Greet” events to get know the neighbors and hear what they feel makes the Preserve so special to them.

So if you’re in the area, stop by the “Stunning Oasis” in the middle of Mamaroneck and hike the trail or watch a sunrise. You just might make a few lasting memories with your friends and family to cherish for years to come.



LAND TRUST ALLIANCE AWARDS WLT \$30,000 GRANT FOR OTTER CREEK

In April, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced \$1.8 million in Conservation Partnership Program grants administered by the Land Trust Alliance for 55 nonprofit land trusts across the State. WLT was awarded a \$30,000 grant to acquire the 35-acre Otter Creek Preserve.

reduced government costs and public health. Additionally, according to the Outdoor Industry Association, outdoor recreation in New York directly supports 305,000 jobs across the state, generating \$15 billion in wages and tax revenue annually.

“New York’s natural resources play a vital role in our economy, and today we are taking another step forward in protecting and preserving them for generations to come,” Governor Cuomo said. “With these grants, New York’s Environmental Protection Fund is securing critical funding for environmental and open space programs that will continue to protect our environment, generate jobs and revenue in local communities and ensure a cleaner and healthier New York.”

The Conservation Partnership Program grants, funded through the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF), supports projects to protect farmland, wildlife habitat, water quality, enhance public access for outdoor recreational opportunities, and conserve priority open space areas important for community health, tourism, and regional economic development. A 2011 study by the Trust for Public Land found that every dollar of investment from New York’s EPF generates \$7 in total economic benefits from tourism,

continued from page 1 >

woods with no particular destination in mind. And he taught us the wonders of the nature right in our own community in southern Westchester. He never studied the sciences, and he certainly wasn’t an avowed “conservationist” — he just knew that places like this had an invaluable, life-changing impact on people. And he knew that they needed to be there for future generations, the same way they were there for his mother and for him.

My parents are no longer here to see the success of the land conservation movement, but they would be thrilled to see the progress made right here in Westchester County, where they raised their kids and spent most of their lives. I like to think that I am now the third generation of Ensingers who caught the nature bug. It doesn’t need to be complicated, far away, or cost a lot of money. I am not a “hiker”. I don’t own a tent or a canoe or a fishing rod. But I do now own a pair of hiking boots. And I love to walk Westchester’s trails with anyone and everyone who comes to visit. For that, I think my Dad would be proud.

It’s with that spirit that I hope you will read about some of our recent projects in this newsletter, and imagine yourself walking the Otter Creek Preserve and spying an osprey feeding her young... lending a hand to clear a trail at the Westchester Wilderness Walk/Zofnass Family Preserve... or even being one of the children from the Boys & Girls Club who made lifelong memories this summer at Sugar Hill Farm.

So, however you see yourself in the work we do, I hope you will each strive to pass your love of the natural world down to future generations. You will indeed be giving a gift that can change our community and change a life.

Sincerely,

Lori J. Ensinger
President

WLT Interns Having IMPACT in the community

Over the years, the Westchester Land Trust and the community has benefitted tremendously from the talents and dedication of our high school, college & graduate-level interns. This summer, WLT welcomed three interns: Jason Manning, a rising junior at Swarthmore College majoring in Biology and Political Science; Kristen Gamboa, a recent transfer student at Pace University; and Ben Smotrich, a rising sophomore at Colorado College.



KRISTEN GAMBOA

Supported by a grant from the Rusticus Garden Club, Kristen has been creating management recommendations for the meadows at three of WLT’s preserves — Tom Burke, Frederick P. Rose and Pine Croft Meadow. The purpose is to extend their ephemeral lives and increase their overall biodiversity in the form of introducing native wildflowers and grasses, removing invasive species and formulating a consistent and timely mowing schedule. An example of her efforts can be found at the Pine Croft Meadow Preserve in Lewisboro, where Kristen discovered a few apple trees remaining from what was once part of an orchard. Due to human disturbance, the soils around and beneath the trees are invaded by Japanese stilt grass, oriental bittersweet and a nonnative invasive wineberry species. Kristen has suggested removing the invasive species and transplanting native plugs such as Chrysogonum Virginianum (green and gold) and Antennaria Neglecta (field pussytoes) beneath the trees, and Aster Divaricatus (white woodland aster) and Monarda Didyma (red beebalm) around the trees. All of these natives are shade-tolerant, thrive in dry/medium moist soils, and are quick spreaders that out-compete invasive regrowth. They also bloom at different times throughout the growing season and will providing pollinator food all season long.



JASON MANNING

In addition to supporting WLT’s Hudson to Housatonic (H2H) Initiative — a collaborative regional landowner engagement effort — Jason has focused his talents on projects which lie at the intersection of land conservation, public health, and accessibility. Recognizing that preserved land is a vital public health resource, particularly for the disabled and disadvantaged, who often have the least accessibility to it, Jason surveyed existing programs and tools utilized by land trusts across the United States to manage protected lands in the interest of people of all abilities and backgrounds. Jason’s research will help WLT establish criteria to encourage a diverse array of end-users to take advantage of and benefit from access to open space. Exploring these myriad benefits — including trails for physical activity and rehabilitation, scenic viewsheds for mental and emotional restoration, or the chance to observe, first hand, native flora and fauna — offers a conceptual framework for revealing connections between public health and land conservation and has the potential to guide WLT’s land and easement acquisition process in the future.



BEN SMOTRICH

Finally, Ben has been working alongside WLT’s Director of Stewardship, Tate Bushell, on a variety of land management projects on our preserves including cutting an aggressive patch of bamboo at the Pine Croft Meadow Preserve. Additionally, at Sugar Hill Farm, he has been removing invasive plants from the meadows and assisting our resident farmer through the Food Bank for Westchester, Doug DeCandia, in the gardens.



Annual Report 2014

Operating Support, Revenue & Expenses

January 1, 2014 – December 31, 2014

SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Individual Donations	\$427,632
Foundation Donations	265,000
Corporate & Government Donations	61,851
Special Events, net of expenses	204,663
Endowment Donations	305,000
Endowment Investment Income, net	174,287
Miscellaneous	861
Total Operating Support and Revenue	\$ 1,439,294

EXPENSES

Program Services	\$1,015,149
Fundraising	216,767
Management and Administration	164,877
Endowment Pledge Write-Off	52,500
Total Operating Expenses	\$ \$1,449,293

Change in Net Assets	\$(9,999)
Net Assets, beginning of year	\$19,807,671
Net Assets, end of year	\$19,797,672

* Represents the write-off of two uncollected pledges from prior years

Net Assets include land held for conservation, Sugar Hill Farm assets, 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 ended December 31, 2014.

THANK YOU

to all of our incredibly generous contributors and volunteers.

It is only because of your support that we are able to make a difference in the community!

FOUNDERS' CIRCLE \$25,000 OR MORE

The Peter and Carmen Lucia Buck Foundation
Christine and Bruce Churchill
Lori J. Ensinger and William Kuebler
Land Trust Alliance Northeast Program
The Estate of Elisabeth Lewyt*
The Selz Family Foundation
Wallace Genetic Foundation
The Westchester Community Foundation

CHAIRMAN'S CIRCLE \$10,000 TO \$24,999

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen R. Beckwith
Birdstone Farm
Val and Jay Brown
The Goldstein Family Foundation
Judith Mossa-Grech and David Grech
The Jerome Levy Foundation
Judith and Lawrence Klein*
Alice and Douglas Kraus
Vivien G. Malloy
Peter and Gretchen Menzies
Bette Midler
Benjamin and Kathy Needell
NYS DEC/ Hudson River Estuary Program
The Rice Family Foundation
Renee Ring and Paul Zofnass
Sandra Priest Rose
Donna and Marvin Schwartz
Pam and David Small
Ronald Stanton
U.S. Forest Service, Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry
Jonathan Wiesner

DIRECTORS' CIRCLE \$5,000 TO \$9,999

AKRF, Inc.
Leslie Williams and James Attwood
Jon and Nancy Bauer
Nanette Bourne and John Delfs
Lisa and Thomas Cohn
The DiCorpo Family
Robert and Martha Dinerstein*
DirecTV
Jane and William Donaldson
The Durst Organization
Amy and Keith Ferguson
Fidelity Investments
The Gage Fund
Kate and Daniel Ginnel*
Worthington Mayo-Smith
Maryam and Howard Newman
Susan Simpson and David Peterson
Marguerite and Reid Pitts
Nina and Matthew Quigley
Elizabeth and Axel Ratcliffe
Allyson Redpath Mawe
Adam R. Rose and Peter R. McQuillan
Nancy and Paul Ross
Victorinox Swiss Army Knife Foundation, LLC
Lucy R. Waletzky
William C. Bullitt Foundation

HERITAGE CIRCLE \$2,500 TO \$4,999

Linda Grossman and Richard Bass
George Bianco
Seema Boesky
The Clinton Family Foundation
Catherine Knickerbocker and James Diaio
EarthShare NY
Ernst & Young, LLP
Jeanne Donovan Fisher
Marilyn and John Gizzi
Peter Hauspurg and Daun Paris
Jennifer and Marcus Jarl
Peter and Jackie Kamenstein
Nancy Karch
The Kilts Family Foundation
Julie Ross and Mark Ladner
Judith Butler and David Levy
Ken and Lois Lippman
Louis & Anne Abrons Family Foundation/Jen Schwartz
Za and Donald Manocherian
Laura Anne and Alan Mantell
Gloria and John Marwell
Merrill Lynch & Co. Foundation, Inc.
Mrs. Michael Metz
Candace Schafer* and Rob Mills
Jane and Richard Pearl
Pam Michels and Steve Rosenblatt
Ellen Lukens and Paul Sisson
Teresa and William Waterman
Kristina and Arthur Weise

PROTECTOR \$1,000 TO \$2,499

Mimi and Barry Alperin
Anonymous (8)
Judith and Alan Appelbaum
Joshua Arnow and Elyse Arnow Brill
Meghan Marie McGrath and Alan Bazaar
Marilyn and John Beck*
Benchmark Title Agency, LLC
Benedek & Ticehurst
Bford LLC
Box of Rain Foundation
Mary and David Calliard
Joan and Edward Cohen
Deborah Costa
Cuddy & Feder LLP
Sally Davis
Susanne and Douglas Durst
Michaelene Leslie and Jonathan Durst
Dasha Epstein for the Jack & Mimi Amsterdam Fnd.
Joel and Naomi Freedman
David and Ellen Freeman
Bart Friedman and Wendy A. Stein
Janine Prete and Tom Gabriel
Matthew and Kristine Gaier
Joseph Gallo
The Georgetown Company
The Edith B. and Lee V. Jacobs Fund,
Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Gerry
The Samuel Goldwyn Foundation
Cindy and Bennett Golub
Susan and Peter Gottsegen
Kyle Kaino and Daniel Guyder
Lisina Hoch

Alexander Host Foundation, Inc.

IBM Corporation
Benjamin Jacobson
Joan and Ernie Kalman
Gerry H. Hodes
Kent Karlsson
Carol Murray and John Kuster
Joanne Landau and Fred Schwalb
Elizabeth and Lowell Lifschultz
Lloyd Bedford Cox, Inc.
Kathleen and Bryan Marsal
W. Wallace McDowell
Cathy Louise Migden
Joan Murray
Joanne and John Payson
Amiel and Michelle Peretz
Perlmutter Family Foundation
Sondra R. Peterson
Philip Potter
Joel Press and Andrea Markezin Press
Linda and John Mills
Monique Regard and Rick Duffy
Donna Reimer
Cynthia V. and William G. Roberts
David Rockefeller, Sr.
Roe Foundation Inc.
Rusticus Garden Club
Satosky Asset Management
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Saunders
Lisa and Mark Schwartz
Melissa Vail and Norman Selby
Lisa and Jason Shaplen
Abby Simpson and Todd Mydland
June and Grant Stinchfield
David Swope
Barbara and Maarten Ten Holder
Tina and Robert Theurkauf*
TimesSquare Capital Management
Kerry and Dan Tomson
Carol Ann and Jean Paul Valles
Annica and Daniel Van Starrenburg
Mr. and Mrs. Roger B. Vincent
VKS Architects
Francine and Peter Walker
Charlotte Weber
Jane Weiser and Daniel Kleinman
Westchester Tree Life, Inc.
Ronald Winston
Audrey and Richard Zinman

Janet Harchkam

The Harry Donenfeld Foundation
Susan and James Henry
Gerry H. Hodes
The Jaffe Family Foundation
Alison and James Kallman
Laura and Joel Kaplan
Elizabeth and John Kilgallon
Sharon and Cary A. Koplin
Ann and Burton Korelitz
Lynn and Jules Kroll
Land Trust Alliance
Joan and Steven Malsin
Bob and Beth Mancini
Crowzer Martin
Frank McCullough
Radhika Mehta-Sharan and Alok Sharan
Miller & Associates
Diane Lewis
Pam and Don Lichty
Andrea and Matthew Lustig
Cindy and Donald Marcotte
Barbara Matarazzo
Robert and Carol McBride
Jacqueline and Robert Shapiro
Gina and Tom Snyder
Margaret Stevens
John and Anita Stockbridge
The Philip and Lynn Straus Foundation
Teatown Reservation
Nancy and George Truitt
Urban Land Institute Westchester
John Velonis

STEWARD \$250 TO \$499

Brenda and Dick Albert
Vivian Pyle and Anthony Anemone
Anonymous (7)
John Assuma
Mara and Danny Baror
Elizabeth Beeby
Sarah and Peter Beshar
Amy Parsons and Paul Bird
Bjorn Bjornsson
Robert Boffa
Berl and Katherine Brechner
Joy and David Brenner
Leslie Cecil and Creighton Michael
Mr. and Mrs. Andy Cherna
Margaret and William Cobb
Barbara and Rodgin Cohen
Sarah Fashena and Thomas Coleman
Linda and Gene Conroy
JoAnn Langham and Harvey Dann
Mary and Ted Dardani
Muffin and James Dowdle
Virginia Drost and Patrick Kenadjian
The Edward Handelman Fund
Joan and Alvin Einbender
Ginny and Larry Ellis
Elizabeth Everett
Alexandra Fisher
Ari and Rebecca Fleischer
Laura Fox
The French American School
Nancy and David Gernert
Virginia and Martin Gold
Evan and Sascha Greenberg
Ellen and Robert Grimes
Susan and Joseph Handelman

Alison Gregory-Knipp and Peter A. Knipp

Liza and Richard Henshaw
Susan and Elliott Hershman
Hoeherman Tortorella & Wekstein, LLP
Susan and David Howell
Clare M. Pierson and Peter Humphrey
Andre Hunter
Jeannine and James Kane
Nancy Ann and Samuel Karetsky
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Kessel
Julie and Wilmot Kidd
Wendy Dixon Breitner and Kenneth Kirshenbaum
Kim and Simon Krinsky
Ghy Manning and John Lee
Charlotte and Morvin Leibowitz
Judith and Edwin Leonard
Diane Lewis
Pam and Don Lichty
Andrea and Matthew Lustig
Cindy and Donald Marcotte
Barbara Matarazzo
Robert and Carol McBride
Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic, Inc.
The Janis & Alan Menken Foundation
Kathy Lynch and Tim Mohr
Scott and Sarah Moody
Steven Mueller
Grainne McGuinne and Stephen Murray
Northern Westchester Hospital
Open Space Institute, Inc.
Peter and Timi Parsons
Nancy and William Purinton
Putnam County Land Trust
Ira M. Resnick
Jonathan Satovsky
Mary and John Scaccia
Marilyn and Myron Schuster
Norman Sheer Esq.
Jean and Frederick Siefke
Nancy Simpkins
Susan and Michael Stillman
Elise Wagner and Robin Stout
Allison and Michael Tamburelli
Vicki and Harold Tananbaum
Taylor and Aaron Taylor
Muriel and Richard Ten Dyke
Julie and Kip Testwuide
Bill and Dookie Tingue
Gerard and Stacey Virga
Susan S. and Kenneth L. Wallach Foundation
Watershed Agricultural Council
Shelby White
Ross Williams
Michael Willisich
Mr. and Dr. Hal Wolkin
Women's Business Development Council
Twink and Jim Wood
Keeva Young-Wright and Jay Wright
Pauline Lee and Daniel Zubkoff

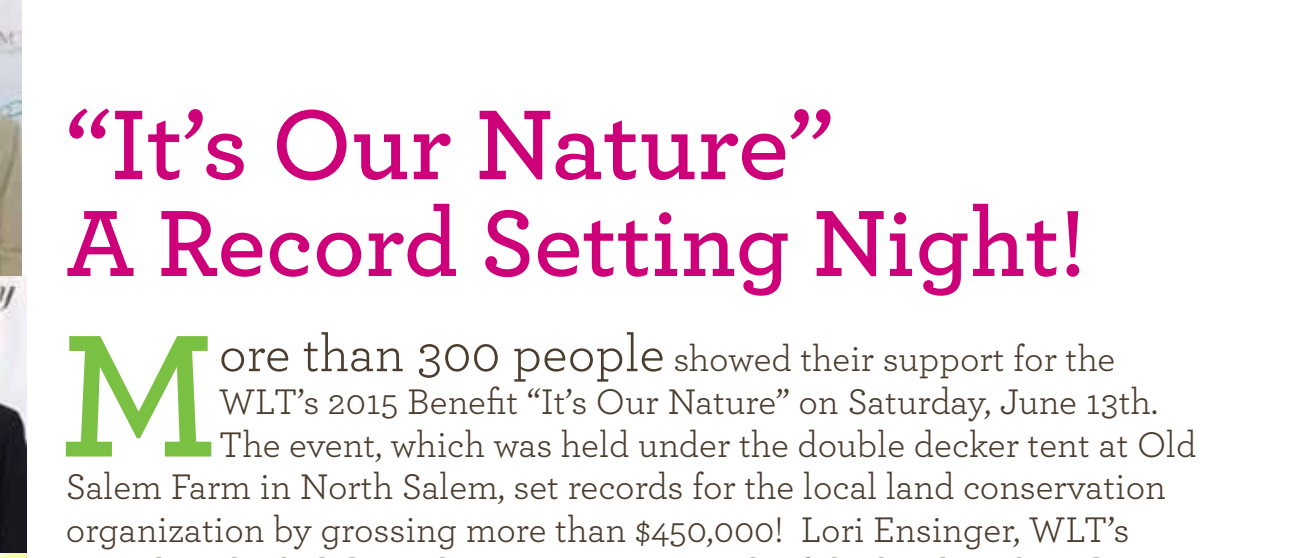
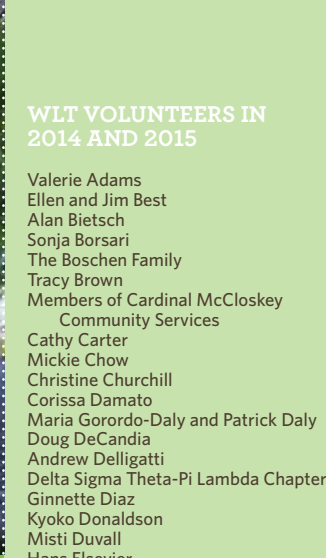
SUPPORTER \$100 TO \$249

Karen Alpert and Danny Lerner
Carol and Alan Alterman
Marlene Alva
Janet Andersen

Anonymous (13)

Kate and John Arens
Hope Babcock
Harriet and Robert Baker
Jane Condon and Kenneth Bartels
Bedford Audubon Society
Bedford Garden Club
The Beitzel Family
Marcela and Michael Berland
Sheryl and Steven Bernhard
Janice and Robert Billingsley
Marty and Jan Blairst
Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Blockinger
Miriam and Michael Boublik
Lisa Shrewsbury and Brian Braden
Rebecca and Mark Brauning
David Brittenham and Carolyn Summers
Robin and Bob Brown
Merry and Charles Brown
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Brownell
Charlotte Bruning
Grace and Robert Buck
Dana and Brett Buehrer
Barbara Burek and Mark Toher
Margot Burghheimer
Jack and DeDe Burke
Eleanor and Arthur Caione
Seth and Kirtley Cameron
Kimberly Carter and Dominic Del Corso
Veronica and Donato Caruso
Barbara and Ihor Chelsky
Christine and Vincent Celenza
Heide Lange and John Chaffee
Barbara and Duncan Chapman
Chapman Family Foundation
Sharon Churcher and Michael Taylor
Fifi Clark
Barbara and Arnold Cohen
Clare Sherwood and Henry Cohn
Kristina Lindbergh and Robert Conte
Mr. and Mrs. William Cordiano
Lena and Jeffrey Crandall
Jane Cray
Patrick Daigle
Xenia D'Ambrosi
Lucy and Mike Danziger
Ray D'Ascoli
Davada Foundation
Robert F. Davis
Lisa Lahm and Robert Dazi
Dr. and Mrs. Dell Angelo
Paula Desperito
Divney Tung Schwalbe
Thomas Dixon
Susanna and L. F. Boker Doyle
Paula R. Sharp and Ross Eatman
Vivian and Peter Falco
Olivia and John Farr
Susan Feinberg-Greene and Bill Greene
Sue and Stephen Fields
Carole Friedler
Ken Fuhr
Future Value Associates, LTD
Jennifer and Daniel Gagliardi
Francine and Michael Gannon
Lesley and Dennis Gehr
Tracey and Scott Gerber
Mr. and Mrs. S. Parker Gilbert Jr.





WLT VOLUNTEERS IN 2014 AND 2015

- Valerie Adams
- Ellen and Jim Best
- Alan Bietsch
- Sonja Borsari
- The Boschen Family
- Tracy Brown
- Members of Cardinal McCloskey Community Services
- Cathy Carter
- Mickie Chow
- Christine Churchill
- Corissa Damato
- Maria Gorordo-Daly and Patrick Daly
- Doug DeCandia
- Andrew Delligatti
- Delta Sigma Theta-Pi Lambda Chapter
- Ginnette Diaz
- Kyoko Donaldson
- Misti Duvall
- Hans Elsevier
- Juliet Faust
- Vicki Feiner
- Sarah Fey
- Margaret Fitzgerald
- Food Bank for Westchester Staff
- Abigail Gabor
- Kristen Gamboa
- Judi Hausman
- Yoko Hayata
- Jennifer Heintzman
- Don Hepner
- Jack Horvath
- Alan Keeley
- Bill Keubler
- Carolyn Kiernan
- Charlie Kilman
- Saeko Komatsu
- Students from John Jay High School
- Barry Leibowitz
- Mitchell Lew
- The Lewisboro Lions Club
- Sandra Lieberman
- Michelle Lowry
- Jason Manning
- Vicki Marwell
- Colleen McLafferty
- The McPhearson Family
- Scott Mori
- Samantha Mortlock
- Joyce Morrone
- Charles Mullin
- Students from PACE University
- NUK employees
- Helen Peeples
- Alison Posa
- Amanda Posa
- Jaime Posa
- Ionel Raducanu
- Renee Ring
- Janice Robbins
- Joseph Rodriguez
- Mike Salowey
- Ron Schaeffner
- Caroline Sears
- Philip Sears
- Norma Silva
- Benjamin Smothrich
- Children & Families at Something Good in the World
- The Spaeth-Gilbert Family
- Noelle Spizzirro
- Mike Surdej
- Allison Tamburelli and family
- Muriel Ten Dyke
- Nancy Wagner
- Ben Weinstein
- Aimee Whitman
- Frazer Winsted
- Vic Ziminsky
- Phil Ziminsky

- Kelle Gildea
- Lucille and David Gildin
- Jeanne and Danny Gold
- Carol and Jesse Goldberg
- June and Myron Goldfinger
- Roy L. Goldman
- Mr. and Mrs. Ira Greenstein
- Karen Adler and Laurence Greenwald
- June Gumbel
- Anne and David Hardy
- Ayo and Nigel Hart
- Mrs. Theodore Hawryluk
- The Hazzard Family
- Lisa Perry and David Hellerstein
- Maren Hexter
- Carol and Herb Hochberg
- Mr. and Mrs. Bradford L. Holley
- Hopp Ground Garden Club
- Linda and John Howitt
- Farah and George Hoyt
- Jane Love and Ed Isler
- Dorian S. Goldman and Marvin Israelow
- Michael Jackson
- Marcy Sandler and James Janover
- Cynthia Jerome and Eric Bergman
- Ann Johansmeyer
- Francesca and Trent Jones
- The Jordan-Gallay Family
- Joan and Stuart Kantor
- Patricia Keesee
- Heather Thomas and Charles Kerr
- Shirley Kesselman
- Annamaria and John Kettner
- Alice Fasano and Harvey Kipnis
- Bob and Florence Kirkwood
- Lisa C. Koch
- John and Janice Kolb
- Barbara Kopple
- Mark Kramer
- Patty and Craig Kravitz
- Laura and Lewis Kruger
- Tony and Heather Langham
- Mr. and Mrs. Edward Lashins
- Lee and Richard Laster
- Kristy and David Lavinsky
- Pam Lawson and Brian Gordner
- Jean and Paul Lewis
- Marsha and Peter Liebowitz
- George Long
- Susan and Warren Lucas
- Holly Malekian
- Mr. and Mrs. Robert Manners
- Patrice and Robert Martin
- John and Keelin McCormack
- Maureen Meehan and Alan MacDowell
- Rosanne Mehelas
- Faith Ritchie and Richard Menaker
- Mianus River Gorge Preserve
- Carol and John Mickel
- Sue Ann Minutaglio
- Chuck and Fiona Mitchell
- Richard and Barbara Moggio
- Kara and Nils Morgan
- Joyce Morrone
- Sherry Wolf and Nicholas Moy
- Michael Neuscheler
- John Nolon
- Hiroko Onoda
- Anne and John Ostrowski
- Caroline Palmieri

- Stephanie and Hervey Parke
- Julie Bacon and Luther Peacock
- Patricia Reilly and Mark Pennington
- PepsiCo Foundation
- Cathy and Gary Perusse
- Picture Framing Unlimited
- Julie Pollack and Richard Shulman
- Pam and Eric Pooley
- Deborah and J. Sheppard
- Pound Ridge Land Conservancy
- Pound Ridge Veterinary Center
- Ginny and Jonathan Powers
- Patricia and Erling Pytte
- Dana Ramos
- Mrs. Elizabeth Reid
- Geraldine and Robert Ripp
- George Roberts
- Lee and Ken Roberts
- Bonnie Gordon Robins/Gordon Charitable Foundation
- Jeff and Janice Rodner
- Ben Romney
- Nancy Ruffner
- Deenie and David Ruzov
- Barbara Santangelo
- Mr. and Mrs. Camillo M. Santomero III
- Roger and Inger Savitt
- Anne and Howard Schneider
- Polly and Gordon Schnell
- Shelley and John Schulz
- Beth Haller-Schweitzer and Herbert Schweitzer
- Laura and Stuart Seeley
- John Settembrino
- Lynne Quittell and Eric Skolnick
- Barry Sloane
- Barbara S. Smith
- Talma Nir and Ross Smotrich
- Mr. and Mrs. Louis S. Sorell
- Guy Miller Struve
- Mr. and Mrs. Richard W. Stuart
- Janet Sullivan
- June A. Arias and Martin I. Surks
- Penny and Daniel Taitz
- Anna and Jim Terleph
- Barbara and Lewis Terman
- Ann and George Thom
- Virginia and Glenn Ticehurst
- Charles W.Trippe
- Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Trotta
- Jan and Jim Utter
- Michele Rudolph and Marc Vandenhoek
- Alan R. Viani
- Walin & Wolff
- Melinda and William Walsh
- Elizabeth Wattles
- Diana Wege and Tim Shergan
- Michael and Fran Weiss
- Susan Westlake
- Kara and Damien Whelan
- Aimee and Harold Whitman
- Ethan Winter
- Robert F. Wise, Jr.
- Susan and Marc Wollin
- Robin and Bruce Zablow
- Zarin & Steinmetz
- Hope and Simon Ziff
- Katherine Zito
- John Zline

*Denotes a non-operating gift
‡ Deceased

Thank you to the generous donors who contributed to The Candace M. Schafer Memorial Fund. The Fund was established to honor Candace M. Schafer, WLT's former Executive Director who passed away in November of 2014.

- Anonymous (2)
- Mr. and Mrs. Stephen R. Beckwith
- Evelyn Bergstrom
- George Bianco
- Nanette Bourne and John Delfs
- Michael Broxson
- Robert Canace
- Deborah and J. Russell Chapman
- Diane and Frank Chauner
- Jaymie and Michael Chernoff
- The Congregational Church of New Canaan
- Jamie and Sewell Corkran
- Future Value Associates, LTD
- Joyce and Bob Gettleman
- Mr. and Mrs. David Gorringer
- Jim Hutchins, NU Class of 1968
- Satish and Terry Joshi
- Emily Kelting
- Brigitte and Timothy Maier
- Kathryn Markel
- Linda DeYoung and Douglass Marlow
- Naomi and Paul Marrow
- Micah Mills
- Linda and John Mills
- Rob Mills
- Barbara Ottolini
- Mary Ann Petrilena
- Janet Protas
- Heather L. Shaw
- Gina and Tom Snyder
- John Stiefel
- Sherry Sturch
- Staff of the Center for Survivors of Torture and War Trauma
- Heather and Jason Toole
- Sue Oliver and Dave Williams
- The Wise Family



Former WLT Executive Director, Candace Schafer, with grandchildren, Campbell, Liam

Although we have carefully reviewed this list for accuracy, there may be inadvertent errors or omissions. Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience these may have caused.

“It’s Our Nature” A Record Setting Night!

More than 300 people showed their support for the WLT’s 2015 Benefit “It’s Our Nature” on Saturday, June 13th. The event, which was held under the double decker tent at Old Salem Farm in North Salem, set records for the local land conservation organization by grossing more than \$450,000! Lori Ensinger, WLT’s President, hailed this achievement as a result of the hard work and

commitment by the organization the past year protecting land on behalf of the community we all share. “We protect the land because ultimately we are all the beneficiaries of what the land has to offer – clean air and water, access to local food, and opportunities for recreation. Last year we protected 300 more acres and we’re on track to far exceed that in 2015.”

While Ben has been a distinguished Senior Partner at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP in New York City for almost 35 years, he was honored for his long-time commitment to land conservation in our community. During Ben’s tenure on WLT’s Board as the Chair of its Land Preservation Committee, he provided the leadership that resulted in the protection of over 6,500 acres in Westchester and eastern Putnam Counties. Wiesner said “He has been a leader by example and protected his own property with an easement that he has assigned to the Westchester Land Trust insuring that it will be never be developed forever.”

In addition to an amazing meal catered by Tastefully Yours, there was dancing, a silent and live auction, and beautiful views of the surrounding woods and fields. A new video entitled “Making a Difference” was premiered for the guests and was welcomed with raved applause. It highlights the organization’s recent work benefiting the community at four local preserves: the 35-acre Otter Creek in Mamaroneck, the 45-acre Hunter Brook in Yorktown, the 115-acre Dextra Baldwin McGonagle in Patterson, and the 31-acre O’Connell Boulder Field in Putnam Valley.

While hundreds of individuals and businesses made generous contributions in support of the Benefit, the event was sponsored in part by the Calvin Klein Family Foundation; Georgetown Company; Kamran & Ellen Hakim; Kathleen & Benjamin Needell; Old Salem Farm; Donna & Marvin Schwartz; Serendipity magazine; Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, and David & Pamela Small.

But the highlight of the evening was long-time Board Member and current Vice-Chair, Benjamin F. Needell, who was honored with the organization’s Preservation Angel Award. Jonathan Wiesner, Chairman of the WLT’s Board of Directors said of Ben, “I am truly humbled when I look at all that Ben has accomplished in his career, his charitable contributions and leadership, and most importantly, his top priority, his family.”

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 29 preserves it owns. 🌱

Top to Bottom: Westchester Land Trust President, Lori Ensinger, and Westchester Land Trust Board Chair, Jonathan Wiesner; Westchester Land Trust Board Vice Chair and Event Honoree, Benjamin Needell, with his wife Kathy; Westchester Land Trust Board Member, David Small, with his wife Pamela; (L-R) Kyle Kaino, Melissa Barone, and Kate Grasso; Donna & Marvin Schwartz; Westchester Land Trust Board Member, Susan Henry, and Shelby White



Be a part of next year’s fabulous event! To join our gala committee, contact Tom Gabriel, Development Director, at 914-234-6992 ext 18.

Neighbors Inspire Each Other to Care for Land in New Ways

Through WLT's Hudson to Housatonic (H2H) Initiative

The first phase of the Hudson to Housatonic (H2H) Conservation Initiative, launched in 2014, focused on training more than 50 conservation leaders on new strategies for engaging landowners in the care and conservation of their land. During this phase, H2H partners developed maps to identify privately held land with key conservation attributes – such as streams or tributaries leading to public drinking water supplies, climate resiliency, and woodland systems to name a few. The past several months, WLT and its H2H partners have been hosting landowner gatherings in thirteen focal areas throughout the region to bring together owners of lands identified and to facilitate thoughtful discussions focused on land stewardship and land conservation.



Hillary Seiner, Asst. Conservation Scientist at Teatown Lake Reservation, teaching kids how to observe crayfish in the Angle Fly Brook during the Stream Walk at Angle Fly Preserve on Sunday, July 12th

Kara Whelan, WLT's Director of Conservation Programs, said, "While many community members moved to this area for the scenic beauty and restorative qualities of this landscape, landownership can be overwhelming and even feel isolating at times." Through H2H, landowners are spending time learning from each other and from the many fine conservation organizations in this region, about strategies for caring for the natural resources on their properties – ranging in size from a handful of acres to over 200. They are learning about the conservation easement and land donation process from land and easement donors themselves. Through peer to peer dialogue and neighborhood outings, landowners are hearing from those who have transformed parts of their backyard into havens for birds, and learning how they too, can replace invasive plants with native vegetation along their backyard stream.

H2H is funded in part through a grant awarded by the U.S. Forest Service, Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry. It will continue into 2016 with follow-up workshops and opportunities for landowners to test out new stewardship strategies and learn more about their options for permanently protecting the woodlands and waterways upon which we all depend.

Interested in joining your neighbors to see what all the excitement is about? Contact WLT's Director of Conservation Programs, Kara Hartigan Whelan, WLT's Director of Conservation Programs at 914.234.6992 ext 12.

Candace Schafer Memorial Fund brings children from Boys and Girls Club of Northern Westchester to WLT's Farm and Forest



We all know that there are benefits to encouraging children to unplug from screens and technology and enjoy the restorative powers of nature. But, sometimes this is easier said than done. Not every child can walk out their back door and sink their toes into grass or walk to a freshwater stream. Many families in Westchester

have to drive miles to find open spaces. The Westchester Land Trust is doing something about that.

This summer, using funds from the Candace M. Schafer Memorial Fund and the Land Trust Alliance, WLT teamed up with the Boys and Girls Club of Northern Westchester (BGCNW) to launch a series of Farm & Forest summer outings to WLT's Sugar Hill Farm in Bedford Hills and its Westchester Wilderness Walk/Zofnass Family Preserve in Pound Ridge.

Led by WLT's Director of Stewardship, Tate Bushell, and WLT volunteer educator Janice Robbins of Bedford, the Farm & Forest program provided campers from BGCNW's Eagle group (5th & 6th grade boys and girls) fun and engaging activities on WLT's land.

"The Boys and Girls Club of Northern Westchester is dedicated to inspiring all young people, especially those who need us most, to realize their full potential as

If you'd like to make a contribution to the Candace M. Schafer Memorial Fund, please contact Grace Buck at 914.234.6992 ext 23 or grace@westchesterlandtrust.org.

productive, responsible and caring citizens. Place-based nature education is a great way to encourage an enthusiasm for learning that carries through life, and the unique and exciting locations offered by the Westchester Land Trust provide our campers with a number of different opportunities to learn about the world around them," said Alyzza Ozer, President of BGCNW.

The Eagles explored WLT's headquarters, Sugar Hill Farm, a half-acre farm that provides much needed fresh produce to the Food Bank for Westchester. At the farm, they got their hands dirty in the garden, helping to weed, water, and harvest vegetables while exploring the concepts

of land stewardship. They also saw examples of how to provide habitat for native plants and animals in a residential setting and had time for reflective writing and sharing of ideas. Their day at Westchester Wilderness Walk/Zofnass Family Preserve in Pound Ridge, was chock full of lessons about wildlife, civic accountability, and provided ample time to enjoy wandering along the trail with friends.

The curriculum emphasized that all community members are welcome on WLT's preserves and trail systems, and focused specifically on raising awareness of the local natural resources and ecosystems found in Westchester and the benefits we get from keeping them healthy and having them protected forever.

"We were delighted to add the Boys and Girls Club of Northern Westchester to a growing list of community partners committed to helping us encourage children to re-engage with nature," said Lori J. Ensinger, WLT's President. "We live in an age where children are increasingly disconnected from the natural world around them, and that has a direct impact on their health and wellbeing. Our program with the Boys and Girls Club represents one small step to change that."

The Candace M. Schafer Memorial Fund was established to honor WLT's former Executive

It's Our Nature...So Tell Us Your Story

How are you connected to the land? Why do you love nature? What role does WLT play in your story?



MICKIE CHOW
Chappaqua
Farm Network and Benefit Volunteer since 2014
I grew up a city girl in the outer boroughs of

NYC and didn't develop a love of nature until my twenties when I lived in California and Arizona. I came to admire and respect what Mother Nature created, from the soaring peaks that rise from Yosemite Valley, to the deceptively barren deserts of the southwest, to the perennials that return every year in my patch of backyard despite my butchering. Our Earth is a precious place. I love our land and nature because it is wondrous and gives me a sense of renewal and hope. I love volunteering at WLT because I am among people who understand and want to preserve the only home we have.



MIKE SURDEJ
Goldens Bridge
Trail maintenance and Benefit Volunteer since 2012
I grew up in the Bronx, not far from the

Botanical Gardens. For my parents and me, that place represented a sort of a refuge from the cement that was all around us. It served as my backyard and playground for many years, and I had the freedom to enjoy the different kinds of plant life, the greenhouses, and the total expanse of it. Those years really built my love of the outdoors and helped instill in me a sense of responsibility for maintaining and caring for the natural world. That's why today I volunteer with the Westchester Land Trust whenever they need help caring for one their preserves.



MICHAEL YELLIN
New Rochelle
Advisory Board Member since 2004
Preserved land is so important to my family

and my community. We are so lucky to have the Glenwood Lake Nature Preserve, which WLT helped to protect some years ago. It provides an opportunity for those of us who live in the neighborhood and the surrounding communities to come with our children, our parents, and our friends, to enjoy nature in a very quiet setting. It's very passive. It's a place to come for peace and quiet. When I walk out my door, as crazy as my life might be, I know I can take a walk around the lake and after that 15 minute walk I'm going to feel really good about my life and the community in which I live.

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.

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.

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

To contribute online, please visit westchesterlandtrust.org



Westchester Land Trust
403 Harris Road
Bedford Hills, New York 10507



914.234.6992

westchesterlandtrust.org

NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
WHITE PLAINS NY
PERMIT NO 70029

WHAT'S GOING ON

A WLT ANNUAL TRADITION!

**HUDSON RIVER VALLEY
RAMBLE @ WESTCHESTER
WILDERNESS WALK**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

1PM – 3PM

**ZOFNASS FAMILY PRESERVE
POUND RIDGE, NY**

Hike our flagship preserve with the Zofnass Family. (All Ages)

For more information or to RSVP,
please contact Joan Reilly at
914.234.6992 ext 22

**COCKTAIL PARTY AT THE
WAINWRIGHT HOUSE IN RYE**
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 5PM – 7PM

Benefitting WLT's Land Preservation
and Management efforts in Southern
Westchester

To purchase tickets, visit ??????

**FARMLAND MATCH
LANDOWNER ORIENTATION**

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24

7PM – 8:30PM

OR SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26

10:30AM – NOON

Come learn about how you can host a
beginning farmer on your land

To RSVP, call Kate Sann at
914.234.6992 ext 15

WATCH WLT'S NEW VIDEO

**“MAKING A
DIFFERENCE”**

Showcasing some of what YOU helped
us achieve this past year.



Live on our website as well as on YouTube

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Jonathan L. Wiesner, *Chair*
- Benjamin F. Needell, *Vice-Chair*
- Stephen R. Beckwith, *Treasurer*
- Susan S. Henry, *Secretary*
- Nanette Bourne
- Bruce Churchill
- Peter DiCorpo
- Amy Ferguson
- Jerome R. Goldstein
- David Grech
- Douglas M. Kraus
- Betsy Lifschultz
- Vivien G. Malloy
- Lee Manning-Vogelstein
- Allyson Mawe
- Peter Menzies
- Renee Ring
- Jennifer Schwartz
- Paul C. Sisson
- David H. Small
- Susan Todd

CHAIRMEN EMERITUS

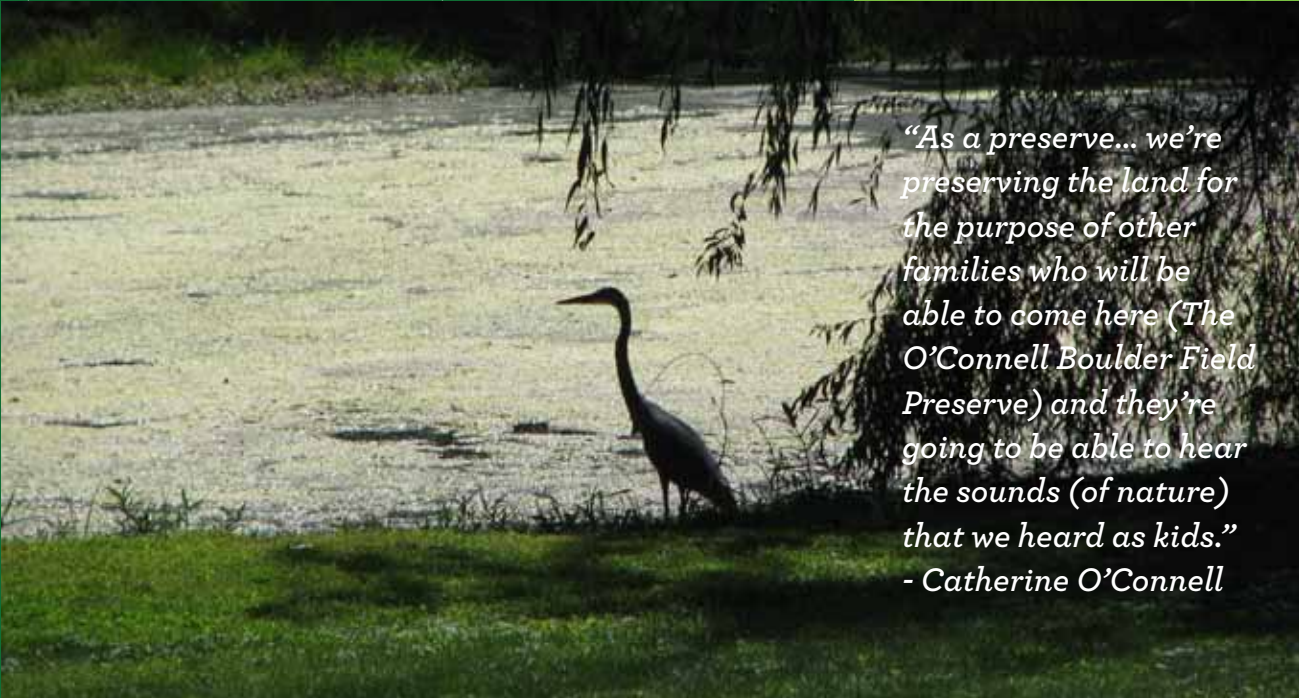
- George D. Bianco

**ADVISORY BOARD OF
DIRECTORS**

- George D. Bianco, *Chair*
- Daniel H. Ginnel
- Eli B. A. Halliwell
- Rick Magder
- Jane Pearl
- Mary Ann Petrilena
- Sharon Pickett
- Lisa G. Shaplen
- Glenn Ticehurst
- Michael Yellin

President

- Lori J. Ensinger



*“As a preserve... we’re
preserving the land for
the purpose of other
families who will be
able to come here (The
O’Connell Boulder Field
Preserve) and they’re
going to be able to hear
the sounds (of nature)
that we heard as kids.”
- Catherine O’Connell*



Westchester Land trust is a member of EarthShare NY, a nationwide federation of the most respected environmental and conservation charities. To find out how you and your employer can support WLT through an EarthShare workplace giving campaign visit their website at www.earthsharenyc.org or contact our Development Director, Tom Gabriel at 914-234-6992 ext. 18.



Printed on Rolland Enviro100 Print, which contains 100% post-consumer fibre, is Environmental Choice, Processed Chlorine Free as well as FSC Recycled certified and manufactured in Canada by Cascades using biogas energy.



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