

# Westchester Land Trust

## The Art of Conservation

*“This land...has taught me how to see.”*



A Conversation with  
Martin Weinstein  
& Teresa Liszka



Profile of the  
Hunter Brook  
Preserve



2015  
Annual  
Report

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# You Are My Joy



My phone rang the other day and a friend's voice sprang from the receiver. **"What makes you joyful?"** she asked with certain urgency. I could hear the question catch in her throat. She was asking something different from "What makes you happy?" I sensed that its genesis was the horrific acts of violence playing out across the country and I wasn't quite sure how to reply.

**What makes me happy is witnessing the miracles of nature in everyday life—** an intricately patterned box turtle crossing the driveway to lay her eggs in the garden . . . the unmistakable screech of the red tailed hawk swirling on the thermals overhead . . . an electric blue dragonfly perching fearlessly on a child's shoulder.

What makes me joyful is something quite different. It is the opportunity to meet **people who love their land** and their communities and who invite WLT on their conservation journey. Folks like you who understand deeply that protecting open space has impacts that reverberate well beyond our own lives and neighborhoods. Joy envelops me during my interactions with selfless individuals who have a vision so uplifting, that I am inspired to do the utmost with them and for them.

Every week we receive phone calls from folks like you who are eager to save a place you love. Your favorite spots run the gamut from 100-acre forested tracts threatened with subdivision, to 50' x 100' lots in the middle of Westchester's major cities. At first glance, these places seem very different but when we hear you share that these places are your oases, your contemplative corners of the world, your identity, they become so very similar.

I stepped out of the office still stewing on my friend's question about joy and as I meandered to my car I realized that I had been surrounded by it all week alongside heartfelt landowners, devoted volunteers, inspired municipal leaders, and ready-to-roll community activists. I had spent an afternoon white-knuckling it on the back of a truck, touring farmland that has been in one family for more than five generations. I had devoted a morning to kneel beside wide-eyed children who were being encouraged—**yes, encouraged!**—to get dirty in a small but significant garden patch in one of our County's most populous urban centers. I had joined with incredible people who were pushing, pulling, and shaping new conservation programs and land protection projects.

**YOU**, our WLT supporters, with your unwavering commitment to seeing that these places be preserved forever, stand out from the crowd. We still have so much to do—*together*. Your contributions are greatly needed and deeply appreciated. You are preserving gardens in our cities and helping us to protect the water that we drink. You are demanding that dwindling farmland in the lower Hudson Valley remain open and productive. You are protecting the precious and cherished places in between and along the mighty Hudson River and the scenic Long Island Sound watershed.

So, thank you. Land preservation does not, and cannot, happen without you—my joy.

Sincerely,

Lori J. Ensinger, *President*



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Westchester Land Trust (WLT) is a member of EarthShare New York, a nationwide network of America's 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 earthsharenyc.org or contact Assistant Development Director, Grace Buck—grace@westchesterlandtrust.org or 914.234.6992 ext. 23

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# The Art of Conservation

For Westchester Land Trust's newest easement donors, Martin Weinstein and Teresa Liszka, the visual arts inspire greater environmental awareness.

**F**or many years, Martin Weinstein and Teresa Liszka have drawn inspiration from their magnificent Croton-on-Hudson home, *Kenoten*.<sup>1</sup>

Both are accomplished visual artists and together with Martin's brother, Gerry, a prominent industrial archeologist, they permanently protected 18 acres by donating a conservation easement to WLT.

In a part of the country as heavily developed as the New York metro region, the Weinsteins' uninterrupted vista is remarkable not only for its scenic and historic beauty, but also for its coherence. Martin's most recent body of work features landscapes of the newly-protected Croton-on-Hudson property and demonstrates the intimate connection between nature and creative expression.

With the glittering Hudson River as our backdrop, we caught up with Martin and Teresa to talk about their lifelong love of their family's land and the reasons they decided to permanently protect it with WLT.

**Can you share some of the history of this land? How many years has your family lived here?**

**Martin Weinstein:** My brother and I grew up in Scarsdale. In 1974, our parents bought this property from Mrs. Perera who was Mrs. Brinton's niece.<sup>2</sup> It was originally a weekend home for our family but as they got older, my mother and father were here more and more—like we are now.

**Teresa Liszka:** I believe the Brintons originally bought the land in the 1920's. They were hiking in the Hudson Highlands on their honeymoon and they fell in love with the landscape so they bought a large parcel that extended all the way down to the river. They even made a brochure of all the 'highlights' of this place to entice friends to join them here.

**What are your first memories of this land?**

**MW:** It was very different – very open and not nearly as wooded. It had been vast farmland that was only just transitioning.

We could see for many miles up and down the Hudson.

**TL:** In the 70s, it was actually quite exciting to see a deer! Can you imagine? We all would squeal and run to the windows to catch a glimpse.

**How does this land inform the work you create as artists?**

**TL:** This landscape inspires us to make more landscapes. Martin is a landscape painter and in the warmer months he paints outside in the gardens. In the summer, I am tending to the gardens almost exclusively and in the winter I make sculpture. My work in the garden is all about shape and texture, so it's really another aspect of my creative process. I am always experimenting. *(continued)*

Front Cover: *May Evenings* (2014) by Martin Weinstein  
Above: *Sassafras and Path, 2x* (2013) by Martin Weinstein



Peonies, Evenings (2012) by Martin Weinstein

**MW:** Teresa and I met in art school when we were very young. My parents had just purchased this land at that time. We would come out here together and the trees were just trees to me. I am amazed at how much I didn't see in my twenties. I used to be an abstract painter—that's how I started. But through Teresa's passion for the gardens, my vision changed. **This land, and Teresa's love for it, taught me how to see.**

### What lessons have you learned through the stewardship of your land?

**MW:** It's funny; in the past couple of years we've cultivated a certain distance from the details. This morning, for instance, we met with a tree surgeon because we have this giant, beautiful cherry tree that's been dying for many years.

**TL:** We've been babying it and nursing it along because we all love this tree.

**MW:** There are certain trees that we are so attached to. But just this morning, we were able to say: "Well, something else will grow there..." Worrying about the whole planet seems a lot more pressing than just one tree.

**TL:** We lost an old sassafras during Hurricane Sandy and, at the time, I thought I'd never recover from that loss. But we're at a place now where we're able to let go of the worry.



Easement donors Teresa Liszka and Martin Weinstein attended WLTs 2016 Annual Benefit in June.



Friends and neighbors gathered at the Weinsteins' in the fall of 2015 to learn about land stewardship through the Hudson to Housatonic Conservation Initiative (H2H).

### Why do you think your attachment to the land has changed?

**TL:** I'm older now. I don't want to waste time mourning trees—I'd rather plant new ones. We're transitioning away from a lot of the places and things that we've managed for the last forty years and as a result we have less stress. We worry less.

**MW:** I would have to say that donating the conservation easement to Westchester Land Trust has made us think in longer terms. **So there's a little wild cherry coming up right near our beloved old tree** and it won't be huge and gnarled in our lifetime but **someday it will be someone else's beloved old tree.** This is the way we think now—in much longer terms.

**TL:** When I first started the gardens, I was interested in exotic and rare plantings. That was very exciting to me. Now, with a thought to the future, I'm transitioning this garden into larger masses of shape and color that aren't so difficult to maintain. It will still be a beautiful garden, but one that will require much less work.

**MW:** I like the fact that there are different phases. We are simplifying the garden, we're simplifying our life. It is all part of the journey.

### What are your overall goals for the property?

**MW:** Our goal has always been to enjoy it for our lifetime.

**TL:** As long as this land satisfies the needs of wildlife and is never ever developed—that's what we want.

**Finalizing the easement with the Westchester Land Trust was hugely important to us and gave us comfort and peace of mind.** We don't have to worry, now that the land is secure. It can't ever be built on. It's going to be taken care of forever.

### Why was an easement donation the right decision for you?

**MW:** Conservation was always on our mind because we love this place so much and are so attached to it. The easement is a necessary part of our estate planning process.

**TL:** Honestly, we always felt like our desire to protect this land was somewhat vain. It was only about us—what we wanted to see endure. That vision seemed too small and insignificant but **when we became part of the Hudson to Housatonic Conservation Initiative we got very excited.** We hosted a neighborhood gathering and **the idea that this little property will be linked to other land as part of a regional conservation agenda brings us great joy.** It's like we are doing our small part to reassemble and reconnect these lands to what they once were. I was very happy to learn that.

**MW:** I think a **conservation easement is very much aligned with being an artist.** You create your work, often alone, out of your love of something. But then, as all artists know, there comes a time when you must hand it off. Your piece needs to be shared with the world. When we turn our creation outwards and share our passion and inspiration, the art—or in this case the land—lives on through the enjoyment of others. It is a very gratifying time when this happens.

**TL:** We are fortunate to be able to share. We encourage others to learn about their options to do the same.

<sup>1</sup> Kenoten is a Kitchawank word meaning "wild wind." In the 17th century, Indians of the Kitchawank tribe occupied a large fortified village on the high flat at the neck of Croton Point.

<sup>2</sup> The Weinstein property abuts the 156-acre Brinton Brook Sanctuary which was permanently protected as a wildlife sanctuary by Laura and Willard Brinton. The sanctuary is owned and stewarded by Saw Mill River Audubon.

## What is a Conservation Easement?

A conservation easement is a tool used to permanently protect private lands and all the values they embody. The landowner continues to own and use the land and WLT becomes the protector of its conservation values, monitoring the land at least once annually. Easemented land remains freely transferable but the easement stays with the land forever. Westchester Land Trust stewards over 5,200 acres of land on nearly 200 easements located throughout Westchester and eastern Putnam Counties.

When a landowner donates a conservation easement to the Westchester Land Trust we become partners. Each conservation easement is tailored to meet the unique needs of the individual landowner and address the conservation values specific to their property.

To discuss how land conservation fits in to your estate plans or to learn more about the Hudson to Housatonic Regional Conservation Partnership, please contact Vice President, Kara Whelan—(914)234.6992 ext. 12 or [kara@westchesterlandtrust.org](mailto:kara@westchesterlandtrust.org).

While the Weinstein easement is not open to the public, the family is currently working to ensure that these lands will eventually become a public preserve. The easement with WLT was the first step towards this goal. The Brinton Brook Sanctuary which is owned and managed by Saw Mill River Audubon is adjacent to the Weinstein easement and has hiking trails that are open to the public.

# A Regional Conservation Partnership is Born!

IN 2014, WLT co-launched the groundbreaking Hudson to Housatonic Conservation Initiative (H2H) with funding from the U.S. Forest Service. The two year initiative was designed to facilitate and catalyze the stewardship and permanent protection of the most climate-resilient lands, habitat corridors, and buffers to drinking water supplies in our region. Today, **three dozen conservation organizations from Westchester, Putnam, Dutchess (NY) and Fairfield (CT) Counties have joined H2H** and are working collaboratively and across the boundaries that typically divide us—state, county, town, and parcel—to increase the pace of land conservation in our region.

WLT has assisted our partners in the coordination of dozens of neighborhood events held throughout the H2H service area in 2015 and 2016. In total, these events armed **3,400 landowners** with practical resources to better steward their land and understand their conservation options. This programming would not have been possible without the sizeable in-kind support of the following conservation professionals:

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USDA  
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## A NEW ONLINE HOME FOR H2H!

We are proud to announce that the H2H website has launched. This is a tool for you and your neighbors—to network, learn about land stewardship and conservation options, and find professionals and resources to guide you on your conservation journey.

Whether you have an interest in volunteering, learning about easements, or are simply curious about the good work being done in this landscape that is bounded by two beautiful rivers—we encourage you to visit [h2hrpc.org](http://h2hrpc.org) today!

# THANK YOU

## to all of our incredibly generous contributors and volunteers.

It is with your support that we are able to make a difference in our community!

## Support, Revenue & Expenses

### Year Ending December 31, 2015

#### SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Individual Donations	\$645,032
Foundation Donations	\$209,673
Corporate & Government Donations	\$91,874
Special Events, net of expenses	\$378,971
Endowment Donations	\$36,905
Endowment Investment Income, net	\$(152,582)
Miscellaneous	\$(3,174)
<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,206,699</b>

#### EXPENSES

Program Services	\$862,152
Fundraising	\$231,726
Management and Administration	\$169,589
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,263,464</b>

Change in Net Assets	\$(56,765)
Net Assets, beginning of year	\$19,797,972
Net Assets, end of year	\$19,740,907

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, 2015.

We gratefully acknowledge the following individuals, businesses and organizations that made gifts or pledges to WLT from January 1 through December 31, 2015.

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Your tax deductible support is the backbone of our organization and makes our investment in future land protection and stewardship projects possible. Annual gifts have an immediate impact on every aspect of WLT's mission and ongoing programs. Please use the enclosed envelope to send your yearly gift of support to WLT or visit our website [westchesterlandtrust.org](http://westchesterlandtrust.org) to make a donation online. **THANK YOU!**

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 Dr. and Mrs. Jack Wilson  
 Twink and Jim Wood  
 Zarin & Steinmetz

Deirdre Courtney-Batson and  
 Philip Batson  
 The Bedford Garden Club  
 Avi Bendavid  
 Sheryl and Steven Bernhard  
 Ellen and James Best  
 Mr. and Mrs. David Block  
 Susan and Edward Brancati  
 Katherine and Berl Brechner  
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Broeckelman  
 Jo Frances and Arthur Brown  
 Merry and Charles Brown  
 Robin and Bob Brown  
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard Brownell  
 Barbara Burek and Mark Toher  
 Margot Burgheimer  
 Kirtley and Seth Cameron  
 Barbara and Ihor Cehelsky  
 Katherine and Max Chapman  
 Chapman Family Foundation  
 Sharon Churcher and Michael Taylor  
 Emily and Richard Cohen  
 Bobbie and Rick Cohan  
 Clare Sherwood and Henry M. Cohn  
 Sarah and Thomas Coleman  
 Catherine and Geoffrey Connor  
 Kristina Lindbergh and Robert Conte  
 Mr. and Mrs. William Cordiano  
 Mr. and Mrs. Frederick O. Cowles  
 Lena and Jeffrey Crandall  
 Deborah Crary  
 Mary Dantin  
 Margit and John DeRosa  
 Dominican Sisters of Hope  
 Joanna and Edward Dowe  
 Susanna and L. F. Boker Doyle  
 Carol Ensinger  
 Vivian and Peter Falco  
 Mittie and James Figura  
 Christine P. Foster  
 Wendy and William Foulke  
 Ken Fuhr  
 Tracey and Scott Gerber  
 Mr. and Mrs. S. Parker Gilbert Jr.  
 Kelle Gildea  
 Lucille and David Gildin  
 Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Gold  
 Carol and Jesse Goldberg  
 Karen and Michael Golden  
 June and Myron Goldfinger  
 Roy L. Goldman  
 Mr. and Mrs. William C. Gourd  
 Karen Adler and Laurence Greenwald  
 William Gross  
 June Gumbel  
 Norma Silva Guzman  
 Mrs. Theodore Hawryluk  
 Sharon Heller and Ronald Knudsen  
 Don Heppner  
 Maren Hexter  
 Mr. and Mrs. Bradford L. Holley  
 Linda and J.P. Howitt  
 Farah and George Hoyt  
 Jane Love and Ed Isler  
 Dorian Goldman and Marvin Israelow  
 Amy and Bruce Jackson  
 Michael Jackson  
 Stasha Jain  
 Ann Johansmeyer  
 JW Hands Foundation  
 Frank Kaiman  
 Jeannine and James Kane  
 Patricia Keesee  
 Sue and Edward Kelly



**SUPPORTER  
 \$100 TO \$249**

Patty and Dan Abelson  
 Carol and Alan Alterman  
 Janet Andersen  
 Anonymous (11)  
 Barbara Aronson  
 Harriet and Robert Baker  
 Elizabeth Breslin and Michael Barnhart

# THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

Regina and John Kelly  
Antoinette Kelly  
Heather Thomas and Charles Kerr  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Kessel  
Shirley Kesselman  
Annmaria and John Kettner  
Jeffrey Kiel  
Florence and Bob Kirkwood  
Lisa C. Koch  
Janice and John Kolb  
Laura and Lewis Kruger  
Anita and James Lanzilotti  
Judith and Stephen Lavenberg  
Holly Malekian  
Cindy and Donald Marcotte  
Ann Marinucci and Paul Marinucci  
Marshall Oil Company  
Patrice and Robert Martin  
Vicki and Tao Marwell  
Carol and John Mickel  
Miller & Associates  
Sue Ann Minutaglio  
Katherine and Richard Moreau  
Kimberly and John Morris  
Melissa and Michael Neborak  
Shannon and Gregory†  
Needell  
Hannah and Frank Neubauer  
John Nolon  
Kristin Ketterer and Robert Oden  
Wanda Cope Orton  
Stephanie Overholt  
Alyzza Ozer  
Caroline Palmieri  
Stephanie and Hervey Parke  
Shelley and Jeffrey Parker  
Timi and Peter Parsons  
Julie Pollack and Richard Shulman  
Pound Ridge Veterinary Center  
Virginia and Jonathan Powers  
Mr. and Mrs. Andy Pritchard  
Margaret Rabito  
Lynn Saidenberg and Arthur Rauch  
Cathy Mayrose and Leo Reber  
James Rehlaender  
Mary Riechers  
Geraldine and Robert Ripp  
Louise Robb  
Janice and Douglas Robbins  
Cynthia V. and William G. Roberts  
Lee and Ken Roberts  
Ms. Kathryn Walsh and Mr. Wesley Romansky  
Ben Romney  
Carol and Donald Rose  
Deenie and David Ruzow  
Whitney Sabanosh  
Barbara Santangelo  
Denise and Camillo M. Santomero III  
Inger and Roger Savitt  
Anne and Howard Schneider  
Polly and Gordon Schnell  
Beth and Herbert Schweitzer  
Margaret and John Scott  
Carolynn R. and Philip C. Sears  
Doris and Richard Seidlitz  
John A. Settembrino  
Geraldine and Albert Shapiro  
Jenny and Scott Shevick  
Ruth Slater

Barbara S. Smith  
Gina and Tom Snyder  
Somers Land Trust  
Mr. and Mrs. Louis S. Sorell  
Leola Specht  
Allison Stabile  
Stephen Tilly Architect  
Kate and Rex Stephenson  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard W. Stuart  
Carol Sheridan and Michael Surdej  
June A. Arias and Martin I. Surks  
Barbara and Lewis Terman  
Sarah Timpson  
Joel Trace  
Charles W. Trippe  
Nancy and George Truitt  
Mr. and Mrs. Roger Tuckerman  
Jan and Jim Utter  
Linda and Vincent Vaccaro  
Michele Rudolph and Marc Vandenhoeck  
Alan Viani  
Vogler Brothers, Inc.  
Waccabuc Country Club  
Steve and Rebecca Walkley  
Melinda and William Walsh  
Susan and Russell Watson  
Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Weissman  
Susan and Teed Welch  
Aimee and Harold Whitman III  
Robert F. Wise, Jr.  
D. + E.H. Wolff  
Susan and Marc Wollin  
Richard Yannetti  
Amelia Jones and Michael Yellin  
Michael Yoken  
Lisa Duffy-Zeballos and Gonzalo Zeballos  
John Zline



## 2015 GIFTS IN HONOR OF

Cathy Biddle  
Frances Bright  
Patrick Brunner  
Joyce Dixon  
Lori J. Ensinger  
Ellen and Kamran Hakim  
Susan S. Henry  
Doug Kraus  
William Lauder  
Vivien G. Malloy  
Vicki Marwell  
Benjamin F. Needell  
Rob Powell  
Lori Tritsch

## 2015 GIFTS IN MEMORY OF

Alfred and Adele Greenberg  
Capt. Eric A. Jones  
Dr. Fred Kittle  
Sam Pryor  
Candace M. Schafer  
Paula Silva  
Henriette Suhr

## WLT VOLUNTEERS 2015 AND 2016

Valerie Adams  
Robin Ashley  
Robert Athanasidy  
Katherine Bang  
Alison Bamford  
Tyler Barnhardt  
Wendy Bartley  
Meghan Bazaar  
Michaela Beitzel  
Amy Benerofe  
Ellen Best  
James Best  
Ability Beyond  
Alan Bietsch  
Brian Bushell  
Judi Butler-Levy  
Allison Capozza  
Cathy Carter  
Mickie Chow  
Heather Clay Frelinghuysen  
Liza Clymer  
Debby Cohen  
Sarah Colley  
Judy Collins  
Joyce Corrigan  
Catherine Coult  
Megan Cowan  
Mary Cox  
Beth Crowell  
Wendy Cushman



## AUSTIN CUTLER

A rising senior at the University of Buffalo, Austin is a jack-of-all-trades—able to build a wetland boardwalk and organize an archive of press clippings.

Corissa Damato  
Laura Danner  
Doug DeCandia  
Andrew Delligatti  
Delta Sigma Theta-Pi  
Lambda Chapter  
Marcela Denzer  
Ginnette Diaz  
Kyoko Donaldson  
Misti Duvall  
Hans Elsevier  
Juliet Faust  
Vicki Feiner  
Terry Feldman  
Sarah Fey  
Margaret Fitzgerald  
Melissa Fleming  
Food Bank for Westchester Staff  
Victoria Foulke  
Kristen Gamboa  
Elyne Germaise  
Ann Marie Gilligan  
Terry Gilmore  
Girl Scout Troop 2308  
Greenburgh Police  
Summer Youth Camp  
Marisa Grittini  
Alex Hamer  
John Hancock Employees  
Ben Harvey  
Beth Harvey  
Judi Hausman  
Yoko Hayata  
Jennifer Heintzman  
Lisa Hennessy  
Don Heppner  
Catherine Hiller  
Jack Horvath  
Samuel Hovanec

Wendy Hsu  
Kate Hutchinson  
Ben Indictor  
Kristen Ippolito  
Nami Ito  
Carl Jean  
Annie Johansmeyer  
John Jay High School Students  
Rod Kast  
Alan Keeley  
Bill Kuebler  
Carolyn Kiernan  
Charlie Kilman  
Saeko Komatsu  
Alexandra Kotur  
Heather Langham  
Kevin LeBlanc  
Kelli LaTorre  
Sarah Leavy  
Walter Lehneis  
Barry Leibowitz  
Mitchell Lew  
Velma Lewis  
Lions Club of Lewisboro  
Michelle Lowry  
Jeryl Malloy  
Jason Manning  
Alisa Mannis  
Melissa Marcogliese  
The Marinelli Family  
Stuart Marwell  
Tao Marwell



## VICKI MARWELL

The guardian of our Sugar Hill Farm gardens, Vicki always arrives with a smile and new ideas. Thanks to Vicki, WLT hosted a volunteer group from Ability Beyond for the second year in a row.

Janice McCarthy  
Courtney McGinnis  
Christine McKenney  
The McPhearson Family  
Nicole Mercede  
Mary Mora  
The Morales Family  
Morgan Stanley Employees  
Scott Mori  
Samantha Mortlock  
Joyce Morrone  
Kim Moskowitz  
Mount Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry  
Charles Mullin  
Krista Munger  
Payson Murray  
Seth Nalven  
Kathy Needell  
Chikako Nemoto  
Joanne Nielsen  
Kyle Nisonger  
NUK Employees  
Samantha O'Brien  
PACE University Students  
David Pakman  
Ben Paseltiner  
Marc Paseltiner  
Helen Peoples  
Anna Petit Lee  
Marina Pia DeLuca  
Alison Posa  
Amanda Posa  
Jaime Posa  
Ionel Raducanu  
The Ramos Family



## ELLEN REIMER

Are you a fan of the beautiful watercolors that graced this year's Annual Benefit? The credit goes to our friend, artist, and neighbor, Ellen.

Emma Risley  
Janice Robbins  
Joseph Rodriguez  
Amanda Sackey  
Jennifer Santillan  
Gary Sapolin  
Eliza Schwartz  
Hadley Scully  
Caroline Sears  
Philip Sears  
Matt Sesti  
Carol Sheridan  
Jes Siart  
Norma Silva Guzman  
Maria Simonetti  
Derek Smith  
Quint Smith  
Benjamin Smotrich  
Children & Families at  
Something Good in the World  
The Spaeth-Gilbert Family  
Noelle Spizzirro  
Candice Stafford  
Suzanne Steers



## MIKE SURDEJ

There isn't a stewardship job too burly for Mike. He's always gone to lend a hand.

Allison Tamburelli  
Muriel Ten Dyke  
Verizon Employees  
Nancy Wagner  
Ben Weinstein  
Margaret Whelan  
Declan Whelan  
Nonie Whelan



## AIMÉE WHITMAN

A mailing doesn't leave our offices without Aimée's thorough review. Thanks to her kind introduction, Aimée's son Cutler kept our Annual Benefit guests laughing at this year's event.

Cutler Whitman  
Shari Winard  
Tina Winchester  
Frazer Winsted  
Vic Ziminsky  
Phil Ziminsky

\* Denotes a non-operating gift  
† Deceased

There may be inadvertent errors or omissions. If you do not see your name, please contact WLT's Development Associate, Joan Reilly—joan@westchesterlandtrust.org or 914.234.6992 ext. 22



# Oh, What A Night!



**WLT GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE 2016 BENEFIT COMMITTEE FOR THEIR EXTRAORDINARY EFFORTS TO MAKE THIS EVENT A SUCCESS!**

**CO-CHAIRS**

- Robin Ashley
- Liza Clymer
- Beth Crowell
- Melissa Marcogliese

**COMMITTEE**

- Alison Bamford
- Katherine Bang
- Meghan Bazaar
- Michaela Beitzel
- Nanette Bourne
- Judi Butler-Levy
- Mickie Chow
- Sarah Colley
- Joyce Corrigan
- Mary Cox
- Wendy Cushman
- Marina Pia DeLuca
- Terry Feldman
- Amy Ferguson
- Melissa Fleming
- Heather Clay Frelinghuysen
- Marisa Grittini
- Alex Hamer
- Lisa Hennessy
- Susan S. Henry
- Ann Johansmeyer
- Alexandra Kotur
- Heather Langham
- Jeryl Malloy
- Lee Manning-Vogelstein
- Courtney McGinnis
- Joyce Morrone
- Kim Moskowitz
- Payson Murray
- Kathy Needell
- Joanne Nielsen
- Samantha O'Brien
- Mary Ann Petrilena
- Ellen Reimer
- Hadley Scully
- David H. Small
- Suzanne Steers
- Mike Surdej
- Allison Tamburelli
- Muriel Ten Dyke
- Aimée Whitman
- Tina Winchester



Francis Corcoran, Joan Zofnass, Renee Ring, Paul Zofnass, Lori Ensinger, Kevin Plunkett



Madeline Leslie, David Levy & Judi Butler



Christine Churchill & Sarah Webb



Jason and Dana King



Heather Clay Frelinghuysen, Courtney McGinnis, David Pakman



2016 Benefit Co-Chairs: Robin Ashley, Beth Crowell, and Melissa Marcogliese (Not Pictured: Liza Clymer)



Vivien G. Malloy

**MORE THAN 300 GUESTS** gathered at the iconic Sunnyfield Farm in Bedford on June 18th for dinner, dancing, and a particularly entertaining auction, to celebrate WLT's continued conservation efforts in the region. An exciting mix of supporters—both long-standing and brand new—joined together to honor Vivien G. Malloy with the 2016 Preservation Angel Award and the Zofnass Family with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Benefit co-chairs, Robin Ashley (Bedford), Liza Clymer (Katonah), Beth Crowell (Bedford), and Melissa Marcogliese (Pound Ridge), led a dynamic committee who revamped nearly every detail of this year's event to ensure the party of the year. A vibrant menu featured the early season bounty of several local farms and producers, many of whom are participants in WLT's Farmland Match program which connects landless farmers with area landowners who wish to see their land put into agricultural production. A new educational video about WLT—titled *Our Land Is Your Land*—was premiered, kicking-off a lively auction and paddle raise led by the charismatic Cutler Whitman and DJ, David Pakman.

Noting the enthusiasm of the crowd, Board Chairman, Jonathan L. Wiesner, said, "Virtually all of the successes of the Westchester Land Trust belong to our guests here tonight and to others like them—the easement and land donors, farmers, volunteers, advocates for public investment in land, and our hundreds of supporters who care for their land in an environmentally conscientious way."

**Watch WLT's newest video, *Our Land is Your Land***  
[youtube.com/user/WestchesterLandTrust](https://youtube.com/user/WestchesterLandTrust)

**See more photos from this event:**  
[facebook.com/WestchesterLandTrust](https://facebook.com/WestchesterLandTrust)

# MEET THE HUNTER BROOK PRESERVE

BY TATE BUSHELL

The Hunter Brook Preserve in Yorktown is a favorite destination for local hikers of all ages and includes a 1-mile loop trail as well as visual access to the beautiful Hunter Brook.

To plant a tree first you need to dig a hole. I plant trees all around the County and in the process have become intimately familiar with the area's soil. The majority of WLT's nature preserves have rocky soils - not exactly a pleasure to dig through. The exception: WLT's Hunter Brook Preserve in Yorktown has a beautiful flood plain of silky soil that's perfect for digging.

Since 2011, Westchester Land Trust has planted over 100 trees and shrubs along this floodplain in an effort to restore 1.5 acres of forest that was devastated by a trifecta of phenomena: Dutch elm disease and ash yellows (two catastrophic tree diseases), Hurricane Irene, and a breached, upstream dam. Heavy deer browse has prevented trees from naturally regenerating so with the support of Watershed Agriculture Council, WLT has replanted a small forest. Now in its 6th year, the project is a model of successful reforestation. Many of the trees are twice my height—and I'm 6'3"!

*For a trail map and directions to Hunter Brook Preserve visit [westchesterlandtrust.org](http://westchesterlandtrust.org).*

I fell in love with Hunter Brook Preserve because of easy digging. But, when tree-planting season passes, I am reminded of all the other reasons I connected with the preserve, including: river otter scampering along the floodplain, the song of the Louisiana water thrush, and being surrounded by a flock of dark eye junco and white throated sparrows.

Perhaps the best thing about Hunter Brook Preserve is the fact that all of these features are protected forever; the property can never be developed. Even as the surrounding land is slowly divided and converted to homes, this magical land will remain a natural sanctuary for all to enjoy. This forever is the hallmark of Westchester Land Trust. If we protect a new nature preserve in 2016, it will be a nature preserve in 50, 100, 500 years. How many children will play in our woods? How many birds will nest in our trees? Too many to know. I do know, however, that in 100 years people will ask 'Why aren't there more places like Hunter Brook Preserve?' And there can be...with your help.

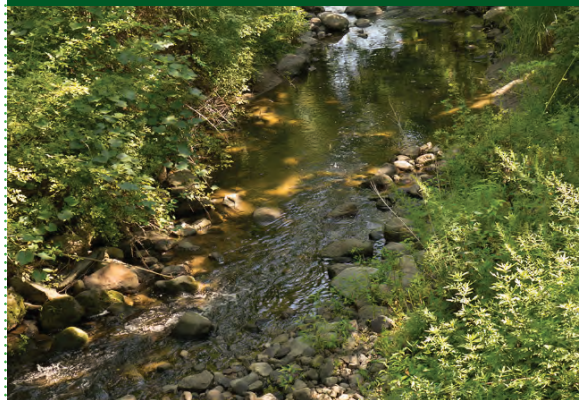
*Join WLT's new Preserve Manager & Educator, Shaun McCoshum, for a guided field walk at the Hunter Brook Preserve on Friday, November 4th, 2016 and Friday, February 3rd, 2017. See back cover for more information.*



*We have planted more than 12 species of natives tree and shrubs to maximize the forest diversity and provide insurance against future natural disasters. Tree tubes were placed around new plantings to protect them from deer browse. Every year WLT's stewardship team weeds the area, prunes the trees, and services the tree tubes and stakes.*

## DID YOU KNOW?

The water you see flowing in the Hunter Brook is New York City's drinking water. Just about a mile from the preserve trailhead lies the New Croton Reservoir which supplies 10% of New York City's drinking water. Protected land along Hunter Brook plays an important role in filtering contaminants and maintaining water quality.



## SUPPORT STEWARDSHIP MAKE A GIFT TO WLT

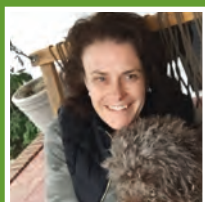
AS WLT'S stewardship team continues to forge strong partnerships, our wide array of habitat enhancement projects and environmental programs enrich the community and transform the knowledge we gain into clear action.

A gift of any size will help Westchester Land Trust continue the work you believe is important. Visit [westchesterlandtrust.org](http://westchesterlandtrust.org) and click on the 'donate' tab at the top of the page to make your tax deductible contribution today.

## WLT Welcomes Esteemed Community Members to the Advisory Board of Directors



**JOE EDGAR** brings a strong awareness of environmental and energy issues on both the national and international levels. He received a J.D. from Pace University and an M.E.M. from Yale and currently serves as Managing Director and Counsel to the Pataki-Cahill Group. Joe joins the Land Preservation Committee, which oversees all land protection projects. He lives in Pound Ridge with his wife, Andrea, and their two children.



**MEGAN KULICK** has over 20 years of experience as a portfolio manager and analyst in the financial services industry, most recently as a Senior Vice President at PIMCO. She lends her expertise to the Investment Committee and will assist in the management of WLT's endowment funds. Megan lives in Scarsdale with her husband, Mitch, and three children. She is an avid gardener and a lover of all things outdoors.



**PAM POOLEY** is a landscape designer whose work can be seen at the native plant garden at the Leon Levy Preserve (Lewisboro)—which is protected by a WLT-held conservation easement. Pam co-chairs the North Salem Conservation Advisory Council and provides leadership support to the Hudson to Housatonic Conservation Initiative (H2H), a cross-boundary collaborative co-led by WLT. She has two daughters and lives in North Salem with her husband, Eric.

*WLT will benefit enormously from the diverse talents of our new Advisory Board members. They share a passionate commitment to land conservation and will bring insightful perspectives to advance land protection projects and engage community members in meaningful experiences on our preserves.*

—Vice President, Kara Whelan.

## SHAUN McCOSHUM & SARA POWELL JOIN WLT'S GROWING TEAM OF STEWARDSHIP PROFESSIONALS



Shaun McCoshum  
Preserve Manager & Educator



Sara Powell  
Land Steward

In late July, **Shaun McCoshum** joined WLT as this organization's first Preserve Manager & Educator. This unique new position adds capacity for the care and enhancement of WLT's 29 nature preserves and amplifies educational programming and outreach in Westchester's diverse communities. It was made possible thanks to financial support from the Land Trust Alliance and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Shaun holds a PhD in Zoology from Oklahoma State University, where his research focused on pollinators and native bee communities and a Masters in Botany from Miami University (OH). In addition to his work in academe, Shaun worked with the Catalina Island Conservancy (CA) to help halt the spread of invasive plants and restore habitat for endemic and endangered organisms. A native of the West Coast, Shaun credits his Northern California roots as the source of his passion for the natural world.

*As our stewardship team grows, our ability to offer strategic outreach and education increases exponentially. Sara and Shaun will each play a critical role in protecting and promoting the natural beauty of our region.*

—Director of Stewardship, Tate Bushell

**Sara Powell** is WLT's new Land Steward taking on the critical role monitoring WLT's portfolio of nearly 200 conservation easements located throughout Westchester and eastern Putnam Counties. Prior to her move to Westchester, Sara produced ecosystem health and analysis materials—including the Chesapeake Bay Report Card—for the University of Maryland's Center for Environmental Science and developed a comprehensive water monitoring program for the Nine Mile Run Watershed Association in Pittsburgh, PA.

*Shaun and Sara bring exciting skills and expertise to our team and we are happy to officially welcome them both on board!*



Shaun shares insect specimens with visiting campers from the Boys & Girls Club of Northern Westchester.



Sara and Tate recently constructed a new wooden bog bridge at the Frederick P. Rose Preserve (Lewisboro).



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



914.234.6992  
westchesterlandtrust.org

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## FALL EVENTS

### HUDSON RIVER VALLEY RAMBLE SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 | 1 – 3PM

Hike our flagship preserve alongside WLT staff and directors at this annual tradition!

*Westchester Wilderness Walk / Zofnass Family Preserve - Upper Shad Road, Pound Ridge*

Admission to this event is free. Full details provided upon RSVP. Contact Development Associate Joan Reilly—914.234.6992 ext. 22—to secure a spot.

### ROCKY HILLS ENVIRONMENTAL LECTURE SERIES

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5 | 7:30PM

EcoBeneficial Gardening 101: Boosting the Ecosystem in Your Own Back Yard with Horticulturist Kim Eierman

*Chappaqua Library  
195 South Greeley Avenue, Chappaqua*

Admission to this event is free.  
No registration is required.

### CONSERVATION CAFÉ: WHAT'S THE BUZZ ABOUT POLLINATORS?

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14 | 8:30 – 10:30AM

Honeybees aren't the only insect responsible for pollination! Learn more with WLT's Dr. Shaun McCoshum

*Pace University, Kessel Student Center  
861 Bedford Rd, Pleasantville*

Admission to this event is free.  
No registration is required.

### WALKING MEDITATION FOR HEALING & WELLNESS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19 | 10 – 11:30AM

Learn how to bring the meditative experience into all your activities in nature with WLT's Betty Sue Hanson

*Pine Croft Meadow Preserve  
Mead Street, Waccabuc*

Admission to this event is free. Full details provided upon RSVP. Contact Development Associate Joan Reilly—914.234.6992 ext. 22—to secure a spot.

## PONDEMONIUM PARTY

WHISKY TASTING | HORS D'OEUVRES  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20 | 7 – 9PM



FEATURING a sneak peek of PONDEMONIUM a highly engaging documentary—filmed in Westchester County—about the hidden natural world in our backyards. Enjoy live commentary and an exclusive interview with award-winning filmmakers Susan Todd and Andrew Young of Archipelago Films.

### BENEFITTING LAND PROTECTION AND PRESERVE MANAGEMENT IN SOUTHERN WESTCHESTER

Hosted by Dr. David & Marjorie Kaufman at their home, part of the historic Ethel Barrymore/Colt Family Estate - Mamaroneck

Tickets start at \$100. For more information or to purchase tickets please contact Development Associate, Joan Reilly—914.234.6992 ext. 22 or joan@westchesterlandtrust.org



### BIONUTRIENT FOOD ASSOCIATION

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25 | 6 – 8PM AND  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15 | 6 – 8PM

An informative monthly potluck for farmers and gardeners interested in learning more about growing nutrient dense fruits and vegetables using sustainable methods.

*Sugar Hill Farm  
403 Harris Road, Bedford Hills*

Admission is free. No registration required. For more information, please contact Communications & Programs Manager Kate Sann kate@westchesterlandtrust.org or 914.234.6992 ext. 15

## GUIDED FIELD WALKS

### FALL 2016

#### OTTER CREEK PRESERVE

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 | 10AM - 1PM

Explore one of the last remaining productive salt marshes in Westchester County.  
*Taylor's Lane - Mamaroneck*

#### WESTCHESTER WILDERNESS WALK / ZOFNASS FAMILY PRESERVE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 | 9AM - 12PM

Get acquainted with this 150-acre biological gem.  
*Upper Shad Road - Pound Ridge*

#### WESTCHESTER WILDERNESS WALK / ZOFNASS FAMILY PRESERVE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21 | 9AM - 12PM

#### HUNTER BROOK PRESERVE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4 | 9AM - 12PM

Discover a hidden retreat along this important tributary to the Croton Reservoir.  
*Beekman Court (off Hunter Brook Road) - Yorktown*

#### FREDERICK P. ROSE PRESERVE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18 | 9AM - 12PM

Hike through woodlands, wetlands and open meadows noted for wildlife diversity.  
*North Salem Road (Route 121) - Lewisboro*

#### WESTCHESTER WILDERNESS WALK / ZOFNASS FAMILY PRESERVE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2 | 9AM - 12PM

### WINTER/SPRING 2017

#### OTTER CREEK PRESERVE

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27 | 10AM - 1PM

#### HUNTER BROOK PRESERVE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3 | 9AM - 12PM

#### GUARD HILL PRESERVE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17 | 9AM - 12PM

See the meadows and pastures of nearby farms from a perspective you don't get from local roads.  
*Guard Hill Road - Bedford*

#### WESTCHESTER WILDERNESS WALK / ZOFNASS FAMILY PRESERVE

FRIDAY, MARCH 3 | 9AM - 12PM

Full details for all walks provided upon RSVP. Contact Development Associate Joan Reilly to secure a spot—914.234.6992 ext. 22.