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SPECIAL THANKS TO
Ellen Best, Newsletter Advisor
Kate Lanfer, cover photo of Hunter Brooke Preserve, protected forever by a WLT conservation easement. Find more info on Kate and her Tinkergarten class at Hunter Brook Preserve online at: <https://www.tinkergarten.com/leaders/kate.lanfer>

Thanks to you, our 30th Anniversary year is off to an incredible start!



Bruce Churchill

IN EARLY JANUARY, we completed a successful land protection project adjacent to one of our region's most beloved hiking areas - Turkey Mountain Preserve in Yorktown. This project demonstrates our **steadfast commitment** to

protecting and preserving the air you breathe, the water you drink, and the land you love. Please see the article on the next page to learn more about Turkey Mountain!

We continue to work with many of our visionary donors, landowners, and community partners who have been with us since our humble beginnings, and whose support remains vital to our continued growth and success. We owe our gratitude to founders and to the many individuals who have served on the Board of Directors and contributed their time, money, and passion over the years. We are **incredibly proud of how far you have brought us** and are looking forward to welcoming new partnerships to expand and deepen our impact throughout Westchester and Putnam Counties.

We are adapting our organization and approach. Our goal is to facilitate and complete projects in more diverse communities: be it in urban pockets, suburban centers, southern coastal communities, river towns to the west, or large properties in the northern most reaches of Putnam County.

AN EXPANDED PRESENCE HAS A NUMBER OF IMPLICATIONS FOR HOW WE WILL OPERATE:

- ☀️ We will be open to doing **different kinds of conservation projects.** New projects may involve previously developed properties, sites with current structures, or lands requiring some degree of ecological restoration.
- ☀️ Project acreage may be smaller. Urban and suburban land is less available and more expensive. But, a small green parcel in an urban setting may **positively impact more people on a daily basis** than a large secluded open space in the rural north.
- ☀️ We will work with more and **different kinds of partners** who can bring scale and expertise to a project that we might not otherwise be able to complete on our own.

Broadening the geographic scope will also result in our engaging more stakeholders in our region, and being able to take on more projects. Having said that, we will not lose sight of our historic strengths and accomplishments, but rather use them as the base from which we grow.

There is **excitement in the air** at our headquarters, Sugar Hill Farm, and **we look forward to thanking many of you in person at our Annual Benefit on June 2nd (see back cover for details).** We are confident that we have a strong organization, with a world-class staff, a deep base of supporters, and a solid financial base, to provide the foundation for success in the decades ahead.

Bruce Churchill
Chairman of the Board



FORMER WLT DIRECTOR JONATHAN ROSE INSPIRES A WELL-TEMPERED LANDSCAPE

At the latest Hudson to Housatonic Regional Conservation Partnership (H2HRCP) All-Partner meeting, representatives of dozens of conservation organizations gathered at Pace University in Pleasantville, NY, to hear Jonathan Rose, co-founder of the Garrison Institute and Jonathan Rose Companies, discuss and share themes he presents in his recent book, "The Well-Tempered City." We encourage you to visit <https://soundcloud.com/hudson2housatonic> to listen to this engaging and thought-provoking discussion!

H2H is a network of more than three dozen New York and Connecticut organizations working to increase the pace of land conservation in our region. H2H is co-coordinated and co-hosted by WLT and Highstead (Redding, CT). Visit www.h2hrpc.org to learn more and to view Jonathan Rose's presentation.



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 earthshareny.org or contact Development and Special Events Coordinator, Michelle Pleim—michelle@westchesterlandtrust.org or 914.234.6992 ext. 22

Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)
Number: 77308

LAND PROTECTION UPDATE

Let's Talk Turkey (Mountain)

After several years of negotiations and identifying project partners and funding sources, we are pleased to announce that we closed on the Turkey Mountain project in early January and in doing so, added 24 acres to a 550-acre contiguous open space corridor in

Yorktown. Although Turkey Mountain parcel is not yet open to the public, we plan to expand the trail system from the Turkey Mountain Preserve onto our land and in the future, own the land as a nature preserve for all to enjoy. The Town of Yorktown holds a conservation easement on this new preserve, further ensuring that the land will always remain protected open space.

We first set our sights on preserving a parcel adjacent to the Turkey Mountain Preserve in Yorktown several years ago because it is a key link in a vast conservation corridor - picture a missing piece in a jigsaw puzzle! Our land protection work is guided by a set of criteria and the Turkey Mountain parcel had many values we seek to protect: preservation of public drinking water quality, connectivity to other protected land, opportunity for passive recreation, and the protection of scenic views — to name a few.

It is amazing to consider that we currently have one of the most robust and diverse portfolios of active land projects ever-totaling more than 1,000 acres. In our service area, we have identified areas with high conservation value that provide countless benefits to our communities, including clean air and water, and healthy habitats within which a myriad species can thrive. As your regional land trust, we have dedicated professional staff working daily to complete these land conservation projects. We have much work to do!

HOW TO HELP:

We have plans to construct a trail in 2018 and we continue to fundraise to offset our land project and trail building costs. Please contact WLT's Outreach Coordinator, Kat Deely (Kat@westchesterlandtrust.org or 914.234.6992 ext 26) if you are interested in learning more!

WE SALUTE OUR FUNDING PARTNERS!

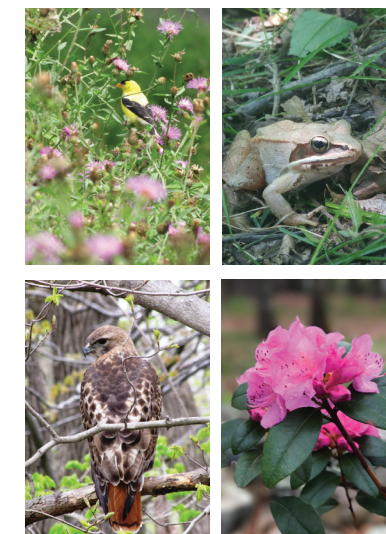
John T. and Jane A. Wiederhold Foundation, Town of Yorktown, Yorktown Land Trust, Westchester Land Trust Acquisition Fund, and private donors from throughout Westchester.

Did you know?

The 831 foot Turkey Mountain Preserve summit offers panoramic views of the Croton Reservoir, Hudson River, Manhattan skyline, Hudson Highlands, and Shawangunk Ridge.

PROTECTED FOREVER

The new preserve boasts an 11-acre wetland area, and a 13-acre forested upland. The perennial stream is inhabited by a variety of ray-finned fish and is likely an important spawning habitat for many fish in the area. The woodlands and wetlands are important habitats for hundreds of species of invertebrates (insects, arachnids, worms, etc.), which are the foundation of complex food webs that support larger organisms such as the birds, mammals, amphibians and reptiles. Dozens of species of migrating birds - including warbler, cuckoo, vireo, sparrow, flycatcher, hummingbird, and hawk have been viewed on these acres and the adjacent Turkey Mountain Preserve.





Westchester Land Trust



JOIN US IN CELEBRATING 30 Years of Conservation



EVENTS CALENDAR

For a full list of our programs visit:
westchesterlandtrust.org/calendar

**SUGAR HILL FARM, 403 HARRIS RD, BEDFORD HILLS
FIELD DAYS ON THE FARM: SUGAR
HILL FARM VOLUNTEER SESSIONS**
Grow produce for our neighbors in need.
All ages welcome.
10AM – 2PM, RAIN OR SHINE
2ND & 4TH TUESDAYS & A COUPLE OF SATURDAYS!
APRIL 10 & 24 | MAY 8 & 22 | JUNE 12 & 26
JULY 10, 14, & 24 | AUGUST 14 & 28TH
SEPT 1, 11, & 25 | OCT 9 |

APRIL 10 | 10:00 – 11:00 AM
ANNUAL VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION
Meet with WLT staff and current volunteers at
Sugar Hill Farm and learn about the volunteer
opportunity that is right for you!

FEBRUARY 21 | MARCH 15 | APRIL 17 | MAY 16
5:30 – 7:30 PM
**SUGAR HILL FARM, 403 HARRIS RD, BEDFORD HILLS
BIONUTRIENT FOOD ASSOCIATION**
Farmer Doug DeCandia (Food Bank for Westchester)
leads an informative monthly potluck for farmers
and gardeners interested in learning more about
growing nutrient dense fruits and vegetables using
sustainable methods.

*No registration necessary.
Meetings are free and open to the public.

SATURDAY | APRIL 21 | 3:00 – 5:00 PM
JAY HERITAGE CENTER, RYE NY
RESTORING OUR LANDS
Join us for a conversation and presentation
on ecological restoration by WLT's Director of
Stewardship Tate Bushell and Jessica Schuler of
New York Botanical Garden.

SATURDAY | MAY 5 | 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
HUNTER BROOK PRESERVE, YORKTOWN NY
**ANNUAL WLT TREE PLANTING AT
HUNTER BROOK PRESERVE**
Explore Westchester in a new way! Join WLT,
members of Riverkeeper's Riversweep Program, and
members of the Watershed Agricultural Council as
we plant native trees along the Hunter Brook. While
you plant, you'll hear and see some of the best
wildlife habitat in northwestern Westchester. Come
join us and help plant a tree or two!

**FIELD FINDS AT WLT'S
NATURE PRESERVES**
The natural world is continually changing around us,
have you noticed? Together with WLT's naturalists,
let's see what changes we can find! Walks happen
year-round and are family-friendly. Find the complete
schedule at westchesterlandtrust.org/calendar.

SATURDAY | MARCH 24 | 2 PM
HUNTER BROOK PRESERVE, YORKTOWN, NY
**KIDS IN THE WILD : A WALK IN THE
WOODS WITH WLT & TINKERGARTEN!**
Tinkergarten leader Kate Lanfer (see page 1) will take
kiddos—who must be accompanied by an adventurous
adult—on a sensory exploration over the stream and
through the woods. Prepare to get a bit muddy!

WEDNESDAY | MAY 23 | 10:00 – 11:30 AM
PINECROFT PRESERVE, WACCABUC, NY
**WELLNESS WALK & GUIDED
MEDITATION AT PINECROFT PRESERVE**
Learn the process of mindful walking and reap the
benefits – changes in mind-body systems – that
accrue to those who practice mindfulness in nature.

ALL OF THE ABOVE EVENTS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO
THE PUBLIC! Please contact Kat Deely at 914.234.6992
ext 15 or kat@westchesterlandtrust.org to RSVP.

Mark your calendars for our
30TH ANNIVERSARY BENEFIT
as we honor the legacy of
DAVID ROCKEFELLER
and the Rockefeller family
for their significant contribution
to land conservation

Saturday, June 2, 2018
The Rockefeller Family Playhouse
Pocantico Hills

To buy tickets and to find out more
information on sponsorship opportunities visit
WESTCHESTERLANDTRUST.ORG

SATURDAY, APRIL 21 2:00PM
RAIN DATE, APRIL 22, 2:00PM
**EARTH DAY COMMUNITY YOGA
CLASS AT SUGAR HILL FARM**
Celebrate Earth Day with us as yoga teacher
Lynne Geaney leads us through a special 50 minute
Earth Day Yoga class to honor the land we love.
No yoga experience necessary. Space is limited to
20 participants so please reserve your spot by
contacting Kat Deely (contact info at left).
Please bring a yoga mat.
Suggested donation for this class is \$15.

This year, Westchester Land Trust (WLT) will feature 30 stories about 30 of our supporters who are deeply committed to protecting the natural resources in your communities. We begin with Kate Lanfer, the driving force behind the local chapter of Tinkergarten, an organization that provides childhood learning opportunities in the best classroom of all – the outdoors. During the summer, WLT's Hunter Brook Preserve serves as an outdoor classroom for her program.

Annual Benefit 2018

HONORING THE LEGACY OF
DAVID ROCKEFELLER
AND THE
ROCKEFELLER FAMILY

Saturday, June 2, 2018
See back page for details

Imagine a world where
more kids are spending
time outdoors, learning
about wildlife, and becoming
caretakers of the future.



Last summer, Kate met our staff on a WLT led Guided Walk at Hunter Brook, and immediately fell in love with the beauty of the Preserve. Kate recalls her first visit to Hunter Brook and says, "it was beautiful... you could see the magic emanating from the creek below. I immediately knew that Hunter Brook was the perfect Tinkergarten classroom for our summertime program."

That's what one of Westchester Land Trust's newest supporters, **Kate Lanfer**, is aiming for. Every week Kate leads hands-on classes for children and their parents/caregivers in local green spaces, including Hunter Brook Preserve in Yorktown.



Through spending time at Hunter Brook and taking an in-depth look at nature, Kate explains how children learn the importance of conservation and how to care for the earth. By fostering connections with nature, Tinkergarten participants are also establishing positive connections to the land and creating long lasting memories.

A strong relationship, built on conserving our land for all to enjoy, has formed between Kate and WLT. Over the past year, Kate, her children, and Tinkergarten families volunteered at Sugar Hill Farm for our volunteer farm days; please see the back cover to learn more

about how you can volunteer at Sugar Hill Farm and grow produce for our neighbors in need. "WLT staff members are incredible" says Kate. "I call them whenever I have a question about Hunter Brook or any of their other magnificent preserves. I am thrilled to be a part of the WLT family and can't wait to take the kiddos to Hunter Brook this summer!"

We look forward to partnering with Kate and providing inspiring natural spaces for conservationists of all ages to connect with the land for our next 30 years - and beyond!

If you would like to nominate someone to be featured in our "30 stories highlighting 30 years of conservation" coverage, please email Zoraida Lopez-Diago at Zoraida@westchesterlandtrust.org.

Your Commitment Means the LAND to Us.

I would like to contribute:

- \$1,000 \$500 \$250 \$50 \$25 other \$.....
- My gift is in honor/memory of
- I have enclosed/will send a matching gift form from my employer.
- I have remembered the Westchester Land Trust in my will.
- I would like to make a Monthly Quarterly Bi-annual pledge of.....
- I wish my gift to remain anonymous.

For other ways to give, including by credit card, visit westchesterlandtrust.org
WLT is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Your contribution is tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Name

Address

City State Zip

Phone

Email

Entering my email indicates my consent to receive occasional enews from Westchester Land Trust. We never share this information.

Enclosed is my check payable to Westchester Land Trust. Please mail to: 403 Harris Road, Bedford Hills, NY 10507