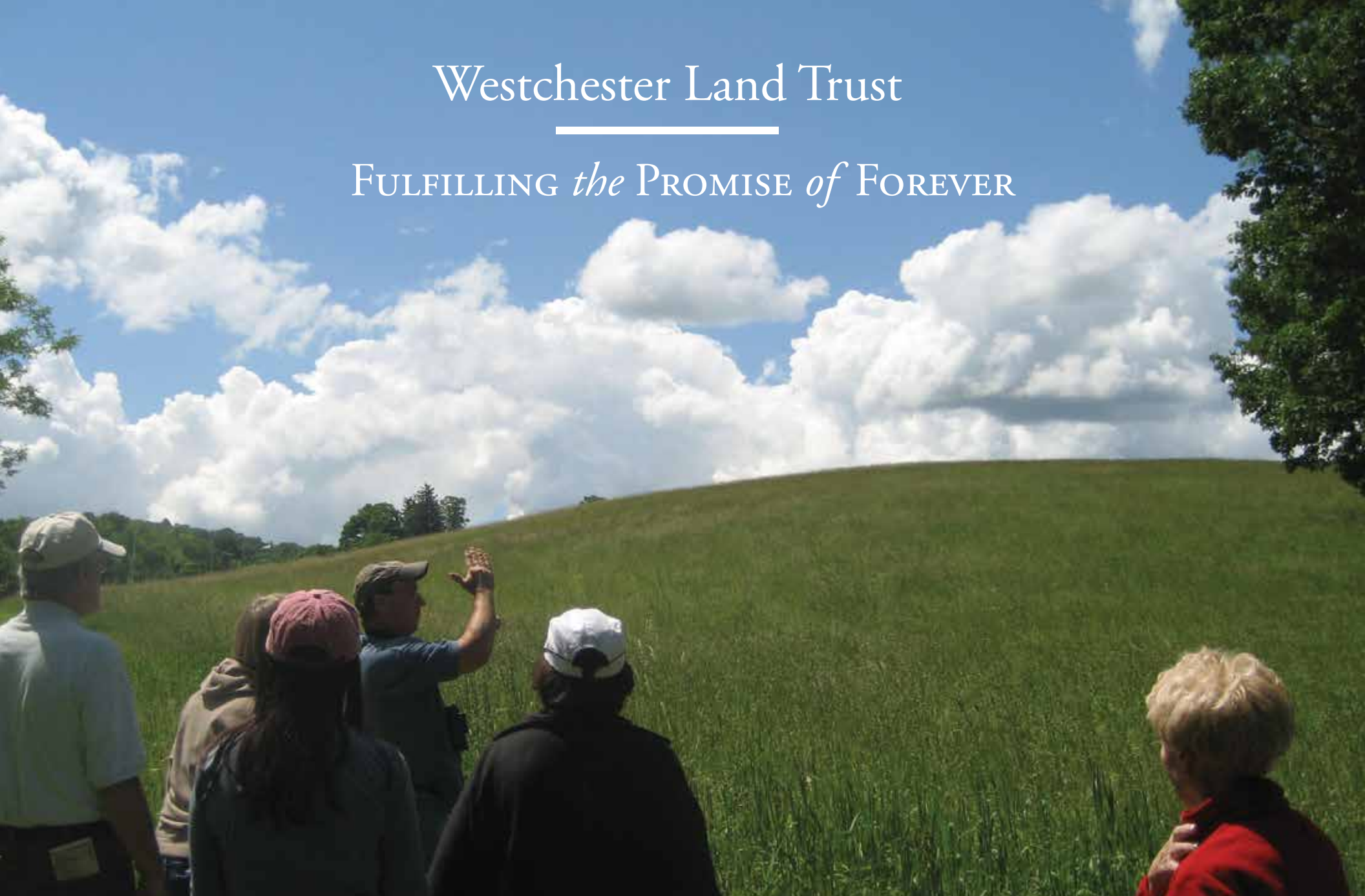


# Westchester Land Trust

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FULFILLING *the* PROMISE of FOREVER



Newsletter Spring 2019  [westchesterlandtrust.org](http://westchesterlandtrust.org)

Programming  
That'll Get You Outside  
~ 3 ~

Five Ways You Can  
Help Curb Climate Change  
~ 5 ~

Leaving  
A Legacy  
~ 7 ~

Westchester Land Trust works together with public and private partners to preserve land in perpetuity, and to protect and enhance the natural resources in our communities.

## Westchester Land Trust

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Westchester Land Trust (WLT) is a member of EarthShare, a nationwide network of America's most respected environmental and conservation charities. You and your employer can support WLT through an EarthShare workplace giving campaign. Visit [earthshareny.org](http://earthshareny.org) or contact Michelle Pleim at [michelle@westchesterlandtrust.org](mailto:michelle@westchesterlandtrust.org) or 914.234.6992 ext. 22 to learn more.

Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)  
Number: 77308

Cover Photo: WLT conservation easement in North Salem. Protected forever since 2009.

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

## We Are All Part of the Climate Solution



Dear Friends,

**Thanks to you, we are coming off one of the most successful years in our organization's history with 600 acres protected in 2018 alone. I'm proud to report that we've started 2019 with a portfolio of pending projects that have the potential to make this year's land protection activities rival, and perhaps even exceed, those of last year.**

While 2018 was indeed a great year for land protection, it was a year of struggle and setbacks for many of our preserves, including our Sugar Hill Farm garden – the produce from which is donated to local food pantries. We experienced some of the most challenging weather extremes in recent memory, resulting in flood damage, destruction of trees and preserve infrastructure (like deer exclosures and bog bridges), and an annual yield at our farm garden that was significantly lower than any previous year.

On the heels of our own experiences, the release of several major climate reports late last fall felt particularly timely. With this in mind, I convened a meeting with WLT's staff and Board to discuss what we believe is one of the most pressing challenges of our time. The data and scientific facts from these reports were alarming and compelling and identifying WLT's role in curbing climate change became a focus of subsequent staff and Board meetings. See page 4 for the full story.

Two important light bulbs went off for us:



Land conservation is an essential component of *any* climate solution, yet it is not getting the same attention in the public dialogue as emissions reduction plans are. We must do a better job communicating the urgency of our land protection efforts and speed up the pace at which we do it. We are gratified to have been appointed to Westchester County's Climate Crisis Task Force, and will ensure that this receives priority attention.



Climate science may feel abstract, but the effects are impacting our backyards, literally. Our organization, like many others, must incorporate the impacts of climate change into our organizational, strategic and financial planning, *now*.

We are committed to proactively protecting our region's most climate resilient lands for you and your community. And we are committed to staying nimble so that we can adapt to the climate curveballs that will be coming our way in 2019 and beyond.

**With your generous support, we will succeed.** Together, we are making a difference. Together, we are a vital part of the climate solution equation.

Lori Ensinger, President



# Calling All Adventurers!

# Westchester Land Trust 2019

Join us to learn about conservation while having a great time with family and friends!

Visit [westchesterlandtrust.org](http://westchesterlandtrust.org) or contact Kristen at 914.234.6992 ext. 15 or [kristen@westchesterlandtrust.org](mailto:kristen@westchesterlandtrust.org) for more info and to RSVP.

<b>Friday, March 29</b> <b>7:00 PM - 8:30 PM</b>		<b>Big Night: Amphibian Migration Count</b> Love Preserve, Lewisboro	Join us in our search for migrating frogs, toads, and salamanders. Learn how to identify amphibian calls, why these critters are migrating, and how you can help during this family-friendly nighttime walk. <i>This event is rain or shine.</i>
<b>Tuesday, April 2</b> <b>5:30 PM - 6:30 PM</b>		<b>Westchester Land Trust Volunteer Mixer</b> Sugar Hill Farm, 403 Harris Road, Bedford Hills	Meet WLT staff and volunteers at our HQ to learn about the different ways you can support land conservation - in the field, on the farm and at our HQ. Stick around and give us a hand on the farm or with our annual note writing projects! Wine, beer, and snacks will be served. This is a family-friendly gathering. <i>Rain Date: Tuesday, April 9th</i>
<b>Saturday, April 6</b> <b>10 AM - 12 PM</b>		<b>Photo Walk with Westchester County Photography</b> Westchester Wilderness Walk/ Zofnass Family Preserve, Pound Ridge	Grab your camera and enjoy a photo walk through the woods! Join us for this exploration and fun opportunity to meet local photography enthusiasts. <i>Rain Date: Sunday, April 7</i>
<b>Saturday, April 27</b> <b>9 AM - 3 PM - AND -</b> <b>Saturday, May 4</b> <b>9 AM - 1 PM</b>		<b>Earth Days of Action</b> Otter Creek Preserve, Mamaroneck	You can make a difference. Join WLT 's Stewardship team as we protect and care for the land at Otter Creek Preserve. Help to build bog bridges, plant wildflowers and beautify the landscape. Be a part of the change!!!
<b>Saturday, May 4</b> <b>10 AM - 12 PM</b>		<b>Hiking 101 - What You Need to Get Started!</b> Turkey Mountain Nature Preserve, Yorktown	If you're new to hiking or have never been hiking before, this is the program for you! Join WLT for a hike full of nature facts and hiking need-to-knows. <i>Rain Date: Sunday, May 5</i>
<b>Tuesday, May 7</b> <b>1 PM - 2:30 PM</b>		<b>Guided Mindfulness Nature Walk</b> Pine Croft Meadow Preserve, Waccabuc	Practice slowing down with Master Reiki instructor Betty Sue Hanson. Join her as she guides participants on a journey to activate their bodies, improve concentration and reduce stress. <i>Rain Date: Wednesday, May 8</i>

<b>Nature Play Pop-ups</b> Join us for a hands-on nature lesson combining active play and short, gentle walks. Each program includes an educational theme and will be held at a WLT preserve in Westchester. This is a nature program geared to babies, toddlers and young children.	<b>Tuesday, April 16</b> <b>9:30 AM - 10:30 AM</b>		<b>Animal Habitats</b> Beaver Dam Sanctuary, 101 Beaver Dam Rd, Katonah <i>Rain Date: Thursday, April 18</i>
	<b>Saturday, June 29</b> <b>9:30 AM - 10:30 AM</b>		<b>Discoveries in the Dirt</b> Otter Creek Preserve, Mamaroneck <i>Rain Date: Sunday, June 30</i>

**Bionutrient Food Association (BFA) Meetings** **March 14, April 16, May 15, June 13, July 16, August 14, September 19**  
**5:30 - 7:30 PM at Sugar Hill Farm, 403 Harris Road, Bedford Hills**  
Join BFA for monthly potluck/meetings that include a garden or food themed discussion, hands-on workshop or presentation, as well as time outside in the garden. Participants include farmers, backyard gardeners, nutritionists, chefs, all of varying levels of experience. All are welcome!



**SAVE THE DATE**  
for  
**An Evening Celebrating the Land You Love**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2019**  
at  
**GlenArbor Golf Club Bedford Hills**

**HONORING**  
**Benny Caiola,**  
*Preservation ANGEL Award*  
**Susan Henry,**  
*Lifetime Achievement Award*

For early ticket information and to join the event committee, please contact Michelle Pleim  
[michelle@westchesterlandtrust.org](mailto:michelle@westchesterlandtrust.org)  
or 914.234.6992 ext. 22

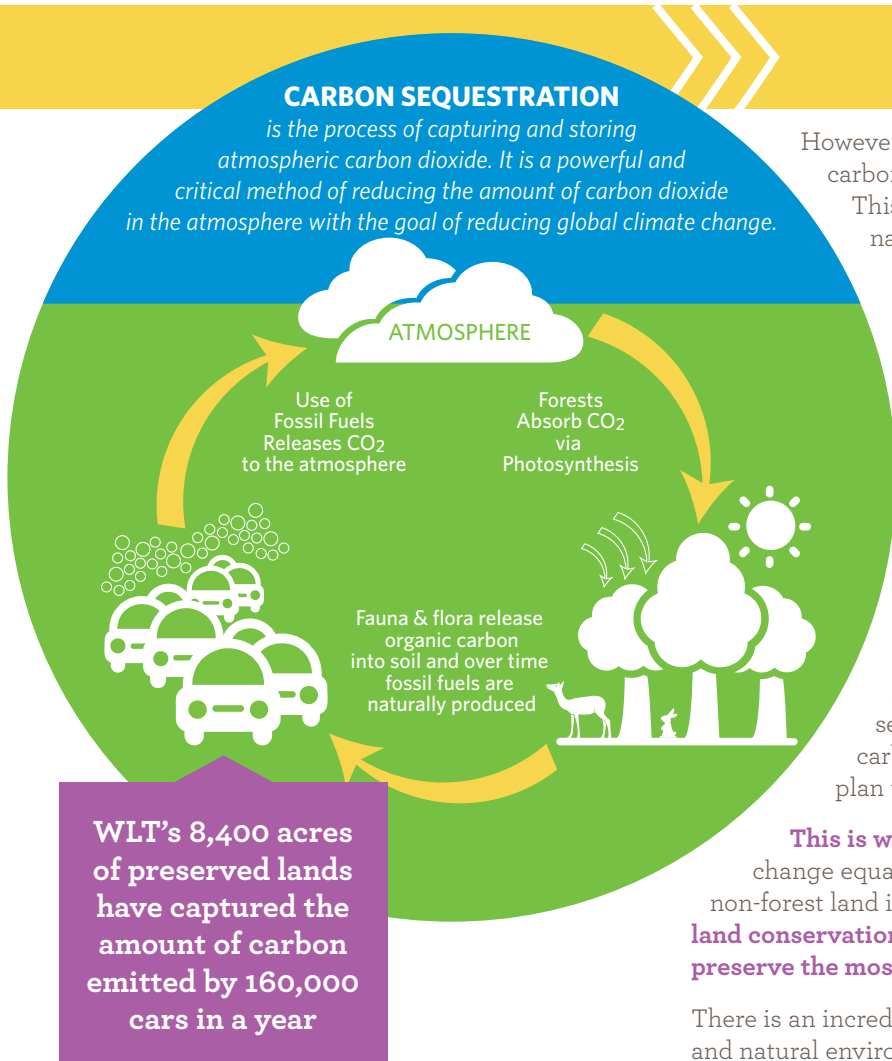




# You Can Make a Real Difference to Combat Climate Change!

The headlines about the impacts of climate change are coming with increasing frequency. As much as we might wish, this is not an issue for someone else to worry about in some distant locale. The recent release of reports like the National Climate Assessment and the UN's study from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change make this crystal clear. Climate change is real and it is accelerating faster than was projected even 5 years ago. These reports underscore the urgency for every government, organization and individual to take major steps to make a difference.

In its most simple terms (and the science is incredibly complex!), the recipe for success can be viewed as an equation that seeks to reduce carbon emissions and increase carbon capture.



$$\text{REDUCTION IN CO}^2 \text{ EMISSIONS} + \text{INCREASE IN CO}^2 \text{ CAPTURE} = \text{TOTAL REDUCTION IN CO}^2$$

However, the public dialogue around climate change is focusing more on strategies for reducing carbon emissions and much less on preserving our ability to capture the emissions that get released. This may be creating a blind spot in the public's understanding of what is needed to reach global, national and regional goals.

Natural lands in their undeveloped state (forests, meadows and wetlands) play a vital role in mitigating climate change as they bind up, or “sequester” much of the carbon that we emit each year. But every time a natural landscape is cleared for development, the ability of each of these acres to sequester carbon is destroyed, and the valuable (largely cost-free) climate resiliency service that those lands provide to a community is lost. This fact is rarely taken into account in the “cost/benefit analysis” of a development plan. The result is that even as a community strives to make progress on the first part of the climate equation, it slips backwards on the second part. One step forward, one step back, and collectively we are no closer to our goals.

How meaningful is this? Well, in our region of the country, an average acre of forest holds about 100 tons of carbon (which is the amount emitted by burning 10,000 gallons of gasoline!), and as the trees grow, this amount increases each year. A healthy wetland can sequester many times that amount. The US Geological Survey estimates that terrestrial carbon sequestration in the US offsets 30% of our country's carbon emissions every year. Preserving our carbon sequestration capacity by means such as land preservation is a critical component of any plan to keep global warming below the Paris Accord thresholds. Either strategy alone will fail.

**This is where you come in.** It is clear that reduction in carbon emissions is just one part of the climate change equation. Slowing deforestation and encouraging reforestation or afforestation (converting non-forest land into forest) has the potential to significantly increase carbon uptake in the US. **It is up to land conservation organizations like WLT, bolstered by passionate supporters like you, to lead efforts to preserve the most critical lands that will provide the greatest climate resilience for our communities.**

There is an incredible amount of work to be done. We need your help. Together we can protect the critical lands and natural environments that every living thing needs to survive. See the next page to get involved and learn about how you can help fight climate change.

# NATURAL SOLUTIONS

## to help curb climate change

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- 1 Plant a tree (or two or three!)**

Young plants and trees help to remove CO<sub>2</sub> from the air. Volunteer with our stewardship team to help WLT restore local forests. Contact Kristen O'Hara at [kristen@westchesterlandtrust.org](mailto:kristen@westchesterlandtrust.org) to sign up!
- 2 No mow, let it grow!**

You can help pollinators, save money and time, and have cleaner air by reducing the area of your property that you mow. If you have the space, consider letting an area of your lawn grow long. You'd be surprised what a little meadow can do for wildlife and the environment.
- 3 Don't treat your soil like dirt!**

Healthy soils (with high organic material content) sequester even more carbon than is found in the atmosphere. Mulch your leaves in place or spread them around your trees and beds. They are packed with nutrients and do wonders for your soil health!
- 4 Protect your land!**

To learn about the financial and environmental benefits of conserving your land and if your property might qualify for a conservation easement, contact John Baker at [john@westchesterlandtrust.org](mailto:john@westchesterlandtrust.org).
- 5 Donate to Westchester Land Trust!**

The contribution you may think of as insignificant is often the very thing that will make all the difference. When you make a gift, for any amount, even \$5.00, you help to safeguard air, water, food sources, wildlife habitat and the integrity of the places you treasure for recreation, scenic beauty, and nature. Visit [westchesterlandtrust.org](http://westchesterlandtrust.org), call Michelle at 914-234-6992 ext. 22, or complete the donation form on the back cover and send us your contribution today!

For more tips on how to help reduce your carbon footprint, find us on

 Facebook/Instagram @WestchesterLandTrust

 Twitter @WLT\_NY



### Get your potluck on!

Bring your favorite dish and join the Westchester/NYC chapter of the Bionutrient Food Association (BFA) at Sugar Hill Farms for monthly potluck/meetings full of good food and great company!!

All gardeners and farmers interested in learning more about soil health and growing nutrient dense produce using sustainable methods are encouraged to attend. See the calendar on page 3 for dates. Don't forget to bring a yummy dish!





**LEAVING A LEGACY OF LIFELONG LEARNING**

**ANNOUNCING**

# The Martha Dinerstein Fund for Conservation Leadership

**JOIN US**

**September 9, 2019  
5 - 6:00 PM  
at Sugar Hill Farm  
for a cocktail  
reception to celebrate  
Marti Dinerstein's  
legacy gift and to  
learn more about WLT's  
planned giving program.**

**RSVP**

[kara@westchesterlandtrust.org](mailto:kara@westchesterlandtrust.org)

Long-time Bedford resident and former Westchester Land Trust (WLT) board member **Martha (Marti) Dinerstein** was an exceptional woman who graced this world with her intellect, charm, and an infectious laugh. She passed away in January 2018 after a distinguished career in marketing and corporate communications. Throughout her life Marti used her unique gift - to encourage the potential in others - to promote the professional and personal growth of her loved ones and colleagues. During her nine years as a WLT Director, Marti helped to steer WLT's growth from a young organization to one that could make a tangible difference. Her passion for WLT's mission fueled her work to make WLT a thought-leader and respected voice on the conservation stage.

Westchester Land Trust was truly honored to have been named as a beneficiary of Marti's Estate. Following discussions with Marti's husband Robert, WLT will use her extraordinary gift to establish **The Martha Dinerstein Fund for Conservation Leadership**. The Fund will be used to educate and mobilize the next generation of conservation leaders through permanently endowing professional development and training for high-potential WLT staff members on topics related to conservation, land stewardship, and non-profit leadership. It will also support staff selected to serve on the faculty at local, regional, and national conferences. As Robert noted, "Marti always welcomed the opportunity to mentor young people as they dealt with the challenges of building a career and I know that she would have eagerly embraced the objectives of this Fund for Conservation Leadership. I only wish that the beneficiaries of the Fund could have had the chance to learn from her wise counsel directly."

Marti recognized the vital role that Westchester Land Trust could play in regional conservation and worked tirelessly to ensure our sustainability as an organization. **The Martha Dinerstein Fund for Conservation Leadership** is a wonderful tribute to her legacy, and one that will meaningfully contribute to WLT's reach and impact for generations to come.

Support via wills and life income gifts has built and strengthened Westchester Land Trust's mission since our founding in 1988. Please call Kara Whelan, Vice President, 914.234.6992 ext. 12 or email [kara@westchesterlandtrust.org](mailto:kara@westchesterlandtrust.org), to RSVP or learn more about making a planned gift to WLT today.



**Thanks to The Martha Dinerstein Fund for Conservation Leadership** for supporting the following WLT staff to serve as faculty in 2019:

- **"Behind the Scenes of the Hudson to Housatonic Regional Conservation Partnership"** presented by Kristen O'Hara and Kara Whelan, Yale School of Forestry
- **"Lights! Camera! Impact! How to Tell Engaging Stories"** presented by Zoraida Lopez-Diago, **"The Recipe for a Successful Special Event"** presented by Michelle Pleim, New York Land Conservation Conference





We are honored to preserve 33 acres adjacent to the eastern boundary of the Leon Levy Preserve and offer the opportunity for public hiking trail expansion. The future trail will serve as the connection between the two properties, giving the public access to unique and beautiful habitats for wildlife including the green-winged teal (pictured above).

**PRESERVE SPOTLIGHT**

# Mill River Preserve

**We are thrilled to announce our most recent acquisition and permanent preservation of 33 acres encompassing a segment of the Mill River, near Route 123 in Lewisboro, New York. This project was a WLT milestone, becoming the 30th nature preserve to be owned and managed by us!**

The newly named Mill River Preserve is adjacent to the eastern boundary of the Leon Levy Preserve, which is owned by the Town of Lewisboro and protected in perpetuity by a conservation easement held by WLT. The property buffers an important biodiversity corridor known as the Eastern Westchester Biotic Corridor (EWBC). The EWBC is a state and locally recognized biodiversity corridor comprising much of the towns of Lewisboro, Pound Ridge and North Salem, notable for its impressive diversity of wildlife habitat that is threatened by development pressures.

The Preserve boasts a mature hardwood forest, a major wetland complex, and the Mill River itself, which is a tributary to the Stamford, CT drinking water supply. This combination of natural elements mitigates flooding, protects public drinking water, and adds to the climate resilience of the community, a critically important factor as climate change impacts the region with greater frequency and severity of storms, flooding, and temperature extremes. And it does this all at no cost!

Westchester Land Trust will own and manage this beautiful new preserve as an extension of the Leon Levy Preserve. We are thrilled that the Lewisboro Trail Volunteers have so generously offered to partner with us to create an extension from the nearly five-mile trail network within the Leon Levy Preserve. This future trail will serve as the connection between the two preserves, giving the public access to unique and beautiful habitats. Stay tuned to learn more about opportunities to assist with this new trail project!

Contact Brendan Murphy, WLT's Director of Stewardship at 914.234.6992, ext. 10 or [brendan@westchesterlandtrust.org](mailto:brendan@westchesterlandtrust.org) to learn more about WLT's Stewardship programs and upcoming projects.



Katonah resident, Nancy J. Karch, joins the Board of Directors while Karen Hiniker Simons (Katonah, NY), Janelle Robbins (Somers, NY) and Susan Oakley (Mamaroneck, NY) have been appointed to WLT's Advisory Board.

## Meet Our New Leadership

We are thrilled to welcome new members to the Westchester Land Trust Board of Directors and Advisory Board! Our newest members represent a diverse range of experiences and each new member brings a valuable perspective on how to support the next phase of our growth.

Visit our website to read the press release and to learn more about our newest Board of Director and Advisory Board members.



## "Bee" on the Pollinator Pathway

Use your outdoor space (including potted plants) to make an environmental impact! Join a Pollinator Pathway near you! Pollinator Pathways is an initiative of the Hudson to Housatonic (H2H) Regional Conservation Partnership, which WLT co-leads. Learn more at [pollinator-pathway.org](http://pollinator-pathway.org) and [h2hrpc.org](http://h2hrpc.org) or call Kristen O'Hara at 914.234.6992, ext.15.





Founding Director Susan Henry introduces Pine Croft Meadow Preserve to WLT supporters of all ages. To celebrate her visionary leadership and contributions, Ms. Henry will be awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award at WLT's Annual Benefit on June 1st.



SAVE THE DATE FOR...

An Evening Celebrating the  
 Protection of Land You Love

**SATURDAY,  
 JUNE 1, 2019**

GlenArbor Golf Club,  
 Bedford Hills, NY

*See page 3 for more info.*

**You're a vital part of the story. Ensure the places you love will be protected forever.**

**I would like to contribute**

\$1,000  \$500  \$250  \$50  \$25  Surprise Us \$.....

**I would like to make a pledge of .....**

Monthly  Quarterly  Bi-annually

My gift is in honor/memory of .....

I have enclosed/will send a matching gift form from my employer.

I wish my gift to remain anonymous.

I would like to learn more about including  
 Westchester Land Trust in my will.

*WLT is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and 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.*

Mail check made out to **Westchester Land Trust to WLT, 403 Harris Road, Bedford Hills, NY 10507**. For other ways to give, including by credit card, visit us online at: [westchesterlandtrust.org](http://westchesterlandtrust.org)