Westchester Land Trust reimagines Annual Benefit as raucous rite of spring to celebrate good news about our local environment. *The 2016 theme, “Our Land is Your Land” signals the event’s fun, feisty, community-friendly tone—all happening on one of Bedford’s most beloved farms!*

**BEDFORD HILLS, NY**—Fête-ing the accomplishments of local land visionaries—Vivien G. Malloy and The Zofnass Family—who’ve made a demonstrable difference in the protection of precious natural resources, the Westchester Land Trust (WLT) announces its Annual Benefit will be held on June 18th, 2016 amidst the rolling pastures and signature yellow barns of Bedford’s iconic Sunnyfield Farm. Funds raised through the 2016 Benefit will enable the organization to protect environmentally-critical open space in Westchester and eastern Putnam Counties.

**THE FARMER AND ADELE**

With all the usual gloomy news about the environment, WLT’s June gala takes a refreshingly optimistic approach, celebrating the significant progress made in land protection and the people who support the initiative and make it happen. And this year, party-goers can opt for lower-priced farm table seating along with thoughtful touches like the cool, crisp, grown-for-the gala veggies—courtesy of Watson’s Catering in partnership with area farmers from the burgeoning local ag community. Auctioneer extraordinaire, Cutler Whitman, will emcee an eclectic crop of enticing auction items that run the gamut from the rarefied to the rugged, including: four impossible-to-get tickets to Adele’s upcoming concert at MSG; an insider’s day at Saratoga Race Track with honoree, Vivien G. Malloy; a private consultation at your home with celebrated landscape designer Page Dickey; a chic week in Martinique; a custom-monogrammed camo carryall from L.L. Bean; and a much-coveted subscription to local poultry and eggs from Bedford’s epic Mill Pond Farm.

**HOW GREEN WAS THEIR VISION**

This year, WLT honors Waccabuc’s Vivien G. Malloy with the 2016 Preservation Angel Award. Mrs. Malloy is an internationally acclaimed breeder of thoroughbred racehorses and the owner of Edition Farm in Hyde Park, NY. As a horsewoman, Mrs. Malloy explored the extensive network of riding trails that crisscross the County and has a unique awareness of the community value of open space. She is a loyal and longstanding champion of the Westchester Land Trust’s efforts to protect land for the benefit of all, having served on its Board of Directors since 2010.

The 2016 Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented to longtime Pound Ridge residents Paul Zofnass and Renée Ring who—along with their entire family—explored the rocky woods behind their home for years and were determined to see them preserved in their natural state forever. The Zofnass Family worked for over a decade to create the preserve that now bears their name. Westchester Wilderness Walk/Zofnass Family Preserve boasts extensive trails open to the community free of charge spanning more than 150-acres and is enjoyed by thousands of hikers annually.

**FROM THE SHORES OF LONG ISLAND SOUND TO THE GREAT SWAMP WATERSHED—WESTCHESTER LAND TRUST IS YOUR LAND TRUST!**

Based in Bedford Hills, the Westchester Land Trust works with public and private partners to preserve land in perpetuity and to enhance the natural resources in Westchester and eastern Putnam counties—a densely populated region under
persistent threat from the pressures of development. Through the use of conservation easements and outright acquisition, WLT’s efforts benefit the long-term health of communities from Yonkers and Mamaroneck to Cortlandt, Bedford, and Patterson—and everywhere in between!—by safeguarding air quality, food supply and community character, as well as critical watershed areas. Since its founding in 1988, WLT has preserved almost 8,000 acres of open space including more than 700-acres of preserves owned by the organization which are free and open to the public year round.

Funds raised through this event will enable Westchester Land Trust to continue the work of protecting environmentally-important open space in the community we all share. Tickets to WLT’s Annual Benefit, Our Land Is Your Land, start at $175 and can be purchased online at westchesterlandtrust.org or by calling Assistant Development Director, Grace Buck, at (914)234.6992 ext. 23.

For more information about WLT, please visit westchesterlandtrust.org and connect with us on Facebook (http://www.facebook.com/WLandTrust) and Instagram (@WestchesterLandTrust).