WESTCHESTER LAND TRUST WELCOMES OVER 300 SUPPORTERS TO ANNUAL BENEFIT AT SUNNYFIELD FARM

BEDFORD HILLS, NY—More than 300 guests gathered at the iconic Sunnyfield Farm in Bedford on June 18th for dinner, dancing, and a particularly lively auction, to celebrate the Westchester Land Trust’s (WLT) continued conservation efforts in the region. WLT welcomed an exciting mix of supporters—both long-standing and brand new—who joined together in honoring Mrs. Viven G. Malloy with the 2016 Preservation Angel Award and the Zofnass Family with a much-deserved 2016 Lifetime Achievement Award.

The event’s title, Our Land Is Your Land, was an apt reminder of WLTs commitment to land protection as well as the powerful public benefit provided by open space. Noting the enthusiasm of the crowd, Jonathan L. Wiesner, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Westchester Land Trust said, “Virtually all of the successes of the Westchester Land Trust belongs to our guests here tonight and to others like them—the conservation easement and land donors, the young farmers, enthusiastic volunteers, advocates for public investment in land, even our supporters who care for their land in an environmentally conscientious way.”

Thanks to the generosity of event hosts, Mrs. Joanne Nielsen and the Nielsen family, the sail cloth tented hill-top event was ringed with magnificent interior views of Sunnyfield Farm—an iconic working horse farm and equestrian facility that is one of the most beloved sights in all of Bedford.

Benefit co-chairs, Robin Ashley (Bedford), Liza Clymer (Katonah), Beth Crowell (Bedford), and Melissa Marcogliese (Pound Ridge) led a robust and engaged committee who revamped nearly every detail of this year’s event to ensure enjoyment. Under the committee’s guidance, Watson’s Catering of Greenwich, CT devised a vibrant menu featuring 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—also titled Our Land Is Your Land—was premiered for the first time for the guests in attendance and kicked-off a decidedly entertaining live auction and paddle raise led by charismatic Bedford-native, Cutler Whitman and DJ, David Pakman.

ABOUT MRS. VIVEN G. MALLOY
A resident of Waccabuc, 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 has explored the extensive network of riding trails that crisscross Westchester County and has a unique awareness of the urgent need to protect open space. She is a loyal champion of the Westchester Land Trust, having served on its Board of Directors since 2010.

ABOUT THE ZOFNASS FAMILY
Paul Zofnass and Renée Ring who—along with their entire family—explored the rocky woods behind their Pound Ridge 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 boards extensive trails spanning more than 150-acres. It is open to the public year round at no cost and is enjoyed by thousands of hikers annually.
Among those who attended *Our Land Is Your Land* were Deputy County Executive Kevin Plunkett, Westchester County Supreme Court Justice Linda Jamieson, and Westchester County Legislator Francis Corcoran. Also in attendance were several leaders from the conservation community including Putnam County Land Trust, Pound Ridge Land Conservancy, Westmoreland Sanctuary, Groundwork Hudson Valley, and the Trust for Public Land as well as WLT’s 2015 Preservation Angel Award recipient, Benjamin F. Needell.

An impressive roster of sponsors provided underwriting support for *Our Land Is Your Land*. (For a complete listing, please click [here](#)) Funds raised through the Annual Benefit support WLT’s efforts to protect environmentally significant land and to steward and manage the 29 public preserves it owns.

**ABOUT WESTCHESTER 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 these communities 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.

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