



WOODSTOCK LAND CONSERVANCY

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"A land ethic...reflects the existence of an ecological conscience, and this in turn reflects a conviction of individual responsibility for the health of the land. Health is the capacity of the land for self-renewal. Conservation is our effort to understand and preserve this capacity."
- Aldo Leopold from *A Sand County Almanac*

Dear Friend,

Summer Greetings! We hope you are enjoying the local sweet corn, cool swimming holes, and starry nights that make the Catskill summertime so special. Since we last wrote, WLC has been hosting events that celebrate the land in every season. We have also been working with the Town to fulfill the obligations of the Comeau Easement and protect this treasured public space. So, while we make time to get out and appreciate the season, we are busier than ever!

Directors

Jim Bogner
Michael DeWan
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Gay Leonhardt
President Emeritus

John Winter
Executive Director

New partnerships always bring challenges, and both WLC and the Town are dedicated to establishing a firm foundation for Comeau stewardship. This work draws on the skills, experience, and commitment of our staff, directors, and legal counsel, all of whose efforts reflect the mission that you have so strongly supported over the years. With the initial months behind us, we look forward to engaging more actively with the true owners of Comeau, the citizens of Woodstock, so that we all may participate in its ongoing protection. Your support is vital in helping us expand this process.



Poetry reading at Zena Cornfield
Photo: Alan Carey

WLC's recent work with the Easement reflects our broader focus on stewardship and long-term commitment to protect the health of the land in our care, such as our recent soil testing and "liming" of the Zena Cornfield. We see WLC's role as one of conserving ecological, historical, and cultural values, and also providing ways for you to enjoy the beauty of Woodstock and the eastern Catskills.

Our stewardship has a great deal to do with you, our community, and about giving you opportunities to be on the land. May of 2010 saw our inaugural school trip to Sloan Gorge Preserve by 8th graders from Miller Middle School. The students

experienced first-hand the unique geological and biological features of the property, and discussed how it related to their classroom studies. We also led a series of walks during the spring, including a bird-watching walk at Wilson State Park and a family nature tour at Sloan Gorge. Most recently, we hosted a summer solstice poetry event at the Zena Cornfield, featuring readings by 10 local poets.

Stewardship is, by its very nature, continuous and progressive, and it requires resources. We need your support to do it well. Your financial assistance ensures our long-term organizational sustainability and enables us to meet our obligations in the most comprehensive and professional way possible.

We thank you for considering a gift to WLC. We have included a reply



The Sawkill at Comeau
Photo: Sonya Shoptaugh

envelope for your convenience. You can also make a credit card contribution or monthly pledge at www.woodstocklandconservancy.org. A monthly pledge is handy for you, and ensures us a steady stream of revenue. Also, please contact us to learn about creating your own conservation legacy through planned giving or a bequest.

As fully engaged world citizens, our response to environmental challenges globally or locally should be the same – acting together with care in protecting the air, water, and soil upon which we all depend. The Woodstock Land Conservancy is committed to meeting our own environmental

stewardship challenges proactively. **Most importantly, we want to meet those challenges in partnership with you, a community that demands responsible stewardship in Woodstock and the world.** Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

John Winter
Executive Director

Kevin Smith
President

PS: Please save the date – We will be holding a Comeau Easement informational meeting July 24, 11:00 am to 12:30 pm at the Colony Café. We hope to see you there – in addition to your financial support, our good stewardship depends on your involvement.