

STEWARDSHIP IN MANY FORMS

Last year we initiated our volunteer stewards program to help manage our preserves. We've enjoyed this collaboration and always welcome volunteers to walk our trails and check our kiosks to help maintain them for the public. As a small not-for-profit, this help is invaluable. We are particularly indebted to Richard Husted (Judge) and Jim Hanson for the Zena Cornfield path. Their work enabled neighbor and botanist Kris Garnier to offer summertime Saturday night botanical walks. Thanks Kris!

Fall is when we undertake one of our most important tasks: "monitoring" the ten properties – including the Town's Comeau property – on which WLC holds conservation easements. This is a voluntary arrangement between the landowner and WLC, created to limit future development and provide perpetual protection for the property's natural assets. Legally easements "run with the land," staying in place even after ownership changes hands. Thus, our annual monitoring ensures that current conditions reflect the original intentions for the land's permanent protection.

Current work on trails includes adding a new route to our existing 2-mile loop trail at Israel Wittman Sanctuary, which opened Fall 2017. At Snake Rocks, Tahawus Trails has professionally installed beautiful stone stairs for your ease and enjoyment.



Snake Rocks Stewards

SOCIALLY SPEAKING

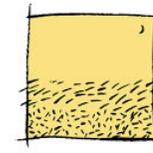


View from Overlook Mountain to Ashokan Reservoir

From our beginning, our work to protect undeveloped land has required your significant financial support. More than 500 people donated to purchase Zena Cornfield 30 years ago. We've also collaborated with Open Space Institute (OSI) to preserve an expanded region of Overlook Mountain (later conveyed to NYS DEC) and, with OSI support, conserved three of our seven properties atop Mount Guardian. In recent years we've opened new preserves with wonderful hiking trails. Our ambitious agenda continues to require your help, for large and small initiatives. Could you help us achieve some of the goals listed below? And always we welcome deeper conversations with those who may be able to do much more.

- Stewardship needs to maintain our public preserves: a lawn mower for Zena Cornfield path; and matching grant dollars for our current stone stair installation at Snake Rocks
- A highly visible office space in Woodstock (rather than working virtually from our homes)
- An incentive Donor Match for the upcoming 2018 winter appeal
- Underwriting of our robust year-round Programming
- Support for New Trails, Water Protection and our new Climate Change Initiatives
- Land Acquisition and Natural Resource Protection
- And, an Endowment-because our mission is to preserve land in perpetuity...and that's a long time!

Executive Director, Maxanne Resnick welcomes questions and conversations with all. Please contact her either at maxanne.wlc@gmail.com or by phone at 914-466-9263.



WOODSTOCK LAND
CONSERVANCY

LAND LINES FALL 2018



TurkeyTail Mushroom. Photo: Del Orloske



30TH ANNIVERSARY REFLECTIONS

It's been a wonderful anniversary year, celebrating with many of you through our programming, and a summer of parties and gatherings. You continue to remind us how deeply you support WLC's work protecting the extraordinary land, water and natural resources that surround us. In the 2017 Comprehensive Plan survey many Woodstockers prioritized preserving the heritage and natural beauty of the Town. WLC supports thoughtful and measured planning to preserve the important balance found here in the Eastern Catskills. We recognize that it is hard- even impossible - to reverse development's impacts, so protection of our scenic beauty, habitat and watershed is essential.

At the same time, we're seeing weather patterns that defy expectations: early summer's near-drought is a distant memory in the wake of the wettest September on record. WLC's climate change educational series has convened our area's best experts to help us understand and address these changes where we live. Our mission has never been more important and as we reflect on how to best move forward, we are heartened to be in a community that supports us wholeheartedly. One that shares with us a deep love of nature and the recognition that it's crucial to our very survival. A community that collaborates with us to assure the protection of our beautiful landscapes- forever. We are so grateful to you!



WLC Board & Staff



WLC's Ex. Dir. Maxanne Resnick and Board Chair Kevin Smith celebrate OSI's River2Ridge Trail ribbon-cutting in New Paltz, w/ OSI's Terrence Nolan, Dave Toman of Mohonk Preserve, and Super-Volunteers Nick Mercurio and Lee Kalish

RAIL TRAIL VISION EXTENDS

WLC has played a pivotal role supporting the implementation of the County's "Rails & Trails" policy for the abandoned "U&D" right-of-way - especially the Ashokan Rail Trail (under construction, opening Summer/Fall 2019) and the Kingston Midtown Linear Park (currently in planning and design). In 2012 we received suggestions from our community thru visioning sessions and surveys, which has guided our regional efforts. WLC has built public-private partnerships to help build out these rail trails to connect towns county-wide to the Walkway Over the Hudson and far beyond. Governor Cuomo's Empire State Trail initiative -- a 3-year, \$200M, 750-mile statewide trail connecting NYC with Albany, the Adirondacks, Canada, and Buffalo -- will utilize Ulster County's Rail Trail Network. The recreational and eco-tourism benefits are countless and the rail trails also offer residents safe, low-stress non-motorized and healthy transportation options, while simultaneously lowering our individual and collective carbon footprints.

WHAT'S IN A PROGRAM?

We offer year-round programming. It's our chance to meet all of you, get outside in our beautiful preserves and bring in experts to collectively raise our knowledge. We do this through our monthly "First Saturdays on the Trail" program, with topics ranging from birding, pollinator planting, stream walks and this year a summer concert at Zena Cornfield in the shadow of Overlook Mountain. Our annual program details can be found on our website. Among our events is the October "Longyear Farm Day," a celebration of our community for all ages at Longyear Farm in the heart of Woodstock. We offer environmental activities, local foods, and music. We are able to do this thanks to the generosity of Kathy, Matt, and Heather Longyear and a number of fabulous business sponsors, supporters and volunteers.

BioBlitz is an annual two-day event pairing experts with citizen scientists to study the biodiversity at the Catskill Center's Thorn Preserve, a beautiful 60-acre preserve in Woodstock which we co-manage. Biodiversity is a powerful indicator of environmental quality, so the data we collect is used to study changes that occur and supports thoughtful management decisions to preserve the biodiversity of this habitat.

The Woodstock Film Series, entering its 7th season, is a co-production of WLC and Woodstock Transition - offering films and conversation to spark our collective solutions on challenging environmental and community topics. Programs are once a month, January-April.



BioBlitz 2018