



## WOODSTOCK LAND CONSERVANCY

*Heard at the Comeau Conservation Easement Signing Ceremony...*

**“Why are we here today?”**

*– Woodstock Elementary School student and school historian*

**“We’re here today because we’re making history!** See those beautiful fields and trees. We’re about to sign a document that will make sure your children and your grandchildren see the same beauty you see today.”

*– Michael DeWan, WLC board member and past president of the Board of Directors*

December 5, 2009

Dear Friend,

### Directors

Jim Bogner  
Michael DeWan  
Rosalind Dickinson  
Patty Goodwin  
David Marell  
Sonya Shoptaugh  
Ronnie Shushan  
Kevin Smith  
Hank Starr  
Nadia Steinzor  
Gail Straub

Gay Leonhardt  
*President Emeritus*

John Winter  
*Executive Director*

After years of hard work and deft fundraising and fund-giving, the Woodstock Land Conservancy, the Town of Woodstock, and each and every one of our supporters can finally celebrate the signing of the conservation easement to protect the Comeau Property. This easement, approved by referendum in 2003 and signed by the Town Board and WLC on November 16<sup>th</sup>, preserves the scenic, recreational, and natural richness of the 76-acre property for all time. As one of only a few easements between a municipality and a land trust, it may well become a model for joint public-private land protection efforts across the country.

**The Comeau conservation easement is one of the most significant land protection projects WLC has ever undertaken—and it has been possible to achieve because of your support.** Over the past year, as we carefully reviewed the document and then readied ourselves for its adoption, we asked for your support to hire our first staffperson and to strengthen our organization. Each time, you responded admirably, for us and for the community. **From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you.**

**But the work on Comeau is not yet complete.** Now with the easement signed, we look forward to assisting the town over the next 18 months in preparing the stewardship plan for the property. Required by the easement, the plan will determine how the town will manage the Comeau property and guide both current and future conservation, recreation, and other uses, and will help WLC to uphold the easement. We hope for your active involvement and support in this important next phase.

We are also looking ahead to other important land protection projects we have underway in Woodstock, Ulster, the Town of Kingston, and Saugerties. Each of these will require significant amounts of staff and volunteer time to complete and uphold. **Doing so will be possible only with your continued financial support.**



P.O. Box 864 • Woodstock NY 12498 • (347) 408-1273 • [info@woodstocklandconservancy.org](mailto:info@woodstocklandconservancy.org)

*The WOODSTOCK LAND CONSERVANCY is a tax-exempt public charity as defined by Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code. Contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.*

As all this happens, we also continue to offer more walks and outdoor events to get community members, especially children, back to nature and away from their TV and computer screens. And we have begun partnering with local arts organizations to expand the programs we offer and the people we attract to our mission. Your donations make this all possible, too.

With 2009 drawing to a close, let's look back just for a moment, and reflect on what our community has accomplished together. By building a respected and professional organization through your generous gifts, WLC has been able to attract significant funding for land protection in the Woodstock area. Over the past decade, we helped to bring in over \$1.5 million in funding from the Open Space Institute, the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to protect over 700 acres of the lands near and dear to all of us, including Overlook Mountain, Mount Guardian, Cooper Lake Road, and the Bluestone Wild Forest. These places, like Comeau, make Woodstock the special place it is.

**We need your continued support to attract significant conservation dollars to our community and its economy.** And we will continue to make our lands, like the beautiful Sloan Gorge Preserve, safe and welcoming so we can enrich the experiences of our visitors and foster the next generation of conservationists.

As we reflect on the great accomplishment we have achieved this year – and the challenges still to come – I hope you will contribute to our winter appeal, our largest fund drive of the year. Please invite your friends and family to give too so we can expand the number of WLC supporters and achieve that much more. Every contribution, both large and small, makes a difference. **Remember, a monthly pledge will make a huge difference over the course of the year.**

What we love about Woodstock is tied to land and community: its beauty and bounty, and our ability to connect with our home in an authentic way. During this holiday season when I visit with family and friends and reflect on the joy that the beautiful places and open spaces here give, I will be reminded of the urgency of our conservation work. I am gratified to know that you share WLC's commitment to the land and to the future.

Again, thank you so very much for your support. All the best wishes for a very happy and peaceful holiday season.

Sincerely,

Kevin Smith  
President

**PS. Save the Date: February 27, from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm at the Center for Photography in Woodstock.**

Enjoy a reception to celebrate art and nature in Woodstock. Come join us at an exhibit of photography showcasing WLC's protected lands. See our website for details: [www.woodstocklandconservancy.org](http://www.woodstocklandconservancy.org)

At Sloan Gorge Preserve: This fall, WLC events attracted kids and adults to the preserve and its guided geology trail.

