

SPRING IS HERE AND IT'S OUR 30TH YEAR!

We joyfully welcome the signs of Spring's arrival – the days are longer, the songbirds are singing, and the plants are beginning to bud, filling our hearts with joy. Grey gives way to a delicate wash of color across the landscape. With this season we prepare our preserves for your visits, clearing the trails of fallen trees and branches with the able assistance of volunteers and trail stewards. Many have enjoyed visiting the recently opened Israel Wittman Sanctuary and appreciated its two-mile woodland loop trail, finding it both alluring and contemplative.

This season we also celebrate our 30th anniversary, and honor those who banded together in 1988 to create WLC. We thank the core group of visionaries: Gay Leonhardt, Checka Husted, Janice Riley, Bob Stang, Joan Walker and Jude Sillato (Hersey), along with the 550 locals who one year later donated funds for WLC to forever save the Zena Cornfield from development. Today, this gorgeous field lifts our gaze up to Overlook Mountain, preserving a view we all treasure.



MT. GUARDIAN ACQUISITION ADDS 2 RIDGETOP PARCELS TO EXISTING CONSERVED LANDS

This February we purchased the middle section of the Mt. Guardian mountaintop, bringing our protected lands there to over 90 acres. This purchase forever conserves one of Mt. Guardian's three peaks, which dominate the Woodstock skyline. The preserve abuts both Town of Woodstock and Byrdcliffe Guild lands, creating an unfragmented habitat of nearly 700 acres and protecting an essential mountaintop ecosystem.

When immediate funds for purchase were needed, WLC reached out to several donors, who without hesitation offered significant funds. Today's development pressures are evident and WLC deeply appreciates our Mt. Guardian supporters, including: the Open Space Institute (OSI) with whom we have partnered in the "Save Overlook" campaign as well as a previous purchase on Mt. Guardian; the Thompson Family Foundation; Sabine Hrechdakian; and Karen and Rusty Goodman. All gave significant leading gifts to the campaign that then spurred generous donations by others, bringing our acquisition to its successful outcome.

ASHOKAN RAIL TRAIL UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Construction has begun on the 11.5 mile multi-use Ashokan Rail Trail on the northern edge of the Ashokan Reservoir. The installation of the new hard-packed stone dust trail will be ADA-compliant and open to all ages for walking, hiking, bicycling, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing. Trail opening is anticipated for May 2019 and it will be open to all free of charge. WLC has played a significant role in supporting Ulster County's leadership in both the envisioning and realization of this trail for neighbors and tourists alike to enjoy. This is a great addition to the many outdoor destinations in our area.

With future connections in mind, planning has also begun on Kingston's Greenline trail and the Kingston Midtown Linear Park – which will offer a much-needed park and alternative transportation corridor for people in Kingston. Like the Ashokan Rail Trail, it will be built on a section of the old U&D rail corridor.



WHAT'S UP WITH WATER?

A recent "First Saturdays on the Trail" program studied the characteristics of the Sawkill Creek at Comeau. WLC has expanded its focus to include protecting our area's water and offering programs on where our water comes from, protecting its quality, understanding its vital ecosystems (ex: wetlands, vernal pools) and facing the challenges associated with increasing flooding. Thanks to Christian Malsatzki, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County who joined us to demonstrate the use of water quality testing kits. May 17th is the first in our program series, "Understanding Our Changing Environment." An expert panel will discuss our waterways, climate change, how it affects our ecosystems and what possible responses might be. Check our website for updated information.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 18 - *Apple Pruning @ Thorn*
- April 26 - *Film: "Drawdown" (Reversing Global Warming)*
- April 28 - *Spring Yoga @ Zena Cornfield*
- May 5 - *Pollinator Planting @ Thorn*
- May 17 - *Panel Discussion; Our Changing Environment - Water*
- May 26 - *Vernal Fling! Tickets at vernalfling.com*
- June 2 - *Eat Your Invasives @ Thorn*
- June 14 - *Forest Ecology & Habitat Talk*
- June 30 - *Poetry Barn with Phil Pardi & James Lasdun.*
- July 7th - *Sunset Symphony @ Zena Cornfield*
- July 14 - *"The Ashokan Way" Reading. Gail Straub & Kate McLoughlin*

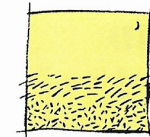
DEVELOPING COMMUNITY-BASED STRATEGIES & ACTIONS TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE.

WLC has received a grant to address climate change on a local level. The grant has several facets. In one area, WLC is working with Hudsonia, a regional environmental institute, to analyze and include climate change impacts as part of our conservation acquisition considerations. WLC is working with other local advocates to promote the use of sustainable technologies and is also creating educational programming to enhance the understanding of climate change and its impact on our local communities.

As part of our role in the Town of Woodstock's Comprehensive Planning process, we have advocated support for protecting forested land to sequester carbon; the safeguarding of our water resources; supporting community sustainability measures; expanding our carbon neutral footprint; and promoting active (bike/pedestrian) transportation considerations.



For our 30th Anniversary, please share your memories, pictures, art, and stories of WLC with us by emailing our Executive Director, Maxanne Resnick, at maxanne.wlc@gmail.com



WOODSTOCK LAND
CONSERVANCY

LAND LINES SPRING 2018

