



WLC board members Hank Starr and Jim Bogner scouting Sloan Gorge with NY-NJ Trails Conference folks.

### Conservation Corps Improves Sloan Gorge Trail 10 Years After Its Opening

WLC is collaborating with NY-NJ Trails Conference and their summertime Conservation Corps crew of four to make trail improvements to Sloan Gorge. There will be volunteer opportunities throughout their July work schedule. Contact Kate Berdan, Program & Outreach to sign up. [Kateb.wlc@gmail.com](mailto:Kateb.wlc@gmail.com).

### Become a Preserve Steward

WLC continues to rely on its fabulous volunteers, led by some skilled WLC board members, to maintain our properties. This summer we are beginning a Preserve Steward program whereby volunteers commit to regular walks in one of several preserves. Your “eyes and ears” assistance is invaluable to us as you share with us any immediate maintenance needs. Sign up with [kateb.wlc@gmail.com](mailto:kateb.wlc@gmail.com)

### A Day Out in Our Preserves, July 15<sup>th</sup>

Save the Date for an opportunity to visit several of our preserves and to get to know them. Steward ambassadors will be on-site to greet you. Details to follow.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Our “**First Saturdays on the Trail**” program is wildly popular and we love your enthusiasm for it. Check out these fun upcoming events:

- July 1 – **Forest Bathing** at Israel Wittman Sanctuary (before it is open to the public)
- July 15 – **A Day Out in Our Preserves**
- July 28/29 – **BioBlitz 2017**. Co-hosted at Catskill Center’s Thorn Preserve
- August 5 – **Star Gazing with Bob Berman** at the Catskill Center’s Thorn Preserve
- September 9 – **Paddling the Watershed**
- October 7 – **Longyear Farm Day**: a popular community day with tons of activities, food, community in the heart of Woodstock

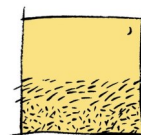
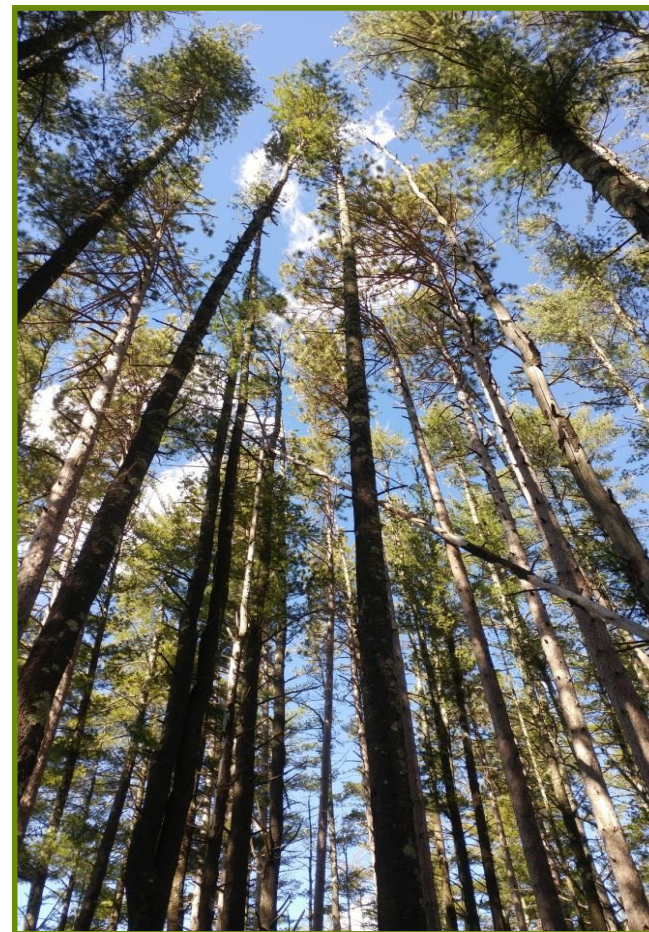


### WLC Staff

Maxanne Resnick, Executive Director since January 2016, has been recently joined by Kate Berdan, Program and Outreach Coordinator. We are always happy to connect with all of you. Feel free to contact us at [maxanne.wlc@gmail.com](mailto:maxanne.wlc@gmail.com) or [kateb.wlc@gmail.com](mailto:kateb.wlc@gmail.com).

# LAND LINES

## SPRING 2017



WOODSTOCK LAND CONSERVANCY

Woodstocklandconservancy.org





Ashokan Reservoir Rail Trail Photo: Sheri Safier

### Message from the Board

President Patty Goodwin; Chair Kevin Smith; VP Grace Murphy; Treasurer Hank Starr; Secretary Georgia Asher; Jim Bogner; Michael DeWan; Duncan Schmitt

Does it seem to you that 2017 is all about precipitation? Despite the deluges, we revel in the beauty of this extraordinary area and share a commitment to protecting its natural resources and the quality of life it affords us. WLC is focused on community-based solutions for environmental challenges, even as we collaborate regionally in our work:

- Ensuring that water protection is a priority
- Creating recreational public access to our preserves
- Hastening the future Ashokan Rail Trail with links to Kingston and Ulster County's rail trail network on into the Catskills
- Connecting conserved lands
- Supporting species and ecosystem diversity
- Promoting carbon sequestration
- Sharing a vision of a vibrant County economy bolstered by green tourism, including the quality of life and health benefits it will provide for all

We are also joining the conversation about the Town of Woodstock's Comprehensive Plan initiative. We appreciate the Town's great support for all that we do as we foster community through our nature-based educational programs, underscoring why we value living here.

### Israel Wittman Sanctuary: Our Newest Protected Land – A Forest Preserve That Will Speak to You (pictured on cover)

With immense gratitude to Elaine Chaback for her donation of this magical 123-acre forest, we are nearing our public opening. Soon you will be able to walk the enchanting trail system here, a mostly level stroll and a quiet place for people to enjoy its wooded magnificence. Punctuated by vernal streams and dramatic rock walls, this preserve, named for Elaine's late father, offers undemanding recreation off the Zena Highlands Road. Look for our public announcement of its opening, slated for late Summer/Early Fall 2017.

### Water Matters

The Niagara Bottling Co. interest in siphoning Cooper Lake confirmed the need for active protection of our water resources. WLC received a generous private grant to strengthen its organizational mission, acknowledging that protection of land and protection of water are inseparable. We have adopted into our strategic plan the consideration and protection of water, with particular focus on the Sawkill Creek. We are sharing our knowledge with our community through sponsored events such as a watershed bike tour from Cooper Lake to Zena Cornfield explaining watershed sources and boundaries, and challenges to quality from stream bank erosion and turbidity. We are also collaborating with the Town to find solutions for these problems including building support for creation of a Sawkill Creek Management Plan.

### Endow Our Future

How do we insure our community remains special for our children and grandchildren long after we are gone? WLC is interested in speaking with you about legacy donation opportunities-- there are so many possibilities. WLC has accomplished so much with the generous support of this community, along with visionary foundations, yet there remains much more to be done. How can you help? Please contact Executive Director, Maxanne Resnick for a conservation conversation. [Maxanne.wlc@gmail.com](mailto:Maxanne.wlc@gmail.com)



Bill McKenna, Town Supervisor, Longyear Farm Day 2016