

A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



Gregg Swanzey,
Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Winnakee Land Trust is deeply engaged in our new Northern Dutchess Trail Initiative. We have secured grants to help explore alternatives for public-access walking and riding trails across northern Dutchess County. Winnakee partnered with Chazen Engineering to develop a feasibility study and long term planning strategy as Winnakee explores the possibilities for connections along the historic Hucklebush Line rail corridor. Together we created solid data, detailed mapping, and cost estimates as we consider options with landowners and stakeholders in the community to set priorities and secure additional funding to ultimately begin construction. The conversation has just begun.

We have had tremendous success in the Town of Hyde Park in establishing public trail connections along the riverfront trail meandering from Poughkeepsie, and as far north as Norrie Point State Park. We would like to expand connections within Hyde Park to make

Winnakee Nature Preserve more easily accessible to the growing network of trails.

In Rhinebeck, Winnakee opened a 1.1-mile trail called the Trail at the Gardens Preserve, looping through 22 acres of forests and fields on the north side of Route 308. We are working to leverage funding to connect the Trail at the Gardens Preserve into Thompson-Mazzarella Park across 308 and are working with Rhinebeck entities to connect Thompson-Mazzarella Park to the village center along West Market Street.

We sincerely appreciate support from the Land Trust Alliance, Hudson River Valley Greenway and Thomas Thompson Trust over the past year—the true catalyst for this project. Stay tuned as the vision for connected communities becomes reality. Onward!

Warm regards,

Gregg H Swanzey, Executive Director

WINNAKEE LAND TRUST ANNUAL GALA: A MASKED BALL AT ASTOR COURTS

Winnakee Land Trust held our annual Gala, a Masked Ball honoring Sally Mazzarella, on Saturday, May 20, 2017 at Astor Courts, in Rhinebeck, with a record 380-plus guests in attendance.

The event featured special guest speakers County Executive Marc Molinaro and former Senator Steve Saland, who formally honored community leader, longtime board member, and President Emeritus Sally Mazzarella, whose legacy includes a wide range of leadership roles during her 45

years of community service in the Hudson Valley. Molinaro lauded Sally saying: “Over her entire life, for those of us today and generations to follow, Sally Mazzarella has worked to preserve valuable farmland, open space, and natural resources. She sought to protect village centers, hamlets and neighborhoods. She opened access to trails, historic landmarks, and our majestic Hudson River. For us and the generations to follow, she has helped to define who we are and how we hope to live - she has

helped to save our sense of place. And for that, we are grateful.” Sally approached the stage to a resounding standing ovation and thundering applause by the entire dining room.

Gregg Swanzey, Winnakee’s Executive Director said, “It is humbling to see such an outpouring of community support for our organization and the important work we do to preserve open space and expand public access to local trails.”



Former NYS Senator Steve Saland, Sally Mazzarella, Dutchess County Executive Marcus Molinaro and Winnakee Board President Carl Meyer

Festive guests enjoying the evening



Astor Courts transformed into a gorgeous ballroom



Maria Santana and Jovanna Stepan



Michael and Sally Mazzarella

REMEMBERING LUCINDA "CINDY" HUNT STOWELL, APRIL 1941 - JULY 2014

Winnakee Land Trust acknowledges George and Gail Hunt Reeke for their support in memory of Gail's sister Lucinda "Cindy" Hunt Stowell, founding commissioner and three-term member of the national Land Trust Accreditation Commission.

Although Cindy spent her business career as an IBM systems engineer, software developer, and Manager, Cindy was an active community member, philanthropist, and volunteer. After retiring from IBM in 1992, Cindy sang with the Connecticut Choral Society,

volunteered as a Master Gardener, and was actively involved in local conservation, environmental, and philanthropic organizations.

Perhaps Cindy's most important contribution to conservation was during her tenure as founding commissioner and three-term member of the national Land Trust Accreditation Commission, which recognizes land trusts around the country that meet national quality standards to ensure the permanent protection of land. She helped establish many of the Commission's internal systems and

was a champion of continuous evaluation and improvement for the Commission of Land Trusts. We are grateful for Cindy's contributions to land preservation and for her longtime dedication and stewardship of the land, resulting in the preservation of many thousands of acres of precious habitats, agriculture, viewsheds, and trails.



Cindy Hunt Stowell

JOHN MICKELSON JOINS WINNAKEE AS LAND STEWARDSHIP MANAGER



John Mickelson

This spring, John Mickelson joined the Winnakee Land Trust as Land Stewardship Manager. John is responsible for easement evaluation and stewardship, working closely with the Executive Director and Easement Committee on projects that include conservation, agricultural, subdivision, and trail easements. John

oversees the management of the Winnakee's fee-owned lands according to a five-year management plan in collaboration with the Burger Hill Committee and Hyde Park Trails Committee.

One of John's passions is in helping local stakeholders by equipping them with the data, information, and technical resources that they might safeguard their most precious collective resource: the natural world.

WINNAKEE UNVEILS NEW MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

Winnakee Land Trust is pleased to announce the launch of a NEW membership program! The categories and member donation amounts remain the same, and we have added exciting new benefits:

- Full Moon Hikes at Drayton Grant Park at Burger Hill
- Guided walks through Winnakee Nature Preserve and Arboretum in Hyde Park
- Invitations to complimentary Winnakee member events
- Discounted tickets to Winnakee's Annual Tour of Historic Barns and Working Farms
- Winnakee seasonal e-newsletters, announcing special events
- Invitation to our annual fundraising gala
- Members at the \$1,000 and above Levels will be invited to an exclusive Open Field Society Event and will be listed in at least one e-newsletter

2017 Membership Levels

		\$500	BENEFACTOR
\$50	FRIEND	\$1,000	CONSERVATOR
\$100	STEWARD	\$2,500	VISIONARY
\$250	PATRON	\$5,000	ILLUMINATI

JOIN TODAY!

Help protect the land we all love.

Renew or join online at winnakee.org, by phone (845) 876-4213 or mail your membership payment to:

Winnakee Land Trust

PO Box 610

Rhinebeck, NY 12572



Member Only Full Moon Hikes at Drayton Grant Park at Burger Hill

2017 WINNAKEE MEMBER EVENTS

Guided Arboretum Walk

Winnakee Nature Preserve
Saturday, June 24 from 9:30-11:00 AM

Hunter's Moon Full Moon Hike

Drayton Grant Park at Burger Hill
Friday, October 6 from 6:00-7:30 PM

For more information or to register for these events, visit winnakee.org
or call (845) 876-4213



WINNAKEE
LAND TRUST

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HAVE YOU SPOTTED A BOBOLINK?



Bobolinks sightings are rare, but many of these birds call Burger Hill home during the summer months. This Winnakee Land Trust property is fortunate to be one of the few places with a large Bobolink population, found nesting each year in the park's meadows. Bobolinks arrive in April and May from their winter homes in South America to raise their young in the Northeast.

The meadows at Drayton Grant Park at Burger Hill Park are an ideal nesting spot for Bobolinks who build their nests on the ground, making their nestlings especially susceptible to disturbance and predators—a habit which further jeopardizes their survival. In accordance with easement regulations, Winnakee waits to mow the open meadows at Burger Hill until late July to give the Bobolink nestlings the best chance to fledge and survive.

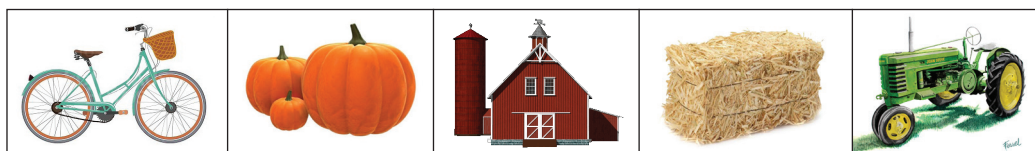
Look for the brightly colored Bobolink males that often perch on the grasses and listen for the male's bubbly, chattering, ascending warble as they fly across the fields. We believe you will appreciate what you see and hear.

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, September 16, 2017

Winnakee Annual Tour of Historic Barns and Working Farms

This event is part of the annual Hudson River Valley Ramble



This unique, self-guided tour can be done by car or bicycle and invites visitors to explore historic barns and working farms throughout northern Dutchess County. Guests will have a rare opportunity to discover extraordinary properties and enjoy a delightful autumn reception immediately following the tour.

For more information visit winnakee.org

The Mission of Winnakee Land Trust is to protect and preserve the natural, agricultural, recreational, architectural, cultural, scenic, historical, and open space resources of northern Dutchess County. This includes farmland, viewsheds, wetlands, wildlife habitats, and undisturbed natural areas.



NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2017

WINNAKEE LAND TRUST ANNOUNCES REACCREDITATION BY THE LAND TRUST ALLIANCE

Winnakee Land Trust is proud to announce its reaccreditation by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission and to welcome an additional 15 land trusts into the growing network of accredited land trusts across the nation.

“Re-accreditation demonstrates Winnakee Land Trust’s commitment to permanent land conservation in northern Dutchess County,” said Carl Meyer, President of Winnakee Board. “We are a stronger organization for having gone through the rigorous accreditation program. Our strength means more farmland, viewsheds, wetlands, wildlife habitats, and undisturbed natural areas will be protected forever, making the Mid-Hudson

Valley an even greater place for us and our children.”

As an accredited land trust, Winnakee protects over 2500 acres of local farmland and natural habitats from development and are working to permanently secure many more. Winnakee provides public recreational opportunities at Drayton Grant Park at Burger Hill in Rhinebeck and Winnakee Nature Preserve and Arboretum in Hyde Park. Through the years, we have established miles of regional public access trails and are working to expand this effort with a trail feasibility study currently in progress.

“Winnakee is proud that our work is being recognized by the Land

Trust Accreditation Commission. Balancing land protection with appropriate development will ensure that our communities continue to have all the resources they need for generations to come.” said Gregg Swanzey, Executive Director.

Winnakee Land Trust is one of 1,363 land trusts across the United States according to the most recent National Land Trust Census, released Dec. 1 by the Land Trust Alliance. Almost 20 million acres of farms, forests and natural areas vital to healthy communities are now permanently conserved by an accredited land trust.

MAKE AN IMPACT: JOIN A DISTINGUISHED GROUP OF DONORS

Take on a leadership role with **Winnakee Land Trust by becoming an Open Field Society Member**. Open Field Society members have elected to pledge one annual gift for three consecutive years. Membership provides a unique opportunity to enjoy Winnakee benefits throughout each year, including event sponsorship and tickets.

It is through the dedication of our Open Field Society Members—our most loyal supporters—that Winnakee is able to accomplish so much. Open Field Society Members ensure Winnakee’s success in protecting and stewarding local lands for future generations to enjoy.

This past season Open Field Society members enjoyed a festive late-autumn reception at the historic Locusts-on-Hudson estate in Staatsburg. Guests experienced breathtaking views of the Hudson River while enjoying conversation and cocktails. Highlights of the evening included the presentation of the Good Land Award

posthumously to Marcy Appell, a longtime steward of the land.

To learn more contact Ellen Hennenbery, Director of Development at ellen@winnakee.org or (845) 876-4213, ext. 4.



OFS member Sam Phelan shares his experience of donating a conservation easement to Winnakee