



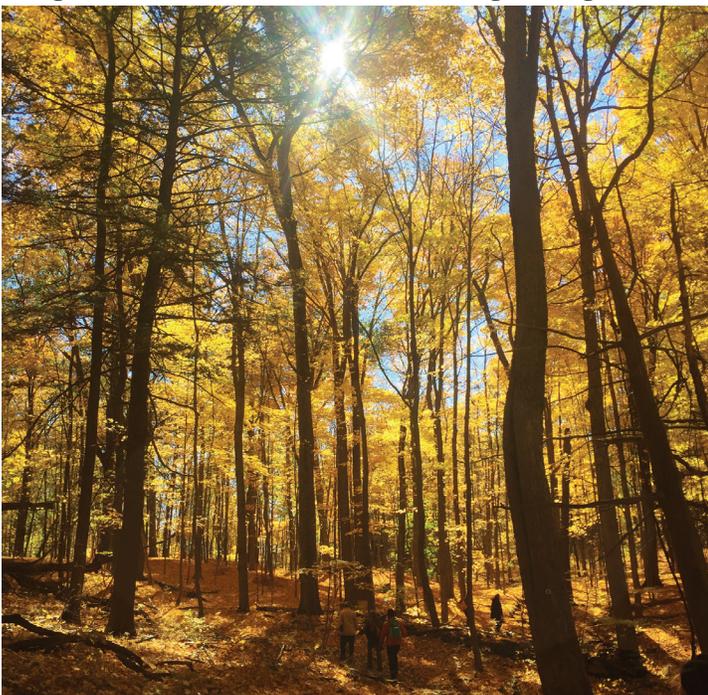
WINNAKEE LAND TRUST AWARDED GREENWAY GRANT

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo recently announced the **2016 Greenway Conservancy Trail Grant Program** awards for projects that improve public access to natural and cultural resources, provide greater connectivity between communities, and enhance the visitor experience at trails and open spaces throughout the Hudson River Valley.

Winnakee Land Trust is pleased to announce our grant in the amount of \$14,800 awarded by Greenway for the Rhinebeck Trails Project. This will lay the groundwork for greatly increased connectivity in the Town of Rhinebeck between existing parks, schools, and village center as well as the establishment of bike/pedestrian infrastructure within Northern Dutchess County with Rhinebeck as a hub where several trails would converge. It will be matched with a \$10,000 grant from the **Thomas Thompson Trust** and additional funds from the **Land Trust Alliance Conservation Partnership Program**. This project will enhance the experience for residents and visitors to the area by connecting them to a regional network as well as improve safety for school children walking or biking to school or to the local parks.

“At this juncture, Winnakee would like to work toward a regional trail vision that articulates how communities are connected,” said Sally Mazzarella, President of the Winnakee Land Trust Board of Directors. “It is a vision that would see the Village of Rhinebeck connected to the neighboring hamlet of Rhinecliff – and, as

such, Rhinecliff’s Hudson River waterfront and Amtrak train station. The study will look at potentially connecting trail networks with the Town of Red Hook, including Bard College and Tivoli to the north, and Staatsburg and Hyde Park to the South.”



MARIST STUDENTS LEND A HAND

Hyde Park Trails Committee teamed up with **Marist College students** for the annual **Seth Lyon Trails Workday** on Saturday, September 17th at Hyde Park’s River Ridge community where Winnakee holds a trail easement. This annual workday is held in memory of Seth Lyons a dedicated trail advocate, who lost his life while backpacking during a winter storm in 2010.

Thirty-nine Marist College students participated in this year’s event working on trail clearing, installing trail blazes, painting road stencils, and staining trail signs made during the 2016 Hyde Park Trails Annual Sign Making Workshop.

Winnakee Land Trust would like to thank the Hyde Park Trails Committee—a dedicated group of representative organizations and local volunteers working to improve and expand the trail network in Hyde Park—and the Marist College students that made the 2016 Seth Lyon Trail Work Day such an amazing success!

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Sally Mazzarella, Winnakee President

Dear Friends of Winnakee,

What a year 2016 has been for the Winnakee Land Trust: The hiring of three new staff; an amazing Gala and Barn Tour; our submission of reaccreditation materials to the Land Trust Alliance; a number of successful grant awards; a kick-off for a new trail initiative; productive county-wide trail round-table sessions; and most importantly, our work on new conservation easements for northern Dutchess properties.

All of this helped me in making a tough and wise decision. After almost 40 years of working with an organization that I helped create and love dearly it is time to step down as President. I have been President of Winnakee for 28 years and 10 years before that, when Winnakee existed as the Hudson River Shorelands Task Force. Winnakee started those many years ago with no staff—we were a group of energetic volunteers concerned about the large-scale development proposals that were bombarding our northern Dutchess communities. These communities did not have the sophisticated planning tools or Planning Boards with the capacity to confront the New York City developers and their professional teams of consultants.

During those challenging years, Winnakee Board members worked in partnership with other local leadership organizations. The 20-mile Historic District was created and properties were placed on the National Register of Historic Places. We were instrumental in creating the first New York State Scenic District, followed by the New York State Coastal Zone. We were thrilled when our riverfront communities were honored with the most prestigious designations in the country, the National Landmark District and then the National Heritage Area. These initiatives and extraordinary designations reinforced the need and rationale for the existence of the Winnakee Land Trust. It helped us create a vision that would, in time, become our legacy.

Over the years, our staff has grown from a part-time director to team of four. We have always focused on protecting the important lands of northern Dutchess County, working with farmers to assist with the continuation of agriculture and creating miles of trails and unique parkland for public enjoyment. We work with local government and help with environmental education of our youth. We have protected through conservation easements over 2500 acres and are presently working on 515 additional acres of important lands that will be protected in perpetuity.

Winnakee is on solid ground for fulfilling its vision for the future, thus the transition of the Presidency comes at a good time. Carl Meyer is prepared to be the next President of Winnakee and will be a wonderful and talented leader. Carl has a long history with our organization, he is a good steward of the land and will be dedicated to the Winnakee mission. I will continue to serve on the Board of Directors and chair the development and fundraising committee.

I have a deep love for the Hudson Valley, especially the communities of northern Dutchess County. The work of Winnakee helps to protect and preserve all that is special about this place I call home. I value our limited precious resources, our open space, our farmland, our viewsheds, and our rich heritage. I am grateful for Winnakee's commitment to protect and sustain these important community assets for future generations. I have a high regard for the many wonderful Board members I have served with, as well as present and past staff, each put their trust in me to work towards guiding and fulfilling our mission. I cherish the relationships and friendships of hundreds and hundreds of individuals and organizations that I have had the honor to know and work with.

I thank all of you for your commitment to the Winnakee Land Trust. It has truly been an extraordinary honor to serve as President. I assure you, that we can all look forward to many more years of wonderful success under great new leadership.

Warm regards for the holiday season,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sally Mazzarella".

Sally Mazzarella, President

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.

ANNUAL TOUR OF HISTORIC BARN & WORKING FARMS

Winnakee Land Trust held its **Annual Tour of Historic Barns and Working Farms** on Saturday, September 24th, 2016. Winnakee members and historic barn lovers attended the successful annual event enjoying a gorgeous early fall day visiting eight barns and historic properties throughout Red Hook and Rhinebeck.



The Bristol Barn, Red Hook, NY

WINNAKEE WELCOMES NEW DEVELOPMENT STAFF



Winnakee's new Director of Development, Ellen Henneberry

Ellen Henneberry joins Winnakee Land Trust as Director of Development. Ellen is a fundraising and marketing professional living and working in the Hudson Valley since 1998. As Development and Marketing manager for Walkway Over the Hudson, Ellen played an important role in the success of the annual benefit event, Starry Starry Night, the Walkway Marathon, and July 4th Celebration, among other programs and initiatives. Before joining Walkway, Ellen worked at Omega Institute in Rhinebeck and began her work in fundraising as a consultant for the Office of Advancement at the Culinary Institute of America.

Nadine Slowik joins Winnakee as Development Assistant. Ms. Slowik is a newcomer to the Hudson Valley, having moved to the area from Brooklyn in 2014. Nadine brings expertise in membership and individual giving to Winnakee from her employment at major New York City cultural institutions.



Development Assistant, Nadine Slowik

EASEMENT SPOTLIGHT ON: ELLEN AND SAM PHELAN, PROTECTING 81 PRISTINE ACRES

Landowners Ellen and Sam Phelan, long-time advocates for land conservation, have chosen to protect their land from development by establishing a conservation easement of 81 beautiful acres of wetland and forest in the Towns of Red Hook and Milan.

“We are delighted to have Winnakee accept an easement to our woodland and wetland property in northeast Red Hook,” said Ellen and Sam Phelan. “It is part of one of the last extensive woodland areas in Red Hook. For over 25 years we have enjoyed viewing the wildlife and natural scenery of the property. It was a playground for our children and has provided us with warmth (fire wood) each year. With Winnakee’s assistance we now can be assured that the natural beauty and resources of our property will be protected in perpetuity. Many thanks to Winnakee’s professional staff for helping to make this possible.”

“Sam and Ellen have a great appreciation of the rural, scenic landscape of northern Dutchess County and are dedicated to protecting it for future generations. This gift of a conservation easement not only protects an important natural asset for the entire community, but also offers inspiration to other landowners to develop easements on their property,” said Gregg Swanzey, Executive Director of Winnakee.

Such conservation easements permanently protect water resources, habitat, migration corridors, valuable diverse forests, and the scenic quality of local communities. Aside from the satisfaction of forever protecting a beautiful parcel of land, a donated conservation easement brings tax benefits to the donating landowner.



Pictured l-r: Sam Phelan, Sally Mazzarella, Ellen Phelan, and Gregg Swanzey

TIERNEY'S TIDBIT: THE THING ABOUT CROWS



The American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) is a common sight in our part of the world, and easily identifiable by even the least bird savvy among us. Often detested for their loud cawing, attacking song birds, and “spoiling” of corn and other food crops, these birds are deserving of our respect and admiration.

Crows belong to a group known as the Corvids, which includes jays and magpies. Forty species of crows are known worldwide; however, in New York, a large all-black bird is either an American crow or a common raven. The American crow is smaller than the common raven standing approximately 18 inches tall. Crows have a smaller, less substantial bill than the raven, have fan-shaped tails while ravens have wedge-shaped tails, and make a series of caws while ravens use a guttural croaking sound (among other sounds).

Crows, as well as other corvids, are among the most intelligent birds and are known to use and construct tools. A captive crow was observed using a cup to carry water to a bowl of dry mash. Wild crows will use sticks, which they will size as needed, to retrieve food from holes. Crows are extremely social, and unlike their raven brethren, will live in complex family groups. During winter months, crows will congregate together to form communal roosts consisting of between hundreds to millions of crows! Young crows do not breed until reaching the age of 2-4 years old, instead helping their parents raise new broods. Wild crows can live up to 16 years, while captive crows have been reported living up to 59 years!

Despite being known for eating carrion, crows cannot break the skin of a dead animal so carrion composes a very small part of their diet. Crows will eat just about anything including grains, seeds, nuts, fruits, berries, and many kinds of small animals. Crows, like other corvids, store seeds in caches in numerous places in a behavior called scatter-hoarding. Crows cache more seeds than they can eat and scatter-hoarding quickly becomes seed dispersal that allows trees to colonize new areas.

Tierney Rosenstock is Land Projects Manager for Winnakee Land Trust.



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