



Conserving Land, Connecting Communities

# WINNAKEE LAND TRUST

Newsletter—Fall 2017

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Carl E. Meyer  
Board President

Dear Friends of Winnakee,

It is hard to believe that another year at Winnakee has almost passed and what a year it's been! We will remember it as a year of successful transitions as Winnakee's first and only board president, Sally Mazzarella, stepped down. We have

also welcomed a new Land Projects Manager and a Development Assistant into our fold.

As always, we continue to monitor our existing easements while working with numerous landowners to develop exciting new ones. Together with our municipal partners, we commissioned a comprehensive Trail Feasibility Study in northern Dutchess County and are using the recommendations of this study to secure funding to construct trail segments in Rhinebeck, Red Hook, and Hyde Park. Stay tuned!

In 2017, we hosted our most successful Gala ever at Astor Courts – highlighted by a well-deserved celebration of the over 40 years of service that Sally has devoted to land conservation. The Annual Tour of Historic Barns and Working Farms also attracted the highest number of participants to date, including cyclists for the first time. We introduced member events at our two parks, including Full Moon Hikes at Drayton Grant Park at Burger Hill in Rhinebeck and a guided nature walk at the Winnakee Nature Preserve in Hyde Park.

In addition, we hosted our first-ever BioBlitz, which we hope to make an annual event to engage children and families with nature and the great outdoors.

## GET CONNECTED, STAY INVOLVED: BECOME A WINNAKEE MEMBER!

Membership is an excellent way to support the Winnakee mission and deepen your relationship with the work we do. By becoming a member, you will enjoy member-only events, discounts on programs, and information through emails and newsletters to keep you up-to-date on what we've been working on. We value our members and supporters and would love to welcome you to our membership family! Visit [winnakee.org](http://winnakee.org) to learn more and join us today!

Perhaps our most important achievement of the year is receiving our 5-year re-accreditation from the national Land Trust Alliance (LTA). Accreditation assures landowners, donors, grantors, and municipal officials alike that Winnakee adheres to the highest level of land conservation Standards and Practices established by the LTA.

This Fall, thanks to the generosity of IBM and their Community Impact Grant, our board and staff participated in a comprehensive strategic planning process, resulting in the development of a new 5-year strategic plan for the organization. We will begin implementing this plan in 2018. It calls for continued emphasis on Winnakee's core mission of conserving land and developing trail connections. It also calls for the development of multi-year strategies enhancing the organization's sustainability, increasing its visibility in the community, and gaining a deeper understanding of the programs, projects, and services that our members and supporters expect of their local land trust. Don't hesitate to reach out to give us your ideas!

Thank you so much for your continued support!

Regards,

Board President



The Cale family enjoying a member Full Moon Hike



## EVENTS THAT INSPIRE, EDUCATE, AND ENGAGE



Sasha Rose Cohen at the  
2017 BioBlitz

**BIOBLITZ:** A new two-day event for Winnakee, brought together new and life-long nature lovers to the Winnakee Nature preserve for a weekend of invasive species identification, bird walks, and live-animal presentations.

### ANNUAL TOUR OF HISTORIC BARNs AND WORKING FARMS:

This signature northern Dutchess event welcomed over 175 people on a self-guided tour of 9 historic properties and culminated in a lovely autumn reception at Heermance Farm in Tivoli.



Barn Tour docents and guests  
exploring a historic barn

**MOON HIKES:** Members and Winnakee friends gathered at Drayton Grant Park at Burger Hill several times this year to enjoy each others company, support Winnakee, and watch the setting sun and the rising full moon (*pictured on the front page*).



**ANNUAL GALA:** With record-breaking attendance and one of the most chic event locations in the Valley, the Winnakee Annual Gala was a splendid success! In 2018 we look forward to welcoming even more of our friends and supporters to the celebration.

Left: Masked Ball guests in festive gala regalia  
Above: Paul and Kristen Page

## DONOR SPOTLIGHT: RHINEBECK BANK, CORPORATE OPEN FIELD SOCIETY MEMBER



Michael Quinn  
President,  
Rhinebeck Bank

Earlier this year, Rhinebeck Bank joined Winnakee Land Trust as a founding member of our Corporate Open Field Society Program. This generous 3-year commitment allows Rhinebeck Bank to be personally involved with Winnakee and helps to make a lasting impact on the work we do in the community.

Rhinebeck Bank, headquartered in Dutchess County, has been part of the fabric of the community since its founding 157 years ago. They believe that being a good corporate neighbor means more than just writing a check, it means making a difference. Through meaningful partnerships such as the Corporate OFS program, Rhinebeck Bank is able to help improve the community and make a positive impact on as many lives as possible.

Every employee of Rhinebeck Bank is encouraged by the Bank to actively participate in charitable causes and

community organizations in which they believe. Many serve as Board Members for not-for-profit organizations, including local area chambers of commerce, as well as human service agencies and arts organizations. Winnakee is proud to have Assistant Vice President and Rhinebeck Branch Manager, Brian McFarlane, as a new board member.

Thank you, Rhinebeck Bank, for your steadfast commitment to preserving and protecting our land.

*Open Field Society members take a leadership role among Winnakee donors. The Society provides a venue for deeper discussion of Winnakee's work and role in the community and engages its members in the latest developments in land conservation.*

*If you are interested in learning more or joining Winnakee as an OFS member, contact Ellen Henneberry, Director of Development, [Ellen@Winnakee.org](mailto:Ellen@Winnakee.org), (845) 876-4213, x 4.*

## GREEN CORNER:

### LET'S TALK TRASH! HOW TO HELP OUR ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH, AND YOUR WALLET

We are facing a global overabundance of plastic pollution, which has led to an increasingly dangerous, virtually invisible, problem that is posing a threat to the environment and ourselves. It is estimated that “more than 8 million tons of plastic are dumped in our oceans every year” with “over 90% of all seabirds [containing] plastic pieces in their stomachs.”<sup>1</sup> The remaining plastic breaks down over time into micro-pieces, which become absorbed with toxic chemicals from industrial and agricultural runoff. These pieces are easily ingested and move up the food chain, placing an enormous risk on human health.

Be curious and know that we can make a difference through how we buy, how we think, and by talking trash with others! Below are 5 simple steps to reduce your environmental footprint – *and save money*.

- **Shop at your local farmers market & buy bulk:** Bring your own reusable packaging, support your local economy, & reduce the travel distance of your food. Many items are much less expensive in bulk!
- **Refuse:** Ditch single use plastic straws, cutlery, bottles, to-go containers, & bags. These are easy items to stop using by carrying your own!
- **Reduce:** Value quality over quantity by learning to live with fewer things that will last longer & bring you greater happiness. Also, make your own non-toxic personal & household products.
- **Reuse & Recycle:** Sew or mend broken or ripped items and go thrifting; you'll save money & give those items a second life.
- **Rot:** Create a compost in your backyard for food scraps, lawn debris, & pet waste. When you send these things to a landfill they cannot decompose properly with the lack of oxygen and beneficial insects to break them down.

<sup>1</sup>Plastic Oceans Foundation. (2017). [Graphic illustration of data]. *Environmental Impact*. plasticoceans.org/.

*Submitted by Milena Cosenza, Intern for Winnakee Land Trust*



Milena is a junior at the University of Florida with a major in Sustainability and the Built Environment and a minor in Innovation. This fall she is working on a number of Winnakee projects, including designing a management plan for the Garden's Trail. Additionally, Milena is fully vegan and working towards a trash-free life. Winnakee is pleased to be working with Milena this semester and appreciates her hard work!

Winnakee is always in need of volunteer help on our trails, parks, and with special events. Email [contact@winnakee.org](mailto:contact@winnakee.org) or call (845) 876-4213 to get involved!



WINNAKEE  
LAND TRUST

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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*First Vice President &  
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*Land Projects Manager*

Sara Capozzoli  
*Development & Marketing  
Support*

WINNAKEE LAND TRUST  
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(845) 876-4213

[winnakee.org](http://winnakee.org)



*A Sunset Thanksgiving*  
Sunday, November 26, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.  
Drayton Grant Park at Burger Hill

Celebrate Thanksgiving and gratitude in our lives with beautiful sunset views and the soothing music of Justin Ram Das Logan playing the ancient gong and Shawn de Ryder playing the didgeridoo.

FREE for Winnakee Members and children 12 and under.  
Non-members are \$5

Visit [winnakee.org](http://winnakee.org) for more information and to register.