

Well Grounded

A Newsletter for Winnakee Land Trust Partners in Land Protection
Winter 2018

Sustainable Forestry



Many of you have woodlots that were certainly logged in the past, some recently and some decades ago. You probably have a provision in your conservation easement deed that allows for the cutting of timber, subject to a forest management plan prepared by a forester. But, how do you know if or when to cut? How do you find a qualified forester? And, what is the best plan for the health of the forest and the animals and plants that live there?

As with any of the rights and restrictions in an easement, the goal is to balance the protection of open space and natural habitats with your right to enjoy the use of the land and derive maximum economic benefits from it. With that in mind, we ask you to practice sustainable forestry. Our definition of “sustainable” is a management system that allows for the

maintenance of continuous forest cover by selectively removing individual trees or small groups of trees. The new forest is gradually and continuously regenerated, providing for a greater diversity of tree age classes and species. This is not only more aesthetically pleasing, but also creates a more healthy forest that supports a larger number of native plants and animals.

Some of you may have inherited a well-managed forest, and others may have a forest that was high-graded: All the larger and/or more valuable trees were harvested at one time, leaving the poorest growing, lowest value growing tree stock for the future. Still others may have fallow farm land that is gradually converting to forest (this young growth supports certain song birds). Finally, some properties may be subject to severe browsing from deer or have an understory dominated by invasive plants. For these reasons and more, each plan will be custom tailored to your lands.

A plan, however, is only as good as the implementation. It is extremely important to select the right logger and the method of logging (e.g.

skidder) and to follow New York’s Best Management Practices for logging. Your forester will oversee the logger and make sure that the land is properly restored after the harvesting is finished. As an incentive to manage your forested lands sustainably, under New York’s 480-A program, if you develop and implement a forest management plan on 50 or more contiguous acres over a ten-year period, you may receive a reduction in your assessment of up to 80%. In return, you pay a severance tax of 6% of the stumpage value at the time of harvest.

If you are thinking about harvesting your trees, please give us a call and we will be glad to walk the property with you, so we can ascertain its current condition and discuss our mutual goals. Then, if you decide to move forward, we can provide you with a list of qualified foresters or put you in contact with the New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation community foresters.

*Warren Rosenthal,
Land Protection Manager*

About Winnakee

Winnakee Land Trust: Conserving Land, Connecting Communities

Winnakee Land Trust of Dutchess County conserves our natural and agricultural Resources providing a lasting legacy. Through the preservation of land and development of trails we promote more resilient communities while engaging and connecting people to the cultural and scenic resources of the Hudson Valley.



Tax Benefits for Conservation Easement Donors

Providing tax benefits for conservation is a wonderful incentive for landowners already interested in protecting their property's natural, scenic, or agricultural assets. Winnakee currently holds over 2,500 acres in conservation easements.

Qualified Contributions

The protected land must meet the requirements of Internal Revenue Code 170(h). The conservation purpose must be for:

- The protection of relatively natural habitat of fish, wildlife, or plants, or similar ecosystem.
- The preservation of open space (including farmland and forest) where such preservation is for the scenic enjoyment of the general public, or pursuant to a clearly delineated federal, state, or local governmental conservation policy.
- The preservation of a historically important land area or a certified historic structure.
- The preservation of land areas for outdoor recreation by, or the education of, the general public.



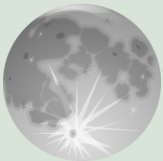
Available Benefits: The donation of an easement is a charitable contribution that may be deducted from federal income taxes. The value of the donation is determined by an independent appraisal.

The tax deduction for conservation easements allows a donor to take a deduction of up to **50% of adjusted gross income per year and the full amount of the deduction may be taken over a carry forward for a period of up to 15 years.** New York State offers an income tax credit of 25% of property taxes, including school district taxes, up to \$5,000 per year. This annual deduction is available to future owners of the protected property.

Eligible Landowners: Private landowners who meet the IRS requirements and freely donate conservation easements are qualified to claim an income tax deduction for conservation, according to the Internal Revenue Code. Real estate developers who set aside open space for conservation are not typically eligible for this tax benefit. Mandated conservation areas, whether owned by private landowners or developers, are ineligible for conservation tax benefits.

Contact Warren Rosenthal, Land Protection Manager at warren@winnakee.org or Gregg Swanzey, Executive Director, at director@winnakee.org to learn more.

Upcoming Winnakee Events



Full Moon Hike, Blue Moon
Saturday, March 31, 7 - 8:30 PM
Drayton Grant Park at Burger Hill



**Spring Bird Walk with the
Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club**
Sunday, April 22, 8 - 11:00 AM
Winnakee Nature Preserve



**Winnakee-Dutchess Trails
Roundtable Meeting**
Thursday, March 22, 4 - 5:30 PM
FDR Wallace Center



Annual Winnakee Gala
Saturday, June 9, 6 - 10:00 PM
Blithewood Manor Historic
Gardens

For more information on these events and to register, please visit winnakee.org.

Welcome New Winnakee Land Protection and Steward Staff

Warren Rosenthal, Land Protection Manager



After an almost 20-year career in community and economic development, working for the National Association of Counties, then a series of county governments, Warren switched gears and became a commercial real estate broker.

A chance conversation with a church member led to a position at the Lake George Land Conservancy, where he started as a Land Protection Specialist. Responsible for land protection projects and stewardship of preserves and conservation easements, he was

promoted to Conservation Manager, a position he held until taking the Land Protection Manager position at Winnakee Land Trust.

Married, with two grown sons, Warren enjoys a variety of outdoor activities, including hiking, biking, x-country skiing, swimming, and kayaking. He holds a bachelors degree in Environmental Studies from Colby College and a masters degree in City Planning from the University of Pennsylvania.

Contact Warren:
warren@winnakee.org
(845) 876-4213, ext. 2

John Mickelson, Land Stewardship Manager



John is a landscape and field ecologist with 20 years' experience designing and developing conservation, field survey, and environmental planning programs. His focus for the past five years has been integrating habitat, land use, biodiversity, and water resources planning with technology transfer, outreach, and education in the Hudson Valley.

John is Winnakee's landscape ecologist and GIS developer and brings new geospatial & ecological skills, data assets and technical capacity to the organization. John is responsible for easement evaluation and stewardship, working closely with the Executive Director, Land Protection Manager, and Easement Committee on projects that include conservation,

agricultural, subdivision, and trail easements. John oversees the management of Winnakee's fee-owned lands according to five-year management plans in collaboration with the Burger Hill Committee and Hyde Park Trails Committee.

One of John's passions is helping local stakeholders by equipping them with the data, information, and technical resources they might need to safeguard their most precious collective resource: the natural world. John holds a bachelors degree in Natural Resource Management & Engineering and a masters degree in Land, Air, Water Resources with a Remote Sensing specialty from University of Connecticut.

Contact John:
johnm@winnakee.org
(845) 876-4213, ext. 3

Winnakee Board of Directors and Staff

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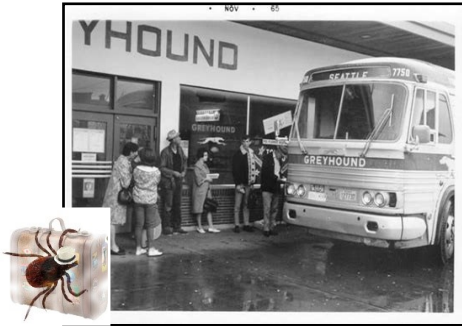
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Where do Ticks go in the Winter?



Winter time in the northeast brings a welcome period of quiet and rest, when nature appears to sleep and we can enjoy long nights curled up in front of the fire with a good book.

Outdoor activities such as cross-country skiing, sledding and hiking can help keep us active and out enjoying the brisk air and welcome sunshine. With the kind of extended cold periods that our region experienced this winter, it would be easy to assume that, like bears, turtles, and frogs, insects such as ticks have also found a cozy spot sheltered in leaf litter, tucked away until spring. But science is teaching us that assuming such things can come with a cost.

It turns out that ticks, and especially the black-legged or “deer tick” (*Ixodes scapularis*) in fact will stay active much of the winter, especially when day-time temperatures approach and exceed freezing. On warm days or extended warm spells, ticks will crawl out onto a shrub, herb, or leaf branch to wait for a warm-blooded host to brush past them.



So, in these extended, early spring warm spells, we suggest stretching your legs and enjoying the wild outdoors as much as possible. Just be sure to pay attention to the same basic tick awareness measures that are recommended in “prime” tick season, such as:

- Wear light-colored, full length pants and shirts
- Tuck your pants into your socks
- Treat your field clothes with Permethrin (good for ~6-7 washings)
- Use Picaridin insect spray on your exposed skin and clothes (good for up to 12 hours of protection)
- Throw your field clothes into your clothes drier when you get home (on high) for ~20 minutes
- Take a shower.

We’ve found these measures to provide quite effective protection from the little critters.

Enjoy!

John Mickelson, Land Stewardship Manager



Open Field Society and Planned Giving

Land owners who donate easements are uniquely positioned to make a lasting impact on our community. We invite you to join our **Open Field Society** and take the next step in protecting and preserving northern Dutchess lands. Additionally, by including Winnakee Land Trust in your **estate and retirement planning**, you are making a legacy gift that supports our promise of perpetual land conservation.

Members of the Open Field Society enjoy benefits throughout each year including event sponsorship, complimentary tickets to the annual gala, and invitations to exclusive gatherings that allow land owners and community stakeholders to learn and discuss land conservation in northern Dutchess County.

Learn more about the **Open Field Society** and planned giving at winnakee.org or contact Ellen Henneberry, Director of Development at (845) 876-4213, ext. 4 or ellen@winnakee.org.