



## News from HHLT: July 2018

### Conservation Partners Preserve Farmland and Forests Neighboring Fishkill Farms



We are thrilled to have partnered with [Scenic Hudson](#), [Dutchess Land Conservancy](#) and [Dirt Capital Partners](#) to permanently conserve 105 additional acres of farmland adjacent to [Fishkill Farms](#) in East Fishkill. This land deal will allow the popular fruit and vegetable operation to expand to long-fallow fields and a former orchard, which they will be bringing back into production. The transaction also includes the acquisition of 240 acres of forest bordering the farm, through which Wicopee Creek runs.

Read more in Scenic Hudson's [press release](#), the [Hudson Valley News Network](#) or the [Highlands Current](#).

### River of Words Finds New Home at Beacon Institute



We have engaged in a new partnership with the [Beacon Institute for Rivers and Estuaries](#) (BIRE) to expand the River of Words (ROW) environmental education program to new area schools. As part of this partnership, BIRE will take over management of ROW and we will continue to support and guide the program as a sponsor and founding partner.

Since 2008, we have conducted 700 nature-based ROW workshops for approximately 16,500 students in Hudson Highlands public schools. Under the BIRE's leadership, workshops will be offered in new districts like Beacon and Newburgh during the coming school year while continuing in existing schools.

A new ROW web site and virtual gallery of student art and poetry created during workshops can be viewed at [bire.org/row](http://bire.org/row).

Read more in our recent [press release](#) or in the [Highlands Current](#).

## Save the Date! HHLT Autumn Cocktail Benefit to Take Place on Wednesday, October 3rd

Mark your calendars for our annual Autumn Cocktail Benefit, scheduled for **Wednesday, October 3rd**. This year's benefit will take place at the [Retro Report](#) offices, close to Grand Central Terminal in New York City. All proceeds will directly support our land conservation, advocacy and outreach efforts.

**RETROREPORT**

Invitations will be sent next month, so stay tuned for more details!

## Share Your Concerns! Limited Opportunity to Comment on Army Corps Proposal for Hudson River Storm Surge Barriers





The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is considering various [plans](#) to manage the risk of coastal storm damage to New York Harbor and the Hudson Valley in response to Hurricane Sandy as part of the "NY-NJ Harbor and Tributaries Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study." Several of these plans propose installing massive in-water barriers throughout New York Harbor that could severely threaten the Hudson River ecosystem by restricting tidal flow and fish migration. Find more details in this [blog post](#) from Riverkeeper.

Anyone living near the Hudson River will be affected by this project. We encourage you to provide input during the official scoping comment period, which ends **August 20th**. To submit input on the scope of the study:

- Email comments to [NYNJHarbor.TribStudy@usace.army.mil](mailto:NYNJHarbor.TribStudy@usace.army.mil) with the subject "Scoping Input"
- Visit the [project website](#) and submit comments by clicking the "Contact" link in the upper right corner and add the subject "Scoping Input"
- Mail comments to: Nancy Brighton, Chief, Watershed Section, Environmental Analysis Branch, Planning Division; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; 26 Federal Plaza, Room 2151; New York, NY 10279-0090

We'll provide more information on the potential impact to our region in the coming weeks, but in the meantime, the two most urgent requests to the Army Corps are to extend the comment period to 90 days and to provide additional public meetings throughout the entire affected area.

Now is the time to make your voice heard. Thanks in advance for your support!

## This Week is Invasive Species Awareness Week!



**July 8 - 14** is the fifth annual [New York Invasive Species Awareness Week](#) (ISAW), sponsored by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. ISAW is an annual educational campaign coordinated by the Invasive Species Council, the Invasive Species Advisory Committee, the eight PRISMs (Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management), and their partner organizations.

The week-long campaign features numerous events like invasive species removal projects, guided

hikes and paddling events, presentations by experts, informational webinars, citizen science trainings, film screenings, and more. This year's theme is "What YOU can do to stop the spread!" with a focus on positive actions people can take to prevent the spread of invasive species.

Find an event near you on the [ISAW calendar](#).

## Invasive Species Removal at Granite Mountain Preserve



Speaking of invasive species, the NY-NJ Trail Conference's "Invasive Strike Force" trail crew recently visited Granite Mountain Preserve. The group is an initiative of the [Lower Hudson - Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management](#), funded by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

During their visit, the crew removed more than 19,000 plants of a new invasive species, Yellow Archangel, which is an extensive ground-covering vine that suppresses growth, creating ecological deadzones. If you are wondering what 19,000 plants look like, that's three 50-gallon garbage bags or 1,650 square feet! The crew also treated 500 stems of invasive Japanese Angelica and identified a new invasive on the property, Viburnum Dilatatum. They will visit Granite Mountain again in the coming months to monitor progress. Thanks to the Invasive Strike Force for their great work!

Please consider supporting our work.  
HHLT is the only organization that focuses exclusively on protecting the Hudson Highlands.  
Your contribution protects this iconic region for our future generations.  
Thank you!

**DONATE NOW**



*The Hudson Highlands Land Trust protects and preserves the natural resources,  
rural character and scenic beauty of the Hudson Highlands.*

**Hudson Highlands Land Trust**

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