



News from HHLT: August 2018

Thank You to Our Intrepid Volunteers!



Our volunteers are the lifeblood of our organization. Whether they are helping us clear trails in Granite Mountain Preserve, leading an activity during our Winter Carnival, or helping us prepare a fundraising mailing in the office, we couldn't accomplish a fraction of our work without our loyal volunteers.

We just noticed the volunteer list in the printed version of our [Annual Report](#) (see below) was not complete (this was actually brought to our attention by one of our most engaged volunteers!). The complete volunteer list is available [here](#).

We have corrected the list in the online version of the report. Our sincere apologies if your name was left off the printed list. We deeply value the contributions each and every one of you have made to furthering our mission. THANK YOU for dedicating your time and energy to HHLT. We couldn't do it without you!

HHLT's Latest Annual Report Now Available

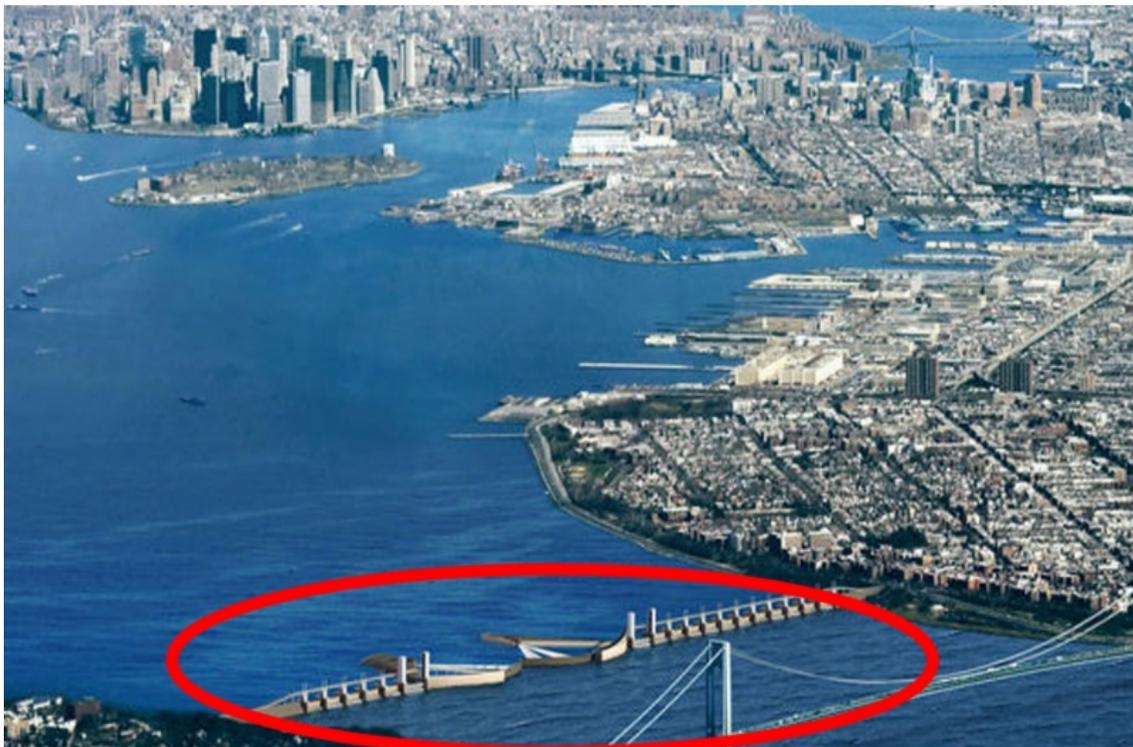


Our latest [Annual Report](#), chronicling our many successes and accomplishments from the past year, is now available.

Highlights include greatly expanding our partnerships with municipalities on open space and water resource planning and closing on land transactions adding another 200 acres of conserved land to the Hudson Highlands. We also set our strategic direction for the next five years, adapting our approach to a changing world, but keeping our core mission the same – *“to protect and preserve the natural resources, rural character and scenic beauty of the Hudson Highlands.”*

Read more on the pages of our [Annual Report](#). If you are inspired by what you read, please consider making a [tax-deductible donation](#) to support our future conservation, advocacy and outreach efforts.

Please Comment on Army Corps Proposal for Storm Surge Barriers and Expedited Environmental Review by August 20th



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is evaluating plans to mitigate coastal storm damage, several of which propose installing storm surge barriers in New York Harbor that would block the tidal flow of the Hudson River.

Our Executive Director, Michelle Smith, recently published a "[Perspective](#)" article in *The Putnam County News & Recorder* that focuses on how the environmental review process is being "fast-tracked" under new federal laws governing Army Corps flood mitigation projects. This could have dire consequences for the Hudson River Estuary and our region.

Please take the time to review the piece and write comments to the Army Corps **BEFORE AUGUST 20th** asking them to:

- Extend the timeline for the full feasibility study beyond three years
- Extend the comment period for the Scoping Process to at least 90 days
- Hold more public meetings throughout the Hudson Valley during the Scoping Process
- Study what you love most about the Hudson River, because it may be at risk
- Study the environmental impacts of all five alternatives before arriving at a "shortlist"

Visit [our website](#) for instructions on how to submit comments and visit the [Riverkeeper](#) and [Scenic Hudson](#) websites for additional commentary on this important issue.

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 is generously hosted by [Retro Report](#) and will take place at their offices, close to Grand Central Terminal in New York City.

RETROREPORT

Guests will have the opportunity to experience the inner workings of an independent, non-profit news organization. The event will include a screening of a new Retro Report environmental documentary and a Q & A session with the producer.

Invitations will be sent at the end of the month, so stay tuned for more details. Please [let us know](#) if you would like to receive an invitation in the mail. All benefit proceeds directly support our conservation work.

Working for Our Community: New Trash Bins for Cold Spring Waterfront

We recently teamed up with the Village of Cold Spring and Scenic Hudson to co-sponsor new trash and recycling bins for the Cold Spring riverfront. The containers, which are made of recycled material, will help alleviate trash overflows during times of heavy visitation.

Read more in the [Highlands Current](#). We are excited to be able to give back to our community in this way!



Call for Water Volunteers

We recently launched a Clean Water initiative through the [Philipstown Community Congress \(PCC\)](#) process to ensure clean water for the future in our community. As part of this initiative, we are conducting a water resource study in Cold Spring and forming a coalition to develop water-focused land use and conservation strategies. Read more in this recap of a recent PCC meeting in [The Putnam County News & Recorder](#).

We are currently seeking volunteers to join a watershed protection group for either the Clove

Creek/Clove Creek Aquifer (serving the wells of many northern Philipstown properties) or the Cold Spring/Foundry Brook reservoir system (serving the Village of Cold Spring water supply) to ensure ongoing protection of these drinking water sources. This work could start as soon as possible if enough volunteers step forward.

We are also seeking volunteers interested in water quality sampling that could take samples in identified "hot spots" for road treatments and various industrial activities. This work will likely start in 2019.

Please [contact us](#) if you are interested in volunteering with either group.

Scenic Hudson Protects Significant Landscape in Hudson Highlands



We are delighted that one of our conservation partners, Scenic Hudson, has permanently protected the Scofield Ridge and Lake Valhalla properties in Philipstown and Fishkill. Their purchase of 1,178 acres will help safeguard our local water supply and preserve important ridgetop hiking trails and forest habitats.

Our Executive Director, Michelle Smith, commented on the transaction: "This property was ranked the Number 1 area for preservation in Philipstown's Open Space Protection Plan, dating back almost a decade. It's also very important to Cold Spring, where I live, for its role in our water supply. We are delighted to see this large conservation priority in our mission area preserved forever, and commend Scenic Hudson's efforts to bring this to fruition."

Read more in Scenic Hudson's [press release](#) or [The Putnam County News & Recorder](#).

Thank You to Our Board Members!





A big THANK YOU to our Board members that have joined Conservation Stewardship Manager Nicole Wooten for her annual monitoring visits on our conservation easement properties: **Claudio Marzollo**, **Bente Strong**, **Bob Rhodes** and **Irv Flinn**. Also a special thanks to **Lew Kingsley** for his help with tree removal on Granite Mountain Preserve. Additional Board members have signed up to join upcoming monitoring visits and we look forward to featuring them in this newsletter in the coming months.

Predators Key to Combating Lyme Disease



A new study by the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies has found the risk of contracting tick-borne diseases is higher in areas with fewer predators like foxes, opossums and raccoons, which feed on rodents that can carry these diseases. Interestingly, infection rates rise in areas dominated by coyotes, which can drive out smaller predators. As the study concludes, preserving intact forests and promoting healthy predator populations is essential to mitigating tick-borne diseases.

Learn more by visiting the Cary Institute's [website](#) or in the [Highlands Current](#). You can also access the full study in the [Journal of Ecology](#), published by the Ecological Society of America.

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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