



News from HHLT: December 2018

Granite Mountain Preserve: New Access Area and Expansion



Last year, we permanently conserved more than 350 acres on Granite Mountain in the heart of Putnam Valley, creating a new Preserve that protects vital wildlife habitat and drinking water, while serving as a recreational resource for the community. Since then, we've been working to improve the existing trail system and make the Preserve more accessible to the public.

Last week, we hosted a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to unveil the recently-completed Peekskill Hollow Road access area and parking lot for the Preserve. We had numerous Town and County officials in attendance to help us mark the occasion, including **Putnam Valley Town Supervisor Sam Oliverio**, **NYS Assemblyman Kevin Byrne**, **Putnam Valley Councilwoman and representative for State Senator Sue Serino Jackie Annabi**, and **Putnam Valley Councilwoman Wendy Whetsel**.

At the event, we announced the expansion of the Preserve with the addition of another parcel by year-end, and we are working on a management agreement with Putnam County on their adjoining land, **bringing the Preserve to more than 500 acres in total**.

Read more about the Ribbon Cutting in this week's [***Putnam County News and Recorder***](#).

Note that we are in the process of upgrading and rerouting the Preserve trail system. The improvements, which will better protect natural resources and enhance the visitor experience, should be completed by the end of next year, at which point detailed trail maps will be available. In the meantime, we will be offering guided hikes of the Preserve. Please [**contact us**](#) if you are interested in

hiking the Preserve.

Help Us Protect the Hudson Highlands This Holiday Season

We hope you'll consider [donating to HHLT](#) as 2018 draws to a close so we can maintain our steadfast commitment to protecting and preserving the Hudson Highlands into next year and beyond.

In the past year, thanks to your support, we added hundreds of acres to parks in our area, including to our own Granite Mountain Preserve (see above). Right here in Philipstown, we ramped up efforts to mitigate impacts of increased visitation to our most popular trails and launched a new Clean Water initiative. We have also been working with the towns of Cornwall and Putnam Valley to document key natural resources for open space planning.

We have even bigger plans for 2019 that build on these successes and your [investment](#) in HHLT of any amount makes it possible. All of us at HHLT are so grateful for your continued support, and we wish you all the best this holiday season and throughout the New Year!

Winter Hill Tree Lighting Party is Tomorrow!



A friendly reminder that the annual Winter Hill Holiday Tree Lighting celebration is tomorrow, **Friday, December 7th** from **5:30 to 7pm**. The festivities will include warm drinks, seasonal refreshments, friendly conversation with neighbors, and a holiday sing-along. This is a family-friendly community celebration open to all. Note this event is entirely outdoors, and the weather forecast calls for a chilly evening, so please dress accordingly. See you there!

We're Hiring! HHLT Seeking Dynamic Stewardship Coordinator

We are currently seeking a [Stewardship Coordinator](#) to help coordinate and implement organization-wide stewardship, acquisition and technology tasks.

The Stewardship Coordinator will be responsible for overseeing our conservation easement portfolio, including annual monitoring, review of landowner requests and responses to field issues. This individual will also aid in land acquisition tasks and oversee the Geographic Information System (GIS) for all our operations. For our fee properties, the Stewardship Coordinator will be responsible for conducting monitoring visits in accordance with each management plan. They will also aid in the creation of management plans for our fee-owned properties, as needed.

The position offers a competitive salary and benefits package, including group healthcare and retirement plans. You can read the full job description and apply for the position through [Workable](#).

Please Share Your Input on the Cornwall-Blooming Grove Natural Heritage Project by December 14th



Cornwall and Blooming Grove residents: your input is needed for the Cornwall-Blooming Grove Natural Heritage Project (NHP)! Please take 7-10 minutes to complete a brief online survey and tell us which open spaces and natural areas you value most. Your input via the survey is critical and will help guide municipal planning and the protection of water resources, farmlands, wildlife habitat, and scenic and recreational areas in the Towns and Villages. The survey deadline has been extended to **Friday, December 14th**.

To share your input on Cornwall: surveymonkeys.com/r/CornwallNHP

To share your input on Blooming Grove: surveymonkeys.com/r/BloomingGroveNHP

Please don't hesitate to [contact us](#) if you have any questions or feedback on the project. Many thanks in advance for your time and thoughts!

HHLT Stewardship Manager Nicole Wooten Named Rising Environmental Leader



Last month, our Conservation Stewardship Manager, Nicole Wooten, was named a [Rising Environmental Leader of the Hudson Valley](#) by the Hudson Highlands Nature Museum and honored at their annual Champagne Brunch along with nine other recipients from across the region. This award recognizes outstanding young professionals who are leading the charge to protect and preserve our region.

All ten recipients were interviewed about the key experiences and people from their childhood that influenced them to pursue environmental careers. Their moving stories were captured in this [video](#).

Nicole says: "The experiences that most piqued my interest in natural sciences took place in the wooded backyard of my childhood in North Carolina. There, I took solo walks in the woods, scrambling on rocks, investigating mosses, and watching trees change each season. Nature was my after-school classroom, and this small patch of woods filled me with curiosity and wonder. Those experiences--- both large and small-scale---remain with me today."

Congratulations to Nicole and the rest of the Rising Environmental Leaders!

[Retro Report Future of Water Documentary Now Available](#)



This past October, our annual Autumn Cocktail Benefit was hosted by [Retro Report](#) at their newsroom. Benefit guests were treated to a screening of an in-production documentary, the [Future of Water](#), with the film's producers. The completed documentary was recently released and can now be viewed through their [video library](#).

Retro Report would love to hear from you with specific feedback on this story or any of the documentaries from their "What Happens Next" series. Please direct feedback to [Claire Schultz](#).

Last Call for Comments on HHLT's Land Trust Accreditation

We have recently applied for renewal of our national accreditation through the [Land Trust Accreditation Commission](#). Public comments on our application will be accepted through **December 14th, 2018**. Comments must relate to how we comply with [national quality standards](#) that address the ethical and technical operation of a land trust.

Please visit [our website](#) to learn more about the accreditation program and how to submit comments. Many thanks in advance!



Local Event: Beacon Sloop Club Climate Change Lecture

The [Beacon Sloop Club's](#) 2019 Winter Lecture Series will kick off **Thursday, January 17th**, with *Climate Change, Hope and the Beacon Community* – with *Tim Guinee*, a presentation and discussion of the latest science regarding climate change and the potential impact on the Beacon community. This event is free and open to the public. More information can be found in the [event flyer](#).

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.

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