



News from HHLT: June 2018

HHLT Facilitates Valuable Addition to Fahnestock State Park



We recently facilitated the acquisition of almost 40-acres by NYS Parks to be added to the northern edge of Fahnestock State Park. With two pristine streams running through it and a rare, intact hemlock forest, the property has outstanding natural resource value. As well as being home to a variety of native plant and aquatic species, this land is also critical to our feathered friends, and is identified as an important bird conservation area. We are delighted to have partnered with the landowner and NYS Parks to make this transaction happen, and we are grateful to the landowner for their dedication to conservation.

HHLT Partners with NY-NJ Trail Conference on Breakneck Ridge Stewardship

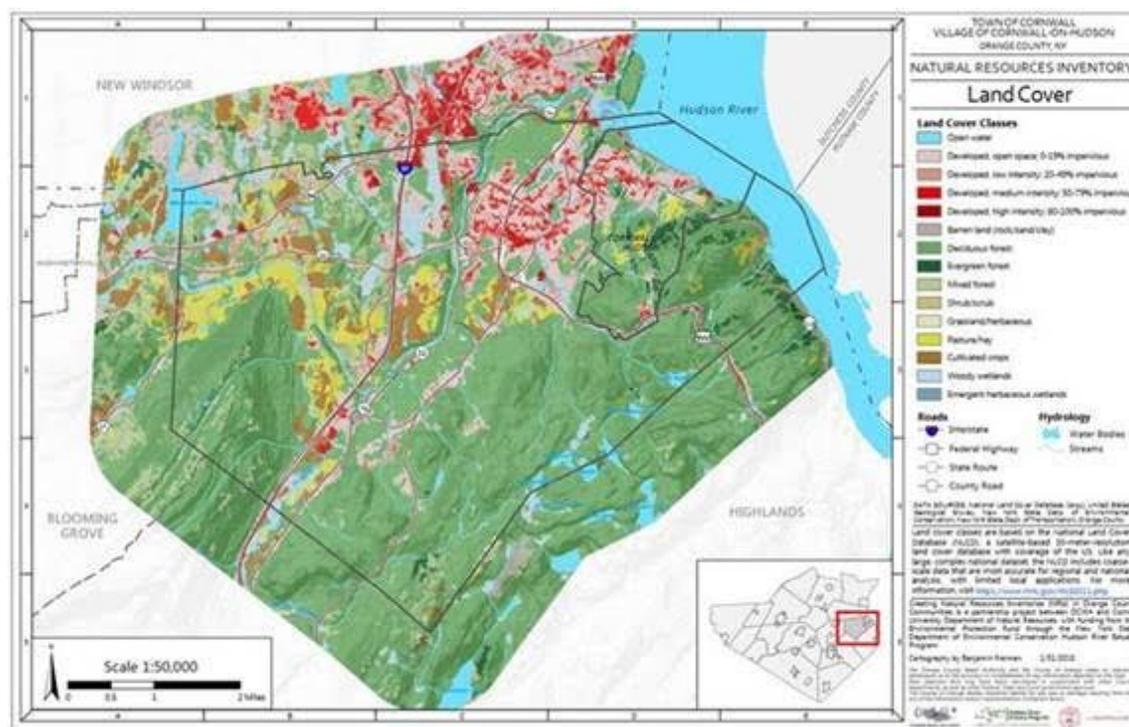


We have engaged in a new partnership with the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference's Breakneck Ridge Trail Steward Program for the 2018 season. The program aims to educate and assist the public in the safe, responsible and enjoyable use of the trails and parkland of Breakneck Ridge, recently named as the most popular hiking destination in the country by trails.com. As part of the partnership, we will provide financial sponsorship of the program and help facilitate steward trainings that promote conservation ethics and best stewardship practices. (Our Conservation Stewardship Manager, Nicole Wooten, is pictured above talking natural resource protection during a recent trail steward training at Breakneck.)

"The Trail Steward Program has had such a positive impact in our area under the leadership of NYNJTC and State Parks. We wanted to provide ongoing financial support as this terrific program grows and to facilitate the education of our many visitors in good land stewardship practices," said our Executive Director, Michelle Smith.

Read more in our recent [press release](#).

Come See the Cornwall Natural Resource Maps on June 10th



The Cornwall Conservation Advisory Council (CCAC) would like to invite community members to the

unveiling of the Cornwall Natural Resources Inventory maps on **Sunday, June 10 at 2pm at the Cornwall Public Library**. Enjoy some refreshments and share your thoughts on these informative, beautiful, and important maps!

By the end of the summer, the maps will be accompanied by narrative that describes the community's natural and cultural resources. The Cornwall NRI will then be available as an educational resource for the community and as a planning tool for the Town of Cornwall and Village of Cornwall-on-Hudson.

The CCAC is thankful to the Town and Village for their support of the Cornwall NRI project and the upcoming Cornwall Natural Heritage Project (information forthcoming at meeting).

Hudson Highlands Reserve: Comment Period on Draft Scoping Document Open Until June 21st

Earlier this year, the Philipstown Planning Board voted for a full environmental review (via an Environmental Impact Statement or EIS) of the Hudson Highlands Reserve project off Route 9, between Horton Road and East Mountain Road North. This is the first proposed "Conservation Subdivision" under Philipstown's zoning code.

The [Hudson Highlands Reserve Draft Scoping Document](#), which outlines what will be addressed during the EIS process, is **available for public review and comment through June 21st**. Written comment will be accepted up to that date and verbal comment accepted at the Planning Board meeting on June 21st. The Draft Scoping Document presented at the June 5th Planning Board meeting can be found [here](#), and the notice on the public comment period can be found [here](#).

Comments on the Draft Scoping Document that may be helpful to the process include those pertaining to:

- Significant environmental impacts
- Information needed, information sources, and study methods/models to assess significant impacts
- Reasonable alternatives for avoiding impacts
- Measures for mitigating potential impacts

Comments may be submitted to the Planning Board at the June 21st meeting (starting at 7pm or 7.30pm) or prior to that in writing to the Planning Board, whose contact information is [here](#).

HHLT Featured in Appalachian Trail *Journeys* Magazine



The newly-released Spring 2018 issue of *Journeys*, the official magazine of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, features our very own Conservation Stewardship Manager, Nicole Wooten. An excerpt from the article entitled "Connecting to Something Greater" about the importance of conserving large landscapes is below:

Large landscape conservation means maintaining not only the federally protected Appalachian Trail (A.T.) footpath and its corridor, but also protecting the areas surrounding the Trail... "On the East Coast, the A.T. is the backbone of the wilderness — a place where all protected lands are connected to something greater," says Nicole Wooten of the Hudson Highlands [Land] Trust. "[It is] a large landscape that really is important beyond just the East Coast of the U.S. Ecologically speaking, the Trail is part of the heartbeat of the wilderness along these [American] continents."

The A.T. Landscape Partnership has identified a list of 10 Priority Focus Areas, and one of these is the Hudson Highlands portion of the A.T. All priority areas exemplify a diversity of conservation values, threats to these values, and opportunities to protect these special places. And we live in such a place!

LOCAL EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Saunders Farm Barn Dance: June 16th



Get your dancing shoes out: the annual Saunders Farm Barn Dance will take place **Saturday, June 16**. The festivities will kick off with a potluck starting at 7pm, with dancing for children beginning at 7:30pm and dancing for adults beginning at 8pm. Music will be provided by the Homegrown Band with caller Robert Livingston. Please bring some food and drink to share. Additional details can be found in this [flyer](#). This is an annual Philipstown tradition that is not to be missed!

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



Hudson Highlands Land Trust

20 Nazareth Way, P.O. Box 226, Garrison, NY 10524

(845) 424-3358

info@hhl.org

www.hhl.org

