Registration Now Open for 2018 Community Forum on Water

Hudson Highlands communities have had their share of recent water issues: contaminated drinking water caused a state of emergency in Newburgh, water supply concerns led to a building moratorium in Beacon, and Cornwall faced challenges when another village tapped into its water supply. All of these issues and more will be covered at this year's Sustainability Forum, *The Taste of Sprawl: A Water Discussion*.

The forum, taking place **Sunday, April 15, at the Highlands Country Club in Garrison**, will focus on how land-use decisions can impact our drinking water supply and explore steps that can be taken to secure this essential resource. Our morning panel, *Safe Drinking Water: An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure*, will feature speakers from Riverkeeper, DEC, Hudson Valley Regional Council, Chazen Companies and Quassaick Creek Watershed Alliance. Afternoon breakout sessions will focus on local case studies in Newburgh, Beacon and Philipstown.

This is a free community forum (with lunch included), but we suggest a donation of $10. The forum always fills up, so advance registration is required.

(For a preview of the forum, be sure to read our Executive Director Michelle Smith's article, *Drinking Water: Why Do We Ignore It Until There's a Crisis?*, recently published in the *Putnam County News & Recorder*.)

**2018 Take-A-Hike! Series Kicks Off with Invasive Species Hike**
Our 2018 Take-A-Hike! series will kick off with an Invasive Plant Species Management Hike on Saturday, April 14, through Manitou Point Preserve’s Public Trails. Please join us and Debra Adamsons of Landscape Restorations to get tips for managing invasive species in your own backyard. During the hike you will see how managing invasive species increases biodiversity and learn how smart horticultural practices in your home gardens can help prevent the spread of invasive plant species. Debra and her team specialize in restoring disturbed areas through native plant-community rehabilitation, native flora garden design and invasive species management.

The hike is free but advance registration is required as space is very limited.

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New Appalachian Trail Conservancy Video Features HHLT

A new video produced by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) highlights their efforts to leverage regional partnerships to conserve priority lands, including with HHLT. Voices from the Mountains, which stars our very own Conservation Stewardship Manager, Nicole Wooten, explores the environmental, cultural and historic importance of these areas and what we can do to ensure the Appalachian Trail experience is protected for future generations. The video is part of the myATstory series. The broader ATC Landscape Partnership initiative, in which the Hudson Highlands is flagged as a top 10 priority area, is summarized here. Please share this video widely!

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Conservation Subdivision Forum Re-cap
Last month, we hosted an educational forum on Conservation Subdivisions and the Open Space Overlay in Philipstown. The forum was designed to deepen residents’ understanding of their town’s open space protections. In case you missed it, the materials presented are shared below.

Conservation Subdivisions and the Open Space Overlay presentation
Philipstown Comprehensive Plan
Philipstown Natural Resource and Open Space Plan
Philipstown Zoning Code
Philipstown Zoning Maps
Open Space Index revised June 2016 – Adopted September 7, 2017

HHLT @ Philipstown Eco Action Day

We’ll be participating in the Philipstown Community Eco Action Day sponsored by the Philipstown Garden Club this upcoming Saturday, March 3, at the Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison. We hope you’ll join us to learn from speakers and panelists how we can collectively reduce our carbon footprint. The event is free and includes a “carbon neutral” lunch. Be sure to stop by the HHLT table during lunch!

Local Events

Taconic Outdoor Education Center’s 25th Annual Maple Sunday
March 11; Cold Spring

Little Stony Point Citizens Associations Maple Syrup Day
March 25; Cold Spring

Putnam County Soil & Water Conservation District’s 2018 Annual Tree & Shrub Seedling Sale
March 28 (order deadline)

Teatown Spring Sustainability Series: Reuse and Redevelopment, the Ever-Changing Landscape of Westchester
March 29; Ossining, NY
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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