

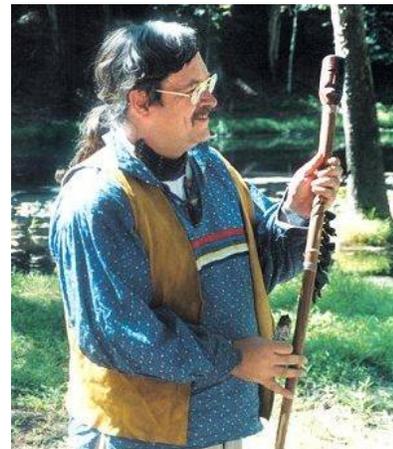


News from HHLT: May 2018

May 5th Take-a-Hike on Algonquin Culture Almost Full

We only have a few spots left for Saturday's [Native Algonquin Culture & Stories Hike](#)! This moderate, family-friendly hike, led by [Evan Pritchard](#), Director of the Center for Algonquin Culture, will take place at the [Hudson Highlands Nature Museum's Outdoor Discover Center](#). It will focus on the history and culture of local Native Americans. Participants will learn about Sconennokee culture, including local history and geography, especially within Munsee territory; local language; and native peoples' insights into ecology of the area.

The hike is free but advance [registration](#) is required as space is limited. Children are welcome to join with an adult guardian.



Water Forum Draws More Than 120 Elected Officials and Residents



Our 2018 Community Forum—[The Taste of Sprawl: A Water Discussion](#)—was a hit! More than 120 people participated in the April 15th forum on local water issues at the Highlands Country Club. In addition to municipal leaders and community members from across the Hudson Highlands, State Assemblywoman Sandy Galef was in attendance and gave opening remarks on the State's initiatives to protect our drinking water.

The morning panel, with speakers from the Hudson Valley Regional Council, Riverkeeper, NYS

Department of Environmental Conservation's Hudson River Estuary program, Quassaick Creek Watershed Alliance and The Chazen Companies, focused on the relationship between land use and water quality. After the panel and lunch, there were lively breakout sessions on Newburgh, Philipstown and Beacon water issues.

You can read a brief recap in the [Putnam County News & Recorder](#). The event program, with bios for all speakers, is available [here](#), and a [video](#) of the morning panel discussion is below.



We'd appreciate hearing your feedback via this [brief survey](#) to help us plan even better Community Forums in future years. You can also reach out to our Outreach & Events Manager, [Ashley Rauch](#), with any specific feedback.

Special thanks to all our speakers, community volunteers, and everyone that attended for making it such a successful day!

HHLT Awarded Two NYS Conservation Partnership Program Grants

We are honored to be the recipients of two New York State [Conservation Partnership Program](#) grants. The program, which is a partnership between the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and the Land Trust Alliance, recently awarded \$2.3 million in funding to 51 nonprofit land trusts across the state to support projects that will protect farmland, wildlife habitat, and water quality; enhance public access for outdoor recreation; conserve priority open space areas; and further land conservation and proactive stewardship practices that enable protected lands to sequester and store carbon.

One grant will enable us to develop a land use strategy and management plan to protect local water resources, with a focus on Philipstown and the Villages of Cold Spring and Nelsonville, where water protection is a top community priority. The second grant will fund public access improvements and restore the trail network on our 358-acre Granite Mountain Preserve, ensuring visitor safety and protecting the watershed for Peekskill Hollow Brook, a source of drinking water for Peekskill. We look forward to keeping you apprised of developments on both projects.

Hudson Valley Gives Day is May 16th



[Hudson Valley Gives Day](#) is just around the corner! The annual 24-hour event celebrating charitable giving across the Hudson Valley will take place **Wednesday, May 16**.

This past year, your support has helped us **protect an additional 200 acres in the Hudson Highlands** and partner to protect hundreds more acres of forest and farmland. We were also a key driver in achieving a **full environmental review** on 200-acre subdivision in Philipstown; state funding for **Open Space Planning in Cornwall and Blooming Grove**; and local and state funding for **water resource studies for Cold Spring, Nelsonville and Philipstown**.

In all of these efforts, our most important partner is you! We hope you'll consider making a [contribution](#) to HHLT on Hudson Valley Gives Day. Thank you!

LOCAL EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Guided Hike w/ Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners



Starting this month, [Cornell Cooperative Extension of Putnam County's](#) Master Gardener Volunteers will guide hikes on trails throughout Putnam County. These free, [guided hikes](#) will explore forest regeneration, local history and invasive plants on the second Saturday of each month (with rain date the following Sunday).

The first hike of the season on **Saturday, May 12** runs through **Clearpool Model Forest in Kent**, which is within the New York City watershed. Highlights will include an exploration of forest regeneration, rugged boulders and scenic spring forests. This trail includes moderate to difficult rocky slopes and runs approximately 2.5 miles. [Pre-registration](#) is required.

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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