



News from HHLT: November 2018

Join Us for the Winter Hill Tree Lighting on December 7th!



Mark your calendars for the annual Winter Hill Holiday Tree Lighting! We hope you'll join us for the festivities on **Friday, December 7th** beginning at **5:30pm**. Kick off the holiday season with warm drinks, seasonal refreshments, friendly conversation with neighbors, and a holiday sing-along at this annual family-friendly community celebration. Note this event is entirely outdoors, so please dress accordingly.

Public Input Requested on Cornwall Natural Heritage Project



Attention Cornwall residents! Please take a few minutes to complete this public [survey](#) for the Cornwall-Blooming Grove Natural Heritage Project and tell us which open space characteristics and natural areas you value most in your community. The Project is creating open space inventories for the Towns of Blooming Grove and Cornwall, and the Village of Cornwall-on-Hudson, which will identify and prioritize open spaces that are important to the community. The Natural Heritage Project builds upon the [Natural Resource Inventory](#) work already completed in both municipalities.

Your input via the [survey](#) is critical and will be used to identify priority open spaces and geographic areas of special interest. A separate survey will be available for Blooming Grove residents next week.

The Cornwall-Blooming Grove Natural Heritage Project is a partnership between the Hudson Highlands Land Trust and Orange County Land Trust, working with Behan Planning and Design, and the Conservation Advisory Councils of both towns. This Project has been funded in part by a grant from the New York State Environmental Protection Fund through the Hudson River Estuary Program of the State of New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Giving Thanks to Our Volunteers



Each November, we like to recognize and thank the many volunteers who have helped us throughout the year. Whether they volunteered at Granite Mountain Preserve, led one of this year's Take-a-Hikes, serve on our Young Friends committee and helped us put on a spectacular Fall Fest, or prepared a fundraising mailing in the office, we couldn't accomplish a fraction of our work without our loyal volunteers. We thank you all for generously donating your time and energy to our mission. [Get in touch](#) with us if you'd like to learn more about volunteer opportunities at HHLT.

Volunteer Spotlight: Jon Midler

We'd also like to give a shout-out to an all-star volunteer, Jon Midler. Jon has been working behind the scenes to make Granite Mountain Preserve a fantastic community resource. His previous, detailed historical analysis of Granite Mountain Preserve was an informative supplement to the Preserve's Management Plan. He is also an active volunteer on the Preserve on everything from biotic surveys to boundary maintenance.

Jon says: "HHLT is an exceptional land trust to volunteer for. Every community needs an organization to help preserve forests, open space, and water resources. This organization is unique in their ability to accomplish this while also being receptive to ideas from local residents. HHLT is a treasure for the Lower and Mid-Hudson Valley that I look forward to volunteering with for years to come."

Sincere thanks, Jon, for your dedication to land conservation in the Hudson Highlands!



Thanks for Attending Our Young Friends Fall Fest!



We had a perfect autumn day and more than 100 adults and children join us for an afternoon of family fun at last month's Young Friends Fall Fest. Highlights included fresh apple cider pressing on an antique cider press; a nature workshop for kids with our Conservation Stewardship Manager, Nicole Wooten; and a hike to the historic North Redoubt guided by our Executive Director, Michelle Smith.

The event also included the presentation of two new awards to young conservation leaders in our area: the inaugural **Timothy Osborn Roberts Young Friends Conservation Award** to Jason Angell and Jocelyn Apicello of the Ecological Citizen's Project for organizing the Philipstown Community Congress and a special merit award to David Marzollo for his clean-up of Indian Brook. Read more about the awards in the [Highlands Current](#).

Special thanks to our Young Friends committee—Antonia Abraham, Nate Berner, Julia Foster, Phoebe

Geer, Jieh Greeney, Thad Pitney, and Lindsey Turner—for dedicating their time and energy to making this event a success.

Leave No Trace Hot Spot Week at Breakneck Ridge



Breakneck Ridge was designated one of this year's national "Hot Spots" by the [Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics](#). Last week (October 29 - November 5) was a Leave No Trace Hot Spot week centered around Breakneck Ridge and the Hudson Highlands State Park Preserve organized in partnership between us, Leave No Trace and the [New York-New Jersey Trail Conference](#). The week included planning sessions, trainings, various public events, and a volunteer cleanup and maintenance event, all intended to engage key stakeholders and the public on responsible outdoor ethics and recreation practices in this overused area. Highlights included a land manager discussion "Trail Chat" hosted at our offices, a NYNJTC "Trail Love" volunteer day at Breakneck Ridge, and an appearance by Sasquatch (the Leave No Trace mascot) in Beacon.

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!



Army Corps Extends Timeline on NY Harbor Storm Surge Study

We hope you were able to get your comments on the [NY Harbor and Tributary Study](#) to the Army Corps by the November 5th public comment deadline. You can review [our comments](#) here and use them as inspiration for any future public comment periods.

We are also thrilled that the Army Corps recently announced they will extend the timeline for the study, which is evaluating options for coastal storm protection, and hold off until at least the Spring of 2020 to arrive at the "shortlist" of one or two options. This crucial step was originally being fast-tracked, with limited opportunity for public input, through this fall. The Army Corps will also provide an interim report in early 2019 to provide additional transparency into the process. Read more about this important development on the [Riverkeeper website](#).

"Be Lazy and Help Nature" Workshop

The Philipstown Garden Club and Master Gardeners are sponsoring a workshop on a new way to deal with fall leaves and garden clean up on **Tuesday, November 13th** from **1-3pm** at **18 Normandy Grange in Garrison**. "Be Lazy and Help Nature" will explore the ecosystem benefits of maintaining leaf cover around trees rather than carting leaves away. More information is available in this [flyer](#).

Happy Thanksgiving from HHLT!



All of us at HHLT want to wish you a very happy Thanksgiving and a joyous holiday season! We are so grateful for your continued support of our work. Thank you for everything you do to help us conserve the special place. Your support and collaboration make our work possible.

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

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

(845) 424-3358

info@hhl.org

www.hhl.org

