



## News from HHLT: October 2018

### Join Us at HHLT's Young Friends FALL FEST Next Saturday!



Our annual [Young Friends Fall Fest](#) is just ten days away! The event, generously hosted by our Young Friends of HHLT committee, has become an annual tradition at Winter Hill over the past six years. We hope you'll bring the whole family out for this year's fest on **Saturday, October 20th from 2-5pm** for a day of autumn fun. Activities include a guided hike to the historic Revolutionary War Redoubt, fresh apple cider pressing on an antique cider press, hands-on nature activities for kids, and plenty of delicious seasonal snacks and beverages. The event will also include the presentation of the the inaugural **Timothy Osborn Roberts Young Friends Conservation Award** for leadership in conservation. Read more about the new award in our [press release](#).

Tickets are \$25 for local residents and all children under 12 are free. Additional event details and online registration can be found at [hhltyoungfriendsfallfest.eventbrite.com](http://hhltyoungfriendsfallfest.eventbrite.com).

### Mona Smith Joins HHLT as Institutional Funding Manager

We are delighted to announce that fundraising professional Mona Smith has joined the HHLT team as our Institutional Funding Manager. In this role, she will be expanding our fundraising efforts with a focus on foundation and government funders.

Before joining HHLT, Mona managed her own consulting practice to provide Hudson Valley nonprofits with board and fund development as well as strategic communications services. She previously worked with HHLT in a consulting capacity, in addition to local

organizations like the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, Glynwood, The College of Westchester, and ETHEL's Foundation for the Arts. Before becoming a consultant, Mona held positions at CUNY/Kingsborough, the Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn Information & Culture (BRIC), Pearl Theatre Company, and Second Stage Theatre. She is a former newspaper reporter, a published author, a produced playwright and screenwriter, and a member of the national Dramatists Guild. We hope you'll join us in welcoming Mona to the HHLT family!



## Thanks for Attending Our Autumn Cocktail Benefit!



Last week's Autumn Cocktail Benefit was a success! We had nearly 100 of our friends and supporters join us at our host Retro Report's offices in NYC to celebrate "Conservation in the News" and HHLT's work preserving and protecting the Hudson Highlands. Benefit guests were able to experience the inner workings of an independent, non-profit news organization and were treated to a screening of the newly released [Future of Cities](#) documentary with the film's producers. (Retro Report's complete video library is available [here](#).)

Special thanks to our generous host, [Retro Report](#), and to everyone that joined us for the evening. All proceeds from the event will be used to support our future conservation, advocacy and outreach work. Thank you for your continued [support](#) of HHLT!

## HHLT Applying for Land Trust Accreditation Renewal; Public Comments Requested

We are in the process of applying for renewal of our accreditation through the [Land Trust Accreditation Commission](#). A public comment period is now open through **December 14, 2018**.

The land trust accreditation program recognizes organizations that meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever. As part of its extensive review of each applicant's policies and programs, the Commission invites public input on pending applications. 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 Announces Second Extension to Public Comments on Storm Surge Proposals: Comments Now Due November 5th



In response to overwhelming public feedback, the Army Corps has announced a second extension to the deadline for public comments on its [NY Harbor and Tributary Study](#), which is evaluating options for coastal storm protection. The new deadline is **November 5th**. If you haven't already submitted comments, please share your concerns with the Army Corps as soon as possible. We still need them to:

- Schedule more public meetings throughout the Hudson Valley during the Scoping Process
- Study what you love most about the Hudson River, because it may be at risk
- Study the environmental impacts of all five alternatives before arriving at a "shortlist" (and if that isn't feasible, then to ensure that "Alternative 5," which proposes shoreline-based floodwalls and levees (pictured above), makes it to the shortlist).

Please visit [our website](#) for instructions on how to submit comments. You can also visit the [Riverkeeper](#) and [Scenic Hudson](#) websites for additional commentary on this important issue.

## HHLT Awarded Greenway Grant for Recreational Trails in Granite Mountain Preserve

We are proud to announce that we have been awarded a \$70,000 [Conservancy Trail Grant](#) from the [Hudson River Valley Greenway](#), a program of New York State. This year's program awarded nearly \$500,000 to recreational trail projects in the region, and our grant will support trail reconstruction of existing trails and development of new trails at our Granite Mountain Preserve in Putnam Valley in an effort to expand public access to the preserve.

**Thank You to Our Board Members for Monitoring with Us!**



We wanted to give another shout out to our Board members that have joined Conservation Stewardship Manager Nicole Wooten for her monitoring visits on our conservation easement properties this year: **Claudio Marzollo, Bente Strong, Bob Rhodes, Irv Flinn, Jeff Bunzel, Seamus Carroll** (pictured) and **Nancy Berner**. Also a special thanks to **Lew Kingsley** for his help with tree removal on Granite Mountain Preserve. And with that, our 2018 monitoring season is a wrap!

## "Mountains Call to Us" Hike on October 20th

Here's a great opportunity to get outdoors during peak fall foliage: the Beacon Hebrew Alliance will be hosting a "contemplative hike" from Breakneck Ridge to Lake Surprise Camp on **Saturday, October 20th** for people of all faiths and religions. Additional details about the hike and registration can be found [here](#).

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](mailto:info@hhl.org)  
[www.hhl.org](http://www.hhl.org)

