Dear Friends,

We are so grateful for another year of your tremendous support. In 2017 we greatly expanded our partnerships with municipalities on open space and water resource planning and closed on land transactions adding another 200 acres of conserved land to the Hudson Highlands.

This past year we also set our strategic direction for the next five years, adapting our approach to a changing world, but keeping our core mission the same – “to protect and preserve the natural resources, rural character and scenic beauty of the Hudson Highlands.”

Here’s how we’re adapting our approach in our three main program areas:

**Land Conservation**: Working with private landowners, these real estate transactions include conservation agreements limiting future development, outright purchase of land and facilitation of land acquisitions by state and local governments. Our strategic plan calls for expanding partnerships and finding creative financing solutions to increase the pace of our land conservation efforts.

**Municipal Planning**: Partnering with local governments, these activities include the creation of open space inventories to guide a thoughtful balance between economic development and conservation across the Hudson Highlands. We’re also expanding our focus on water resources in the face of increasing land-use pressures and troubling water stories playing out across the globe. To fulfill these goals, we created a new position, the Manager of Public Policy and Planning, and were awarded several New York State grants to fund our work in this area.

**Education and Outreach**: None of the above is possible without the engagement of our local communities. We are always inspired by the enthusiasm that our fellow Highlands residents and Land Trust members bring to their involvement in local issues. Expanding our educational efforts will include working with landowners on stewardship of their natural resources, building working coalitions around water resources and seeking broad public input for open space planning.

We look forward to working with you, our supporters, in the coming years as we implement these plans to preserve our distinctive and irreplaceable landscape of hills, fields, and river vistas.

Nancy Berner, Chair
Michelle Smith, Executive Director

---

**Mission Statement**

The Hudson Highlands Land Trust is a community-based, accredited land conservation organization devoted to protecting and preserving the natural resources, rural character and scenic beauty of the Hudson Highlands.

FROM THE CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Top, left: Nancy Berner and Michelle Smith
Above: Hudson Highlands Land Trust Board of Directors and Staff

The Hudson Highlands Land Trust is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization incorporated in 1989 under Section 402 of the Not-For-Profit Corporation Law of New York.
WHERE WE MADE AN IMPACT IN 2017

We continued to work throughout our core focus area toward our mission of protecting and preserving the Hudson Highlands in 2017. Highlights include:

- **Permanently protecting 200 acres** through four new land conservation projects.
- **Partnering with six local municipalities** on water resource studies and the creation of natural resource and open space inventories to guide public planning.
- **Leading eight unique hikes** for our community members to experience the natural, scenic and historic resources of the area.
- **Delivering 133 outdoor environmental education workshops** for 2,800 elementary and middle school students.
- **Welcoming 90 attendees** for our annual Sustainability Forum.
CONSERVATION HAPPENS WHEN ALL THE PIECES COME TOGETHER

Over the course of the 28 years we have been conserving land in the Hudson Highlands, the Board and staff have realized that our work is done best with the support of private landowners, local representatives and community members. When these pieces fit together, a clearer view of each project is visible, and the highest conservation values are reached. That is why we focus our program work on three main areas:

- **Land Conservation and Stewardship** (working with private landowners)
- **Public Policy and Planning** (partnering with municipalities on planning issues)
- **Outreach and Education** (working with community members).

**Strategic Planning:**
We embarked on a strategic planning process early in 2017 to ensure that our mission, “to protect and preserve the natural resources, rural character and scenic beauty of the Hudson Highlands,” remains relevant and that we have the staff, funding and commitment necessary to do that work. The Board and staff took part in a series of in-depth conversations during which we reflected on achievements and took a hard look at the future. We also hired a consultant to interview various stakeholders such as local, county and state representatives, donors, landowners and non-profit partners.

The resulting plan addresses local and national challenges to conservation, demands creativity in conservation financing strategies, and takes into account such factors as climate change and declining populations of native flora and fauna.

“...in a world that’s changing at a quickening pace, we’ve developed a framework to help address larger environmental issues and preserve the Highlands we love for future generations,” said Seamus Carroll, Chair of the strategic planning committee.

Coming out of the strategic planning process, we identified four major initiatives to ensure we can successfully deliver on our mission over the next five years:

- **Accelerate the pace of conservation through broader landowner outreach and partnership strategies;**
- **Build financial capabilities to accelerate land conservation and expand our operating income;**
- **Strengthen partnerships with landowners, municipalities and other non-profit organizations to broaden our collective impact; and**
- **Emphasize operational excellence to ensure ongoing credibility with all key stakeholders.**

**Land Conservation and Stewardship:**
We began 2017 with the purchase of the 136-acre Granite Mountain Peak property, the final piece needed for the creation of the Granite Mountain Preserve in Putnam Valley. The 358-acre Preserve is our first large-scale public preserve to date and offers recreational opportunities for residents, while protecting the natural resources situated in the heart of the Putnam Valley.

Over the course of the year, we met with Putnam Valley residents and assembled a Granite Mountain Preserve Working Group of key stakeholders who contributed to the Preserve’s management plan and helped identify two viable entry points, as well as informational and parking areas. We laid the foundation for community collaborations with two educational hikes at the Preserve in 2017, one with YMCA’s Camp Combe Service Corps, and another with the Putnam Valley Middle School. We also partnered with the United States Military Academy and worked with cadets on mapping trails and points of interest throughout the Preserve.

We conserved 26 acres in Garrison in two separate projects and partnered with Dutchess County, Dutchess Land Conservancy and Scenic Hudson Land Trust to protect 39 acres of farmland and expand the iconic Shenandoah Farm in East Fishkill.

This past year has been a momentous one for the Hudson Highlands Land Trust. Now, with an updated strategic plan to guide our efforts, strong partnerships in place, and a dedicated staff and Board, we believe we have the required elements to successfully continue our central mission, to preserve our valuable natural resources—forever.

**Hudson Highlands Land Trust Vision and Strategic Goals**

**Vision:** The Hudson Highlands remains forever a place of undiminished natural abundance, scenic beauty and historical significance—shared and protected by engaged communities for the benefit of all.

**Strategic Goals:** HHLT will focus our resources to achieve the following outcomes by 2022:

- **Protect and Preserve:** We will conserve and steward land and natural resources in the Hudson Highlands to maintain the natural ecosystems and beauty of the region for future generations.
- **Strength for the Future:** We will improve our financial foundation to better position ourselves to conserve land and natural resources in perpetuity.
- **A Trusted Member of the Community:** We will enhance our position as a valued member of the community.
- **Standard of Excellence:** We will strive for operational excellence to ensure ongoing credibility with all key stakeholders.
2017 FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Overview

Results for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017 (FY2017) show total operating expenses were $1,103,252, down significantly from $1,411,708 in the prior year (FY2016). The decrease in expenses was partly attributable to lower outlays associated with the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail project, and partly attributable to expense controls implemented over the year.

Revenues including contributions, grants, and investment income increased from $1,212,155 in FY2016 to $1,542,455 in FY2017. This increase was largely driven by Fjord Trail project monies, which were received in FY2017; there was no such revenue in FY2016. In addition, in FY2017, we embarked on a project-specific capital campaign, raising $158,750 in contributions and grants toward the purchase of our first public preserve (Granite Mountain Preserve).

Realized capital gains reflected in investment income from security sales in our Board-designated investment fund were partly offset by a capital loss taken on real estate purchased and then sold with a conservation easement removing most development rights.

The Board engaged Pattison, Koskey, Howe & Bucci, CPAs, PC to perform an independent audit.

Financial Structure

Hudson Highlands Land Trust maintains a Board-designated investment fund: the Highlands Steward Fund, which is reserved for land conservation, stewardship, defense of easements and acquisition. The Finance Committee of HHLT’s Board of Directors, working with an outside investment management firm, oversees the assets, which are pooled in a diversified portfolio. Total investment return for 2017 was 22.8%, following a return of 15.1% in 2016.

* Contributions and Grants include $400,000 in Fjord Trail grants, and Program Services expenses include almost $284,862 in related Fjord Trail expenses. The remaining $115,138 will be expensed in FY18 without a corresponding revenue item. Contributions and Grants also include capital campaign contributions and grants totaling $158,750 directed towards the purchase of the Granite Mountain Preserve property.

** FY17 Land assets consist primarily of the Granite Mountain Preserve property (worth $1.155 million), financed in part by a mortgage, shown as a FY17 Liability, of $575,000.

Legacy Landscapes Project

Preserving our iconic views, cherished lands and vital natural resources

Our Legacy Landscapes Project, established in 2011 and updated in 2015, sets forth a plan to identify parcels throughout our mission area that are important land protection priorities. Based on comprehensive analysis of existing natural resources on all parcels within our mission area, this initiative focuses our land conservation efforts on implementing appropriate solutions for those landscapes deemed too important to risk. We work in partnership with private landowners, regional conservation organizations and government agencies to achieve these goals.

Legacy Landscapes Project Scorecard

Priority parcels we have directly conserved or acquired, or that we have facilitated the permanent preservation of by another conservation entity, are shown:
We have long recognized the importance of balancing economic growth and protection of the Hudson Highlands’ natural resources. We have successfully partnered with local municipalities on natural resources and open space planning, as well as watershed protection strategies. In 2017, realizing that development pressures are steadily increasing in the region, we enhanced our ability to focus on smart growth and natural resource protection with the hire of a full-time Manager of Public Policy and Planning, Karen Doyle (see sidebar). Karen will build on our current working relationships to engage village, town, city and county representatives, and energize local communities in the protection of the natural resources we cherish the most.

As the only conservation group dedicated solely to the protection of the Hudson Highlands, we work closely with town and village officials across the region as an advocate for smart development that improves a community with real economic returns, while enhancing the residents’ quality of life. Most local officials understand they must evaluate proposals carefully in order to discern the true cost of balancing economic growth and environmental matters. As with most expenditures, preventive measures (such as land conservation and water source protection) are less costly than reactive ones (e.g. water treatment or finding new sources).

Open Space Initiatives:
In collaboration with Orange County Land Trust, we were awarded a grant from New York’s Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) Hudson River Estuary Program (HREP) in the fall of 2017 to assist the Towns of Cornwall and Blooming Grove, and the Village of Cornwall-on-Hudson prepare Open Space Inventories. These inventories, created from natural resource maps and public input, will be used to guide future planning and preservation strategies for the open spaces most valued by the community.

Cornwall Supervisor Richard Randazzo said, “We are pleased for the opportunity to create an Open Space Inventory that will provide vital information to support our comprehensive planning and help to educate the public on related issues such as protecting our water resources, farmlands, scenic beauty and recreational opportunities.”

In late 2017 we also received support through HREP to assist the town of Putnam Valley in preparing a Natural Resource Inventory, a critical step toward finalizing an Open Space Inventory in the future.

Clean Water Initiatives:
The protection of drinking water sources has been of concern nationally and in the Hudson Highlands, as evidenced by the recent water contamination crisis in Newburgh and the building moratorium in Beacon as the rapidly growing city investigated the capacity of its water supply. Water supplies can be compromised by industrial activity, commercial and residential development, road chemicals, storm-water runoff and the demands of a growing population. As with most expenditures, preventive measures (such as land conservation and enlightened land use practices) are less costly than reactive ones (e.g. water treatment or finding new sources).

In 2017 we launched a clean water initiative in Philipstown as part of the Philipstown Community Congress process, through which residents voted on shared priorities to guide community action. We are now working with the Town of Philipstown and Village of Cold Spring on water resource studies, as well as forming a coalition to drive water-focused land use practices and conservation strategies.

As the only conservation group dedicated solely to the protection of the Hudson Highlands, we work closely with town and village officials across the region as an advocate for smart development that improves a community with real economic returns, while enhancing the residents’ quality of life.

“...
Autumn Cocktail Benefit
In September, friends and supporters joined us at the Manhattan home of Susan and Glenn Lowry for our main fundraising event of the year, which celebrated art and architecture in the Hudson Valley. Attendees were treated to a private tour of the exhibit, “Frank Lloyd Wright at 150: Unpacking the Archive,” at the Museum of Modern Art.

River of Words Poetry Trail
For the sixth straight year, we partnered with Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary and the Hudson Highlands Nature Museum to present two River of Words Poetry Trails: outdoor installations of nature-inspired poetry by local students.

CiderFest
Now an annual tradition for our Young Friends supporter group, CiderFest included an energizing hike to the North and South Redoubts, delicious cider tastings and a hands-on apple-pressing demonstration.

Cocktails at Deer Hill
In June, we honored our conservation donors and partners with a gathering of nearly 100 guests at the home of Board member Doug Land and his wife Lynn Peebles in Cornwall-on-Hudson.

LOOKING BACK AT 2017

Winter Carnival
In February, we partnered with the Philipstown Recreation Department and the Friends of Philipstown Recreation to host our fourth annual community event for friends and neighbors of all ages to share a day of outdoor fun during the height of the winter season.

Take-a-Hike!
We offered eight guided hikes of varying degrees of difficulty as part of our popular Take-a-Hike! series during the 2017 season. The aim is to encourage people to get outdoors, experience the beauty of the Hudson Highlands, and learn about its history.

Sustainability Forum
We hosted Deer?! Oh Dear!, a free community forum on the impact of deer overpopulation on our environment and ways to mitigate it, in March at the Highlands Country Club in Garrison.

Halloween Tree Lighting
We welcomed friends, supporters and neighbors to kick off the holiday season at Winter Hill in festive style with refreshments, caroling, fireside chats and of course, the lighting of our big white pine.

Autumn Cocktail Benefit
We acquired Putnam Valley’s Granite Mountain Preserve in 2016, creating our first park-preserve in order to protect valuable natural resources and provide greater public access to its network of trails. Since then, we have been working with partners in the community to help us make the Preserve a great public resource while maintaining a holistic balance of public use and natural resource protection. To this end, we formed the Granite Mountain Working Group, composed of 14 community volunteers, including representatives from the Putnam Valley Parks & Recreation Department and YMCA summer camp, avid recreationalists, ecologists, and water experts, as well as HHLT staff members.

In 2017, the Working Group met to plan future projects, including: parking areas, emergency access, signage, water protection, citizen science studies, community partnerships, and a permanent volunteer corps. The group has been actively engaged in water protection, access and environmental education. They will now focus on implementing the management plan, especially parking and the trails system in the near future.

We are grateful for the support of this wonderful group of volunteers!

HHLT Convenes Granite Mountain Working Group with HHLT staff

Representatives from the Granite Mountain Working Group hike through the Preserve

HHLT Partners with West Point to Map Granite Mountain Preserve Trails

Continuing our history of partnering with the United States Military Academy at West Point, in 2017 we collaborated on an extensive GIS project to map the current trail system at Granite Mountain Preserve. Board member and United States Military Academy Adjunct Professor Dr. Lisa V. Young was instrumental in facilitating this partnership with LTC Jared Ware, Assistant Professor within the Geospatial Program and YMCA summer camp. The Band Family, Marianne and Dyke Benjamin, Melissa Aase and Brian Bergen, Nate Berrier, Pascale and Richard Berner, Nancy and Tom Berrier, Darren Bergquist and Glenn Rockman, Wendy and Bob Bickford, Susan and John Blisk, Grewendolyn Bounds and Lisa Bernhard, Isabelle Berner and Emmanuel Bourjaily, Claudia Deplin and Bill Braine, Jonathan Brandt, Samara and Doug Braunstein, Martin Brech, Lourdes and Patrick Brown, Maria Edelev Brown and Roy Brown, Hara Schwartz and Christopher Buck, Jan and Gregory Buher, Mary Elizabeth and Jeffrey Bunsil, William Burbank and Peter Hofmann, Sarah Bayne and GL Burke, Emily Beall-Burstein and Jeffrey Burstein, Helen Butler and Jennifer Howie, Jill Byeff, Annie Bykof, Anna Cabot, Jason Cahill, Chad Campanile, Linda and Pat Canlla, Prudence Carlson, Catherine Carnevale, Tara and James Carroll, Marie Wreck and Suamir Carroll, David Cornell, Cindy Cornwell, Paul Costello, Melissa Cozzi, Meryl Cowen, John Cowen, Ben Cramer, Mary Beth and Bob Cosci, Cathy Croft, Kari and James Cross, Michele Himes and Bruce Croushore, Jim and Nick Cricchiella, Laura and William Cummings, T. Jefferson Cunningham, Grace Kennedy and Tim D’Aquisto, Lauren and Mark D’Alvise, Suzanne Moskowitz and Jordan Dale, Rachel Daniels and Darnell Morrison, Joan Davidson, Ben Gaudreau and Howard Kaplowitz, Regina and Mike Gelfer, Kimbal Gifford, Kate Liberman and Eric Gershman, Barbara and Rick Gillis, Alice and Jack Gill, Carleen and Joe Glueberman, Julie Taymor and Ellett Goldenthal, Priscilla Goldfarb, Barbara Dowrey and Hershel Goldwasser, Susan Kamokodi and Charles Gorman, Maggie and David Gordon, Claire Carter and Peter Gould, Michael Graber, Bethany Graft, Jill Greenly, Debra Adamsens, Agbenyo Aheto, Jerry and Yvke Albansse, Sven Alisbebrand, Susan and John Allen, Patricia Grove and Leo Alves, Louisa Ambler, Anonymous Donors, Robin Shelly Andrist and Ralph Andrist, Liz Schuchuck Armstrong and Mike Armstrong, Stephanie and Stoo Aron, Sidney Babcock and Jesse Romeau, Suzanne and Jan Baker, Katrina Cary and Manu Bammi, Sarah and Doug Barker, Jack Bankowsky and Matthew Marks, The Band Family, Marianne and Dyke Benjamin, Melissa Aase and Brian Bergen, Nate Berrier, Pascale and Richard Berner, Nancy and Tom Berrier, Darren Bergquist and Glenn Rockman, Wendy and Bob Bickford, Susan and John Blisk, Grewendolyn Bounds and Lisa Bernhard, Isabelle Berner and Emmanuel Bourjaily, Claudia Deplin and Bill Braine, Jonathan Brandt, Samara and Doug Braunstein, Martin Brech, Lourdes and Patrick Brown, Maria Edelev Brown and Roy Brown, Hara Schwartz and Christopher Buck, Jan and Gregory Buher, Mary Elizabeth and Jeffrey Bunsil, William Burbank and Peter Hofmann, Sarah Bayne and GL Burke, Emily Beall-Burstein and Jeffrey Burstein, Helen Butler and Jennifer Howie, Jill Byeff, Annie Bykof, Anna Cabot, Jason Cahill, Chad Campanile, Linda and Pat Canlla, Prudence Carlson, Catherine Carnevale, Tara and James Carroll, Marie Wreck and Suamir Carroll, David Cornell, Cindy Cornwell, Paul Costello, Melissa Cozzi, Meryl Cowen, John Cowen, Ben Cramer, Mary Beth and Bob Cosci, Cathy Croft, Kari and James Cross, Michele Himes and Bruce Croushore, Jim and Nick Cricchiella, Laura and William Cummings, T. Jefferson Cunningham, Grace Kennedy and Tim D’Aquisto, Lauren and Mark D’Alvise, Suzanne Moskowitz and Jordan Dale, Rachel Daniels and Darnell Morrison, Joan Davidson, Ben Gaudreau and Howard Kaplowitz, Regina and Mike Gelfer, Kimbal Gifford, Kate Liberman and Eric Gershman, Barbara and Rick Gillis, Alice and Jack Gill, Carleen and Joe Glueberman, Julie Taymor and Ellett Goldenthal, Priscilla Goldfarb, Barbara Dowrey and Hershel Goldwasser, Susan Kamokodi and Charles Gorman, Maggie and David Gordon, Claire Carter and Peter Gould, Michael Graber, Bethany Graft, Jill Greenly, Debra Adamsens, Agbenyo Aheto, Jerry and Yvke Albansse, Sven Alisbebrand, Susan and John Allen, Patricia Grove and Leo Alves, Louisa Ambler, Anonymous Donors, Robin Shelly Andrist and Ralph Andrist, Liz Schuchuck Armstrong and Mike Armstrong, Stephanie and Stoo Aron, Sidney Babcock and Jesse Romeau, Suzanne and Jan Baker, Katrina Cary and Manu Bammi, Sarah and Doug Barker, Jack Bankowsky and Matthew Marks, The Band Family, Marianne and Dyke Benjamin, Melissa Aase and Brian Bergen, Nate Berrier, Pascale and Richard Berner, Nancy and Tom Berrier, Darren Bergquist and Glenn Rockman, Wendy and Bob Bickford, Susan and John Blisk, Grewendolyn Bounds and Lisa Bernhard, Isabelle Berner and Emmanuel Bourjaily, Claudia Deplin and Bill Braine, Jonathan Brandt, Samara and Doug Braunstein, Martin Brech, Lourdes and Patrick Brown, Maria Edelev Brown and Roy Brown, Hara Schwartz and Christopher Buck, Jan and Gregory Buher, Mary Elizabeth and Jeffrey Bunsil, William Burbank and Peter Hofmann, Sarah Bayne and GL Burke, Emily Beall-Burstein and Jeffrey Burstein, Helen Butler and Jennifer Howie, Jill Byeff, Annie Bykof, Anna Cabot, Jason Cahill, Chad Campanile, Linda and Pat Canlla, Prudence Carlson, Catherine Carnevale, Tara and James Carroll, Marie Wreck and Suamir Carroll, David Cornell, Cindy Cornwell, Paul Costello, Melissa Cozzi, Meryl Cowen, John Cowen, Ben Cramer, Mary Beth and Bob Cosci, Cathy Croft, Kari and James Cross, Michele Himes and Bruce Croushore, Jim and Nick Cricchiella, Laura and William Cummings, T. Jefferson Cunningham, Grace Kennedy and Tim D’Aquisto, Lauren and Mark D’Alvise, Suzanne Moskowitz and Jordan Dale, Rachel Daniels and Darnell Morrison, Joan Davidson, Ben Gaudreau and Howard Kaplowitz, Regina and Mike Gelfer, Kimbal Gifford, Kate Liberman and Eric Gershman, Barbara and Rick Gillis, Alice and Jack Gill, Carleen and Joe Glueberman, Julie Taymor and Ellett Goldenthal, Priscilla Goldfarb, Barbara Dowrey and Hershel Goldwasser, Susan Kamokodi and Charles Gorman, Maggie and David Gordon, Claire Carter and Peter Gould, Michael Graber, Bethany Graft, Jill Greenly, Debra Adamsens, Agbenyo Aheto, Jerry and Yvke Albansse, Sven Alisbebrand, Susan and John Allen, Patricia Grove and Leo Alves, Louisa Ambler, Anonymous Donors, Robin Shelly Andrist and Ralph Andrist, Liz Schuchuck Armstrong and Mike Armstrong, Stephanie and Stoo Aron, Sidney Babcock and Jesse Romeau, Suzanne and Jan Baker, Katrina Cary and Manu Bammi, Sarah and Doug Barker, Jack Bankowsky and Matthew Marks, The Band Family, Marianne and Dyke Benjamin, Melissa Aase and Brian Bergen, Nate Berrier, Pascale and Richard Berner, Nancy and Tom Berrier, Darren Bergquist and Glenn Rockman, Wendy and Bob Bickford, Susan and John Blisk, Grewendolyn Bounds and Lisa Bernhard, Isabelle Berner and Emmanuel Bourjaily, Claudia Deplin and Bill Braine, Jonathan Brandt, Samara and Doug Braunstein, Martin Brech, Lourdes and Patrick Brown, Maria Edelev Brown and Roy Brown, Hara Schwartz and Christopher Buck, Jan and Gregory Buher, Mary Elizabeth and Jeffrey Bunsil, William Burbank and Peter Hofmann, Sarah Bayne and GL Burke, Emily Beall-Burstein and Jeffrey Burstein, Helen Butler and Jennifer Howie, Jill Byeff, Annie Bykof, Anna Cabot, Jason Cahill, Chad Campanile, Linda and Pat Canlla, Prudence Carlson, Catherine Carnevale, Tara and James Carroll, Marie Wreck and Suamir Carroll, David Cornell, Cindy Cornwell, Paul Costello, Melissa Cozzi, Meryl Cowen, John Cowen, Ben Cramer, Mary Beth and Bob Cosci, Cathy Croft, Kari and James Cross, Michele Himes and Bruce Croushore, Jim and Nick Cricchiella, Laura and William Cummings, T. Jefferson Cunningham, Grace Kennedy and Tim D’Aquisto, Lauren and Mark D’Alvise, Suzanne Moskowitz and Jordan Dale, Rachel Daniels and Darnell Morrison, Joan Davidson, Ben Gaudreau and Howard Kaplowitz, Regina and Mike Gelfer, Kimbal Gifford, Kate Liberman and Eric Gershman, Barbara and Rick Gillis, Alice and Jack Gill, Carleen and Joe Glueberman, Julie Taymor and Ellett Goldenthal, Priscilla Goldfarb, Barbara Dowrey and Hershel Goldwasser, Susan Kamokodi and Charles Gorman, Maggie and David Gordon, Claire Carter and Peter Gould, Michael Graber, Bethany Graft, Jill Greenly.
In honor of

In Memoriam

Dorinda Dietrich
Michelle Fostler
Susan MacKenzie
Andrew Knapp
Hans H. Moeller

In Honor of

Donors

Michele Fostler
Iza Greenfield-Sanders
Mary and Roger Guernsey
Samuel Mogul

Polish Tall, Inc.
Putnam County Land Trust
Putnam Valley Residents’ Association
Ralph E. Ogden Foundation, Inc.
Rafael and Daki Zaklad
Philanthropic Fund
RBC Wealth Management
Red Crane Foundation
The Roanne and Henry Brandt Foundation
Scrabble Charitable
The Shelby Cullum Davis Charitable Fund
Shonee Abrams Foundation
Sorrenson Family Foundation
The Steinbergs Fund
The Stephen Saks-Frank E. Lucente Fund
Thalle Industries
The Topfield Foundation, Inc.
Town of Cortlandt

Putnam Valley Town Parks & Recreation
Vanguard Charitable
The Velda Foundation
Westchester Community Foundation
Westchester Land Trust
Westchester/Putnam Council Scout
Way Family Fund
Volunteers: We couldn’t do it without you!

We cannot overstate how grateful we are to all our wonderful volunteers who, hour by hour, help us in all aspects of our work: stewarding land, lending a hand at events, leading hikes, helping with office work and more. Thank you for joining our team and helping to make 2017 such a successful year for HHLT.

Youngest Residents

River of Words Continues to Instill Environmental Stewardship in the Hudson Highlands Youngest Residents

In 2017, we welcomed two new members to our Board of Directors: Tom Campanile and Phoebe Geer. Both Tom and Phoebe bring a wealth of professional experience in finance and fundraising to the Board.

Tom Campanile is a Partner in the Financial Services Advisory practice of Ernst & Young LLP and has over 20 years of experience advising clients in the banking and capital markets, insurance, and asset management sectors. He is a graduate of New York University’s Leonard N. Stern School of Business and a Certified Public Accountant in the state of New York. Tom resides in Nelsonville with his wife, Melany, and their three children, two dogs, and two cats.

Tom is involved in a number of local causes, including the Westchester-Putnam Council of the Boy Scouts of America, for which he is an active uniformed volunteer serving in various adult leader and merit badge counselor positions. The Boy Scouts are what first brought Tom to the Hudson Highlands. He says, “Growing up in Westchester County, I enjoyed the outdoor opportunities and beauty of the Hudson Highlands as a Boy Scout—backpacking treks in Fahnestock and on the Appalachian Trail, hikes up Breakneck Ridge and overnight camping at Durand-Scutt Reservation on Clear Lake. When approached to join the HHLT Board, I was pleased to find a dedicated group of individuals and supporters that share the same ideals I learned as a Boy Scout—conservation, outdoor ethics and leave No Trace principles—and go the extra mile to protect the natural resources and scenic beauty of the area for future generations.”

Phoebe Geer recently returned to Garrison, her childhood home. She is currently the Assistant Director of Development at The Brearley School in Manhattan. Since graduating law school from University of Virginia, Phoebe has focused her career on trusts and estates, particularly in the area of planned giving at non-profit organizations. Her passion for the environment led her to a fundraising role at Environmental Defense Fund as Planned Giving Director prior to her current role at Brearley. She holds a B.A. from Williams College, is a member of the NY and NJ Bar Associations, and she and her husband, Matthew Spiezer, have two young sons, Nathaniel and Theodore.

Phoebe and her family moved to the Hudson Highlands to make their long-term home in what they believe to be one of the most beautiful and environmentally-minded areas in the tri-state region, and Phoebe is personally dedicated to the protection of the Hudson Highlands. On returning to the area and joining the HHLT Board, Phoebe says, “The Hudson Highlands is my home; I grew up here and chose to raise my children here. I consider it an obligation and a privilege to help HHLT safeguard this unique and precious region for generations to come.”

River of Words

2017 was another exciting year for our River of Words (ROW) environmental education program, which incorporates nature exploration and arts focused on the Hudson River watershed into traditional curriculums. Over the course of the school year, we led 133 outdoor workshops in our mission area schools for nearly 2,800 elementary and middle school students. To accommodate the uptick in demand for these workshops, we hired a new writing educator, Kathy Curto, to join our ROW team. We also developed three new workshops that we piloted last year, including Climate Change, Does Nature Make You Kind and Six-Word Memoir.

To celebrate the great work of the students, we presented two River of Words Poetry Trails at the Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary and the Hudson Highlands Nature Museum. The nature-inspired poems of 16 students were selected from more than 300 written during ROW workshops.

The nature-inspired poems of 16 students were selected from more than 300 written during ROW workshops. The nature-inspired poems of 16 students were selected from more than 300 written during ROW workshops.

The nature-inspired poems of 16 students were selected from more than 300 written during ROW workshops.

The nature-inspired poems of 16 students were selected from more than 300 written during ROW workshops.

The nature-inspired poems of 16 students were selected from more than 300 written during ROW workshops.
Join Us!

So much of what we do relies on strong partnerships with private landowners, other conservation organizations, government agencies, municipalities and local community groups, but we could not accomplish a fraction of what we do without our loyal supporters and volunteers. We rely on individuals like you for more than 60% of the funding we receive to support all our land conservation, advocacy and outreach programing. If you believe in the path we’re on, we hope you will join us in our work by becoming a volunteer and/or making a tax-deductible donation to HHLT today.

Visit www.hhlt.org to make a contribution or get involved. Thank you!