



# DUTCHESS LAND CONSERVANCY

Preserving Open Land in Dutchess County

Fall 2002

## *Walbridge Farm Protected Forever*

On September 12, 2002, George W. Perkins, Jr. placed a conservation easement on the family's 550-acre Walbridge Farm in the Town of Washington, protecting the land forever.

Walbridge Farm lies along New York State Route 343, Little Rest Road and Chestnut Ridge Road in an area known as Little Rest located due south of Mabbettsville. Little Rest was once a small village which included a post office and general store.

George W. Perkins, Jr. first purchased the farm in 1950 and shortly thereafter married his wife Nancy, who was teaching in Portland, Maine, at the time. George came to Millbrook from Cold Spring where he spent weekends and summer vacations on his parents Guernsey Cattle farm. When George purchased the farm, he named it "Walbridge" Farm, after his great grandmother. Walbridge is also George Perkins' middle name.

Walbridge Farm was purchased in parcels. The main farm consisted of the land west of Little Rest Road and land south of Route 343. George sold the main farmhouse to Babs DeGarass who ran a kennel, which was to later become part of The Dutchess Day School. At the same time, George purchased additional land south of Route 343 that had on it what is now the main farmhouse on Walbridge Farm, built around the 1860's. The upper farm, formerly used for Angus cattle, was purchased at a later date. The barns on this land were used for show cattle.

The main farm was previously used as a dairy farm. One of the barns burned down in 1964 and the old milking barn was also destroyed by fire around 1969. Under Mr. Perkins' ownership, Walbridge Farm has always been home to Black Angus beef cattle. At the peak of the farming operation, there were around 200 head of cattle. The Perkins' herd was a pure bred, prize-winning herd that won several national and international championships for both heifers and bulls. His cattle were shown at the Dutchess County Fair, the New York State Fair, the Eastern States Exhibition in Springfield, MA, and the International Cattle Show in Denver.

*continued pg. 13*



### *INSIDE:*

Environmental Education.....	2
Gaining Ground.....	3-5
Great River Sweep.....	5
Countryside Exchange.....	6-7
Outing at Nellie Hill.....	7
Out and Around.....	8-9
Farm Country Tour.....	10
Millbrook Horse Trials.....	11
French-American Polo.....	12
Perkins continued.....	13
Members.....	13-15

## Environmental Education

*For the sixth year, DLC is pleased to participate in the Youth Resource Development Corporation's AmeriCorps program. This program brings together school children, local environmental organizations and AmeriCorps members. For DLC's AmeriCorps members this means working to bring our mission of land conservation to the lives of Dutchess County students. Through the resources of DLC and organizations such as the Environmental Management Council, Scenic Hudson, Institute of Ecosystem Studies, Soil and Water Conservation District and many others, AmeriCorps members take school children on field trips to their local streams and study the health of the watershed through chemical testing and macroinvertebrate (insect) sampling. This is only one of the many things that DLC has accomplished through the work of our AmeriCorps members. Please join us in welcoming Amanda Long as our 2002-2003 AmeriCorps member.*

Hi! My name is Amanda Long and I have just started an AmeriCorps position with Dutchess Land Conservancy. Through the Building Watershed Bridges program, AmeriCorps members like myself work with environmental organizations to educate students about the natural community which surrounds them. During the next ten months, I will lead students of all ages in watershed field studies and land conservation programs, using the Hudson River watershed as a classroom.

Born and raised in Wappingers Falls, I have been aware of the increasing development of land in Dutchess County. The road to my junior high school was farmland during my attendance ten years ago—now the land is strip malls, plazas, and housing developments. What drew me to Dutchess Land Conservancy is their dedication to protect important habitats from overdevelopment. I am delighted to have the opportunity to assist the Conservancy in developing community watershed stewardship/education programs, and carry their environmental message to schools across Dutchess County.



As trite and overused as the phrase “the children are our future” may be, it’s true. Presenting school children with today’s land management and environmental issues and discussing possible solutions will give them the keys to determining a sustainable future. The first step is to bring these children into ‘nature’s classroom,’ if you will. As an educator, this is where I will initiate in each child an understanding of the environment. Throughout their lives, these children will draw on experiences such as this in determining how to mitigate environmental problems, and to create positive change. And if this sounds too serious, it is. But for the kids, exploring their environment is a lot of fun! My goal is to present environmental issues in a manner which is enjoyable for students, but leaves a lasting sense of the importance of conservation and environmental protection.

This past spring I graduated from Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut with a B.A. in Earth and Environmental Science. I also graduated with a passion to continue my efforts to help people and the environment. Programs like BWB instilled in me a love for the environment as a child, and I look forward to doing the same for others during my AmeriCorps experience.

~Amanda Long

## Gaining Ground

*Since 1985, county landowners have granted over 180 conservation easements protecting 16,577 acres of land. The year 2002 has been an incredibly busy one. So far this year, five conservation easements have been filed, protecting 689 acres of land. Although we have no way of knowing how many projects will actually be completed as year end approaches, we are working with over 30 landowners on the potential protection of more than 3,000 acres of land.*

*The Conservancy is extremely grateful to everyone who has donated or purchased easement protected land, and to all of our members and supporters who have done so much to ensure the preservation of the farmland, watersheds, scenic beauty, wildlife habitat and the rural character of Dutchess County. We are encouraged and inspired by all those who are working on conservation easements this year, and also to those who will preserve their land in years to come.*



### **Downey Easement Town of North East**

Ed Downey is a DLC board member and long time resident of Millerton and the Town of North East. The Downey family took advantage of DLC's family farm plan initiative in North East and worked with DLC to develop planning options for the Downey family farm, located on Downey Road. This year, Josephine Downey placed a conservation easement on 36 acres, the first to result from DLC's "farm planning initiative." The land under easement includes the farmhouse and barn, over 28 acres of prime and statewide important farmland soils, and over 8 acres of an extremely important wetland known as Millerton Sedge Meadows. The property is highly visible from Downey Road,

and, like most land in the valley, overlies a large aquifer that is critical to the water supply of residents of Millerton and the surrounding valley. Asked about the project, Ed stressed the value the planning process has had in helping the family come to a decision about the future of their land: *"Since 1897, the farm has been a special place to five generations of our family. Several years ago, in anticipation of its eventual sale, we met with Becky Thornton to discuss how to best protect the property's resources and unique character. This easement is the culmination of that process. We are pleased to have worked with DLC to achieve our goals."*



### Kelly Easement Town of East Fishkill

Bill Kelly's mother, Florence Nefel Kelly, was a 15 year member and generous supporter of DLC. Mrs. Kelly died in 1999, at the age of 94. Following his mom's wishes and his own desire to see the land protected, Bill, as Executor of her Estate, placed a conservation easement on her 37-acre property. The property is located on Stormville Road in the Town of East Fishkill, across from Stormville Airport and adjacent to the expansive State Prison Farm, which remains one of the most active dairy farms in Dutchess County. Mrs. Kelly's parents, Preston and Mary Nefel, purchased the property in 1905. This

originally included the land that is now the airport, which they sold in the early 1920's. They operated a small farm with six to ten cows. The house, which remains part of the easement property, was built in 1875.

For most of her life, Mrs. Nefel Kelly was a teacher. She was also a realtor, and co-operated a grocery store with her husband, William Kelly, Sr. She was well known in East Fishkill for her dedicated, lifelong community involvement. She took civic involvement very seriously and believed it was important for everyone to vote. *"At the age of 14, on election day she drove a Model T up Stormville Mountain to bring grown men down to vote,"* Mr. Kelly noted. Mrs. Kelly had an 80 year involvement with the Democratic Party, was friends with Eleanor Roosevelt, went to the 1933 presidential inauguration, and was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1936.

Toward the end of her life, Mrs. Kelly expressed interest in preserving her land. As Mr. Kelly shared with us, *"Mom said, 'William, I'd like to put some part of the farm in a conservation easement. I love to see animals there and want to make sure they always have a place.' Of course, this is where she raised cows as a girl. When she got sick, I said 'I'm going to put the farm in a conservation easement.' She asked, 'The whole thing?' 'Yes, the whole thing – we have a 100-year history here, and its our contribution to the Town of East Fishkill.'"*

Mrs. Kelly's property has now been passed on to her grandson, Stuart O'Neil. The property includes nearly ten acres of prime and statewide important farmland soils, 19 acres of a large DEC wetland, portions of a trout stream, and overlies part of the very large Fishkill Creek aquifer.

### Perkins Easement Town of Washington

See the feature article (page 1) for details.

## Marist College Longview Park

This spring, DLC accepted a conservation easement on a 6-acre Hudson riverfront property owned by Marist College. The six-acre property is open to the public for recreational purposes, and creates the opportunity for access to the river for fishing, boating, and picnicking. The property is located next to two boathouses used by the crew teams at Marist College and Arlington High School. The project resulted from a collaboration between Marist and the Hudson River Greenway. The easement accepted by DLC is a 25 year “term” easement, meaning it will expire at the end of the 25 year time limit. Accepting a term easement was an unusual step for DLC, however, we agreed in order to help complete a public spirited project. (Term easements do not protect land in perpetuity, and do not qualify donors to any form of federal or state income tax deductions.)




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## *The Great River Sweep at Hyde Park*



On April 21st, an amazing outpouring of support was shown for both DLC and partner organizations Winnikee Land Trust and Scenic Hudson. It was the beginning of a week long series of site clean-ups in the spirit of Scenic Hudson’s 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Great River Sweep. From the Adirondacks to the mouth of the Hudson at NYC, communities rallied to clean up the river’s banks and tributaries. Closest to our hearts however, was the coordinated efforts of local Boy Scout troops and community members who worked on the southern section of the Hyde Park Trail. For those who may not be familiar with the Hyde Park Trail, it is a 8.5 mile hiking trail connecting several parks and historic sites within

Hyde Park. The portion that connects the FDR estate with Val-Kill was tackled, under the coordination of Sara Ohliger, DLC’s AmeriCorps member. Though privately owned, the landowner was glad to have us pitch in on cleaning the trails, and even paid the expenses for a roll-off dumpster. Local businesses such as adjacent Hyde Park Brewery and Stop & Shop, expressed their appreciation and approval for the project in numerous other ways!

Strewn with litter, old furniture and appliances, the trail could never have been restored without the help of local folks who came out in response to posted signs. Many thanks are in order for the help of the Hyde Park Democratic Committee, Boy Scout Packs #17 (Poughkeepsie) and #93 (Pleasant Valley), Winnikee Land Trust (who manages the Trail in partnership with other organizations), and several other willing individuals.

Donated refreshments were enjoyed by all after the three hours of clean-up came to a close. “It was great to see the eagerness with which people threw themselves into this not-so-glamorous job” says Sara. “Much of the garbage had been on the trail for a very long time, but the comments of people passing by was a sure testimony to the fact that this task was well worth it, and will cast an impression on future trail hikers and potential dumpers.” All in all, the day produced a near-full dumpster, and well over 700 bottles and cans, which were recycled when possible.

# *The Countryside Exchange –*

## *Becky Thornton's visit to the Colne Valley Regional Park in England*



In September, I was invited to participate in a North America/United Kingdom Countryside Exchange Program. Organized by the Glynwood Center in New York and CEI Associates Ltd. in the United Kingdom, the Exchange Program was originally developed in 1986 between the U.S. National Park Service and the Countryside Commission to co-operate “on the conservation and management of cultural, natural and recreational resources.”

An Exchange consists of a team of seven or eight professionals assembled from both sides of the Atlantic with backgrounds in land conservation, development, landscape architecture, tourism, planning and other related areas. The team spends a short intensive period working together to examine common problems in a specific area in order to share their experience and expertise and potentially come up with new ideas for a community to consider.

I participated on an Exchange Team consisting of two Scottish, two English, and three American team members. Our case study was centered on the Colne Valley Regional Park (CVRP), an area located within London’s greenbelt covering 43 square miles west of London.

The CVRP is made up of farmland, natural and manicured woodland, scenic views, country parks, numerous pedestrian, equestrian and bike trails, historic areas, towns and villages, fifty miles of river and canal, and over forty lakes. The Park was first designated in the 1960’s by the neighbouring local authorities in which it lies to maintain and enhance the land-

scape, resist urbanisation and inappropriate development, conserve its natural resources through protection and management, and provide public access and recreational opportunities.

We soon determined that although much of the Colne Valley is privately owned, its management involves a very complex co-ordination between landowners, several tiers of government, nature conservation agencies and local voluntary interest groups. The Park’s statutory managers have not had much success in engaging, or engaging with, local residents.

While surveying a landscape filled with beauty, our Team noted several problems. These included conflicting interests between habitat conservation and recreational use, large properties consisting of un-reclaimed or poorly reclaimed gravel pits and dumps, a serious problem with tipping (garbage dumping), travellers (gypsies), continued fragmentation of the landscape by roads and highways, and poor land use planning that has not ensured high quality integration with the surrounding landscape. We also found several opportunities.



## *Countryside Exchange continued*

Our Team's task was to provide some new perspectives and a fresh impetus to the Park and its management. We were asked to come up with suggestions on how to raise the Colne Valley's profile, address poor landscape value, recommend sustainable uses, and to suggest ways of engaging the local communities more in the conservation of natural resources. We also looked at ways to encourage and develop visitors as a source of revenue for maintenance and development of the Park while incorporating past experiences and lessons of those involved in managing and using the CVRP over the past 35 years.

The Countryside Exchange Program for the Colne Valley Regional Park provided a unique opportunity for team members and local stakeholders to collaborate in a reassessment of the Park's assets, opportunities and challenges. At the end of our time together, our Team was asked to present a public presentation of our recommendations and to write a

final report which will be used and distributed to interested parties within and around the CVRP.

Although the issues related to the Park's preservation, management and enhancement are quite complex and will not be resolved easily, the Countryside Exchange Team's visit has provided an alternative forum for sharing ideas and crafting new approaches to the Park's continued management, care, preservation, and well-planned development.

Since 1987, over 100 case studies have taken place in the UK, the USA and Canada. Exchanges lead to valuable recommendations for the case study areas while also providing a professionally rewarding experience for the participants.

*~Becky Thornton*



## *Membership Hike at Nellie Hill Preserve*

DLC and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) were joined by 18 enthusiastic hikers on August 17<sup>th</sup> at The Nature Conservancy's Nellie Hill Preserve. Led by TNC staff member, Michele Brown, participants learned of the rare communities that exist on this 144-acre preserve in the Town of Dover. Nellie Hill was acquired by TNC in 1991 to preserve the limestone cliff that supports the presence of two unique natural communities, the red cedar rocky summit and limestone woodland, along with ten rare plant species. Michelle led the group through pocket grassland, oak woodland and a sloping meadow, previously grazed by cattle from 1948 to 1991.

Throughout the morning, hikers discovered rare plants and learned of TNC's management plans to control the many exotic and invasive plants on the property. DLC is very grateful to TNC and Michelle Brown for sharing this wonderful place with us. If you were unable to attend this outing, but would like to experience Nellie Hill, the preserve is open from dawn to dusk and is located on the east side of Route 22, between South Nellie Hill Road and Old Post Road, in the Town of Dover.

*~ Amy Olney*



## Out and Around

### January

- Land Trust Alliance New York planning retreat
- Cornell Cooperative Extension reorganization meeting
- Long Range Planning Committee meeting
- Land Trust Alliance New York's Lower Hudson land trust roundtable
- Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation meeting
- Site visit with Town of Washington landowner
- Farmland Protection Board meeting
- Northern Dutchess Alliance annual meeting
- Planning Federation annual awards dinner
- Watershed education program with Wappingers Middle School
- Met with Scenic Hudson re: GIS mapping

### February

- Dutchess Farm Country Tour meeting with Friendly Motors re: annual sponsorship
- Participated in conservation buyers program conference call
- Development Committee meeting
- Attended regional farm protection workshop
- Met with Senator Saland and Senator Leibell
- 2002 Millbrook Horse Trials meeting
- Attended Tri-Corner Alliance meeting on affordable housing
- Presented on conservation easements with the County Planning Department for the Environmental Management Council
- Met with landowners in the Towns of Amenia, East Fishkill, Stanford, and Washington re: land conservation
- Education programs with the Homeschoolers Association, Maplebrook School and Elm Drive Elementary
- Farmland Protection Board meeting

### March

- Attended the National Agriculture Day breakfast
- Met with Hudsonia regarding biodiversity mapping
- Hudson Valley Smart Growth Alliance meeting
- Farmland Protection Board meeting
- Attended the public hearing re: Dutchess County Infirmary
- Presented on site conservation planning to the public sponsored by the Dutchess County Planning Federation
- Development Committee meeting
- Met with landowners in the Towns of Amenia, LaGrange, Pine Plains, Stanford, Union Vale, and Washington re: land conservation and site conservation planning
- Watershed education programs with Elm Drive Elementary and Poughkeepsie High School

### April

- Met with consultant re: purchase of development rights
- Long Range Planning Committee meeting
- French-American Polo Challenge meeting in NYC
- Hudsonia meeting
- Attended the biodiversity for land trusts workshop at the DEC
- 2002 Dutchess Farm Country Tour meeting

- Farmland Protection Board meeting
- Cornell Cooperative Extension Agriculture Program Committee meeting
- 2002 Millbrook Horse Trials meeting
- Cornell Cooperative Extension healthy laws, healthy environment meeting
- Met with landowners in the Towns of Amenia, East Fishkill, North East, Pine Plains, and Washington re: land conservation planning
- Watershed education programs with Wappingers Middle School and Bulkley Middle School
- Coordinated Great River Sweep in Hyde Park

### May

- Cornell Cooperative Extension schooling grounds site visit
- Land Trust Alliance New York Advisory Committee conference call
- Met with Wallkill Valley Land Trust
- Hudson Valley Preservation Coalition meeting re: St. Lawrence Cement plant
- Presented to Town of Poughkeepsie re: resource planning
- Purchase of Development Rights meeting
- Met with landowners in the Towns of Amenia, Dover, North East, Pine Plains, Red Hook, and Washington re: land conservation planning
- Watershed education programs with BOCES special education program, LaGrange Middle School and Oakwood School
- Farmland Protection Board meeting
- Presented at Conservation Field Days

### June

- Presented at the Land Trust Alliance New York Conference re: "Land Conservation Planning-One Approach to Smart Growth"
- Presented to real estate office re: conservation easements
- Attended grant writing conference
- Hudson Valley Smart Growth Alliance meeting
- Hudson Valley Agriculture Heritage Partnership meeting
- Land Trust Alliance New York Outreach Committee meeting re: new state funded program
- 2002 French-American Polo Challenge
- Cornell Cooperative Extension Agricultural Program Committee meeting
- Dutchess Farm Country Tour artists tea and meeting
- Met with landowners in the Towns of Pawling, Pleasant Valley, Stanford, and Washington re: land conservation planning
- Watershed education programs for Boy Scouts at Camp Nooteming
- Attended presentation by the International Dark Sky Association
- Farmland Protection Board meeting

## Out and Around continued

### July

- 2002 Millbrook Horse Trials to benefit DLC lower level event
- Attended biodiversity forum at the DEC
- Met with landowners in the Towns of East Fishkill, Pawling, North East, Rhinebeck and Washington re: land conservation planning
- Meeting with Friendly Motorcars re: sponsorship
- Land conservation program with Tymor Park nature camp
- Farmland Protection Board meeting
- Attended presentation by USDA re: GIS use in farm protection

### August

- Attended Amenia Town Board and Planning Board meeting re: proposed shopping plaza
- New York State Open Space Plan meeting
- Dutchess Farm Country Tour meeting
- Joint membership hike with The Nature Conservancy at Nellie Hill preserve
- Land Trust Alliance New York Advisory Committee meeting
- 2002 Millbrook Horse Trials to benefit DLC, advanced level event
- Purchase of Development Rights meeting in Red Hook
- Met with landowners in the Towns of LaGrange, North East, Stanford and Washington re: land conservation planning
- Land conservation program with Tymor Park nature camp
- Met with Columbia Land Conservancy re: GIS mapping

### September

- Met with Milan landowners re: proposed gravel mine
- Investment Committee meeting
- Land Trust Alliance New York Advisory Committee meeting
- Hudson Valley Agriculture Stewardship Committee meeting
- Attended Northeast Organic Farmers Association annual dinner

- Cornell Cooperative Extension strategic planning meeting
- Attended DEC biodiversity forum
- Long Range Planning Committee meeting
- Meeting with Hudsonia re: biodiversity mapping project
- Development Committee meeting
- Attended Countryside Exchange program in England
- Dutchess Farm Country Tour volunteers cocktail party
- Met with landowners in the Towns of North East and Stanford re: land conservation planning
- Farmland Protection Board meeting

### DLC continues to serve on the following committees:

- \* Advisor to the Stanford Trails Committee
- \* Cider Mill Friends of Open Space & Historic Preservation
- \* Cornell Cooperative Extension Ag. Program Committee
- \* Dutchess County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board
- \* Dutchess County Coordinating Committee for Rivers and Estuaries Center on the Hudson
- \* Hudson Valley Agricultural Heritage Partnership Steering Committee
- \* Hudson Valley Smart Growth Alliance
- \* Land Trust Alliance (LTA) Conservation Easement Handbook Review Committee
- \* LTA *Exchange* Editorial Advisory Board
- \* LTA of NY Advisory Committee, Vice Chairman
- \* LTA of NY Executive, Fundraising, Outreach and Program, and Membership Steering Committees
- \* Millbrook Garden Club
- \* NY Organic Farmers Association Benefit Committee
- \* NY State DEC Region 3 Open Space Plan Committee Affiliate, Taconic Ridge Chairman
- \* Northern Dutchess Alliance
- \* Taconic Parkway Corridor Management Plan Advisory Committee
- \* Taconic Plateau Alliance
- \* Ten Mile River Watershed Workgroup
- \* Tri-Corner Alliance Board
- \* Wappinger Creek Watershed Planning Committee
- \* Wetlands Task Force

## Trustees of the Land

*Our Sincere Thanks to our Trustees of the Land for their leadership and commitment to land conservation.*

**Mr. and Mrs. Steven Benardete**

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## Eleventh Annual Dutchess Farm Country Tour

The Eleventh Annual Dutchess Farm Country Tour, held on Sunday, October 13, once again celebrated the extraordinary beauty of our rural environment and the preservation of its landscapes. DLC's major fundraiser featured six private properties that hosted action-packed countryside events and a seventh property that was the setting for a delicious Patrons' luncheon. New to this year's event was the opportunity to bicycle the Tour. Although the weather was not ideal, we did have some hearty souls who rode to the various sites, some traveling over 35 miles! We heartily thank the landowners, sponsors, volunteers, and attendees for supporting this important day.

Our appreciation goes to our corporate sponsors, whose underwriting support was critical to the financial success of the Tour: *Friendly Motorcars*, overall sponsor; *Bullis Hall, Fred Schaeffer, Esq.*, and *Audia Motors*, Bike Tour sponsors; *Katherine C. Dunlop Real Estate, Elebash & Goodwin, LLC*, and *Ponvert-Battistoni, Inc.*, Patrons' Lunch sponsors.



courtesy of Louise Field

Very special thanks to Tour Chair, *Beth Ledy*, who spent countless hours organizing the myriad components that ensured the success of the broad and complex event. Her leadership, combined with the efforts of over 100 volunteers resulted in an outstanding day for both Tourgoers and DLC. Patron Luncheon Co-Chairs *Terry Regan* and *Dede Rosenfeld* also receive our gratitude for raising over \$20,000 through the Underwriters Committee whose members were incredibly generous.

We are extremely grateful to the following who oversaw the individual sites and procured volunteers, worked with the exhibitors and landowners, and took care of the logistics of each farm: *Riki Friedman, Rodney Paterson, Ilana Papelle, Kevin Roebke, Hannah Scott, Nancy Tartaglia, and Betsy Zimring* - they all did fantastic jobs and were a pleasure to work with.

The following also deserve our heartfelt thanks for their behind the scenes work that is so critical: *Louise Field*, Graphic Design, Photos, and Advertising; *Kari Feuer*, Art Exhibit and Sale; *Addison Berkey, Ken Roberts* and *Fred Schaeffer*, Bike Tour; *Donna Kinnear*, Publicity; *Tamarack Preserve*, Volunteers' Cocktail Party; and *Felicity Banford* for the Patrons' Lunch floral arrangements.

Finally, and most importantly, our very sincere thanks to the following landowners who opened their properties for the day - without them the Tour would not be possible: *Mr. Daniele Bodini, Mr. and Mrs. David Clapp, Mr. and Mrs. Willem de Vogel, The Millbrook School, Mr. Eric Roberts, Mr. and Mrs. Allan Shope, and Mr. and Mrs. William Wetmore.*

The combined efforts of all involved ensured the success of the Tour, which netted over \$40,000 for DLC's programs.

*Oops! Our apologies for omitting Mr. and Mrs. Shepard Ellenberg and Mr. and Mrs. Nigel Widdowson from the Patrons' Committee. Their support is greatly appreciated.*

~Amy Sloan

## 2002 Millbrook Horse Trials to benefit Dutchess Land Conservancy

Top riders from around the country competed in the 17th annual Millbrook Horse Trials. Reorganized last year as a benefit for the Dutchess Land Conservancy, this year's competition featured the United States Eventing Association's (USEA) prestigious 2002 National Championship for the Intermediate Division, as well as the USEA Region 1 Preliminary Championships.



The Millbrook Horse Trials boasts newly redesigned cross-country courses created by nationally renowned course designer Tremaine Cooper. This course, which debuted last year, drew accolades from upper level competitors, leading to the selection of the event as this year's championship site. The upper level Horse Trials, held August 23 – 25, offered Advanced, Intermediate and Preliminary divisions. Also featured were Patron events, a competitors party and a fabulous Trade Fair.

Beginner Novice, Novice and Training divisions took place on July 13 - 14. These lower-level competitions included both local riders and well-known professionals competing with their younger, developing, horses, offering spectators a chance to see if they could pick the champions of the future.

More than 500 competitors competed in the three disciplines that define the horse trials: Dressage, Stadium Jumping, and Cross Country Jumping. The events, which were free to spectators, provided a chance to spend a day in the lovely rolling countryside, showcasing conservation easement protected properties.

We are indebted to this year's corporate sponsors whose support was critical: *Friendly Motorcars, American Express, New York Racing Association, Lufthansa, Perrier Group of America, Heineken, and Marshall & Sterling.*

Most importantly, we extend our deep gratitude to the over 200 volunteers who ensured the success of these competitions. While the Trials would not have been possible without all of the volunteers, the following deserve special thanks for their contributions:

Landowners: *David and Connie Clapp and The Millbrook School*

Organizing Committee: *Nancy Hathaway, Olivia von Melle Kamp; Louise Merryman, Carloyn Maftieu, Sue Carter, Dianne Montague, Rebecca Polan, Sis Mudge*

Patrons' Committee: *Judy Benardete, Jeanie Revson, Melissa Grundman*

Special Volunteers: *Ann Gillis, Deb Flanigan, Kathy Smith, Jackie Merwin, Valerie Wilcox, Leslie Farhangi*

Without the dedication and support of this terrific group of people, the Millbrook Horse Trials would not be possible.

## 2002 French-American Polo Challenge

The Fifth Annual American Polo Challenge - another exciting re-match against the French - took place Sunday, June 23rd. For the fourth year, Mashomack Polo Club invited DLC to participate, and working together, the day was a great success. Over 400 spectators gathered for a rousing polo match, elegant fieldside dining and an impressive silent auction.

*Friendly Motorcars* was the official sponsor of the event with *Cartier* and *Hermès* sponsoring the American and French teams respectively. The delicious luncheon, sponsored by *Nicole Miller* was preceded by a champagne reception sponsored by *Möet & Chandon*. The Silent Auction with donated items which included fine jewelry, art work, and much more, was also a great success. All proceeds from the luncheon and Silent Auction benefited DLC. We greatly appreciate the generous support of our corporate sponsors and thank everyone who donated and bid on auction items and those who attended the luncheon.

*Mr. and Mrs. Bruce D. Colley, Mr. and Mrs. Mathias Guerrand-Hermès, Mr. and Mrs. Duke Buchan, Mr. Olaf Guerrand-Hermès, Ms. Kalliope Karella, Mr. and Mrs. John Klopp, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Levin, Mr. Michael Rena, Mr. and Mrs. James Roddy, and Ms. Molly Schaefer* were this year's co-chairs and they did an outstanding job. *Ms. Camilla Hellman* also worked diligently as chair of the Silent Auction. Many thanks for all their hard work!

~ Amy Sloan



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Mary Cassese, Accountant

cont. from page 1



Driving along Route 343 and Little Rest Road, the broad open fields and high wooded ridges on the property are snapshots of a true farm landscape, dotted with Angus cows grazing in the fields. This area known as “Little Rest” was originally a Quaker settlement straddling the Dover-Poughkeepsie Road (Route 343), founded sometime after the 1730’s. The existing farm buildings and chapel are important parts of the historic agricultural landscape of this area. The chapel was built in the early 19th century during a movement to accommodate people of different denominations under one church. Their motto was “Christian union, no name but Christian, no creed but the Bible.” Although there is not a lot of documented information about the chapel, it is said that during WWII

women made bandages here. The church faded out sometime in the early 1900’s. The Perkins family has used the chapel for family christenings, and weddings, and it is currently used one Sunday in August for a Federated Church service.

Walbridge Farm lies within the Wappinger Creek Watershed. The 550-acre property includes over 10,000 linear feet along Little Rest Brook, an important DEC classified stream, as well as a large portion of the aquifer that affects the Millbrook water supply. A small portion of the property is designated as wetlands on the National Wetlands Inventory.

This actively farmed land lies within an Agricultural District and includes over 185 acres of prime and statewide important farmland soils that will remain intact for agricultural use now and in the future. The property also includes large areas of forested upland, part of a relatively unbroken tract of woodlands that extends for thousands of acres and provides valuable habitat for many species, which will also be protected from development.

*“I wanted to protect Walbridge Farm because 52 years ago I found it to be a beautiful piece of property and want it to remain so,”* noted George Perkins. *“Protecting the farm is a wonderful legacy left by my father to future generations,”* added Jennifer Perkins Speers.

*“It takes truly special people who care about their land to protect it in perpetuity. We should all be grateful to the Perkins family for protecting Walbridge Farm. It’s a gift not just to Dutchess Land Conservancy, but a gift to future generations, knowing that this wonderful farm will essentially stay the same for all time,”* said Becky Thornton, DLC’s Executive Director.