

# ANNUAL REPORT

2016



# MISSION

**Dutchess Land Conservancy (DLC)** is dedicated to preserving the scenic, agricultural and environmental resources of Dutchess County, New York, and the surrounding area.

DLC, as a private non-profit land conservation organization, carries out its mission primarily by obtaining conservation easements on privately held land and monitoring these easements in perpetuity. Conservation easements, acquired through either donation or purchase, are legal agreements limiting future development in order to protect land for conservation purposes.

In addition, DLC provides professional assistance to landowners and municipalities to encourage environmentally sound planning, and educates the public on matters of land conservation and stewardship.

ON THE COVER:  
Exploring the creek at the Dover Stone Church Preserve.

Photo: Kathy Landman

# A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends,

Another year has flown by, but with it came an amazing milestone; together we've now protected more than 40,000 acres of land in our area! That's 40,000 acres that contain trees that give us the air we breathe, wetlands that filter and protect our water supply, farm fields that yield essential crops to feed our families, habitats to protect our wildlife, and open land that offers us opportunities to unplug and enjoy the outdoors.

We all know how important it is to have farmers who grow our food and the DLC continues to aid farm families in their efforts to protect their land and ensure that it remains viable for future generations. This year we received seven grants to fund purchase of development rights projects on farmland – a DLC record! We've also applied for five more in order to assist other farm operations. And remember – it's not just our food supply that gets protected; it's the rural feel of our area. It's the open fields, grazing livestock, and scenic views that are also preserved – those precious qualities that we either grew up with here or which attracted us to Dutchess County in the first place.

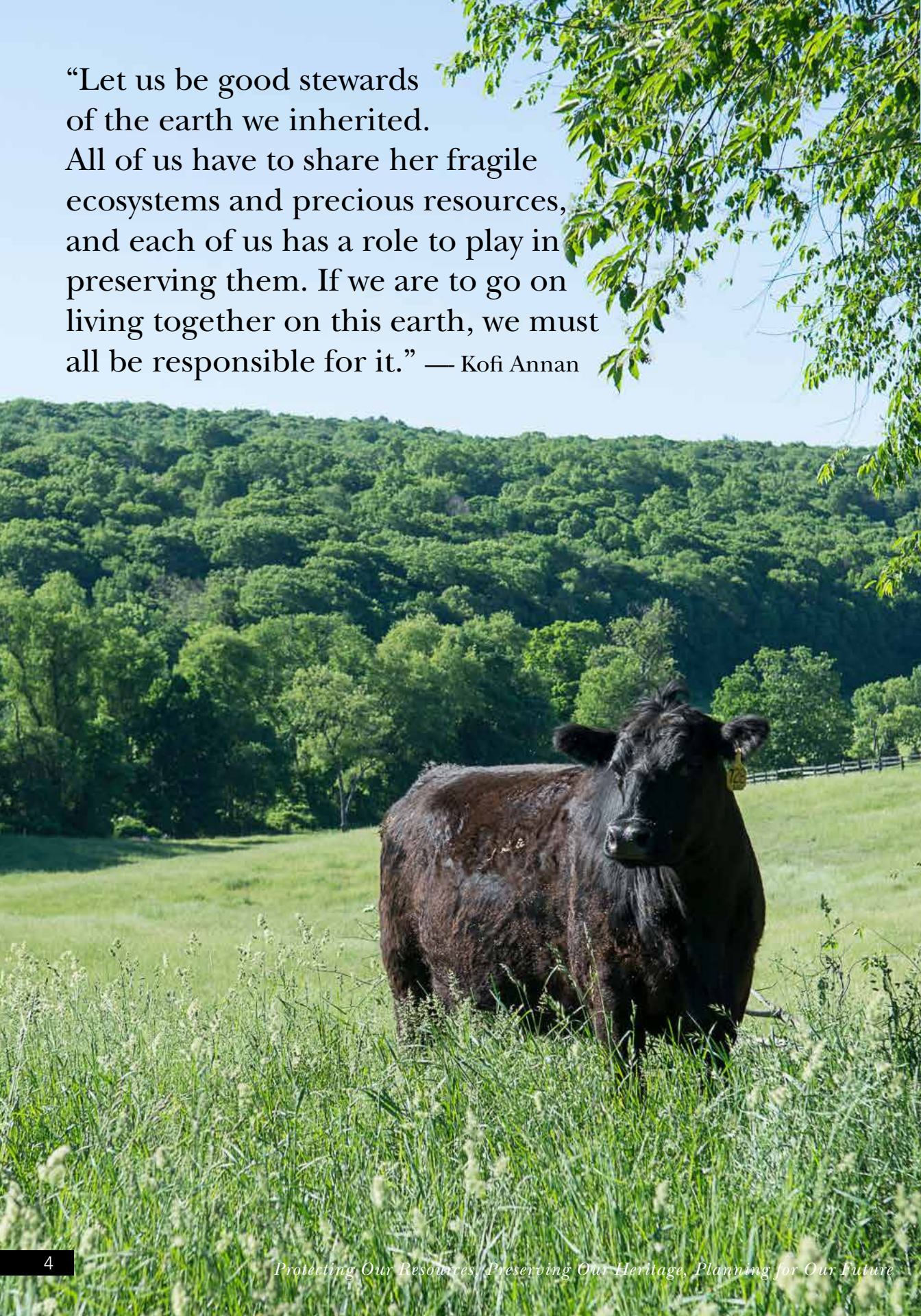
Forty thousand acres is no small feat. With the constant push to develop every acre of open land, we're lucky to have people in our area who care about their land and who have made the decision to protect it forever. We're lucky to have farmers who understand the value of keeping our farms in agriculture and have protected their land so future farmers can grow our food. We're lucky to have local, county, state, and federal programs that support land conservation. And, most of all, we're lucky to have supporters like you, who make it all possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Rebecca".

Rebecca E.C. Thornton  
President





“Let us be good stewards of the earth we inherited. All of us have to share her fragile ecosystems and precious resources, and each of us has a role to play in preserving them. If we are to go on living together on this earth, we must all be responsible for it.” — Kofi Annan

To accomplish our mission Dutchess Land Conservancy works hard to protect important land, responsibly steward it, and educate people about why it's so important.

We are so fortunate to have people in our area who understand the benefits of open land and strongly support our conservation efforts. Because of this, over the last 31 years, local landowners, working with the DLC, have forever protected more than 40,000 acres of farms, forests, water, habitat, and scenic views.

Our ever-changing landscape now boasts large contiguous blocks of permanently protected land where only minimal changes will occur over time – an amazing feat considering the constant pressure to develop every available acre.

Our focus on retaining our rural character by balancing resource protection with growth that fits in with our natural and farm landscapes helps foster balanced and sustainable communities.

By offering education programs to people of all ages, we help answer the questions about why our land is so important to our lives.

At the DLC we believe that a healthy environment and a healthy economy go hand-in-hand.



# PROTECTING THE LAND WE LOVE

“Land is not merely soil;  
it is a fountain of energy  
flowing through a circuit  
of soils, plants, and animals.”

— Aldo Leopold

## A Lasting Legacy – Conservation Easements

Land conservation doesn't happen because of the DLC. It happens because of people like you: people who care about their land, their community, and the rural character of the area that attracted them in the first place. Most of our work is with private landowners who love their land and value it enough to protect it forever.

Landowners who wish to protect the unique character and qualities of their properties can come to the DLC for help. We work with extended families, couples and individuals to create customized land protection plans to ensure that their property's special scenic, rural, agricultural, forested, ecological, and natural features remain intact for current and future generations.

Why is protecting land so critical? Land conservation provides a public benefit. We learn early on how connected we are to the land. We grow our food there, our trees produce the oxygen we need to live, and the ground filters our water. We share the land with wildlife, use it for recreation, and are beginning to understand how important ecosystems are and how protected land benefits them.

The DLC is widely recognized on a national, state, and regional basis for working with landowners to accomplish our mutual land preservation goals. We worked with numerous landowners in 2016, and protected eight unique properties adding another 1,179 acres to permanent conservation.



# PROTECTING THE LAND WE LOVE

## Securing a Family's Future: Protecting Ronnybrook Dairy's "Home Farm"

In 1941, David and Helen Osofsky started Ronnybrook Dairy on a 208-acre property in Pine Plains, naming it for their eldest son Ronny. Ronny and his siblings, Sid, Rick and Freda (Freddi), grew up on the property, known as the "Home Farm," and loved the farm life. The siblings eventually took over their parents' business and now Ronnybrook Dairy is one of the premiere dairy farm operations in the state, with an established brand of milk products that are sold throughout the Hudson Valley, New York City, and the tri-state NY/NJ/CT region.

In June of 2016, with help from the DLC, the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, and Scenic Hudson, the Osofsky family forever protected the Home Farm by selling the farm's development rights and placing a conservation easement on the land.

One of five farms that make up Ronnybrook Dairy, the Home Farm is an integral part of the multi-county operation and provides critical support through the pasturing of cows and heifers and the growing of corn, hay, and soy. The farm's products are a fixture at Hudson Valley retail markets, and at New York City Greenmarkets and retail venues such as Chelsea Market. The dairy is also a significant component of the regional economic engine and employs more than 50 full time permanent staff. Eight members of the staff are from the Osofsky family. The dairy also supports other farmers in the area by purchasing their milk and renting their farmland for pasturing and hay.

Placing a conservation easement and selling the development rights on the Home Farm not only permanently protects the land for agriculture, but also allows the Osofsky family to reinvest in their farm operation and secure its future. The dairy has become a multi-generational family business and the siblings are in the process of transitioning the farm to younger family members. With a smile on his face, Rick Osofsky said, *"Universally, my kids and my siblings' kids have all come back to the farm, some with advanced degrees, but they can still farm and it's really nice to have them continue the tradition."*

With the preservation of the Home Farm, the Osofsky family has taken steps to extend to their children and grandchildren a chance to experience what siblings, Ronny, Sid, Rick, and Freda did being raised on the farm. Rick notes, *"I remember growing up in a farming community and I feel that we have helped preserve that experience for those family members who didn't have that opportunity. Now they can really benefit from seeing how the larger farming community once looked."*





# PROTECTING THE LAND WE LOVE

## Ensuring Working Farms for the Future – Purchasing Development Rights

It's no secret that we're losing our farmland at an alarming rate. We've all driven by fields dotted with subdivisions where farms used to be. And once paved over, all of those valuable soils are lost forever. But that's not the only thing that's lost.

Our farmers are essential not only to the economic vitality of our rural communities, where they provide jobs and support many local businesses, but to the production of our food – essential to the health and well-being of our communities. This is why the DLC continues to focus a good portion of our work on protecting critical farmland. We are involved with several programs and activities that help establish and promote sustainable food systems. One of our key roles is protecting farms through Purchase of Development Rights (PDRs) projects.

Through a PDR program, a farmer is paid for the value of his development rights in exchange for permanently protecting his land with a conservation easement. This allows a farmer to reduce debt, enhance a family business, or retire and allow other family members to take over. Funds for PDRs are provided in large part by the state and county, with contributions also from the DLC and other partners.

The DLC partners with Dutchess County to implement its Farmland Protection Plan, and with Scenic Hudson Land Trust on its *Hudson Valley Foodshed Conservation Plan*, which outlines a strategic approach to conserving the agricultural land that supplies fresh, local food to the people

of the Hudson Valley and New York City, one of the largest population centers in the world. These protected farms support New York State's growing \$46.7 billion farm and food economy, and help safeguard the area's "foodshed."

Beyond providing us with healthy, local foods and contributing to our economy, protected farmland has another advantage for local residents – *even after development rights are sold, agricultural lands stay on the tax rolls*. Studies show that agricultural lands cost communities significantly less to provide services to than residential lands which ensures that towns can continue to provide critical services to all of their residents.



“According to the US Department of Agriculture, 144,792 farms have disappeared across the USA in the past decade.”



# PROTECTING THE LAND WE LOVE

## Great Song Farm: Preserving a True Community Farm

For more than 18 years, Larry and Betti Steel “have had many cherished experiences with friends, neighbors, and family members hiking, sleigh riding, holding large family events, swimming, and picnicking” on their land in Milan. But from the time they purchased their 88-acre property, Larry and Betti always envisioned the farm in active production and using sustainable growing methods. Introduced to farmer Anthony Mecca through the Dutchess Land Conservancy/Columbia Land Conservancy Farmer-Landowner Match Program in 2010, they were able to realize this dream and Great Song Farm broke ground on their property in 2011.

While the land is owned by the Steels, through a unique long-term partnership, the farm is leased to Anthony and his partner Sarah Hearn, who have created a thriving CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) business providing over 100 families with a wide variety of produce year-round. The CSA program grows a direct connection between consumers and their food. As they get to experience firsthand the land and people growing their food, and even pick some crops like cherry tomatoes, beans, peas and flowers, people recognize the value of farms, farmland, and good food. The match has been a great success and has been going strong now for six seasons.

In September of 2016, Larry and Betti ensured that their land will always remain open and available for farming by partnering with the DLC, NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, and Dutchess County to sell their development rights and protect the land with a conservation easement.

While Anthony and Sarah manage the farm operation and farm store business, Larry and Betti participate in many different jobs on the farm. According to Larry, they are involved in: “saving seeds, transplanting, seeding, weeding, washing vegetables, harvesting, building fences, caring for chickens, horses and cows when necessary, and promoting and marketing CSA shares.” They set up events like puppet shows, music concerts, and writers’ workshops as well.

Great Song is farmed using organic and biodynamic methods. Much care is taken in working the land to produce delicious and healthy vegetables, while protecting and enhancing water and soil quality along with wildlife habitat. Work is being done to prepare for the planting of raspberries, blueberries, and a small mixed orchard of apples, pears, peaches, and plums on some of the hills too steep for vegetable cultivation, and a herd of cows grazes the remainder of the open land.

The farm store provides items from other area farms for CSA members to purchase, including honey, eggs, breads, yogurts, cheeses, and more. Educational programs are offered teaching sustainable, low impact living in connection with the land. Workshops and study groups cover activities and topics such as canning, permaculture, bee keeping, stewardship, and spirituality. Monthly farm tours are attended by 20 to 50 people, and the annual Community Day regularly draws over 100 people.

Happy with their decision to permanently protect their land, Larry and Betti say, “We are filled with pride and joy when our CSA members and their children come to the farm and pick up their vegetables, walk the land, and visit the cow herd and laying hens. We’re not sure if there is any higher calling than growing healthy food and introducing people to sustainable farming methods. Our intention is to remain supportive and active in the operation of Great Song Farm as long as we live on this planet. It is the best thing we have ever done.”

Great Song Farm's Anthony Mecca



# PROTECTING THE LAND WE LOVE

## Assessing What to Protect and Why – The Benefits of Conservation Land Planning

If you're like most people, you love your land. Maybe it's the memories it holds – that time your child saw their first deer or rabbit grazing for food in your field or when you were stressed and took that long walk in your woods and felt at peace and one with nature. Maybe it's simply that you've owned it forever – it's where your children grew up and you can't imagine living anywhere else so you want it to remain intact for their children to enjoy.

Whatever your reason may be for wanting to protect your land, you may not know where to start. That's where we come in. We can guide you in examining what exists on your property – agricultural, scenic, and environmental resources – and work with you to decide the future of your land and whether permanent conservation is right for you.

We work with landowners to help them understand the conservation value of their property. We use Geographic Information Systems (GIS) capabilities to map important features such as farmland soils, wetlands, forest lands, habitats, and other natural and scenic resources. Our staff can identify important resources on a property, opportunities for well-placed home sites for future planning purposes, and strategies that help landowners visualize their options, while maintaining value in the marketplace.

Photo: Kathy Landman

*Protecting Our Resources, Preserving Our Heritage, Planning for Our Future*

Our professional land analysis has helped hundreds of landowners achieve a better understanding of the unique resource values of their land before making decisions on house siting, protection, sale, or subdivision. We believe so strongly in the benefits of conservation land planning that we provide these services even if it doesn't ultimately result in a conservation commitment.

Towns also can benefit from the DLC's conservation expertise. We continue to work with municipalities to incorporate conservation land planning techniques into their land use ordinances to help achieve the protection of those areas identified locally as important.

Numerous landowners in 2016 obtained guidance from our professional land analysis helping them achieve a better understanding of the unique resource values of their land before making decisions about its future. We also continued to provide conservation and land planning expertise to towns that are updating their open space plans or are considering development proposals.



“Plans to protect air and water, wilderness and wildlife are in fact plans to protect man.”

— Stewart Udall



# PROTECTING THE LAND WE LOVE

**“You cannot protect the environment unless you empower people, you inform them, and you help them understand that these resources are their own, that they must protect them.”**

**—Professor Wangari Maathai**

## **Inspiring People Outdoors – Municipal Conservation Areas**

The DLC understands that Dutchess County’s open land is vulnerable to development pressure. It’s critical that the public has the opportunity to have access to high quality natural areas for passive recreational use. While many local towns want to enhance the quality of life for their citizens by conserving important natural resources and providing recreational opportunities, often they lack the resources to acquire important open land.

With its competent staff, local relationships, and transactional experience, the DLC is uniquely positioned to help communities establish public conservation areas. Towns can turn to the DLC for help to successfully achieve the acquisition, protection, and management of important public recreational land.

Sometimes, however, a town will acquire a property for its ecological value and environmental benefits to its citizens. For example, a property may have unique habitat not found elsewhere or may lie over an aquifer and have value by protecting the town’s water supply. While passive recreational activities might not be allowed there, there is still a significant benefit for the town’s residents.

## **The Menken Easement – Protecting the Town of LaGrange’s Wetlands**

In November, Arthur and Carol Menken placed a conservation easement on their 21-acre property in LaGrange and then donated it to the Town. Because their land falls within an area designated by the Town for protection of its groundwater, wetlands, and ecological resources, the Town was pleased to accept the property.

The Menkens’ land contains wetlands, native hardwood trees, fruiting shrubs – all contributing to great ecological value. It also lacks invasive plant species that can displace or kill native trees and shrubs and reduce wildlife food and habitat. While the property will not be available for public access, the Town recognizes the value of the property in protecting local natural resources and acting as a buffer to surrounding development.



Lagrange Town Supervisor Alan Bell with Carol and Arthur Menken



# STEWARDSHIP

“The truth is: the natural world is changing. And we are totally dependent on that world. It provides our food, water, and air. It is the most precious thing we have and we need to defend it.”

– David Attenborough

## Protecting and Managing our Natural Resources into the Future.

It's up to us to care for our environment in a responsible way. It's the only way we'll leave our planet a better place for our children and grandchildren. By being respectful of the land and careful with our resources, we become good stewards who can help to protect our natural world.

When you place a conservation easement on your property you begin a forever relationship with the DLC by becoming *a steward of the land*. In holding the easement, the DLC has a perpetual responsibility to you and to the public trust to monitor and enforce the terms of your easement.

We have the utmost respect for our easement owners and strive to maintain positive, active relationships with them. This partnership is essential to us and we enjoy working cooperatively with you to ensure that activities on your property are in compliance with the terms of your easement.

Because no two of our 397 easements are exactly the same, our land stewardship staff is vital to our success in accomplishing our growing task of annually monitoring conservation easements. We have four full-time staff members who are involved in stewardship. They perform annual aerial monitoring of all properties, and ground monitoring site visits on a three-year rotational basis. In 2016, our ground monitoring team logged over 250 miles on foot walking properties under easement!

Our staff also maintains communication with landowners, reaches out to new landowners who purchase a property under easement, and helps landowners as they plan to make changes to their property. On the rare occasion that problems are identified during monitoring, we are happy to work with landowners to develop a plan to remedy the situation.

Contributions to the DLC's Stewardship Endowment Fund made by easement donors help defray the costs involved with overseeing more than 40,000 acres of easement-protected land.

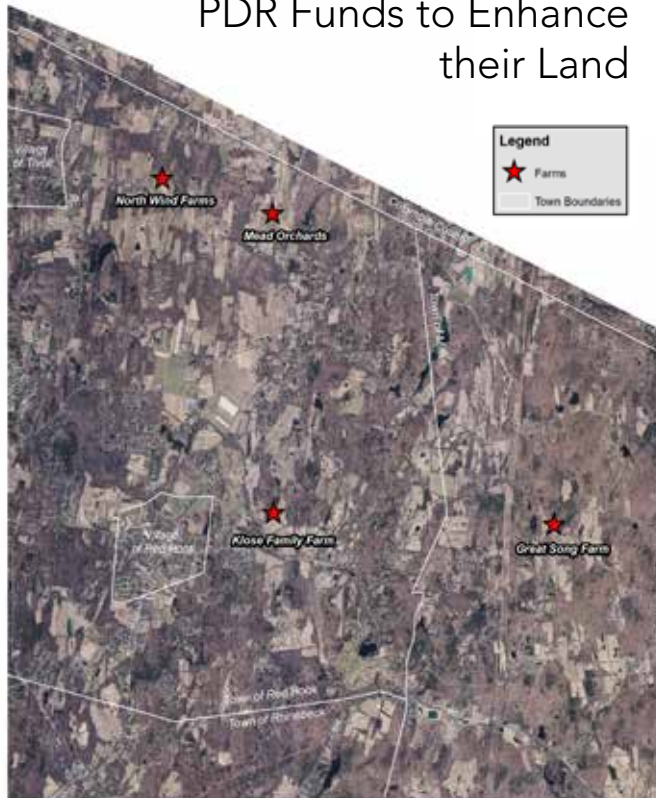
We work with a fantastic group of landowners and see so many examples of people who are good stewards of their land. Recently, we checked in with farmers who protected their farms by selling their development rights to see how the funds they received were used to improve their farms.



# STEWARDSHIP

## GOOD STEWARDSHIP:

How Farmers are Using  
PDR Funds to Enhance  
their Land



You've seen above how selling their development rights and protecting their land can benefit farmers and their families. Farmers use funds received when selling their development rights in many ways. Some use it to reduce debt, others are able to retire and allow other family members to take over. We've found that a lot of the farmers we work with pour the money back into their farm operation for upgrades, new equipment, and even to purchase more farmland.

We caught up with farmers and landowners at Great Song Farm, Mead Orchards, Echo Valley Farm, and Northwind Farms to see how they are improving their protected properties.

## MEAD ORCHARDS



Farmer Chuck Mead of Mead Orchards

In 2001, the Meads were the first purchase of development rights (PDR) project under the State's Farmland Protection Program in Dutchess County. In partnership with the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets (NYSDAM), the DLC, and Dutchess County, the Meads sold the development rights on their 100-acre orchard and in turn used the funds to immediately purchase the adjoining 82-acre farm. In 2010, the Town of Red Hook joined in this creative partnership with the Mead family, the DLC, NYSDAM, and the County to protect this additional 82 acres of critical farmland.

When we asked farmer Chuck Mead how the two PDR projects had affected the farm, he explained, *"With funds from the first PDR, we were able to buy the 82-acre parcel which is between our home farm and a 70-acre piece we lease for farming. If we hadn't purchased it, most likely it would have been developed and would be very difficult to farm next to."*

With the second PDR, the family was able to expand their operation and increase productivity and gross sales. They also invested in new machinery and did some renovations on their 1908 barn to make the space more useful. As Chuck says, *"Keeping old barns upright is not inexpensive!"*

## GREAT SONG FARM

Larry and Betti Steel protected their 88-acre Great Song Farm through a PDR in September of 2016. While the land is owned by the Steels, through a unique long-term partnership, the farm is leased to farmer Anthony Mecca and his partner Sarah Hearn, who have created a thriving CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) business providing over 100 families with a wide variety of produce year-round.

According to owner Larry Steel, once the project was complete, their most significant improvement was to install a new irrigation system and well. Larry says it has been a "game changer" for them, *"Before, we didn't have fixed hydrants in the fields. We had to use very long hoses (about 150 feet) with a drip irrigation system that had a ridiculously low-flow rate on an old pump."* They now have six times the rate of flow and have been able to install fixed field hydrants near the greenhouses and the barn. They are also in the process of upgrading the electric to the barn and all outbuildings to better position themselves to grow their operation.





# STEWARDSHIP

## ECHO VALLEY FARM

In 2014, siblings Christopher, Kevin, and Debra Klose and nephew Nicolas Klose, partnered with the DLC, the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, Scenic Hudson Land Trust, and the Town of Red Hook to protect their 105-acre Echo Valley Farm through a purchase of development rights project. Historically a dairy operation, the farm has been operated as a sheep and hay farm for many years by the family. Chris Klose stressed that the first benefit of the PDR was to allow the



Farmer Chris Klose of  
Echo Valley Farm

property to remain a farm. *“After 15 years of internal conversations among the family, we decided to protect the farm by selling the development rights.”* This was important to the family because the land has been farmed as far back as 1743, with the Klose family farming it since the 1940s.

As far as improvements, Chris reports that the family was able to build a new barn which houses Starling Yards, a CSA operation which leases some of the farmland for growing vegetables and raising chickens. The new barn includes a wash room and cooler. In addition, the family also *“built a machine shed to shelter machinery which ultimately helps keep the farm looking cleaner.”*

## NORTHWIND FARMS

In early 2012, the Biezyński Family protected 84-acres of their Northwind Farms in Tivoli through a PDR. The family raises all-natural poultry, turkey, duck, rabbit, goat and pasture-raised pork and beef on the farm. They sell directly to families and local restaurants from the farm and vend at most regional farmers markets.

When we caught up with farmer Rich Biezyński, he told us that the funds from the PDR enabled them to *“install solar panels that now power all farm buildings which has greatly reduced their energy costs.”* This includes all fans, lights, the slaughterhouse machinery, and incubators. Rich says, *“We also were able to purchase much-needed new equipment, including a bailer, tractor, and a refrigerated van.”*



Farmer Rich Biezyński of Northwind Farms

*Protecting Our Resources, Preserving Our Heritage, Planning for Our Future*



## Our Farmer Landowner Match Program

Since 2013 the DLC has been partnering with Columbia Land Conservancy (CLC) on our joint Farmer Landowner Match Program. This exciting program facilitates lease agreements between landowners seeking to have their land farmed, and farmers seeking land. It is a great way to keep land open, enabling farmers to start new farms or expand their operations with significantly less capital and risk. It also helps non-farmer landowners to use their land for agricultural purposes. Local farmer (and DLC Board member) Barry Chase of Chaseholm Farm in Pine Plains continues to serve as a mentor for the program, meeting with landowners to offer advice on sound agricultural practices and uses.

An integral part of the program, the *Down To Earth* workshop series provides education and networking opportunities to farmer and landowner participants. In 2016, CLC and the DLC collaborated to provide two programs in this series:

*Field Connections: Selling Farm Products Locally*, held on October 19th at the Churchtown Firehouse in Craryville, Columbia County, and, in partnership with the Cary Institute and American Farmland Trust, *Before the Lease: Farm Choices for Landowners*, held on November 12th at the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, Millbrook, Dutchess County. This last workshop was very popular with more than 100 people attending. We were especially excited to see many of our easement owners there!

The match program has helped to create 61 matches since its inception in 2009 on 2,866 acres including nine in Dutchess County, most of which were made in the last three years. There are 160 farmers in the program, with 42 landowners in Dutchess County. Four of the 61 matches were made this year.

[Learn more about the DLC/CLC Farmer Landowner Match Program on our website.](#)





# STEWARDS OF THE LAND

## Conservation Easement Donors and Property Owners as of December 31, 2016

Our very important partners – our Stewards of the Land – are essential allies who manage and steward their conservation easement protected properties into the future. (Please note that while some of our easement donors have passed away, we still list their names out of great respect for their commitment to land conservation.)

Mr. Stephen Abel & Family  
- O. Vincent Abel Inc.  
Mr. and Mrs. Munir Abu-Haidar  
Mr. and Mrs. Ramzi Abu-Haidar  
Mrs. Binti Ackley  
Mr. Frederick Allen and  
Ms. Erica De Mane  
Ms. Saralyn Allen  
Ames, LLC  
Anra's Nest, LLC  
Mr. James Archer  
Mr. and Mrs. Jon Arnason  
Ms. Eve Ashcraft  
Mr. Al Attara - 2Attara Foundation, Inc.  
Ms. Kathleen Vuillet Augustine  
- Sunnyside Farm, LLC  
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Auspitz  
Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Babcock  
- F.H.B. Resources, LLC  
Mr. and Mrs. John B. Babcock  
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Irene and Jack Banning  
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Ms. Cynthia Wainwright  
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Mr. and Mrs. James Bisceglia

Mr. Stephen Blauner and Mr. Kenneth Shelley  
Mr. and Mrs. Eric Bommer  
- Deep Hollow Game Preserve LLC  
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Booth  
Mr. and Mrs. Timothy A. Boroughs  
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Borsch  
Mr. Thomas Boucher  
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Mr. and Mrs. Paul Brandow  
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Mr. William Bricker  
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Brodsky  
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Mr. John Bruno - Oak Summit Vineyard, Inc.  
Mr. and Mrs. Duke Buchan, III - Flint Hill, LLC  
Dr. and Mrs. Arnold Bucove  
Dr. Theodora S. Budnik  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Burdis  
Mr. John Burke  
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Cady  
Dr. Peter Caldwell and Ms. Jane Waters  
Ms. Lucy Calhoun  
Dr. Nancy Camp  
Mr. Robert Campbell - Harts Village Realty, Inc.  
Mr. Joel Canter  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard I. Cantor  
Mr. Peter Capell  
Mrs. Ava Carberry  
Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies  
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Caseiras  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Cassara  
Dr. Carol Caton  
Mrs. Jane Chaffee  
Mr. Michael Chamberlin and  
Ms. Margaret O'Brien  
Mr. and Mrs. William Chappell, Jr.  
Dr. Stephen Chernay  
Mr. Craig Chesley and Ms. Eileen Naughton  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Citrin  
Mr. and Mrs. David Clapp



# STEWARDS OF THE LAND

Clark Hill Farm, Inc./Country Lands  
Clark Hill, LLC  
Dr. Amory Y. Clarke  
Mr. and Mrs. Eliot C. Clarke  
Mr. Eliot C.L. Clarke  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Coffin  
Mrs. Cynthia Cogswell  
Mr. and Mrs. John Colgate, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Collier  
Mr. and Mrs. Farnham F. Collins  
Columbia Land Conservancy  
Common Fire Foundation  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Conniff  
The Conservation and Preservation  
Association, L.P.  
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Mr. and Mrs. John Coppel  
Mr. and Mrs. Peter S. Corbin  
Mrs. Cynthia Cornnell  
Mr. David Cote - Sunny River, LLC  
CRE Fiduciary Services Inc.  
Crescent Road, LLC  
Crestcram LLC  
Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Cunningham  
Ms. Ellen W. Curtis Boisselle  
Mr. Jephtha P. Curtis  
Ms. Sarah M. Curtis  
Ms. Catharine Cusack  
Ms. Sarah Darcy  
Mr. David Dase and Ms. Jacqueline Flake  
Mr. G.W. Davison-Ackley  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Dee  
Mr. David Dembo  
Mrs. Margot Dembo  
Mr. Willem de Vogel  
Mr. and Mrs. Vasant Dhar  
Mr. Andrew Dietderich and  
Ms. Carina Liebeknecht  
Ms. Diandra de Morrell Douglas  
- Carpe Diem Farm, LLC  
Town of Dover  
Ms. Bella Downey  
Mr. Edward Downey  
Mr. Leo Downey  
Ms. Josephine P. Downey  
Ms. Constance I. DuHamel and  
Ms. Carolyn B. Handler  
Mr. and Mrs. Wolcott B. Dunham, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Durbridge  
Ms. Janet Durrschmidt  
Ms. Mary Dusenbury  
Dr. Anne Dyson

Mr. and Mrs. John Dyson  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Edmeades  
Mr. and Mrs. James M. Edwards  
- Miller Pond Farm, Inc.  
Mr. John Egan  
Mr. William Ehrlich and Ms. Ruth Lloyds  
Mr. Christian R. Eisenbeiss  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Ellenson  
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Elliott  
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Mr. and Mrs. Michael Ettinger  
Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Ewing  
Ms. Leslie Farhangi and Mr. John Tuke  
Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Farman-Farmaian  
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Mr. and Mrs. Frederic Fekkai  
Ferme Farm, LLC  
Mr. and Mrs. Massimo Ferragamo  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Fischer  
Ms. Alexandria Fisher  
Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Fisher  
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Fitzgerald  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Flexner  
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Mr. and Mrs. John Forelle  
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Mr. Peter Gallagher  
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Mr. Stephen A. Garofalo  
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Gibraltar, Inc.  
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Mr. Russell Gioiella, Esq.  
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Goldsmith  
Mr. Max Goodwin - Silvernails LLC  
Grace Paul Trust  
Mrs. Mary Graf  
Mr. and Mrs. Jeremy Greenberg - One Kite, LLC

Mr. Jonathan Greenburg and  
Ms. Elizabeth Ely  
Mr. and Mrs. James Greig  
Mr. Bruce Grivetti and Mr. Paul Feuerman  
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Mr. William Kelly, Jr.  
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Ms. Beverley Kerzner  
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Mr. and Mrs. Donald Kimelman  
Dr. Neil Khilnani and Ms. Joyce Kim  
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Estate of Mrs. Elise Kinhead  
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Mr. Douglas Kirchner and Ms. Martina Deignan  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Klein  
Mr. and Mrs. John Klopp  
- Smithfield Farms, LLC  
Klose Family Farm, LLC - Christopher, Kevin,  
Deborah, and Nick Klose  
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Ms. Adrienne Lobel



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Mr. Andrew Maggio  
Dr. and Mrs. Louis J. Maggio  
Mrs. Lou Ann Malozzi  
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Marist College  
Ms. Lenore Maroney and  
Ms. Dorothy Distel  
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Mr. David Marshall  
- Marshall's Outback Property, LLC  
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- Bos Haven Farms, Inc.  
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Martucci  
- East Heartland Corp.  
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Mr. James McCarthy  
- Cloverbrook Farm, Inc.  
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Mr. and Mrs. Michael McMahon  
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- Mead Orchards, LLC  
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Millbrook Rod and Gun Club

Millbrook School  
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Mr. Joshua Morgenthau  
- Fishkill Farms Realty Associates, LLC  
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Morrison - Silver Mountain Farm Partnership  
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Mr. Christopher Staples  
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Northern Dutchess Properties  
Northwest Farms, Inc.  
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Ms. Diana Paine  
Mr. Barclay Palmer and Ms. Dana Cowin  
Mr. Rodney Paterson and Ms. Susan Heath  
Mrs. Ruth Peale  
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and Wiltsie Bridge, LLC  
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Mr. and Mrs. Robert Perkins  
Mr. and Mrs. Eric C. Petersen  
Ms. Florence Peyrelongue  
Mr. and Mrs. Guy Peyrelongue

Mr. Bruce Phipps and Ms. Miriam Tannen  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Pickering  
Mr. and Mrs. Neil Pierson  
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Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Pizzella  
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Ms. Nicole Potter and Mr. Daniel Potter  
Mr. L. Richard Poulin and Mr. Douglas A. Morris  
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Mr. and Mrs. Michael Trimble  
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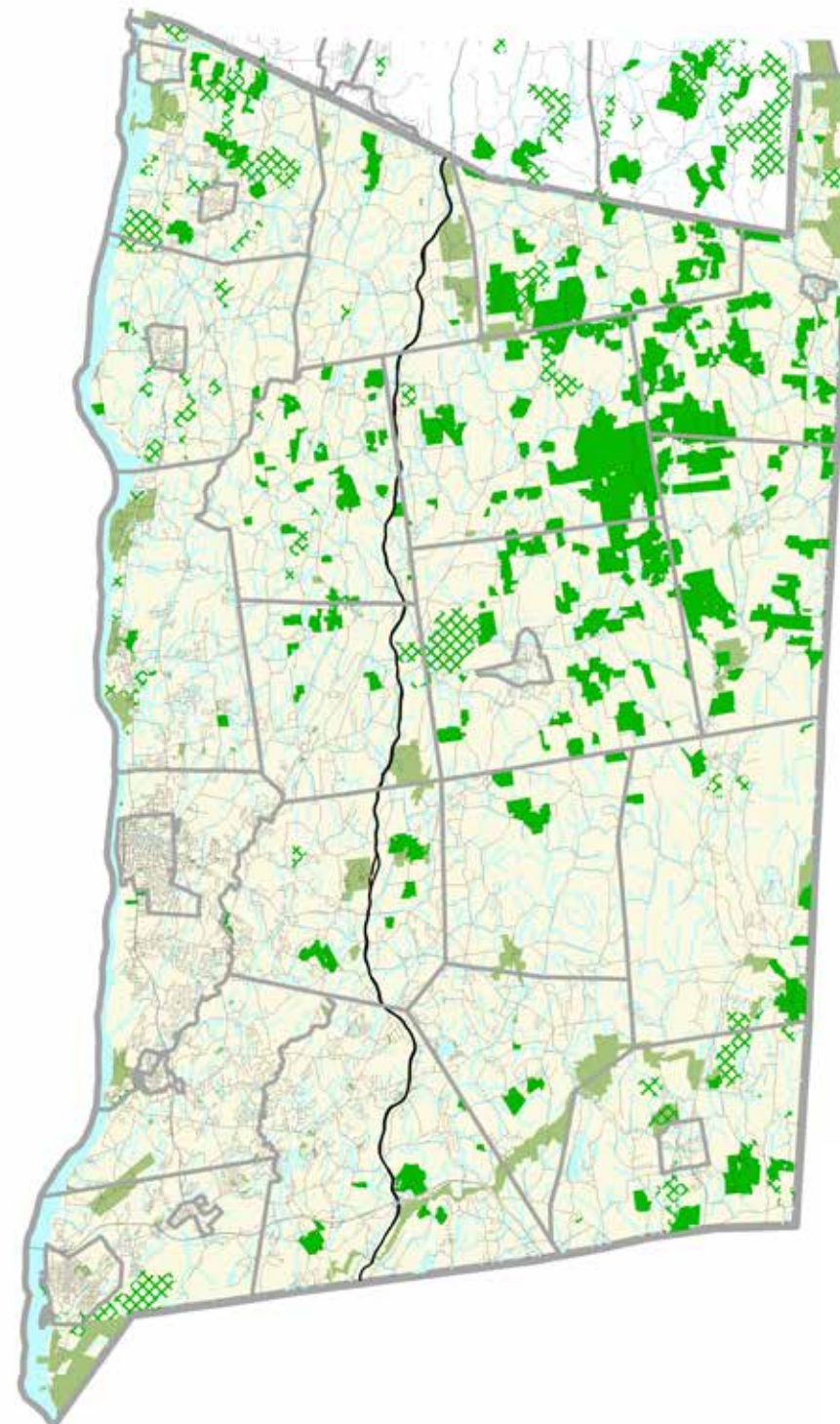
## 2016 CONSERVATION ACHIEVEMENTS

The **Osofsky Family** sold their development rights and protected their 185-acre Schultz Hill Farms in Pine Plains; **Arthur and Carol Menken** placed an easement on their 21-acre property in the Town of LaGrange and then donated it to the Town; **Larry and Betti Steel** preserved their 88-acre Great Song Farm in Milan with a conservation easement after selling their development rights; two properties in Amenia were protected by conservation-minded landowners, including a historic 222-acre farm and 67 acres of land which are highly visible from Route 22 and contribute to the scenic quality of the area; a caring landowner preserved their 125-acre property in Amenia; and a highly visible and scenic 57-acre property was protected in the Town of North East.



The DLC has been an accredited land trust since 2009. You can rest assured that we are constantly working to improve our effectiveness and meet the highest national standards for fiscal accountability, strong organizational leadership, sound transactions, and lasting stewardship of the lands we conserve.

The DLC is approved by the Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance as meeting its Standards for Charity Accountability and displays both the Accreditation Seal and the BBB logo on our letterhead, publications, and website. Donors can feel secure that their contributions are going to a credible charitable organization.



**By working together, we've done it!**

We've now protected more than 40,000 acres of Dutchess County's watersheds, vital farmland, wildlife habitat, diverse ecosystems, and unparalleled scenic views for future generations.

Thanks to all of our supporters, landowners, farmers, local communities, government agencies, and land trust partners – this milestone belongs to all of us!

### Legend

- Land Protected with Dutchess Land Conservancy Conservation Easements
- Land Protected by Other Conservation Organizations
- Land Protected by Government
- Roads
- Water Bodies
- Municipal Boundaries



# PUBLIC EDUCATION



Educating people about land conservation is an integral part of our mission – and one we take seriously. When children and adults learn about the natural world and our environment, they come to understand how connected we are to the land and how much we depend on it to grow our food, filter our air and water, and create recreation opportunities. Armed with this knowledge, we can then become better stewards of our planet and its life sustaining natural resources.



Take a look at the broad range of learning opportunities that supporters and the public took advantage of in 2016.

## Engaging Friends and Meeting New Ones:

At the invitation of Aiken Land Trust Board member and DLC supporter Nancy Henze, our President Becky Thornton *visited the Aiken Land Trust (ALT) in Aiken, SC in February* to talk about the DLC's experiences with their growing land trusts. It was a great opportunity to meet with the staff, Board, and Advisory Board of ALT to compare notes and share success stories. Becky noted, "I love the way land trusts share and collaborate as we can learn a great deal from one another."



**"Look deep into nature and you will understand everything better."** – *Albert Einstein*

In April, Rebecca Seaman (the DLC's Board Chairman) and Becky Thornton *traveled to Washington, DC to meet with Representatives on Capitol Hill during Land Trust Advocacy Days*, organized by the Land Trust Alliance. We thanked them for their great leadership and support that helped ensure that the Enhanced Conservation Easement Tax Incentive was made permanent in December, and for supporting other federal conservation funding initiatives such as the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA), the Highlands Conservation Act, the Forest Legacy Program, and the Agricultural Lands Easement (ALE) Program under the Farm Bill. New York Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney and Congressman Chris Gibson, both strong advocates for our work, met with us in person. Thanks also to New York Senator Charles Schumer, for being a major champion for our tax incentive, and to Senator Kirsten Gillibrand for her support.

Over the Memorial Day holiday weekend, the **Black Sheep Hill Farm Fest** in Pine Plains drew attendees eager to learn about local farms and sample their wares. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. more than 200 people were welcomed to the farm by owners Irene

and Jack Banning, and were able to sample products from Black Sheep Hill Farm as well as from Chaseholm Farm and Chaseholm Farm Creamery, JACüTERIE, and Ronnybrook Dairy. Full Circus Farm was there to talk about their experience as participants in the DLC and CLC Farmer Landowner Match Program and offer for sale CSA shares for organic vegetables from the farm. Lambs, chicks, a calf, and pigs were also on hand to delight the crowd who left full of cheese, quiche, various meats and milkshakes – a cool treat on an unseasonably warm day!

## Reaching Out to Multiple Generations:

In February, as part of their capping class, **Environmental Studies Majors at Marist** screened the film "Green Fire" about conservationist Aldo Leopold and later took part in a discussion about the film. Students attending the **Dover Schools Earth Day Fair** in April were able to stop by the DLC's booth to learn about land conservation and how it affects them. Later in April, residents of the Fountains at Millbrook and members of the public **learned about the history and conservation of the Dover Stone Church Preserve** in Dover Plains.



# PUBLIC EDUCATION



## Connecting with Landowners and Municipal Officials:

In January, our *Online Natural Resource Mapping Tools workshop* provided a guided hands-on exploration of online mapping tools. Participants practiced conducting a preliminary site assessment to determine conservation values for a municipal open space acquisition program. In March, Town Board members learned how to navigate their way to securing State funding for farmland protection and purchase of development rights projects at our *Conversations on Conservation breakfast* featuring speakers Eoin Wrafter, Dutchess County Planning Commissioner, Sean Carroll, Environmental Educator at Cornell Cooperative Extension and the DLC's Senior Land Projects Manager Karin Roux. In May, at a *science and management forum* at the Cary Institute on the "Future of Oak Forests," participants learned about human threats to oak trees and how more responsible land-use practices can help protect them.



In June, the *Caora Farm Sheep Dog Trials* in Millerton provided fierce competition, amazing weather, and a picture-perfect setting at which to view these exciting trials! There was a great turnout as spectators young and not-so-young enjoyed a gorgeous weekend at the farm – soon to be protected through the DLC's purchase of development rights program. Our thanks to *Mich Ferraro* and *Kathie Weathers* for hosting this family-friendly event at their beautiful farm!



In September, visitors to the *Orvis Game Fair* at Sandanona in Millbrook and to the *Environmental Fair* at Vassar College Farm stopped by the DLC's booth to learn more about land conservation and how it helps local citizens. Later in the month, those attending the

*Conservation Program at the Ducks Unlimited Event* at Tamarack Preserve studied historical aerial maps of the area and learned about wetland habitat management and land use patterns.

We kicked off October with a *mushroom hike* at the Dover Stone Church Preserve led by engaging and renowned mycologist Sue Van Hook. Participants were able to search for mycelium and then gathered to hear Sue discuss their finds. On October 19th, our workshop, "*Field Connections: Selling Food Goods Locally*" brought farmers and food buyers together to build relationships for the 2017 growing season. The event was part of our annual Down to Earth workshop series in connection with our Farmer-Landowner Match Program in collaboration with Columbia Land Conservancy.

## Local Golfers Support the DLC

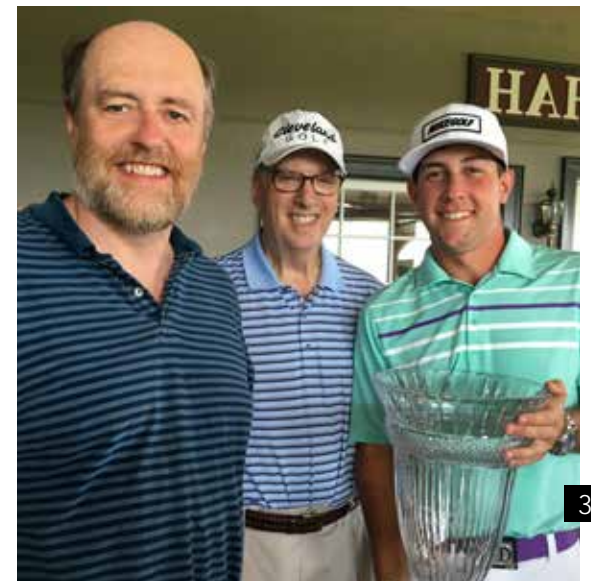
Each year the Dutchess County Amateur Golf Tournament Committee selects a local charity to support on behalf of the golfers who participate in the event. This year, the DLC was chosen to receive a very generous donation and Art Collings, the DLC's Vice President for Land Conservation, was on hand to receive the check during the tournament's closing ceremonies. Our sincerest thanks to the Committee and to the golfers of Dutchess County for supporting our mission!

## Education that Helps us Help You!

We're constantly working to keep up with the latest information on land conservation. We also collaborate frequently with other land trusts and conservation organizations to better assist you in your conservation goals and educational needs.

In October, we hosted the Land Trust Alliance NY's *Hudson Valley Regional Roundtable* in the carriage house at Wethersfield Farm, an easement-protected property in Stanford. Land trusts from around the Hudson Valley gathered to stay up to date on issues at state and national levels, learn about available grant opportunities, and to hear Dr. Charles Canham, Forest Ecologist with the Cary Institute, discuss eastern forests and climate change. Participants were also treated to a tour of the farm's classical gardens.

DLC VP for Conservation & Stewardship Art Collings, DCA Tournament Chairman Jim Bernard, 2016 DCA winner Nick Dilio.





# SPECIAL EVENTS



## Our 25th Annual Fall Country Luncheon and Silent Auction

Despite the cold and threat of rain, over 350 supporters and friends gathered on the Sunday of Columbus Day Weekend to celebrate farmland protection at Wethersfield Farm in Stanford. Luncheon co-chairs **Zibby and Jim Tozer** and **Nancy and Fritz Henze** delivered a spectacular event matched only by the gorgeous views of the landscape outside the tent.



important funds to reinvest in their farm operation and to transition the farm to the next generation.

Our heartfelt thanks to the many people who made the luncheon a great success: to our Co-Chairs **Zibby and Jim Tozer** and **Nancy and Fritz Henze** – we can't thank you enough for your hard work to ensure that we had an amazing and successful event. To **Kevin Malloy** and all at Wethersfield Farm, we thank you for your help, patience, and invaluable advice – not to mention the hayrides enjoyed by our younger patrons! Thanks to **Tim Bontecou** and **Nate Weeks** for securing and installing the 15-foot birch trees to decorate the tent – we (literally) couldn't do it without you! Thanks also to **Judy Murphy** and **Old Farm Nursery** for the beautifully decorated entrance to our tent – it was gorgeous! Thanks to our sponsors, **Bank of Millbrook** and **Paula Redmond Real Estate**. To our **Underwriters, Patrons and Silent Auction Donors and Winners**, we thank you so much for your generosity – it enables us to continue to protect more of the beautiful landscape we call home.

While guests enjoyed a delicious lunch prepared by **The Farmer's Wife**, they were welcomed to the event by the DLC's Board Chairman Rebecca Seaman and President Becky Thornton. They stressed the importance of farmland protection as a way of keeping land in active agriculture to ensure our future food source, and discussed the recent preservation of a portion of Ronnybrook Dairy, owned by the Osofsky Family. Rick Osofsky spoke on behalf of the family, sharing his dad's history with the DLC's beginnings, and noting that protecting the land through a purchase of their development rights was a great way for them to permanently protect their land for agriculture. It also provided

Photos: Barbara Beatty Photography and Mary Hilliard



# SPECIAL EVENTS

## Our Third Annual Spring Barn Dinner Dance and Live Auction

With its gorgeous rural setting (once a picnic area for FDR), MC and Eric Roberts' Silver Mountain Farm in North East was the perfect place to celebrate land conservation and raise much-needed funds for the DLC's programs. Co-Chairs **MC and Eric Roberts, Deban and Tom Flexner, and Jacqueline and Oakleigh Thorne** enthusiastically welcomed guests to our Annual Spring Barn Dinner Dance on May 7th, where more than 300 friends and supporters shattered attendance records set in the first two years of the event. A delicious dinner served by **Stissing House**, a live auction and paddle raise with guest auctioneer **Bill Stahl** of Sotheby's, and dancing to the sounds of **Harlem Line** kept guests entertained and made for a lively evening.

Our most heartfelt thanks to **MC and Eric Roberts** for generously opening their farm to us and co-chairing the event; to co-chairs **Deban and Tom Flexner** and **Jacqueline and Oakleigh Thorne** for their hard work ensuring that we had a beautifully conceived and well-attended event; to our **Auction Chair Hannah Buchan** for obtaining amazing items that brought maximum bids; to our **Auction donors** for their generosity in offering items; to our auctioneer **Bill Stahl** for donating his time and talents to ensure that our auction was entertaining and successful; to our **Underwriters** for their overwhelming support; and to our **Auction winners and Paddle-Raisers** for bidding and winning! – it is only with your support that we can continue to protect the land we all love and call home.

**A Special Thanks to the Dinner Dance Committee for their hard work encouraging friends to attend the event and helping out with the many and varied details:** Lindsay Baldwin, Michael Bassett and Darren Henault, Stephen Blauner and Kenneth Shelley, Felicity and Tim Bontecou, Hannah and Duke Buchan, Eliza Dyson and Joel Levangia, Leslie Farhangi and John Tuke, Jodie and Andrew Fink, Fernanda Kellogg and Kirk Henckels, Chris Kennan, Elissa Kramer and Jay Newman, Perrin and Greg Martin, Katherine and Frank Martucci, Elizabeth and Tim Mayhew, Kelly Morgan, Laurie Niles, Loli and Simon Roosevelt, Nancy and Bill Stahl, and Nelli and Jim Voorheis.

Photos: Mary Hilliard and Barbara Beatty Photography

*Protecting Our Resources, Preserving Our Heritage, Planning for Our Future*





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Trustees of the Land demonstrate the most dedicated financial support of conservation with annual gifts of \$10,000 or more.

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Members of the Dutchess Land Conservancy Legacy Society have expressed their commitment to the DLC through a very special and important form of financial support; these donors have named the DLC as a beneficiary of a planned gift.

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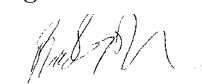


# NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

Dear Members,

On behalf of the entire board, I extend our sincere thanks for the strong financial support you provided in 2016. Thanks to the consistently dedicated backing of our Trustees of the Land and members, DLC's annual fund campaign was a great success.

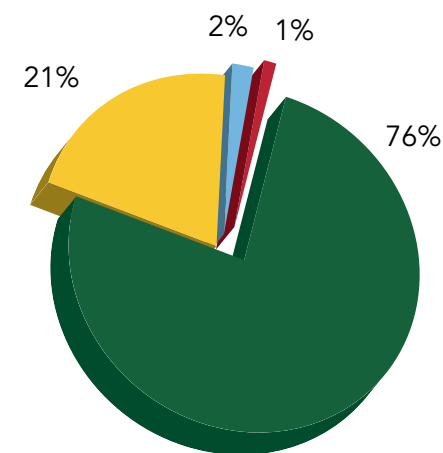
Again, our sincerest thanks,



Ralph Weindling  
Treasurer

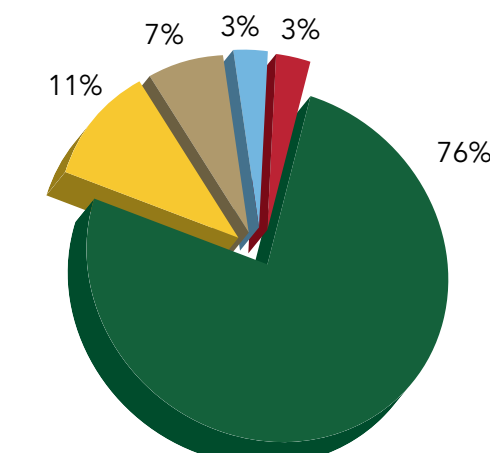
### Operating Revenues

Individual Contributions	76%	●
Grants	21%	●
Interest and Dividends	0%	●
Special Events	2%	●
Miscellaneous Income	1%	●



### Operating Expenses

Land Conservation	76%	●
Stewardship	11%	●
Education	7%	●
Administration	3%	●
Development/Marketing	3%	●



## 2016 Statement of Financial Position

### ASSETS

Cash/Cash Equivalents	\$ 442,352
Unconditional Promises to Give	75,345
Certificates of Deposit Prepaid	144,229
Expenses	17,092
Property, Equipment (net Depreciation)	7,712,246
Investments (endowment & restr. gifts)	5,774,340
Property Held for Sale	106,000
Accounts Receivable	4,258

**Total Assets** **\$ 14,275,862**

### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Accounts Payable	\$ 40,984
Accrued Expenses	98,780
Deferred Revenue	11,000
Deferred Tax Liability	931,608
Temporarily Restricted	2,012,948
Permanently Restricted	736,112
Board Designated	3,403,631
Unrestricted	7,040,799

**Total Liabilities & Net Assets** **\$ 14,275,862**

## 2016 Statement of Activities

### REVENUE AND SUPPORT

#### Operating Revenue

Contributions	\$7,368,839 *
Grants	1,991,862
Miscellaneous	6,943
Consulting Services	9,350
Events (net of expenses)	216,693
Donated Rent	25,200
Interest-Bank	625
Donated Legal Services	30,473
Deferred Tax Benefit	45,443

**Operating Revenue** **\$ 9,695,428**

#### Non-Operating Revenue

Realized Gain-Securities	\$144,509
Unrealized Gain-Securities	195,483
Investment Income-Dividends	67,981
Stewardship Endowment	63,150

**Total Revenue** **\$ 10,166,551**

### EXPENSES

#### Operating Expenses

Program Services	
Land Conservation	\$ 2,307,282
Stewardship	343,779
Education	210,056
Administrative	99,136
Development/Marketing	73,519

**Total Operating Expenses** **\$ 3,033,772**

**Increase (Decrease)  
in Net Assets** **\$7,132,779**

\* Includes gift of fee interest in key conservation property held as a non-liquid asset.





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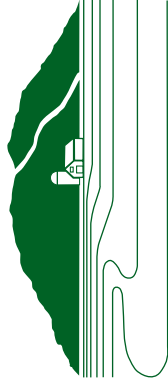


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