



GAINING GROUND

Summer 2022



PRESIDENT'S LETTER



It's nearly impossible for me not to open these letters thinking about the seasons, but I am always a few months behind... As I sit here, a cold spring rain pitters and patters against my office windowpane. By the time you read this, the raindrops will have given way to that bright summer sunshine that will warm my desk as it beats and blazes through the same panes. The trees have just begun to show their bright greens of early spring, which will give way to the deeper, lusher greens of summer. So it goes every year, but it never ceases to amaze and delight me.

Similarly goes our work in the office: the programs we worked so diligently on last winter and this spring will be bearing their fruits in a robust education program this summer including garden walks at Wethersfield, bird identification walks with Audubon NY at Buttercup Preserve and a myriad of other ways to get outside and enjoy nature. You can read all about them in the following pages with both "Conservationist's Calendar" and "Out & About: Great Goings On," which recaps our recent events. We highlight our new volunteer program, led by Brian Straniti, which will be well underway with trail rehabilitation around Thompson Pond in Pine Plains. The program, which

has long been on the "wish-list" of the DLC is, (and pardon the pun, here) gaining ground. I cannot tell you how rewarding it is to see the community becoming increasingly engaged and educated about how important our land is.

I am also thrilled we are able to feature the protection of the Seven Wells property in this issue of *Gaining Ground*. The addition of this new land to the Dover Stone Church Preserve is representative of so much of what we do. Our newsletter editor, Georgina Schaeffer, digs into this project in "Newsdesk," both as a historical and cultural landmark, but also as to why this land is so invaluable with its important water sources, broad and diverse forests, and significant habitats. While we are on the topic of local flora and fauna, Lucas Gordon and Julie Hart bring you the best of our local plants and animals (and rocks!) in their respective columns "The Nature of Things" and "Explorer's Notebook."



I am excited to announce the appointment of two new board members at the DLC: Peter Tcherepnine and Liselotte Vince. Both Peter and Liselotte bring unique talents to the board and we are so lucky they can donate their time to us. Finally, it is with a heavy heart that I offer an in memoriam of Nancy Perkins. Nancy exemplified so much of why I personally love our work, because beyond all the benefits of land conservation are the people who drive it; people who focus not on what benefits them, but what benefits the community, now and for generations to come. It is this kind of generosity that creates a lasting legacy, and it is an honor for me to steward their wishes into the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Becky Thornton".

Becky Thornton

Cover Photo Credit: Kathy Landman

This page, clockwise from top:
DLC President Becky Thornton;
scouts explore Dover Stone Church;
participants in the new DLC
Volunteer Program.

CONSERVATIONIST'S CALENDAR

It's going to be a busy summer for us here at the DLC. We have some exciting events, happenings and volunteer opportunities coming up this season.

WALK THIS WAY

The DLC partners with **Wethersfield Estate & Garden** for two Garden and Woods Walks on Friday, July 8 and Sunday, August 14. Both walks will take place from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Join Director of Horticulture Toshi Yano and DLC Director of Education Julie Hart as they stroll along the paths of the formal gardens and through the verdant forests of the Wilderness Walk. Explore the great diversity of plant and tree species and learn how to keep gardens and woods healthy and thriving. Wethersfield Estate & Garden is located at 257 Pugsley Hill Road in Amenia. 🌿



TRAIL MIXER

Volunteer for a morning of trail work and maintenance at **Thompson Pond Preserve** in Pine Plains. Join the DLC and The Nature Conservancy on Saturday, July 16 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM as we work on trail rehabilitation and development at this local gem nestled at the foot of Stissing Mountain. Learn about Thompson Pond, its glacial origins, its importance as the headwaters of Wappinger Creek and discover how good trail stewardship helps us enjoy the outdoors while keeping habitats safe. Thompson Pond Preserve is located at 261 Lake Road. 🌿

BUZZY BREWING

Join the DLC on Saturday, July 23 from 12:00 to 7:00 PM at **Plan Bee Farm Brewery** in Poughkeepsie to learn about wetland habitat and function with owners and operators Emily and Evan Watson. Come see, taste and hear about how they transformed their 25-acre farm and 1830s era barn into a sustainable brewery where they organically grow most of the ingredients that go into their beer. Educational wetland walks will take place at 2:00 and 5:00 PM. Plan Bee Farm Brewery is located at 115 Underhill Road. 🌿



PACK IT UP!

Last year, the DLC was awarded a grant through Dutchess County's "Learn, Play, Create" program to develop **Nature Exploration Backpacks** for local libraries. We'll be purchasing backpacks and stuffing them with supplies like field guides, tools and equipment needed to explore the outdoors, focusing on topics including birds, insects and the night sky. The packs will then be donated to libraries across Dutchess County, where explorers—young and old—will be able to check them out just like a book! Stay tuned for updates on when we will be assembling and distributing them – and when they will be coming to a library near you! 🌿

DOWN TO EARTH

This fall we will once again be offering a series of workshops and webinars as part of our **Farmer/Landowner Match Program** collaboration with the Columbia Land Conservancy. Stay tuned to our website and social media for information on topics, dates, and speakers! 🌿

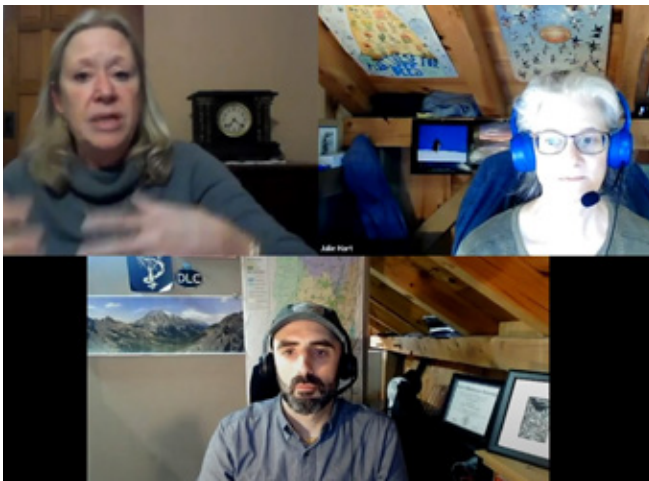
For more information, please visit our website dutchessland.org and follow our social media (Facebook and @dutchessland on Instagram) for updates.

OUT & ABOUT: GREAT GOINGS ON

A look back at some of the online and in-person events from our spring programming.

Name That Tree

Winter is an ideal time to practice tree identification skills and this past March our Director of Education Julie Hart once again teamed-up with Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies Wildlife Biologist Mike Fargione for a tree ID webinar. Outreach and Engagement Manager Brian Straniti opened the session with some background on the social dynamics of forests. Hart and Fargione showed virtual participants how to look for clues, such as the color and texture of bark and different twig branching patterns, as well how to use tools such as dichotomous keys and smartphone apps, to recognize many common local species of trees. 🌿



Winter Webs

The final installment of our first winter webinar series, *Earth Matters*, featuring famed gardening expert Margaret Roach, aired on April 6. Roach imparted virtual attendees some of her horticultural know-how, as well as tips on how to have a beautiful garden year round. The first season of *Earth Matters* was a rousing success, with large audiences tuning in each month for expert speakers including Doug Tallamy, who spoke about biodiversity in our own backyards, and Becca Rodomsky-Bish from Cornell's Lab of Ornithology, who gave advice on making our outdoor spaces more bird friendly. We are thrilled by the reaction to *Earth Matters* and look forward to our second season beginning this fall! If you missed the series, there are several recorded episodes available on our YouTube channel. 🌿

Birds of a Feather

An enthusiastic group of birders joined the DLC and Audubon NY for a Woodcock Walk at the Buttercup Farm Audubon Sanctuary on April 9. Woodcocks are well-camouflaged and difficult to spot, but one was heard and identified by the expert ear of Dave Decker, Audubon NY's Land Steward. Using smartphone apps eBird and Merlin, guests were able to identify and catalogue bird species while enjoying the sanctuary's well-maintained trails. The majesty of the day was punctuated by a stunning rainbow. We have plenty more bird walks planned. Please visit dutchessland.org or our Facebook page for information and updates. 🌿



Back to School

The DLC attended the Pine Plains High School Career Fair and the Dover Middle and High Schools' Earth Day Fair this spring. At both events, our team reached out to budding environmentalists and conservationists to explain the DLC's mission and the benefits of land preservation- habitat connectivity, ecological sustainability, climate resiliency, water quality and more. We are thrilled to spend time with these future land stewards who will keep Dutchess County beautiful and sustainable in the future. 🌿

PROGRAM NOTES

On Saturday, April 30, an enthusiastic group of volunteers gathered at the Whitlock Preserve on Route 82 in Stanfordville, as the buds of the DLC's newest program began to sprout. This intrepid group gave their time on a warm spring morning to beautify a small pocket of nature in Dutchess County. The to-do list was long: bridge building, trail marking, tree and shrub planting, and garbage collection. By the end of the day the job was completed, but more importantly the group left with deeper ties to the landscape and to their community. We sat down with Brian Straniti, DLC Outreach and Engagement Manager, to talk about this new program, how it came to be and what he sees for the program's future.



Q: What was the impetus to start a volunteer program at the DLC and why now?

A: The DLC is always looking to connect with new people and communities, as well as fortify our existing connections. We started by meeting with staff and partners to better understand pathways to team-up with communities, municipalities and other organizations in more meaningful ways. The one thing that kept rising to the surface in every meeting was the need for a collaborative volunteer program.

Q: Can you tell us more about some of these conversations you're having with existing and potential partners?

A: At the core of these conversations is the same goal: connecting with people and enhancing their relationship to nature. Beyond the countless physical and mental health benefits of outdoor activities, these events also foster an invaluable sense of community and stewardship. We especially focus on accessibility for all volunteers at these events, so they are family-friendly and welcome everyone, regardless of skill level or experience. Even more specifically, we want to bring people together who have never participated in these types of outdoor events and help foster an appreciation for nature.

Q: What kind of work are you soliciting volunteers for?

A: That depends entirely on what the interested party can and would like to do! We are currently looking for people with hands-on outdoor skills to help with trail construction and maintenance, experienced educators to aid with our education events, community science data collectors, photographers and videographers, volunteers to help with event mailings and anything that might assist a conservation organization. For example, I am currently working with a dedicated volunteer to translate our outreach material into Spanish. It's a very diverse

program and likely to become more so as we continue to create opportunities for all skill and interest levels.

Q: How are the volunteer and education programs at the DLC related?

A: The high quality of the education programming at the DLC has been built through many years to include really robust offerings for a small organization. The volunteer program is essentially a tributary of this education program, so we consider how to build educational aspects into every detail of the program. Setting up a volunteer program that includes things like community science and volunteer educators are simple ways to enrich our existing education program and deepen our community connections.

Q: What would you like to see volunteers gain from the experience of working with the DLC? What would you like to see the DLC gain from working with volunteers?

A: The same answer for both questions: community! I would like to see volunteer events in more areas across the county. One of the most rewarding aspects of my work is watching volunteers experience the impact their volunteerism can have both on their own perception of place and community, as well as the community's response to their altruistic endeavors.

Q: For anyone out there reading, why should they attend a DLC volunteer event?

A: Again, that feeling of community and altruism goes a long way in life. I can take you to trails I've worked on and communities I've volunteered for across the country. There's a sense of pride and responsibility that comes with this kind of work, as well as an appreciation for the camaraderie and inclusion for all involved. Plus, it's just so fun and exciting! 🌿

To find out more about upcoming educational events and volunteer opportunities the DLC is currently offering, please see the "Conservationist's Calendar" in this issue of Gaining Ground, and check out our Facebook and Instagram pages for regular updates.



By Lucas Gordon

Q: Nice to meet you! Can you briefly introduce yourself and your species?

A: Hi, my name is Roosevelt the Raccoon. I'm known by my admirers as *Procyon lotor* and my detractors as a trash panda. My species is native to North America and can be found in every state except Hawaii and Alaska. The English word "raccoon" comes from the Algonquian/Powhatan word *arahkunem*, meaning, "he scratches with the hands." Touch is our most heightened sense and we use our highly dexterous, handlike front paws to experience the world.

Q: Why would anyone call a beautiful creature like you a trash panda?

A: Raccoons are opportunistic omnivores, meaning we eat just about anything we can get our paws on. Since humans have overtaken much of our habitat, we have less access to our natural diets of fruits, nuts, corn, fungi, rodents, fish, invertebrates, carrion and much more. Oftentimes the food most accessible to us is what's leftover in your trash cans. I find the panda comparison much more flattering. This comes from the mask of black fur around our eyes. This fur is hypothesized to improve our night vision and reduce glare.

Q: What makes you most proud to be a raccoon?

A: What most impresses me about my species is our adaptability. Raccoons are the most widespread animal in New York State. We live everywhere from secluded forests in Dutchess County to dense urban metropolises like Manhattan, making our dens in tree cavities, rock crevices, abandoned burrows of other animals, storm sewers and small spaces under or within buildings. We'll find a way to survive and raise our kits just about anywhere. We're solitary animals so a mother and her litter of two to five kits is the only time you'll see us as a group.

Q: Since we share so much habitat, do you have any tips for human-raccoon interactions?

A: Although we live up to 20 years in captivity, few raccoons survive past five in the wild. Raccoons and humans live most harmoniously when keeping a respectable distance from one another. While most raccoons pose little risk of transferring diseases like rabies to humans, you should still avoid feeding us, both intentionally and unintentionally, and make sure your pets' vaccinations are up to date. We are nocturnal animals, but if you see us during the day it doesn't mean we're diseased; sometimes we just need a little sunshine. All in all, we're nothing to be afraid of; our eating and living habits can make us annoying to humans, but I don't see how that makes us different than any other neighbor! 🍃

EXPLORER'S NOTEBOOK

By Julie Hart

It's always a delight to pause and take some time to appreciate nature's subtle beauty: the multitudinous shades of green as the trees leaf out in the spring, the exquisite texture of a dragonfly's wing, the delicate structure of a bird's feather. But sometimes nature almost seems to shout, "Look at me!!" Whether it is a bright color, a dramatic marking, a distinctive shape, or a loud noise, you won't have to look or listen twice to know what it is!

On a warm summer's day, the soft gurgle of running water has brought you to a small stream, where you are startled by a brilliantly red flower among the deep greens of this verdant place. Cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*) grows in damp places, such as near streams and wetlands, and bears bright red, tubular flowers in clusters on stalks that are two to four feet tall. Be sure to leave these beauties where they are for others to discover and enjoy. Over-picking has led to the plant's scarcity in some areas.



Because they prefer open habitats such as fields and pastures, Eastern bluebirds (*Sialia sialis*) are fairly easy to find – you'll notice them perching on fences and wires that overlook these habitats. But what will draw your eye is the bright blue of the bird's plumage! Both the males and females are blue, though the male tends to be a brighter blue, especially during breeding season. With blue backs and red fronts, these birds are unmistakable!

You've planted your garden with milkweed and lilac, Joe-Pye weed and wild cherry, and the butterflies are loving it! The big yellow butterfly that catches your eye as it flits from flower to flower is the Eastern tiger swallowtail (*Papilio glaucus*). These butterflies are three to five inches across and are vibrantly yellow with black edges and stripes on their wings. Trailing off the end of each wing is a long "swallowtail" that resembles the tailfeathers of a barn swallow and gives the butterfly its name.



Photo Credit: Sean Carroll.



"Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you all?" It's the start of a great conversation, and it's not about dinner! The barred owl (*Strix varia*) makes this distinctive hooting call. The owls roost on branches or in tree cavities during the day and hunt at night. While the "Who cooks for you?" call is the most common and recognizable, sometimes a group of owls (called a "parliament") will call to each other with a raucous cacophony of barking, cackling, hooting, gurgling and cawing noises.

The first thing you'll ask is "how did this enormous rock get here?!" When you happen across a rock that's the size of a car, or even a house, you'll stop and stare and wonder. The answer is both simple and complex: the rock was likely brought here by a glacier! Known as glacial erratics, these rocks were swept along by a glacier during the last ice age, sometimes originating from far to our north. As the glacier melted the rocks came to rest here, where they remain as a testament to the power of the earth to reshape itself! 🍃



Photo Credit: Sean Carroll.

Photo Credit: Alamy Stock

While each conservation project that the DLC works on has distinct value, the protection of the Seven Wells property in Dover Plains this spring was met with particular excitement. Not only does this parcel hold naturally formed “wells” and waterfalls, views of the Harlem Valley, and important habitats, but it adds 155-conserved acres adjoining the beloved Dover Stone Church Preserve. The preservation of Seven Wells is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity which will benefit the Harlem Valley for generations to come.

By Georgina Schaeffer

Back in 2004, the Dutchess Land Conservancy, the Town of Dover, Dutchess County and the Friends of Dover Stone Church, teamed up to purchase and preserve the 58-acres that include and surround the Stone Church. Calls for the protection of this culturally and historically significant stone cavern and waterfall date back to 1925, when Franklin D. Roosevelt visited and described the location at a Taconic State Park Commission meeting. The Dover Stone Church Preserve, as it is now known, is located in Dover Plains, and for the last twenty some odd years, the Town and the DLC have steadily added more preserved land to this unique place, now totaling some 175 acres of hiking trails and natural areas, which are open to the public for outdoor enjoyment. “The essence of the DLC’s mission is land preservation, and the best way for people to understand and appreciate our work is to get them out on the land. To be able to create and forever protect a preserve like the Dover Stone Church is a tremendous honor,” says DLC President Becky Thornton.

Wrapping around the southern and western boundaries of the preserve is 155 acres of land known regionally as the “Seven Wells” property and this year it was added to the preserve, nearly doubling its size. Stewarded by the same family for close to a century, it was of paramount importance to the descendants to find a trustworthy entity that would preserve the land and keep it in its natural state. “Any time we can create contiguous blocks of preserved land, it is exciting. In this particular case, the Seven Wells, with its incredible naturally formed “wells” and waterfalls, historic and cultural significance, and long-identified importance to the community and beyond, made it even more critical,” Thornton says. Using the same construct as the prior parcels of land, the Town of Dover will own and care for the Seven Wells property, while

the DLC will ensure its forever protection through a conservation easement.

Seven Wells is located on the eastern slope of West Mountain, part of the uplands creating the Harlem Valley. The property contains some 3,000 feet of frontage along the Wells Brook, named for a



series of deep, naturally formed, geologic pools and waterfalls. These pools are deep enough to serve as reservoirs and provided the public water supply for Dover Plains from 1900 to 1960. The brook cuts deep within a winding, rocky ravine, creating a series of beautiful waterfalls, as the water flows from pool to pool, before it runs into the Stone Church Brook, which then feeds into the Ten Mile River, a large tributary of the Housatonic River.

“If you’ve ever experienced the coolness in the air when walking alongside the Stone Church Brook on the path to the Stone Church, you’ll also notice a similar drop in air temperature while hiking up



alongside the Wells Brook, much appreciated on hot summer days,” begins Erin Hoagland, Conservation Director at the DLC. “Both streams support a niche habitat type known as a “cool ravine,” characterized by a stream corridor of steep, rocky walls, shaded by a mix of conifer trees, which together creates an unusually cool and moist microclimate that supports rare species of plants and animals,” she explains. Topographically, the Seven Wells property is a mix of gentle slopes, steep hills and rocky ridgetops. The forest remains healthy because wood has been sustainably harvested, and the hilltops support an uncommon habitat type called “oak heath barren,” which is characterized by exposed bedrock, low growing pitch pine trees, shrubby vegetation and grassy patches. “The range in habitat on the Seven Wells property, transitioning from a cool ravine to oak heath barrens, is indicative of the natural value of this property,” Hoagland concludes.

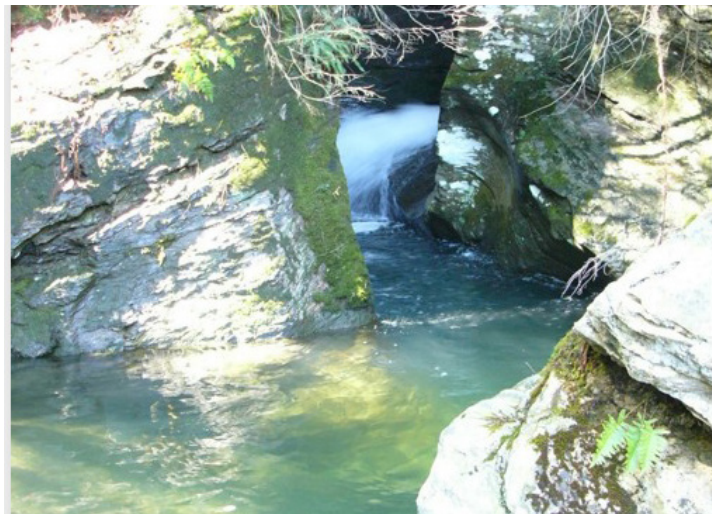
A network of well-established footpaths wind through the Seven Wells Property, which will ultimately provide an incredible trail extension for visitors to the Dover Stone Church Preserve with viewpoints overlooking the Harlem Valley. The combination of the Seven Wells, the Dover Stone Church and the



Nellie Hill Preserve properties will also provide a hilltop buffer to the Village of Dover Plains.

“I have walked a lot of land in my time, and when you find a place as amazing as Seven Wells, which has been carefully looked after for generations, you have to do all you can to help protect it,” says Thornton. “We are so lucky to have the dedication of the owners who worked so closely with us to make this happen, our wonderful and on-going partnerships with the Town of Dover, Dutchess County, Scenic Hudson, as well as support from the community,” she continues. “We are deeply indebted to Dover Supervisor Rich Yeno, County Executive Marcus Molinaro, the County Legislature, Scenic Hudson, and their amazing respective teams, for their leadership and commitment. The whole community will benefit from this addition to the preserve and the public will soon be able to see and appreciate the uniqueness of Seven Wells.” 🍃

Funding for the acquisition of this property came from Dutchess County’s Partnership for Manageable Growth Program, the Walbridge Fund, Dutchess Land Conservancy, and Scenic Hudson Land Trust’s Lila Acheson and DeWitt Wallace Hudson Valley Land Preservation Endowment.

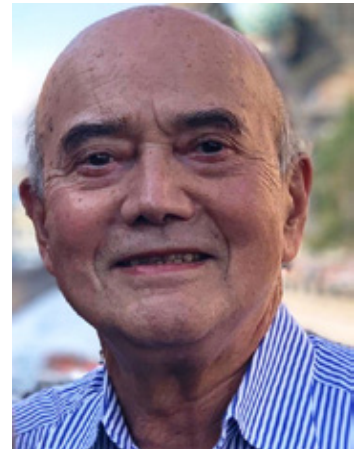


ACROSS THE BOARD

The DLC is thrilled to announce the appointment of two new members to our board.

PETER TCHEREPNINE

Peter Tcherepnine and his late wife Jessica moved to Dutchess County in 1983, knowing a good number of people in the area from sportsman and equestrian activities. The couple bought a 200-acre farm in the Shekomeko Valley and soon thereafter a contiguous parcel of farmland and forest of 135 acres. “I met Leslie Barclay when she began the DLC, but I waited 20 years for values to increase before placing conservation easements with the maximum restrictions on my land, thereby achieving both the greatest benefit to the flora and fauna, but also a more worthwhile tax deduction,” Peter begins. “The forestry plan for the woods was approved by the DEC, while the fields were being farmed and already under an agricultural exemption. The conservation easements on both pieces are very restrictive, stipulating that nothing can ever be built on the land except for a small guest house.” Peter is a co-founder and a major shareholder in Shekomeko Village Co. Inc., which acquired several farms and preserved a large part of the valley, and is a member of the New York Farmers. He was also involved with North Dutchess Properties, which spearheaded some of the earliest efforts to protect large parcels of land in the area. Peter has a daughter and three grandchildren. He and his wife Anna live at the farm as their primary residence.



Born and educated in France and the U.S., Peter became a U.S. citizen in 1960. After graduating from Harvard College and serving as an officer in the U.S. Army Artillery, he joined Loeb Rhoades & Co. He remained with the successor firm Loeb Partners Corp. and brings his knowledge of money management, venture capital and real estate to the DLC Board. “I’ve been in the investment business my whole life and I can help raise money for the DLC,” he says. “I understand the mechanisms of easements and would be happy to engage with people to explain how it works.” Currently, Peter works at Gabelli Asset Management, while remaining on the board of Loeb Holding. He is also a board member of the American Institute for Foreign Study Inc., the Russian Nobility Association, where he is vice-president and treasurer, and the Russian Children’s Welfare Society; he previously served as a board member and vice-chairman of the ASPCA for more than a decade, as well as a trustee of the China Institute. 🌿

LISELOTTE VINCE

“My two daughters got hooked on horses, so we looked into the Hudson Valley. When we saw the farm, we knew this was it,” Liselotte Vince begins. She and her husband purchased their 150-acre property in Verbank in 2011. The farm is protected by the DLC and the couple worked closely with the DLC and neighboring landowners to help create hundreds of contiguous acres of preserved land.

A graduate from Dickinson College, Liselotte worked on Wall Street before retiring to raise her three children. But it was her continuing education courses at the New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) which changed the trajectory of the farm. “The classes at the Botanical Gardens really enlightened me about how you treat the land and soil effects not just our own ecosystem, but what happens down the road,” she says. “We don’t use any pesticides, we are making a shift toward native plants, and I can see birds and insects coming back,” she continues. She now holds certificates in both gardening and botany from NYBG. Liselotte is also a dedicated beekeeper with five hives on her property.



“Once you find the rhythms of your land, you become very attuned to what’s going on. For example, I know that my honey will be lighter in the spring because of what’s in bloom versus what comes later in the summer.” She began her own blog and social media account, 80milesnorth, to help educate and inspire other gardeners on best practices, as well as to learn from others. “We love what the Hudson Valley offers with the incredible vistas and that it isn’t built-up. But even more, we love that it is a tightknit community of friends and neighbors who always want to help you out; and we love to support them as well. We want to preserve what we have, not for us and our children, but for the future generations.”

Liselotte currently co-chairs the DLC’s Education Committee, and participates on the Conservation Committee. Most recently, she helped create the first webinar series with Education Director, Julie Hart. The two are currently planning this year’s roster of speakers. She is also a member of the Hubbard Council of the National Geographic Society and has served on the boards of Little Red Elizabeth Irwin School in New York City, Southbank International School in London and most recently was the vice president of the board at the Children’s Museum of the Arts in New York City. 🌿

IN MEMORIAM: NANCY PERKINS

By Becky Thornton

This past January, the DLC lost a close friend, committed conservationist and one of the DLC's most dedicated and humble benefactors, Nancy Perkins.

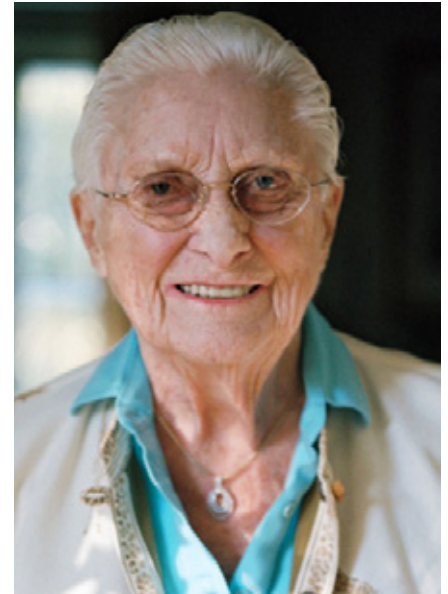
Nancy came to this area from Maine in 1950 after earning her degree in elementary education and teaching. She married George W. Perkins, Jr. and moved to Millbrook, where they raised their family and together created and operated the well-known Walbridge Farm, which produced National Champion black angus cattle.

During her lifetime, between gifts from the family's Walbridge Fund and her personal dedication, she donated an incredible amount of support for the DLC's work. She inspired countless successes over the years, providing funds for operations as well as farmland protection projects. She helped close key initiatives, such as the widely visited Dover Stone Church Preserve in Dover Plains and the newly acquired Seven Wells expansion. She helped develop a Stone Church biodiversity study, assisted with trail building and blazing and enhanced the public access right-of-way to the natural stone cavern at the preserve.

Our public education programs, strategic plans and Farmer/Landowner Match Program would not be what they are today without Nancy's unwavering commitment. She supported the DLC when we needed to expand our capacity with staff positions for land conservation, stewardship and outreach and engagement, as well as help fund college interns. When it came time to hire an outside consultant to reinvigorate our external communications, to upgrade computers and technology, Nancy was there for us once again. These are just some of the examples that showcase how Nancy's fingerprints are on more projects, programs and essentials than we can count, or that the DLC could ever truly thank her for.

In addition to her benevolence, Nancy and her husband George protected their 550-acre Walbridge Farm with a DLC conservation easement in 2002, ensuring the family farm would remain intact for generations to come, another incredible symbol of their long-time commitment to conservation and this area. Upon her passing, Nancy's estate designated the DLC as the charity to receive donations in lieu of flowers; yet another testimony to her and her family's keen love of the DLC.

We are so very fortunate that she cared so much about the DLC and we would truly not be the organization we are today without her. She never wanted to be publicly acknowledged for her contributions, but continued to give more and more from her heart. She not only helped the DLC, but she was transformational in her support of countless other charities in the Millbrook community. Her loss is felt very deeply and we can only hope that she knew how much her extraordinary support meant to all of us. Nancy Perkins leaves a long and lasting legacy in this community and beyond. 🌿



INSIDE THE DLC

Our staff members are always happy to help you with any question or need you might have about land conservation. Here's a quick list of who's who and what they do within the DLC.

BECKY THORNTON

President

Becky is always happy to talk to people about your land, your community, conservation planning, ways to support the DLC, and other ideas and topics. Feel free to reach out if your question can't be answered more quickly by the DLC's multifaceted and talented staff.

ART COLLINGS

Vice President for Conservation and Stewardship

Contact Art if you are looking for a copy of your conservation easement, have questions regarding your easement and what is permitted on your easement protected property, about the Farmer/Landowner Match Program, or about the DLC's Stewardship Program.

ELENA DYER

Financial and Business Director

If you have questions regarding the DLC's accounting and financial matters, such as billing, accounts payable and accounts receivable, Elena is the person to contact.

LUCAS GORDON

Stewardship Manager

Lucas works with Art and is your point of contact about the status of an easement's baseline documentation report, or about ground monitoring of existing easements.

JULIE HART

Director of Education

Julie is our staff ecologist, and is your point of contact for information on our Education Programs, and for questions on ecology and land stewardship.

ERIN HOAGLAND

Director of Conservation

Reach out to Erin if you want to learn more about protecting your land, are interested in protecting a key property, have a farm and would like to know more about our Purchase of Development Rights Program, or if you'd like more information about the benefits of owning protected land, or about the DLC's Land Conservation Program.

KAREN KARIS

Director of Development

Contact Karen if you would like to make a donation to the DLC, would like information about our special events, would like to include the DLC in your estate planning, to learn about sponsorship opportunities, or if you are looking for a tax acknowledgement letter for your donation.

EMILY KELDERHOUSE

Land Projects Manager

Emily works with Erin, and you can also reach out to her with questions about conserving land.

JACKIE LAPLANTE

Stewardship Associate

Since Jackie and Lucas work together, you can also reach out to Jackie regarding ground monitoring.

DOUG OHLANDT

Communications Manager

If you're a member of the press looking for information on the DLC, or you would like to know more about our website, annual reports, newsletters or social media, Doug is the person to reach out to.

BARBARA RIZEK-MCGUCKIN

Development and Program Associate

Barbara works with Karen in the Development Office and you can reach out to her with questions regarding donations and special events.

BRIAN STRANITI

Outreach and Engagement Manager

Brian works with Julie, and if you're interested in volunteer or community science opportunities, if you're an organization interested in partnering with the DLC for these or other types events, or if you simply want to understand how your community or organization can work with, or be supported by, the DLC, please get in touch with Brian.

SANDY TANNER

Office Manager

We saved the best for last! We couldn't do anything without Sandy! If you have a question about the DLC and can't find it above, please reach out to Sandy and she'll direct you to the right person.



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Founded in 1985, the Dutchess Land Conservancy (DLC) is a non-profit conservation organization dedicated to preserving the rural character, important resources and open lands of Dutchess County, New York. We encourage sound, well-planned growth, balanced with the conservation of our important natural resources and working landscapes to ensure healthy and vibrant communities for the benefit of all generations.

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And the people who
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For more information on how to support our work with a tax-deductible gift, get involved with our mission and much more, please scan the QR code below, or you can contact our office at 845.677.3002 or visit our website at dutchessland.org.



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Save the Date!

**Dutchess Land Conservancy
Annual Fall Country Luncheon**

Sunday, October 9, 2022



DUTCHESS LAND CONSERVANCY

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Is it time for (the DLC Fall) Lunch?

Photo: David Stewart