



Navigating the Way Ahead



2012 Annual Report



Andy Chmar and Chris Davis

From the Chairman and Executive Director

"We're excited about where we're going and the ambitious goals we've set for the Land Trust."

Dear Friends and Neighbors,
Where are we going?

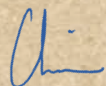
Every so often, it's healthy for any organization to ask that question. This year, along with managing our full plate of conservation activities, we embarked on a strategic planning process designed to help us answer the question by evaluating our past achievements, current programs and future goals. Many of you assisted us by participating in focus group discussions, phone conversations or taking a comprehensive online survey, which we very much appreciated. As you will read in our lead article, this year-long effort culminated in a clear vision statement and detailed action plan for our work in the coming half-decade. We're excited about where we're going and the ambitious goals we've set for the Land Trust.

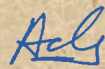
Not surprisingly, our primary goal will continue to be the preservation of open landscapes throughout the Hudson

Highlands for the continued enjoyment and benefit of both residents and visitors alike. We're pleased to have conserved four new properties during the year, totaling 121 acres, and are working on a number of similar projects throughout the region that we anticipate will result in the preservation of hundreds of additional acres in the coming year. We applaud all property owners working with us to voluntarily preserve the national treasure we're fortunate enough to call our home.

We look forward to your continued support and invite you to come along for the ride as we embark on the next stage of our journey to preserve the scenic landscapes of the Hudson Highlands for generations to come.

We wish you all the best in 2013!


Chris Davis
Chairman


Andy Chmar
Executive Director



HHLT Board of Directors 2012

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

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The Hudson Highlands Land Trust is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization incorporated in 1989 under Section 402 of the Not-for-Profit Corporation Law of New York.



Cover Photo: © Raymond Fusco
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Navigating the Way Ahead

A new strategic direction and key acquisitions make 2012 remarkable

“Of particular concern to the board was producing a plan that reflected the growing urgency of the Land Trust’s task: the Hudson Highlands lies within an hour’s drive of six percent of the population of the United States.”



The Hudson Highlands Land Trust will celebrate its 25th anniversary in 2014. Achieving such a significant milestone invites serious reflection on past achievements and, more important, a hard look at the future to be sure that the mission remains valid, that plans for fulfilling it are focused, and that the staff and funding required to deliver on those plans are in prospect—if not already in hand.



Accordingly, early in 2012, the Land Trust’s directors decided to reassess and update the strategic plan that had guided the organization since 2006. Of particular concern to the board was producing a plan that reflected the growing urgency of the Land Trust’s task: the Hudson Highlands lies within an hour’s drive of six percent of the population of the United States; its rural beauty, historic sites and networks of trails, forests, ponds and streams are all menaced by overdevelopment, that, unless checked and channeled, could destroy much of the landscape the Land Trust was founded to protect.

Determined that the document that emerged from this reassessment be used, the board set out to establish overall goals and a general strategy, and also a detailed five-year work plan. Finally, the board made a commitment to re-work the plan for each successive year tied to the progress achieved to date. To that end, it retained a firm, **Solidground Consulting**, headed by **Marc Smiley**, a long-time land trust professional,

to keep the project on course and to conduct in-person interviews with Land Trust supporters, municipal officials in our mission area, and individual residents of the communities in which we work. The board held a day-and-a-half-long retreat in early June. A committee comprising of staff and board wrote the plan during July, and it was adopted at the Land Trust’s annual meeting in September. “I think we produced a plan that we’ll really use, and the key to success was compressing the time frame so that everyone had to focus on what was important and what was secondary.

Committing to update the work plan each year will maintain that focus and keep the plan truly relevant over the next five years.” remarked **Nancy Berner**, HHLT Vice Chair, who led the strategic planning process.



Besides mapping the organization’s course for the next five years, the Land Trust staff concluded work on four complex conservation transactions, all protecting land adjacent to New York State parkland. Two easements, donated separately by **Roy and Paulette Leonard**, and **Adrian and Libby Ellis**, were part of an agreement by three neighbors to protect some thirty acres next to parkland on East Mountain Road South in Cold Spring. The first, donated by **Roy Rosenstein**, closed in 2011. HHLT board member **William Evarts** donated an easement on fifty acres abutting Hudson Highlands State Park Preserve. “I thought it was very important for the community to keep a piece of open, unspoiled land at the south end of Garrison,” he said. “I was walking there one weekend this winter, and there were two hockey games going on Lake Alice. People were having a wonderful time, and they knew that they were in a beautiful spot. That’s important to me. The land covered by the easement will remain in private hands, but people hiking in the park will never have to experience going in just a couple of steps from wilderness to walking on someone’s lawn or into their swimming pool.”

In Cold Spring, HHLT purchased a 50-acre parcel from **Mr. and Mrs. Yung Wang** and will, in turn, sell it

to New York State’s Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP). This sale represents a major step forward in creating a trail between Clarence Fahnestock Memorial State Park and Hudson Highlands

We’re still dreaming of demonstrating how land can be used sustainably.” In an act of remarkable generosity, the Wangs made a financial contribution to HHLT reflecting their appreciation of the Land Trust’s role in putting the transaction together. To ensure that no last-minute developments upset the carefully constructed deal, HHLT obtained a Program Related Investment Loan from **The Peter and Carmen Lucia Buck Foundation** and provided from its own Highland Steward Fund the remaining \$150,000 required to buy the land and cover closing costs. OPRHP has funds available to purchase the property and has made a purchase offer, which the Land Trust has accepted.

All our conservation achievements in 2012 involved properties identified as being particularly important by the Land Trust’s Legacy Landscapes initiative, a careful ranking based on factors like scenic beauty, visibility from the Hudson River, biodiversity and proximity to parkland. As development pressures mount, careful targeting of strategic parcels becomes

State Park Preserve—a high-priority objective of both New York State and the Land Trust for more than a decade. The Wangs, both architects, subdivided their 80-acre holding, selling 50.1 acres to the Land Trust, while retaining 30 acres for a future project reflecting their interest in what Mrs. Wang terms “intelligent land use.

Legacy Landscapes Project

Preserving our iconic views, cherished lands and vital natural resources

The magnificent natural beauty of the Hudson Highlands, coupled with its proximity to Manhattan, has always made this region a desirable target for developers. The subdivision of larger parcels into smaller housing lots is the greatest threat to our beautiful and unique area. These subdivisions increase density and erode the rural character and natural beauty of our communities, as well as threaten our natural resources, causing further fragmentation of delicate ecosystems.

The Hudson Highlands Land Trust established the Legacy Landscapes Project in 2011, a visionary plan that identifies parcels throughout the Land Trust’s mission area that are important land protection priorities. Based on a comprehensive analysis of resource functions on all parcels within the HHLT mission area, this initiative focuses our land preservation efforts to implement appropriate conservation solutions for those landscapes deemed too important to risk. The Land Trust is working in partnership with private landowners, regional organizations and government agencies, like the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and DEC, to achieve these goals over the next several years.

Legacy Landscapes Project Scorecard

Priority parcels that have been directly conserved or acquired by HHLT, or in which HHLT has facilitated the conservation or acquisition by another conservation entity

	Parcels	Acres
Protected in 2011	3	160
Protected in 2012	6	263



the sale. “This acquisition brings us one step closer to linking Fahnestock and Hudson Highlands State Parks—a huge benefit for hikers, and a major enhancement of the region’s recreational attractions.” noted Bill Bauman, Park Manager at Clarence Fahnestock Memorial State Park and Hudson Highlands State Park Preserve.

Redrawing our strategic plan and, at the same time, meeting the challenge of increasingly complex land preservation projects made for an extremely busy year at your land trust. But we believe that we are now in a good position to move forward effectively and with the necessary urgency as we embark on our second quarter-century of preserving the unique character of our beloved Hudson Highlands.

more critical. So, too, does the need to be creative in structuring and financing the deals: dividing the Wang Preserve in a way that allowed OPRHP to advance its goal of creating a linkage between two parks, while making it possible for the Wangs to retain thirty acres is a good example of such structuring. That **The Peter and Carmen Lucia Buck Foundation** was willing to provide financing was crucial to completing

Hudson Highlands Land Trust Strategic Goals

The Land Trust will structure its work and deploy its resources to achieve five outcomes by 2017:

- The critical lands in HHLT’s mission area are protected—in perpetuity.
- The conservation values of our protected lands are nurtured, maintained and enhanced.
- Our region is characterized by sound land use planning and decision-making, and sustainable diverse communities.
- A multigenerational culture of conservation is shared among all communities in the HHLT mission area.
- The Land Trust has the capacity and support to meet the urgency of our mission.

Public Policy Update

HHLT partners with municipalities on both banks of the Hudson



“Cross-pollination of ideas from both sides of the Hudson River strengthens our ability to protect the Hudson Highlands’ natural resources through a balance of land conservation and thoughtful land-use policy.”

Guided by our strategic plan, the Hudson Highlands Land Trust encourages municipal officials and planners to consider development within a larger context. Recreational opportunities, riverfront access, local businesses, and historical, cultural and artistic institutions can all be assets that, if supported and promoted, can serve to strengthen towns and villages in the Hudson Highlands.

In March, the Town of Cornwall adopted the Cornwall Comprehensive Plan Update. The updated plan recommends steps to be taken to “maintain the balance of scenic beauty, residential development and commercial activity that has traditionally existed in the Town of Cornwall, both at present and for future generations.” We’re proud that HHLT director Doug Land served on the Comprehensive Plan Update Committee.

The improved Village of Cold Spring waterfront was dedicated in October,

commemorating the successful collaboration between local businesses, private and corporate foundations, residents, the Village of Cold Spring and HHLT. The enhancements are respectful of the village’s historic qualities, and have created clearer night skies and better views for residents and visitors.

During the past year, HHLT board and staff have engaged directly with elected officials, collaborating with other environmental organizations, advocating for state and federal funding for land conservation and the protection of natural resources. We believe that this sustained effort educates legislators on the economic benefits of investing in environmental protection, providing a foundation for the extension of the federal tax incentive for conservation easement donations and Governor Cuomo’s increase in funding for the Environmental Protection Fund.

“All our conservation achievements in 2012 involved properties identified as being particularly important by the Land Trust’s Legacy Landscapes initiative, a careful ranking based on factors like scenic beauty, visibility from the Hudson River, biodiversity and proximity to parkland.”

Renewed Tax Deduction Among the Many Benefits of Protecting Your Land

Congress has renewed the enhanced federal tax deduction, through the end of 2013, for donations of voluntary conservation agreements. Additionally, New York State landowners whose land is preserved by a conservation easement may be eligible for a state income tax credit.

Since the federal tax benefits expire December 31, 2013, and may not be extended again, HHLT encourages interested landowners to email us at info@hhl.org as soon as possible to learn more about voluntary conservation agreements. Landowners should note that not all land meets the strict standards established by the IRS. Also, potential donors should always seek qualified independent financial and legal advice when considering any charitable contribution.



Local Perspective: West Bank

Because HHLT views the entire Hudson Highlands region as an area of important natural resources, scenic beauty, historical significance and cultural heritage, we have made a concerted effort to strengthen and expand partnerships with our neighbors in the Towns of Cornwall and Highlands, and the Villages of Highland Falls and Cornwall-on-Hudson. We are pleased to have been invited to contribute to the Town of Cornwall’s Comprehensive Plan Update. We look forward to working with the Town of Highlands on developing river access for residents and visitors, and with interested village residents to support and enhance their communities. We are also extremely grateful for the valuable insights we received from West Bank leaders and residents during our recent strategic planning process. This vital cross-pollination of ideas from both sides of the Hudson River strengthens our ability to protect the Hudson Highlands’ natural resources through a balance of land conservation and thoughtful land-use policy that supports diverse, economically viable communities.



Giant hogweed

Natural Resources Spotlight

Invasive Species: Wanted! Dead, not Alive!

Have you seen these invaders: giant hogweed, Japanese barberry, mile-a-minute vine or rock snot? Attack!

Many alien species brought to America from other countries cohabitate well. Others threaten the biodiversity of our region, especially wildlife dependent upon specific plants for food, and can pose direct danger to humans. This is a battle we can't afford to lose.

We refer, of course, to invasive species, defined by experts as "an alien species whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm, or harm to human health." Some have been imported unintentionally through international trade or travel, others intentionally introduced for horticultural purposes. Regardless of their origins, alien plant dominance in our region would be devastating to our ecosystem.

The Natural Footprint Project

This spring, the Hudson Highlands Land Trust is initiating a new project: The Natural Footprint Project. We have partnered with talented local naturalists to help landowners in the Hudson Highlands learn more about the property they own, its unique habitats and the species present, plant and animal. The project will entail several site visits to the selected project areas over a 12 month period. At the end of the project period, landowners will be provided more information on the important natural resources found on their land and a list of specific stewardship actions they can take to make improvements to the habitats on their property and benefit the native species present.

In the lower Hudson Valley, just a few species of concern are:

- **Mile-a-minute vine**, a highly aggressive vine that rapidly climbs over all it can reach at a rate of 6 inches a day, choking other vegetation and forming dense tangled mats that block the sunlight.
- **Giant hogweed**, a distant cousin of the carrot family, that grows to 20 feet in height. The sap is very dangerous to humans, inducing years-long high sensitivity to ultraviolet light, burns and even blindness if sap touches the eyes.
- **Japanese barberry**, which grows 2'-8' in height. Its dense stands displace native plants, reduce wildlife habitat and litter layer, and raise soil pH. A clear relationship exists between the barberry, white-tailed deer, and blacklegged ticks, including a correlating high incidence of Lyme Disease in humans.
- **Garlic mustard** has the ability to establish and spread in most areas, allowing it to become the dominant plant in some forest undergrowth and greatly reducing the diversity of all species.
- **Japanese and bush honeysuckle** can shade out native plants and prevent understory growth. Vigorous vine growth can bring down trees. These honeysuckles can alter habitats by depleting soil moisture and nutrients. Invasive berries (not natives) do not contain the amount of fat and nutrients needed by wildlife, with negative impacts on migrating birds and butterflies.

What can we do?

The best method for the control of any invasive plant is to prevent its establishment. Hand-pulls, mowing, excavation, and cut and burn are other methods, but not all apply to all invasive plants. Care should be taken not to disturb the roots of other plants. Some plants require extreme measures for destruction of seeds and pods. Occasionally, chemical means are the only answer, particularly for enormous stands of alien invasives, but this option requires careful study.



Japanese barberry



Bush honeysuckle

Want to learn more?

The 2013 Hudson Highlands Land Trust Sustainability Forum, *Protecting the Hudson Highlands from Alien Invaders* on Saturday, April 13th, taught participants how to control and protect their gardens and the region from some of these voracious, suffocating invaders. For information covered during this event, please visit: www.hhlt.org.

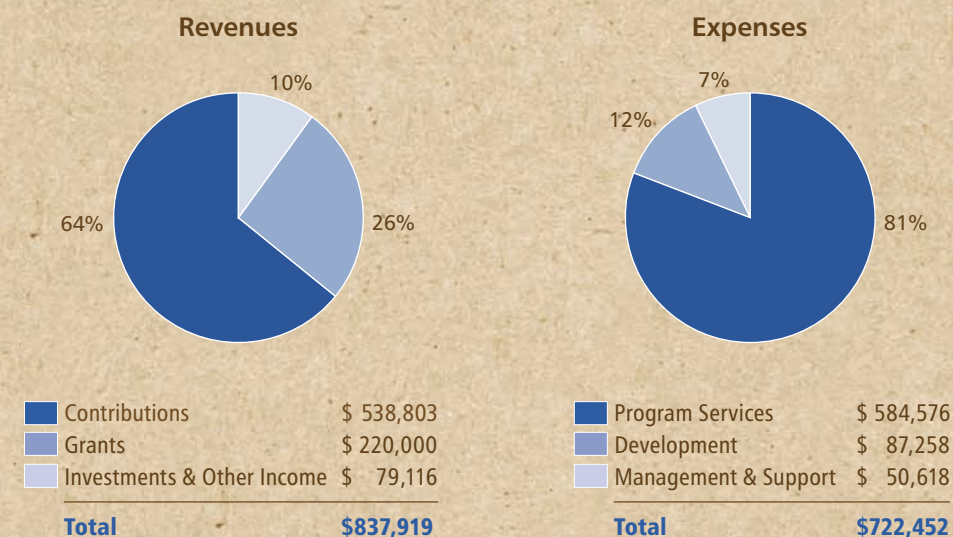
2012 Financial Report

Financial Overview

Results for Hudson Highlands Land Trust in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, show total operating expenses were \$722,452, up from \$673,065 spent in FY11. The increase in expenses was driven by continued expansion of our land conservation, public policy, outreach and education programs, and their management. Total revenues, including contributions, grants and investment income, increased from \$678,220 to \$837,919 with strong growth reflected in all revenue categories.

Financial Structure

Hudson Highlands Land Trust maintains three board-designated investment funds: the Highlands Steward Fund is reserved for land conservation stewardship, defense and acquisition; the Hillpoint Fund is designated for additional land conservation activities; and the Point Lookout Fund is used for outreach and educational initiatives. A committee of HHLT's board, working with an outside investment management firm, oversees the assets, which are pooled in a diversified portfolio. Total investment return for FY12 was 13.75%, following a return of 3% in FY11. The board engaged Richard J. Bellew, CPA, to perform an independent audit.



Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

	September 30, 2012
Land areas (at cost)	1,056,404
Pledges Receivable	7,813
Other assets	6,191
Cash and investments	4,232,513
Total assets	\$ 5,302,921
Liabilities	700,000
Net assets	4,602,921
Total liabilities and net assets	\$5,302,921

Looking Back at 2012

Winter Hill Grand Opening Reception

On a lovely autumn afternoon, Winter Hill opened its doors to welcome friends and supporters to join HHLT and our fellow tenants, The Garden Conservancy and Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, in celebrating our extraordinary new home. During a private gathering earlier the same day, Chris Buck dedicated the library to the memory of Matt Shipman, the late HHLT board member who inspired Chris to make the vision of Winter Hill a reality...



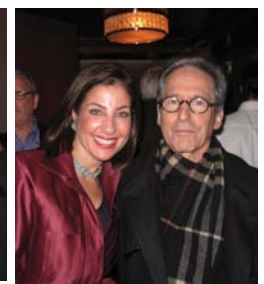
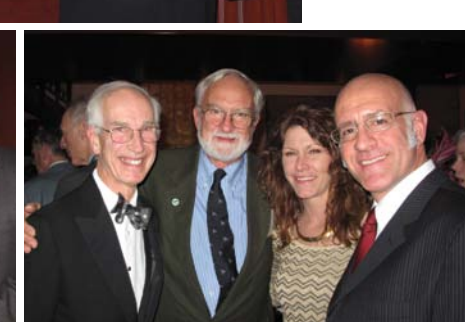
8th Annual Family Festival



Working with the Haldane School Foundation and the Garrison Children's Education Fund, HHLT welcomed more than 200 residents and visitors to the Claudio Marzollo Community Center of Philipstown to enjoy a delicious cookout, live music with tiki daddy and other local favorites, and a spell-binding visit from Atka, the ambassador wolf from the Wolf Conservation Center. In the evening, 29 families stayed for a Sleep Over Under the Stars. Proceeds from this event went to support environmental programs at local schools...

3rd Annual HHLT Fall Benefit

In November, more than 100 supporters gathered for A Luminous Evening in NYC – first for a private guided tour of the Creatures of Light exhibit at The American Museum of Natural History and then for an elegant cocktail reception at the home of Bon and Terry Turner overlooking Central Park...



Young Friends Hike & Picnic

The newly formed Young Friends of HHLT supporter group held a Hike and Picnic fundraiser this fall. The event featured a trek to the North Redoubt, delicious wood-fired pizza served al fresco style and locally brewed beer courtesy of Newburgh Brewing Company...



From Peas to Bees Sustainability Forum

In March, HHLT hosted From Peas to Bees, a community forum on raising farm fresh foods in your own backyard at the Highlands Country Club. The free event featured two moderated panel discussions, children's programming, and the opportunity to browse information tables...



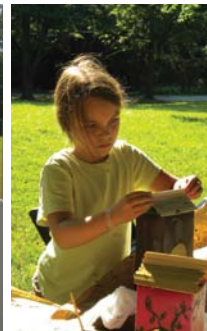
Looking Back at 2012

Cocktails at Hayfields

In July, the Land Trust honored our conservation easement donors and landowners with a delightful gathering of more than 100 guests. The reception was hosted by Samara and Doug Braunstein on their beautiful conserved property along Avery Road in Garrison...



River of Words



In 2012, HHLT continued to offer our free nature-inspired poetry and art environmental education program, Hudson Highlands Regional River of Words (ROW) to the Cornwall, Ft. Montgomery/Highland Falls, Putnam Valley, Haldane, and Garrison public schools. Since 2008, ROW has been providing local students and teachers with engaging opportunities to explore, enjoy and connect with nature while satisfying curriculum standards. During the summer, our programs take on a particularly creative flair with a blend of art and good old-fashioned outdoor fun...



Take-a-Hike!

Nearly 200 hikers of all ages joined us for a series of seven varied treks throughout the Hudson Highlands. Others enrolled in one of several hiking series we conducted in partnership with the Philipstown Recreation Center throughout the year...



Clearwater Sunset Sail

Last October, a group of special friends and supporters joined us aboard the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater for a beautiful afternoon on the river highlighting the importance of conservation of this iconic viewshed...

ROW 1st Annual Poetry Trail

This summer, HHLT collaborated with Constitution Marsh Audubon Sanctuary and Center to present a very special outdoor exhibit featuring poems created by local students during River of Words educational workshops throughout the past school year. The installation was kicked off with an opening reception honoring the student poets and, due to its popularity, was extended an additional two weeks...





What's Ahead in 2013

HHLT has big plans for the year ahead – Join us!

This year, HHLT will focus our efforts on activities that lead us to achieving the specific objectives set out in our recently adopted strategic plan. Please check www.hhlt.org for more information on event dates and times.

LAND CONSERVATION

The critical lands in HHLT's mission area are protected—in perpetuity. In 2013, we will continue to implement our Legacy Landscapes Project; a pro-active, prioritized land conservation strategy that guides our efforts in achieving the best possible conservation outcomes for the region. We will also continue to collaborate with private landowners, municipalities, government agencies and other conservation partners to facilitate larger-scale open space protection projects and acquisitions in an effort to increase the pace and punch of conservation in the region.

The conservation values of our protected lands are nurtured, maintained and enhanced. In addition to stewarding the 1,618 acres among 70 conservation easements we currently hold, our efforts will be directed toward natural resources education, specifically assisting conservation easement property landowners to understand and sustainably manage the conservation values of their lands. We are also launching the Natural Footprint Project, a hands-on, multi-faceted natural resources study of an area of privately conserved land over the course of a full year. We will share our findings with the public when this project is completed and consider expanding the program to include other lands in the future.

PUBLIC POLICY

Our region is characterized by sound land use planning and decision-making, and sustainable diverse communities. HHLT will maintain its support of local officials and involved residents on both sides of the Hudson as they seek to strike the right balance between conservation, sustainability and economic viability in their communities. The Land Trust will also continue to champion the preservation of community character, open space and natural resources through public advocacy in regional, state and federal spheres.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

A multigenerational culture of conservation is shared among all communities in the HHLT mission area. The Land Trust sponsors and coordinates events and programs that help community members of all ages better understand and appreciate the issues related to natural resources protection, land conservation and sustainability. In April 2013 we held *Protecting the Highlands from Alien Invaders*, a free community forum on how to identify and safely eradicate invasive species.

The Land Trust's Hudson Highlands Regional River of Words Program (ROW) will again be offered free of charge in all five school districts in our mission area. HHLT's regional version of this international program is designed to educate and connect students to the natural resources and scenic beauty of the Highlands through Hudson River watershed-inspired poetry and art. New this year, we will host *Beyond the Four*

Walls: Exploring the Common Core Standards Outdoors, a full-day seminar for area elementary and middle school teachers wishing to master ways to use nature as a learning laboratory. In collaboration with Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary and Hudson Highlands Nature Museum, we will install two ROW Poetry Trails this summer to celebrate the blend of art, poetry and nature. Check HHLT's website for details and viewing schedules. We will also continue our ever-popular children's art and poetry workshops this summer, including some special new offerings for teens, too.

HHLT's popular hiking program, Take-a-Hike! returns in April and will run through October with a diverse series of nine guided hikes that are free to the public and guaranteed to get everyone – regardless of age or fitness level – interested in spending time outdoors. Make sure to register early for the hikes that interest you: these events tend to fill up very quickly. For those who prefer to have a series of regular hikes and walks, we will continue to offer hike programs like Fitness Walkers, Jr. Nature Explorers, Fitness Challenge, Fitness Intermediate, and Snowshoeing through our partnership with the Philipstown Recreation Center.

Our newly organized Young Friends of HHLT group will be coordinating several events this year, including two meet-up hikes and its second annual Hike & Picnic Fundraiser. If you are in your 20s or 30s and are interested in joining this dynamic group of supporters, please email us.

Thank You Land Trust Supporters!

Our board of directors, staff and volunteers wish to thank all of our financial contributors, whose generosity helps to protect the natural beauty of the Hudson Highlands and rural character of our communities. In the next several pages, you'll see the faces of some of HHLT's dedicated supporters and friends who joined us for an event or program in 2012. Become a supporter and join this terrific group of people!

Ms. Linda Tafapolsky and Mr. Jamie Adams
Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Albanese
Ms. Terry Alexander
Mr. Chip Allemann and Mr. John Danzer
Mr. and Mrs. John Allen
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Altenrath
Ms. Patricia A. Grove and Mr. Leo M. Alves
Mrs. Louise Ambler
Mr. Jeff Anderson
Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas B. Angell
Ms. Stephanie Anklin
Anonymous Donor
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Mr. and Mrs. Scott Bailey
Mr. and Mrs. D.J. Baker
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Bakker
Ms. Katherine F. C. Cary and Mr. Manu Bami
Mr. Patrick Bane
Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Banker
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Barron



Mr. and Mrs. Edward P. Barry
Mr. Kevin Barry
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Bartholomew
Ms. Holly Evarts and Mr. Clarence W. Bartow
Mr. David Bates
Mr. William Bell
Mr. Brian Benavidez
Mr. and Mrs. R. Dyke Benjamin
Ms. Laura Bergman
Ms. Annelie Berner
Ms. Emilie Berner
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas R. Berner
Ms. Natalie Berner
Mr. Nate Berner
Ms. Debby Bielak
Mr. and Mrs. John Bliss
Mr. William Bond
Ms. Mary Boughton
Ms. Gwendolyn Bounds and Ms. Lisa Bernhard

Mr. and Mrs. Norman R. Brahm
Ms. Susan Branagan
Mr. Jonathan Brandt
Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Braunstein
Mr. Thomas Brennan
Mr. Christopher Buck
Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Buhler
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Bunzel
Mr. William J. Burback and Dr. Peter Hofmann
Mr. and Mrs. Louis Burke
Ms. Sarah Bayne and Mr. Gilman Burke
Ms. Kristin M. Burke
Mr. Charles K. Burleigh and Mr. Lithgow Osborne
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Burton
Ms. Helen Butler and Dr. Jennifer Howse
Mrs. Francis H. Cabot COL (Ret) and Mrs. John A. Calabro
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Calotta
Mr. Tom Campbell
Ms. Carol Smith Canfield and Dr. Robert E. Canfield
Ms. Bonny Carmicino
Ms. Marie Wieck and Mr. Seamus Carroll
Ms. Mary Carvin
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Cervone
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Dr. Mary Beth Cresci and Mr. Robert J. Cresci
Ms. Cathy Croft
Mr. and Mrs. James D. Cross
Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Cucchiarella
Mr. and Mrs. William R. Cumming
Mr. T. Jefferson Cunningham III
Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Cutler
Ms. Suzanne Moskowitz and Mr. Jordan Dale
Ms. Jennifer Daly



Matt Decker became the Hudson Highlands Land Trust's Stewardship Coordinator in early 2013. Matt holds a Bachelor of Science from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, and recently graduated from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies with a Master of Environmental Management. His studies at Yale focused on strategies for land conservation, forestry and land use policy.

Matt's professional experience includes six years of work with geographic information systems (GIS) in the public, private and non-profit sectors. Prior to attending graduate school, he spent several years with The Trust for Public Land in New York.

As the Stewardship Coordinator, Matt will be overseeing HHLT's stewardship program, serving as the primary contact for landowners with property conserved through the Land Trust and for our natural resource protection programs. He will also manage a wide range of GIS mapping projects, and assist local municipalities with conservation planning.

Matt is excited to be joining HHLT's energetic staff and is looking forward to becoming a member of the Hudson Highlands community. "I'm proud to be part of an organization working to conserve such a beautiful and historic landscape. I grew up camping in the area and I can't wait to make good use of my kayak, hiking boots and running shoes while exploring the outdoor recreation opportunities in the Hudson Highlands."

Mr. Gary Daniel
Mr. Malcolm Daniel and Mr. Darryl Morrison
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Daniels
Mr. & Mrs. Roman Danilov
Mr. Christopher C. Davis
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Davis
Mr. and Mrs. Adam Davis
Ms. Stacey Farley and Mr. Peter Davoren
Mr. and Mrs. Richard de Koster
Ms. Marianne De Laperouse
Ms. Emily de Rham



Ms. Christine DeBoer
Ms. Wendy DeGiglio
Mr. Pierre deRham
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Ms. Helen Dobbins
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew J. Donachie
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Donnelly
Mr. Terence Donovan
Mr. Rodney W. Dow

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Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Doyle
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Ms. Marie Early
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Chris Hughes became part of the Hudson Highlands community when he and husband Sean Eldridge purchased a property in Garrison with a conservation easement held by HHLT. Inspired by his neighbors' passion to preserve the Highlands' historic landscape, Chris joined the Land Trust board in 2012. "I strongly believe in the conservation of open, natural spaces and a kind of smart urbanism that revitalizes towns and cities up and down the Hudson River Valley. I'm proud to play a small part in the work HHLT does to pursue these goals."

Chris's success in generating grassroots support for Barack Obama's first presidential campaign spotlighted his capability as an organizer and advocate, and revolutionized the use of the Web as a political tool. As editor-in-chief and publisher of *The New Republic*, Chris has re-engineered the nearly century-old institution to take full advantage of the digital age, including a redesign of the magazine and seamless delivery of content across digital and mobile platforms, and become a leading voice on the future of media. Chris began his career in 2004, when he co-founded Facebook with his Harvard roommates, serving first as the site's spokesperson, then as a leader of its product and user experience team.

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Invest in the Future of the Hudson Highlands—Join HHLT's Legacy Circle

Our promise to continue to steward the conservation easements entrusted to us in perpetuity is an integral part of our mission.

By joining the dedicated group of supporters who make up our Legacy Circle, you can continue to be a vital contributor to our conservation work beyond your lifetime—protecting the natural resources, rural character and scenic beauty of the Hudson Highlands for future generations.

It is easy to make a legacy gift to the Hudson Highlands Land Trust through a simple directive in your will, such as: "I give (specific amount, percentage or residue) to Hudson Highlands Land Trust, Inc. (tax ID# 13-3528266), having its principal offices at 20 Nazareth Way, Garrison, NY 10524, for its general purposes." HHLT can also work with you to craft a more customized bequest.

For more information on joining our Legacy Circle, or to notify us that you have done so, please contact our office at 845-424-3358 or info@hhl.org. We advise you to consult with your attorney and/or tax advisor on the language and tax effect of any charitable bequest.



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Volunteer Spotlight

Over the years, HHLT has benefited from generous individuals who have volunteered their time, expertise and enthusiasm to assist us with a variety of tasks and projects. Last year, we were faced with the daunting task of updating our stewardship recordkeeping, a project that required someone with a strong knowledge of database technology, who would be able to spend weeks carefully inputting binders full of paper records into a computer-based system.

Volunteer **Jonathan Leitner** met both requirements and has become an integral part of our office since he began this project in September. Jonathan spends 15-20 hours a week entering conservation easement data into the newly acquired Conservation Connections database. Jonathan worked in pre-award research administration at Purchase College, from 2005-2012. Before that, he was Land and Development Assistant at Teatown Lake Reservation in Ossining. Jonathan has an undergraduate degree in Rural Sociology from Cornell, and graduate degrees in sociology from Wisconsin. A Peekskill resident, Jonathan was raised in Queens and Rockland County. He spent many summer weekends at his paternal grandparents' home on Lake Oscawana in Putnam Valley. "I'm very happy to be involved with an organization working to preserve the Hudson Valley's open space again, and especially one that helps protect my community's reservoir watershed."

Volunteer opportunities can take many forms, from guiding a hike, assisting with an event, conducting citizen science projects in the field, or handling various administrative tasks. We can use the skills and expertise of professionals, students, retirees, artists, educators, builders and seasoned outdoors people of all ages. **To get involved, please contact us at 845/424-3358 or info@hhl.org.**

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Volunteers: We couldn't do it without you!

We cannot overstate how grateful we are to all our wonderful volunteers who, hour by hour, help us in all aspects of our work: stewarding land, lending a hand at events, leading hikes, helping with office work and more. Thank you for joining our team and helping to make 2011 such a successful year for HHLT.

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So much of what HHLT does relies on strong partnerships with private landowners, other conservation organizations, government agencies, municipalities, local community groups and schools. But we truly could not accomplish a fraction of what we do without our loyal supporters and members. The Land Trust relies on private individuals like you for more than 60% of the funding we receive to support all of our land conservation, advocacy, outreach, and educational programs. Please consider making a gift to support our work today. You can make a contribution by mail, conveniently and securely online at www.hhlt.org, or by visiting our office—we'll gladly update you on our current projects and discuss ideas for future initiatives. *Thank you!*