Thirty years! For those of us who have been involved with CLC throughout most or all of that time it’s hard to believe. I joined the board in 1988, two years after CLC was incorporated, the year we hired our first full-time Executive Director, Henry Tepper. I recall board meetings in other Trustees’ living rooms. I recall our earliest Country Barbecues, which were honest-to-goodness shad bakes hosted by the great shad fisherman Evert Nack at his fishing headquarters where the Roe Jan flows into the Hudson River. I recall our first acquisition of property for public use in partnership with the Open Space Institute, a 400-acre tract off Joslen Boulevard in Greenport that was on the market for a housing development.

As illustrated by the stories in this newsletter, an awful lot has changed since those early days. But the inspiration behind our founding and our core commitment are the same. CLC was founded by individuals who recognized that Columbia County is a very special place, that the qualities that make it so are in large part conservation qualities, and that if we want to ensure it retains those qualities, we must do two things: we must work to conserve the extraordinary scenic and ecological assets that abound and we must work just as hard to foster understanding and appreciation for the wonders of the natural world, for its fragility and for the need to treat it with great care.

As this newsletter also demonstrates, we are engaged in conventional and innovative ways of pursuing of these goals. We are suitably proud of our achievements. But we are mindful that 30 years isn’t a lot of time from nature’s perspective. A better test will come 30 years from now, and more, when those of us who are still here and those who follow will be able to say whether Columbia County retains the exceptionally rich ecological and scenic resources and the genuine rural character that make it such a compelling place. We – you and we – have our work cut out for us. We’re in this together. Working together, we can do it.
The Columbia Land Conservancy completed another very successful year in 2015. We closed on nine conservation easement transactions that conserved 1,300 acres of land. Seven of these projects preserved working farms. Through our Farmer and Landowner Match Program we placed 14 farmers engaged in a wide variety of agricultural enterprises on 400 acres of farmland. We made significant improvements over the summer at Hand Hollow and Greenport working with two crews of local high school students in the Greenagers Program, and we acquired a wonderful 80-acre tract of forest land in Austerlitz that we will be preparing this year to make it ready for public access. We provided programming, training, and outdoor experiences for more than 500 people. While all this was going on, we brought on three wonderful new board members and four excellent additions to our staff.

CLC’s accomplishments are the product of many peoples’ time and talent. I never cease to be amazed by the energy and commitment of our staff, by the number of projects and initiatives they are pursuing at any given time, and by the good will and good energy they bring to the task. Our board, which collectively possesses a tremendous range of knowledge and experience, provides essential judgment, leadership, and support. Our volunteers greatly expand our capacity to get work done. And all the people who visit and cherish our Public Conservation Areas, who conserve their land, who attend our programs, and who work in their communities to create trails and open spaces and support conservation initiatives – these people are doing the work that in the end will make the key difference to the cause of conservation in Columbia County.

I am grateful to all these folks, and to all of you, for everything you do to participate in the work of CLC. We could not hope to do what we have set out to accomplish without your broad involvement and your generous financial contributions. We’re well on our way to another great year, in which we’ll be celebrating our 30th Anniversary. I hope you will join us in as many of the programs and events as you can. I look forward to getting to know you. Thank you for your support.
A core aspect of CLC’s mission is to ensure that farming continues in Columbia County. We’re especially pleased when protected properties are transitioned to new, conservation-minded landowners who not only enjoy and appreciate their natural characteristics but also find ways to keep them in production. One such property that we first reported as having been protected in 2007 has found new life as Midwinter Farms.

Midwinter, an organic operation founded by restauranteur Antonio Gomez, has been operated by Luloo and Evan Flynn-Mann in Gallatin since 2013. At Midwinter, Luloo and Evan sustainably produce 1.5 acres of vegetables, pasture-raised livestock, eggs, honey, and maple syrup for Gomez’s New York City restaurant, Midwinter Kitchen.

The farm was conserved in 2007 by Arlene Gorenson, who owned the land for more than fifty years. In her later life, she traveled here from the West Coast to spend her summers. When she owned the property she often talked about how much she loved the land and wanted to ensure that it remained a special place. Part of the land was used for hay when she owned it, and we are thrilled to see that it is once again in active agricultural production. The land has new fencing, a bustling chicken yard, pigs and piglets, and bountiful vegetable crops. It is wonderful to see how one landowner’s commitment to conserving her property has contributed to supporting the county’s resurgent agricultural community.

To learn more, visit www.midwinterfarms.com.

Farmer Landowner Match Program Analysis

If you’ve found a farm or a farmer through our Farmer Landowner Match Program, we’d like to hear from you!

Conservation & Agricultural Projects Associate Terence Duvall will be reaching out to program participants to learn more about their experiences in the Match Program. He and Director of Conservation Programs Marissa Codey will compile this information to create a report that will identify lessons learned from our(841,950),(979,996)eight years operating the program and provide guidelines for other organizations looking to undertake similar projects.

This also gives us an opportunity to hear from you about how we can better support farms and farmers. We look forward to hearing your thoughts and suggestions.

If you have questions about the analysis or would like a copy of the report when it is completed, contact Terence at terence.duvall@clctrust.org.

This project is supported by the Woodcock Foundation and the Hudson Valley Farmlink Network, which is coordinated by American Farmland Trust.
“It was winter, and it was slushy, cold, and muddy. I climbed up to the top of the hill, and from there, I saw the world.” Though it’s been more than thirty years since she and her husband Jay originally purchased the Ghent property, landowner Lea Iselin still sounds excited when she describes visiting it for the first time.

Thanks to Lea and Jay’s conservation vision, the view from the top of her hill will remain rural for years to come. The Iselins originally protected 25 of the property’s acres with a conservation easement in 1986; last winter, Lea added the remaining 165, creating a neighborhood conservation block of some 1,200 acres. Placing this property into easement will protect the region’s scenic views, wildlife habitat, and agricultural character.

The property has historically been used for farming, and Lea has been working with Hawthorne Valley Farm to keep the land in active farm production for beef and dairy cattle. Prior to closing on her easement, Lea sold an adjacent fifty acres to Hawthorne Valley Farm, reconnecting key parcels of an old dairy farm now owned and operated by the Hawthorne Valley Association as a satellite farm on Schnackenburg Road.

“There’s so much excitement in Columbia County,” Lea says, “to be able to preserve land and have it actively farmed just two hours from New York City and Boston, that’s special. CLC’s wonderful structure has allowed us to keep the land productive and well cared-for.”

CLC staff is excited about what this easement means for local conservation efforts. “Columbia County’s combination of working farms and rural beauty makes it a unique place,” says Executive Director Peter Paden. “Working with landowners like Lea Iselin provides us with an opportunity to conserve these special qualities.”

To learn more about the Hawthorne Valley Association: http://hawthornevalleyassociation.org/
Landowner Edgar Masters, CLC, the Nature Conservancy, and New York State have reached an agreement that will protect 800-acre High Valley Farm in perpetuity through easements with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation and CLC.

Executive Director Peter Paden notes that “this project protects an area of extraordinary conservation significance.” High Valley Farm is adjacent to the 6,700 acre Taconic State Park, and its protection adds to a conservation block of 18,000 acres of protected land that extends through three states and includes Bash Bish Falls State Park and Mount Washington State Forest.

Conserving large blocks of land like this one creates conservation gains that are more than just the sum of their parts. Some species, like the black bear, need unbroken tracts of habitat in order to thrive. Large blocks of land are also better able to withstand occurrences like climate change, fire, or flooding. The conservation easement CLC holds on the 138 acres of the property’s farmland will provide agricultural benefits to the region. The farmland is being leased to a member of Hudson Valley Fresh, a dairy farmer partnership that aims to preserve the region’s agricultural heritage. The farm also produces forage critical to a local Holstein cattle herd.

“The preservation of High Valley Farm continues New York State’s commitment to protecting the open spaces and its rich history of environmental stewardship,” Governor Cuomo said. “The natural beauty and agricultural vitality of this area are tremendous economic and tourism drivers in the region, and this action will help ensure they remain so for generations to come.”

This collaboration was supported by fundraising efforts led by The Nature Conservancy and an allocation from the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF). Governor Cuomo increased the EPF budget to $300 million this year.
Mapping Scenic Views

In 2015, people shared nearly 100 of their favorite scenic views in Columbia County through our online tool - thank you to everyone who participated! We’re currently working on a comprehensive map that will combine the scenic views people love with information from municipal plans and studies, statewide resource assessments, and other publicly-available sources.

Why map scenic views? If you look at any municipal plan, you’ll find that communities value the scenic quality of the landscape. However, plans often lack data about scenic views. This project is an attempt to close that gap and develop a Scenic Resources Map for Columbia County. The map will include views shared by individuals, Scenic Areas of Statewide Significance, scenic byways, and locally designated scenic corridors.

The map is a project of CLC, the Hawthorne Valley Farmscape Ecology Program, and the Hudson River Valley Greenway. We acknowledge the financial support of the Hudson River Estuary Program, the Hudson Valley National Heritage Area, and the Hudson River Valley Greenway.

Native Landscape Restoration

Join us for a three-part Native Landscape Restoration workshop series at the Spencertown home of artist Linda Horn. Linda, Barbara Hughey, and Heather Grimes will show you how to create a low-maintenance natural landscape for your property. We will explore a one-acre eastern designed meadow throughout the growing season. Linda’s property has developed into a fully established, sustainable ecosystem and a haven for beneficial insects, birds, and wildlife.

Workshops are scheduled for May 22, July 24, and September 18. We hope you’ll join us to learn more about native landscape restoration and what you might be able to do on your own property.

Each workshop is $55. Reservations for this series are required, space is limited. Email John Horton at john.horton@clctrust.org for a special discounted rate if you plan to attend all three workshops.

Restored habitat at Linda’s home
Conservation Advisory Council Roundtables

If you’re a member of a Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) or a citizen interested in topics like wildlife habitat, Emerald Ash Borer, or local planning, mark your calendar for our series of Conservation Advisory Council Roundtables!

Roundtables are a chance for members of CACs to gather to share news about their activities and related topics, and for people to learn about CACs and what they do. These meetings are open to anyone. CLC hosted Roundtables in January and March, and we have two more scheduled for this year:

- June 8, 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- November 1, 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

For questions about CACs and how you can assist in planning efforts in your area, contact Christine Vanderlan, Community Projects Manager, at christine.vanderlan@clctrust.org or 518.392.5252, ext. 208. Not sure if your town has a CAC? Visit our Community Planning & Engagement webpage to learn more here: http://clctrust.org/explore/community-planning-engagement/.

We are very pleased to report that we are working with a new Columbia County Trails Task Force whose mission is to advocate for the creation of a county-wide trail network. This group brings together trail and community leaders, county economic development leaders, and elected officials.

This came about as an outgrowth of CLC’s series of Trails Roundtable Meetings. Several years ago, CLC began convening meetings with individuals and organizations promoting trail projects in Columbia County. Assemblywoman Didi Barrett joined us for the first organizational meeting. The next is scheduled for May 18.

It’s with optimism that we are joining together to advance the vision for an interconnected network of trails in the County. The backbone of the trails network is old rail corridors. The Harlem Valley Rail Trail is the earliest and best-developed rail trail in our county, and a major stretch north from Dutchess County past Copake Falls is operational. Planning and design are well underway for constructing the north end of the trail from Chatham to Philmont. Volunteers in Stuyvesant, Stockport, and Kinderhook have been working for years to develop a trail along the former Albany-Hudson Electric Trolley Line. In 2015, a group of volunteers and landowners opened the first section of the Corkscrew Rail Trail, a brand new rail trail along the former Rutland rail line in New Lebanon and Stephentown. The Boston & Albany Trail, which connects the City of Hudson with the Town of Ghent, has been discussed off and on with County government and in the communities it traverses; a feasibility study was done in the late 1990’s.

Conservancy News Spring/Summer 2016

30 Years of Community Assistance

Advancing the County Trail Vision
Join us each month for Green Drinks!

Green Drinks is a monthly networking event for anyone who has an interest in conservation, sustainability, and meeting like-minded people. It is now in 508 cities worldwide! Green Drinks Columbia County meets the third Thursday of the month at 5:30 p.m.

Contact John Horton at john.horton@clctrust.org or 518.392.5252, ext. 210 for more details about Green Drinks or any other CLC events.

May

Farmer’s Daughter Gravel Grinder
Columbia County Fairgrounds
May 15, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Bike through beautiful Columbia County on this ride organized by Helping Riders Realize Talent & Capital Bicycle Racing Club.

Native Landscapes Workshop
Location shared at registration
May 22, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Join Linda Horn at the first of three workshops about native plants and how to grow them.

Public Conservation Area Day
Greenport Conservation Area
May 29, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Have fun with herding dogs, birds of prey, food trucks, guided walks, and traditional games.

June

National Trails Day
Greenport Conservation Area
June 4, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Join us to celebrate this national day of trail appreciation with a guided walk at Greenport.

Medicinal Herbs Walk
Location shared at registration
June 21, 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Lauren Giambrone of Good Fight Herb Co. will teach us about practical uses of medicinal wild herbs.

July

Radio From the Field
Multiple Public Conservation Areas
Multiple dates and times
Join Max Goldfarb of WGXC as we learn field recording techniques that will be broadcasted from WGXC studio.

Moonlight Owl Walk
Hand Hollow Conservation Area
July 19, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Larry Federman, expert birder, will teach us how to train our ears for the sounds of owls.

Native Landscapes Workshop
Location shared at registration
July 24, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Linda Horn’s series on how to grow and maintain native species continues.
Calendar

August

Public Conservation Area Day
Ooms Conservation Area
August 6, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Join CLC for a family-friendly evening at Ooms Conservation Area. We have plenty of fun planned: guided walks around the property, traditional fun and games, stand up paddle-boarding, kayaking, ice cream, and a presentation about the snapping turtles that live in the pond! Bring your dinner and a blanket for a picnic, or come to watch the sun set over Sutherland Pond.

September

Forest Mushroom Walk
Hand Hollow Conservation Area
September 10, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Fun with fungi! Join the Hudson Valley Mycological Society on a mushroom identification walk.

Hudson River Valley Ramble
Hudson Waterfront Park
September 17, 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
CLC’s Marissa Codey and Nick Zachos of Hudson Sloop Club lead you on a paddling tour.

Native Landscapes Workshop
Location shared upon registration
September 18, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
The third and final installment of the workshop series with Linda Horn.

October

Over the Moon Anniversary Celebration
Churchtown Dairy
October 8, 6:30 p.m.
Have you herd the moos? We’re 30 this year! Celebrate with us at this special ticketed event.

Photography Workshop
Ooms Conservation Area
October 16, 4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Chris Aderholt of the Columbia County Photo Club shows you how to take great photos.

Down to Earth Workshop
Location To Be Announced
October 19, 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Workshop for landowners and farmers presented by CLC, Dutchess Land Conservancy, and American Farmland Trust’s Hudson Valley Farmlink Network.

Julianna Margulies Invites You to Attend
Over the Moon: A 30th Anniversary Celebration
Featuring Malcolm Gladwell
In the spring of 2015, under the guidance of Public Lands Projects Manager Nate Davis, CLC staff and volunteers planted 250 trees at Siegel Kline Kill, one of our ten Public Conservation Areas. This was part of the Trees for Tributaries program, funded by the Hudson River Estuary Program operated by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Be sure to look for the new trees on your next visit to the site!

These trees and shrubs, which included serviceberry, spruce, and birch, replaced hundreds of pounds of invasive species that were removed from the site, including honeysuckle, multi-flora rose, and barberry. Invasive species can cause a number of problems for people and wildlife. They tend to form large blocks of a single kind of plant, which can limit native species’ access to their preferred food sources and make it hard for them to survive and thrive.

**Why are trees important for water?**

Trees and good water quality go hand-in-hand. Tree roots play an important role in stabilizing soil. Planting different species of trees and shrubs ensures that the roots will be at different levels in the soil structure. Keeping soil out of water is paramount: too much soil can heat up water temperatures and harm sensitive fish, or clog their gills.

Trees’ leaves provide shade for streams. Keeping water cool means that the levels of oxygen dissolved in the stream remain high, critical for relatively sensitive fish like trout. Warmer water can also spread disease and weaken immune systems of aquatic animals.

Land lovers will enjoy some benefits of the plantings, too! A number of the species boast berries, providing important food for birds. As the trees mature and their branches fall to the ground, the limbs will create habitat for rabbits and other small mammals.

**Want to get trees for your stream?** Find out more about the Trees for Tributaries program by visiting the website here: [http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/43668.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/43668.html).
Out & About with CLC

There are so many ways to enjoy beautiful, rural Columbia County, and we’re glad you choose to enjoy it with us! In this issue, we’re taking a look back at some of the events we’ve held over the past 30 years.

We’re also taking a look forward at our events schedule for the future, and we’d love to hear your thoughts. What events would you like to see more of? Would you like to lead a walk, tour, or crafting activity? Maybe you’d like to host a tour at your

Please contact Membership & Events Coordinator John Horton with your ideas. He can be reached at john.horton@clctrust.org or 518.392.5252, ext. 210.

In the meantime, be sure you visit our newly redesigned events website at www.clctrust.org/calendar to see what’s planned for the coming months. Join our email list, and follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter so that you don’t miss a thing!

We look forward to seeing you on the trails and around the County.

Celebrating CLC’s receipt of the largest New York State Farmland Protection grant at the time in 1998

Conservancy News Spring/Summer 2016
We’re throwing a party, and you’re invited!

We hope you’ll gather with us for Over the Moon: A 30th Anniversary Celebration. The event will take place October 8 in the beautiful Round Barn at Churchtown Dairy.

We’ve got a wonderful evening planned. Special guest Malcolm Gladwell will deliver remarks, you can “hoof it” to music from The Lucky 5, and you’ll have the opportunity to bid on a number of wonderful auction items.

Watch your mailbox for a full invitation later this summer. We look forward to sharing a barn with you!

---

The Columbia Land Conservancy, together with Malcolm Gladwell & Julianna Margulies invites you to save the date for

OVER THE MOON

A 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Saturday, October 8 • 6:30 p.m.
Churchtown Dairy • 357 County Road 12, Hudson

---

Buy a Ticket or a Table and Support Our Efforts for the Next 30 Years

Single tickets:
Choice $250
Prime $500
Meet Malcolm Gladwell in a pre-event reception
Extra Prime $1,000
Meet Malcolm, listed in program

Grazing rights to a table of ten:
Choice $5,000
Prime $10,000
Meet Malcolm Gladwell in a pre-event reception
Extra Prime $25,000 or $50,000
Meet Malcolm, listed in program, recognized verbally at the event

Contact Brent Sverdloff with questions at brent.sverdloff@clctrust.org or 518.392.5252, ext. 201.
I have a friend, Ed Huling, who told me ages ago that if the soil was healthy with worms and microbes, tomato plants would not need to be staked. He was one of the first pioneers in soil rehabilitation. At the time of our talk, I was not a farmer, not even a gardener.

Several years later, in 1997, my husband and I purchased a sizable property and house in Germantown, and we began to explore what it meant to be conscientious and responsible landowners. Why did we choose Columbia County? Because it’s beautiful, on a rail line, and affordable.

Glynwood Center offered a lecture back then about how it was everyone’s - even a lawn dweller’s - responsibility to be civically involved with agriculture. This began my awareness: farming isn’t about only animals and pastures and crops, but also laws and rules and policies.

I can’t remember when I first met Peter Paden, a most charismatic and wonderful being. As a result of learning about CLC and connecting the many “dots” of my concerns as a landowner, I can now call myself an agricultural activist, if there is such a term. Farming is not easy or simple. It requires a great deal of planning, know-how, and passion. I have met several of CLC’s young farmers who are making their way growing delicious veggies and animals for our meals, many of whom found their land and gained farming knowledge through CLC’s excellent Farmer Landowner Match Program. I so admire them. I am not a farmer, per se, but I do raise a small flock of Animal Welfare Approved lambs every year. I love living in the Hudson Valley.

As for land conservation... well, put it this way: I don’t see people investing in tearing up cities to plant crops (except perhaps in Detroit and other urban agriculture spots). It is imperative that, as a country, we protect our lands. Our farm lands, our wild lands of mountains and forests, for there is little we can do if we allow for thoughtless development.

As for CLC - I hope every county in this country has the care that CLC gives our county. I support CLC, love doing so, and will continue to do so in every way possible. Peter and his team keep farmers in their business and literally keep food on the table. Thank you.
Thank You, Donors!

1786 Society
Anonymous
Kevin and Mary Albert
Jamie Albright and Stephen Hart
Roger Alcaly and Kristen Bodian
Johanne and Olaf Andersen
Colan Anderson
Muriel Asborsen
Jeff Bailey and John Lilis
Jeffrey and Cathy Baker
Amy and Bradford Barr
Drs. Saidah and Showood Baxt
David and Rinne Becker
Larry and Barbara Benson
Matthew and Elissa Bernstein
William J. Beter, PC
Charles and Myra Biblowit
Joseph Bore and Naxhije Selimaj
Cara Boyle and Craig Mende
Shirley and Martin Beister
Peter Brest
Eric Buehrens and Ann Bookman
E. Drannom and Carol Buskirk
Albert and Brenda Butzel
Chris Cashen and Katie Smith
Katy Cashen
Sara Cashen and Tony Muoser
Paul Cassidy and
Vernon D. Eveson
Barry Chwacek and Rosemary Lyons
Steve and Renee Clearman
Randy M. Cornell and
Paul Occhipinti
Warren and Barbara Craig
Ken Gibbs and Cathy Cramer
Margaret Davidson and
John Stein
Joan K. Davidson
David H. de Weese and
Anne C. Heller
David Dernovko
Craig Dillon
James Dixon and Charles Jenkins
Christine Dreyfus Novotny
John, Patricia and Michael Duffy
David and Frances Eberhart
Jacqueline Eckhouse
Norma Edelhut and Alice Corbin
Constance Eiseman and
Michael A. Ackles
Edward Fallone and Susan Antos
Ted Feldman and Alice Shedlin
Ephraim and Suzanne Fields
Peter Findlay
Mimi and David Forer
Helen Forgione and Robert Braun
Peter and Jonathan Frank
Matt and Samantha Fremont-Smith
Peter Findlay and
Jenia Fridyand
William R. Fors
Kristin Flood Gamble
Georgene Gardner and
Tung Chi Lee
Ross Garrow
Charles and Adelia Geiger
James Gevln and Martha Roberts
Marla and Gary Gidlow
Max and Elisabeth Gitter
Michael and Anna Golden
Thomas Goldsworthy and
Stephen Futrell
Francis Greenburger and
Isabelle Auer
David and Anne Griffin
John and Ila Gross
Marc I. Gross and Susan Ochs
Juanita and Judy Grunberg
James Guidera and Edward Parran
Warren L. Habib and
Alice L. P. Wolfe
Julie and Roby Harrington
Harry Heleotis
William Hibshier and Richard Orient
Joseph Holtzman and Karl Skoglund
Robert Honeywell and Moira Stone
Madeline and Ian Hooper
Benjamin Hoeyer
Sven Huseby and Barbara Ettinger
Francesco and Jennifer Imbrogno
Irwin Family
Andrew and Cathy Jacobs
Ted Jedicke and Janne Romano
James Johnson and Michael Young
Lowell Johnston and
Frances Oliveri
Tony Jones
Gloria and Michael Kadiash
Larry and Anna Kadish
Daniel Karnovsky
Meredith Kane
Marion S. Kaplan
David Kassel and Michelle Conrad
Gary and Leslie Katz
Robert Kettenmann and
Marilyn Wiles-Kettenmann
Peter and Hela Kindler
Oliver Koppell and Lorraine Coyle
William Kuntz and Alice Real
Eric Lane and Joyce Talmadge
John and Patricia Lavalle
Mark A. and Ellen Levy
Chuck Weikert and Rosemary Love
Seth and Suzette Masters
Richard McCormack and
Leigh McBridge
The McNally Family
Richard P. McNeil
Barry and Sara McWilliams
Caroline and Guy Merton
Stephen Metcalf and Koethi Zain
Jacob Meyer and Rosalie Pope-Meyer
Deborah Mintz
Martin and Teresa Mons
Martha Moran and George Meyer
Henry and Sue Neale
Prof. Mark Kelkin and
Lenore Malsen
Chaim Wachberger and
Liz Neumark
Scott Newman and Gregory Long
David Newman and Stephanie Lazar
Robert and Linda O’Mara
Alex Okun
Carsten Otto and
DeWayne A. Powell
Peter and Charlene Paden
Sharon Pearson and
Michael Rietbrock
Brewster Petrus
Randall and Donna Phelan
Anne and Joseph Pierson
Bruce Pinkernell and
Maureen Killacey
Alice Platt
Antonio Poglianich and
Peter A. O’Kuhn
Michael and Barbara Polenik
Stephen Poppell and Hillary Meyers
Anna Rafako and Isaac Sublett
Dr. Cynthia Reichman and
Michael Reichman
Barbara Reisman and Eric Scherzer
Philip Rickey
Cynthia Roberts
David and Susan Rockefeller, Jr.
Seth Rosenberg and
Catherine Lehne
Karen and Jeffrey Ross
Brian and Eva Sack
Mary and Mary Scherzer
Thomas Schumacher and
Matthew White
Frederick A. O. Schwarz and
Ricky Perera
Jack Stainman
Michael and Alexandra Shuman
J.E. Hoke and Laurel Stoughton
Bradford Smith and Virginia Belolho
Katherine and Kenneth Stensel
Joan R. Snyder
Ian and Richard Trachtman
Glen and Janet Tyson
Mark Twentyman and
Linda Vail-Smith
Carol M. Ulshacker
Renato Valente
Adele and George Walland
Alison Wald
Barry Waldorf and Stanley Goltin
Alan Wanzenberg
Christopher R. Warnach and
Daryl Lee
Alden Werner and Peter Reed
Dawn Watson
Dennis Wedlick and Curtis DeVito
Josh Weitman
Maria and Walter B. Whitcher
Karen Zier and Walter Williamson
Scott and Jane Wood
Bill Zifchak and Maggie Evans

Jonathan Schor Society
Anonymous
Betty A. Engstrom
Robert Funck
Rene Gibson
Elisabeth Gracc
Judy Grunberg
Robert Herron
Lowell Johnston
Peter Jung
Kitty Osterhoudt
Martin and Sara Oppenheimer
Dale and Martha Pritchard
Richard Trachtman
Renee Vaughn

Business Sponsors
Force of Nature
Harney & Sons Tea Corp.

Guardian of the Land
Couturier North America, LLC
The Lodge Run/Brad Peck Inc.
Kinderhook Bank
MetzWood Insurance

Partner in Protection
Ed Herrington, Inc.
Lawrence D. Coon & Son, Inc.
Luminary Publishing/Chronogram
Old Ghent Realty
Select Sotheby’s International Realty
– Mark Twentyman & Linda Vault-Smith

Open Space Advocate
Barlis Wedlick Architects, LLC
Bill Stratton Building Co
CaroVail

Business

General Business Sponsorship
Crawford & Company
Dolls’ Plumbing Heating & A/C Inc
Diamond Hills Farm
Dutch Desserts
Fitz & Law
Hudson River Tractor Co, LLC
LaVelle and Finn, LLP
Lynsley & Chase Surveyors
Main-Care Energy
O & Industries
Park Row Gallery
Price Chopper
Pro-Printers
Samascott Orchard, LLC
Windy Hill Farm

Grants
Berkeley Taconic Community Foundation
The Educational Foundation of America
Hudson River Bank & Trust Co. Foundation
Hudson River Estuary Program
Hudson River Foundation
Hudson River Valley-Greenway
Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area
Joan K. Davidson
The J.M. Kaplan Fund
Land Trust Alliance
Mellam Family Foundation
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation
The Norcorse Wildlife Foundation, Inc
Open Space Institute
Peter and Carmen Lucia
Buck Foundation
TID Charitable Foundation
Wellspring Foundation
Woodcock Foundation

Reflected above are contributions received between January 1, 2015 and December 31, 2015. Every effort has been made to produce an accurate listing of supporters. If you’d like to learn more about how to support CLC by becoming the 1786 Society, part of the Jonathan Schor Society, or a business sponsor, contact Brent Sverdloff at 518.392.5252 or ext. 201.
Join the 1786 Society

Turning 30 is cause for celebration and reflection. As we observe our anniversary, we look back with gratitude at the donors who have made our achievements possible. In recognition of this circle of forward-thinking donors, this year we unveiled The 1786 Society, named for the year Columbia County was founded.

Membership in this group is available to donors who contribute $500 or more per year. In recognition of this leadership giving, 1786 Society members enjoy a number of benefits:

• Invitations to special events such as wine tastings, bird walks, and behind-the-scenes farm tours
• Invitations to our annual Pancake Breakfast and Year End Major Donor Reception
• Recognition in CLC publications

Donors who contribute $2,000 or more can enjoy selected named giving opportunities.

If you’d like to learn more about The 1786 Society or become a member, please contact Director of Development & Communications Brent Sverdloff at brent.sverdloff@clctrust.org or 518.392.5252, ext. 201.

Support CLC

There are so many ways you can contribute to our efforts to keep Columbia County rural. Be part of the celebration of our achievements this year, and lay the groundwork for future success.

Here are just a few suggestions:
• Shop the CLC Store at our office at 49 Main Street or on our website. Mention you read the newsletter and get 10% off!
• Become a volunteer! Sign up on our website or contact Nate Davis at nate.davis@clctrust.org to find out more about opportunities.

Our store is full of fun games and toys!

• Make CLC your AmazonSmile organization of choice.
• Become a business sponsor.
• Purchase a tradeland or donate property.
• Include CLC in your estate planning - contact Peter Paden to learn more about the Jonathan Schor Society at peter.paden@clctrust.org.
David Newman: Why I Became a Trustee

Columbia County has connected me and my family to a place of astounding serenity and natural beauty. A land of working farms, woods and meadows teeming with life, and fresh water bubbling out of the ground. A land of people who are woven together by a deeply-held commitment to conserving the rural landscapes of the past, present, and future.

We have found a place that is a beacon of hope for a healthy, well-nourished, and vibrant future in a world where the climate is changing before our eyes, natural resources are depleting faster than they can renew, and billions of people struggle to survive each and every day. Having witnessed firsthand the degradation of our world, we recognize our exceptionally good fortune to have landed in such a place at such a time.

Our exploration of this place, and why it is so special, quickly led us to the Columbia Land Conservancy and its extraordinary staff and dedicated supporters. In just three decades,

CLC has become one of the leading land conservancies in the country. It has protected over 25,000 acres of land from development, provided public access and important wildlife habitat at 10 Public Conservation Areas, matched farmers and landowners, and assisted farmers to stay on their land and ensure those farms will never be developed. These very tangible results enhance all of our lives, every day, by keeping Columbia County a very special place.

Thanks to CLC’s work, Columbia County continues to thrive as a place where farmers farm and children find themselves getting lost in the woods. Just two hours from the bustling metropolis, we can still discover wildness and the mysteries of nature’s ebb and flow through days and seasons, and of real people who cultivate the land and tend to animals that regenerate the land’s productivity. As the great Aldo Leopold observed, “Conservation is a state of harmony between men and land.” CLC’s work epitomizes that ethic as well as any organization I have known.
Terence Duvall

Terence joined CLC as Conservation & Agricultural Projects Associate in November, 2015. He comes to CLC with a master’s degree in environmental policy from Bard College, and is enthusiastic about the opportunity to work with farmers to preserve farmland and support the County’s agricultural and open spaces. While at Bard, Terence completed a thesis on farmland access tools, so he’s a perfect fit! Contact him at terence.duvall@clctrust.org.

Erica Hann

Erica joined the CLC team as our new Development Coordinator in March. She holds a master’s degree in geography from The Pennsylvania State University, and is excited to help strengthen the connection between rural communities and the landscapes they inhabit. She connects to nature in her personal life through trail running and cycling, and looks forward to enjoying Columbia County. Contact her at erica.hann@clctrust.org.

Brent Sverdloff

CLC welcomed new Director of Development & Communications Brent Sverdloff in January. Brent has enjoyed a career in the non-profit sector in California and the Northeast, furthering the mission of museums, sculpture parks, theater companies, and colleges, and looks forward to increasing CLC’s profile.

If you have questions about how you can support CLC’s mission, contact him at brent.sverdloff@clctrust.org.

Tom Crowell, who previously held the position, has moved into a new role as Special Projects Manager, where he will be exploring conservation opportunities and implementing significant new projects.
Our Mission

The Columbia Land Conservancy works with the community to conserve the farmland, forests, wildlife habitat and rural character of Columbia County, strengthening connections between people and the land.

Donate Today

If you value fresh air, clean water, and local food, please make a donation to CLC today. We need your help to continue our mission of protecting Columbia County’s farmland, forests, wildlife habitat, and rural character. Eighty-five percent of our budget comes from supporters like you, who realize our region needs organizations like CLC to keep Columbia County rural.

Make your donation securely online at clctrust.org, or call John Horton at 518.392.5252, ext. 210.