Creating Connections with Nature through Education

“I am so thankful that we are able to work with Heidi and CLC. My students have been given the opportunity to participate in hands-on scientific inquiry rather than simply doing prepackaged laboratories with predetermined outcomes.”

- Jim McDarby, Hudson High School Science Teacher

Why do you support CLC? Chances are, one of the reasons is because you had the opportunity to explore the outdoors as a child. There’s data to back this up, too - studies have shown that outdoor play and nature experiences play a huge role in determining whether or not a child grows up to care for the environment. CLC is actively working to make sure more kids in Columbia County have the opportunity to spend meaningful time outdoors in this place we call home.

Over the course of the last year, CLC has substantially increased educational offerings for the community. Conservation Education Manager Heidi Bock and new Conservation Outreach Intern Hannah Schiller are working with a variety of local partners, including libraries, after-school programs, and Hudson High School.

“One of the programs that’s been most successful this year has been Learning Landscapes,” says Heidi. “It’s a program based on a model developed by the Feather River Land Trust in California. Students adopt a particular site and participate in a number of different scientific activities.”

Hudson High School, located next to CLC’s Greenport Conservation Area, is a perfect fit for Learning Landscapes. Since the partnership began, Jim McDarby’s AP Biology and Environmental Science students have conducted a number of scientific projects. These have included monitoring the contents of the nest boxes distributed throughout the site and reporting on egg and baby bird development to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, collecting information about the plants and animals at the site as part of a Bioblitz, and will be studying red-backed salamanders.

You can participate in CLC programs even if you don’t live near a Public Conservation Area. CLC has partnered with the Hudson Area Library to offer Estuary Explorer backpacks - themed

Keep Kids Learning All Year Long with a Gift to the Annual Fund

CLC relies on your regular donations to ensure that we are able to protect this land we call home, all year long. Please consider making your gift early and becoming a Land Steward, which provides CLC with a dependable source of funds year-round, and allows you to budget for your charitable giving.

Want to make your gift over the phone, or learn more?
Contact Craig Westcott, Director of Philanthropy, at 518.392.5252, ext. 222, or craig.westcott@clctrust.org.
resource packs that can be checked out with your library card! Themes include The Night Sky, Birds, Insects, Ponds and Streams, and Taking a Hike. Each backpack includes supplies like binoculars, field guides, activity kits, and nature journals.

“My son loves the backpacks so much!” says Christa Shook, Hudson Area Library Americorps Childrens Area Assistant. “He asks if we can check them out nearly every day. They’re pretty popular, and we’re grateful to have several of these provided by CLC!”

“It’s been great to work with other local organizations,” says Heidi. “We partnered with the Philmont Public Library to hold a stargazing party, and with Hudson-based girls organization Perfect Ten to use them during after-school hikes.”

Adults can get in on the fun, too. CLC hosts free events for the public each month. For the most up-to-date calendar, visit clctrust.org, and be sure to register if you’re interested in attending a program.

Are you an educator, volunteer, or community member interested in public programs or materials like the backpacks? Contact Heidi Bock, Conservation Education Manager, at 518.392.5252, ext. 207 or heidi.bock@clctrust.org.

CLC’s educational programs are supported by a number of grants. These include funds from the Hudson River Bank and Trust Co. Foundation, the New York State Conservation Partnership Program (NYSCPP) and New York’s Environmental Protection Fund (administered by the Land Trust Alliance, in coordination with the state Department of Environmental Conservation), and support from the Hudson River Estuary Program.
Upcoming Events

Trekking Tuesday - Guided Hikes
Every Tuesday, May - October
5:00 p.m.
Email info@clctrust.org to join the list-serve.

Volunteer at High Falls Conservation Area
September 13, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
High Falls Conservation Area, Philmont
Improve the overlook area at High Falls.

Hudson River Ramble Hawk Migration Hike
September 14, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Greenport Conservation Area, Greenport
Join us to look for hawks migrating south for the fall.

Forest Bathing at Greenport
September 21, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Greenport Conservation Area, Greenport
Slow down, unplug, and tune in to nature.

Schedule subject to change - register at clctrust.org!