A large, stylized sun with a circular face and radiating rays, set against a light beige background. The sun is positioned in the upper half of the page.

Columbia Land Conservancy News

A row of stylized trees with various green foliage shapes (triangles and circles) and brown trunks, positioned at the bottom of the page.

**april
2022**

the forest and the trees

It's been over fifty years since the first Earth Day celebration in America, when more than twenty million people gathered together to show their care for the planet we share. I like to imagine that, when viewed from afar, each placard-bearing demonstrator looked like a tree in a giant forest of concerned marchers.

Looking back on those demonstrations, it can be easy to fall prey to cynicism. In the time since that first Earth Day, many real and serious threats to our planet have only intensified. Industries pump out pollution that alters our climate. Species go extinct. Some glorify a lifestyle of consumption, while others don't have enough to meet their basic needs.

But focusing only on these challenges isn't seeing the forest for the trees.

While it's true that there are complicated, wicked problems facing our planet, it's also true that in the last fifty years we've seen signs of hope. Bald eagle populations have rebounded. Whales have once again been spotted in the Hudson River. Many conservation organizations are beginning to reckon with the exclusionary history of land protection and outdoor recreation and take steps to change.

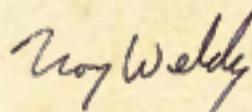
Forests are communities that never stop growing and changing. Large trees fall, but saplings grow up in the newly-available sunlight. Fire destroys some species, but provides necessary heat for others to germinate. This process can be dramatic, or so incremental that it's only noticeable after generations have passed.

Human beings are much the same. We grow and change as individuals, and whole societies shift. With enough time and perservance, new worlds are possible.

It can be overwhelming to remember that, as individuals, we can only do so much. However, I find it equally powerful to consider how connected all the parts of a forest are. Shrubs, trees, birds, mammals - every part of the natural community has a role to play. There is both strength and beauty in that diversity.

It's a lesson I learn over and over again, but one that never gets old: if we're to make positive change for our planet, it will take each of us doing our part.

As for me, I'm off to plant a tree.
Happy Earth Day.



Troy Weldy
President

Columbia Land Conservancy
49 Main Street
Chatham, NY 12037
518.392.5252
clctrust.org
info@clctrust.org

Follow CLC (@CLCTrust) on social media:
Facebook, Instagram, Spotify, TikTok, and YouTube.



how you can help

Attend an event

CLC and the Rensselaer Plateau Alliance are hosting two workshops about the Family Forest Carbon Program, which enables family forest owners to access carbon markets and pays them to implement climate-smart forestry practices.

Visit clctrust.org/events to learn more and register.

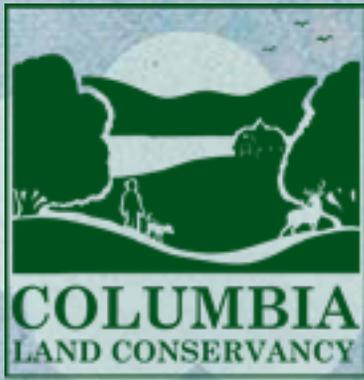
Track the trees

If you're a fan of Borden's Pond Conservation Area, join CLC's new Phenology Volunteer Program! After receiving training, you'll be asked to visit certain plants at the site and track how they bud, grow leaves, and bloom this spring.

Visit clctrust.org/volunteer to learn more.

Plant for the future

If you own land with a stream running through it, you may qualify for the Department of Environmental Conservation's Tress for Tribs Program, which provides free trees and shrubs to qualifying landowners.



49 Main Street • Chatham, NY 12037
518.392.5252 • clctrust.org

Address information

Line One

Line Two

Line Three

***Keep trees growing
and water flowing.***

Your gift to the Annual Fund supports CLC's work with partners to protect important lands and waters, provide educational opportunities, and support individuals interested in conservation-minded land management.

Visit clctrust.org/give to make your gift today.