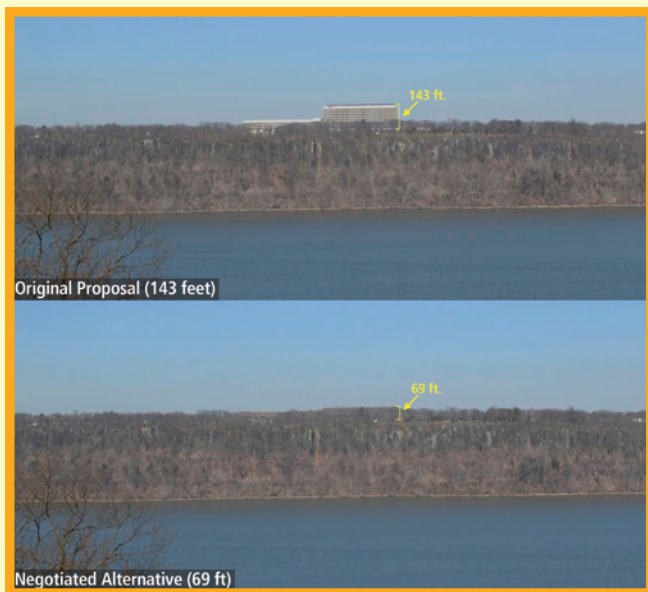


Historic Victory Atop the Palisades

Achieving a milestone victory, Scenic Hudson and four conservation partners in late June reached a win-win settlement with LG Electronics, protecting world-class vistas of the Palisades and allowing the company to construct a new North American headquarters that will retain local jobs.



Scenic Hudson was the leading plaintiff-intervenor in a lawsuit challenging changes to local zoning rules that permitted corporate towers along the ridgetop, and we collaborated with the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs (a co-plaintiff), the Natural Resources Defense Council, New Jersey Conservation Foundation and New York-New Jersey Trail Conference in negotiations leading to the settlement. Laurance Rockefeller, whose family donated the land that became the basis for the Palisades Interstate Park, also was a leading participant in the discussions.

Building height halved, local jobs to double

Under the agreement, LG will reduce the height of its headquarters from 143 feet to 69 feet—minimizing its impact on views of the Palisades—and the company will implement landscape, lighting and other design features to further reduce visual impacts. The headquarters will provide space for LG to carry out plans to double its local employment to more than 1,000 by 2019, and the project will create thousands of immediate construction jobs.

In addition to Scenic Hudson's leading role in the litigation, we were a founding member of the Protect the Palisades coalition, uniting more than 30 environmental, cultural and civic groups to fight the plan, and helped secure key support from *The New York Times* and other influential media.

As originally designed, LG's headquarters would have stood nearly 70 feet above the treeline, making it the first building prominently visible along a 20-mile stretch of the Palisades.



Remembering Klara Sauer

Scenic Hudson mourns the passing of Klara Sauer, executive director from 1979-1999. Under her determined leadership, the organization conserved 20,000 acres of land, established its farmland protection initiative, created 19 parks and started the campaign resulting in

General Electric's ongoing PCB cleanup. She also was instrumental in establishing the Hudson River Valley Greenway and securing Congressional designation of the valley as a National Heritage Area. All who worked with Klara continue to be inspired by her vision, energy, generosity and love for the valley.

Another Way You Can Make a Difference

Recent accomplishments highlighted in this newsletter are the direct result of your extraordinary generosity. You enable Scenic Hudson to maintain our expertise and effectiveness in forging vital partnerships and keeping up the pressure in courts of law and public opinion. You also allow us to sustain the fight as long as it takes.

Now I'd like to suggest another way you can help us achieve results—by speaking out.

Governor's clout critical for sustaining PCB cleanup

As you know, we're approaching crunch time in efforts to compel General Electric to complete a more comprehensive cleanup of toxic PCBs in the upper Hudson River. If GE doesn't continue dredging past this fall, when the company incorrectly insists its work will be done, the river's recovery—and economic development along it all the way to New York Harbor—could languish for decades.

If GE pulls the plug on its responsibility, state taxpayers will likely wind up footing the bill to remove the millions of pounds of contaminated soil left behind in the river and Champlain Canal. Please call Gov. Cuomo (518 474 8390), tell him this is simply not acceptable—and urge him to use his clout to make GE see reason and do the right thing.

Scrap outdated energy plan for 21st-century alternative

At the same time, ask the governor to call a halt to his Energy Highway initiative that could result in new high-voltage transmission lines with soaring towers cutting a swath through 25 valley communities—bisecting family farms, marring iconic vistas and imperiling prime wildlife habitats. As Scenic Hudson and our partners in the Hudson Valley Smart Energy Coalition (www.hvsec.org) have stated, there still has been no demonstrated need for these projects, which would saddle ratepayers with a construction bill of up to \$1 billion or more.

The governor himself has proposed a 21st-century alternative—his Reforming the Energy Vision initiative. This plan would reward utilities that tap power sources close to customers and help them increase efficiency and reduce electricity demand. The groundwork for achieving this vision has been laid through establishment of the NY Green Bank, which is attracting private financial partners to invest in clean energy projects. Let the governor know that meeting future energy needs requires such forward-thinking solutions—and mustn't come at the expense of all that makes our valley special.

I'm so grateful for all you do.



Ned Sullivan, President



On Aug. 22 we celebrated the opening of the improved Esopus Meadows Preserve in Ulster County following a seven-month project to construct a new pavilion (below left) that will withstand flooding from rising sea levels and create a network of paths compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Cutting the ribbon with Town of Esopus Supervisor Kyle Barnett (far right) are Scenic Hudson Land Trust Executive Director Steve Rosenberg and Scenic Hudson Park Planner Heather Blaikie. (Photo below left: Robert Rodriguez, Jr.)





Our Latest Land Saves

Recent victories in our Saving the Land That Matters Most campaign safeguard critical habitats, conserve high-quality soils on family farms, protect drinking water and offer exciting opportunities to connect people with the region's natural treasures.

In **Ulster**, Ulster County, we acquired one of the largest unprotected landscapes along the river in the Mid-Hudson Valley. The 375-acre property features extensive forest, significant grassland and wetland habitats, and six acres fronting the Hudson's shore. The land is prominently visible from our flagship Poets' Walk Park as well as the river, the Kingston-Rhinecliff Bridge and other tourism destinations such as Montgomery Place. The property's location next to 260 acres of public parkland provides the potential for expanding existing trails.

The acquisition of 52 acres atop Illinois Mountain in **Lloyd**, Ulster County, brings the size of this popular hiking and mountain-biking destination to 330 acres. The transaction preserves vistas from many public viewpoints (including Walkway Over the Hudson), enhances the natural buffer around Lloyd's public water supply and contributes to the mountain's outstanding biological diversity.

In tandem with providing a \$175,000 grant to the Hudson River Maritime Museum in **Kingston**, Ulster County, that supports its purchase of an adjacent building on Rondout Creek, we were granted conservation and public access easements over the entire museum property—ensuring permanent public access to a creek-side esplanade spanning 575 feet. The museum is transforming its new acquisition into a wooden boat-building school.

Partnering with the Columbia Land Conservancy, we protected two family farms. A conservation easement acquired on an 83-acre, third-generation farm in **Taghkanic** (above) will enable its owners to update dairy infrastructure. And 130 acres we protected in **Stuyvesant**, currently producing hay for nearby dairy operations, creates a 1,500-acre tract of contiguous protected farmland spanning 10 farms. These transactions support the goal of our Foodshed Conservation Plan—to secure supplies of fresh, local food to valley and New York City consumers.

Finally, in **Catskill**, Greene County, John Peckham, owner of Peckham Industries, generously donated a conservation easement on 76 acres spanning a mile-long forested ridgeline prominently visible from the Hudson River, the Rip Van Winkle Bridge, Olana State Historic Site, our RamsHorn-Livingston Sanctuary and other public vantage points. Mr. Peckham also orchestrated the demolition of several large, obsolete quarry structures on the riverfront that had long marred Olana's magnificent views.

Advocacy Update

We continue fighting for a healthier, safer, more prosperous valley.

Crude oil: Review required

Following strong advocacy by Scenic Hudson, the state Department of Environmental Conservation announced its intention to rescind the "negative declaration" Global Companies needs to expand its Albany oil terminal. The DEC now will require a full environmental review of this project that would make the port a hub for shipping Canadian tars sands crude oil—almost impossible to clean up if a spill occurs.

Power lines: A place at the table

In July, the state Public Service Commission (PSC) evaluated plans for new high-voltage transmission lines that would pass through 25 valley towns. At this Technical Conference, we and our partners in the Hudson Valley Smart Energy Coalition pinpointed visual and environmental assets imperiled by the projects. Good news: The PSC recommends eliminating 13 routes. But remaining projects threaten iconic vistas, farms and wildlife habitats—and no need for them has been demonstrated.

Desalination: Comments critical

The PSC seeks comments on whether United Water New York should be authorized to abandon plans to build a costly, energy-intensive desalination plant on Haverstraw Bay in Rockland County. A recent expert report concluded Rockland's future water needs could be met through conservation and infrastructure repairs. Join us—send your comments by Oct. 5 to secretary@dps.ny.gov with the subject line "Case 13-W-0303."

PCBs: Candlelight crusade

On July 23, over 200 residents of Beacon and Newburgh participated in candlelight vigils urging General Electric to undertake a more thorough PCB cleanup. Organized by Scenic Hudson and the Campaign for a Cleaner Hudson coalition we helped establish (www.cleanerhudson.org), the riverfront events inspired similar gatherings in seven other communities. More than 140 state Assembly members also support additional dredging.

Farmland Cycling Tour—Don't Get Left Behind!

Places are going fast for our popular Farmland Cycling Tour on Saturday, Sept. 19. Here's what you'll miss if you don't sign up soon: a pre-ride snack of fresh donuts, cider and local apples; a 10-, 25- or 45-mile ride through rolling countryside in Dutchess and Columbia counties (passing farms Scenic Hudson helped protect); and a fabulous lunch with live music back at the start, Poets' Walk Park in Red Hook. More info and reservations (limited to 250): www.scenichudson.org/events.



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SCENIC HUDSON
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SAVING THE LAND THAT MATTERS MOST

AUTUMN OUTINGS

Join us for fun, free and informative events in our parks.

More info: www.scenichudson.org/events



Free Guided History Tours

West Point Foundry Preserve, Cold Spring (Putnam County)

Saturday, Oct. 3 & Nov. 7 • 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Explore the ironworks that sparked America's Industrial Revolution and helped win the Civil War.

Celebrating the "Scenic Hudson Decision"

Esty & Hellie Stowell Trailhead, Cornwall (Orange County)

Saturday, Oct. 17 • 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Learn about this legal milestone and mark its 50th anniversary with a hike up Storm King Mountain—which this court ruling helped save from a massive hydroelectric project.

Pumpkins in the Park






Scenic Hudson's Long Dock Park, Beacon (Dutchess County)

Friday, Oct. 30 • 6-8 p.m.

Show off your pumpkin-carving artistry and see Long Dock Park ablaze with jack-o'-lanterns. Pumpkins will be available for carving Tuesday, Oct. 27, through Friday, Oct. 30. Friday night they'll be lit and displayed throughout the park. Pumpkins are free but in limited supply, so RSVP early.

NEW LEAF PAPER® EcoAudit™

Scenic Hudson, Inc. saved the following resources by using 800 pounds of New Leaf Ingenuity, made of 100% post-consumer recycled fiber, designated Ancient Forest Friendly™ and manufactured with electricity that is offset with Green-e® certified renewable energy certificates. Calculation based on research by Environmental Defense Fund and other members of the Paper Task Force.

	10 TREES
	4,487 GAL WATER
	4 MILLION ENERGY BTUS
	300 LBS SOLID WASTE
	827 LBS GREENHOUSE GAS

