

## GETTING RESULTS:



Robert Rodriguez, Jr.

### Pressure, Persistence, Partners—and **YOU**

Protecting world-class vistas. Battling for a healthy Hudson. Connecting downtowns to nearby natural treasures.

For half a century, Scenic Hudson has led campaigns to achieve these and other goals essential for ensuring a bright future for the Hudson Valley. Our expertise in forging

partnerships and getting our message across, as well as the respect we've earned among leaders in Albany and Washington, continue to achieve game-changing results. Your support and active engagement are critical to these successes.

Our perseverance pays off. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has signaled it believes General Electric's cleanup of PCBs in the Hudson is a success, even though two other federal agencies serving as trustees of the river have called for more dredging. Scenic Hudson secured a meeting with top EPA officials and, with our partners, made the case that an accelerated review of the cleanup's effectiveness is needed. For the EPA's response, look inside.

In Albany, our Public Policy team has worked for a decade to secure more robust funding for the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF), the state's chief source of money for creating new parks, protecting family farms and improving the quality of drinking water. Despite incremental progress, past administrations regularly siphoned EPF funds into the general budget. But this year, Gov. Cuomo has proposed a \$300-million appropriation—the highest ever, nearly double last year's \$177-million figure.

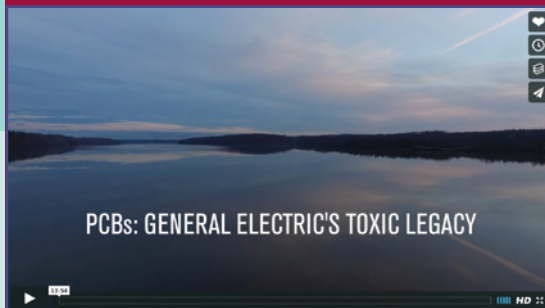
The Legislature still must pass the governor's budget. For this we're relying on one other "secret" of Scenic Hudson's success—you. Please contact your Senators and Assembly members. Let them know the enhanced EPF makes sound financial sense (a study has shown that each \$1 in EPF funding delivers a \$7 return in economic value), and it is essential for protecting natural assets that make New York so special.

Together, we've accomplished so much. With your continued help, the future looks promising.



Ned Sullivan, President

### Acclaimed filmmaker's close-up on the valley



We're fortunate that when renowned documentary filmmaker (and six-time National Geographic Expeditions Council grant recipient) Jon Bowermaster isn't exploring far-flung corners of the world, he focuses on challenges facing his Hudson Valley home. He's directed a series of short films, collectively titled *The Hudson: A River at Risk*, highlighting threats on Scenic Hudson's front burner: "bomb trains," Indian Point nuclear plant, the New NY Bridge and transmission lines. His latest film, *PCBs: General Electric's Toxic Legacy*, powerfully shows how the health and welfare of *everyone* living along the Hudson will suffer for decades longer without a more comprehensive cleanup. Featuring interviews with Ned Sullivan and other Scenic Hudson experts, this film and the whole series can be viewed at [www.hudsonriveratrisk.com](http://www.hudsonriveratrisk.com).



Photo courtesy of Jon Bowermaster

# ADVOCACY UPDATE: Breakthrough Gains on All Fronts

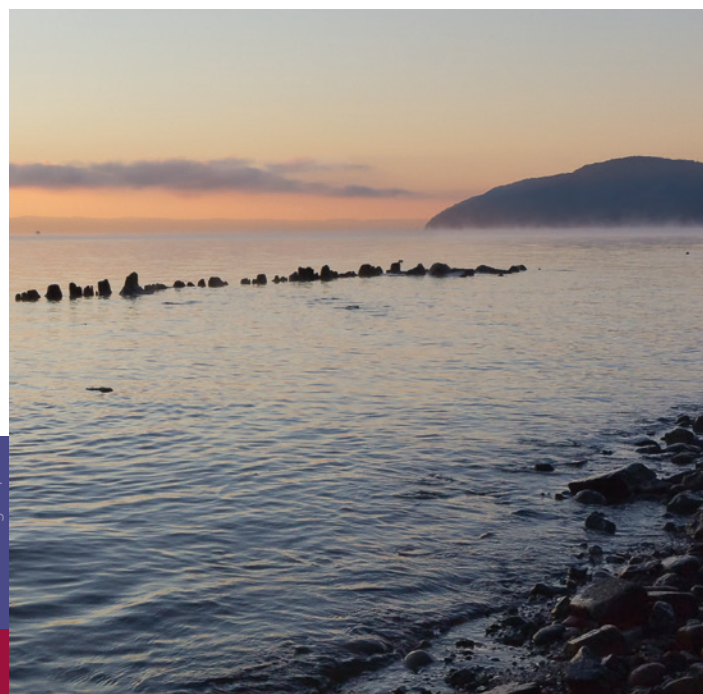
## Desalination Plant: Curtain Falls on Costly, Needless Project

In a milestone for the Hudson River's environmental health, the state Public Service Commission in December quashed plans to build a desalination plant on Haverstraw Bay in Rockland County. This marks the successful culmination of our six-year campaign to halt this costly, harmful and needless project.

With our partners in the Rockland Water Coalition, we've long argued—along with experts who backed us up—that future water demands could be met more sustainably, first and foremost through conservation and repair of leaking infrastructure causing the loss of 2.5 million gallons daily.

The facility would have imperiled fragile habitats in Haverstraw Bay, a prime nursery and breeding ground for shad, Atlantic sturgeon and other species on which the commercial and recreational fisheries along the entire Atlantic Coast depend.

We're grateful to the many state and local officials as well as hundreds of concerned citizens who joined with us and the Rockland Water Coalition in halting this senseless plan—another great example of how perseverance pays off.



Robert Rodriguez, Jr.

Haverstraw Bay

## Transmission Lines: Project Proceeds but Impacts Reduced

Scenic Hudson and our partners in the Hudson Valley Smart Energy Coalition (HVSEC) achieved a noteworthy victory in our three-year campaign against construction of new high-voltage transmission lines through the Hudson Valley. While the state Public Service Commission (PSC) gave the go-ahead for new lines, we significantly reduced the negative scenic and ecological impacts they will cause.

In a critical victory, the new lines will stay within existing rights-of-way instead of taking additional private land by eminent domain. Originally proposed to run through 25 towns in seven counties as well as cross the Hudson River, the route for the approved line will pass through just five towns in Rensselaer, Columbia and Dutchess counties. Thanks to strong advocacy by the HVSEC, the PSC eliminated routes posing threats to many of the region's natural and historic treasures, including the river as well as views from Olana, the Omega Institute and the FDR National Historic Site.

We'll continue to monitor the project as it moves forward to ensure our gains are incorporated in final plans.



Marion Mathison

Transmission lines in rural Dutchess County



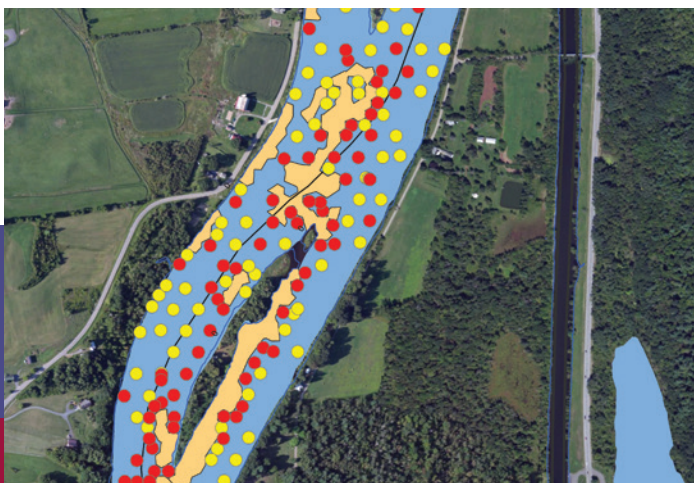
Building upon Scenic Hudson's outstanding track record as the region's leading environmental watchdog, we and our partners recently made great strides in campaigns to create a healthier, safer and more prosperous Hudson Valley. We also helped secured critical funding for projects connecting communities to the valley's natural treasures.

## PCBs: A Quicker Review, But Need for More Action

A step forward in our 40-year PCB battle, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will accelerate its review of General Electric's dredging project. This came about as a direct result of our December meeting with top EPA officials in Washington, where we called into question the cleanup's effectiveness and urged an expedited review. The EPA also indicated its intent to provide "enhanced public involvement" in the review—heeding our call to make it as thorough, transparent and inclusive as possible via the participation of fellow federal and state agencies, environmental stakeholders, and officials and concerned citizens.

Distressingly, however, the EPA continues to claim victory for achieving a flawed cleanup plan—one it refused to alter despite data indicating dramatically more PCBs in the upper Hudson River than originally thought. As a result of this blunder—and without a more comprehensive cleanup—it will take generations longer to restore fuller public use and enjoyment of the river, make its fish safe to eat and resume lucrative cargo shipping on the Champlain Canal.

Scenic Hudson intends to participate actively in the review. At the same time, we're pushing the EPA to step up to its mission and responsibility and order GE to undertake the additional dredging needed to meet the project's public health and environmental goals. Federal and state leaders—as well as citizens—must compel GE to do the right thing and expand its cleanup of our American Heritage River.



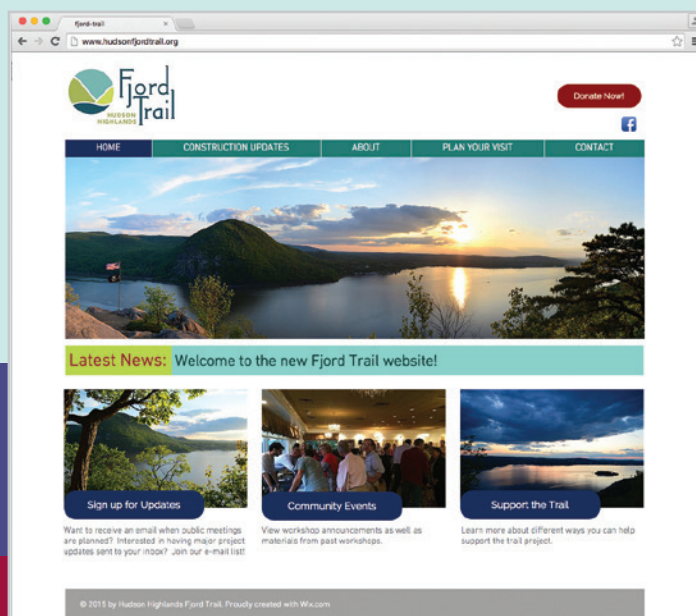
Dots indicate some of the upriver sites still contaminated by PCBs

## PUBLIC POLICY

### Connecting the Dots: Trails Receive Key Funding

Collaborative projects we're spearheading to "connect the dots" between downtowns and nearby parks and trails received a big boost via the latest round of grants awarded through Gov. Cuomo's Regional Economic Development Councils. The funds include:

- \$400,000 to the Town of Philipstown (Putnam County) to work with us in completing a 1.4-mile segment of the **Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail** between two of the most popular destinations in Hudson Highlands State Park—Little Stony Point and Breakneck Ridge. This marks a major step forward in our collaborative efforts to create an eight-mile, off-road recreational trail between the train stations in Cold Spring and Beacon (Dutchess County).
- \$124,250 to Greene County to design a gateway and make pedestrian improvements for the Rip Van Winkle Bridge Skywalk, critical to our goal of creating a 13-mile **Columbia-Greene Arts and Recreational Trail** connecting the City of Hudson (Columbia County) and nearby Olana State Historic Site with the Village of Catskill (Greene County) across the bridge. Scenic Hudson already has protected more than 580 acres between Hudson and Olana through which the trail could pass.



Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail website: [www.hudsonfjordtrail.org](http://www.hudsonfjordtrail.org)



## Spring Sprint on the Horizon

It's not too soon to sign up for our annual Spring Sprint 5K Trail Run at Shaupeneak Ridge preserve in Ulster County. One of the region's most popular—and challenging—races, this year's free event will take place on Sunday, May 1 (check-in 9-10 a.m., gun sounds 10:30). Your reward for mastering the technical course: magnificent views of the Hudson River and Louisa Pond.

Register at [www.scenichudson.org/events](http://www.scenichudson.org/events)

### Scenic Hudson, Inc.

One Civic Center Plaza, Suite 200  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601-3157



SAVING THE LAND THAT MATTERS MOST

## SPRING INTO NATURE

Along with temperatures, our park events are starting to heat up.

More info: [www.scenichudson.org/events](http://www.scenichudson.org/events)

### Free Guided History Tours

*West Point Foundry Preserve, Cold Spring (Putnam County)*

**Saturday, April 2, May 14 & June 4 • 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

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

### Earth Day Park Cleanup

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

**Friday, April 22 • 10 a.m.-2 p.m.**

Celebrate our astonishing planet by helping us remove a winter's worth of debris.

### Earth Day Trail Building

*John Burroughs Sanctuary, Lloyd (Ulster County)*

**Saturday, April 23 • 9 a.m.-1 p.m.**

Continue the celebration—join us and our sanctuary partners in creating part of the eight-mile trail along the John Burroughs Black Creek Corridor.

### Plant a Tree on Mother's Day

*Falling Waters Preserve, Saugerties (Ulster County)*

**Sunday, May 8 • 10 a.m.-1 p.m.**

Spend quality time with your mom and help save Mother Earth.

### Volunteer Workdays

Lend a hand in keeping our parks healthy and inviting for people and wildlife. Activities range from removing invasive species to performing basic park maintenance.

*Franny Reese State Park, Lloyd (Ulster County)*

**Saturday, April 2 • 10 a.m.-2 p.m.**

*Mount Beacon Park, Beacon (Dutchess County)*

**Thursday, April 14 • 10 a.m.-1 p.m.**

*Black Creek Preserve, Esopus (Ulster County)*

**Saturday, April 16 • 10 a.m.-2 p.m.**

*West Point Foundry Preserve, Cold Spring (Putnam County)*

**Thursday, May 5 • 10 a.m.-1 p.m.**

*Mount Beacon Park, Beacon (Dutchess County)*

**Thursday, May 12 • 10 a.m.-1 p.m.**

*Poets' Walk Park, Red Hook (Dutchess County)*

**Thursday, May 19 • 10 a.m.-1 p.m.**

### 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



[ny.give.org](http://ny.give.org)