

SEIZING THE **MOMENT**



FACING THE **FUTURE**



**SCENIC
HUDSON**

land ■ parks ■ advocacy

2016 ANNUAL REPORT





Dear Partners,

Thanks to your help and support, Scenic Hudson is **seizing the moment** in securing the most important conservation lands in the valley—including hundreds of acres bordering Bear Mountain and Harriman State Parks that will enable more than 30,000 Girl Scouts to continue enjoying nature while learning valuable skills and lessons for the future. In Columbia and Greene counties, we're protecting vistas painted by the Hudson River School artists, and in Albany and Yonkers we're helping reconnect people with tributaries that have been buried under concrete or forgotten.

We're poised to preserve more working farms in the Hudson Valley than ever in history. Partnering with a new generation of entrepreneurial farmers, we are bringing to bear our expertise in farmland preservation and finance, collaborating with fellow land trusts, generous private philanthropists and government. Governor Cuomo's \$20-million Hudson Valley farmland initiative—a success of our public policy advocacy—has boosted our efforts into a new orbit.

We're also seizing the moment in challenging the unholy alliance between the Environmental Protection Agency and General Electric, both poised to run away from hundreds of acres of Hudson River sediment still contaminated by GE's cancer-causing PCBs. With New York State now on our side, other elected officials are joining the cause for a clean and healthy river.

Finally, we're boldly **facing the future**—fighting the transformation of the Hudson River into an industrial superhighway for crude oil transportation and storage and pointing to an alternative pathway. We believe the future of the valley and planet depend on a pivot to renewable energy and preservation of key lands that will ensure survival of critical habitat, wildlife and agricultural resources as our climate changes. Vital Hudson Valley cities are a key element of this future, where smart growth, vibrant culture, and access to parks and the river will retain young people—the lifeblood of our future.

Your help in seizing the moment and facing the future will continue to be essential in the year ahead.

With thanks,

James C. Goodfellow, Board Chairman

Ned Sullivan, President

COVER Inspiring the river's future environmental stewards at Scenic Hudson's Long Dock Park in Beacon.

LEFT James C. Goodfellow (left) and Ned Sullivan along the Hudson River.



Saving the Land That Matters Most

Spanning the Hudson Valley, our land protection victories this year preserve the contiguity of some of the region's most unspoiled natural treasures and deliver substantial benefits.

In Rockland County, we collaborated with Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson (GSHH) on a visionary plan to conserve 353 acres (left) of forest, wetlands and a 13-acre lake in the **Hudson Highlands**. We acquired a conservation easement from GSHH to ensure the permanent protection of 113 acres on which the main activity areas of Camp Addisone Boyce are located and purchased 240 acres surrounding the camp from GSHH.

Benefits:

- 1** Ensures continued use of the popular camp, where girls from seven counties connect with nature.
- 2** Preserves land sharing a 1.5-mile border with Bear Mountain and Harriman State Parks.
- 3** Helps sustain the Highlands' globally important biodiversity by preserving irreplaceable habitat and migration corridors.
- 4** Safeguards views from the Hudson River and popular hiking trails, including the Appalachian Trail.
- 5** Provides the opportunity to expand trails that sustain local tourism.

A zero-interest loan from The Peter and Carmen Lucia Buck Foundation helped us complete this transaction.

In the eastern Hudson Highlands, we protected the most visually significant inholding on the western slope of **Fishkill Ridge**—a Scenic Hudson priority for more than a decade. Conserving this 30-acre wooded property safeguards magnificent vistas enjoyed from the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge, the Hudson River, the Newburgh waterfront and trails in adjacent Hudson Highlands State Park Preserve. It also offers the potential to create new trails and preserves the ecological health of the Highlands' broader forested landscape, which provides habitat for 85 percent of New York's vertebrate species.







Saving the Land That Matters Most

Partnering with the Greene Land Trust, we protected 144 acres (below) encompassing more than two miles of shoreline along **Catskill Creek**, a major Hudson River tributary, as well as meadows and upland forests.

Benefits:

- 1** Preserves iconic views painted by Thomas Cole, Frederic Church and other Hudson River School artists as well as a section of the historic Catskill Mountain Railway, which carried passengers between the Hudson River and mountaintop hostleries.
- 2** Safeguards undisturbed wilderness whose proximity to a population center makes it extremely rare along the Hudson estuary.
- 3** Offers great opportunities for outdoor recreation—walking, fishing, paddling, nature study.
- 4** Reduces the potential for downstream flooding in the Village of Catskill by preventing the raising and hardening of the shoreline—a real possibility had the land been developed.



Thomas Cole, *View on the Catskill, Early Autumn*
Metropolitan Museum of Art

We also preserved 18 acres of ridgetop (left) on **Illinois Mountain** in Lloyd, Ulster County. In addition to facilitating creation of new trails, the property contributes to views enjoyed by visitors to Walkway Over the Hudson and the Poughkeepsie waterfront and adjoins nearly 2,000 acres of contiguous forest in one of the valley's ecological "hotspots."





Creating a climate-resilient valley

Recognizing that climate change offers the greatest threat to the region's irreplaceable habitats, Scenic Hudson developed our groundbreaking **Hudson Valley Conservation Strategy (HVCS)**. This science-based plan—the next generation of our acclaimed Saving the Land That Matters Most initiative—pinpoints properties whose conservation will maximize land investments by achieving multiple benefits:

- 1** Sustains biodiversity.
- 2** Helps the region's wildlife and vegetation adapt to climate change.
- 3** Secures the migration pathways that species will depend on for survival as temperatures and sea level rise.
- 4** Preserves working farmland with important habitat.

The HVCS identifies networks of conservation areas that add up to more than the sum of their parts and charts the most efficient way to conserve those places critical to helping the region withstand climate change impacts. Hailing the plan as “an innovative and rigorous approach to securing a resilient, productive future for the region” and “a blueprint for land conservation elsewhere,” the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation has awarded Scenic Hudson a \$2.3-million challenge grant to carry it out. We must raise \$10 million as a match to receive the funds.

We're using the plan to guide our own conservation objectives and sharing it with fellow land trusts, governments and other stakeholders in the Hudson Valley and across the country.

RIGHT The 59 acres of meadows and wetlands we protected on the Wally property in Ulster County connect the 375-acre Popo Rothlein property we acquired in 2015 with state- and county-owned parkland. Together, these 675 acres of contiguous conserved land safeguard habitat networks stretching from the foothills of the Catskills to the Hudson River.

LEFT By conserving eight acres of wetlands along the Binnen Kill, an important Hudson River tributary in Albany County, we've linked two parcels—in total comprising nearly 260 acres—we previously protected. The stream is a major spawning and nursery ground for shad, herring and striped bass, while the land offers habitat for ospreys, peregrine falcons and migrating waterfowl.







FACING THE FUTURE

Blocking a crude oil superhighway

We're spearheading efforts to stop two new threats that would imperil the region's economy and irreplaceable natural resources.

Passing through 29 valley communities, the two side-by-side **Pilgrim Pipelines** would transport 16.8 million gallons of flammable liquid—either crude oil or refined petroleum products like jet fuel and gasoline—each day. The lines would vastly increase the risk of catastrophic spills or explosions neighborhoods already face from railcars prone to puncture.

The lines pose direct threats to:

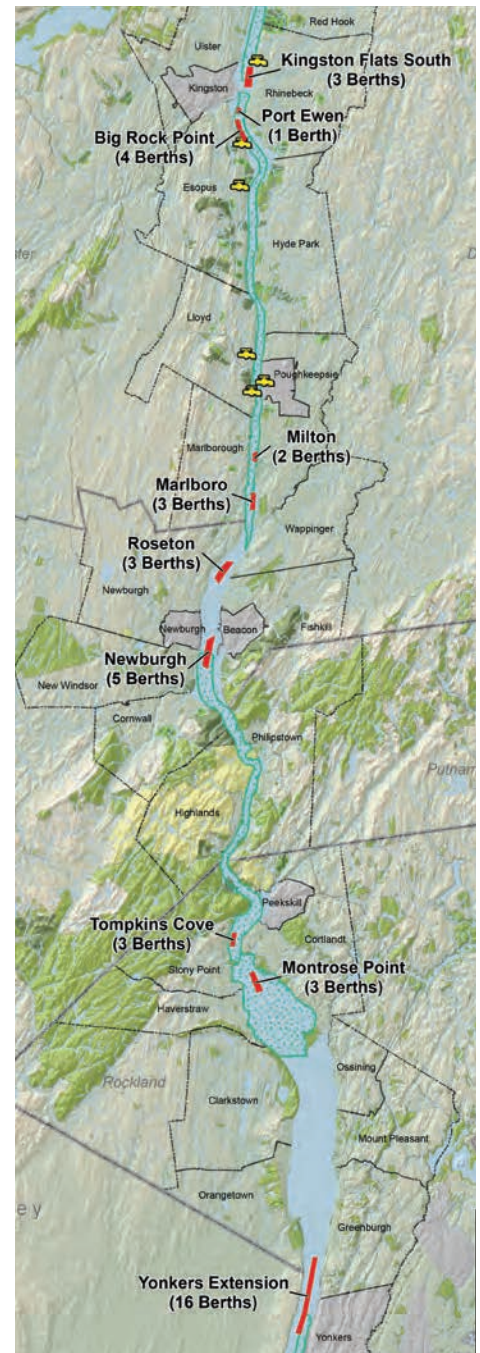
- 1** 19 prime destinations for outdoor recreation, including Harriman and Sterling Forest State Parks.
- 2** Every tributary on the Hudson River's western side and the Hudson itself, which the lines would cross twice.
- 3** Drinking water sources upon which millions of people depend.
- 4** Nearly 13,000 acres of agricultural land on 100 productive family farms.
- 5** 8,100 acres of habitat-rich wetlands.

A pipeline break would release 168,000 gallons *if* safety protocols work. If they fail, over 357,000 gallons could spill *hourly*. Thanks in part to our advocacy, the state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has ordered a full environmental review of this project. We're co-hosting information sessions in communities along the lines' route to spread the urgency of halting them.

We're also working to prevent the U.S. Coast Guard from adopting regulations that would establish 43 new **berths for anchoring commercial vessels** at 10 sites between Yonkers and Kingston. This would turn over 2,400 acres of the Hudson—nearly four square miles—into industrial storage depots for barges and tankers containing volatile crude oil. Vessels bearing this cargo contain up to 4 million gallons. With currently inadequate emergency response plans, an explosion, fire or spill would be disastrous.

These floating parking lots jeopardize:

- 1** Prime habitats for shad, sturgeon and other imperiled fish species.
- 2** Drinking water supplies drawn from the Hudson.
- 3** Great strides communities have made in revitalizing their riverfronts.
- 4** The region's scenic splendor, foundation of its tourism economy.
- 5** Safe river access for paddlers and other boaters.



ABOVE Locations marked in red signify proposed anchorages, those in yellow drinking water intakes. Stretches of the river with dots indicate state-designated Significant Coastal Fish and Wildlife Habitats.

[The anchorage proposal] reflects something new and troubling along the river. It's one more manifestation of the huge challenges and dangers of moving petroleum from the fracking grounds of North Dakota to points across the country, by rail, pipeline, barge and truck. River traffic is up, the Albany port is booming and the fragile Hudson, many fear, will inevitably become an environmental casualty of the oil boom.

—New York Times editorial, Sept. 19, 2016



RONNYBROOK
FARM • DAIRY



SEIZING THE MOMENT



Supplying fresh, healthy food

Achieving milestone victories in carrying out our Foodshed Conservation Plan, we acquired conservation easements on three farms ranked among the plan's highest priority for protection. As a result, we ensured these lands will forever be available to meet the growing demand for healthy, local food in the valley and New York City:

- 1** With the Hudson Highlands Land Trust and Orange County Land Trust, we protected 88-acre **Jones Farm** in Cornwall. One of the Highlands' last working farms, it sells fruits, vegetables and baked goods at an on-site store and hosts seasonal events that support the town's tourism economy. The land is visible from Storm King Mountain and Black Rock Forest.
- 2** We partnered with the Dutchess Land Conservancy to protect 186 acres on **Ronnybrook Farm** in Pine Plains. Recognized as "the most sustainable milk and yogurt producer in upstate New York," it supplies dairy products to markets in the Hudson Valley, New York City and the surrounding Metropolitan Area. Both this and the Jones Farm project received funding from the state's Agricultural and Farmland Protection Program as well as support from generous private donors.
- 3** And with the Columbia Land Conservancy and funding from the USDA and The 1772 Foundation, we conserved 355 acres in Copake (below). The land helps sustain the operations of **Walt's Dairy**, a member of two dairy cooperatives whose products sell throughout the valley, New York City and the Tri-State region. The farmers moved to Copake in 1985, when development threatened their suburban Connecticut location. As part of the agreement, future sales of the land will be to farmers at agricultural value. The property is visible from the Harlem Valley Rail Trail and Taconic State Park.

These farms have remained in the same families for a combined 260 years.



FACING THE FUTURE

Increasing the pace

In 2015 Scenic Hudson led efforts to secure \$20 million in state funding to protect Hudson Valley farmland. This year we and our partners received \$8.1 million of these grants to complete projects that will conserve 2,700 acres on 12 family farms in Westchester, Dutchess, Columbia and Rensselaer counties. We are raising \$3 million in matching funds. We also continue our advocacy with New York City's mayor and City Council for a budget commitment to support protection of the farms that supply its neighborhoods with fresh, local food.



SEIZING THE MOMENT

Connecting people to nature

At our newest public park—287-acre **Scenic Hudson High Banks Preserve** (left) in Esopus, Ulster County—three miles of trails lead to woods, dramatic rock outcrops, riverfront bluffs, windswept meadows and Esopus Lake. Exciting amenities include a 110-foot wetland boardwalk and an overlook providing superb Hudson River views.

Literally capping off work at **West Point Foundry Preserve** in Cold Spring, Putnam County, we've restored the 21-foot-tall cupola atop the 1865 Office Building (top right). West Point Foundry manufactured some of the first U.S. locomotives, pipes for New York City's water system and cannons that helped win the Civil War. The trail connecting the preserve to Cold Spring's Metro-North station makes it a popular destination for downstate day-trippers.

In Red Hook, Dutchess County, we celebrated the 20th anniversary of our flagship **Poets' Walk Park** by creating new amenities, including designated accessible parking spaces and a redesigned trailhead with rustic seating (right). The work was completed in time for our annual Farmland Cycling Tour, which attracted 300 bicyclists to the park.



FACING THE FUTURE



Completing a riverfront gem

Following removal of contamination on four acres long off-limits to the public at **Scenic Hudson's Long Dock Park** in Beacon, Dutchess County, we're ready to proceed with new amenities—plug-ins for food trucks, a shaded plaza for informal dining, a native-plant meadow, and a boardwalk and waterfront deck affording magnificent river views.

This project will complete a decade of work and a \$16-million public-private investment to turn this 19-acre former industrial site into a riverfront attraction that supports Beacon's revitalization.





Connecting people to nature

Major projects bookending the Hudson Valley opened to the public thanks to our vision and financial help. Both allow communities to connect with natural assets inaccessible for decades.

In Yonkers, Westchester County, the new Mill Street Courtyard (below center and right)—Phase II of **daylighting the Saw Mill River**—features a plaza with seating and gardens surrounding a 100-foot portion of the freely flowing stream. A walkway connects the courtyard to Van der Donck Park at Larkin Plaza (Phase I, below left), near the city's Metro-North Station. Scenic Hudson undertook the early planning stages to uncover sections of this Hudson River tributary—buried beneath pavement for 80 years—as the catalyst for downtown renewal. We also helped the city secure state funding to make it happen.

Benefits:

- 1 The daylighting project has boosted Yonkers' economy, spurring redevelopment and attracting new businesses and jobs.
- 2 It has restored more than 14,000 square feet of aquatic habitat.
- 3 The park and courtyard provide space for art shows, farmers markets and other events that bring residents and visitors downtown.

In the Capital Region, you now can enjoy all nine miles of the **Helderberg Hudson Rail Trail** (left), stretching from South Albany to Voorheesville. Scenic Hudson helped negotiate the transaction and provided half of the funding that enabled Albany County to acquire the abandoned railroad right-of-way.

Benefits:

- 1 The trail provides outstanding recreational opportunities—biking, jogging, in-line skating, cross-country skiing.
- 2 It connects trail users to spectacular scenery, including the dramatic Normans Kill ravine.
- 3 Once the City of Albany links the trail to its downtown, commuters will have a safe, non-car alternative.







Completing major trail projects

We continue making great progress on trails that will boost the valley's \$5.2-billion tourism economy:

Construction soon will commence on the first phase of the **Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail**, an off-road route between Beacon and Cold Spring that will provide safe access to trails in Hudson Highlands State Park Preserve. The first sign in a branding and wayfinding system for the seven-mile trail recently was unveiled in our Long Dock Park. Scenic Hudson spearheads this collaborative initiative, with financial support from a generous donor and New York State.

In Ulster County, Scenic Hudson, the John Burroughs Association and other partners are creating the **John Burroughs Black Creek Trail**—an 11-mile hiking and paddling route from our Black Creek Preserve in Esopus, through Burroughs' historic Slabsides retreat to Illinois Mountain in Lloyd. We've drafted plans for its route, access improvements and economic development opportunities. Following public input this fall, the plans will go to the town boards for approval. Scenic Hudson already has protected 1,435 acres along the trail.

We're providing technical support for the **Hudson River Skywalk**, a new pedestrian trail spanning the Hudson River across the Rip Van Winkle Bridge. This project brings us closer to our goal of creating an off-road trail from Hudson, Columbia County, to our RamsHorn-Livingston Sanctuary in Catskill, Greene County. It also would link Frederic Church's Olana and Thomas Cole's Cedar Grove. We've conserved 947 acres along this trail's proposed route. Our partners include Greene County, the New York State Bridge Authority, The Olana Partnership and the Thomas Cole National Historic Site.



LEFT Paddler on Black Creek.

ABOVE Rendering of future welcome center at Breakneck Ridge, along the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail.





Fighting for a clean, healthy river and valley



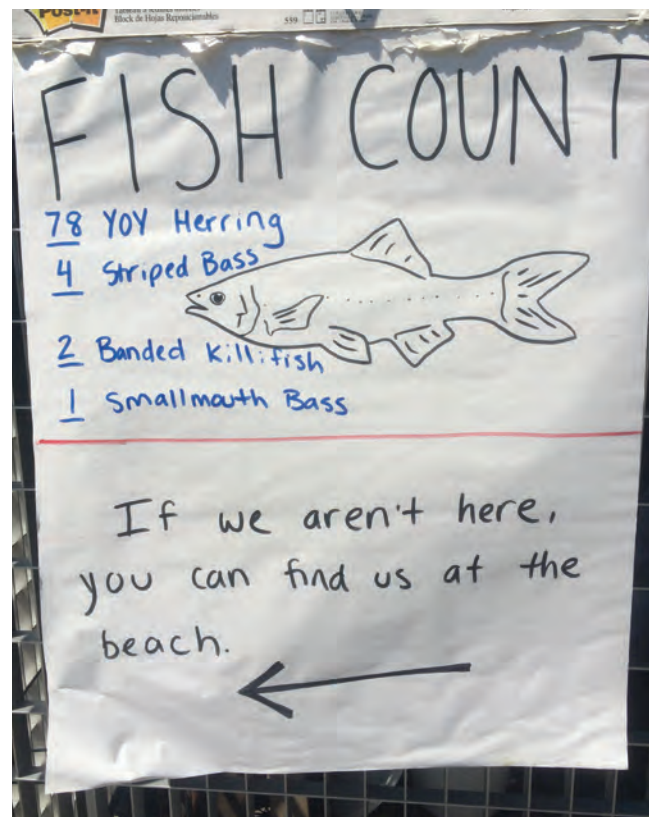
As the valley's chief environmental watchdog, we achieved signal victories this year:

Our advocacy helped convince the Cuomo administration to join our call for a more comprehensive **PCB cleanup**—a major breakthrough. Without more dredging, it will take generations longer to achieve the environmental and public health goals polluter General Electric agreed to meet. (PCB levels in fish remain 600 percent higher than targets expected to be reached this year.) The state also announced plans to dredge the PCB-contaminated Champlain Canal, which would revive the waterway's enormous economic potential.

Our advocacy helped spur the state DEC to order that the **air emissions permit renewal** submitted by Global Companies for its riverfront plant in Albany be treated as an entirely new application. This will restart the environmental review of this facility where crude oil from North Dakota's Bakken fields is processed before beginning its downriver journey. Global hoped to have the renewal rubber-stamped, so it could continue shuttling billions of gallons of flammable Bakken crude downriver, while expanding the plant to process tar sands crude oil. This "heavy" crude sinks if spilled, making its cleanup much more difficult, if not impossible.

Last January Scenic Hudson joined in suing Global for its failure to obtain a required air pollution permit and institute necessary pollution controls before modifying its Albany facility in 2012. This modification allowed Global to make a five-fold increase in the amount of crude oil it handles there. Airborne levels of benzene, a carcinogenic component of crude oil, are higher than normal in the low-income neighborhood near the plant.

Also in Albany we played a key role in securing a \$300-million budget appropriation—the highest ever—for the **Environmental Protection Fund**. It's the state's key mechanism for protecting land, creating parks, conserving farmland, restoring habitat and upgrading municipal sewage treatment plants.



ABOVE Ned Sullivan speaking at the DEC's August press conference calling for a more comprehensive PCB cleanup.

LEFT and RIGHT Schoolchildren at Long Dock Park making firsthand discoveries about the river's wildlife.



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Scenic Hudson's financial standing remains strong, reflected in part by year-end net assets of \$253.8 million. Scenic Hudson's total consolidated operating and capital budget during the year was \$17.3 million and included three components: the Scenic Hudson operating budget and The Scenic Hudson Land Trust operating and capital budgets.

Scenic Hudson

Scenic Hudson's operating budget for FY16 was \$7.2 million with funds supporting initiatives to protect lands vital to clean water, wildlife and working farms; create beautiful public parks; assist communities with planning for appropriate growth; defend the Hudson River from the risks of crude oil transport; protect scenic vistas from towering high-voltage power lines; and pursue a thorough cleanup of Hudson River PCBs.

Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

	June 30, 2016	June 30, 2015
Land areas (at cost)	61,257	64,511
Cash and investments	191,885	196,825
Other assets	5,193	6,329
Total assets	258,335	267,665
Liabilities	4,496	3,542
Net assets	253,839	264,122
Total liabilities and net assets	258,335	267,665

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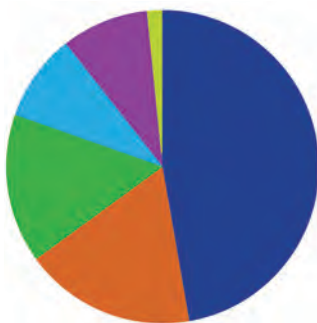
Note: The decrease in net assets is attributable to the disposition of three properties during FY16 with a cumulative book value of \$6.4 million.

The Scenic Hudson Land Trust

The land trust spent \$6.4 million in capital to secure conservation easements on farms and ownership of ecologically important lands along the Hudson that will provide outstanding recreational opportunities for people in the region. The land trust spent \$2.7 million for creating, maintaining and improving our parks; for staff costs in monitoring conservation easements; and for working with partners to promote the Foodshed Conservation Plan. For every dollar of Scenic Hudson capital, we leveraged an additional three dollars of private or governmental funds.

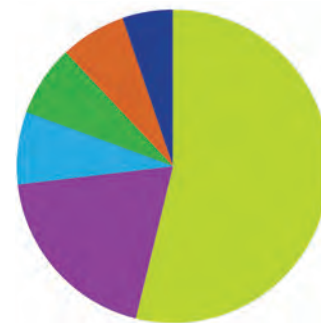
Consolidated Operating Revenues

Investment Allocations for Spending*	47.3%
Individuals	17.7%
Foundations	15.4%
Government**	9.0%
Other Sources	9.0%
Corporations	1.6%



Consolidated Operating Expenses

Land Acquisition***	53.8%
Parks & Preserves	19.3%
Land Use Advocacy	7.5%
Administration	7.4%
Fund Raising	6.8%
Communications & Public Policy	5.2%



Financial Structure

Scenic Hudson maintains four endowments: The Lila Acheson and DeWitt Wallace Hudson Valley Land Preservation Endowment (\$147.8 million at year-end FY16), used to support land conservation activities; a board-designated fund for general operating expenses (\$13.4 million at year-end FY16); the Kathryn W. Davis Fund for Park Planning and Community Land Use (\$4.5 million at year-end FY16); and an Easement Enforcement Fund (\$1.0 million at year-end FY16). The assets are pooled in a diversified portfolio supervised by an investment committee. Total investment return was -1.6 percent for FY16. The board approved \$8.2 million in spending from the endowments for the year (5 percent of the past 12 quarters' rolling average value).

Although lands owned by the land trust are eligible for tax exemption, Scenic Hudson paid \$224,692 in property taxes and payments in lieu of taxes in FY16 and \$199,491 in FY15. Scenic Hudson generally seeks relief from taxes at the first opportunity following acquisition of the property.

The board engages Marks Paneth, LLP to perform an independent annual audit, which is available on our website.

*The vast majority of investment allocation for spending supports land acquisition and parks creation.

The majority of revenues from government provide capital for farmland and open space preservation and parks. *Including conservation easements.

LEFT Emerging bounty on Columbia County farmland protected by Scenic Hudson.



Hudson River Stewardship Society

INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE INCLUDED SCENIC HUDSON IN THEIR ESTATE OR LONG-TERM FINANCIAL PLANS

Anonymous (10)
Peter and Jo Baer
Barry A. Benepe
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Wheelock Whitney III
Alexander E. Zagoreos

2016 Contributors

INDIVIDUALS WHO MADE GIFTS BETWEEN JULY 1, 2015, AND JUNE 30, 2016

Gifts of \$500,000 and above

Anonymous (2)
Doris Duke Charitable Foundation
Dyson Foundation*
James and Susan Goodfellow*
The Walbridge Fund

Gifts of \$100,000-\$499,999

Anonymous (2)
The 1772 Foundation, Inc.
André Balazs*
Andrea Soros Colombel

Christopher Davis
John W. Hamilton and Steven L. Holley*
Estate of Evelyn H. Harris
Dr. Peter Hofmann and William Burbach*
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The Mr. and Mrs. Raymond J. Horowitz
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Shelby Cullom Davis Charitable Fund
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The William and Mary Greve Foundation, Inc.*

Gifts of \$50,000-\$99,999

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Harney & Sons Fine Teas
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Mary W. Harriman Foundation
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Martin and Toni Sosnoff Foundation

Gifts of \$25,000-\$49,999

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Leigh Seippel and Susan Patterson
Thalle Industries, Inc.
Tortuga Foundation
The Vidda Foundation

Julia N. Harte Widdowson and
Nigel Widdowson/Field-Day Foundation

Gifts of \$10,000-\$24,999

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Christopher Buck and Hara Schwartz
Charles Gamper Fund
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J.E. Hoke Slaughter
Dianne and David Stern
TD Charitable Foundation
Dawn Watson
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Gifts of \$5,000-\$9,999

American Conservation Association, Inc.
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The Bender Family Foundation
Neil Bender
Carolyn Marks Blackwood/
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Judith M. Buechner
Mr. and Mrs. H. Rodgin Cohen
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The Vervane Foundation
Stephanie G. Wheeler
Edward B. Whitney and Martha Howell

Gifts of \$3,000-\$4,999

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Douglas Berlin/Berlin Family Fund
Bull's Head Foundation, Inc.
Betsy and Larry Gile
Dr. Attallah Kappas
Dorothea M. Lang
Ted Lapis
Richard L. Menschel/Charina Foundation, Inc.
Normandie Foundation, Inc.
Chris and Leslie Regan
Usha Wright

Gifts of \$2,500-\$2,999

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Phoebe P. Bender
Benjamin F. Crane
Margaret Davidson
Sibyl R. Golden
Francis Greenburger
John Heist and Michael Neumann
Margaret Innerhofer
Joseph Kazlauskas and Mitchell Jaiven
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The M&T Charitable Foundation
Mark Jay Menting and Laura Jean Wilson
Dr. David Orentreich/
The Orentreich Family Foundation
Steve Rosenberg and Debi Duke
G. Spanu and N. Olnick
Tilcon New York, Inc.

Gifts of \$1,000-\$2,499

Anonymous (9)
Bill Abrams
American Sugar Refining, Inc.
Colan Anderson
Archipelago at Home
Astor Courts Conservancy
The Atlantic Philanthropies Director/
Employee Designated Gift Fund

LEFT Boardwalk through wetlands at Scenic Hudson High Banks Preserve in Esopus.

* denotes multi-year commitment + participation in Matching Gifts Program



Jeffrey W. Baker and Cathy Franklin
 Sybil K. Baldwin
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Senior Vice President;

Executive Director of The Scenic Hudson Land Trust, Inc.

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Conservation Scientist

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Audrey Friedrichsen

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Jake Salt

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Alicia Farrell

Conservation Easement Manager

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James Mudd

Conservation GIS Manager

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