

Franny's motto was:

**"Care enough to take some action; do your research so you don't have to backtrack from a position; and don't give up!"**

Use the space below to write about an issue in your community or environment that you care about.

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"A teacher at heart, Franny taught us to see the Hudson Valley's exceptional beauty and reminded us that we are its stewards... Her life was a special gift to us all."

—Dennis J. Murray, Marist College president

### Who's Scenic Hudson?

Scenic Hudson works to protect and restore the majestic landscapes along the Hudson River as an irreplaceable national treasure and vital public resource.



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Created by Scenic Hudson's Susan Hereth



# FRANNY REESE

## A Hero for the Hudson Valley



**Frances "Franny" Reese (1917-2003) spent 40 years making the Hudson Valley a better place. She was the guiding spirit of Scenic Hudson.**

Franny Reese strongly believed that everyone who lives in the Hudson Valley must take responsibility for, and be good **stewards** of, this very special place.

To her an **environmentalist** was someone who was concerned not only with protecting land but educating others about the importance of conserving our precious **natural resources** and ensuring we have clean water to drink and air to breathe. She believed that “everything in the whole wide world” was connected.

Franny also believed an individual could make a powerful difference – and that each of us should have a personal **inspiration**. Her passion was working with others to **preserve** the Hudson Valley’s beauty and history.

In 1963 Franny joined a group of concerned citizens – Scenic Hudson’s founders – who opposed a company’s plans to build a power plant on Storm King Mountain, defacing this famous peak and harming the Hudson River’s **ecology**. During their 17-year battle to stop the plant’s construction, they earned the legal right for all people to challenge projects that would hurt the environment. Many consider this the birth of the modern, **grass-roots** environmental movement.

Franny was chair of Scenic Hudson’s board from 1966 to 1984, leading our efforts to pass important environmental laws, preserve land, create riverfront parks and stop bad developments. She also was a very active **volunteer** at Marist College, The Samuel Morse Historic Site and many other organizations. Despite a busy schedule, she still had time to play tennis, write poetry, paint watercolors and bring up five children with her husband Willis.

### The words in green...

...meant a lot to Franny Reese. Use a dictionary to look up their definitions. Which one is most important to you?

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**Fish power!** Can you believe the most important factor that stopped a power plant from destroying Storm King Mountain’s beauty was – the striped bass? Although they normally live in the ocean, these fish swim up river into freshwater to spawn (reproduce). Sitting in the middle of one of the most important striped bass spawning grounds on the East Coast, the Storm King plant would have sucked up 12 billion gallons of Hudson River water every day. Scientists proved that millions of young fish and eggs would be destroyed, wiping out striped bass in the river and Atlantic Ocean.



**In the space below, draw a Hudson River food chain that includes the striped bass.**



### Why did we protect the land at Franny Reese State Park?

In 2003 when we purchased the land at Franny Reese State Park in Highland because people wanted to cut down the trees and build many houses. Scenic Hudson and New York State are now creating an exciting place for you and your family to explore nature close to home. At Franny Reese State Park, people walking its woodland trails will always be able to connect with the river’s majestic beauty.



Watercolor by: Franny Reese. View of Franny Reese State Park: Victor Van Carpels