



Beautiful Working Farmland and Natural Marvel Saved



Farms help define the valley and support its rural economy—in addition to supplying residents of the region and New York City with fresh, local food. Seven farm families recently worked with Scenic Hudson to protect nearly 950 fertile acres in Dutchess and Columbia counties. The conserved lands include 148-acre Duncandale Farm (top) in North East, Dutchess County, owned by the same family for over 200 years (and visible from the popular Harlem Valley Rail Trail), and 107 acres on Hawthorne Valley Farm in Ghent, Columbia County. This dairy operation produces organic cheese, yogurt and other products sold at farmers markets (top left) in New York City and the valley.

Additional partners in these transactions included Dutchess Land Conservancy, Columbia Land Conservancy and Dutchess County. The state's Agricultural and Farmland Protection Program provided funding for six of the projects.

Safeguarding one of the Hudson Valley's ecological powerhouses and helping the region be more resilient to the impacts of climate change—those are the direct benefits of our recent acquisition of 132 acres in Catskill, Greene County. The dramatic landscape (lower left) contains a significant portion of Ramshorn Marsh, the largest freshwater tidal swamp along the Hudson estuary, and one of the biggest in the state.

The marsh is home for rare plants and a huge variety of fish, migratory birds, bald eagles, and myriad mammals, reptiles and amphibians. Newly protected land next to the marsh will allow the tidal wetland to move inland as the water level of the Hudson rises—making it a top priority of our Hudson Valley Conservation Strategy (see back page). It also adds to our RamsHorn-Livingston Sanctuary, a great place for hiking and paddling, which we co-own with Audubon New York. The Doris Duke Charitable Foundation provided a portion of the purchase price.



Having Fun in Nature—and Reaffirming Our Need to Protect It

John Halpern



The waning days of summer remind us of what we love about the Hudson Valley. It's a perfect time to be outdoors, which always lifts our spirits. And who can resist the amazing variety of delicious fruits and vegetables, fresh from nearby farms, available at local farmers markets? These experiences fill us with pride in being valley residents—so it's also an ideal time to reaffirm our commitment to protect the region's treasures.

You played important roles in two recent positive outcomes in our campaigns for a clean, healthy Hudson. Many of you were among the 10,000 citizen advocates who told the U.S. Coast Guard to drop its proposal to create 10 new anchorages for 43 huge barges carrying crude oil and other poisonous chemicals (#anchorsaway). The voice of the people helped move the Coast Guard in June to suspend its process for a year to study the need for new anchorages and their potential harm to our environment. This is an important victory, but we've got to stay vigorous in this campaign—our communities and economies depend on it.



Also in June, many of you joined the 500 people who turned out for meetings in Poughkeepsie (above), New York City and Saratoga where the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency explained results of its Draft Five-Year Review of GE's PCB cleanup. Residents really made an impact as they told the EPA that its own report says the cleanup doesn't currently protect the health of the public or the river (#togiclegacy). People also said the EPA should rid the report of claims that the cleanup will be protective in five decades—because state and federal scientists say time and nature won't fix the project's shortcomings.

Now more than ever our community needs to come together in these and other advocacy campaigns. Stay connected with fellow engaged citizens through www.scenichudson.org. Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram—and share posts with your social network. I know you love and care about our river and valley, so please think about spreading the word. And take someone to a Scenic Hudson park, because there's no better way to show them why the work we accomplish together is so important.

Ned Sullivan

Ned Sullivan, President



Jay Dorin (all photos below)



Oasis on Main

Mural Square—a green haven for workers, residents and visitors in downtown Poughkeepsie—is the outcome of a two-year collaborative effort to turn a vacant lot on Main Street into an inviting place to enjoy the outdoors. The Poughkeepsie Alliance funded the project with a grant from the Gannett Foundation. Scenic Hudson provided the design. Hudson River Housing is operating the space, which was inaugurated on Aug. 4 as part of the city's First Friday festivities (above).

Youth Take Lead in Caring for Cities' Natural Treasures

Nava Tabak



Jay Dorin



"Teenagers aren't given stewardship over much. Having responsibility for the land is something new," said Marisa Brink, assistant program director of the Center For Hope. Many of the after-school activities it provides young people in downtown **Newburgh** make them aware of their city's natural assets—and the need to care for them. For example, some kids at the center planted and tend vegetable gardens so they can donate produce to local food banks and soup kitchens. Others are creating a hiking trail with Scenic Hudson's guidance. Beginning a short

walk from the center's headquarters, the 1.5-mile trail will lead through a city-owned woodland to the top of Scenic Hudson's Snake Hill, which offers spectacular views (top) of Newburgh and the Hudson Highlands.

Some 30 youth have been mapping the trail's route, providing input about potential amenities along it and planting trees. Amir Balaguer, 15 (above left), is providing leadership to the project. When asked what excites him about the work, he responded, "Connecting with nature and helping others in my community connect, too."

Upriver in **Poughkeepsie**, more than 30 teens involved with Nubian Directions, R.E.A.L. Skills Network, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Dutchess County and Spark Media teamed up to help preserve one of their community's most critical assets. The youth provided the lion's share of labor in a trio of events organized as part of Mayor Robert Rolison's "7 Minute Clean Up Challenge," short but intensive efforts to beautify city neighborhoods. The work focused on the Fall Kill Creek, a Hudson River tributary that flows through the downtown and contributes to Poughkeepsie's water supply. Joined by Scenic Hudson staff and local residents, the teens removed 1,450 pounds of garbage—from old tires and shopping carts to a cash register.

The young volunteers displayed remarkable enthusiasm and resolve, working well beyond the time limits set for each day's event. For many, it was their first direct connection with the creek, and they took great pride in improving habitat for the fish, frogs and crawfish they discovered.



Jay Dorin

Bard Center for Civic Engagement

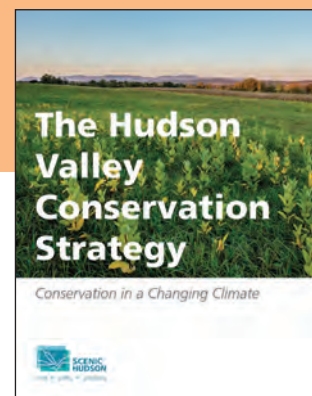


STORM KING GOES GLOBAL

In July, 20 students from the Middle East enjoyed a hike up Storm King Mountain. They made stops to enjoy breathtaking views and learn how a small group of citizens—Scenic Hudson's founders—fought and won the battle to protect this landmark. We led the hike and discussion with the Bard Center for Civic Engagement, which hosted the students on a program funded by the U.S. State Department to explore America's participatory democracy.

Online Tool Helps Fuel Conservation

Making it easier for fellow land trusts and communities to prepare for the impacts of a warming climate, we've now put our Hudson Valley Conservation Strategy online. This pioneering, science-based plan pinpoints properties that if preserved will achieve multiple objectives—maintaining healthy ecosystems, keeping farmland active, increasing resilience to climate change and securing the pathways and networks many species depend on for survival. The plan helps local groups figure out how to make the biggest impact in their work. Positive feedback already has come from public agencies and land trusts across the country. To view: www.scenichudson.org/hvcs



Scenic Hudson, Inc.

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



FALL

ACTIVITIES

Connect with the region's natural beauty and history by joining us for these free events. More info and to register: www.scenichudson.org/events.

Volunteer Workday

Poets' Walk Park, Red Hook (Dutchess County)

Saturday, Oct. 21 • 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Help enhance the park's meadow habitats by planting native grasses and wildflowers.

Pumpkins in the Park

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

Friday, Oct. 27 • 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 Oct. 23 through Oct. 26. Friday night they'll be lit and displayed throughout the park. Pumpkins are free but in limited supply, so RSVP early.

Guided History Tour

West Point Foundry Preserve, Cold Spring (Putnam County)

Saturday, Nov. 4 • 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Explore the remains of the ironworks that sparked America's Industrial Revolution and helped win the Civil War. Participants also get a rare look inside the 1865 office building, which contains a display of rare foundry-related artifacts.

Also this fall, Health Quest's **Get Fit Hudson Valley fitness challenge** returns. Scenic Hudson continues to be an ambassador of the program, which encourages the valley community to be active. We invite all Get Fit participants to use our parks as dynamic and fun venues for their workouts while enjoying the season's beautiful weather—and great views. Our parks are always your Gym with a View. More info: www.getfit.com; [#gymwithaview](https://twitter.com/gymwithaview)

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

