

your valley

Hiking, habitat & clean water major benefits of Highlands land save

Ensuring permanent public access to popular hiking trails... Safeguarding wildlife habitat... Preserving world-class views... Securing clean drinking water... These are the reasons protecting Scofield Ridge in the Hudson Highlands has been a top conservation priority for decades. And that's why the news that Slopeline, LLC, an affiliate of The Scenic Hudson Land Trust, acquired this land in July made headlines in papers from Long Island to San Francisco.

Hikers from around the world cross the 1,178-acre property that connects Breakneck Ridge and Mount Beacon. The wooded land sits amid one of the largest intact forests in southeastern New York, part of an ecological powerhouse that sustains the Hudson Valley's greatest concentration of threatened and rare species. Its conservation also safeguards iconic vistas as well as a reservoir and aquifers supplying water to six nearby communities.

Key funding for Slopeline's acquisition came from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation—for the role the land plays in making irreplaceable habitats more resilient to a changing climate—as well as generous private donors.

Protecting this magnificent landscape is a win-win-win-win—for people who enjoy outdoor fun, the Hudson Highlands' astonishing wildlife, the region's tourism economy and healthy water supplies. Thanks to all who made possible this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Newly protected property (in light green) seen from Newburgh waterfront





John Halpern



G. Steve Jordan



Jay Dorin

Your support crucial for keeping our valley special

What makes the Hudson Valley such a special place? Its natural beauty, outstanding quality of life—and the way people come together to protect them.

Having clean air to breathe is a must—and a priority of the state's clean energy goals. That's why citizen activists are engaged with Scenic Hudson to block construction of two new gas-fired power plants that would pollute our air and make it harder to achieve these goals.

Over the last decade, we've enjoyed a great new vibe along downtown waterfronts—a resurgence of farmers markets; enticing new parks, shops, art galleries and restaurants; and music and other events that draw us to the riverside. Right now, we're helping to mobilize residents to speak out against proposals the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is considering to construct storm surge barriers. Some of these plans could set back communities' efforts to ensure rising sea levels won't hinder their waterfront renaissance.

If you've already partnered with us in these campaigns, I'm grateful for your support. If you'd like to join, I urge you to stay connected at www.scenichudson.org, as well as on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. At all of these we provide regular updates about what you can do to help.

Another great thing about our magnificent region is the willingness of people to pitch in to restore natural treasures in their communities. We're seeing a great example of this in Poughkeepsie, where residents who live near the Fall Kill Creek meet regularly to remove debris and litter from the stream and its banks. We—and, more important, they—envision the restoration of the creek and creation of a trail alongside it as the centerpiece for neighborhood revitalization efforts. Teens are involved in activities that enhance their skills, improve public health and safety, and will attract new, much-needed jobs.

The Hudson Valley is such a beautiful place, but it takes work to keep it that way. Fortunately, our region's residents are up to the task.

As always, thanks for all you do.

Ned Sullivan, President



Your family's healthy meals depend on family farms like these

Fresh dairy products, vegetables and grass-fed meat—valley consumers can continue relying on supplies of these staples reaching their tables from 1,179 acres of land we recently helped protect on five family farms.

In addition to providing healthy food—like Cabot cheese, made of milk from **Dutch Hollow Farm** (Columbia County)—the newly conserved farms help sustain the region's agricultural heritage. Both **Millerhurst Farm** (Columbia) and **GEM Farms** (Rensselaer), which produces bison and vegetables, have been owned by the same families since the 1700s, while **Artemis Farm** (Columbia) has ensured the survival of a near-extinct breed of cattle. These operations also support the region's vibrant agri-tourism economy. The store at cheese- and milk-producing **Chaseholm Farm** (Dutchess) hosts popular monthly "burger nights" and the stand at Millerhurst is a go-to destination for pumpkins at Halloween.

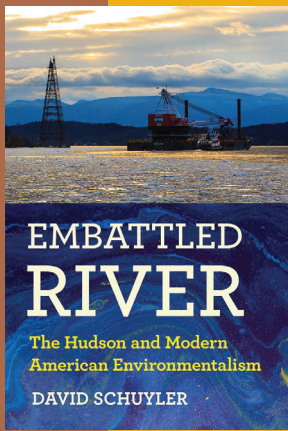
Partners in these acquisitions—in addition to the farmers—included the Agricultural Stewardship Association, Columbia Land Conservancy, Dutchess Land Conservancy, Equity Trust, Dutchess County, the state Department of Agriculture & Markets and the USDA's Agricultural Land Easement program.

NEW! A downtown destination for outdoor fun

Newburgh's Crystal Lake, right in the heart of the city, is now a destination for families to hike, fish and explore nature thanks to the many volunteers—especially enthusiastic teens—who did the lion's share of work to restore this long-neglected natural treasure. We celebrated their efforts at a June ribbon cutting to mark the lake's comeback.

Next up: a trail to the top of Snake Hill, which offers magnificent views of the Hudson River and Highlands, and education programs with Newburgh Free Academy and Mount Saint Mary College.





What has Scenic Hudson been up to?

For the full, 55-year answer, read David Schuyler's compelling new book, *Embattled River*. It begins with our founding to protect Storm King Mountain, goes on to chart subsequent successes—along with those of partners like Riverkeeper and Clearwater—and ends by discussing current challenges we face. The author makes a strong case that our collaborative work along the Hudson has played a key role in starting and sustaining America's environmental movement.

Scenic Hudson, Inc.

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land ■ parks ■ advocacy

SAVE THE DATES!

Mark your calendar with two rites of fall in the Hudson Valley

Prepare to huff and puff on our **Farmland Cycling Tour**, which pedals off from Poets' Walk Park in Red Hook (Dutchess County) on Saturday, Sept. 22. The rides—10, 25 or 45 miles—commence at 9 a.m. Whichever length you choose, you're guaranteed magnificent scenery.

On Friday, Oct. 26, don't miss our **Pumpkins in the Park Jack-o'-Lantern Lighting** at Long Dock Park in Beacon (also Dutchess). From 6-8 p.m. we'll cast a spooky spell by illuminating hundreds of carved creations. As always, pumpkins will be available in the days prior to the event.

For more info about both activities: www.scenichudson.org/events.

Saturday, Oct., 13, is your last chance this year to attend **a guided history tour** of West Point Foundry Preserve in Cold Spring (Putnam County). That day we'll be celebrating the ironworks' 200th birthday, so expect a few special surprises. The tour, which includes a peek inside the foundry's 1865 office building, begins at 10 a.m.

