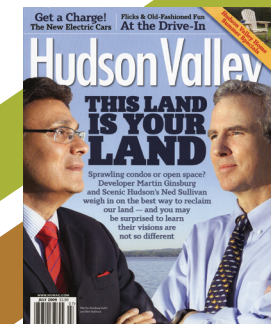




Celebrating 20 Years of Progress with Ned Sullivan



In 1999, gas cost \$1.22, more than 80 countries had signed the Kyoto Protocol—the first international effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions—and the looming Y2K (remember that?) caused widespread panic. But for Scenic Hudson, the year's most auspicious day occurred on April 5, when Ned Sullivan became our president.

During Ned's 20-year (and counting) tenure, the organization has built a reputation for being one of the country's most effective and innovative environmental groups—a force for protecting "must-save" lands, connecting people to the region's natural treasures, and spearheading campaigns to end threats to our air, water and scenic beauty. Cutting-edge strategies we've developed offer critical blueprints—locally and nationwide—for conserving family farms, protecting tidal wetlands and siting renewable energy.

The numbers speak for themselves: Since 1999, Scenic Hudson has protected more than 35,000 acres—from scenic landmarks in the Hudson Highlands to fields and orchards on more than 125 farms. We created a dozen public parks and played major roles in conceiving Dia:Beacon, the "daylighted" Saw Mill River in Yonkers and Walkway Over the Hudson. And we've helped block or mitigate some of the most destructive projects ever proposed in the valley—halting the St. Lawrence Cement plant in Hudson, reducing the height of LG's Palisades headquarters and stopping construction of a desalination plant on Haverstraw Bay.

Recognizing the progress Ned has guided us to over the last two decades—and in anticipation of future successes, especially broadening our impacts in the valley's cities—Scenic Hudson honored Ned with our Hudson Valley Visionary Award at our annual Gala in June. Thanks to him, our region is a much better place to live, work and play.



THE HUDSON RIVER AT A CROSSROADS

For more than half a century, General Electric's cancer-causing PCBs have compromised your ability to enjoy the full bounty of the Hudson River—to safely eat its fish, drink its water and to play on its beaches. GE has shut down the factories that spewed the contaminant in the river, moved the jobs out of state and left behind a mess that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has said will continue to threaten public health for at least 50 more years.

Last April the agency completed a review of the effectiveness of a six-year partial cleanup of the upper Hudson by GE, concluding it could not say whether the work would at any point in the future meet the minimum threshold of any federal Superfund cleanup—to protect human health and the environment. This was a partial victory, resulting from our advocacy in Washington, because the scientific data clearly shows the cleanup has failed and more work is needed.

Despite this finding, the EPA absurdly issued GE a Certificate of Completion for the cleanup, effectively saying “job well done” and making it more difficult to force the company to perform the additional remediation that is clearly needed.

Fortunately, we have strong champions in Governor Andrew Cuomo, his environmental commissioner and the attorney general's office. In August the governor and Attorney General Letitia James filed a lawsuit against the EPA for issuing the certificate. As Gov. Cuomo stated, “We have an obligation to protect the health and vitality of both the Hudson River and the communities along its banks for current and future generations. Since the EPA has failed to hold GE accountable... New York is taking action to demand a full and complete remediation.”

Scenic Hudson has been a champion of a clean, healthy river for our entire history and will take legal action to support New York State. We're also working to ensure that the river receives the greatest possible amount of funds from GE under the Natural Resource Damage portion of the Superfund cleanup—to restore damaged habitats and other waterfront resources.

Thanks to your support, Scenic Hudson—and I personally—will continue the fight, as long as it takes, to reclaim the Hudson's full potential.

Ned Sullivan, President



Recent Land Saves

Increasing opportunities for all people to hike, fish, paddle and explore nature, we acquired 231 acres—including **Lake Walton**—in East Fishkill, and then transferred it to Dutchess County, which plans to create a universally accessible park. We invested to repair roads and remove 130-plus tons of debris and contaminated materials from the property, which provides important wildlife habitat. The park will sit next to the Dutchess Rail Trail.

In **Ancram**, Columbia County, we partnered with the Columbia Land Conservancy (CLC), Equity Trust and the Dutchess Land Conservancy to protect Thompson-Finch Farm, one of the oldest and largest you-pick berry operations in the Northeast. Under the unique agreement, the CLC will own the 231-acre property and lease it to the fifth-generation farmers whose organic strawberries and blueberries attract pickers from three states.



Emily Hague

John Halpern



(l-r) Karen Pearson



Bringing the community together—that's why we co-hosted a series of events in Poughkeepsie parks this spring and summer. Some 400 children and their families enjoyed games, art activities, music and food—and shared ideas about park improvements that would benefit their neighborhoods.



Kudos to West Point Foundry

At a ceremony on October 5, West Point Foundry—the 19th-century ironworks whose remains sit within our West Point Foundry Preserve in Cold Spring—was designated a Historic Mechanical Engineering Landmark by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. The honor recognizes its pioneering role in America's emergence as an industrial superpower. For an informative brochure about the foundry created for the event, visit [ScenicHudson.org/asme-landmark](https://www.ScenicHudson.org/asme-landmark).



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Jeff Mertz



Uniting for a Healthy Future

Enhancing wildlife habitat and protecting downstream areas from flooding, 40 members of the Hudson Valley Corps of the Student Conservation Association (SCA), an AmeriCorps partner, recently joined forces at our Mawignack Preserve in Catskill to help restore its floodplain forest. Scenic Hudson SCA interns Hunter McBurnett, Preyah James and Jude Costigan led the three-day project to construct a deer fence around a portion of the plain, plant 150 native trees within the enclosure and build a 100-foot-long bridge on a trail section that remains perennially wet.

Don't Miss...

...one of the Hudson Valley's great Halloween traditions—our **Pumpkins in the Park Jack-o'-Lantern Lighting** at **Long Dock Park in Beacon**. From **6-8 p.m. on Friday, October 25**, the illuminated artistry of hundreds of children will be on display throughout the park, casting appropriately haunting shadows. Monday-Thursday the week leading up to the event, free pumpkins will be available for carving in the River Center from 3-6 p.m. More info: [ScenicHudson.org/events](https://www.ScenicHudson.org/events)

