

your valley

You Helped Us Make a Difference This Spring

Thanks to your support—both your generosity and direct engagement—Scenic Hudson made outstanding progress over the winter and early spring:

In a **landmark victory** for a clean, healthy Hudson River, the U.S. Coast Guard abandoned plans to establish new **anchorage sites** for 43 barges carrying oil and other hazardous substances. This success can be attributed in large part to the 10,000-plus citizens who responded to our call and urged the Coast Guard to implement measures that will increase maritime safety without jeopardizing the valley's great waterfronts, the river's fragile habitats, and the regional economy.

At the same time, many of you advocated for state funds that support us and our partners in conserving the valley's "must-save" lands—by asking the governor and your state legislators to support a \$300-million **Environmental Protection Fund**.

They approved this level of funding, originally proposed by Gov. Cuomo, which matches the highest amount ever appropriated to bankroll state investments in protecting land and farms, creating parks and providing communities with clean water.

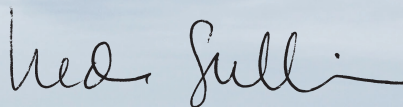
Take a break—visit a Scenic Hudson park

These accomplishments—and more you can read about inside—make our communities great places to live and work for people of all ages and attractive for young people to settle here after graduating from college. Many of the triumphs also support healthy lifestyles by offering new places to get fit and reduce stress, and sustain family farms that provide fresh food to valley and New York City residents.

Scenic Hudson's parks are great places to escape the hustle and bustle to enjoy the outdoors. Whatever your fitness level or interests, there's a Scenic Hudson park that's right for you. They offer flat trails and mountain ascents, short riverside strolls and back-country treks. There's a park where you can launch a kayak, fish, glimpse a bald eagle or just take a seat with a picnic and admire the view. Check them out at www.scenichudson.org/parks.

Spend a few hours in one of our parks, and I guarantee you'll feel a lot better.

As always, I'm so grateful for your support.



Ned Sullivan, President



What Our Work Means to *You*

Scenic Hudson motivates people—to get outside and be fit, lend a hand restoring their community's natural treasures, and speak out for a safe, clean river. Here are nine recent strides we've taken together.



Providing *more room* for you to roam

1. There's a new mile-long trail that can offer you all-season fun—walking, mountain biking, cross-country skiing. Scenic Hudson and the Greene Land Trust (GLT) recently celebrated the opening of **Mawignack Preserve** in Catskill (above). We acquired the 144-acre property, located at the junction of Catskill and Kaaterskill creeks, in 2016, and the GLT created the trail. The park name comes from a Native American word meaning “place where two rivers meet.”
2. Explore five miles of historic carriage roads and trails to experience unspoiled woods, meadows, wetlands, ravines and more at the astonishing nature-filled **Locust Grove**, just three miles from downtown Poughkeepsie. Right off busy Route 9 in Poughkeepsie is this 149-acre property that feels a world away from bustling traffic. And we're keeping it that way. We preserved—and assured permanent public enjoyment—of the former riverfront estate of artist/inventor Samuel F.B. Morse. Locust Grove is a committed partner with a legacy of preserving this special outdoor place.
3. Look forward to a new trail that will connect hikers to woods and dramatic outcroppings once owned by famed naturalist John Burroughs. With the John Burroughs Association, we acquired five very special acres that surround the **John Burroughs Nature Sanctuary**. Now the land will be added to the 200-acre preserve in Ulster County.
4. Enjoy a recently completed stairway that welcomes visitors to a new three-acre addition to our **West Point Foundry Preserve** in Cold Spring. From a platform atop the bluff, you will survey superb views of Foundry Cove, Constitution Island and the Hudson Highlands. Interpretive panels will tell the story of how the place where you're standing was used by Native Americans and, later, a foundry owner.

Keeping fresh food on your table

5. Pete and Robin Taliaferro grow 375,000 pounds of produce annually on their New Paltz farm, supplying 50-plus varieties of fruits and vegetables via a CSA, farmers markets in three counties, wholesalers and restaurants. Partnering with us and the Wallkill Valley Land Trust, and with funding from Ulster County and the Town of New Paltz, the couple ensured that **Taliaferro Farms'** 32 productive acres will always be available for agriculture.

6. **Stuart's Fruit Farm** (right) not only provides Westchester residents with healthy produce but is a mainstay of the county's agri-tourism economy and a "classroom" where local schoolchildren learn about rural heritage. Recently, the Stuart family—the farm's owners since 1828—worked with us, Westchester Land Trust and Somers Land Trust to permanently conserve their 172 acres of fields and orchards. Westchester County, NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets and the Town of Somers provided funding.

7. With agricultural investors Dirt Capital Partners, Hudson Highlands Land Trust and Dutchess Land Conservancy, we preserved 105 acres that will be brought back to farming. The land is being leased to adjacent **Fishkill Farms**, which will up its output of fruits and vegetables sold via a CSA, an on-site store, and at valley and NYC farmers markets. The farm also is a popular pick-your-own destination. In addition, the transaction protected 240 acres of unspoiled forest and wetlands along a popular trout stream.



Courtesy Stuart's Farm

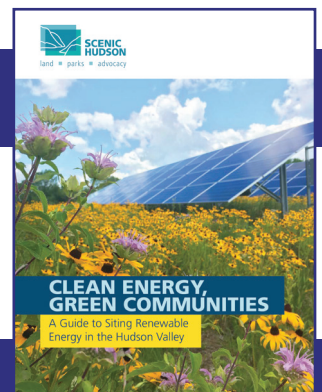
Cleaning up your community

8. We decided the Earth was too important to celebrate in a single day—so we hosted **Earth Week** in late April. Our series of events—from cleanups and scientific observations to a riverfront celebration—attracted nearly 120 people. Perhaps most impressive, a collective 58 community members joined us in Poughkeepsie and Newburgh to remove trash from Fall Kill Creek and Crystal Lake, respectively. You can show your love for nature throughout the year, visit www.scenichudson.org/volunteer for details.



Maximizing benefits from renewable energy

9. More than 200 people—government officials, solar developers, fellow land trusts and citizens—attended our "**Solar Smart Hudson Valley**" symposium in March. They learned about establishing a "win-win" regional strategy for siting new renewable energy facilities—meeting future power needs without destroying irreplaceable natural assets that fuel local economies. We can protect our planet and valley while making the region a leader in clean energy.



In Tribute to Sheila Platt

Recently passed and deeply missed, Sheila Platt as a board member of Scenic Hudson gave our cause and staff her wisdom, caring and sunny spirit. Through a far-reaching life and amid dedication to family, she focused professionally and personally on helping people, particularly the less fortunate—including refugees across the globe. During even the briefest of interactions with her, you felt her warmth and kindness. Scenic Hudson is grateful to her and her husband, Ambassador Nicholas Platt, who also served on our board, and our condolences go out to their family.



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land ■ parks ■ advocacy

Jump in this Summer

Spend some quality time outdoors while learning about the region's past or preserving its natural beauty. More info and to register:

www.scenichudson.org/events.

History Happening

*West Point Foundry Preserve,
Cold Spring (Putnam County)*

Saturday, Sept. 8 • 10-11:30 a.m.

This guided tour will focus on the significant role West Point Foundry played in the Civil War. Attendees will enjoy a rare glimpse inside the 1865 office building.



Lynda Sherkman Curtis

GET HEALTHY BY GETTING INVOLVED

Studies show that volunteering promotes good health. By lending a hand in a Scenic Hudson park, you'll not only feel better, but enhance the benefits people and wildlife receive from these natural treasures.

Trail Building Workdays

Crystal Lake, Newburgh (Orange County)

Saturday, July 14 & Sept. 8 • 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Join the crew blazing a trail from the lake to Snake Hill's summit and great river views.

Japanese Knotweed Removal

Esopus Meadows Preserve, Esopus (Ulster County)

Saturday, July 21 and Aug. 18 • 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Eliminating this fast-growing invasive plant will allow native species to thrive.

Fall Kill Cleanup

Brookside Ave, Poughkeepsie (Dutchess County)

Saturday, Aug. 11 • 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Support collaborative efforts to turn this long-neglected stream into an exciting community asset.

