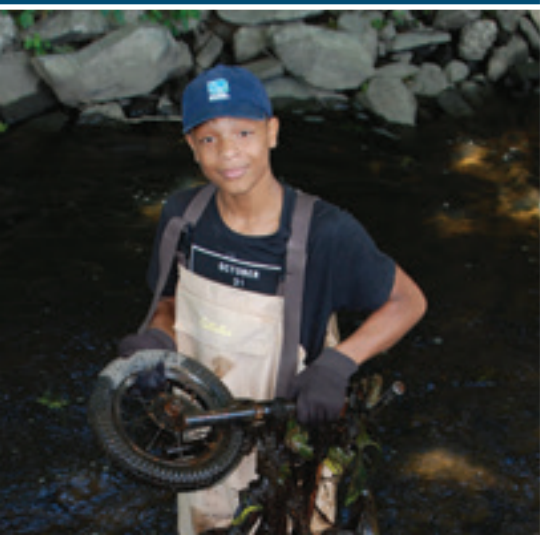
ANNUAL REPORT

SCENIC HUDSON



2017

Strengthening Our Impacts, Engaging New Partners

To our supporters,

Beautiful parks where people can exercise and enjoy nature... Abundant supplies of fresh, local food at farmers markets... Citizen activists working together to preserve our land and water... Thanks to your support, Scenic Hudson continues to deliver these benefits—all of which make the Hudson Valley a better place to live and work.

It has been another year of extraordinary accomplishments. We protected stunning landscapes, important wildlife habitats and some of the region's most productive family farms. We rolled out our innovative Hudson Valley Conservation Strategy to make the region more resilient to a changing climate. Greater numbers of people are relying on our parks to experience the outdoors. And we played a major role in collaborative efforts that will result in the 2021 closure of Indian Point, making our communities and water safer.

We're strengthening partnerships to broaden our impacts within the valley's diverse communities, engaging new advocates for protecting natural treasures in their "backyards." These connections already have produced exciting and inspiring results. We're also bringing together new allies to help reverse the Hudson River's legacy of pollution and halt proposed industrial barge anchorages.

What is most gratifying about our work is that it motivates and empowers people to get involved and make a difference. You'll hear from some of these activists throughout this report. They—and so many others—are partners in Scenic Hudson's mission to secure a healthy, prosperous future for the Hudson Valley.

With thanks for your support,

Board Chair

President

RESULTS BY THE NUMBERS

2017

Land Conservation

Parks & Community Engagement

Held
74 free park events
enjoyed by
2,844 people

Science, Climate & Stewardship

Shared expertise on creating climate-resilient communities with
190 local stakeholders

Advocacy, Policy & Outreach

Rallied **10,000 citizen activists** to write letters urging U.S. Coast Guard to ***halt*** anchorages plan

Protected
1,866 acres of
➡ **SCENIC**,
➡ **AGRICULTURAL** &
➡ **ECOLOGICAL**
importance

Preserved
2.4 miles of
unspoiled Hudson Riverfront

Conserved
1,311 acres on
8 working family farms

Explored wildlife with
840 children
+ 240 adults
through hands-on learning activities

Made excellent progress creating
20 miles of
new trails

Planted **150** native
trees and shrubs
to make our parks more wildlife-friendly

Spearheaded
volunteer
cleanup of
1,450 pounds
of trash
from Poughkeepsie's
Fall Kill Creek

Helped secure
$300 million
—largest amount ever—
for NY's Environmental
Protection Fund

Informed 850 people
about **PCBs** & **barge anchorages**
at community
forums &
screenings

LAND CONSERVATION

Natural treasures

Keeping our air and water clean, helping plants and animals thrive, safeguarding communities from flooding—all hinge on preserving the valley's beautiful wild lands

Protecting habitats in the Hudson River's largest freshwater tidal swamp and helping the region become more resilient to climate-change impacts—these are the direct benefits of conserving 132 acres along Ramshorn Marsh (top and right) in Greene County. The property is adjacent to our RamsHorn-Livingston Sanctuary, where paddlers launch into the marsh to marvel at bald eagles, beaver and other wildlife.

All of the prime natural areas on Bronck Island now have been safeguarded thanks to a conservation easement on 147 acres (left). This land victory completes the protection of more than 400 acres of riverfront, wetlands, grasslands and forest. We also acquired the rights to develop a public trail, so people will be able to hike, birdwatch and explore the island, supporting the local economy.

“Whether you want to get out and hike, fish, study nature or simply observe the scenery that has changed little since the Hudson River School painters made it famous more than 150 years ago—this land offers it all. We are fortunate to be able to protect special places like this that contribute so much to the quality of life we enjoy in our communities. Greene Land Trust is excited to be working with Scenic Hudson to conserve and manage this scenic and historic treasure for current residents and visitors to enjoy, and to help make sure it is there for the benefit of future generations.”

Bob Knighton, president of the Greene Land Trust, which is creating and managing a trail on the 144 acres we protected along Catskill Creek last year.

Bob Knighton

LAND CONSERVATION

Farms and food

Eating fresh, nutritious food—a must for maintaining a healthy lifestyle—relies upon local farm families committed to conserving their productive lands

Organic milk and cheese... Just-picked vegetables... Pasture-raised poultry and pork... This is just a sampling of foods supplied by the eight valley families who partnered with us, fellow land trusts and others* to preserve their fertile fields last year. Many have been farming the same land for generations—some since the 1700s. All of the farms contribute to stunning views from rail trails or scenic roads, strengthening local tourism economies.

In addition to saving this beautiful working land and rural traditions, each conservation easement furnished critical funds to the families. The proceeds have enabled farmers to expand or upgrade operations, purchase additional farmland and, in one case, offer low-cost, long-term leases to people interested in starting up small, "incubator"-style farms.

*See inside back cover for a list of farmland protection partners

“My family is pleased that we have succeeded in our goal to preserve our farm for our children, our grandchildren and any future generations to carry on a legacy of farming. It is so wonderful to look out on our open fields now and know they will continue to grow corn or hay and pasture cows and, just as important, remain open and beautiful. Our thanks to Scenic Hudson, Columbia Land Conservancy and Dutchess Land Conservancy for giving us the gift of a way to achieve this.”

Rick Osofsky, co-owner of Ronnybrook Farm, about his family’s protection of 396 acres of agricultural land that supports their dairy operation, whose glass-bottled milk, ice cream and other products are available at markets from New York City to Albany.

Rick Osofsky

PURSUING
NEW POSSIBILITIES

Regional identity

What unifies residents of the Hudson Valley?

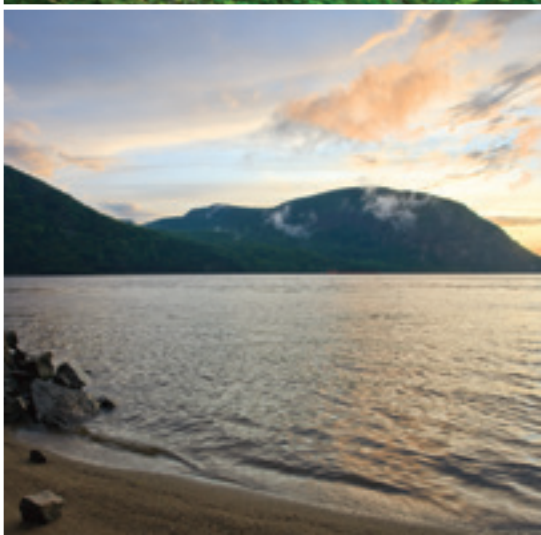
The things we share that make living here so special

Spanning communities from New York City to Troy, the region's vibrant outdoor markets offer a bounty of delicious food, supplied in large part by farms Scenic Hudson and our partners have conserved. These markets also provide regular occasions for people to come together—catching up with neighbors, meeting local farmers and making new friends.

Long-distance trails also link our cities and towns and support regional economies. This year we made great progress on two exciting trails. We unveiled a sign (bottom right) introducing the nine-mile Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail that will stretch from Cold Spring to Beacon. We also got the green light from local governments to create the 11-mile John Burroughs Black Creek Trail, which will run from our Black Creek Preserve (center right) to Illinois Mountain, with a connection to Walkway Over the Hudson.

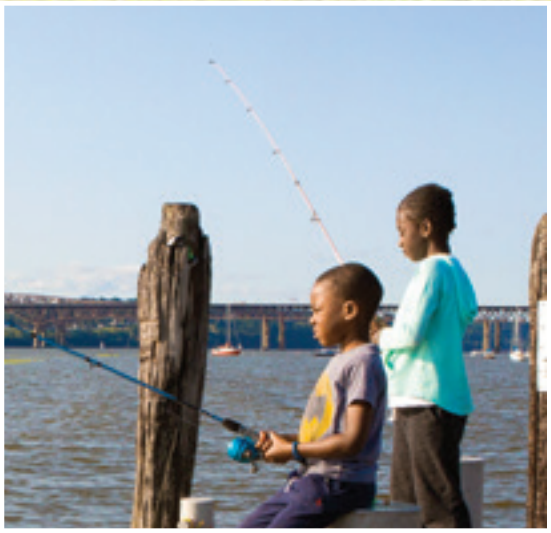
FJORD TRAIL

FJORD TRAIL
KLARA SAUER TRAIL SECTION
DENNINGS POINT TRAIL
BEACON INSTITUTE/ CLARKSON UNIV.



PARKS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

People outdoors



Providing room to exercise, relax, enjoy nature and have fun, our parks make communities more desirable places to live and work

Beautiful spaces for a brisk walk, run, bike ride, paddle and even a basketball game, Scenic Hudson parks not only promote good health—offering a "gym with a view"—but reduce stress and inspire creativity. Their impact on people's lives is best summed up by this recent email we received from a visitor to Scenic Hudson Park at Irvington (far right) and Long Dock Park (left and right): "I felt like I was in the final scene of a rom-com movie where all conflicts have been tied up and the world is at peace." The smiles on the faces of the family strolling at Poets' Walk Park (above) seem to echo this sentiment.

“When asked why we love living in Beacon so much, our automatic response is easy access to nature’s beauty minutes from our doorstep—whether hiking Mount Beacon, biking at Madam Brett Park or skipping rocks at the river’s shore at Long Dock. Given today’s busy and distracted world, we believe the mental and physical benefits of spending time in nature outweigh almost any other activity we can think of.
We’re always grateful to Scenic Hudson for their success in protecting and conserving places that directly impact our family’s well-being in an immensely positive way.”

Robert Rodriguez, Jr., who took this photo of his wife and children enjoying the beauty and stillness of Fishkill Creek at Madam Brett Park.

The Rodriguez family

PARKS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

New environmentalists

A healthy planet depends on helping children and communities develop a love and respect for the natural world around them

People are more likely to develop a lasting attachment to nature when introduced to it early in life. Scenic Hudson parks and environmental-education programs cultivate this relationship. For many children—especially those brought up in our cities—the exploration of wildlife in our "outdoor classrooms" is their first contact with a world many of us take for granted. One teacher leading his students on a recent field trip emphasized the importance of these outdoor adventures: "The stress and anxiety in children has grown exponentially. This resets their brains."

“This is a different experience for me. I feel like I’m at home.”

“I go into nature and I just feel like I can let everything out, all my feelings and everything.”

“What I like about the woods is that everything is peaceful—it’s only wildlife, music of birds, beautifulness…”

“This field trip is the awesomest, greatest, coolest, adventurous field trip ever.”

“I feel like I want to come here every day.”

Reactions of Kingston fifth- and sixth-graders participating in a field trip conducted by Wild Earth at the former IBM recreation facility we protected outside the city.

PURSUING NEW POSSIBILITIES

Building community

We're committed to ensuring our cities and towns are vibrant and environmentally healthy and reflect the needs of their citizens

A vacant lot in downtown Poughkeepsie transformed into a green haven for workers, residents and visitors—that's just one result of our work this year in helping residents advance their goals in their own communities. Product of a two-year collaborative effort (Scenic Hudson provided the design), Mural Square (top and bottom right) also offers a central gathering space that's already hosted festivals and concerts since its summer opening.

At the same time, teens in Poughkeepsie and Newburgh are engaged in protecting and connecting people to their cities' natural assets under Scenic Hudson's guidance. More than 30 youth conducted cleanups (this page) of Poughkeepsie's Fall Kill Creek, a Hudson River tributary that flows through downtown neighborhoods and contributes to the city's water supply. In Newburgh, teens are creating a community garden (center right) and developing a 1.5-mile hiking trail to magnificent views atop Scenic Hudson's Snake Hill (far right).

PHOTOGRAPHERS
MAIN

SCIENCE, CLIMATE & STEWARDSHIP

Resilient waterfronts

Ensuring a safer, more vibrant future for our communities, we're helping them—and the entire region—prepare for and adapt to the impacts of climate change

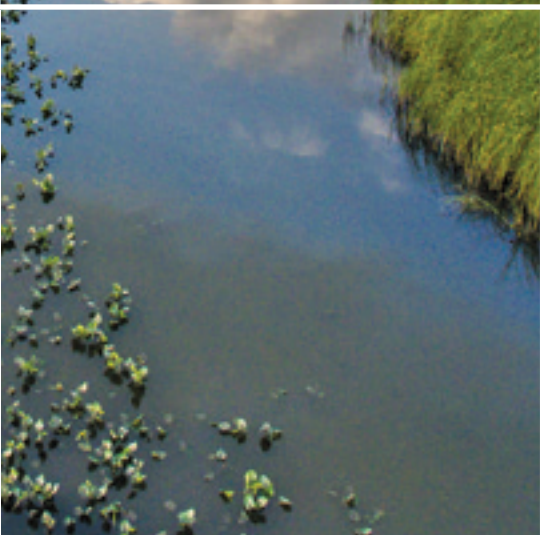
Our Hudson Riverfronts provide the prime catalyst for economic growth—exciting places to live, work and play. They also furnish habitat for much of the valley's aquatic and terrestrial wildlife. Rising sea levels and other impacts of a warming climate put these special places at risk. We share our scientific expertise (left) about ways to make waterfront assets more resilient with community leaders and other key stakeholders.

We also took our Hudson Valley Conservation Strategy "on the road" (bottom right) and received significant buy-in from fellow land trusts and public agencies. The plan offers a cost-effective, maximum-impact approach, pinpointing lands across the region whose protection will provide a buffer from flooding, sustain biodiversity and secure critical habitat pathways. We're increasing the resiliency of lands we've protected by planting trees along tributary streams, which will reduce erosion and absorb floodwaters from future storms.

"As I experienced personally from storms Sandy and Irene, flooding can cause enormous damage to businesses, critical infrastructure and other assets in Catskill. The Catskill Waterfront Resilience Task Force has provided a blueprint for the village to prepare for and adapt to the impacts from future storms. Over the 40 years I have worked on Catskill's waterfront, I have seen flooding events increase in intensity and water level. My experience and work on the task force has enabled me to develop methods to make my own marina more resilient to flooding."

Mike Aguiar, owner of Riverview Marine Services and a member of the Catskill Waterfront Resilience Task Force, which Scenic Hudson helped convene.

Mike Aguiar



ADVOCACY, POLICY & OUTREACH

Moved to act

We're informing and rallying a region-wide corps of citizen advocates to fight for a clean, healthy river and valley

Proof that a groundswell of engaged citizens can make a difference: after 10,000 wrote letters urging abandonment of plans to create new anchorages for 43 industrial barges carrying hazardous chemicals (simulation bottom right), the Coast Guard suspended its rule-making process to conduct a navigational and environmental risk assessment. Our valley-wide forums and rallies (like the one in Poughkeepsie, above) also resulted in about 2,000 public comments urging the Environmental Protection Agency to require General Electric to conduct a more comprehensive PCB cleanup.

The aging Indian Point nuclear plant (left) kills huge numbers of aquatic creatures in the river each year. With Riverkeeper, we played a major role in litigation leading to a settlement that will close the facility by 2021—ahead of schedule by 14 years.

“There needs to be continued cleanup of the Hudson River with regard to PCBs. Our Hudson River must be cared for properly and respectfully, every day and always. We should not accept the notion that the job was adequately completed, even though the EPA gave GE the sign-off to discontinue further dredging. I hope that more people will stay the course... I believe that with the combination of all of our efforts, we can preserve our Hudson River forever. Roll on, Campaign for a Cleaner Hudson! Roll on!”

Grassroots activist **Kimberly Mooers**, who has been a catalyst for engaging fellow citizens, government officials and business leaders to join the Campaign for a Cleaner Hudson coalition.

Kimberly Mooers

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Lantern tour at West Point Foundry Preserve

Scenic Hudson's total consolidated operating and capital budget during the year was $19.1 million and included three components: the Scenic Hudson operating budget and The Scenic Hudson Land Trust operating and capital budgets.

Scenic Hudson

Scenic Hudson's operating budget for FY17 was $7.5 million. These funds supported the protection of lands vital to safeguarding public water supplies, conserving irreplaceable wildlife habitat, making waterfronts more climate-resilient and sustaining the operations of working family farms. The funds also enabled Scenic Hudson to continue creating beautiful public parks, assisting communities' efforts to preserve and connect people to their natural assets, defending the Hudson River from new barge anchorages and securing a comprehensive PCB cleanup.

The Scenic Hudson Land Trust

The land trust spent $4.4 million in capital to secure conservation easements on farms and ownership of ecologically important lands along the Hudson that will provide outstanding recreational opportunities for people in the region. The land trust spent $2.4 million for creating, maintaining and improving our parks; for staff costs in monitoring conservation easements; and for working with partners to promote the Foodshed Conservation Plan and Hudson Valley Conservation Strategy. For every dollar of Scenic Hudson capital, we leveraged more than two dollars of private or governmental funds.

Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

	June 30, 2017	June 30, 2016
Land areas (at cost)	54,732	61,257
Cash and investments	219,449	191,885
Other assets	15,363	5,193
Total assets	289,544	258,335
Liabilities	3,516	4,496
Net assets	286,028	253,839
Total liabilities and net assets	289,544	258,335

[$ = 000's]

Financial Structure

Scenic Hudson maintains four endowments: The Lila Acheson and DeWitt Wallace Hudson Valley Land Preservation Endowment ($166.2 million at year-end FY17), used to support land conservation activities; a board-designated fund for general operating expenses ($17.3 million at year-end FY17); the Kathryn W. Davis Fund for Park Planning and Community Land Use ($4.9 million at year-end FY17); and an Easement Enforcement Fund ($1.0 million at year-end FY17). The assets are pooled in a diversified portfolio supervised by an investment committee. Total investment return was 16.4 percent for FY17. The board approved $8.5 million in spending from the endowments for the year (5 percent of the past 12 quarters' rolling average value).

Although lands owned by the land trust are eligible for tax exemption, Scenic Hudson paid $195,333 in property taxes and payments in lieu of taxes in FY17 and $224,692 in FY16. Scenic Hudson generally seeks relief from taxes at the first opportunity following acquisition of the property.

The board engages Marks Paneth, LLP to perform an independent annual audit, which is available on our website.

Consolidated Operating Expenses

Land Acquisition*	56.1%
Parks and Preserves	18.2%
Administration	7.2%
Land Use Advocacy	6.5%
Fund Raising	6.5%
Communications and Public Policy	5.5%

Consolidated Operating Revenues

Investment Allocations for Spending**	44.5%
Individuals	27.6%
Foundations	17.8%
Government***	3.8%
Other Sources	3.5%
Corporations	2.8%

*Including conservation easements.
**The vast majority of investment allocation for spending supports land acquisition and parks creation.
***The majority of revenues from government provide capital for farmland and open space preservation and parks.

Hudson River Stewardship Society

INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE INCLUDED SCENIC HUDSON IN THEIR ESTATE OR LONG-TERM FINANCIAL PLANS

Anonymous (11)
Peter and Jo Baer
Barry A. Benepe
Benson Blake, Jr.
Patricia Carroll-Mathes
Joseph Chapman, Jr.
Christopher Davis
Mr. and Mrs. Irvine D. Flinn
Donald W. Fowle
Aimee J. Frank
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Kristin Gamble
Anna Carlson Gannett
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Will Nixon
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Frederic C. Rich
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John H. Steinberg
Ned and Tara Sullivan
Stephen W. Tator
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Varvaro
Dawn Watson
Wheelock Whitney III
Alexander E. Zagoreos

** denotes multi-year commitment*
+ participation in Matching Gifts Program

2017 Contributors

INDIVIDUALS WHO MADE GIFTS BETWEEN JULY 1, 2016, AND JUNE 30, 2017

Gifts of $500,000 and above

Anonymous (2)
Robert H. Arnow
Doris Duke Charitable Foundation*
Dyson Foundation*
James and Susan Goodfellow*
Shelby Cullom Davis Charitable Fund/ Christopher C. Davis*
Jon Stryker and Slobodan Randjelovic*
The Walbridge Fund*

Gifts of $100,000-$499,999

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Andrea Soros Colombel
Kristin Gamble
John W. Hamilton and Steven L. Holley*
Dr. Peter Hofmann and William Burback*
Richard H. Klapper and Helena Lee*
The Mr. and Mrs. Raymond J. Horowitz Foundation for the Arts*
The Peter and Carmen Lucia Buck Foundation
The Pew Charitable Trusts
Red Crane Foundation*
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The William and Mary Greve Foundation, Inc.*

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Harney & Sons Fine Teas
Marjorie and Gurnee Hart
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Estate of Aleta Kinley and Aleta Kinley Charitable Fund, a Donor Advised Fund of The U.S.Charitable Gift Trust
The Krupp Foundation/ Richard and Natasha Krupp
David H. Mortimer/Mary W. Harriman Foundation
Jonathan Rose/Jonathan & Diana Rose Lost and Foundation*

Gifts of $25,000-$49,999

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The New World Foundation
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Gifts of $10,000-$24,999

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Charles Gamper Fund
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Gifts of $5,000-$9,999

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Gifts of $3,000-$4,999

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Betsy and Larry Gile
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Meyer Contracting Corp.
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Erin Thérèse Riley
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Gifts of $1,000-$2,499

Anonymous (11)
American Sugar Refining, Inc.
Colan Anderson
Mr. and Mrs. David Arnow

Our parks and preserves connect people to nature—from the "wilds" of suburban Kingston to a path offering spectacular Palisades views in Irvington.

Skip Backus
Jeffrey W. Baker and Cathy Franklin
Sybil K. Baldwin
George and Phebe Banta
George Beane and Patricia Begley
Bellefield Development Partners, LLC
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Daniel Blum/Phelps Hospital
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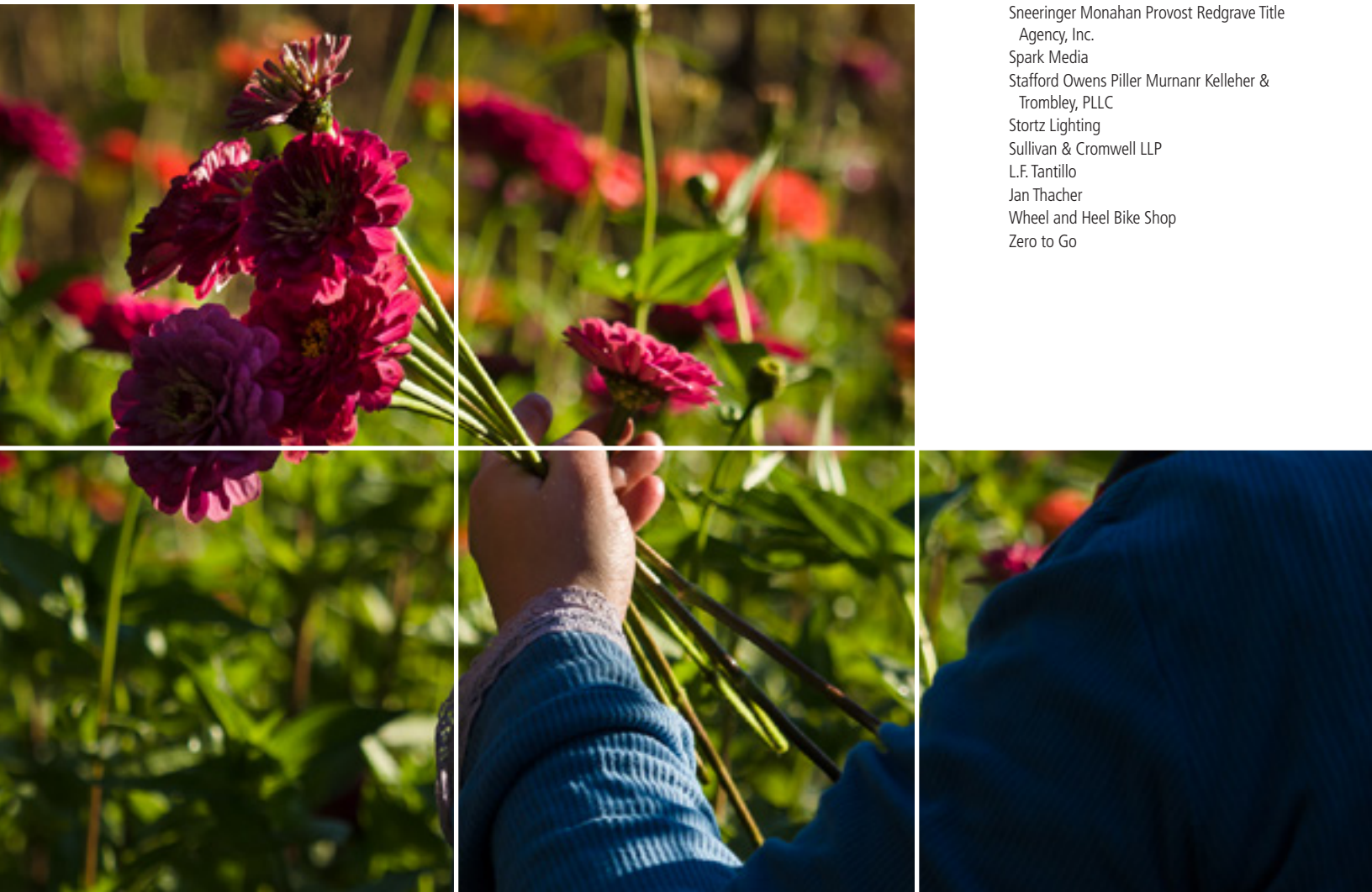

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Staff

The following are our staff members as of October 2017

Executive Team

Ned Sullivan
President

Anna D. Tetrault
Executive Assistant to the President

Steve Rosenberg
Senior Vice President;
Executive Director of The Scenic Hudson Land Trust, Inc.

Bethe Myers
Executive Assistant to the Senior Vice President

Erin Thérèse Riley
Senior Vice President

Heather Eckardt
Executive Assistant to the Senior Vice President

Jason Camporese
Chief Finance and Operations Officer

Gail Krein-Clearwater
Executive Assistant to the Chief Finance and Operations Officer

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James Mudd
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Land Project Manager

Cari Watkins-Bates
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Director of Science, Climate and Stewardship

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SCA Natural Resources Assistant

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Land Stewardship Coordinator

Sarah Turner
Conservation Easement Manager

Alex Wolf
Conservation Scientist

Parks and Community Engagement

Rita D. Shaheen
Director of Parks and Community Engagement

Peter Barnard
Urban Designer

Heather Blaikie
Park Planner

Geoff Carter
Parks and Restoration Manager

Anthony Coneski
Event and Community Project Manager

Amy Kacala
Senior Community Planner

Matt Kennedy
Parks Maintenance Associate

Carley Kiernan
Parks and Trails Coordinator

Joseph Kiernan
Parks Project Manager

Richard Kirby
Parks Stewardship Coordinator

Will Marrinan
SCA Parks and Trails Assistant

Steven Naukam
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Education and Community Engagement Coordinator

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Senior Park Planner

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Administrative Assistant

Pete Tamburrini
Parks Repair and Maintenance Technician

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Public Policy Director

Hayley Carlock
Environmental Advocacy Director

Nickesha Chung
Environmental Outreach Organizer

Rebecca De La Cruz
Environmental Program Associate

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Land Use and Environmental Advocacy Attorney

Althea Mullarkey
Public Policy and Special Projects Analyst

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Left: Scenic Hudson staff "in the field."

Farmland protection PARTNERS

In addition to the eight farm families, those collaborating with Scenic Hudson to conserve farmland last year included the Agricultural Stewardship Association, Columbia Land Conservancy, Dutchess Land Conservancy, Orange County Land Trust, Equity Trust, Dutchess County and New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets.

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