



Wallkill Valley Land Trust

ESOPUS, GARDINER, LLOYD, MARLBOROUGH, NEW PALTZ, PLATTEKILL, ROSENDALE, SHAWANGUNK

SPRING 2014 NEWSLETTER

PROFILE: Rossetter Easement **Old Ford Farm**

The Rossetter easement, filed in 2008, protects 51.28 acres. When David and Penny Rossetter bought their 51+ acre property on Old Ford Road in Gardiner, New York, the old fields and pastures were starting to revert to woodland and shrubs. The property had been part of a farm, and the Rossetters wanted not only to preserve the open space of their land with a conservation easement (David was on the Wallkill Valley Land Trust Board of Directors at the time) but to find some way to return the old fields to agricultural use. When they worked out the terms of their 2008 conservation easement, care was taken to make sure agricultural uses would be permitted.

Enter Joe and Becky Fullam.

After interning at Brook Farm, Becky was attracted to the local food movement, while Joe had attended school for mechanical engineering. Both grew attracted to farming and the outdoor way of life. Meanwhile the Rossetters were looking for someone to farm their fields, since they had lain uncultivated for many years. Becky called the Wallkill Valley Trust in 2008, asking about any available farmland in Ulster County. We connected the Fullams with the Rossetters and Old Ford Farm was born!

The Fullams made an agreement with the Rossetters to do more than farm the fields: They worked very hard to restore the land for sustainable farming as well as to preserve the wetlands. They removed invasive weeds and shrubs, cleared the overgrown fields, maintained the treelines, and protected the wetlands by

using conservation farming techniques that prevent erosion and maintain the forage quality of the fields. Becky, Joe and a handful of employees understand the value of the conservation easement and they work very hard to ensure they have a low impact on the natural environment. Free-range chickens with their hen-house on wheels and moveable fencing are rotated around the pasture frequently to maintain even impact, and their seven grass-fed Jersey and Jersey-Milking Devon cross dairy cows roam gently to graze, while fertilizing the soil. Former landowner and Conservation Easement Grantor David Rossetter is enthusiastic

Rossetter Easement
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Mission:

Wallkill Valley Land Trust's mission is to enhance the quality of life in Southern Ulster County by conserving lands of scenic, agricultural, ecological, recreational and cultural significance.

A Letter from the Executive Director

With so many recent accomplishments at the Wallkill Valley Land Trust it is truly a privilege to come to work every day! In the last twelve months, we completed restoration of the Rosendale Trestle and doubled the rail trail with a 11.5 mile extension to Kingston. We are working on new conservation easements to preserve some of the most important farmland in the valley and our partnerships with other organizations such as The Open Space Institute and Mohonk Preserve continue to grow.

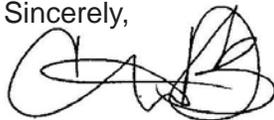
I was at work one morning, sitting at my desk, when I received a phone call telling me that out of 110 nominees, I was chosen to be one of the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce's Forty Under 40 Shaker Award recipients. I was not only honored, but very appreciative of the recognition of the Land Trust and its work. One of the questions they asked me was: "What was the most rewarding part of your job?"

I knew the answer immediately: The people! The people who call the Hudson Valley home or visit it annually. They care deeply for this place. It is apparent to me all the time, and it is what I love about living and working here. I am able to interact with a diverse mix of community members every single day, but everyone cares about preserving our landscape and quality of life.

One day, I am meeting with leaders in local government, and the next day I am talking to farmers on a CSA Farm (Community Supported Agriculture). The very next day, I am sitting in the living room of a small family wanting to protect their land and the conservation values that surround them in perpetuity. Then that afternoon, I am chatting with a group of college students on the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail about how it is protected, FOREVER!

The individuals who make up these communities believe in the Hudson Valley. Not everyone has the same beliefs, which is what makes each day interesting, but everyone cares about the environment we all live in. That means everything to me, and makes each day very special. People visit here or call this area home because they love this place, and I love working with everyone to continue to protect southern Ulster County for the future!

Sincerely,



Christie DeBoer

Rossetter Easement

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about Becky's and Joe's tenancy: "They have been simply wonderful for the land and the environment. Joe and Becky deserve a lot of credit for what they have contributed to the land and the area."

Old Ford Farm produces grass-fed raw milk and pastured eggs, pork, and chicken, which are all sold at a self-serve farm stand. Here you can also find products from other farms in the area like beef from Kiernan Farm (another WVLТ easement, featured previously in our Fall 2013 issue), grains from Wild Hive Community Grain Project, and honey from Honeybrook Farms. In addition to the farm stand products, the farm also offers vegetables through a CSA and pasture-raised turkeys at Thanksgiving.

Call 845-220-7819 or email oldfordfarm@live.com if you would like more information on any of Old Ford Farm's products or about joining the CSA. The farm stand is open to the public year-round and is located at 1359 Old Ford Road in Gardiner.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Jim Ottaway, Treasurer

Seth Hollander, Finance Committee Chair

We are providing financial highlights to give members and donors an overview of our support and performance. This report is based on audited statements from our operating year July 1, 2012-June 30, 2013.

The year that we are highlighting was one of change and accomplishment. Chris Bernabo was elected as President– replacing Robert Taylor, who had been in that role for 16 years. At the end of that fiscal year, we celebrated the opening of the Rosendale Trestle as part of the extension of the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail.

The Wallkill Valley Land Trust is able to accomplish a significant amount with a modest budget. Our support is primarily from individual and business contributions, grants and stewardship fees. Revenues between the most recent operating year (July 1, 2012 - June

30, 2013) and the previous year decreased by \$100,000 – due to a one-time property donation the previous operating year.

“Non-operating” or restricted revenues are for special projects, including the restoration of the Rosendale Trestle – which required a special fundraising campaign, contractor work and staff time to manage. The Financial Highlights table shows that the revenue for special projects was more than 50% of total revenue in the most recent reporting year.

We continue to enhance our financial base through ongoing cultivation of our relationships with members, donors and partner organizations. Since the end of operating year that is highlighted here, we started a membership program. We regularly hold events for members, donors and community members – including our annual walks and talks, Historic House Tour, Conservation Award Ceremony, WVLT open house, etc.

Financial Highlights

(in thousands of dollars)

	July '12-June '13	July '11-June '12
OPERATING REVENUES, SUPPORT, LOSSES		
Contributions	116	298
Grants	45	20
Income (Stewardship, Other)	28	29
Unrealized Loss / Gain on Investments	9	(4)
Subtotal	198	344
NON-OPERATING		
Net Assets Released from Restricted Sources	232	188
TOTAL REVENUES	430	531
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Program* Service Expenses	358	108
Management and General Expenses	62	38
Fundraising Expenses	15	23
Subtotal	435	169
OPERATING SURPLUS / DEFICIT	(5)	362
NON-OPERATING REVENUES, SUPPORT, LOSSES		
Net Assets Released from Restricted Sources	232	188
Change in Non-Operating / Restricted Assets	25	5
TOTAL CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	20	367
Net Assets (Beginning of Year)	676	309
Net Assets (End of Year)	696	676

We are also in the process of developing long-term plans for our conservation priorities (including conservation easements and the protection / management of public lands), becoming accredited through the national Land Trust Accreditation Commission, and increasing development / revenue of the organization.

With the support of our members, generous donors and partners, and growing participation in our programs, our Executive Team, other members of the Board and our staff helped to manage a year of significant change and expanded scope. We look forward to updating you on our progress when we report on the year that ends June 30, 2014.

*Programs include management of conservation easements, special projects, education / outreach.

In addition to \$198,197 in operating support, the Wallkill Valley Land Trust raised an additional \$256,754 from contributions, grants and investment gains in support of special projects, including the restoration of the Rosendale Trestle.

FINANCIAL REPORT
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Our 4th Annual House Tour Benefit - Saturday, May 31st **Houses and Farms in the Wallkill River Valley:** **The Changing Face of Agriculture in Gardiner and Shawangunk**

The Wallkill Valley Land Trust's 4th Annual Historic House Tour returns on May 31st to the river valleys of southwestern Gardiner and Shawangunk. This area, on the western bank of the Wallkill River, is rich in farmland and wildlife habitat, with the Shawangunk ridge as a majestic backdrop.



Photos by Robert Witkowski

Federal style in stone and clapboard, Greek Revival clapboard dwellings, a stone colonial surrounded by early twentieth-century reincarnations of early houses, and a sustainable solar-powered contemporary house

fashioned from an 1850s barn structure. Of the seven houses, four are on the National Register of Historic Places; all have been lovingly restored by recent owners. Other important National Register historic sites include a former grist mill, and a still active brick mold factory, which serve as powerful reminders of 19th-century water-powered industrial life in the Wallkill River Valley.

Along scenic bi-ways one passes expansive agricultural tracts once dotted with endless dairy herds. Among those parcels adapted to new agrarian uses are horse farms reminiscent of Kentucky bluegrass country, grass-fed beef farms, a sheep farm and wool manufactory, apple orchards, a vineyard, and a National Wildlife Refuge.

The house tour focuses on some of the region's finest houses situated on old farm complexes, combining working agricultural parcels with woodlands, rivers and streams. Originally settled by Dutch, French Huguenot and other locally prominent families, they illustrate the evolution of regional architecture from the early 18th century to the present.

Featured are important vernacular examples of the Dutch-style stone house and barns, the

The Gardiner and Shawangunk regions retain some of the best vernacular architecture and most pastoral agrarian landscapes with breathtaking scenic panoramas in Ulster County. Of enduring significance, they illustrate the important roles that adaptive re-use of agricultural terrain and the restoration of historic houses play in land conservation and historic preservation today.

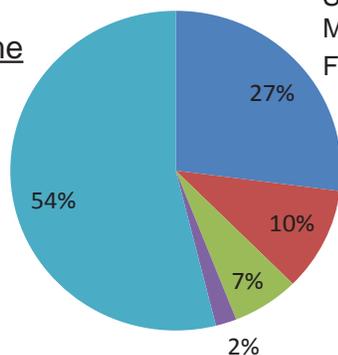
For more information or to register, please visit: www.WallkillValleyLT.org or call 845-255-2761.

Proceeds benefit WVLT's land preservation efforts.

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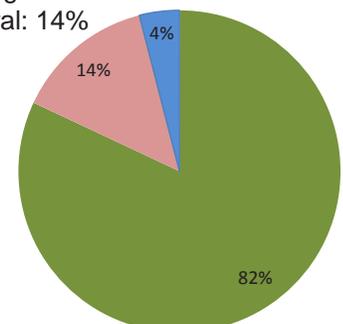
June '12-July '13 Operating Income

- Projects: 54%
- General Operating:
 - Contributions: 27%
 - Grants: 10%
 - Income: 7%
 - Unrealized Investment Gains: 2%



July '12 - June '13 Expenses

- Special Projects and Program Services: 82%
- Management and General: 14%
- Fundraising: 4%



Joppenbergh Mountain 2014

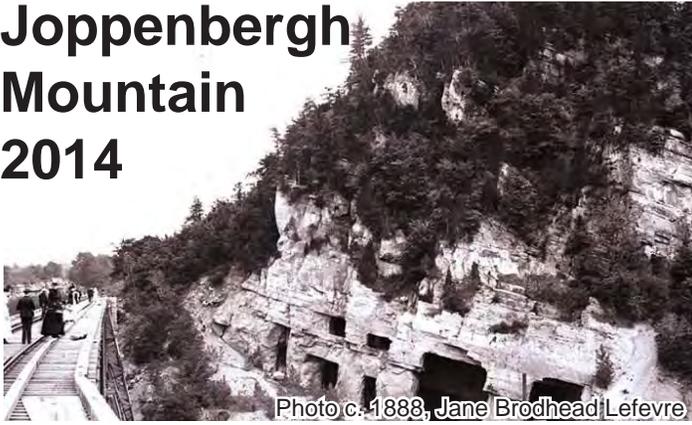


Photo c. 1888, Jane Brodhead Lefevre

In the fall of 2013, we applied for a grant to help fund the implementation of the Joppenbergh Mountain Land Use Plan, specifically funding to support:

- Assessing the structural integrity of the kiln wall in Willow Kiln Park and determining if we need to install new safety fences;
- Securing some of the man-made hazards on the mountain (mine entrances and old buildings);
- Soliciting bids for some of the near-term trail improvements we've identified; and
- Finishing up the cleanup of trash and large metal debris.

Unfortunately, the organization we applied to for the grant informed us that they cannot support this endeavor this year. So, we're pursuing other potential funding sources to help us move the land use plan implementation along! We hope to organize a few events on Joppenbergh, so watch your inboxes for announcements of clean up days, walks and talks, and other opportunities to get involved and help. If you want to help us with Joppenbergh Mountain, please contact us at the office 845-255-2761.

2014 Trestle and Extension of the Rail Trail:

Spring is greeting us with not only some warmer weather, but also some new improvement projects on the extension of the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail and around the Rosendale Trestle! The biggest project tackles the drainage issues from the storm water runoff at the South end of the Trestle—where the Rail Trail crosses Mountain Road. Drainage and washouts have been a problem for years here. After extensive planning, we implemented a storm water catchment drainage system to address this issue and protect the Rail Trail for future use. It

was very important to not only stop the erosion of the trail that has occurred and repair the Rail Trail, but also to ensure that this will not continue to happen. The work included digging a drainage trench, and putting in catchment basins along the trail, piping the collected water down the Rail Trail property, and then stabilizing the area.

This work is happening in tandem with our trail project, which creates a path that will run from the south end of the trestle down to the Rondout Creek. We are working with the Town of Rosendale to have the trail continue from our property and along the Rondout Creek to intersect with the bridge by St. Peter's church. This trail will provide pedestrians with a safer and more pleasant access route into town and Main Street, which will be more desirable than walking down the shoulder of Keator Avenue. We hope to have the trail project completed by mid-summer (if not earlier!), so stay tuned for a grand opening celebration!

Some of the other Rail Trail extension improvement projects include installing railings/fencing along the River Road extension bridge (about a mile and a half south of the trestle) and doing some cleanup projects on various sections of the Rail Trail.

To stay on top of all of the exciting improvements, please connect to our Facebook page or join our email contact list (info@WallkillValleyLT.org).

If you would like to learn more ways to get involved with the continued support of the extension of the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail or our other projects, please visit our website at: www.WallkillValleyLT.org.

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New Paltz Writing Program Gives Students a Sense of Stewardship

The Hudson Valley Writing Project at SUNY New Paltz (HVWP), the Wallkill Valley Land Trust, and the Huguenot Historic Society are collaborating on a groundbreaking summer program called “Preserving Land and Community,” funded in part by a grant from the Nyquist Foundation.

“Preserving Land and Community” is a one-week writing enrichment program for students ages 12-16 wishing to explore nature, history, and issues of conservation and land preservation. Young writers will use daily tours of historic colonial stone houses, hikes in the Nyquist-Harcourt Wildlife Sanctuary, and visits to the Huguenot Street Farm, both protected by conservation easements, as inspiration for daily writing, gaining first-hand knowledge and appreciation of the Wallkill Valley and the New Paltz community in the process. The program is led by two HVWP teachers, Mary Fakler, a SUNY New Paltz Instructor in the English Department, and Dennis Maher, an 8th grade English teacher at South Middle

School in Newburgh. Having extensive experience orchestrating field trips, Maher believes that “these experiences not only create a lifetime of memories, but they help students develop a better understanding of what it means to learn beyond the classroom walls.

This program is one of many collaborative efforts the Wallkill Valley Land Trust is doing with SUNY New Paltz professors and staff. “Preserving Land and Community” will take place July 28-August 1st. For more information, and to register, please visit www.newpaltz.edu/hvwp/ywcamp.html, or contact Diane Rawson, HVWP Coordinating Director of Youth Programs: (845) 943-8437.

