



# Walkkill Valley Land Trust

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

## FALL 2014 NEWSLETTER

### PROFILE: Hare East and West Easement

*The Hare West (April 2005) and Hare East (December 2006) conservation easements were both granted by WVLT Board member Robert Hare and Iza Trapani Hare.*

*Together they encompass 139.5 acres in the Town of Esopus.*

*The Hare West easement was created when they subdivided and sold the original farm buildings along with 26.8 acres. The 112.7 acre remainder is protected by the Hare East easement, where they built a home, workshop, and several outbuildings. The properties contain open fields, a stream, four farm ponds, hardwood and mixed evergreen and deciduous forests, rocky outcrops of greywacke, the native bedrock, a vernal pool with great upland habitat, a wooded swamp and other wetland areas, and some shrubby old field-- a remarkable assemblage of habitat types and tremendous scenic beauty.*



*Here in Rob Hare's own words is the story of the Hare Easements:*

Iza and I married in 1997 and wanting a new home for our new life and room for our dogs to run we started looking for possibilities between Kingston and New Paltz, between our respective friends.

After a year and a half, we saw the fields along Carney Road with the house and barns in the distance. We said, "Maybe they will sell us five acres." It seemed like an impossibility. Two months later I took a chance and drove down the driveway. In 1500 feet, I had been transported to a hidden valley in Vermont. Amazingly the whole farm was for sale [the previous two owners did not intensively farm the land; rather, it was used as a weekend home. The original home burned in the early 1950s.].

We "bought the farm" but wanted to be sure that the magic of our hidden valley was never

lost and yet also knew that we had to plan for the eventuality of future subdivision. A sad but necessary precaution.

My family has a long history of land conservation, planning and zoning so the concept of using an easement as a tool to protect our hidden valley came naturally. Knowing that land trusts are often organized around watersheds, I went looking for something with Walkkill in its name and the rest, as they say, is history.

Many people see easements as giving away control and ownership of their land. Unless the land ownership is given completely away nothing could be further from the truth. Putting an easement on your land is an opportunity to thoroughly plan for the future with the help and assistance of professionals who share your dream and will undertake to enforce it forever.

**Hare Easement**  
*continues on next page...*

**Board of Directors:**

Chris Bernabo,  
*President*  
Robert Witkowski,  
*Vice-President*  
Carol B. LeFevre,  
*Secretary*  
James H. Ottaway Jr.,  
*Treasurer*  
Robert E. Taylor,  
*Member at Large*  
Bradford Barclay  
Hensley Evans  
Rob Hare  
Seth Hollander  
Vals Osborne  
Laura Wong-Pan

**Staff:**

Christie DeBoer,  
*Executive Director*  
Melissa Brunette,  
*Office Manager*

**Consultant:**

Lynn Bowdery,  
*Land Steward*

**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.

**Letter from the President**

The primary mission of the Wallkill Valley Land Trust (WVLT) is to conserve lands of scenic, agricultural, ecological, recreational and cultural value. This is how we work to keep our landscape intact and contributing to our quality of life and the unique sense of place that makes living here so special. Our mandate is to conserve these lands – with either easements or by owning them – in perpetuity.

Forever is a very long time to plan for the future. Once we have conserved these lands, we need to look after them to ensure they remain protected and continue providing the benefits they offer us all. The issue we face is how to be sure we have the funds to maintain these lands and our stewardship of them after they are secured. Maintaining long-term oversight is a major challenge faced by all land trusts as well as publicly and privately held conservation lands.

WVLT continues to work to ensure our effective stewardship. We must monitor our easements annually, overseeing that the lands remain conserved as intended in the legal easements that owners have granted us. For the lands we own, such as the Rosendale Trestle and Joppenbergh Mountain, we need to be sure that they are managed and maintained to continue to serve our communities.

We are beginning a comprehensive fundraising campaign to solicit the resources needed to ensure our iconic landscapes and precious resources are preserved forever. While acquiring new lands or easements is always exciting, the real job just begins with that initial step in conservation. Given the value and urgency of these ongoing efforts to sustain our quality of life, we urge you to consider the future and make a generous contribution to that cause by becoming a new WVLT Member or by renewing your Annual Membership.

**Thank you for helping to support our local conservation efforts  
-- in perpetuity!**

Cheers,  
Chris Bernabo  
*President*

**Hare Easement**  
*from previous page...*

With almost a mile of road frontage, one might think that the property could be chopped into 150 one-acre lots. However zoning and environmental laws make that impossible. Besides, that was not our intention. The objective in creating our easement plan was to both retain the hidden valley beauty and give ourselves options for the unknown future. We decided on five possible lots with

between 7 to 78 acres. Each lot would have a proscribed building area so that no home could see any other, and a private driveway.

Last year we realized it was time for us to “downsize” and focus on our life's work: furniture making and children's books. So, all of our careful planning is now being put into action. We are keeping my shop, the land along the town road and building a smaller more easily maintained home near the shop. The new home will be tucked into the woods invisible from our current home, the original farm buildings and the town road but with a wonderful view similar to our current view. Best of all, no lawn! This short move is exciting as we love designing and building together. We look forward as well to making friends with new neighbors.

# Students Write About the Land

Project Write: Preserving Land and Community, a place-based creative writing program from July 28 to August 1, provided 14 junior high and high school teenagers a unique opportunity to develop a first-hand understanding of the Wallkill Valley: the preservation of its diverse natural resources, community supported agriculture and scenic beauty, and the history, lives and colonial homes of its Huguenot settlers. **A first in New Paltz, it was sponsored by the Hudson Valley Writing Project at SUNY New Paltz, with the Wallkill Valley Land Trust, in collaboration with Historic Huguenot Street, Huguenot Street Farm, Nyquist Foundation, and the Dutch Reformed Church.**

Partial funding and a daily work space were generously provided by the latter two. Students were introduced to a variety of writing genres, new vocabulary (i.e. stewardship, preserve, easement, CSA), engaging sensory activities, meditation exercises, peer editing activities, and public readings of their work. WVLT is proud to have participated in this inspiring educational endeavor. The students' writings were presented publicly

before an audience of family, friends and leaders of the collaborating organizations at the closing ceremony. Here's just one example of their creative accomplishments by the youngest member of the group (a talented fourth grader of 9 years old!):

## **The Fields of Farm, by Elliott Goldberg**

I am in a vast green place,  
with smells all around,  
and flowers blowing in the cool light wind.  
I touch a smooth basil leaf,  
small and perfect.  
The leaf is light green  
with small veins that shine.  
The smell is like black licorice  
falling from the warm sky.  
The leaf tickles your nose as you smell.  
The smell gives you memories  
of fun and parties.  
While you smell the lovely plant,  
you listen to the humming of bees...  
Taking pollen from pretty flowers.  
You can also hear birds singing songs...  
That only they can understand in the  
amazing field.

---

### **Not a member yet?**

If you are concerned about the steady loss of our wildlife habitats, scenic vistas, and farmlands, now is the time to act. Through membership in the Land Trust, you will stand with others in the Wallkill Valley and beyond who have chosen to preserve our natural resources for future generations.

#### *Benefits of membership include:*

- Invitation to our member-only programs and events
- "Walk and Talk" outings
- Updates on conservation projects
- Opportunities to volunteer
- Knowing that you are active in helping the Land Trust fulfill its mission of preserving the natural beauty of Southern Ulster County

**We exist because of our dedicated and generous supporters. We feel it is important that your generosity be recognized by the distinction of membership. Please add your support to the preservation of land in this community by joining the Wallkill Valley Land Trust today.**

Thank you for helping to preserve the natural treasures in our community!  
We present the Wallkill Valley Land Trust members for 2014 as of October 16, 2014:

Benefactors (\$5,000+):

Anonymous  
 Church Communities Foundation  
 Henri and Judy Gueron  
 Land Trust Alliance  
 Open Space Institute  
 Jim and Mary Ottaway  
 Peter and Carmen Lucia  
 Buck Foundation  
 Rossetter Foundation

Visionaries (\$2,500-\$4,999):

Ms. Anne Bienstock  
 Vals Osborne and  
 José Moreno-LaCalle

Leaders (\$1,000-\$2,499):

Anonymous  
 Chris Bernabo  
 Pamela and Frederick Freed  
 Seth Hollander  
 IBM  
 Carol LeFevre  
 Charles Furer  
 Kenneth and Rosemary Pawson  
 Carol and Tom Phelan  
 Rosendale Chamber of Commerce  
 The 1850 House Inn and Tavern  
 Arthur and Gabrielle Sulzberger  
 Select Equity Group Foundation  
 Thomson Reuters  
 Mike and Mary Tannen

Stewards (\$500-\$999):

Anonymous  
 B. Appel Irrevocable Trust  
 Catherine Benham and Leo Boice  
 Dirk R. Dewitt  
 Deutsche Bank Americas Foundation  
 Linda B. Donovan  
 Peter and Caren Fairweather  
 Jane LaForge  
 James Lyons and Nina Penney  
 Phyllis Noreen  
 Jack Ordway and Terri Van Etten  
 Joanne Solace Propp  
 in honor of Cara Lee  
 and the Nature Conservancy  
 Robert and Jane Taylor

Conservators (\$250-499):

Mike Allen  
 Elisabeth Bengston and Matthew Gillis  
 Dave Church and Liana Hoodes  
 Vladimir and Haewon Feltsman  
 Gloria Gillman  
 Angel Gonzalez / Angel Acres  
 Rob and Iza Hare  
 Mala Hoffman and Marc Moran  
 Innovative Resources Group, Inc.  
 Phil Herschenfeld  
 Susan L. LeFevre and  
 Janet P. Wilkinson  
 George Lithco and Margaret Whalen  
 Dr. Carleton Mabee  
 Douglas McBride  
 Letitia Osborne and Ken Doyle  
 David Rosenberg and  
 Bernice K. Leber  
 Angela Sisson and Lee Rosenthal  
 Steve and Shelley Turk

Bill and Sally Vasse  
 John and Vivian Wadlin  
 Jim and Cheryl Wherry

Explorers (\$100-\$249):

Caroline Abels  
 Gregory and Janet Abels  
 Michael Aiello and Robert Witkowski  
 Yvonne and Bill Allenson  
 Tom and Tosh Barron  
 Matthew Bialecki, AIA  
 Peter and Helena Bienstock  
 Joseph Bridges  
 David Brownstein  
 Ellie Buesing  
 Joan Burroughs and Paul Hanle  
 Irwin Cantor  
 Teresa Colucci Shand  
 Timothy J. Copeland /  
 Copeland Funeral Home  
 Christine DeLape  
 Jeffrey Doppelt  
 Dina DuBois  
 in honor of Nancy Winter  
 Mike and Liss Flaherty  
 Allison Friberg  
 Mark Gibian  
 Stewart and Eileen Glenn  
 Norman Goluskin  
 Rob Greene  
 Trina and Rob Greene  
 Sandra Hutton  
 Lee Kalish  
 Joe Katz and Pattie Eakin  
 Paul T. and Jane C. Kellar  
 Ron and May Knapp  
 Madi Kraus  
 Floyd Lattin  
 David and Susanna Lent  
 Andrea Lurie and Nancy Rosen  
 Carol and George Majestic  
 in honor of  
 Gregory and Janet Abels  
 Erica Marks and Daniel George  
 Betty Marolla and Robert Gruetter  
 Dr. David and Bette Mesches  
 Jen Metzger and John Schwartz  
 Elizabeth Moffett  
 Tohru Nakamura  
 Thomas and Corinne Nyquist  
 Stuart and Laurel Okorofsky  
 Cristin O'Neal  
 Anne O'Neill  
 Richard Penner and  
 Susan Woodburn  
 William and Sally Rhoads  
 Jonathan and Lynne Ridgeway  
 Neil Rindlaub and Kathryn Adorney  
 Anthony and Tatiana Robinson  
 Rock and Snow, Inc.  
 Roger Roloff and Barbara Petersen  
 Carol Roper  
 Boria and Linda Sax  
 Mary Etta Schneider  
 Dr. Michael and  
 Edith Ruger Schwartz  
 Seakill Custom Home Builders  
 Sara S. Senior  
 Albert K. and Nina Smiley  
 Kathleen Tener Smith  
 in honor of Bob Taylor

Kevin Smith  
 Mr. and Mrs. Raymond D. Smith  
 Johanna and Raymond Sokolov  
 Joanne Steele  
 David and Harriett Straus  
 Lee and Joanna Titus  
 Joe Trapani  
 Dr. Jack Weeks and  
 Dr. Elizabeth Collins  
 Ethan Winter,  
 in honor of Wally Winter  
 in memory of Ruth Elting  
 Nancy Winter  
 Laura and Ray Wong-Pan  
 Daniel E. Zalewski  
 J. Philip Zand

Friends (\$50-\$99):

Anna and Burton Angrist  
 Sheryl Augustine  
 Barbara F. Babb  
 Roland and Mary Jean Bahret  
 Anthony Bax and Sabrina Ferguson  
 Marie and Matthew Bianco  
 Marvin Birnbaum, Esq.  
 Hal Brill and Joan Reisman-Brill  
 Cathy and Peter Brown  
 Kitty Brown and David Smith  
 Margaret Brunette  
 Jim and Susan Buonocore  
 Richard and Kristina Carr  
 Cheech Barber  
 Rosalyn Cherry  
 John R. Clune  
 Anne Coon  
 Mary Jane Corry  
 Mrs. Joan Davison  
 Roderick O. Dressel Sr.  
 David Dukler  
 Donna Eis  
 Anne Carr Finn  
 Marc B. Fried  
 Eric Friedman and Judith Hoyt  
 Elinor Fuchs  
 Regina Gallagher  
 Clark H. Galloway  
 Leland and Joyce Gartrell  
 Ernie Gehrer  
 Eric Gidseg and Rebecca Walters  
 Saren Goldner  
 Patty Goodwin  
 Kimberly Greene  
 Gerd and Mary Ann Grieninger  
 Dan and Ann Guenther  
 Adelaide Haas  
 Joe and Carma Haas  
 Ms. Misha Harnick  
 Judith K. Heimann  
 G.J. Hillesheimer  
 Jim Hoover  
 Kate Hudson  
 Suzanne Isaksen  
 Eric Kiviat  
 John Jamiolkowski and  
 Jonathan J. Smith  
 Matthew Kierstead  
 The Bicycle Rack  
 Angela Klopstech and Myron Koltuv  
 Frank and Susie Kraat  
 Barbara Rubin  
 and Robert Larsen  
 Phil LaScola

Michael and Peg Lotvin  
 Bob Marcinik  
 Robert Miller and  
 Christine Crawfis  
 Mary T. Moxham  
 Kristine Pedersen  
 Earl Prochaska  
 David C. Ralph  
 Robi Josephson and Ted Reiss  
 Ray Rice  
 David Santner  
 Maggie Schoonmaker  
 Patricia Schwartz  
 Robert Lee Smith  
 Kathleen and Frederick Stewart  
 Alan and Margarete Stout  
 Orest Szul  
 Taconic Site Design and  
 Landscape Architecture  
 Jason Taylor and Stella Deen  
 Jane Ann and Roy Williams

In Honor of Glenn Hoagland:

Matthew Bialecki, AIA  
 Peter and Helena Bienstock  
 Ellie Buesing  
 Teresa Colucci Shand  
 Dirk R. Dewitt  
 Norman Goluskin  
 Jim Hoover  
 Paul T. and Jane C. Kellar  
 also in honor of  
 Rob Hare and Bob Taylor  
 Vals Osborne and  
 José Moreno-LaCalle  
 Jim and Mary Ottaway  
 Angela Sisson and  
 Lee Rosenthal  
 Albert K. and Nina Smiley  
 Arthur and Gabrielle Sulzberger

Please patronize our 2014  
 business sponsors!  
 When you do,  
 be sure to thank them  
 for supporting the  
 Wallkill Valley Land Trust!





## *Jay A. LeFevre,*

**first president of the  
Walkkill Valley Land  
Trust in 1987, died  
August 28 at 89. As  
a leading respected**

**citizen of New Paltz for many years, he  
helped the new land trust gain credibil-  
ity with his effective leadership.**

Kitty Brown, retired New Paltz town council member who started the Walkkill Valley Land Trust in 1987 and became its second president, remembered Jay's importance to getting the land trust started: "Jay had the kind of humble charisma that made everyone stop and listen when he had something to say. When I became interested in starting a local land trust, he was the first person whose counsel I sought, because I knew that if Jay thought it was a good idea, so would everyone else in town. He was our first president and it was his signature that secured the purchase of the Walkkill Valley Rail Trail from Conrail (the first 11 miles in Gardiner and New Paltz)."

Jay was active on the boards of The New Paltz School District, Huguenot Historical Society and Kingston Hospital, but he was best known as the proprietor of his family business off North Church Street in New Paltz called A.P. LeFevre and Son Lumber and Hardware, where he made hundreds of friends and happy customers until it closed in 1985. He first met there several people who later became land trust directors.

One regular customer was Bob Taylor, whom Jay and Bob Lasher asked to join them on the land trust board of directors in 1996. Bob was later elected president of the board for 15 years, longer than any other land trust president, retiring in 2013 when Chris Bernabo was elected president.

Ray and Johanna Sokolov of Gardiner were Jay's customers since 1982. Johanna, one of the founding members of the land trust and creator of its annual house tours, recalls, "Jay was an entertaining and useful source of local

history, arcane information about living fences and llamas, and salty anecdotes from his colorful past. His standing as a member of the old guard gave the land trust broad acceptance in the community." Johanna served on the land trust board from its beginning until 2013 -- the longest serving director in Walkkill Valley Land Trust history.

Jasper LeFevre Clark remembers his grandfather Jay with his signature "pipe of tobacco, fly fishing rod, sweet tooth that is fine with skipping the salad, and a silver mane with a set of sideburns to match."

Jim Ottaway Jr, treasurer of the land trust since its early days, added, "Jay's pipe and sideburns, tall stature and good humor, gave us an imprimatur of respectability that attracted experts in land trust management like Rose Harvey at the Land Trust Alliance (now commissioner of New York State Parks and Recreation) and Seward Weber, executive director of the Mohonk Preserve at that time, who gave us good advice on how to get conservation easement donations from public spirited residents in Southern Ulster County to protect clean air and water, beautiful views and open landscapes."

Carol LeFevre, secretary of the Walkkill Valley Land Trust and close friend of Jay LeFevre for many years, said, "Over 25 years ago when Jay was president of the land trust, I looked forward to seeing him after board meetings to hear all the goings on at the land trust. I came on the board after Jay retired (in 2000), and then our roles were reversed. His interest in the land trust never waned, and I was glad that I was able to keep him close to land trust activities for the rest of his life."

Vals Osborne, active land trust board member, recalls "most wonderful memories of Jay throughout my life from the time I was about ten, when his family still owned the lumber yard. It was the last of its kind, I think, the warmest and most welcoming place in town with the best scent of sawn lumber. Jay was always there, and so helpful, encouraging and patient. He was one of the first people I talked to about putting a conservation easement on our property. I have such fond memories of his graciousness and big heart. It is no wonder he cared so much about conserving our beautiful land."



## Wallkill Valley LAND TRUST

PO Box 208  
New Paltz, NY 12561

845-255-2761  
[www.WallkillValleyLT.org](http://www.WallkillValleyLT.org)

Non-Profit  
Organization  
US Postage  
PAID  
Newburgh, NY  
Permit No. 440

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

### ***The Changing Face of Agriculture in Shawangunk and Gardiner***

This year's 4th Annual Historic House Tour took place on May 31st, a glorious sunny day and perfect weather for exploring the area's finest houses and farm complexes, early industrial and religious sites, rich agrarian farmlands, and stunning scenic vistas in southern Gardiner and the Shawangunk River Valley. Featured were important examples of regional architecture dating from the 18th century to the present, seven of which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places; three had never been seen before by the public. Aside from the educational and recreational benefits these tours provide, they are an important source of revenue for WVLT's land preservation efforts; this year's net income for the tour doubled last year's, bringing 240 registrants and 90 house volunteers on tour.



***Save the date for our 5th annual tour-  
Saturday, May 30, 2015!***

*Thank you to all of our homeowners,  
donors, volunteers and sponsors!*

### ***Trestle Plaques Recognize Donors and Supporters***

Twenty bronzed plaques were riveted to the Corten-Steel Trestle railings in October by WVLT Board member Rob Hare and his skilled volunteer team. Each plaque is unique, illustrating messages to loved ones, stating thanks to individuals and organizations, or business showing their support. This installation is one of many as there is space for 240 plaques on the Rosendale Trestle, so you can have a plaque on the Trestle too!

Please go to  
[www.WallkillValleyLT.org/index.php/rail-trail/rosendale-trestle-plaque](http://www.WallkillValleyLT.org/index.php/rail-trail/rosendale-trestle-plaque)  
for more information.

