



# Walkkill Valley Land Trust

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

## FALL 2016 NEWSLETTER

### *Annual Fundraising Dinner to Honor Photographer, Hardie Truesdale*



"Fall Carriageway, Minnewaska State Park" by Hardie Truesdale

**October 16th, 2016**

**4:00 pm - 7:00 pm**

**The Pavilion at Garvan's**

**215 Huguenot St., New Paltz, NY**

The Walkkill Valley Land Trust's 12th Annual Conservation Award Ceremony on Sunday, October 16th at Garvan's will celebrate Hardie Truesdale for his artistic contribution to preserving the beauty of southern Ulster County and the Hudson Valley. Hardie began photographing seriously in 1969. He has studied at Banff School of Fine Arts (now Banff Centre) and the International Center for Photography and has published several books of his work. His prints are shown and sold by

galleries and interior decorators throughout the country. We hope you will join us in honor of Mr. Truesdale, whose photos will continue to preserve and promote the mission of the Walkkill Valley Land Trust, which is *to enhance the quality of life in southern Ulster County by conserving lands of scenic, agricultural, ecological, recreational and cultural significance.*

**There is no better testimonial to his work than viewing it. If you would like to make a donation to honor Hardie or purchase tickets to this event, please visit our website [www.WalkkillValleyLT.org](http://www.WalkkillValleyLT.org).**



"Clearing Storm, Hudson Athens Light," by Hardie Truesdale

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## OUR MISSION:

**To enhance the quality of life in southern Ulster County by conserving lands of scenic, agricultural, ecological, recreational and cultural significance.**

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## **A Message from the President**

*Dear friends and fellow WVLT members:*

*Now that the heat and humidity of the summer is behind us, I'm looking forward to crisp fall days when the beautiful outdoor spaces that we are so fortunate to be surrounded by here in the Hudson Valley beckon! As an avid runner and climber, I am outside in all seasons, but autumn is one of my favorite times to enjoy all that nature has to offer.*

*It's also a very busy time for us at the Land Trust. Since we officially announced our accreditation this Spring, we've experienced a substantial increase in the number of landowners who are interested in working with us to protect their property through conservation easements. There are lots of great reasons to consider an easement if you have a property with significant scenic, environmental or historic preservation value – from ensuring that the land is preserved in perpetuity for future generations to the shorter-term tax benefits. Please contact the office if you would like to learn more!*

*Earlier this year, we partnered with Scenic Hudson on several grant applications for the Hudson Valley Agricultural Enhancement Program (HVAEP), and although Ulster County did not receive any funding in 2016, we reconfigured our approach and partnered again on a farmland grant application in the State round. We are also negotiating innovative ways to protect another farm using a combination of sources in the area.*

*Another exciting partnership is our work with the Town of Rosendale on a wayfinding and signage project which will help to create better signage in and around town and between the Rosendale Trestle and the Walkkill Valley Rail Trail, Joppenbergh Mountain, and parking and access. We've committed \$5,000 towards the \$20,000 match requirement. Hopefully, by improving the signage, we'll address some parking and traffic problems that have cropped up on the southern end of the Trestle. **Speaking of Joppenbergh-- we hope to start work on the trails and other improvements in 2017 – please let us know if you are interested in getting involved!***

***I hope to see you on October 16th at our Annual Fundraising Dinner honoring Hardie Truesdale, our 2016 Conservation Award Recipient at The Pavilion at Garvan's. This special afternoon will be a celebration of the beauty of this area and a chance to learn more about what we are working on near you.***

*I love this region and all that it offers, and hope that like me, you value the long-term preservation of the land around us. **We deeply appreciate your continuing support for the work that we do, so please consider a fall gift to our Sustainability Campaign!** Thanks, and I'll see you outside!*

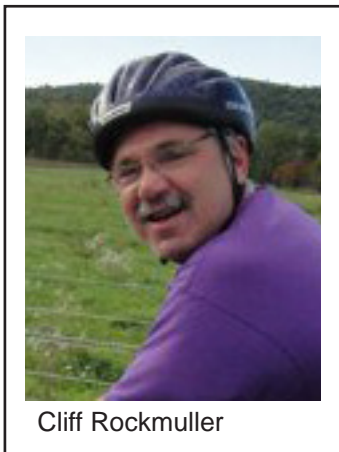
*Hensley Evans*



# A GROWING APPRECIATION FOR NATURE

## Walks and Talks - 2016

New Paltz resident Cliff Rockmuller attended our April 30th Birding with Chrissy Guarino at the Nyquist-Harcourt Wildlife Sanctuary Conservation Easement. This was Cliff's first WVLT Walk and



Cliff Rockmuller

Talk, but he was one of our dedicated Trestle volunteers back in 2013, so we were thrilled to see him again. Cliff explained why he wanted to attend: **"I know a lot of people who are serious and not so**

**serious birders. I have been on several bird walks before and enjoyed them. Some were led by guides and some were led by friends or family. I had heard of the Sanctuary but had never been there before. I wanted to get to know it."**

While attendees had many first sightings, and some exciting birds were present, including an eagle, Cliff had his own special favorite part of the day: **"The guide, Chrissy, was excellent ... She could spot a bird far away, almost invisible to the naked eye and recognize birds by their calls. Participants pointed out birds on their own, also by sight, sound or movement. We saw many different kinds of birds and a really cute weasel! I was thrilled to**

**have spotted a Baltimore Oriole and everybody congratulated me for that, which felt very good."**

So what does Cliff remember today about the April event? "The enthusiasm of the birders and the way they love to share the experience is special, and this remains with me" shared Cliff. "It is wonderful to be reminded of the wonders that surround us that we take for granted."

The May 14th Mycology Walk and Talk led by Luke Sarrantonio, also at the Nyquist-Harcourt Wildlife Sanctuary Conservation Easement was not only an introduction to the property for Renee Oni-Eseleh, but also her first time attending a WVLT event. Renee admitted that she had no idea the Sanctuary existed before, but is thrilled to now know such a beautiful place exists in New Paltz. **Renee shared her favorite part of the walk was Luke's knowledge and enthusiasm; "I also really enjoyed meeting**



Renee Oni-Eseleh

**new people and the conversations we had. It was really interesting to learn how to spot different things in the woods and learning about the ideal growing conditions for different fungi."** Renee thought back, and said that today she maintains "a curiosity and interest in learning more about mycology and finding complementary plants in nature. It really is interesting to learn more about what sorts of things are available all around, if you know what you're looking for."

Dawn Haight, from Warwick, happened to find out about

**Walks and Talks**  
continues on page 6..

# Thank you to all of our 2016 Members (through September 20, 2016).

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## Our Newest Board Member: Tom O'Dowd

**Tom O'Dowd is the newest addition to the Wallkill Valley Land Trust Board of Directors and we are lucky to have him join the team.** Among his many talents, Tom is an environmental educator and activist, a runner, a hiker and a member of our Conservation Committee.

Tom is home-grown, born and raised Ulster County. As a boy, Tom spent a lot of time on the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail, including cross country running, hiking, and volunteering for trail projects. He is a member of the Catskills' 3500 club, having hiked all peaks over 3500 feet in both the summer and winter. He has, unsurprisingly, developed a deep passion for building and preserving sustainable trails, through urban and rural communities.

At Bard College, Tom is a program coordinator in the Environmental and Urban Studies department, where he teaches courses such as "Cities and Climate Change" and "Urban Landscapes." He wears many hats at Bard College. In addition to teaching, he advises students who major in environmental studies to help guide them in their college courses and future aspirations. He coordinates events for the Environmental

and Urban Studies department, and also writes grants to seek funding for academic research projects.

His interest in environmental education developed through the stint he did at

Hudson River Sloop Clearwater. At Clearwater, he was involved in planning, implementing and evaluating place-based education programs on the Hudson River. He also trained and mentored interns, crews and volunteers, and honed his writing skills.

**As a Wallkill Valley Land Trust Board member, Tom has been an active participant of the Conservation Committee, which reviews proposed projects, monitors conservation easements, answers land owner questions, and strengthens existing relationships. In addition to all his accomplishments, he is an all-around nice guy.**

Welcome aboard, Tom!

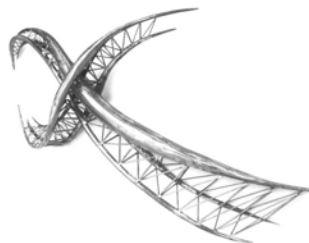


Tom O'Dowd

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**Walks and Talks**  
*from page 3...*

Talk on Trees led by Tom O’Dowd (Naturalist and WVLТ Board member!) on June 25th when she went to our website to get our phone number. We are fortunate to work with Dawn on several projects, as she is on the staff at



Dawn Haight

our Phillies Bridge Farm Walk and Talk on Trees led by Tom O’Dowd (Naturalist and WVLТ Board member!) on June 25th when she went to our website to get our phone number. We are fortunate to work with Dawn on several projects, as she is on the staff at Open Space Institute. Dawn said she was interested because, while she knew some tree information, the Phillies Bridge Farm Conservation Easement was new to her. (Additionally, the Wallkill Valley Land

Trust partnered with Open Space Institute to establish the Phillies Bridge Easement, so this really was a perfect event for Dawn to attend!) When asked about her favorite part of this Walk and Talk, she sang the praises of Tom O’Dowd: **“Tom was knowledgeable and easy going, a great leader for this kind of thing. He’s easy to ask questions of.”** Clearly Tom did a great job, as Dawn remembers a special tree fact from the day: **“Red oaks have deep lobes!”**

If you have never attended one of our Walks and Talks, you are missing out! Check our Facebook Page for upcoming events or our website. **If you know about a topic that you would like to share with others for a future WVLТ Walk and Talk, please call 845-255-2761.**