

# ORANGE COUNTY LAND TRUST 2005 ANNUAL REPORT

## A BANNER YEAR FOR LAND PROTECTION



### FULLER MOUNTAIN PRESERVE

What a year it has been! It all started with our New Year's Eve acquisition of the magnificent Fuller Mountain Preserve in Warwick. A gift from Steve and Liz Roland, this 255-acre preserve is truly a jewel in Orange County's crown. Fuller Mountain Preserve, located in southern Warwick, is the largest property protected by the Land Trust to date. The ecologically rich woodland stretches from north of Black Rock Road to the New Jersey border. A stream, known by some as Fuller's Brook, stretches the length of the preserve. Frogs, toads and salamanders live in the wetlands around the stream. The woods boast many beautiful wildflowers, an abundance of bird life, and many mammals including long-tailed weasel and black bear. The preserve offers sites for varied hiking trails, which our board members, staff and volunteers will be working to create over the summer.

### LAUREL HILL PRESERVE

We welcomed spring with the announcement of the new Laurel Hill Preserve, 89 acres of varied habitat -- woodland, alfalfa field, wetlands, vernal pools and Tunkamoos Creek -- creating niches for a great variety of plant and animal species. In addition to protecting this Wallkill tributary and the biologically diverse habitats, this preserve will provide wonderful access to nature in the fast-developing western part of our county.



### SPECIAL CONSERVATION PROJECTS

Additional voluntary conservation agreements with landowners owners have ensured preservation of the historic Monroe Racetrack (soon to become a public park) and a Warwick wetland that is adjacent to the Audubon's Wolfson/Frankel Wildlife Refuge.



### DEERFIELD FARM

Deerfield Farm, a working farm in Montgomery, added yet another special property to our growing list of preserved lands. Working with his friend, realtor R.J. Smith, Henry Luck planned to develop a small part of his farm while permanently preserving 145 acres including a sweeping view of the Shawangunk Mountains. In order to protect the agricultural integrity of the land and limit crop damage due to traffic, the Luck family donated the land with a deed restriction limiting public access to events hosted by the Land Trust.



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Friends,

We are pleased to report that 2005 was the most exciting year to date in our quest to preserve the fields, forests, wetlands, ridgelines and river corridors in and around Orange County through voluntary land conservation.

Just prior to January 2005, we accepted title to the 255 acre Fuller Mountain Preserve in Warwick and in March, the 89 acre Laurel Hill Preserve in Minisink. These areas will be open for you and your friends and neighbors to enjoy forever.

We hope that you will take the time to hike, bird, photograph and otherwise enjoy these beautiful pristine lands. We preserved 212 acres of working farmlands and Conservation Agreements in Monroe, Montgomery and Warwick. On behalf of the Board of Directors and all of the Friends of the Land Trust, we say, "thank you for a job well done".

While we are most proud of the land and open space preserved, I am also pleased to tell you that our 2005 annual benefit dinner sold out again. You may wish to make your reservations now for this year's benefit and silent auction, to be held June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2006 at the Thayer Hotel at West Point. Visit our website, [www.orangecountylandtrust.org](http://www.orangecountylandtrust.org), where all of our events and outings are listed. Or call our office for more information, (845) 343-0840.

Thank you for being a Friend of the Orange County Land Trust. With your continued support, we can make a difference, now and forever!

Douglas F. McBride, President

### LAND TRUST STAFF

Fred Harding  
*Executive Director*

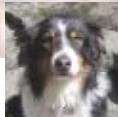
Carissa Haberland  
*Acquisition & Stewardship Director*

Linda Gette  
*Development Director*

Lidwin Goodwine  
*Administration*

Debbie Martucci  
*Bookkeeping*

AND OUR MASCOT, MICKEY...



## CHANGING OF THE GUARD

As 2005 came to an end, so did an era. John Gebhards retired after more than 13 years of tirelessly working for the Orange County Land Trust, the last five as your Executive Director. Future generations will appreciate over 2500 acres preserved by the Land Trust under John's leadership. Looking forward, John says, "I now have more time to devote to my passions-family, preserving open space and hiking."

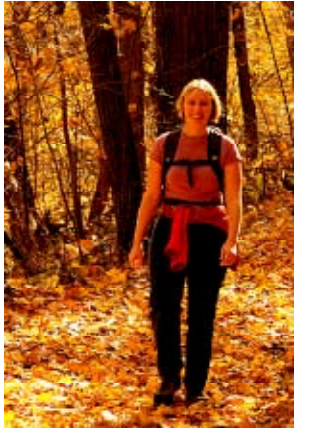
As 2006 arrived, your new Executive Director, Fred Harding, accepted the challenge of leading the efforts to increase the number of Public Preserves and Conservation Agreements held by the Land Trust. Fred, a Rutgers MBA, former CEO and outdoorsman, in accepting the position said, "it is a pleasure to have the opportunity to lead the Land Trust and to solidify our position as the champion that will defend and protect our properties beyond the time we can now see."

### OCLT ENDOWMENT:

Honor someone in 2006 with a named endowment fund. Call our office for details.

## STEWARDSHIP NEWS

During 2005, the Board of Directors recognized the need for a full-time staff member to help manage the expanding land protection responsibilities and assist in establishing your Orange County Land Trust as the premier stewardship organization in the region. In March of 2006, with the assistance of the National Land Trust Alliance and Orange County, we hired Carissa Haberland, our new Director of Acquisition and Stewardship. Carissa comes to us from the Columbia Land Conservancy, where she was a cartographer and easement steward.



In addition to working with the Executive Director on Acquisitions, Carissa will coordinate our volunteer Stewardship Program. We are expanding the program to include teams of volunteers to care for the natural and cultural resources of each of our conservation agreements and preserve properties.

Orange County Land Trust's public properties belong to everyone in our communities. With our increased capacity, OCLT looks forward to ensuring that individuals and families get to experience the outdoors on these preserves. By volunteering with the Orange County Land Trust's Stewardship Program, you will be protecting the interest of, and investing your time in, our community. Conservation easements and public preserves require different types of stewardship activities. There are different time commitments, management frequencies, and skill and ability levels for a Steward. If you would like more information or are interested in volunteering as a Steward for our public preserves or conservation easements, please call Carissa at (845) 343-0840 or email [haberland@oclt.org](mailto:haberland@oclt.org).

## CALENDAR OF HIKES AND EVENTS

**SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2006 8:00 AM**  
The Birds are Back! At Moonbeams Preserve

**SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 2006 9:00 AM**  
Wildflower Walk at Fuller Mt. Preserve

**SUNDAY, JUNE 4, 2006 4:30 PM**  
Annual Benefit Gala  
at The Thayer Hotel at West Point

**SUNDAY, JUNE 25, 2006 1:00 PM**  
Celebrate Orange County Day at Hunter Preserve

**SUNDAY JULY 16, 2006 9:30 AM-4:00 PM**  
Blooms & Butterflies at Hamptonburgh Preserve

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 2006 9:00 AM**  
"A Day on the Farm" Tour

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2006 10:00 AM**  
Canoe the Wallkill for  
The 8th Annual Hudson River Ramble

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2006 1:00 PM**  
Autumn Leaves at Moonbeams Preserve

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2006 10:00 AM**  
Winter Storage in Woods and Fields  
at Moonbeams Preserve

FOR MORE DETAILS CALL: (845) 343-0840 OR VISIT: [WWW.ORANGECOUNTYLANDTRUST.ORG](http://WWW.ORANGECOUNTYLANDTRUST.ORG)

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR 2005 VOLUNTEERS...

Tom Alford	Bernice Fowler	Diana Krautter	Jim and Bonnie Orr	Jim & Denise Ullrich
Bob Augello	Rodger Friedman	Marlena Lange	Nick Petraglia	Monty Vacura
Brian Barker	David Griggs	Gordon Lord	Barney Prisco	Gene Vidal
Kerron Barnes	David Haldeman	Cindy Marsh-Croll	Bill Rabsey	Todd Vogel
Susan Blakekney	Dr. Richard Hull	Jane Mayer	Tim Redman	Pat Wickham
Richard Botshon	Joan James	Andy McLaughlin	Phil Simms	John Yrizarry
Ann Cahill	Rich Jones	Nancy McBride	Steven Skye	Mary Yrizarry
Kelly Dobbins	Ron Jurain	Dr. Jennifer Merriam	Bill Steidle	Joe Zurovchak
Paul Dolan	Joan Karalis	Tim Murphy	Keith Sumner	
Ray and Terry Dolfini	Gary Keeton	Morton Nyberg	Dr. John Tramontano	



**GREENVILLE - SHAWANGUNK RIDGE**

High atop the Shawangunk Ridge, looking out over pastures to the wide valley reaching the blue mountains, there exists a 114-acre working sheep farm. Orange County Land Trust and Orange County are working together with the property owner to ensure the protection of this farm.

**LOOKING AT FUTURE LAND PROTECTION**



**WARWICK - IMPORTANT FARMLAND**

Orange County Land Trust is proud to be a part in a 381-acre Purchase of Development Rights collaboration with New York State, Orange County and the Town of Warwick to protect one of Orange County's most beautiful and productive farms

**2005 FINANCIAL REPORT**

As of December 31, 2005, your Orange County Land Trust held preserved property and conservation agreements currently valued in excess of \$1,000,000.

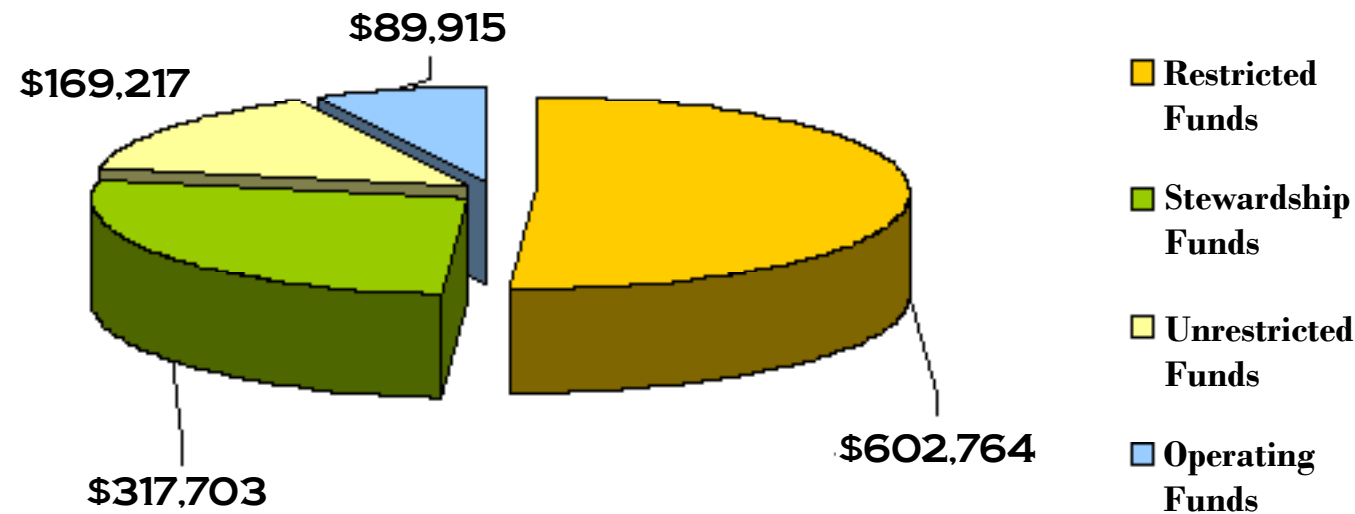
Your Land Trust also held approximately \$600,000 of "restricted funds" designated for specific purchases of property and easements that will occur this year, including 550 acres of conservation agreements along the Wallkill River. By the end of 2006, the current value of your Land Trust's protected property will approach \$2,000,000 because of your financial support.

Over our 13 years, each of the 34 Public Preserves and Conservation Agreements accepted by your Land Trust generated a Stewardship Fee. These fees, currently consisting of \$317,703 are retained and

their use restricted for the protection of our Preserves and defense of the Conservation Agreements, should it become necessary.

Our austere operating budget for 2006 is \$325,000. This covers legal fees, accounting fees, insurance, computer and internet expenses, office space rental, communications, fund raising costs and salaries of the staff required to oversee those properties we hold and to implement the mission of seeking out and securing additional lands worthy of conservation. We begin 2006 with \$259,132 of Operating and Unrestricted Funds, so our Fund Raising efforts and appeals continue to be critical to the fulfillment of our goals and success of our mission.

**BALANCE SHEET AS OF 12-31-2005**



*Austere operating budget \$325,000. Available funds \$259,000.  
Please use the enclosed envelope to support your Land Trust*



**MONTGOMERY - WALLKILL RIVER**

In Montgomery, another collaboration between Orange County Land Trust, Orange County, Open Space Institute and the Town of Montgomery will protect 170-acre farm with 4,000 feet of frontage along the scenic and historical Wallkill River.

**PROTECTING 5,000 ACRES BY 2008**



**WARWICK - CRITICAL HABITAT**

The long-term protection of a significant 100-acre wetland in Warwick may provide critical habitat for endangered species. This special project is the focus of a cooperative effort between the Orange County Land Trust and a home owners' association.

# WE THANK ALL OF OUR GENEROUS FRIENDS FOR THEIR DONATIONS IN 2005.

## Land and Easement Donors:

Deborah Drew Hallisey  
The Luck Family  
Alan Wolpert, Orange/Sussex General Partners, LLC

## Legacy Society

Marlena Lange  
Louis and Roberta Mills  
Sharon Sprague  
John and Mary Yrizarry

## Patrons: \$5,000 and above

Georgina Dupcak  
Dr. & Mrs. Douglas F. McBride  
Mr. and Mrs. Louis V. Mills  
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Ramon Rueda and Susanne Sahler

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Mr. and Mrs. James Goodfellow  
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Albert and Judy Buckbee  
Elmire and Howard Conklin  
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Herbert and Veronica Stein  
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Alvaro C. and Adriana Farace  
Drs. Raja and Kathryn Flores  
Karen Gartenberg

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## Land Stewards: \$100-249

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Ms. Barbara Bedell  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Bender  
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James and Virginia Wolfe  
James and Mary Wren

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Ms. Ann Yates  
Mr. & Mrs. Alexander Zagoreos

## Businesses and Corporations

Advance Testing Company  
Ambac Financial Group, Inc.  
Antiquarian Books  
Bank of America  
Bell Flavors & Fragrances, Inc.  
Bellvale Farms Creamery  
BTK Associates, Inc.  
Certified Appraisal Service  
Eric G. Heffler, Certified Fund Raising Counsel

## Chester Printing

D.L. Hawkins & Associates  
DeBuck's Sod Farm  
DLK Construction Company Inc.  
First Federal Savings of Middletown

## Frontier Communications

Genetti Glass  
H & G Weber's Inc.  
Hill-N-Dale Abstracters, Inc.  
HillsideHomes

## Hudson Highlands Cruises

## Into Leather

## Jacobowitz & Gubits, LLP

## Laughing Bear Batik

## Masterwork Kitchens

## Mesh Realty

## Mid-Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union

## My Sister's Closet

## Nugent & Haeussler PC

## Orange County Trust

## Orange/Sussex General Partner, LLC

## PTM Realty Investments

## Real Estate Solutions

## Roe Orchards

## Rider, Weiner & Frankel, P.C.

## RJ Smith Realty

## Taylor Biomass Energy LLC.

## The Times Herald-Record

## The Valley Table Inc.

## Tracker Archaeology Services

## Tuxedo Park Estates, LTD.

## Walden Federal

## Walden Savings Bank

## WVT Communications

## Foundations and Organizations

Allied Activities Fund of Chester High  
Constitution Island Association, Inc.  
The Dyson Foundation  
The Fellowship of Messiah Jesus, Inc.  
The Garden Club of Orange & Dutchess Counties, Inc.  
Garden Lovers' Club  
Harriman Foundation Group  
Hudson Highlands Land Trust  
IBM Int'l. Foundation Matching Grants Program  
Land Trust Alliance

## Land Trust Alliance Northeast Program

National Maritime Historical Society  
Open Space Institute  
Orange & Rockland Utilities, Inc.  
Orange County Citizens Foundation  
Scenic Hudson  
The Preservation Collective  
Verizon Foundation

## Government

Cornell Cooperative Extension  
County of Orange  
NYS Conservation Partnership Program  
Palisades Interstate Parks Commission

## In-Kind Gifts and Services

9 Main St.  
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Orange County Planning Department  
Orange County Soil & Water Conservation District  
Orange County Water Authority  
Palisades Interstate Parks Commission  
Robert J. Petrilli  
Bill Rabsey  
Soons Orchard  
Francis Wickham  
John Yrizarry  
Nick Zungoli

## Gifts in Honor Of....

Laura Breitman  
Hilary Brouger  
Al and Judy Buckbee  
Paul Dolan  
Rodger Friedman  
John Gebhards  
Marilyn and Tom Green  
Jacques Levine  
Jeanette Meola  
Louis and Roberta Mills  
Orianne Rosner

## Gifts in Memory Of...

Frank Giglio  
Thomas Joyce  
Terry Plummer

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list. Please contact us if you have a correction.

# ORANGE COUNTY LAND TRUST

## 2005 ANNUAL REPORT

### ADVISORY COUNCIL

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*Chair, Land Trust Founder, Former Orange County Executive*

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