



Putnam County Land Trust News

Summer 2010

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Putnam County Land Trust

PCLT Protects Additional Lands

Your land trust has been very busy over the last two and half years. Since the last newsletter in the fall of 2007, five properties have been added to our list of preserves: three in Patterson and two in Putnam Valley. These properties have all been evaluated for their value as either wildlife habitat and/or protection of our natural resources including wetlands that help filter and recharge our water systems.

The Brandon Farm Preserve in Patterson is 97.05 acres. On the eastern side of Farm-to-Market Road and south of Route 164, the property consists of wetlands that feed into Ice Pond and the surrounding uplands that include a north/south ridgeline. At one point in time it was a dairy farm, the property having been in the Brandon family for over 100 years. The funds to pay the costs associated with acquiring this property came from the New York State Conservation Partnership Fund.



The Cifu Wetland Preserve is a 24.31-acre parcel on the west side of Farm-to-Market Road, opposite the Brandon Farm Preserve and also in Patterson. The western edge of the property borders the old train line that may one day become part of the rail trail system. This acreage has great value as a wetland property and was acquired with funds from the NAWCA grant in which PCLT partnered with Friends of the Great Swamp. This parcel has great importance for water fowl. Large numbers of ducks are often observed in this area.

See "Protected Lands" on Page 7

Our New Volunteer Coordinator

The PCLT is an all-volunteer organization. People from all walks of life come together with the common goal of preserving open spaces in Putnam County. The more land we protect, the more volunteers we need. Whether you can give only an hour of your time, or can commit to managing a long-term project, your efforts can help keep Putnam a wonderful place to live. There are many different ways to volunteer, including:

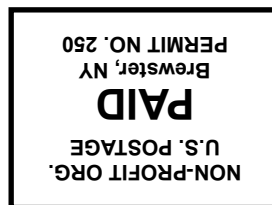
- Carpentry skills for signs, bridges, boardwalks and kiosks.
- Design and layout of preserve and organizational brochures.
- Stewards, assistant stewards and trail maintenance workers.
- Writers and editors for articles, press releases and grants.
- Planners and organizers for PCLT events and programs.
- Filing, administrative work and office help.
- Garden and building maintenance at PCLT's headquarters.

What's Inside!

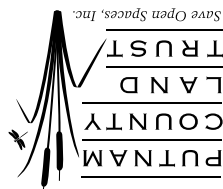
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Our new Volunteer Coordinator, Jude Jones, is the person tasked with recruiting and organizing our volunteer pool. Jude grew up on Staten Island, and her fond memories of the now-gone woods that abutted her neighborhood provide a source of motivation to help preserve Putnam County. She developed a love for hiking and camping while attending graduate school in Georgia, and Jude is currently an Associate Professor of Philosophy at Fordham University, a resident of Mahopac and a PCLT trustee.

See "Volunteers" on Page 3



Putnam County Land Trust
PO Box 36
Brewster, NY 10509



Yes! I'd Like to Join the Putnam County Land Trust

(Clip and Mail with check payable to: Putnam County Land Trust, PO Box 36, Brewster, NY 10509)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone (day): (____) _____ Telephone (eve): (____) _____

Email Address: _____

Membership Levels: Individual: \$15 _____ Family: \$25 _____
 Contributing: \$50 _____ Sustaining: \$100 _____ Benefactors \$250 _____
 Conservators: \$500 _____ Life Member: \$1000 _____

Areas of Interest: (Fundraising, Preserve Stewardship, Newsletter, Land Acquisition, Etc.) _____

As an individual or family member you will receive a year's subscription to our newsletter and calendar of events, as well as occasional discounts to Special Events. Higher levels have additional benefits.

Membership fees are tax deductible up to the limit allowed by law

News And Notes:

Invite New Members

Why not invite someone you know to join the Putnam County Land Trust? It's easy! Download a membership form or e mail info@pclt.net with contact information and we'll send along a membership packet.

Website Update Coming!

Look for an updated and reorganized PCLT website over the next few months - including more preserve info and timely info on upcoming programs and events. Visit us at www.pclt.net

Newsletter Submissions

If you have a favorite photo of one of the PCLT preserves and would like to share it with other members, or maybe you have an idea for an article you would like to write for the PCLT newsletter, please contact Steven Mattson at stvn mattson@yahoo.com or (845) 629-6925.

Leave a Legacy of Preservation.

Remember the Putnam County Land trust next time you update your will, trust or life insurance beneficiaries. Or perhaps you have a particularly beautiful or ecologically significant property that you would like to see preserved for future generation. Donating property, securities or cash to the PCLT can have substantial estate planning and philanthropic benefits. For more info, contact info@pclt.net.



The annual Friends of the Trails campaign...

...is right around the corner. Friends of the Trails is a special group of individuals whose multi-year, annual and/or planned donations of at least \$250 help support the work of the PCLT. These funds are used specifically to build and maintain trails, boardwalks and observation platforms on our preserves. For more info on Friends of the Trails, look for the upcoming mailing, or contact info@pclt.net.

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Submissions for publication may be emailed to dutchess92@comcast.net

The newsletter is published 2 times annually, Spring/Summer and Fall/Winter, and is provided free of charge to our members.

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Steven Mattson, Laura Staley

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From the President's Desk

By Judy Terlizzi



It's good to be back with a PCLT newsletter. It has been a long hiatus. The Board of Trustees has been very active and busy since our last newsletter, even if this hasn't been communicated. During that time five properties have been acquired (see related articles) and three dinners have taken place. Finally after a long period of reconstruction and renovation we are able to oversee the organization from the Dorrie O'Brien House.

Going forward, the plan is to publish at least two issues of the newsletter each year and to

post monthly updates on our website, www.pclt.net. But I am getting ahead of myself. First some background. A New York State Conservation Partnership Grant enabled us to work on and complete a Strategic Plan to guide the land trust for the next 3 to 5 years as we grow the organization. The Strategic Planning process began in late 2008. We set out with four goals:

1. A clear articulation of the PCLT's core mission, vision and values to enable us to develop a framework to balance our resources and priorities.
2. Identification of key strategic areas including core functions, products and services, financial viability and organizational infrastructure and development.
3. Creation of the Strategic Plan document outlining PCLT's broad goals and objectives, Board actions and milestones and the timeframes for implementation.
4. Development of a plan that assures a dedicated and active Board of Trustees with a commitment to fund raising.

The Board feels comfortable that each of these areas has been addressed and planned for. In the coming year, look for a new focus on our website and in all other areas of Land Trust communications. You will also be hearing a lot more about how you can get involved to help us accomplish our work. Through the process, we discovered that we have been doing a lot of things right but to help us achieve greater results and to provide clearer focus, we have redefined and reorganized board committees. Our work falls under the category of six major areas:

1. Stewardship & Property Management
2. Land Acquisition
3. Resource Development
4. Marketing & Public Relations
5. Executive & Fiscal Oversight
6. Governance/Board Development Committees.

Each has specific tasks to address over the next 24 months to achieve the goals and objectives outlined in the Strategic Plan. This is both an exciting and a challenging time for the organization. As always we thank you, our members and our donors, for your continuing support and encouragement and for being with us on this journey.

"Protected Lands" Continued from Page One

When asked what made this property special to her, previous owner Anne Cifu said, "We owned the house and acreage as a summer place since the 70s, so the entire extended family is attached to it. My son was married there. He, his friends, cousins and my late husband (Dr. Robert Cifu) have spent many happy hours hiking, climbing and even ice skating on the land that is now part of your preserve. And we are looking forward to seeing your sign in the spring."

Tom's Path on Couch Road in Patterson was donated by Edie Keasbey. A wooded 5-acre parcel with a stream running through the middle of the property, Jackson's Brook, this preserve helps protect a biotic corridor that stretches from the Great Swamp to Ice Pond. The brook drains from a rare upland wetland on the Sterling Farm Preserve into Muddy Brook.

Discussing her donation, Ms. Keasbey said, "This new property presents a link to the DEC Wildlife Management Area, connecting PCLT's Sterling Farm to state land." (The Sterling Farm property was donated earlier by the Keasbeys.) Tom's Path was named to honor Mrs. Keasbey's late husband, Tom Keasbey, who took his last short hike on this property before becoming ill and passing away.

The 28-acre Danner Preserve near Trump State Park in Putnam Valley represents the first property that the PCLT does not own fee-simple. The property, which straddles the Putnam/Westchester border, is owned by the Westchester Land Trust. PCLT holds a conservation easement on the portion of the



preserve, 13.3-acres, that is in Putnam, while the Yorktown Land Trust holds a conservation easement for the portion in Westchester.

Conservation easements are used as an extra layer of protection in preserving a property by effectively dividing the ownership and development rights. Eileen Hochberg of the WLT, and a PCLT Board of Trustees alumni, said, "I think it's important to note that preservation leads to more preservation. The Danners donated the land after Donald Trump donated the land for

Trump State Park, the northern section of which is nearly adjacent to Danner Preserve. And of course what's important here too, is that expanding preservation makes the new and existing preservation more and more meaningful." There is an easy loop trail through old fields and woods that follows an old farm road. It takes about 30 minutes to hike.

Frederick Dill Preserve in Putnam Valley is a 10-acre flat flood plain just off Quincy Road. The property is largely scrub and

brush, and the south side of the property is bound by Peekskill Hollow Brook, making current access difficult. There are unconfirmed rumors of an old boy scout campsite on the back corner of the property. It was acquired to protect the stream corridor on the west side of the brook and because it serves as a flood plain and excellent wildlife habitat especially for resident and migratory birds.

Trails are under development for a number of the new properties, and you will soon see new signs marking the locations of the preserves.

2008 & 2009 Annual Dinner Award Recipients

The 2008 Blue Heron Award honored Kent activists for their endeavors in environmental preservation and protection. Dr. George K. Baum has chaired and continues to chair the Kent Conservation Advisory Committee. Jim and Wilma Baker received the award for their efforts in founding and building the Kent Recycling Center.

The 2008 Leadership in Giving Awards went to individuals and their companies for their donations to land trust projects at the Dorrie O'Brien House. Larry Labriola of Carmine Labriola Contracting Corporation was extremely helpful and instrumental in guiding the development and construction of the Linder Loop Trail including in-kind donations of work on the trail. George Tammany of Tammany Flooring worked with the land trust on several areas of the Dorrie O'Brien House renovations including the donation of the radiant heat flooring and installation costs for the wood flooring.

The 2008 Stewardship Award went to Dan MacAuliffe who serves as the Steward for the Peach Lake Natural Area, and who keeps the lawn neat around the Dorrie O'Brien house.

The 2009 Blue Heron went to Dr. Marian Rose for her work in protecting the Croton Watershed in Putnam County. Dr. Rose has been an advocate on water quality issues and was Chair of the Croton Watershed Clean Water Coalition.

The 2009 Leadership in Giving Award was presented to the Correll Family for their years of generous support as a family. They have helped with maintenance at the Ice Pond Lodge, taking down the old plaster and purchasing and installing the new wallboard at the Dorrie O'Brien house as well as trail construction and maintenance.

The 2009 Stewardship Award went to Robert Maddock for his years of stewardship at the Top Hill Preserve in Carmel. Robert also helps with trail projects on other preserves.

A complete list of donors and sponsors of PCLT's 2008 and 2009 Annual Benefit Dinner is available on the website at www.pclt.net.

Upcoming PCLT Events

July 24th & 25th

Visit our booth Saturday and Sunday at the 4-H Fair at Putnam County Veterans Park in Kent. Bring the kids, grandkids and grandparents to see all the great things the 4-H Fair has to offer, including info from the PCLT and other local organizations at the Discovery Depot. Look for our new kid-friendly, interactive display for this year's event.

September 12th

Putnam County Land Trust Annual Meeting. *Time to be announced.* Immediately following the annual meeting, Daniel Atha will be presenting a report on Ice Pond Preserve. See the related article on this page.



Work Parties Can Be Fun!

Monthly Trail Maintenance Parties - dates, times and locations to be announced. Contact Judy Terlizzi at 845/228-4520 to sign up.

Keeping our trails in good order takes time and dedication. In addition to the oversight and regular clearing attended to by the Preserve Stewards, occasionally work parties are needed to go beyond what regular maintenance cannot address. This year, PCLT is scheduling one work party a month to work on our various preserves. Tasks will include new trail building, taming those pesky invasive plants and general clean up.

A beautiful sunny Saturday in May saw our first work party of the season. Nine volunteers came. They rolled up their sleeves and got to work on the trail at the Field Farmstead preserve. Invasive plants such as multi-flora rose, Asiatic bittersweet, Japanese barberry and Euonymus alatus were cut back or removed and the trail widened through the former horseback-riding ring. Another work party will be scheduled later in the year to cut new trails on that preserve.

The second trail work party of the season for the Putnam County Land Trust was held on Sunday, June 27th at the Dorrie O'Brien House and Linder Loop Trail at 63 Cobb Road in Brewster. Work details included staining of the memorial benches on the Linder Loop trail, removal of downed trees and limbs along the trail and removal of invasive plants such as multi-flora rose and barberry. The gardens around the house were also tended to.

To be a part of these work parties, no prior experience is necessary. A good attitude and a willingness to pitch in are essential. Come have fun with a like-minded group of individuals in the out-of-doors while helping maintain trails for the public. To learn more or to sign up, please contact Judy Terlizzi at 845/228-4520, or visit the land trust website at www.pclt.net.



Ice Pond Botanical Inventory Presentation at Annual Meeting

Daniel Atha, research associate at The New York Botanical Garden, will present the results of a three-year botanical inventory of the Ice Pond Conservation Area. The 30-minute presentation will take place on September 12th, immediately following the annual meeting of the Putnam County Land Trust.

Mr. Atha's PowerPoint presentation will briefly introduce The New York Botanical Garden and the work it does to document and conserve the World's plant diversity. He will discuss why it's important to conduct botanical inventories and he will explain the methods used. In what will be the first published checklist of any flora for Putnam County, New York, Mr. Atha will briefly introduce the diversity of habitats found at Ice Pond and how this diversity supports one of the largest assemblages of plant species found anywhere in North America. Within an area of less than one square mile (about 640 acres), Mr. Atha has documented over 560 species of flowering plants, including three endangered, two threatened and 4 rare state-listed species. One hundred seventy-nine species are new records for Putnam County, including one new record for New York State.

In the summer of 1993, while pursuing a degree in botany at Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas, Mr. Atha took a summer internship in the herbarium at The New York Botanical Garden. His duties included mounting, sorting and filing preserved botanical specimens. The task of correctly inserting the new specimens among the existing 7 million, gradually revealed a vast botanical treasure found only in the New York Herbarium and three other comparable collections--all in Europe. After two summers of figuratively traveling the world from the primitive cone bearing plants to the specialized and spectacular orchids and from Iceland to the Amazon, Mr. Atha was selected to lead an expedition to Puerto Rico to collect plant samples for pharmaceutical screening. The successful completion of that trip and a growing familiarity with tropical plants in general, led to the production of a catalog of the plants of Belize as well as collecting expeditions to Hawaii, Mexico, Guatemala, 46 of the 50 United States, Vietnam, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan, among others.

Mr. Atha has published 15 scientific books and articles, describing two species new to science, cataloging plant diversity and investigating cultural plant use and sustainable practice. He has taught anatomy and systematics in The New York Botanical Garden's School of Professional Horticulture and he is an associate editor of the Garden's systematic botany journal, *Brittonia*. He is currently working with Garden colleagues to develop a DNA barcode of the plants of the Northeastern United States.

Exploring the Turtle Pond Trail in Laurel Ledges

By Robert Maddock, PCLT Board Member

If you've walked along the lower part of Cornwall Hill Rd. in Patterson, you may have noticed a new trail leading into the Turtle Pond Preserve in the Laurel Ledges Area owned and managed by PCLT. If not, a real treat awaits you and your senses. Around every corner of this new trail are sights and sounds that showcase some of Putnam County's wilderness and landscape. Not far from the entrance is an amazing natural monolith that looks like it had been left by some lost civilization. You can imagine the hieroglyphics that might have weathered away.

A little further along on the trail is a beautiful wetland area with stepping stones and a puncheon boardwalk. Mossy and lichen (grey green liverwort) covered boulders and cliffs flank the east side of the trail, while Trillium, Skunk Cabbage and reeds are on the west side, with Mountain Laurel on either side. Interesting crevices between the boulders have been known to entice a few climbers but be warned because stepping off the trail can lead the unwary



hiker to discover the pungent odor of the swamp. During the winter, amazing icicles and natural sculptures hang from cliffs and boulders. Notice the tree growing sideways out of the cliff and across the trail.

The trail comes up out of the swamp and passes through a miniature lemon squeeze and back down the other side to the floating dock which skirts around a giant boulder which slid into Turtle Pond in a previous century. The pond has a variety of ducks, swans, herons and other waterfowl. Near the trail phragmites and cattails offer a green screen during the summer and make a beautiful rustling sound in the breeze.



The trail continues along the shore of the pond for a while before turning east into the woods and follows a stream up into the hills to the center of Laurel Ledges. On your left, the steep hillside rises up toward a plateau. On the right is a stream that runs most of the year.

The trail divides just before a bridge which crosses the stream, resting on well-placed stones. In the future, with help from volunteers, one part will cross over the stream and head south.

The other part was recently completed under the direction of PCLT board member Dod Chahroudi. Using switchbacks to rise to a plateau just to the North that overlooks the pond, the trail then heads East, crossing over the summit of the hills into another section of Laurel Ledges Natural Area.

This finished section of the trail was completed with the help of Land Trust volunteers, Boy Scout Troop 1 from Mahopac and Eagle Scout Steven Maddock. The wood, tools and parts for the floating dock cost roughly \$2,000 which the scouts raised in two bake sales as well as donations from the community who wanted to help see this beautiful area opened up.



If you want to visit this new trail, it starts along the lower part of Cornwall Hill Rd. in Patterson, opposite the intersection with Devon Rd. PCLT preserves are open from dawn to dusk.

Continued from "Volunteers" on Page One

Announcing the news of Jude's new position, PCLT President Judy Terlizzi said, "The Land Trust board is delighted that Jude has agreed to develop this program. Our hope is that her work with the program will not only benefit the land trust but also bring a new appreciation to our communities for what open space offers us."

Jude hopes to expand community involvement in PCLT's work. "An active volunteer base means a broader sense of ownership and empowerment on the part of our community in regard to natural open spaces as a real and fundamentally important part of our world and our lives." She feels a robust volunteer program will benefit the land trust, the volunteers and the community equally. For more info on how to volunteer, contact Jude at 914/450-6083 or jude.jones@comcast.net.

The Putnam County Land Trust
has received a gracious donation

In Memory of Peter Cirilli

"He loved the woods."

2010 Putnam County Land Trust Annual Benefit Dinner

A festive and fun evening was had by all at the Land Trust's annual Benefit Dinner held on Saturday, April 17th. The land trust welcomed its guests from many areas both near and far who helped to make the evening a success.

It is customary to present three PCLT awards each year at this event. The PCLT Blue Heron Award, the PCLT Leadership in Giving Award and the PCLT Stewards Award. This year, Senator Vincent Leibell, III of Patterson, NY was the recipient of the Blue Heron Award. Senator Leibell was recognized for the dedication he has shown to the environment throughout his many years as a member of the New York State Legislature.

Our second award, the PCLT Leadership in Giving Award, recognizes those individuals or groups who contribute to the Trust in generous and loving ways. This year, the board elected to honor Insite Engineering of Carmel. For the past several years the company has been a Corporate Dinner Sponsor. In addition to their financial support of the Putnam County Land Trust, Insite has also donated hundreds of hours of professional services. John Watson, Scott Blakely, Nick Chapis and Teresa Ryan from the firm were on hand to accept the award.

The third award, the PCLT Stewardship Award was presented to Joseph Whalen for his many years of service as Steward of the Glenda Farrell-Henry Ross Preserve located on Milltown Road in Southeast.

On hand were the 170 guests who attended to enjoy the evening and take part in the various raffles and auctions. Over \$13,000 was raised to support the work of the land trust. Contributing to the success of the evening were Bruce Eisenstein and Bob Gentile who entertained the group with delightful melodies during the cocktail hour, Laura and Ivan Cohen who travel far and wide to auction at many non-profit events, again conducted ours in a superb way. They were assisted by Sharon Lund. The buffet dinner was prepared and served by Ledley Catering.

A surprise presentation of signage for PCLT's newest preserve, Tom's Path, named in honor of the late Thomas Keasbey was presented to Edie Keasbey. It has since been installed on the preserve.

Everyone commented on the success of the evening and the dedicated and devoted work of the Dinner Committee chaired by Linda Lund. Serving on the committee as well were Lorna Cook, Cheyanne Alberti, Karen Correll, Sheila Hamilton, Edie Keasbey, Jill Eisenstein and Jude Jones.

Summing it up Land Trust Vice President, Brian Alberghini added, "We are proud to be celebrating 41 years of land protection in Putnam County with almost 700-acres open to the public for passive recreation and over 1000-acres protected through legislative initiative. The Land Trust, an all volunteer organization, has much to celebrate. Much of our success comes from our members who support us in the work we do either by their membership fees, by volunteering their time and talents, or by lending a hand for our fund raising programs. So, the dinner is also a celebration of all those individuals who make our work possible and support open space for its human and wildlife values."



Insite Engineering, Receiving the Leadership in Giving Award at the 2010 PCLT Annual Dinner. Photo by Denis Castelli



Naming PCLT's Newest Preserve at the 2010 PCLT Annual Dinner. Photo by Denis Castelli



Ivan Cohen, with the help of Sharon Lund, running the Live Auction at the 2010 PCLT Annual Dinner. Photo by Denis Castelli

Photos from the 2008 & 2009 PCLT Annual Benefit Dinners

Photos courtesy of Peter Krupenye



Dr. George Baum receives the Blue Heron Award at the 2008 Annual Dinner.



Lorna Cook, Cheyanne Alberti and Karen Correll at the 2009 Annual Dinner.



Bruce Eisenstein provides live music at the 2008 Annual Dinner.



Judy Terlizzi speaks to a guest at the 2009 Annual Dinner.



County Legislator Dan Birmingham, with Kent Supervisor Kathy Doherty and Councilwoman Penny Osborne, present an Award to Jim and Wilma Baker at the 2008 Annual Dinner.



Blue Heron Award recipient Dr. Marian Rose, then Chair of the Croton Watershed Clean Water Alliance, addressed the audience at the 2009 Annual Dinner.



Studying the Linera Loop Trail at the 2008 Annual Dinner.



PCLT Board Member Bob Lund speaks with Nick Chapis at the 2009 Annual Dinner.