



Annual Report 2020

Greene Land Trust



PO Box 387
Coxsackie, NY 12051
518-731-5544
www.greenelandtrust.org



From the President: Bob Knighton

For the Greene Land Trust, 2020 was an unpredictable year filled with many new challenges and opportunities. Due to safety concerns associated with the Covid-19 pandemic, we made an early decision to cancel the majority of our planned 2020 public events and fundraisers.

While the cancellation of our events was a disappointment and initially, a source of significant financial concern for our Board -- I am delighted to report that our longtime members were incredibly generous and our membership numbers increased by nearly 70%. Total giving from individual donors nearly doubled compared to 2019! The importance of the generosity of individual donations during 2020 cannot be over-emphasized, as our grant funding declined significantly due to financial uncertainties introduced by Covid. It is with heartfelt gratitude that I, on behalf of the Board, thank each of our old and new members for the financial support you provided! THANK YOU!

I was pleased to see many friends and neighbors using the trails at the Mawignack and Brandow Point Preserves. Record numbers of walkers and hikers visited the preserves in 2020, finding moments of socially distanced activity and serenity away from the worries of a challenging year. We believe these moments in nature, in the relative safety of open spaces and fresh air during a year when so much of our breathing was through a mask, serves to amplify and remind us of the importance of the Greene Land Trust's mission -- to protect, in perpetuity, important land and natural habitats in Greene County, along with all of the accompanying environmental, health, aesthetic and spiritual benefits.

Once again, THANK YOU!

2020 Highlights:

Mawignack Trail Interpretive Signs

On June 13th 2020, volunteers and Board members met at the Mawignack Preserve in Catskill to install six interpretive signs. The interpretive signs are designed to educate trail users about the property's current environmental benefit and the property's history. The sign project was the subject of a 2017 grant from the Hudson River Valley Greenway with funds provided by the NYS Environmental Protection Fund. The Mawignack Preserve is owned by Scenic Hudson and managed by the Greene Land Trust.



GLT Board member, Ron Rausch, installing interpretive sign at Mawignack Preserve.

The preserve name "Mawignack" is from a Mohican word meaning "the place where two streams come together" and was the name of a Mohican village on the flats along Catskill Creek. Beyond the Mohican history, the signs provide information about early European settlement, the old Catskill Mountain railroad that crossed the property, as well as the inspiration the property provided for the Hudson River School painter, Thomas Cole. We

encourage you to visit the preserve and learn about its important history.

Return of the American Elm to Mawignack

The canopy of the forest near the Mawignack Preserve historically included many American Elms but by the 1990s, the stately tree was mostly gone due to infestation with a fatal fungus known as Dutch elm disease.



GLT Board President, Bob Knighton, planting American Elm at Mawignack Preserve.

On September 25th, 2020, the return of the Elms to Mawignack began with the planting of 28 American Elms at the preserve. The Elm planting is part of a reforestation project initiated in September 2019 when members of the Hudson Valley Corps of the Student Conservation Association spent 3 days building a fence to keep out deer and planted 150 trees – maples, dogwood, witch-hazel and other varieties. Spots were reserved for the elms that arrived this fall.

The 28 elm trees represent a half dozen genetically diverse strains created to be more tolerant of the fungus. The trees' progress will be monitored by Nature Conservancy researchers as part of the American Elm Restoration Project, a joint U.S. Forest Service and Nature Conservancy effort.

Greenway Trail Designation

On June 17, 2020, the Greene Land Trust was notified that the trail at the Mawignack Preserve was formally designated as a segment of the Hudson River Valley Greenway Trail System. The Greenway trail links historic sites, parks, downtown areas and open spaces, connecting residents and visitors to the resources of the Hudson Valley. We are proud to be part of such an important trail system!

Doris Duke Preserve at Round Top, Greene County

In October 2020, the Green Land Trust was pleased to accept a perpetual conservation easement on 76 acres in Cairo, New York from the Stephen Petronio Dance Company, Inc. with financial support from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.



View of forest at Doris Duke Preserve at Round Top

The mostly forested property is bordered on two sides by the Catskill Forest Preserve land owned by New York State. The conservation easement prevents development and subdivision, in perpetuity, of the 76-acre parcel thereby ensuring a natural forested habit buffer area for the Catskill Park. We thank the Stephen Petronio Dance Company and the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation for their generous conservation gift.

Flegel Film

On October 3, 2020, the Greene Land Trust hosted a film premiere of “Keep It Forever, The Flegel Farm” at that Flegel Farm in Hannacroix, New York. The short film by Cynthia Putorti documents the history of the farm, the family and their passion for protecting the farm from development forever. A conservation easement donated by Ted Flegel provides this protection, preserving an iconic New Baltimore agricultural landscape. Visit our website at www.greenelandtrust.org to view this touching story.



Flegel Farm protected by conservation easement donated to the Greene Land Trust

New Office Location

In June 2020, the Greene Land Trust office was moved from 270 Mansion Street, Coxsackie to The Willows at Brandow Point, 480 Route 385, Athens. Our current mailing address is PO Box 387, Coxsackie, NY 12051.

Porch at the Willows

Work on the east facing porch at the Willows was completed in 2020 with the installation of the ceiling, ceiling lights and refinishing of the floor decking.

Retirements

Jill Knapp, part-time Executive Director at the Greene Land Trust since 2018 retired in June 2020. Jill consulted with the Greene Land Trust prior to becoming its first part-time employee. Jill brought extensive conservation knowledge and experience to the Land Trust and was instrumental in the Greene Land Trust retaining accreditation from the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, as well as many grant awards.

Peggy Snyder, Secretary to the Board for 9 years, retired in September 2020. Peggy performed invaluable administrative services to the Greene Land Trust by keeping our bills paid on time, preparing board minutes, keeping our financial and other records organized and assisting with many Green Land Trust events, particularly the Irish Dinner.

We miss Jill and Peggy, but wish them the very best in their retirement.

Administrative & Program Director

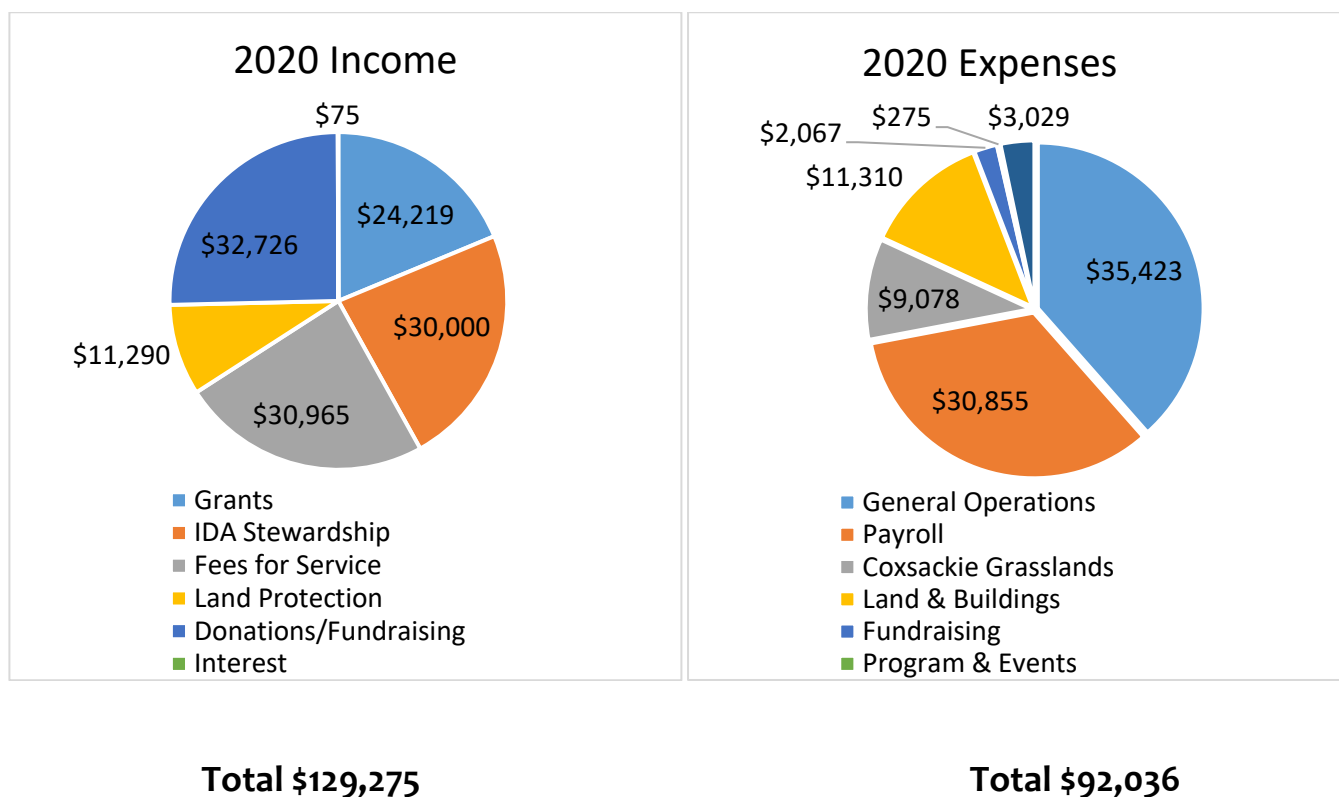
In June 2020, **Colleen Gerwitz** was hired as a part-time administrative and program director assuming responsibility for portions of Peggy’s and Jill’s roles. Colleen recently retired from the NYS Public Service Commission where she was Director of the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy programs. She has a B.S. and M.S. in Biology with a lifelong interest in environmental conservation.



Completed porch ceiling at The Willows which is the new location of the Greene Land Trust’s Office.

Financial Summary:

In 2020, the Greene Land Trust's ordinary expenses were offset by revenues, and we were able to continue to add to our stewardship fund to ensure the Land Trust's ability to manage and maintain the lands and easements for which we are responsible in perpetuity.



Board of Directors

Bob Knighton
President

Hal Brodie
Vice President

Margaret Snyder
Secretary - Retired

Janet Angelis
Treasurer

Rich Ahlberg

Jimmy Bulich

John Cameron

Charlotte Carter

James Coe

Joel DuBois

Ron Rausch

Mission Statement

To preserve and protect significant natural and related cultural resources in and around Greene County, New York. The Trust's goal is to provide substantial public benefit in identifying and protecting important resources while promoting an effective balance between sound development and long-range natural resource protection.

2020 Donors

\$2000+

Jimmy & Micaela Bulich
Bruce Karpati

\$1000-\$2499

Janet Angelis
Charlotte Carter
Theodore Flegel
Robert & Lynda Knighton
Meadowlark Fund

\$500 to \$999

Richard Carter
James Coe & Karen Scharff
Kirkham Cornwell
Frank Cuthbert
Alma Flegel
Robert C. & Ann B. Hallock
Denise Hartman & Tim Kirby
Susan McCuen
Ron Rausch
Daniel & Teresa Sesil
Bill Zifchak

\$250 to \$499

Rich & Anita Ahlberg
John Barone
Hal Brodie & Lynn Kramer
James Coe & Karen Scharff
Jeffrey Distin
Pat Doudna
David & Nancy Faul
Lisa Fox-Martin
Phil Hershberger & Anne Mitchell
Fred & Ann Hinrichsen
Traci Horgen
John & Margaret Moree
Peggy & Hugh Quigley
Ellen Roth
Renee VanSchaack
Carol May & Tim Watkins

\$100 to \$249

Aetna Life Ins Co c/o Cyber Grants LLC
Daniel Arshack
Jan & Jon Briski
John Cashin & Susan O'Rorke
Joyce Christianson
Priscilla & Ed Coates
Pat DeLucia
Paul & Debra DiSalvio
Joel DuBois
Steve & Jackie Dunn
James H. Eckl
Jeff Flack
Mary Ellen Gallagher
Linda & Tom Gentalen
Colleen Gerwitz
Warren & Eden Hart

Sharon & Donald Hillman
Ken & Lynn Kissam
Jill Knapp
Paul & Lisa Maurer
Carol & Peter Melewski
Eric & Anita Nelson
Leigh Ollman
Tom & Kathy Palmatier
Frank & Cecile Plattner
Chris & Carol Pfister
Cindy Putorti & Ken Tsukada
Jeffrey Rose
Thomas & Joan Satterlee
Laura Shauger
Andrea & Robert Smallwood
Robin & Martin Smith
Jane Snyder
Russ & Nancy Sykes
David Terrio
Michael & Eileen Tighe
Liza Tivey
Dara Trahan & Raymond Lippert
Alta Turner & John Cannon

Up to \$100

Tim Albright
Mike & Kim Alfultis
Erik Allan
Deborah Allen & Robert Hoch
Shelley & Phil Aron
Judy Anderson
Kevin & Deb Berry
David & Kelly Bruce
John Cameron
Carl & Lorraine Camurati
Judy & Bill Conine
Jean Cardany
Kerri Corrigan
Michael Corso
John Richard Crist
Lee Davis & Leigh Ann Smith
David & Wanda Dorpfeld
Debra Durstewitz
Larry Enoch & Judith Byrnes
Ken & Cathy Ermann
Duane Esposito
Larry & Joyce Federman
Lianne Fenn
Sharon & Joe Frisbee
Alexandra Funk
Frank Gerrain
Nancy & Ken Gifford
Kingsley Greene & Kathleen Karlson
Guy & Suzanne Hazelton
Barbara Heinzen
Sharon Hendricks
Elizabeth & Peter Homitzky
Lynn Irwin
David & Patrice Jenkins

Deborah Jones
Erik Kiviati
Theresa Kraft & Roger Owen
Terez & Will Limer
Elizabeth Loguidice & Ross Burnell
Ian MacNiven & Peggy Fox
Mary Maddox-Askin
Carlin Meyer
Ann & Joe Myers
Erin Pietrak
Eric & Liz Rasmussen
Leslie Reed
Anne Rhoads
Robert & Joan Ross
Gerri Roth
Suzanne Russell
Nicola Ryan
Jack Sencabaugh
Peggy Snyder
State Telephone Company
Alfred W. Suwara
Beth & Chip Tailleux
Matthew & Donna Taormina
Michelle Tarsa
The Mountain Top Aboretum, Inc.
Helene Tieger & Paul Ciancanelli
Jane Toby
Cathy Trahan
Rick Tucksmith
Tony Tuczynski
John Van Valkenburg
David Vipler
James W. Warren
Justin Wexler & Anna Plattner
Mandy Wolfson
Anne Foster
Ingrid Haeckel
Charles & Joyce Huettner
Richard Lark
Peter A. McLaren
Marilyn Rausch
Hilary Schrauf
Michelle Yost

Tribute Gifts

In Memory of:
Marilyn & Richard Lapsley
In Memory of:
Marcia Shultz Eckl

Corporate Donors and Grants

Athens Community Foundation
Bank of Greene County
NYS Conservation Partnership Program (Funded
by the Environmental Protection Fund)
Stephen Petronio Dance Company, Inc.