

# GREENE LAND TRUST

protecting the many places that make  
Greene County special



Winter 2025

## New Trail Opens at Cossackie Creek Grassland Preserve

Winter is here in full force. For those willing to brave the arctic winds, real warmth can be found by quietly observing the rich and active bird life of the Cossackie Creek Grassland Preserve.

Greene Land Trust has quietly protected and managed over 400 acres of grassland habitat here for the past two decades, but for the first time ever, a large portion of this vital habitat is publicly accessible via a series of loop trails constructed over the course of 2024 with the help of Greene County Soil & Water Conservation District. For those who have not yet explored this trail system, parking can be found at the cul-de-sac at 19 Houghtaling Rd in West Cossackie, right off of 9W.

Quiet visitors with sharp eyes may be rewarded with the sight of northern winter visitors such as snow buntings, horned larks, rough-legged hawks, and even snowy owls. The trails also pass through a beautiful pin oak forest along the winding banks of the sluggish Cossackie Creek,



where winter residents such as brown creepers, various woodpecker species, and bluebirds are regularly observed. And finally, visitors are easily rewarded with the site of Greene Land Trust's mascot, the northern harrier, a large, threatened hawk species with a distinctive white rump that can be seen gliding over the Cossackie Grasslands year-round.

Over the next year or so, expect the trail system to double in size. For now, bring good binoculars, warm clothes, and remember: dogs must be leashed at all times!

- Justin Wexler, GLT Steward

## Help Us Plan for the Future

As we begin our third decade, Greene Land Trust is deep into the process of charting our course for the future with a new Strategic Plan.

We want **YOUR** input. We're conducting a survey to learn about our community: your interest in the outdoors, your experiences with GLT, and your thoughts for the future. **YOUR** insights will help us ensure we stay focused on the things you most care about. The survey should take only about 10 minutes to complete.

Thank you in advance for helping us plan for an exciting future.

- Bob Knighton, President



Scan this QR code for a link  
to our community survey.



Thank you for your input!

## Seasons of Greene V Art Show

From July 19th to October 5th, Greene Land Trust hosted its fifth *Seasons of Greene* Art Show.

*Seasons of Greene V* continued its celebration of the bond between painter and landscape, with a collection of paintings from eight of the area's finest artists.

These paintings introduced viewers to nearby landscapes protected by Greene Land Trust, as well as other local views that are worthy of consideration.

*Seasons of Greene V* is a benefit for Greene Land Trust; a portion of the proceeds from the sale of all paintings goes towards supporting the work of Greene Land Trust to protect the places that make Greene County special.

GLT's fundraising raffle coincides with the art show and winners were drawn at the closing celebration. Congrats

to our three lucky winners: 1st Prize—Michael Pirrone, 2nd Prize—Nancy Faul, and 3rd Prize—Terry Pannell.

Thank you to the artists, our sponsors, and our Greene Land Trust community for all your support!



We are already working on *Seasons of Greene VI*, coming to the Athens Cultural Center, Sept. 26—Oct. 26, 2025. We look forward to seeing you there!

### 1st Prize:

Original framed plein-air landscape painting by James Cramer, *Potic at Octaparagon*

## Greene Land Trust Assures Safe Stream Crossing at Brandow Point

Following a two-year effort, we now have a new safe crossing for the stream near the end of the main river trail at Brandow Point.

The old culvert had become clogged and water flow during storms seriously washed out around the 24-inch culvert. The increasingly narrow crossing produced a potentially dangerous situation



New culvert and stream crossing during construction.

for hikers using the trail, and particularly for access with mower to maintain trails.

With support from Senator Michele Hinchey, the Village and Town of Athens, and the Greene County Soil & Water Conservation District, Greene Land Trust was able to obtain funds for engineering design and construction from the Parks and Trails New York partnership grant program.

The new 48" culvert is designed to handle runoff from increasingly frequent and severe storm events and

eliminates the 4-6 foot drop from the "perched" culvert to the streambed below.

The culvert replacement project was supported with funding from the New York State Park and Trail Partnership Grants and are administered by Parks & Trails New York, in partnership with the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

– Bob Knighton

## Hellos and Goodbyes

Greene Land Trust would like to welcome two new Board Members, Frank Plattner and Mark Vian. We look forward to the new energy and ideas that come with new members. **Welcome!**

The Trust would also like to extend a warm welcome to Annemarie Gundel, who has joined the Greene Land Trust team as the part-time Development and Administration Manager. In her new role, Annemarie will be organizing fundraising campaigns, designing emails and marketing materials, and running Greene Land Trust's social media. A big **welcome** to Annemarie!

In 2024, we also said **good-bye** to three of our board members: Kim Bender, Dan Kohler, and Kelsey West. We thank each of them for their contributions as members of the board.

## GLT Steward's Corner

Justin Wexler here, Greene Land Trust's Steward and Acquisition Manager.

As we enter 2025, I reflect on the many wonderful improvements to GLT over the past year.

New educational signage along the trails at Brandow Point, fresh bird houses, and the opening of a new trail system at the Coxsackie Grasslands are only a few of the upgrades and changes made possible by the hard work of Greene Land Trust's team, board members, and most importantly, by **YOU** – our supporters.

Whether through donations, volunteering, or simply by immersing yourself in nature at a Greene Land Trust preserve, it is the residents and visitors to our region that help GLT to grow and continue to preserve and steward the unique and diverse environmental landscape that makes Greene County so special. From the Catskill Mountain Escarpment to the banks of the Hudson River, we are working hard to protect and look after our forests, wetlands, meadows, and farmland for generations to come. But we can only do so with your support.

- Justin Wexler, GLT Steward



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Annemarie Gundel  
*Development & Admin Manager*



New educational signage at Brandow Point.

Interested in volunteer opportunities?

Do you have a large property that you are interested in keeping forever wild?

Contact [steward@greenelandtrust.org](mailto:steward@greenelandtrust.org) to learn all about volunteering and conservation easements!

## Mawignack Preserve Tree Planting

This past October, Greene Land Trust and Scenic Hudson hosted a tree planting event at Mawignack Preserve. Together, we planted over 125 native trees, including maples, oaks, river birches, and willows.

This event was part of a multi-year effort to help reforest former agricultural land within the 100-year floodplain of the Catskill Creek. Restoring the floodplain forest will help increase biodiversity and reduce flood damage downstream by effectively storing flood waters.

A big thank you to our volunteers!



# Greene Land Trust

## Upcoming Events 2025



Stay tuned for some **exciting events** coming up in 2025!

Greene Land Trust will be hosting a variety of walks, talks, and gatherings this coming year. There will be **new activities** as well as **old favorites**, back by popular demand.

More details coming soon - Be sure to **sign up** for our email list and follow us on social media for more information!



Interested in supporting GLT as a **member**? Visit our website or scan the QR code for a secure and easy way to **send your member gift today!**



### February

- 1 Vanished Fauna of Greene County Talk with Justin Wexler
- 23 A Legacy of Enslavement in Greene Co. with Jonathan Palmer

### Spring

- Bird House Building with the Athens Sportsmen Club
- Spring Ephemeral Walk with Kelsey West

### March

- 12 Conservation Book Club: Crossings by Ben Goldfarb
- 22 Hudson River Art School and the Ice Age Talk with Bob and Johanna Titus

### Summer

- Summer Seasonal Walk with Justin Wexler
- Geology Walk with Bob Titus



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