

GREENE LAND TRUST

protecting the many places that make
Greene County special



Spring 2026

Winter at Potic Creek Preserve

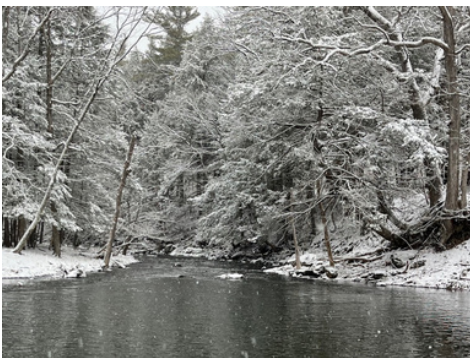
On a snowy Saturday in January, a few board members and a volunteer set out to walk a portion of the new Potic Creek Preserve, considering trails that one day will be open to the public.

After greeting a neighbor, we traipsed off along the creek, stopping often to appreciate the incredible views and rushing waters. It is truly a magical place—made even more so under a blanket of snow. We tried to imagine the "trail" in spring, sussing out how high the creek might run and which areas might need special planning for drainage, erosion control, and happy walkers.

After pausing at a picturesque spot where the creek widens into a pool, we headed uphill, tracing one trail that will become a shorter loop back to our (for now, imagined) parking lot. The terrain shifted noticeably as we left the creek. A small, mostly unbrowsed patch of young white oak cheered us along, as did several fern-covered glacial erratics—under one of which we found the telltale scat marking a porcupine den. Someone has found a nice home.

We cannot wait to begin the work that will allow us to open the Preserve to the public.

– Jennie Allen, GLT Board Member



Sold Out Crowd for the Catskill Indians & the American Revolution Talk

Justin Wexler, Greene Land Trust's Stewardship Manager, presented a talk, "The Catskill Indians and the American Revolution," to a standing-room only crowd at The Willows on February 28, 2026.

Wexler's presentation discussed how local plants, animals, topography and weather shaped the lives of both Natives and settlers, with creeks and rivers sometimes dictating on which side of the Revolution people landed.

From the 1640s to the 1770s, the area saw a drastic drop in the Native population due to wars and epidemic disease. By 1766, a century of land sales culminated in the sale of the Catskill Indians' last 50,000 acres, resulting in them no longer having access to their ancestral lands.

On the eve of the American Revolution, the Catskill Indians tried to be neutral but eventually threw in with the British. "Committees of Safety" and Rebel militias had tried to force settlers to join against the British, angering Native neighbors who were friends with the settlers.



By 1783, the American Revolution had driven Greene County's Native People to the Grand River in Ontario, where descendants still live today. Families returned to Greene County for visits until the mid-19th century.

Wexler, an expert in the ethnoecology/natural history of Eastern North America through archival and ethnographic research, is currently completing a book on local late Woodland indigenous land use practices.

- Leslie Albright, GLT Board Member

Community Soup Night at Left Bank Ciders

Earlier in March, Greene Land Trust joined Left Bank Ciders in Catskill for a Community Soup Night - a local initiative where community organizations make soup and offer it to attendees for a suggested donation.

Despite dreary weather conditions, there was a great turn out! Each of the seven soups was gone by the end of the night and all proceeds from the soup sales benefited GLT's mission to permanently protect naturally significant lands in



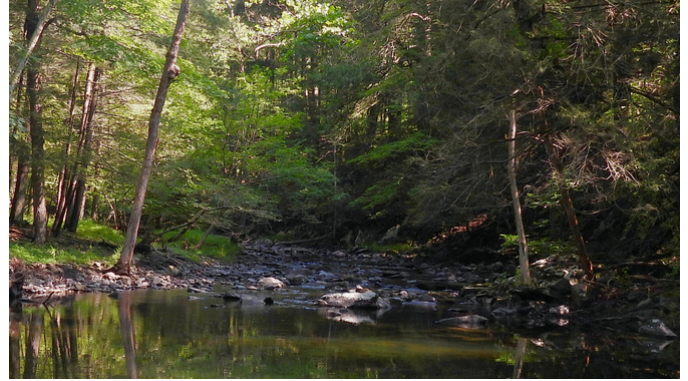
Greene County and to help people connect with these special places. Thank you to all the GLT community members who came out, showed their support, and enjoyed some soup and cider!

A Note from the President

I am excited to announce that at the end of May, and throughout June, Greene Land Trust will be introducing and celebrating our newest property, the 221 acre Potic Creek Preserve. Construction of the parking lot and the initial trail loop are well underway, and we are preparing to welcome visitors with several upcoming events – check out the events list on our website at greenelandtrust.org/events.

2026 marks the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and GLT is doing its part to contribute to the celebration. In February, GLT Steward Justin Wexler gave a talk about local Indian involvement in the revolution to a sold-out crowd and in July, Jonathan Palmer will give a talk about Greene County's role in supplying the revolution.

In other news – we are pleased to welcome Alex Betke to the GLT Board. Alex is replacing board



A summer's day at the new Potic Creek Preserve.

member Charlotte Carter who is retiring from the board. We sincerely thank Charlotte for her years of faithful service.

Annemarie Gundel, our part-time Development and Administration Manager is leaving GLT to accept a full-time position. Annemarie has made a major contribution to our organization and we will miss her, but we wish her well in her new position.

 **WE'RE HIRING**
Manager of Outreach and Development
Part-Time, Hybrid
Learn more at greenelandtrust.org/careers 

Scan the QR code to learn more!



Steward's Corner: A Note from Justin

Spring is finally here! The iridescent little tree swallows returned to GLT conservation areas last week. More migratory bird species arrive every day, making the mornings alive with birdsong; within days, meadowlarks will be singing at the Cocksackie Creek Grassland Preserve. In open wetlands, diminutive tree frogs with loud voices -- the spring peepers -- have joined the birdsong with their ringing peeps. In the evening, American woodcocks, a quirky native snipe species that looks a little bit like a brown softball with a long toothpick stuck in it, can be heard as they perform their eccentric courtship displays at Brandow Point.

Trail Steward Wish List

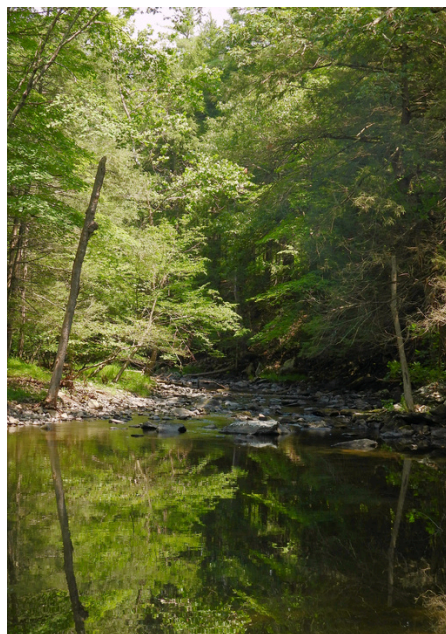
Looking for a way to support Justin's work? Check out [GLT's wish list](#). Items purchased through Home Depot should be set for pick up at the Catskill location. Thank you! If you have any questions about the wish list, please contact steward@greenelandtrust.org.

Poplars, red maples, and silver maples have been in bloom for over a week now. And within a few weeks, the shadbush trees will be in bloom. The opening of the shadbushes' delicate white flowers is a traditional sign of the arrival of anadromous (migratory) fish like river herring and American shad, which come up the Hudson River from the sea every spring to spawn.

With the arrival of spring, GLT trails become more accessible as well as more muddy. (Please be careful when walking on the steep and slippery clay soils of Brandow Point).

In other news, GLT staff and volunteers -- including our new seasonal trail steward -- are hard at work building GLT's largest trail system yet at the new Potic Creek Preserve. Located between Athens, Catskill and Cairo, the Potic Creek Preserve protects hundreds of acres of diverse forest habitat along the banks of Potic Creek, one of Catskill Creek's largest and most scenic tributaries. Trails meander through mature hemlock forest, bottomland hardwood forest, and along rocky mountain slopes dominated by stunted pignut hickories and chestnut oaks with Catskill Mountain views. Stay tuned for the official opening at the end of May!

- Justin Wexler, GLT Steward



Potic Creek Preserve in Summer.



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*Development & Admin
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Greene Land Trust

MAY 17TH

GLT Conservation Book Club:
"How to Love a Forest"

MAY 30TH

Potic Creek Preserve Opening
Celebration: Member Walk

JUNE 6TH

"The Keeper" Film Screening and
Q&A with director Jon Bowermaster

JUNE 7TH

Morning Birding Walk
at Potic Creek Preserve

JULY 11TH

"Sourcing the Revolution" with
Greene Co Historian Jon Palmer

JULY 18TH

Introduction to Forest Stewardship &
Conservation with Jimmy Bulich

AUGUST 13TH

Star Lore Walk and Talk with
Justin Wexler at CCGP

Head to greenelandtrust.org/events for more info!

