



RELC News

2004

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Arthur Weyhe Easement

On December 9, 2003 Arthur Weyhe of Spillway Road, W. Hurley and New York City placed an easement on 224 acres of primarily farmland in Hurley and Marbletown. But the property is much more than farmland. It includes two large open water wetlands fed by a brook that has been dammed on and off by beavers. Several fields are surrounded by mixed hardwood and softwood forests. Remnant bluestone quarries dot the landscape.

Of special interest to the Conservancy are the open water wetlands. Wetlands are largely lands flooded or saturated at or near the ground surface for varying periods of time during the year. Arthur's wetlands are ponds surrounded by shallow water zones. Wetlands are valuable because they are particularly good at 1) Filtering out nutrients, wastes and sediments from surface water before it seeps into the ground to become the groundwater that feeds your well. 2) Acting as "natural sponges" to absorb flooding water and store it. In agricultural areas, wetlands help reduce the likelihood of flood damage to crops. 3) Providing critical habitat for various animal and plant species. An estimated 43 percent of the Nation's threatened and endangered species rely directly or indirectly on wetlands for their survival. Almost all recreational fishes, including bass, spawn in the aquatic portions of wetlands.

The Conservancy worked with Arthur to develop a plan to provide for future building within a "building envelope." The envelope surrounds two existing houses, barns and out-buildings. Arthur, his heirs, or the property's future owners can construct two additional one family dwellings, one dwelling to be located within the Town of Hurley and one within the Town of Marbletown. Arthur (and all those who succeed him in owning the property) can construct additional barns, sheds, swimming pools and gazebos. He may maintain, renovate or replace either of the two single family residences, barns and associated improvements, utilities, septic systems, yards, gardens, landscaping, accessory structures, and driveways.

The Conservancy encourages donors, whenever possible, to place their dwelling in a building envelope so subsequent building, gardens and landscaping activities are contained. This ensures that future building is controlled, while open space value is maintained. It also means activities within the building envelope are not controlled or monitored by the Conservancy. All parties know and understand what the allowances and limitations of the easement are. This is what the negotiating process is all about...meeting both parties' needs. In this instance, Arthur retains the option to build and the Conservancy continues to protect the vast majority of land as open space.

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Weyhe from page 1

Other activities permitted under the easement include cutting firewood, farming—including pasturing, grazing and feeding and care of livestock, removing bluestone for personal use, maintaining open fields and recreational trails, and the creation of additional ponds.

Every day, Arthur and his friends walk or cross-country ski over the fields offering spectacular views of the Catskills. When we asked him why he put his land under easement he said, "I just couldn't imagine this space filled up with houses."

Thank you, Arthur, for the opportunity to protect such a beautiful open place that one day would surely have become highly developed.

REL C Supporters 2003

Marion Becker
 Gregory Belcamino &
 Judith Welcome
 Alan & Ruth Bendelius
 Barry Benepe
 Rev. Harold Benson &
 Jim Dinsmore
 Sally Berger
 Jane & John Bierhorst
 Kathleen Biondo
 Linda Bloom
 Jay & Laurie Bloomfield
 Craig Boden & Leslie Travers
 Renee Bouplon
 Richard Brookhiser
 James & Arden Buckley
 Rita Cassell
 Central Hudson Gas & Electric
 Sherret Chase
 Helen Chase
 Mary Collins Real Estate
 Jac & Carey Conaway
 Lawrence & Mary Cone
 Isobel Contento & Robert Clark
 James Craven
 Mary Crisp
 Betty & Richard Davenport
 Jane Dean
 Maria Deluca & Giacomo
 Vieste
 Anne Demarinis &
 Michael Brown
 Barbara Dibeler
 Mary Dickas & Andy Baum
 Buddy Dikman & Chuck Davis
 Dock Street Associates
 John Duignan
 Earth River Expeditions
 Alex & Mary Embree
 Robert Freeston - Canal Press
 Lawrence Friedman &
 Michelle Hertz
 Grace Fener-Markofsky
 Gary & Gloria Finger
 Herbert & Babette Gade

Jack & Charlotte Gill
 Golden Family Foundation
 Andy Greenhouse &
 Frank Juliano
 Barbara Hallam
 Katy Heiser
 Al Held
 Eric Hertz & Troy Harrison
 Renee Hertz
 Richard Heyl & Anthony Ortiz
 Martin & Mildred Hird
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 Bruce R. Hoveling
 Jody Hoyt & Sita Anderson
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 Lois Langthorn
 Robert Larsen &
 Barbara Rubin
 Donald Laufer
 David Lawrence
 Janis Leas
 Mr. & Mrs. Norman Lebar
 Walter Levy & Gene Moncrief
 Virginia Luppino
 Yvonne Lynn
 Sara & Tony McGinty, Atty
 Frank Macagnone &
 Keith Eddleman
 Stephen MacDonald &
 Priscilla Derven
 Arthur & Dawn Markle
 Joseph Massimo
 Ralph Mattson
 John McCauley

Sue Merrihew
 Stephen Molmed &
 Wendy Wolfensen
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 Charles & Esther Niles
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 Ellianne & Paul Odom
 Tamar Opler
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 Henry Paul
 Kay Perschel
 Anthony & Rosalie Perugini
 Pat Peters
 Lachlan Pitcairn
 Doris Prehn
 Dot Prochaska
 Michael Ratner &
 Karen Renucci
 Mildred Resnick
 Constance Kaiserman Robinson
 Raoul & Susan Ronson
 Sylvia Rozzelle
 Micheal Sadowy
 Michael Safran, MD &
 Geraldine Keyes, MD
 Raymond Saroff
 Charles & Nancy Sass
 Ronald & Barbara Schade

Board Members Needed

Now, more than ever, we need you to step forward and offer to serve on our Board of Directors. The only requirements are to be open and thoughtful, to believe in our mission and be able to attend one Board meeting a month. (Generally our Board meetings end in November and resume in March or April.) We all do what we can at our own pace according to our work and family obligations. Please think about this and act now. Board members periodically rotate off the Board and must be replaced. The future existence of the Conservancy depends on your participation. Thank you.

Please call Jody at 657-6369.

Dear Ellianne,

Thank you so much, Ellianne, for your years of service as RELC's Treasurer.

The position of Treasurer is an often silent but critical component of any organization—one that generally does not get the recognition it deserves. It takes many hours a month to review statements, research and pay bills, prepare reports for Board meetings and make those frequent trips to the bank.

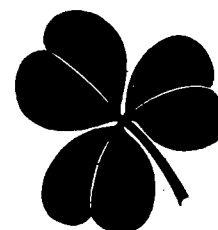
You, Ellianne, did all these jobs as if the money was yours!
 You have done a fantastic job managing our accounts, paying our bills and reporting our finances at our monthly meetings. Thank you again.

REL C Board of Directors

Robert & Judith Schneller
 Virginia Schoonmaker
 Elizabeth & Steven Shafer
 Leonard & Margaret Shengold
 Daniel Shuster—
 Shuster Associates
 Ruth Silverman
 Zachary Sklar & Sarah Plant
 Reginald Smith &
 Robert Herbert
 Muriel Smolen
 John Somers, Atty
 Sidney & Asta Sperber
 Eva Stein
 Gary Stephen
 & Suzanne Joelson
 Ira Stern & Franny Hertz
 Dorothy Steuding
 Martha & Bob Steuding
 M. Strouse
 William Symons
 Laura Travers & Gary Feldman
 Bruce Trowbridge
 Norman & Dot VanValkenburgh
 Melva Wade & Mary Johnson
 Vivian & John Wadlin

Robert Warner
 Margaret Warren
 Susun Weed
 Philip & Mary Weinberg
 Arthur Weyhe
 Zali Win
 Peter Zimroth
 & Estelle Parsons

Our Apologies. We sincerely regret any errors or omissions in recognizing our supporters. If you see an incorrect spelling or a missing name, Please call Gary at (845) 657-8303



SPRING FUNDRAISER AT HQ

On May 15, 2004 starting at 1 PM, the Conservancy will hold a fundraiser at its refurbished Headquarters in Alligerville. Featured will be "Wildman" Jack DiMuccio with a selection of reptiles and small mammals. Jack, a biologist by profession, has been working with and lecturing on wildlife for over 30 years. Jack's programs can include live reptiles such as snakes, lizards, crocodilians and turtles along with a presentation on NY State small mammals and the relationship they have to their environment. He might also bring mammalian and reptile skulls and teeth to show how these features determine the animals' life styles. Presentations are lively and usually include audience participation. Jack especially enjoys working with kids in order to instill in them the value of wildlife. It is never too early to teach children to respect and to protect the environment. As Jack's grandson, Jared, who works with Jack and hopefully will take up his mantle, says "Reptiles Rule." We encourage you to bring your children.

If you remember our last silent auction you won't want to miss this one. (Right? Laurie and Jay) Our friends have come through with wonderful items. Come early, bid often and win a treasure. Bidding will close at 4 PM. **YOU MUST BE PRESENT AT 4 PM TO WIN AND PAY FOR YOUR ITEM. CASH AND CHECKS ONLY.**

We need items to be auctioned. If you have a new, barely used, antique, collectible, vintage item/s, please call one of the following numbers for pickup. We will provide you with a tax donation slip.

Laura Travers	Olive	657-8303
Jan Leas	Stone Ridge	687-9555
Art Markle	Accord	687-0307
John Adams	Wawarsing	647-5626

\$10.00 suggested donation at the door includes refreshments. RELC Headquarters, 7 Creek Road, Alligerville, NY. 845-687-7553 Phone is answered day of the event only.

DIRECTIONS: From Rt. 209 North or South. Traveling South on 209 make a left onto Kyserike Road South of Marbletown, continue past Rondout Valley High School, pass over Lucas Avenue and continue to Creek Road on your right, (at Fire Station) turn right onto Creek Road and Headquarters is on your left. If you go over the Rondout Creek you have gone too far.

DIRECTIONS FROM NEW PALTZ: Leave New Paltz on Route 299 and make first right onto Route 7. Make a left onto County Route 6 and follow signs for Mohonk. Stay on Route 6 over Mohonk and at the bottom of the hill after a sharp hair pin turn bear Left staying on Route 6. (Follow signs to Alligerville.) Cross over Rondout Creek and Headquarters is on your left. Make Left onto Creek Road to access Headquarters.



RELC WELCOMES NEW PRESIDENT, JODY HOYT, JR.

At the September meeting of the RELC, Lindsay (Jody) Hoyt, Jr. was voted in as the new RELC President replacing Laura Travers. According to RELC's by-laws, an individual may only be on the Board for three two-year terms. At that point, the Board member must leave the Board for at least one year. After that one year period the individual may be invited back onto the Board. This does not preclude the individual volunteering (like everyone else).

RELC would like to thank Laura for all her hard work and dedication to protect open space in Ulster County. We hope she continues and remains an integral part of accomplishing this vital work.

Jody has been board member and is now retired from captaining freighters around the world. He is also active in Trout Unlimited. Jody lives in Boiceville.



Our deepest sympathies go out to the family and friends of Marjorie and James Dunbar who both died this past year. Marjorie was an activist with strong convictions and not afraid to tell you all about them. She devoted her time and energies to causes she believed in. RELC was fortunate to be one of those causes. As long time supporters, Marjorie and Jim, made sure their land and the land of Jim's sister, Alice, was protected by easements. Marjorie worked to encourage recycling, the Rail Trail, open space zoning, and the protection of local history. Jim took interest in and wrote about the unique flora of the area.

Jim and Marjorie will be remembered fondly by all who knew them as hard working, no nonsense, straight talking individuals who accomplished what they set out to do,

(Laura Travers recently walked the James Dunbar easement with Genevieve, Marjorie's daughter, and the contiguous Alice Dunbar easement with the new owners. She assures us the land is in very capable hands.)

Group stops at Eva Stein monument for a little history



Right: Group meets back at "Stonehenge" for a reunion with friends and pets

FRIENDS APPRECIATION DAY

Far right: Jack stops to explain local ecology.



On October 25, 2003 Friends of RELC met at the home of Walter Levy and Gene Moncrief, second generation easement property owners for a walk on their 116 acre easement in Accord.

Before the walk Jack reviewed a map of the easement and the planned route. Walter, in his alien t-shirt, talked about the previous owner, Whitley Streiber, and his claim of being visited by aliens on the property. (Whitley Streiber author of the book and movie "Communion" claims to have been visited by aliens in his bedroom which is now Walter's. Walter has been waiting for the aliens to return but there have been no sightings as of yet.)

Jack Bierhorst, author and naturalist led the walk in search of the elusive endangered Appalachian Sandwort. When Jack looks for something he usually finds it...and he did.

The walk led hikers up thru a hemlock forest, past mountain laurel and high bush blueberry to the top of a ridge with exposed bedrock and dwarf pitch pines. The pitch pine ecology in this area has been designated by the Nature Conservancy as one of "the last great places". While on top, visitors viewed remnants of millstone mining,

native plants and trees and a gorgeous view west to High Point Mountain in West Shokan and the Catskill Mountains beyond. Eric Hertz told a wonderful story at a monument to Eva Stein, the original owner, about the beginnings of how this property was protected. (Eric was the driving force to put an easement on this property.) The walk then proceeded down the other side of the ridge to the Saunderskill Creek which was full and rushing. Some brave souls made a separate excursion to a particularly beautiful waterhole. Back up and over the ridge, the hike descended to "Stonehenge", a 30-foot circle formed by a ring of 16 huge stones aligned on a north/south axis built by Whitley. Walter had built a bonfire in the middle of the circle and we all had marshmallows accompanied by two divine cheesecakes made by Arthur Markle and refreshments donated by Saunderskill Farm and Davenport Farm.

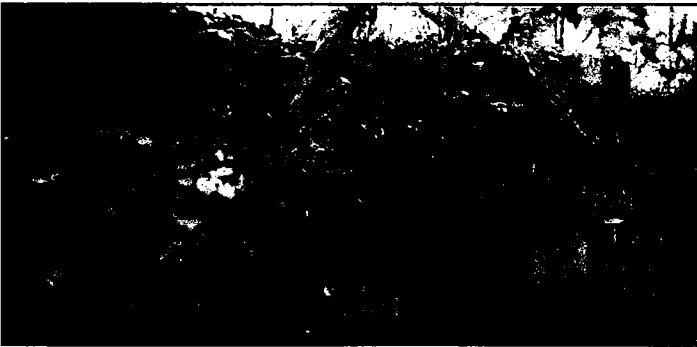
We had great weather and great "friends" to share it with.

A special thanks to Walter Levy and Gene Moncrief, Jack Bierhorst, Eric Hertz, Arthur Markle, Saunderskill Farm and Davenport Farm.

Your Support Is Greatly Appreciated and Wisely Used..

We believe you can see from the information in this newsletter that our organization is effective in its mission. Your support of this mission through your contributions helps us continue its meaningful work.

Please use the enclosed envelope to make your annual donation. As always, we welcome your comments and suggestions.



View from the top



Author Steve Hirsch standing in bed of lock.

A CANAL RUNS THROUGH IT

The Delaware and Hudson Canal, which opened in 1828 and was the first million-dollar private enterprise in the United States is generally acknowledged to be one of Ulster County's early major change agents. Constructed primarily to move coal from mines in Pennsylvania to New York City, the D&H Canal also moved other goods like bluestone, millstones, cement and forest products such as barrel hoops from the Rondout and Wallkill valleys to the Hudson River. By providing a means to transport these hard goods to market, the canal was instrumental in helping enlarge the area beyond its agricultural roots. And communities grew up along the canal route too, especially around the areas where locks were located, adding to the economy and providing additional business opportunities for local farmers.

Those of us who live locally and many visitors to our area are familiar with the D&H Canal Museum and its 5 lock public walk located in High Falls. Less known, however, is that the D&H Canal runs through one of the Rondout Esopus Land Conservancy easements and includes the relatively well-preserved remnants of Lock 22. The Ira Stern and Franny Hertz easement off Towpath Road in Rochester was granted in June, 1988. It was one of the first easements negotiated by the Conservancy and is designed to protect forestland, a 1/4 mile of the Rondout Creek and D & H Canal and the wildlife habitat of species including fox, bobcat, countless birds, otters and other native creatures. When we asked Ira about his feelings for the canal area he said "This section of the Rondout and D & H Canal is very rich in wildlife and beauty and every time we walk along the towpath (which is quite often) we get so much out of it. Protecting it with a conservation easement is the least we could do to protect this special place. It has been a great experience and I urge others to protect special places they may own." In addition to the remains of the canal and the actual lock, the Stern property near Lock 22 includes evidence of considerable stone quarrying, building foundations, stone walls, a waste weir or dam to control water for the canal and a very well preserved portion of the towpath along the Rondout Creek which flows by about 30 feet below the level of the canal bed at this point.

Although much has been written about the D&H Canal, there is little documentation regarding Lock 22. Perhaps that's because it was located between Lock 23 at Port Jackson or Accord and Lock 21 in

Alligerville. Both these locks became small settlements and grew into hamlets supporting several businesses such as dry goods stores, hotels, boat and wagon building facilities and the inevitable saloons. And since Lock 22 was a short distance in either direction from these larger stopping points and since it was also not close to a major road, history has forgotten it somewhat. After all, the canal had 108 locks; there was a lot to write about. But we do know a few things. For example, all locks had names. Lock 22 was called Foley's Lock and it was located 14 miles from the canal starting point at Rondout. Exactly why it was so named, we don't know; but the records show a farmer by the name of James Foley who owned land contiguous to Ira Stern's property during the canal period, and there were stories about an "old Foley" who owned canal boats and was known to treat his "boat drivers" badly. Or perhaps it was the name of some forgotten lock tender.

After its original construction, the canal was enlarged 3 times. The final enlargement, which occurred in 1848-49, increased the lock size to 15 feet in width, 90 feet in length and 6 feet in depth allowing boats to carry 130 tons (The first D&H Canal boats could carry only 20 tons). Of the 108 locks, some were constructed of fitted stone while others were wood lined with stone backing. Only 13 of the locks were of the stone masonry type, and Lock 22 appears to be of this construction. As it remains today, the upper (or southern) end shows evidence of having a drop gate, and the cut stone sides including gate recesses are in relatively good condition even though trees and other growth have taken over much of the lock area. The lower end of the lock has been filled in to create a roadway over to the towpath and Rondout Creek but probably had a standard paddle gate, which opened and closed like doors to control the northern end of the lock. The most remarkable thing about this particular remaining section of the canal is that you can stand on the towpath at Lock 22 and look in either direction for at least 50 yards and see a perfectly flat, well preserved path that seems almost unchanged from when mules used it to tow boats over 100 years ago. Cut stone walls that remain standing along the tow path are further examples of the enlargement project since these types of walls were installed to hold up the canal sides as it was made deeper. Like all the other locks, Lock 22 was designed to lift or lower boats 10 feet in elevation.

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