



NEWS
• • •
**SPRING &
SUMMER**
1998

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- **Benefit Planned for June 14**
- **Farewell From Past President**
- **Gift of Land -Info Pak**
- **Our Ex. Director -On The Move**
- **New Phone No: (914) 687-7553**



Renee Bouplon, RELC Director, is standing with new ravine owners Gary Tinterow (center) and James Joseph (right)

**CHRISTENSEN GIFT PROTECTS
GATEWAY TO THE PACAMA VLY**

A steep ravine opening directly into the largest hemlock-hardwood swamp in New York State has been donated to the RELC by Oscar S. Christensen of Krumville. In accordance with the donor's wishes the 15-acre forested ravine will remain forever wild.

The swamp itself, known as the Pacama Vly, is a pristine wilderness in the center of Ulster County, stretching for two miles through the townships of Olive, Marletown, and Rochester. The home of rare plant and animal species, it has been identified as a habitat of state significance by The Nature Conservancy's New York Natural Heritage Program. Located between the hamlets of Krumville and Lyonsville, the ravine, owned by Christensen since 1947, is a key element of the region. It includes the ecologically sensitive Vly Brook, which flows out of the ravine to form the principal artery of the swamp.

The top of the ravine, with its clear tumbling brook, commands a sweeping view of unbroken forest and fern-clad boulders. Red oak, white pine, and hemlock are the dominant trees. The property also includes an edge of the swamp and a spring independent of the brook.

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CENTERING LIVES - by Elinor Boice

Upon leaving the office of President of the Rondout Esopus Land Conservancy after nearly 5 years, I would like to share with you who support the Conservancy mission with me my reasons for giving my time and energies to the preservation of open place.

Simply put, the Rondout and Esopus Valley has been in my blood - for generations. It is the place my heart calls home. And nothing in this valley symbolizes home for me more than High Point Mountain.

My parents, expecting my arrival, chose a house site with a view of High Point. (My bedroom had three windows that looked out on the mountain.) As I grew up I took in that mountain from the time I rose in the morning until I went to bed at night.

On Sundays, family custom dictated a drive which more often than not led along High Point Mountain Road and paused near the old Hesley Farmstead to take in views of the reservoir and the opposing mountains.

When we traveled further afield to Minnewaska or Mohonk, we looked back toward the Catskills to locate our spot of earth by finding High Point Mountain on the horizon. Coming up from the old railroad viaduct in High Falls, we pointed out the tip of High point on the horizon. Bringing guests to our Olivebridge home, we would halt at the Kikuik to awe them with our unique view of our valley surmounted by High Point.

We landlubbers not only set our compasses by it, but also forecast our weather by looking at it as Dutch housewives had looked at the Catskills three centuries before.

As a child I went to a one-room school house which, from my home, seemed nestled at the foot of High Point. I have memories of reading two short stories there. One told of the predicament of a monkey who happened on a garden full of peas. Attempting to pick them all, he found that each time he bent down for just a few more, he would drop more than he had picked. (The law of diminishing returns, I hope, has not kicked in for this Valley, but soon I suspect, it will.)

The other story was of a young boy and his father

who lived at the foot of a mountain, like High Point, I thought. One day the young boy asked his father "Dad, who owns the mountain?" His father replied, "Anyone who loves it."

When members of my family are buried - most often in Tongore Cemetery with its special view of High Point - the family invariably requests Psalm121:

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills,
from whence cometh my help.
My help cometh from the Lord

For these and other reasons High Point Mountain has come to symbolize for me those undisturbed natural places central and centering to all our lives.

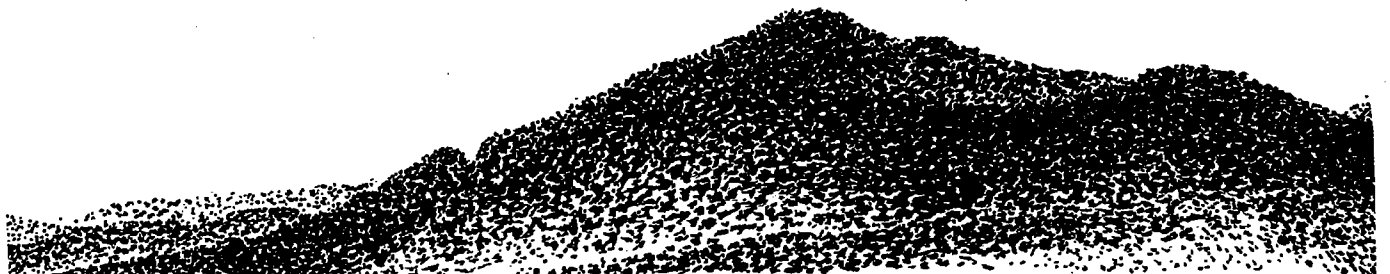
Consequently one of my greatest fears is that generations hence may not have any undisturbed natural places to look upon. It is not the same to look upon giant water filtration plants or towering mountainside condominiums as it is to look upon undeveloped stream sides, forests, farm lands, mountainsides and wetlands. "A world of made is not a world of born."* To me only natural places are possessed of that kind of joy and reverence upon which one can center and build a life.

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The Conservancy - with its new and very competent executive director, Renee Bouplon, and its new local and land - loving president, Raecine Shurter, is now poised to become the Rondout Esopus Valley's most important broker for the preservation of open space.

There seems to me only one question: Is there enough financial and moral support in this beautiful valley to save its special character that generations hence may have special open places to center their lives upon?

*e. e. cummings



BENEFIT LUNCHEON AND AUCTION PLANNED FOR JUNE 14

For ten years, the Rondout Esopus Land Conservancy has served landowners from the Shawangunk pitch pines to the Catskill streams, preserving more than 28 special open spaces with conservation easements.

To celebrate and fund these successes and our new, hard-working Executive Director, the Conservancy has planned a benefit luncheon & auction to be held at the Williams Lake Resort in Rosendale on Sunday June 14th.

George W. Cole, a local auctioneer for over 21 years, will donate his services to offer up for auction (both silent and active) items that will entice you to support the RELC and walk away with a bargain too! Items and services that have been donated include brunch certificates to the Depuy Canal House, firewood (delivered to your door), pottery, custom made trout flies, a Flexible Flyer, artwork by Lorna Massie, handcrafted silver by Jean Duffy, locally made honey by John DeGondea's bees and beer from Woodstock Brewing. A very eclectic auction!

Jack Bierhorst will present slides and comment on some of the unique features of the Conservancy's easements. Jack, a local author, naturalist and conservationist has done extensive ecological and botanical field work in the Catskills and is the author of The Ashokan Catskills: A Natural History.

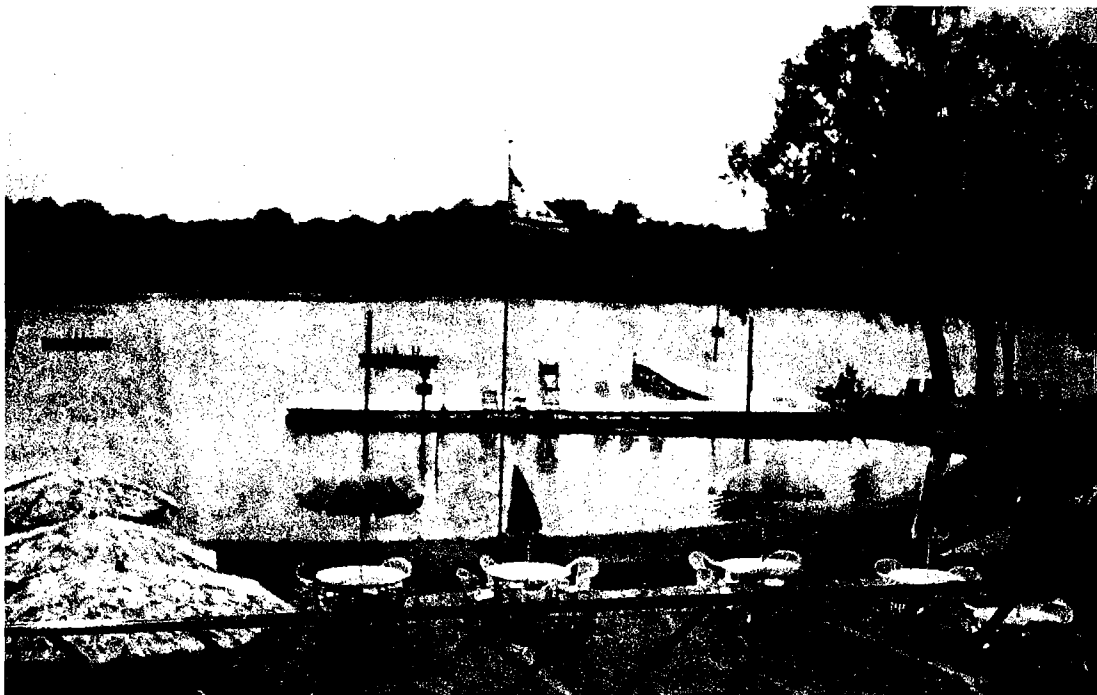
As you know, an auction produces all profit monies for the Conservancy's work and at the same time provides a tax deduction for the donor.

Please consider supporting the Conservancy with a donation to be auctioned and by your presence at this event. If you would like more information call Laura Travers at (914) 657-8303

L.T.

**Remember
the Date!**

**Sunday,
June 14**



*View of
Williams Lake*

A GIFT OF LAND

The donation of land in fee simple (outright) to a qualified land conservancy, such as the RELC, combines financial benefits to the donor (income tax deduction, no capital gains, asset removed from estate) with the best possible plan for the land, and a great opportunity for the conservancy and its mission.

Land conservancies are very interested in receiving a gift of land as long as the donor understands and approves of the conservancy's restricting the land to maximize land protection and then selling it, possibly for limited development. Conservancies look at gifts of this type as the best way to establish or increase an operating endowment for the organization.

An outright gift of land offers many benefits to the donor. Like the gift of appreciated securities, the donor avoids all capital gains taxes and receives an income tax deduction for the full fair market value of the gift. As an additional savings to the donor, there is no real estate broker's fee involved as there would be in a sale of the land. The asset is removed from the donor's estate, thereby saving his future heirs from estate taxes. In addition, the land will be perpetually protected and the proceeds will contribute towards the protection of more land.

Some general tax rules apply and, naturally, a donor would work closely with his accountant in figuring the tax consequences of a donation of land or other similar gift.

For the gift of land, a donor may deduct up to 30% of his Adjusted Gross Income (AGI). Any remaining value may be carried forward for five additional years. If, at the end of the sixth year, there is still an unused deduction, it disappears. It is important for a donor to look forward during the carryover period to make certain that as much of the deduction as possible will be used.

The process for donating land is as simple as signing over a deed for the land. The value of the land needs to be appraised by a qualified appraiser who is paid by the donor. The land conservation organization signs an income tax form that acknowledges the receipt of the donation by the organization without verifying the claimed deduction. The conservancy then restricts the land with a conservation easement (with input from the donor) and puts the land on the market.

Contact the RELC at (914) 687-7553 for additional information on the following topics:

- Federal estate tax change enhances voluntary land preservation
- Estate taxes and conservation easements
- Income taxes and conservation easements
- Planned Gifts: life income gifts

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ON THE MOVE

On March 24, members of the RELC attended a meeting at the Foundation Center in New York City. The Foundation Center provides reports and information about foundations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, scientific, literary, or educational purposes. Sara Engelhardt, President of the Foundation Center, met with the members to discuss the various grant directories and the research techniques useful for successful grant proposals. Those in attendance were Renee Bouplon, Executive Director, Elinor Boice, past President, Reggie Smith, Board Director, and Virginia Schoonmaker, Board Advisor. Elinor and Renee also attended an orientation on the facilities.

On May 4, Renee Bouplon attended the annual Land Trust Alliance of New York Conference held in Ithaca, NY. The conference allows land trusts state-wide to gather and share ideas about land protection and related topics. The Land Trust Alliance will be sponsoring a work shop on June 15 at Mohonk Preserve, Trapps Gateway Center in New Paltz. Marc Smiley will be presenting a workshop on Organizational Development: Board development, staff relations and strategic planning. Renee will be attending the workshop thanks to a scholarship offered by Hudson River Valley Greenway.

Promoting Partnerships Conference was held on May 20 in Albany, NY. The purpose of the conference was to combine ag industry growth and farmland protection in New York State. Renee Bouplon, representing the RELC, attended the meeting to acquire more information and methods on farmland protection.

R.B.

*Land Trust Alliance of
New York Director,
Tammara Van Ryn (left)
and RELC Executive
Director Renee Bouplon
(right) at the annual
conference.*



Continued from page 1

CHRISTENSEN GIFT PROTECTS GATEWAY TO THE PACAMA VLY

Readers of this newsletter will recall an article in the last issue under the headline "Forested Ravine Needs an Owner." The article described the Christensen tract and invited anyone interested in assuming ownership to make an inquiry. The half dozen responses were considered in the order in which they were received and the property went to James F. Joseph and Gary Tinterow of Stone Ridge.

In an unusual three-way transaction orchestrated in Kingston on May 22 the ravine passed from Christensen to the RELC and from the RELC to Joseph and Tinterow, who in turn granted an easement in perpetuity back to the RELC. Protection of the Pacama Vly has been a priority of the RELC since the organization was founded in 1987.

J. Bierhorst

...it is only framed in space that beauty blooms

One cannot collect all the beautiful shells on the beach. One can collect only a few, and they are more beautiful if they are few.... Gradually one discards and keeps just the perfect specimen; not necessarily a rare shell, but a perfect one of its kind. One sets it apart by itself, ringed around by space—like the island.

For it is only framed in space that beauty blooms. Only in space are events and objects and people unique and significant—and therefore beautiful. A tree has significance if one sees it against the empty face of sky. A note in music gains significance from the silences on either side. A candle flowers in the space of night. Even small and casual things take on significance if they are washed in space, like a few autumn grasses in one corner of an Oriental painting, the rest of the page bare.

For it is not merely the trivial which clutters our lives but the important as well. We can have a surfeit of treasures—an excess of shells, where one or two would be significant.

Anne Morrow Lindbergh, *Gift from the Sea*

Countries with Most Threatened Birds

Country	No.
Indonesia	104
Brazil	103
China	90
Philippines	86
India	73
Columbia	64
Peru	64
Ecuador	53
USA	50
Vietnam	47

*Excerpted from **COMMOM GROUND**, a publication of The Conservation Fund*

WISH LIST

- 4 Small electric baseboard heaters
- Coffee pot
- Ceiling lights
- Waste paper basket

TELEPHONE ALERT!! The new RELC telephone number at the headquarters is (914) 687-7553

Thank You!

These generous individuals or corporations have made contributions to the Conservancy.

Doris Bartlett, Mnt Business Services
Karl Beard
Gregory Belcamino & Judith Welcom
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Bird Watchers' Country Store
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Fred Steuding
Gary Tinterow & James Joseph
Bruce Trowbridge
Judith Turkel & Jennifer Costley
Jan VanMeter
Vivian Wadlin
Margaret Warren

These individuals have made contributions to the Conservancy in honor of Virginia Schoonmaker:

*Mr & Mrs George Schoonmaker
John & Vivian Wadlin*

REMEMBERING:

Stephen MacDonald & Priscilla Derven have given a gift in memory of Bowen Northrup, former V.P. of the Conservancy.

Mrs Gladys Borman has given a gift in memory of her parents, Mr & Mrs A.E. Bedigian

MATCHING GIFTS - Employers or institutions that have matched individual contributions

*The New York Times Company Foundation on behalf of Ernest Tollerson & Katrinka Leefmans
The Chase Manhattan Foundation on behalf of Mary Dickas & Andy Baum*



Rondout-Esopus Land Conservancy
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 (914) 687-7553

*Working with landowners to preserve
 special open places*

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The Rondout-Esopus Land Conservancy depends upon your support to keep our open country land productive and beautiful.

- Benefactor \$1000
- Patron \$500
- Sponsor \$250
- Supporter \$100
- Protector \$50
- Sustainer \$35
- Student \$20
- Other \$

Enclosed is my employer's matching gift form

Enclosed is \$6 for Conservation Options: A Landowners Guide

Please mail your tax-deductible contribution to: Rondout-Esopus Land Conservancy

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Please contact me regarding preservation of land in my area.

Name _____
 Address _____
 Please send a copy of this newsletter to:
 Name _____
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