

## The Strand Family's Conservation Legacy

Curt and Fleur Strand of Colorado, long time homeowners in Washington County, have generously named ASA as the beneficiary of a Charitable Remainder Interest in the Strand's Washington County residence. ASA has held an easement on the 215-acre property since 1999. Curt Strand met former ASA board member Bill Eberle through the Rotary in Salem, and it was through this encounter that the Strands became involved in ASA.

The Strand family bought their home in 1949. During the 1940s, Mr. Strand's mother, the artist Enit Kaufman, had been working on a book with Arlington, VT resident and author Dorothy Canfield Fisher. After spending time in the area while staying with Canfield Fisher, they decided to "find their own place." What they found in Shushan was a mid-nineteenth century house and dairy barn occupied by an "old Finn" who didn't have electricity or running water, but kept warm in his wood-fired sauna. The Strands were a young married couple living in New York City at the time they acquired the property. Mr. Strand, fresh out of Cornell, was the superintendent of services at the Plaza Hotel; and Dr. Strand had come to New York from South Africa and was working toward her doctorate in biology and neuroscience at New York University.

Over the course of the next 56 years, the Strands built an idyllic retreat for themselves and their daughter, Karen. The landscape shows the evidence of the loving hand of all of the Strands, both Curt and Fleur's now-mature plantings and stunning gardens planned in part by Karen, a landscape architect. The secluded dead-end lane was named Kaufman lane, for Mr. Strand's mother.

After a two decades of service to the company, Mr. Strand became president of Hilton Hotels International in 1967, and later its chairman in 1986. Throughout his long



**Fleur and Curt Strand at home in Salem.**

career, Strand traveled the world over, overseeing the expansion of Hilton Hotels. Dr. Strand earned a reputation as a distinguished researcher and professor, authoring textbooks on neuroendocrinology. She is a past president of the New York Academy of Sciences and Professor Emerita at NYU.

"We are humbled and fortunate to receive such a generous gift from the Strands. This home has been a retreat and refuge for the family for over half a century, and its significance to the Strands is apparent in the care they take and enjoyment they derive from it. The Strand's generosity will someday enable ASA to protect thousands more acres of land, helping conserve the landscape that has been familiar and welcoming to the Strands for over five decades," said ASA President, Dave Horn. ASA's board, staff and members are grateful to the Strands for their generosity. We wish them many more happy years here in Washington County!

*For more information about Charitable Remainder Interests, please see page 5.*

“We believe having local farms and farmland is vital to our future.”

The Agricultural Stewardship Association is a non-profit land trust founded in 1990 by local farmers, agribusiness representatives, and conservationists to protect land for agricultural use in the Washington County, New York region. We accomplish this mission through our land conservation and stewardship programs and public education efforts. To date, we have protected over 4,400 acres of farmland in Washington and northern Rensselaer counties.

ASA receives funding from its members, The Conservation Fund, the New York Conservation Partnership Program and private foundations. The New York Conservation Partnership Program is administered by the Land Trust Alliance Northeast Program with support from the State of New York.

## Board of Directors

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	Remus Preda
David Horn	<i>Argyle</i>
<i>Easton</i>	692-3334
692-9591	Sean Quinn
<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>	<i>Easton</i>
Seth Jacobs	692-9650
<i>Argyle</i>	Jim Ruhl
638-6124	<i>Clifton Park</i>
<b>SECRETARY</b>	877-5949
Nancy Brown	Meg Southerland
<i>Jackson</i>	<i>Salem</i>
692-3120	854-3250
<b>TREASURER</b>	Amy Walker
Glenwood Rowse	<i>Fort Ann</i>
<i>Cambridge</i>	639-5223
692-9836	<b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</b>
Liz Gordon	Teri Ptacek
<i>Easton</i>	<b>PROJECT MANAGER</b>
692-9065	Kerri Culhane
Al Klein	
<i>Salem</i>	
854-3105	



Agricultural Stewardship Association

28R Main St. • Greenwich, NY 12834

518-692-7285 • Fax: 692-7720

asa@agstewardship.org • www.agstewardship.org

## a message from the President and Director



Dear Members & Friends,

We are enormously grateful to the many people and funders whose support over the years has been so essential to our ability to conserve farmland.

When ASA was founded in the spring of 1990, there was no office, staff or money. But the Board of Directors had a vision of conserving Washington County's agricultural lands—a vision that by 2005 has enabled ASA to permanently protect over 4,400 acres of farmland.

Our vision and efforts were greatly assisted in 2003 by a 3-year, \$65,000 grant from The Conservation Fund and a \$40,000 grant from New York Conservation Partnership Program administered by the Land Trust Alliance. This support, which enabled us to build our capacity, fueled our growth and efforts.



We are proud of the progress we have made in 2004 and the first half of 2005. Five of our farm projects were awarded \$1.88 million in state and federal funding to purchase the development rights on 1,193 acres of farmland. These farms are located along the Battenkill in Jackson and Salem and on or near the Hoosic River in Cambridge and Schaghticoke. With the help of The Conservation Fund we conserved a 300-acre farm on Route 153 in Salem. We also conserved a 311-acre farm on State Route 372 in Easton and 208 acres on two farms on the east side of County Route 103 in Hoosick. With the help of volunteers, we completed site visits to all 39 of our easements as part of our annual stewardship program.

In addition, we are also proud of the popular success of our annual landscape art show, Landscapes for Landsake, and the annual dinners we held in honor of co-founders, George Houser and Pam Cali, along with Bill Ralston. We look forward to another successful art show this fall.

While we have come a long way since ASA was first established, we still have a long way to go. With ever increasing development pressure, we are facing greater challenges to farming and farmland resources than ever before. If we are to retain our agricultural base, thousands more acres must be protected!

We are confident that with your continued enthusiastic support we can make a difference in the years to come. Thank you!

David D. Horn  
*President*

Teri Ptacek  
*Executive Director*

# landscapes *for* landsake

*A Wine and Cheese  
Art Reception and Sale*

**OCTOBER 8, 2005**  
**4-7 pm**

at **Maple Ridge**

172 State Route 372, Coila, NY  
*(just west of the village of Cambridge)*

**Featuring the art of:**

Stephen Alcorn

Jean Clark

Katie De Groot

Russel DeYoung

Leslie Ferst

Tom Kerr

Barbara Sussman

Marguerite Takvorian-Holmes

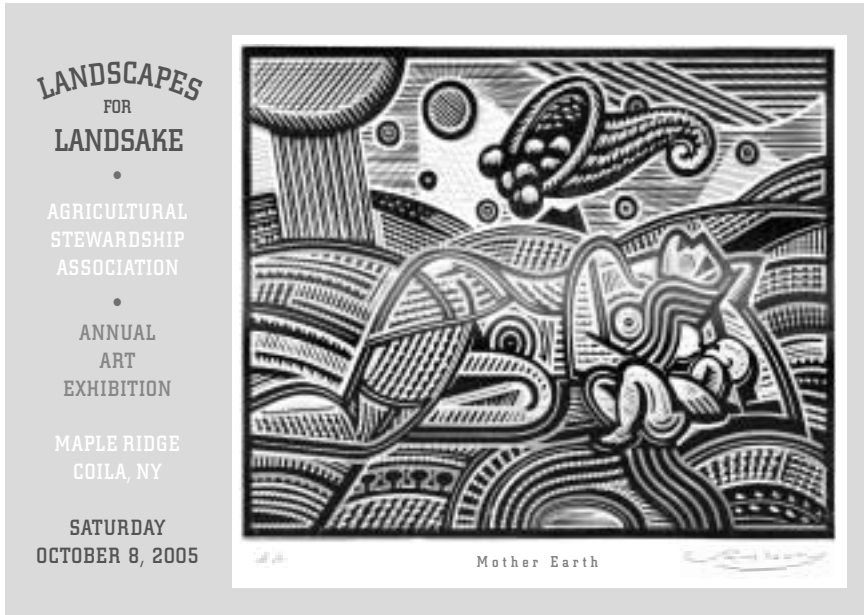
George Van Hook

Hannie Varosy

Frank Vurraro

Helene Young

Janine Lazarus, *Curator*



**Sponsored by:**

The Fort Miller Group, Inc.

The Chazen Companies

Alan Brown Realty, Greenwich, Salem & Schaghticoke

Owl Pen Books, Greenwich • Reynolds Real Estate, Greenwich

Wiley Bros., Inc., Schaghticoke

Concra Appraisal Associates, Hudson • Dickinson & Company, Greenwich • First Pioneer Farm Credit, Greenwich • Granville Veterinary Service, Large Animal, Granville • Judith Klingebiel, CPA, Greenwich • Leon R. Walker, Inc., Fort Ann • Lytle Oil Co., Greenwich • North Country Xerographics, Glens Falls • Premier Dairy Service, LLC, Argyle • Salem Farm Supply, Salem • Something's Brewing, Greenwich • Washington County Co-operative Insurance Co., Greenwich • Whitman's Feed Store, North Bennington, VT • Windy Hill Sawmill, Greenwich

Gallery open **October 9-15, 4-6pm** or by appointment, **518-692-7285**

**40%** *profits from art sales to go to ASA*

# Meet ASA's Newest Board Members

## Amy Walker-Bailey



Amy Walker-Bailey was born into agriculture. She is the third generation of Walkers to run the Walker family business, Walker Farm, Home & Tack, of Fort Ann, which was founded by her grandfather in 1935. She is also involved in Walker Farms, LLC, the family's 750-cow dairy; is the financial manager of the family's many agricultural business enterprises; and runs the Kingsbury Country Inn, a bed & breakfast located near the family's heifer breeding facility, Kingsbury Kows.

Amy's dedication to agriculture, and her entrepreneurial skill and unlimited energy are great assets to the ASA board. Amy and husband Larry have three children, Molly, Garret and Kaela.

**“The general public needs to be educated about where their food comes from and the need to keep a viable agricultural economy to insure the continuance of that food supply.”**

## Jim Ruhl



Jim Ruhl was born and raised in rural Pennsylvania farm country. He came to Albany in 1965 to pursue a Master's degree at SUNY, and decided to make New York his home. In 1968, Jim began his career as Land Use Planner for the State, later working on the Catskill Study Commission in the early 1970s. From 1975 to 1988, Jim served in the program staff for the NY State Senate Majority leader Warren M. Anderson.

After 1988, Jim became system-wide lobbyist for SUNY, and eventually, Deputy to the Chancellor. In this role he was second in charge of the 64 SUNY campuses. Early retirement in 1997 has afforded Jim and his wife Gretchen the opportunity to travel extensively, and to volunteer in their communities. Jim enjoys hunting, hiking and biking in Washington County. In addition to his service on the ASA board, Jim is a member of the Clifton Park Environmental Conservation Commission and the Saratoga P.L.A.N. Trails Committee.

We thank Dan Stone of Stonemeadow Farm for referring Jim to us. Jim's solid experience in politics and planning will be essential as ASA moves forward with many of our ambitious new projects.

## Remus Preda



Remus Preda comes to ASA by way of Romania, Greece, Israel, New Jersey and one very long motorcycle adventure. As a former tax & estate attorney for the Department of the Treasury and the financial industry, Remus brings particular technical expertise to the board.

Over the course of 15 years, while living in NYC, Remus paid regular visits to friends on their farm in Shushan. In 2003, after a one-year, 51,000-mile trip circumnavigating the western hemisphere on motorcycle, Remus ended up in Washington County and decided to make it his home. He purchased a dairy farm in Argyle, which he now

rents to a young farming family, and he has been restoring the house.

Upon moving to the county, Remus immersed himself in farm- and food-related causes. He has been the driver for the Farm to Chef Express, and is also involved in the Cambridge Farmer's Market. As Remus sees it, “agriculture is the essence of Washington County. It provides us with the breathtaking beauty of our landscapes. It has shaped the good character of our citizens. It is the foundation of our economy.”

**“I truly believe that one of the most noble endeavors one can undertake, is to produce quality food that nourishes a community's body, soul and environment.”**

## Reflections on a Life in Farming



In the course of my work as Executive Director, I have the privilege of meeting a lot of incredible people and hiking acre upon acre of beautiful, productive farmland. This winter I had the pleasure of working with long-time Salem dairyman Bob Beattie, who worked with ASA to conserve his 300-acre farm at Rt. 153 and Chambers Rd. Mr. Beattie has enjoyed a long life as an independent, hard-working farmer. His reminiscences and observations about farming and the importance of the land are insights into farming in Washington County over the past century.

His commitment to land conservation reflects his lifetime commitment to the land. The following are a few of Mr. Beattie's reflections and reminiscences.

I made up my mind along time ago that I wanted to keep my land in farming. I've been a member of American Farmland Trust since way back when it first started up. I was always very interested in farmland conservation. I loved to get AFT's magazine and read about all of the farms they protected.

Times have changed. The 1920s was my favorite. We had to do all of the work by hand with horses. It wasn't that hard. It was enjoyable to do.

I always loved farming and still love farming. If my health hadn't failed, I'd still be farming. I'd like to have seen the whole operation continue. I had to quit milking in December. I couldn't go through another winter with the conditions the way they were. I wanted to take good care of my cows.

Mr. Beattie's conserved farm is rented by the neighboring farming operator for crop production.

We at ASA owe thanks to dedicated farmers who, like Mr. Beattie, care to see farming alive and thriving in our community.

## Thank you, Senator Little!

## Thank you, Assemblyman McDonald!

Senator Betty Little and Assemblyman Roy McDonald have both made generous member-item appropriations on behalf of ASA. Each has granted \$10,000 to support our farmland protection efforts. "I really appreciate the support of our local legislators. It is gratifying to know they understand the importance of farmland protection in planning for the future of agriculture," says Dave Horn.

ASA board and staff have been meeting regularly with our local legislators to tell them how important agriculture and farmland conservation is to our community. Developing partnerships with our representatives is another effort we are making to support agriculture in the region.

## what is a Charitable Remainder Interest?

A gift of a remainder interest (also known as a reserved life estate) is granted when a landowner donates land to a trust during their lifetime, but reserves the right for themselves and any other named party to live on the land until their death or voluntary release of interest. Donors of remainder interests may be eligible for income tax deductions. Please call Teri at ASA if you would like information on planned giving and charitable remainder trusts and interests.



# contributions received

For their commitment to farmland conservation, we gratefully thank the following people, businesses, and organizations for supporting ASA from January 1, 2005 to July 15, 2005

## Donations \$500 & above

Constance Kheel  
Robbins Foundation  
Kathy & Hugh Roome  
Barbara Glaser  
James & Marilyn Alcott  
Alfred & Debora Klein  
Bruce & Elizabeth Miller  
Odd Duck Farm  
Richland Farms  
James R. Ruhl

## Sustaining \$100 - \$499

Ronald & Felicitas Anderson  
Gene & Jean R. Ceglowski  
Seth Jacobs & Martha Johnson  
William Frazier & Joann Pickett  
Naomi Meyer & Ron Renoni  
Shirley May Mulligan  
Sean & Sandy Quinn  
Janet & Clifford Stewart  
Woody Hill Farm

## Supporting \$50 - \$99

Andland Farms  
Anonymous  
Janet Britt & John Dojka  
Pam & Joe Cali  
Judy & David Doonan  
Tom & Rulyn Graves  
Roy & Shirley Lerman  
Jim & Anita Perry  
William & Stephenie Randles  
Jennifer Small, Michael Yezzi & Flying Pigs Farm  
William & Angela Sturgis  
Peter Throop  
Paul H. & Barbara P. Wiley

## Friend \$30 - \$49

George Allen  
Barbara Hennig  
Donald & Carolyn Henry  
Field Horne  
Legacy Partners, LLC  
Lisa Manzi  
Mrs. Pearl C. Moody  
Margie & Joe Robertson  
Suzanne Seay & Rachel Gartner  
Jay & Kim Skellie  
Stone Hill Farm

## Grants

The Conservation Fund  
NYS Dept. of Agriculture and Markets,  
Betty Little

## Matching Contributions

The McGraw Hill Companies

## Conservation Easements

Robert Beattie

## Gifts in Memory of:

Bradden Rowse by Barbara Glaser

## Other Donations

Leena Kutti  
Patricia M. Nestle  
Brian Zweig

## Volunteers

ASA Board Members  
Thomas Christenfeld  
Clem & Mary Dee Crowe  
Cassidy Duel  
Megan Galbraith  
Tegan Gifford  
Jim Green  
Timothy Gusek  
Kathy Idleran  
Rob & Bliss McIntosh  
Annie Miller & Daniel Minkel  
Samantha Saunders  
Sara Scheeren  
Mary Ellen Williams

## Attendees of ASA's Annual Dinner Honoring Pam Cali and Bill Ralston

George & Paula Allen  
Neil Adams  
Linda Anderson  
Keith Armstrong  
Bill Badgley  
Joe & Sally Brillon  
Alan & Nancy Brown  
Sheldon Brown  
Anthony Cafritz  
Pam & Joe Cali  
Grace Campbell  
Thomas Christenfeld & Liz Gordon

Janice Cipperly  
Jim Clark  
Jill Cornell  
Jerry Cosgrove  
John & Denise Dickinson  
Bill Eberle  
Kirsten Ferguson  
First Pioneer Farm Credit  
Bill Frazier  
Mark Frost, The Chronicle  
Elizabeth Gordon  
Tim Gusek  
Barbara Hennig  
Phil & Cathy Herrington  
Bonnie Hoag & Geoffrey Ovington  
Dave Horn  
George & Earline Houser  
Horace Houser  
Seth Jacobs  
Constance Kheel  
Al Klein  
Harry & Louise Landry  
Tom Lindberg  
Kate & Mark McQuerrey  
Harald Moore  
Shirley Mulligan  
Barbara Nash  
Mike & Donna Nolan  
Jim & Anita Perry  
Joann Pickett  
Liz Pohlmann  
Teri Ptacek & Andrew Kelly  
Bill Ralston  
Will & Stephenie Randles  
Glen Rowse  
Nathan Rudgers  
Jim & Gretchen Ruhl  
Jay & Kim Skellie  
Jen Small & Michael Yezzi  
Dawn Smith  
Meg & Rob Southerland  
Janet Stewart  
Hideko Stone  
Jim & Amy Stott  
Amy Walker-Bailey  
Bob & Carolee Webster  
Rod Wilson  
Marilyn Wright  
Brian & Catherine Ziehm

## Tiashoke Farms PDR Receives \$383,042 in State and Federal Funding

Tiashoke Farms in Cambridge has been awarded full funding by the NY State Department of Ag & Markets (NYSDAM) and the US Department of Agriculture (USDA). In March of this year ASA secured \$297,337 in State funding for the purchase of development rights on this multi-generational dairy farm. The remaining Federal contribution of \$85,705 was announced by US Congressman John Sweeney (R-NY 20th District) in May.

Owned by Frank and Terry Ziehm in partnership with sons Brian, Eric and Stuart, Tiashoke Farms, LLC, is a dairy farm located on Morris Road in the Town of Cambridge. It is the original site and home farm of the overall 600-acre Tiashoke Farms operation. Tiashoke's second site is on NYS Route 40 in the Town of Easton which is owned by the Ziehms' sons. The Cambridge home farm is where the milk cows and milking facility are located. Between the two facilities there are 625 head of milking cows and 473 head of young stock.

Tiashoke Farms in Cambridge consists of 244 acres of land with nearly one mile of river frontage along the Hoosic River and high percentage of high quality soils. Protecting this farm facilitates the transfer of the land and milking facility to the next generation. The conserved farm will also serve as a permanent natural resource buffer, limiting runoff in the Hoosic River watershed.



I want to join ASA in supporting land conservation and stewardship in the Washington County region.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

*(Please print your name as you would like it to appear in our annual report.*

Check here for "anonymous.")

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

City/Town \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Friend \$30

Enclosed is an additional donation of

Supporting \$50

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Sustaining \$100

for ASA's easement stewardship program.

ASA Patron \$500

I would like to volunteer. Please contact me at the following e-mail address or telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you!

## Cows Don't Ride the School Bus!

Communities across the country continue to make the mistake of thinking that more houses mean an expanded tax base; that more taxpayers equal lower taxes. They incorrectly think that development will help stabilize or reduce their property taxes. In case after case, what happens is the opposite: more homes mean more roads, more kids in schools, more infrastructure needs—and more taxes. The average homeowner in developed communities uses more in community services than they pay in taxes; communities constantly need to reassess and raise taxes to meet the need. While there may be brief period where the taxes are stable, over time the result is higher taxes for everyone and a reduced quality of life.

There is an old saying that "cows don't ride the school bus," which is a cute way of stating an important fact: Farmers only use about 16 cents in services for every dollar they pay in taxes. The best way to stabilize property taxes is to maintain and support a strong agricultural economy.

Every acre protected by ASA remains available forever for a farmer to work to generate revenue and food that benefits us all. Agriculture is an essential industry in the Washington County region, and we can work together to help keep it that way. How can you help?

- Join ASA at the highest membership you can afford—membership is critical to our efforts.
- Become a major donor and support our work
- Think of ASA in your estate planning
- Work with us to conserve your land through donation or PDR
- Support our local events and tell your friends and acquaintances about the importance of farming and ASA's work in support of farming
- Support your local farmers. Buy their products and insist on local farm products in local stores and restaurants
- Be kind to farmers and be thankful they get up everyday to work at keeping our region beautiful and productive!

save  
*the* date!

Landscapes for  
Landsake

4

OCTOBER 8, 2005

## ASA is Awarded \$32,000 in Grants from DEC and LTA

The New York Conservation Partnership Program of the New York Department of Environmental Conservation and the Land Trust Alliance (LTA) awarded ASA \$32,000 in grants to fund three exciting and important conservation projects. The grants provide ASA with matching funds to develop a conservation project along the Battenkill River; assist the organization with capacity building; and partially fund transaction costs for easement acquisition at the Beattie Farm in Salem.

“These grants will enable us to pursue exciting new conservation projects,” says Executive Director Teri Ptacek. ASA was the only organization to receive funding in all three categories.

The Land Trust Alliance administers the Conservation Partnership Program, which was designed to enhance local open space conservation programs throughout New York. LTA is a national non-profit land conservation organization that provides information, training and resources to local land trusts to assist them with their conservation efforts.



**Agricultural Stewardship Association**  
28R Main St.  
Greenwich, NY 12834



**ASA is working with Shirley Mulligan to protect the Mulligan Farm on Rt. 372 in Jackson.**