



## A Deep Appreciation for Agricultural Heritage Leads to Conservation Evelyn Braymer Protects Her Salem Farm

Article guest written by ASA intern Holly Rippon-Butler.

“If Evelyn said the farm dates back to Revolutionary War times, believe her.”



That was the response I received from the town historian when I questioned him about the age of Evelyn Braymer’s farm. The 145-acre farm on County Route 153 in Salem sits on a hill overlooking farm fields in all directions. The barns on her

property date back to the 18th century and were likely built around the time of Salem’s founding in 1761. She has an astounding memory of life growing up with farming in Washington County as well as many insightful things to say about the state of agriculture today.

“Conservation matters very much to me. I guess you could say I love agriculture. Whether it’s my farm or someone else’s, I love it.”

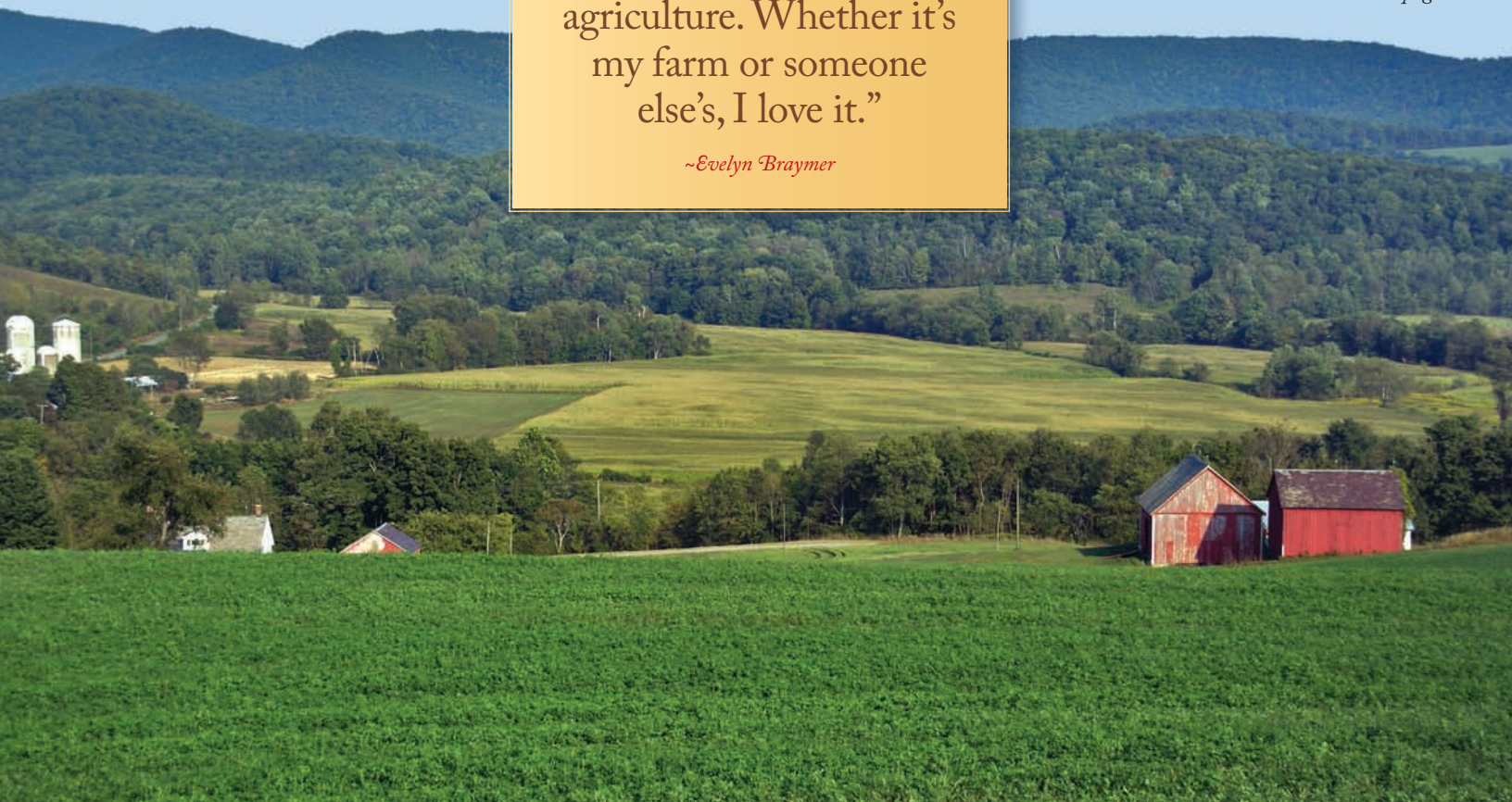
~Evelyn Braymer

Evelyn was born in 1929 and grew up on her parents’ farm on nearby Beattie Hollow Road. In 1947 she and her husband began farming on the property where she now lives. This farm was a special piece of land to the Braymers for many reasons. Not only was it close to the village of Salem, and therefore the milk market (via train), it also represented a financial victory for a family determined to stay in the dairy business.

Evelyn’s husbands’ parents had moved to the property in 1928 after selling their farm in Pawlet, Vermont, but were forced to sell again a year later with the onset of the Great Depression. They continued to rent the farm until 1947, when Evelyn and her husband were able to buy it back at the end of World War II.

“That was a whole different era,” Evelyn remembers. With the war came a need for increased

*continued on page 4*





## Local Farms are Vital to Our Future

The Agricultural Stewardship Association is a non-profit land trust founded in 1990 by local farmers and conservationists to protect land for agricultural and forestry uses in Washington and Rensselaer counties. Our goal is to make sure that farms and forests will continue to be a part of everyone's lives for many generations to come. To date, we have assisted landowners with the conservation of 11,094 acres of farm and forest land.

ASA receives funding from its members and supporters, Castanea Foundation, and the New York Conservation Partnership Program (administered by the Land Trust Alliance Northeast Program with support from the State of New York) among others.

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## From the Executive Director



Despite gloomy news about severe budget cuts to the New York State farmland protection program, I want you to know that ASA is still hard at work conserving valuable agricultural land in Washington and Rensselaer counties. Including the

projects featured in this newsletter, we are looking forward to completing 8 conservation easements, totaling 1,345 acres, by the end of 2010. This is strong evidence that interest in conservation is greater than ever and demonstrates the urgent need to continue to fight for funds at the state level.

Recently, we were inspired once again by our community's commitment to protect its farms. ASA was invited to participate in public radio station WAMC's fall fund drive. An anonymous supporter pledged to match donations made to WAMC with an equal gift to ASA's Forever Farmland Fund, a resource that's dedicated solely to easement acquisition.

The challenge sparked a tremendous outpouring of support from hundreds of listeners and raised \$38,000 for each organization in just under four hours. Our office was abuzz with excitement as we listened to callers pledging their support and sharing their stories about why they care about saving farms. Even after the challenge ended we received calls and emails from enthusiastic people asking for more information on how to help.

ASA and its members have been passionate about farmland protection for over two decades and now more than ever we are experiencing a ground swell of support from the larger community. The media is filled with stories from experts advising us that eating fresh, locally produced food is better for our health, the environment and economy. This may not really be news to us in upstate New York but we're glad everyone else is catching up with the idea!

As you celebrate this holiday season, please remember that these are still tough times for farmers and they are depending upon your support. Shop locally when you can for produce, milk, cheeses and meat. There are a lot of great choices in our community. Talk to your friends and family about the importance of buying locally and be a strong advocate for agriculture to local leaders and politicians. We need the continued help of everyone in this community who believes that farms add to our quality of life and are a resource we and future generations just can't do without. Please give generously to help us meet our year end challenge grant! ~ Teri Ptacek

## Help Us Meet Our Year-End Challenge Grant

ASA is at a crossroads. Not only has the state farmland protection funding, which has enabled us to meet our goal of protecting 10,000 by 2010, been severely cut but we've just learned that an important grant we were counting on to cover our day to day operating costs has also been cut. Although we are working with other organizations to advocate for the re-establishment of both state grant sources, we have no guarantee that they will be refunded any time soon.

At the same time, the success of our conservation program has attracted many more people who want to protect their land. We need to step up our fundraising efforts so that we can continue to help these landowners, our community and future generations.

Fortunately we have a private donor who believes in our mission and has challenged our community to raise \$30,000 for farmland conservation by the end of the year. They have generously offered to match dollar for dollar every donation we receive before the close of 2010! Please help us leverage this important opportunity by making as generous a gift as you can through our newsletter, our year end appeal or on-line. – Thank You!



## ASA is now a Member of EarthShare! Give at the Office

ASA is a member of EarthShare, a nationwide federation of the country's most respected environmental and conservation charities.

Take advantage of one of the easiest and most convenient ways to support the Agricultural Stewardship Association! You can make a gift to ASA by payroll contribution through EarthShare's workplace giving program at numerous private companies, many state and municipal government organizations, State Employees Federated Appeal (SCFA), and in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), by selecting 999-00648 on your pledge form.

To find out more about how you and your workplace can support ASA through an EarthShare charitable giving campaign, please call Meegan Finnegan at (518) 692-7285. You can also visit EarthShare's web site at: earthshare.org.



## If You Care About Having Local Food on Your Table, Step Up to the Plate and Dig In. You Can Help.

### 1. Make a Legacy Gift

Your gift, in the form of a trust, life insurance, property, gift annuity or bequest empowers ASA to protect and steward the valuable agricultural resources of our region.

### 2. Make a Donation

In addition to the direct financial help, your contribution demonstrates community support for ASA's conservation efforts, which in turn helps us leverage funding from grants and private sources.

### 3. Volunteer

ASA needs volunteers to help with organizing outreach events, implementing membership mailings, and providing expertise in professional and technical matters.

### 4. Advocate for Conservation

Now more than ever we need your help to convince leaders at the local and state level that farmland conservation is a priority for our community.





*continued from page 1* production. President Roosevelt's Farm Policy encouraged new farmers while companies such as H.P. Hood and Sons, where Evelyn and her husband shipped their milk, held community picnics as incentives. It's hard to imagine now, but during the war families were rationed to two gallons of gas per week. Farmers received slightly more, but most still relied heavily on horses to plow their fields. With the end of the war, horse-drawn farm implements were replaced by mechanized equipment and small, homestead farms went out of business as large dairies became popular.

The Braymers stayed relatively small, milking about thirty cows, although they also raised over two hundred chickens. In those days, H.P. Hood would pick up the eggs right along with the milk. Evelyn worked with her husband driving tractors, feeding calves, and baling hay. For one year, when her husband got sick, she ran the farm all by herself, milking and feeding the cows twice a day before going inside to take care of her small children. "I was proud," she remembers with a smile, "because I made more milk than my husband did that year."

In the 1980s the Braymers were faced with a tough decision. One of her sons wanted to continue farming, but it was impossible to support two families on the small farm without expanding. They decided to sell the cows and rent their land to another local farmer who had been a neighbor for generations.

"It matters very much to me," Evelyn says about conserving farmland. "I guess you could say I love agriculture. Whether it's my farm or someone else's, I love it."

Evelyn, who began plans to conserve the farm in 2004, also inspired her neighbor Bob Beattie (now deceased) to conserve his 300-acre farm. Both farms lie within a few miles of other protected properties which together comprise 1,233 acres of protected land along County Route 153.



## A Message from the Chair

"You are our silver lining."

Despite state budget cuts, ASA is moving forward in developing other funding sources. We hope that we are leaving no stone (*and there are a lot of rocks around here*) unturned as we meet the special challenges of funding our everyday work and easement projects. Your support makes all the difference.

Please make ASA one of your top three charities for giving, make us a beneficiary in your will, on an insurance policy, stocks, or other financial instru-

ments. When someone passes, make a memorial gift to ASA in their name. I have done these things because I believe in ASA.

We feel very inspired as we look back on all of our success this year and so we are thinking like the little engine that could. With eight projects closing by year end, we think we can...keep our local farms and local food. We count on our farmers. They count on us. We know we can count on you. ~*Mary Ellen Williams*

## Thank you Holly Rippon-Butler



This summer we were very fortunate to have Holly Rippon-Butler working as an intern for ASA. Holly grew up in Schuylerville on her parent's farm, the Butler Family Farm, where she developed a love for agriculture. She graduated from Schuylerville High School and is currently in her sophomore year at Yale University studying Environmental Science. She said "Growing up on a dairy farm has given me

a deep appreciation for the value of protecting farmland and keeping our local agricultural community strong. I love where I live and was incredibly lucky to work with the wonderful, like-minded staff at ASA this summer!"

While at ASA, Holly interviewed a number of local farmers and conservationists, including Evelyn Braymer (article on page 1), to learn more about the history and diversity of local agriculture. She transcribed these interviews as part of a narrative project that ASA will work to expand in the coming years. In addition, she helped run the farm animal photography for kids program and went on site visits to assist with easement stewardship. It was a great deal of fun working with Holly and we wish her the best in college and her coming career.

## Conservation Strengthens Future Viability of White Creek Dairy Farm

### Landview Farms Donates Easement and Acquires Conserved Support Lands

Landview Farms, LLC is a large dairy farm owned by Roland and Jane Walker, their son Randy Walker, and Mark Anderson. The farm is based in White Creek and rents a number of support lands in the nearby region. The Walkers have been working with Castanea Foundation, to help secure the long-term viability of their operation by using conservation to acquire some of the critical support lands they'd been renting from non-farmers.

"Castanea's goal is to help keep farmland in farming", said executive director Tim Storrow. "In this case there were two separate parcels rented by Landview Farms and both owners needed to sell them, putting their future use as agricultural lands in jeopardy. Castanea was able to act quickly to purchase them, work with ASA to conserve them and then convey them to the Walker family."

Landview Farms and the Castanea Foundation had originally intended to partner with Washington and Rensselaer counties and ASA to conserve their agricultural properties by applying for a state farmland protection program grant in 2009. Unfortunately, the state cut the budget for the farmland protection program so significantly that no new projects have been funded in 2009 or 2010.

The landowners decided to restructure the project to protect some of the properties this year. Castanea Foundation owns two properties that Landview Farms currently leases for crop cultivation. One property is 161 acres along North Hoosick Road in the town of White Creek. The property contains a large percentage of high quality soils, ideal for agriculture. It also has frontage on the Little White Creek, a tributary to the Walloomsac River. The second property is 72 acres on State Route 67 near the Buskirk covered bridge in the town of Hoosick. It's also well suited for farming and contains a large open field, some wetlands and extensive frontage on the Hoosic River.

The third property involved in the project is owned by Roland and Jane Walker. It is 54 acres off State Route 67 in



Eagle Bridge and has extensive frontage on the Hoosic River. About 97% of the property is comprised of prime soils.

All three easements were donated to ASA in November allowing Landview Farms to purchase the property in White Creek at a reduced rate given that the development rights were removed. They will also be able to purchase the Buskirk parcel at a reduced value in the future as well.

Randy Walker explains, "Conservation enabled us to purchase land at its agricultural value that we had previously rented. Securing the land that our operation depends upon enables us to manage it completely and makes it easier to comply with environmental regulations. It also protects our farm's future viability."



# Recent Events and Programs



This past summer ASA ran a number of programs to give people an opportunity to learn more about what makes the properties we've helped protect so valuable to our community. We hosted two **dairy tours**, the first in April at the 500-cow Tiashoke Farms in Buskirk and the second in October at Hooskip Farm, a 100-cow dairy in Petersburg run by the McMahan family. Participants had



an opportunity to learn more about the dairy business and meet the farmers and cows that put the milk and cheese on their table.

In May we hosted a **Walk on the Wild Side** with naturalist and educator Howard Romack at the White Oak farm in Hoosick. Kids and their parents visited a beaver dam which has created a large pond habitat at the edge of the property and found out how many kids holding hands it takes

to wrap around the ancient Oak tree the farm is named for.

Expert mycologist Sue Van Hook continued her mushroom foraging walks with trips to the St. Croix farm in Schaghticoke and the Sanders property in Salem. In spite of a dry season participants still found plenty of interesting mushrooms and fungi to learn about.

Noel and Judy Hanf, who donated an easement on their farm in Jackson, hosted a **Farm Pond Management workshop**. Joe Driscoll and his staff from the Washington County Soil & Water Conservation District shared their extensive knowledge and experience covering a broad range of information pertaining to the uses, siting, construction, and management of farm ponds.

Our first **Farm Animal Photography for Kids** workshop series was a great success. Photographers Dona Ann McAdams, Cliff Oliver and Corrina Aldrich, all of whom have participated in the Landscapes for Landsake art



show, generously donated their time and expertise to lead two outings to conserved farms and teach kids the fundamentals of photography.

After visiting the alpacas and heifers at Tiashoke farms in Easton and the sheep and chickens at Elihu Farm in



Easton, our young photographers met with their teachers to determine which photos to exhibit. A grant from TD Bank enabled us to produce and frame the works which were then featured at ASA's booth at the Washington County Fair, the Schaghticoke Fair and at the Greenwich branch of TD Bank. Their work was terrific! We hope to offer more trips in the future and start a regular Farm Photography for Kids Club.

Master painters Virginia McNeice and Pat McEvoy taught a **landscape painting and pastels class** at the beautiful Historic Barns of Nipmoose in Hoosick just as the foliage was peaking this fall.

## Thanks to the Landowners and Educators Who Made Our Programs Possible

### Landowners

Noel and Judy Hanf

Constance Kheel

John and Mary McMahon  
and Dan McMahon  
of Hooskip Farm

John and Eva Moore  
of St. Croix Farm

Robert and Mary Pratt  
of Elihu Farm

Derial and Gail Sanders

Brian and Kate Ziehm,  
Frank and Terry Ziehm and  
Stuart and Jessica Ziehm  
of Tiashoke Farms

### Educators

Corrina Aldrich

Joe Driscoll

Dona Ann McAdams

Pat McEvoy

Virginia McNeice

Cliff Oliver

Howard Romack

Sue Van Hook



# Make a Connection with the Land

ASA offers a variety of programs and events that give you and your family the opportunity to visit properties you've helped conserve and see firsthand what makes them so special.

Saturday,  
February 12

10 a.m to noon

## Woods Walk with Finch Forester

Free adult program, particularly recommended for landowners with woodlots of 50 or more acres. Registration requested.

Join ASA and certified Finch forester Len Cronin for an informative walk through the conserved 65-acre Klein forest in Jackson. Len will explain how developing a forest management plan can help landowners identify and meet long-term objectives for sustainable forestry.

As you walk through this recently harvested forest, Len will discuss the components of a simple management plan and how they can be tailored to the landowner's objectives including timber income, wildlife habitat, recreation and aesthetics. He will also discuss invasive forest pests and what we can do about them!

Saturday,  
March 12

10 a.m. to noon

## Maple Sugaring Tour

Free family program. Registration requested, limited to 25 people.

Bring your family for a tour of the sugarbush and learn more about how this sweet local product is made.

Sugaring has been a Truehart family enterprise for generations. Eli and Karie Truehart protected their 87-acre property on Blossom Road in Salem and have steadily been working to improve their maple stands on the mostly forested property. They set 4,000 taps, produce an average of 1200-1500 gallons of syrup per year and are investing in new equipment and techniques to increase their efficiency and production.

For more information, directions and registration for events, visit [www.agstewardship.org](http://www.agstewardship.org) or call Meegan at 692-7285.

## Finch Helping Landowners Keep Forests as Forests

For more than a century, the foresters of Finch Paper of Glens Falls, NY, sustainably managed more than 160,000 acres of company-owned forests commonly regarded as the "Jewel in the Crown" of the Adirondack Park.

Today, Finch foresters are offering their expertise to family forest owners on a consulting basis, with a goal of helping them keep their forests as forests for the long-term.

Through its consulting forestry service, called Finch Forest Management, Finch foresters are helping family forest owners:

>**Optimize the value of their forest** by maximizing the utilization and marketing of any forest products produced, improving the growth and productivity of the residual forest, increasing recreational income opportunities, and improving overall asset value

>**Enhance the ecological value of their forest** through improved forest health and species diversity, and generate income through new programs designed to reward carbon sequestration, wetland preservation and other ecological attributes

>**Earn third-party responsible forestry certifications** through a group certification program that allows family forest owners to share the cost of certification.

Landowners interested in learning more can visit [finchforestmanagement.com](http://finchforestmanagement.com), call (518) 793-2541, ext. 5693, or email the foresters at [forestry@finchpaper.com](mailto:forestry@finchpaper.com).





# Tour de Farm Raises Awareness and Funds for Conservation in Saratoga Battlefield Region

Utilizing a grant from the Historic Saratoga Washington on the Hudson Partnership, ASA partnered with Saratoga PLAN this past August to offer cyclists a tour of conserved land in the Saratoga Battlefield Region. Despite a rainy day, 88 of the 165 registered riders braved the weather to participate. The



tour began and ended at Hand Melon Farm which is in the process of being protected. Riders stopped at Sunset View Farm, also protected, to learn more about their innovative new green energy project and rode through the scenic agricultural landscape of Easton, more than 5,000 acres of which has been protected.

Riders on the 35-mile route (a shorter 15-mile route was offered for families) crossed the Hudson at Stillwater and stopped at the Saratoga National Historical Park to learn more about the history of the region and how protecting its surrounding landscape is a priority for the Park and its conservation partners in

the area. The tour ended with a feast of luscious local produce including a new ice cream flavor, Forever Farmland, from the Ice Cream Man.

To take a self-guided tour, please stop by the ASA office to pick up our Tour De Farm map and brochure or download it at [agstewardship.org](http://agstewardship.org).

## Thanks to our Partners, Sponsors and Volunteers

**Partners:** Saratoga PLAN, Saratoga National Historical Park, Open Space Institute, American Farmland Trust, Hand Melon Farm, Sunset View Farm, Cambridge Valley Cycling, Olde Saratoga Bike and Board  
**Sponsors:** Dickinson & Co., See In Kind Services on page 11  
**Volunteers:** Lynda and Michael Armstrong, Stacey Arnold, Mark Beauharnois, Karen Bilowith, Jim Bogue, Dr. Paul Byron, Jeff Cook, Brian Dansin, Kim Davidson, Mindy Derosia, Betsy and Mary Foote, Elizabeth Gormley, Jon Harris, M.L. Healey, Jennifer Jennings, David Kievit and Dorothy Harrop, Judith Kleinberg, Kim Littell, Diane McGlaufflin, Robert and Bliss McIntosh, Kim and Lily Neher, Bob Odess, Cliff Oliver,

Christina Puerto, Leah Remington, Jim Ruhl, Colleen Sacala, Melissa and Steve Skellie, Monique and Jamie Smith, Lisa Snyder, Julia Stokes, Kristin Williford, and Jessica Ziehm



# Expanded Landscapes Show Raises Record Funds for Farmland Conservation



This year's 9th annual Landscapes for Landsake show was bigger than ever. Curator Evan Wilson chose 300 works of art, more than double the number featured in previous years, from 36 regional artists. Participating artists John and Gigi Begin built new gallery space at Maple Ridge to enable the expansion and a dedicated team of volunteers worked overtime to hang the art and decorate the barn for the opening.

And the extra work paid off! ASA estimates that over the course of Columbus Day weekend more than 1,200 people came to appreciate and purchase ninety-eight works of art inspired by the region's working landscapes. Art sales totaled just over \$60,000, which, with artists generously donating 50%, means \$30,000 has been raised for ASA's farmland conservation plan. ASA Executive Director Teri Ptacek was delighted with the results. "Success couldn't have come at a better time. With state farmland protection funds slashed to an all-time low, our talented artists and wonderful community came through in a big way. Thank you all!"



## Thanks for a Great Show!

**Major Sponsors:** Agard & LaPan Land Surveying PLLC, The Chazen Companies, The Fort Miller Group, Owl Pen Books, Whiteman Osterman & Hanna LLP

**Additional Sponsors:** John Stokowski & Sons, Stewart's Shops, Glens Falls National Bank, Ackley & Ross Funeral Home, Dickinson & Company CPAs, Judith Klingebiel, CPA, Miller Printing & Litho Inc., Premier Dairy Service LLC, Surya Polo Club, LLC, Wiley Brothers, Battenkill Valley Fibers, Inc., Battenkill Veterinary, PC, Black Dog Wines & Spirits Ltd, Booth's Blend Compost, Caffry & Flower, Attorneys at Law, Capital Tractor, Inc, Farm Credit East, Glens Falls National Bank, Green Pea Market, Jordan & Kelly, Leon R. Walker, Inc., Throop Integrity Builders, Peckham Materials Corp., and Battenkill Riversports and Campground

**Artists:** Corrina Aldrich, Paul Baker-Porazinski, John Begin, Gigi Begin, Irene Berkson, Berta Burr, Ian Creitz, Julie Duggan, Kathryn Edwards, Stu Eichel, Susan Harding Merancy, David Hatfield, Clarence King, Karen Koziol, John MacDonald, Adriano Manocchia, Leah McCloskey, Patricia McEvoy, Virginia McNeice, Fredda Merzon, Cliff Oliver, Reed Olsen, Harry Orlyk, Judith Lee Page, Leslie Parke, Leslie Peck, Art Poulin, Mallory Rich, Rebecca Sparks, Barbara Sussman, Brian Sweetland, Arleen Targan, Shira Toren, Mark Tougias, George Van Hook and Regina Wickham. **Curator:** Evan Wilson

**Hosts:** Larry Sconzo and Laurie Simon  
**Caterers:** Thomas Christenfeld and Nancy Brown  
**Volunteers:** John and Gigi Begin, Douglas and Linda Bischoff, Judith Bridge, Rachel Burke, Bob Cheney and VOSCA students, Ian Creitz, MaryDee and Clem Crowe, Minette Cummings, Cathy Firman, Emma Fitzgerald, Kim Fitzgerald, Gail Fraser, Luke Goldreyer, Liz Gordon, Don and Kathy Idleman, Ian Kelly, Morgan Kelly, Millicent and Ed Lawrence, Judy Leon, Robert and Bliss McIntosh, John Mooney, Cindy Parillo, Lisa Revet, Colleen Sacala, Jim Schanz, Rachel Skellie, Renee St. Jacques, Jessica Ziehm, Ben Zipperer



# ASA Marked 20 Years and 10,000 Acres Protected with 400 Friends

This past June, ASA celebrated its 20th anniversary in style with a barbecue and bands family picnic at the Washington County Fairground. The crowd of more than 400 supporters who attended included most former board and founding members, many of the farmers and landowners who have conserved their properties and a host of new friends eager to support the farming community.

## Thanks for a Memorable Celebration!

**Major Sponsors:** The Chazen Companies, SCA North America Tissue, and John Stokowski & Sons  
**Additional Sponsors:** Agard & LaPan Land Surveying, Battenkill Valley Creamery, LLC, The Chronicle, Dickinson & Company CPAs, Forget-Me-Nots, The Fort Miller Group, Inc., Glens Falls National Bank, Helping Hands Physical Therapy, LLC, Judith Klingebiel, CPA, Old Saratoga Wine and Spirits, Premier Dairy Service LLC, Slack Hollow Farm, Stewart's Shops, Sunset View Farm, LLC and Wiley Brothers  
**Volunteers:** Ashley Bridge, Judy Bridge, Rachel Burke, Laura Collins, Betsy Foote, Mary Foote, Suzanne Foote, Jenna Galbraith, Caroline Goss, Jesse Horn, Linda Jean Ledek, Bliss and Robbie McIntosh, Helen McIntosh, Mary Ellen Pierce, Gwenne Rippon and Donald Butler, Mandy Scheeren, Breana Scribner, Christina Stott, Curtis Taylor, Frank Von Fricken, Larry Wilbur, and Sharon Zayachek





# Thank You.

**Your Support Makes Farmland Protection Happen.**

ASA would like to express heartfelt gratitude to our wonderful community of supporters. In these challenging times, your generous contributions and the spirit they reflect mean so much to us. You are simply the best!

The following lists include contributions made between April 17, 2010 and October 31, 2010. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information. Please contact us at (518) 692-7285 to note any changes that should be made for the next issue of our newsletter.

## Foundations

Anonymous  
Castanea Foundation  
The Conservation Fund  
Land Trust Alliance  
Nordlys Foundation, Inc.  
The Peter and Carmen Lucia  
Buck Foundation, Inc.

Glens Falls National Bank  
Teri Ptacek  
John Stokowski & Sons  
Longlesson Farm  
SCA North America Tissue  
Stewart's Shops  
TD Bank  
Mary Ellen Williams

## Steward

Anonymous  
Ackley & Ross Funeral Home  
Randall Adams  
Albert H. Garner  
Bruce and Rudy Goff  
Judith Klingebiel, CPA  
Vincent Kelleher and  
Richard Bump  
Alyssa McClenning  
Akeno Mitsuguchi  
Moses Farm  
Premier Dairy Service LLC  
Anthony Squire and  
Barbara Schultz Squire  
Sunset View Farm, LLC  
Surya Polo Club, LLC  
W J Brundige Insurance  
Bob and Carolee Webster  
Wiley Brothers  
Mike and Kathy Zdeb

## Sustaining

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Vance and Shawn Bateman  
Battenkill Valley Fibers, Inc.  
Battenkill Veterinary, PC  
Andrew Beers and  
Elizabeth Meer  
Michael and Wendy Bittel  
Black Creek Valley Farms, Inc.  
Black Dog Wines & Spirits Ltd  
Booth's Blend Compost  
Renee Bouplon  
Caffry & Flower, Attorneys at Law  
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John Cogan, MD  
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Eagle's Rest Farm  
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Jon Feidner and Clare Avery  
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William Frazier and  
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Green Pea Market  
Jamie Greenberg and  
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Nancy Hand Higby

Tom Hazelton  
Hi Brow Farms, LLC  
Judy and Edward Hughes  
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Jordan & Kelly  
KC Consulting  
LaVelle & Finn, LLP  
Ralph Lee and Casey Compton  
Lemoncello Alpaca Farm  
Michael and Sharon Lozman  
Maryann McGeorge and  
Susan Sanderson  
Rebecca and Dan Molloy  
Richard and Dari Norman  
North Bennington Variety  
Mary Obering  
Old Mill Apiaries  
Don and Eileen Patten  
Flavio Pompetti and Ann Agee  
Shaine and Seanna Porter  
Charles and Marcia Reiss  
Carol Rich  
Glenwood Rowse and  
Vicki Webberly  
Barney Rubenstein and  
Sandra Scroggins

Paula Schafer  
Lawrence Sconzo and  
Laurie Simon  
Lee Shapiro and Patrick Gill  
Donald and Donna Skellie  
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Walker's Farm, Home & Tack  
Ellen L. Wiley  
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## Supporting

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Lisa Towne  
David and Ann Townsend  
Beth Trabka and Kevin Kuzmich  
John VanSchaick, DDS

## Matching Donations

El Paso Energy  
Verizon Foundation

## In Memory of

Fi Beadle  
*Jack Beadle*  
Jeff Gaess  
*Alfred and Deborah Klein*  
Loren LeBarron  
*Teri Ptacek*  
Pam Wirkki  
*Tauno Wirkki*

## In Kind Services and Products

Corrina Aldrich  
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Broadway Sweets  
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Homemade Soaps  
Saratoga Apple  
Slack Hollow Farm  
Spoonful Catering  
Sweet Spring Farm  
Lawrence White  
Wild Bills Country Kettle Corn

## Volunteers

See also pages 6, 8 & 9  
for events and programs  
volunteers

Doug Bischoff  
Cathy Firman  
Noel Hanf  
ML Healy  
John Homkey  
Field Horne  
Judith Kleinberg  
Millie and Ed Lawrence  
Florence Leon  
Leah McCloskey  
Lorraine Merghart-Ballard  
Annie Miller  
Cindy Parillo  
Meg Southerland



## Thank you!

We owe two members our heartfelt gratitude for generously hosting special gatherings to introduce ASA to their friends and neighbors. Constance Kheel is an easement donor and founder of The Persistence Foundation, a non-profit dedicated to conserving agricultural land and preserving agricultural heritage in the West Hoosick Hills area of northern Rensselaer County. She hosted two lovely gatherings for ASA this summer, one at her home and the other at the Historic Barns at Nipmoose in Buskirk. [nipmoosebarns.org](http://nipmoosebarns.org)

Ella and Dennis Felcher graciously offered to host a brunch on behalf of ASA at their home in Saratoga Springs. Ella came to know ASA through the Landscape for Landsake art show and her appreciation for the beauty and bounty produced by our region's farm prompted her to join us and make a pitch for farmland conservation to her friends and neighbors in Saratoga Springs. Justine Denison who is protecting Denison Farm, home to a 470-person Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) business, explained how important customers from nearby cities are to rural farmers.

We are indebted to members like Connie, Ella and Dennis for giving us the opportunity to meet like-minded people who will support us in our mission. It is thanks to their effort that we are able to increase our membership and grow our conservation program.





Agricultural Stewardship Association

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PHOTOGRAPHY: Lawrence White, and Ian Creitz,  
Meegan Finnegan, Jon Katz, Holly Rippon-Butler,  
Isabella Wiley, Mary Ellen Williams  
DESIGN: Ruth Sadinsky

# Forever Farmland

✧ Conserved Farms of Washington and Rensselaer Counties ✧



Photographer Lawrence White has captured the essence of what makes this region so special and worth protecting in our Forever Farmland 2011 Calendar. Featured are photos of farms that have been or are in the process of being conserved along with portraits of their owners. We are indebted to these farm families for making the commitment to protect their land and also for agreeing to be part of our calendar! Additional photos by Jon Katz provide a slice of farm life to cheer you throughout the seasons.

To find out how to purchase a calendar, go to [agstewardship.org](http://agstewardship.org).

give the  
gift of  
membership

As you celebrate the holidays, consider giving your friends and family a gift membership to the Agricultural Stewardship Association. For a \$50 membership we will send them a one-year membership certificate and a beautiful *Forever Farmland 2011 Calendar*. For more information, go to:

[agstewardship.org](http://agstewardship.org)