



## Conserving a Historic Farm Creates Opportunity for a New Generation of Farmers

Quincy Farm, formerly known as Battlevue Farm, is 49 acres of rich agricultural land located in Easton along the Hudson River across from the Saratoga National Historical Park. The farm has been in continuous agricultural production since 1777 and until this past spring had been owned by just one family—the Wrights. When it went up for sale, aspiring farmers Luke Deikis and Cara Fraver came to have a look and fell in love. Though it was out of their price range, they thought it was the perfect place to start a vegetable operation and were determined to find a way to make it their home.



### Cost of Land Can Be Prohibitive to Young Farmers

Luke and Cara are in their early thirties and represent a growing number of young people who want to get started in agriculture and need good, affordable farmland. As neither was born into a farm family with land to pass on, finding a place to realize their dream of running a sustainable vegetable farm was a challenge. They apprenticed at Roxbury Farm and Hearty Roots Farm, both in the mid-Hudson

“My wife Cara and I dreamed of a place like this, but after four years of searching we had all but given up on finding land we could afford. We were so happy to finally find it in Easton. Unlike many places we’ve been, the agricultural community here is vibrant and there’s lots of support for new farmers. We could never have afforded land like this if ASA and OSI hadn’t worked with us to conserve it and make it available at its agricultural value.”

—Luke Deikis, *Battlevue Farm*

To join ASA's Campaign to Protect Quincy Farm, go to [agstewardship.org](http://agstewardship.org)

Valley, and spent four years developing their own business plan while searching for a good piece of land they could afford.

After finding their ideal farm in Easton, they asked the Open Space Institute (OSI), a national conservation organization, for help. Acting as an interim conservation buyer, OSI purchased the farm from the Wright family at its appraised value. They then enlisted ASA as their local partner, fronting the funds to purchase a conservation easement, and then sold the restricted property to Luke and Cara at its reduced agricultural value.

*continued on page 4*



## Ensuring a Future for Farming and Forestry in our Community

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 our lives here for many generations to come. To date, we have assisted landowners with the conservation of 12,361 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).

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## From the Executive Director



As you know from reading our newsletters and appeals, state funding for farmland conservation, which had propelled much of our conservation work in recent years, has been severely cut. Thankfully, funding that had been promised for a number of farms several years ago is finally coming through and we will be able to close on those outstanding projects this winter, but there's still not enough in the state budget for new projects.

Nevertheless, it's been an inspiring year for us at ASA, filled with good news. The lack of state funding has encouraged us to go back to our roots and rally more people from across the region to the cause of farmland conservation. It turns out that this idea of protecting farms from development, put forth by a handful of concerned farmers back in 1990, resonates with many people across all walks of life and they are eager to get involved.

In a recent example, ASA was asked to be part of WAMC's fall fund drive again this year. Our conservation partner, Castanea Foundation, pledged to match donations made to WAMC by their listeners with an equal contribution to ASA's farmland conservation program up to \$50,000. The call in response was tremendous and the timing fortuitous! We have a number of projects due to close this winter and have just learned that a dairy farm outside Greenwich has been awarded a federal farmland protection grant. Funding leveraged by hundreds of WAMC's listeners could serve as a match for these wonderful projects.

Our campaign to protect Denison Farm in Schaghticoke received an outpouring of support from the farm's CSA members and customers from the Troy and Saratoga Farmer's markets. It was inspiring to hear their personal stories about the farm and about how much they appreciate knowing where their families' food is raised. In all, more than 160 people, most of whom are new to ASA, helped us raise the \$23,000 needed to complete that project—a true community-supported success!

Throughout the year we've met new people and partners from all over our region who care about making sure we continue to have local farms. We met new supporters and aspiring young farmers at our book event with author Kristin Kimball in May. Kids from Guilderland to Queensbury came to learn about farms and take photos for our Farm Photography for Kids program. We had more than 250 riders in our Tour de Farm bike event, and almost 2,000 people attended our 10th Anniversary Landscapes for Landsake Art Exhibition.

As we look forward to a new year we hope you will continue to advocate with us for New York State to reinvest in farmland conservation. But we're determined not to put all of our eggs in that basket. We'll be working hard to find new partners, supporters and strategies so we can continue to help farmers create a better future for our community. It's friends who come through when times are tough and we are grateful for our wonderful members who've continued to support us and the many new friends we are making along the way. Thank you all very much! —Teri Ptacek

## Neighbors Cooperate to Protect Two Pittstown Properties

"I was supposed to go to Yale and become a lawyer," admits Matt Cannon, who grew up in a non-farming family in a suburb of Boston. "But I liked cows and the farming lifestyle and it was never a question what I wanted to do". When Matt was 15 he spent a summer working on a local chicken farm and the next summer on a dairy farm in Lowville, NY where he developed his love for cows. From there he got a job at a dairy farm in Tunbridge, VT and went on to receive his degree in dairy herd management at Vermont Technical College.

### Commitment and Hard Work are the Foundation of a Successful Dairy Farm

Within a week of graduating, Matt bought 18 Holsteins and rented a farm in Royalton, VT. His landlord took him to an Agway dinner where he remembers "the cutest little red-head sitting at my table". Peggy, whom he married six months later, had grown up one of eight children on a dairy farm in Sharon, VT and she certainly knew her way around the dairy business. She recalls, "I didn't know how we were going to make it, but we had the cows and heifers, \$1,000 and a pick-up." They farmed in Vermont for five years, had their son Charlie, and started saving up to buy their own farm.

In 1979 they found a dairy farm in Pittstown, NY they could afford and Matt says "We've just been milking cows ever since". They chose to name the farm "Cannon Cattle Ranch" in honor of a homemade postcard Matt's first employer, the Massachusetts chicken farmer, had jokingly addressed to him after he graduated from the dairy program.

A lot has changed since then. A daughter, Stephanie, was born in 1980 and over the years they've made many improvements to the farm and grown the herd to about 115 milking cows and 90 young stock. They've purchased addi-

tional acreage and for the past 30 years have rented land from their neighbor, Theresa Baum, to raise feed crops. They've put a lot of hard work into building a successful family dairy farm and it's clear they love what they do and the life they've created.

### Conservation a "Good Fit"

While both their children love the farm, they have moved away to pursue other careers. Matt and Peggy aren't sure what will happen to the farm when they can no longer work it but they want to make sure it stays a farm. Matt explains "I'd already heard a lot about conservation and have had it in the back of my mind for a long time. It's a good fit for us. We worked hard to build this farm, our retirement is in it and we don't want to see it go down the drain. We want to see another farmer here someday."

The Cannons and their neighbor Theresa Baum, who was also determined to protect her property from future development, decided to work with ASA. Both were awarded state funding through the Environmental Protection Fund in 2007. Though state budget cuts made the process slower than anticipated, ASA was able to help the Cannons protect their 358 acres and Baum protect her 33 acres in October.

Not only will conservation satisfy their shared desire to see the land remain in farming, but it has also given the Cannons the opportunity to purchase the land they've rented from Baum at its reduced, agricultural value. The Castanea Foundation provided funding to cover some of the transaction costs.

Peggy says, "I drive a school bus for the Hoosic Valley School and every day I see beautiful farm fields. Now there are houses in many of them and I think, 'Why are they ruining perfectly good farmland? It's never going to be productive again.' At least now I don't have to worry about that on our land."







### ASA Launches Public Campaign to Raise Funds for the Farm's Conservation

ASA is responsible for half the cost of the farm's conservation and to date has secured nearly 70% of the funding needed from Castanea Foundation and Pew Charitable Trust. Now ASA is in the process of raising the remaining \$20,600 from the community to complete the project.

ASA's executive director Teri Ptacek explains, "We are very fortunate that OSI was able to act quickly to secure this high quality farm and make it affordable at its restricted value. We have a strong agricultural tradition here, but if we want to secure a future for farming in the region, it's important to keep it growing and make it possible for young farmers like Luke and Cara to get started."

### A Key to Our Past as Well as Our Future

According to the Wright family, their ancestor Job Wright bought the land in 1774, served in the Albany County militia, and was harvesting timber there during the Saratoga battles in 1777. Generations of Wrights since then have kept the land in agriculture. In addition to being a jewel in its own right, Quincy Farm is part of a larger agricultural landscape in the Saratoga National Historical Park region that is largely unchanged since the Revolutionary War.

Joe Finan, Superintendent of the Saratoga National Historical Park explains, "We are pleased to support the farmland conservation efforts of ASA and OSI as envisioned in the '2007 Saratoga Battlefield Protection Plan'. Unlike many important historical sites, which are besieged by development, our park is surrounded by farms. Looking out from the bluffs you can clearly see Quincy Farm amongst many others. It greatly enhances the experience for visitors because they see the park in a more accurate historical context."

Spring flooding and an unusually wet fall made Luke and Cara's first year challenging, and they both had to work jobs off the farm to make ends meet, but they remain undaunted and are enthusiastic about the future. They had produce to sell at the Ballston Spa, Schenectady and Glens Falls farmers' markets and even found time to plan a wedding and get married on the farm in September. In the future they hope to expand the operation and begin to offer CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) shares to the local community.

To join ASA's campaign to Protect Quincy Farm, go to [www.agstewardship.org](http://www.agstewardship.org)

## From the Chair

ASA is developing a new strategic plan and that is what occupies my mind as I brushhog pastures. The view from my tractor seat is beautiful. But views are only part of what ASA is trying to protect. As we develop our next strategic plan this winter, we want to hear from you. We want to ensure that family farming, and the local foods these farms provide, continues. To do this, we need your input, energy, and most especially, your creative ideas.



We invite you to help shape our next strategic plan. If you have ideas about how ASA can facilitate conservation in our community, please contact us. You will be rewarded with the joy of participating in land conservation.

Please call Teri Ptacek at (518) 692-7285 to get involved with our strategic planning.

—Mary Ellen Williams

## ASA is a Member of EarthShare!

ASA is a member of EarthShare, a nationwide federation of the country's most respected environmental and conservation charities. 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, 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: [www.earthshare.org](http://www.earthshare.org). Many thanks to everyone who has made a gift to ASA through EarthShare this season!

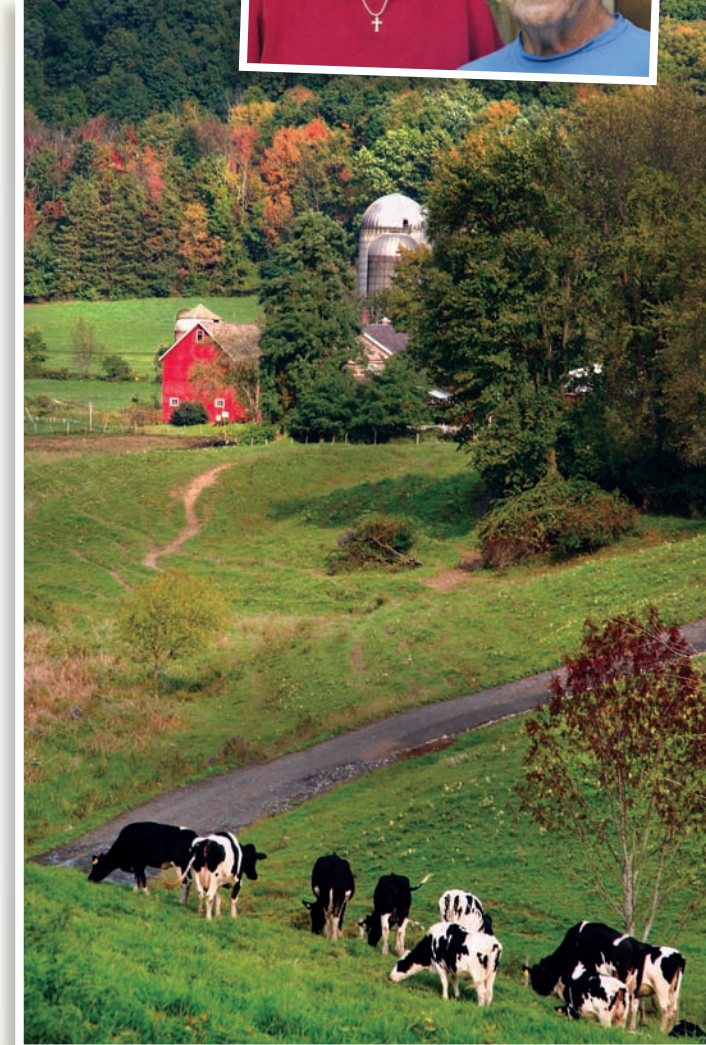


# The Stewarts Complete Conservation of Their Family Dairy Farm in Easton

"We're in the dairy business and we're going to stay in the dairy business". Despite many hardships and challenges faced in more than 50 years of farming, Cliff Stewart is still passionate about how he and his family make their living. In 1959, he and his wife Janet bought Autumn View Acres on Route 40 in Easton on contract from a man who continued to live upstairs for a number of years until their family expanded. The Stewarts were just getting started with a small herd of 27 cows and the first of six children on the way.

## Building a Family Farm

Janet grew up on her parents' dairy farm in White Creek and Cliff came from Cossayuna where he'd worked on a neighboring farm. After graduation, he got a job testing milk and when one of the Argyle farmers he knew from his rounds died, he was asked to manage the farm. After three years in Argyle they were hooked and eager for a place of their own. "Farming gets in your blood," explains Cliff. The Stewarts kept their operation small over the years so they could manage it within the family. They have always sold their milk to Dairylea, a farmer owned milk cooperative, and today they milk about 130 Holsteins and have another 100 young stock. Janet recalls the early days when she would be out working in the fields and watching the children as well. "Every field had a tree back in those days and I'd set the play pen up under it with books and snacks so the kids would occupy themselves. Sometimes I'd have to run back to the house for someone getting on or off the bus for school."



## Conservation Provides Funds for Reinvestment and Future Security

In 1999, the Stewarts protected 57 acres of land with ASA after hearing about the conservation program from their neighbor George Houser. They were among the first in New York to receive funding from the state's farmland protection program and used the money to build a machine shop so they could work on tractors and equipment inside, out of the elements—a big improvement.

The Stewarts also believe that protecting their farm helps ensure a future for farming in the area. As Janet explains, "Obviously, for farming to work you've got to have a block of other farms nearby or else you'll get to the same point as some farmers in Massachusetts who have to drive all the way to Salem or Greenwich just to get a part for a tractor. You need farms to have infrastructure and infrastructure to have farms. Land along route 40 is worth some money for development for the views and the river and it can be a big temptation to cash in. Now, with the easement, it's off the table."

The Stewarts raised six children on the farm: Keith, Karen, Kevin, Kris, Kelley, and Kyle. "Keith", Janet recalls, "was always the farmer". Over the years he has taken on running the farm and now owns the cows and

equipment and rents the land from his parents. He and his wife Sheri have four children of their own and are proud to carry on the family tradition.

Now approaching retirement, the Stewarts are planning to transition the land to Keith. Working with ASA and the Town of Easton, they were awarded a second grant from the state to protect their remaining 234 acres of land and finalized the farm's conservation this past May. When the time comes Keith will be able to purchase the land at its reduced agricultural value. Cliff and Janet will be secure in their retirement and pleased that the farm they've worked so hard to build will continue to be a farm for generations to come.



## A Gift of Real Estate Has the Power to Protect Many More Acres



*Fleur and Curt Strand*

Curt and Fleur Strand fell in love with their 215-acre property in Shushan in 1949. Both had burgeoning careers in New York City. Curt was the superintendent of services at the Plaza Hotel and later Chairman of Hilton Hotels International. Fleur earned a doctorate in biology and neuroscience at New York University where she later became an esteemed professor and researcher. Over the next 56 years they and their daughter Karen worked on the house and gardens creating an idyllic retreat.

In 1999 the Strands decided to protect their beloved property by donating a conservation easement. They later donated a Charitable Remainder Interest on their house and property. Curt explains, "Circumstances in life change unexpectedly and leaving the property to ASA, who could use it to good purposes for a cause we greatly admire, was a good option for us."

A legacy gift is a meaningful way for you to support farmland conservation here in your community for generations to come. Your gift, in the form of real estate, a bequest, life insurance, gift annuity or trust, empowers ASA to protect and steward the valuable agricultural resources of our region and may provide you with tax benefits. Years from now, when people enjoy the bounty our farmland provides, they will have you to thank.

Please let us know if, like Curt and Fleur Strand, you have included ASA in your will or estate planning. For information about gifting real estate or legacy giving options, please call our Executive Director, Teri Ptacek, at 692-7285 or visit us online at [www.agstewardship.org](http://www.agstewardship.org).

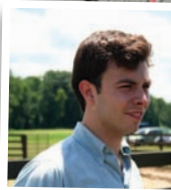
## Second Tour de Farm of Saratoga Battlefield Region a Resounding Success

ASA and Saratoga PLAN hosted their second bicycle tour of farms, cultural and historical sites in the Saratoga Battlefield region this past July. The tour attracted 253 riders of all ages and raised approximately \$8,500 for conservation, a record for the event. The ride, which began and ended at the Hand Melon Farm in Easton, offered cyclists a choice of a 15 or 35 mile route that stopped at conserved farms and historical sites within the Saratoga Battlefield region and ended with a local foods picnic.

Bill Phelan of Loudonville, who rode in the event, said, "My wife and I had a great time riding in the Tour de Farm and really appreciated the opportunity to learn about local farms. Next year I want to visit even more farms, get to know them directly, and come back all year to buy their products."

**Our thanks to Hand Melon Farm, Sunset View Farm, Bellvue School and the Saratoga National Historical Park for generously hosting stops on the tour.**

Major funding for the Tour de Farm was made possible by a grant from the Hudson River Valley Greenway. Additional funding came from the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor and The Chazen Companies.



### Thank you Patrick Klimaszewski!

ASA was very fortunate to have Patrick Klimaszewski, now a senior studying anthropology at Skidmore, volunteer as an intern over the past summer. Patrick worked as ASA's representative on the team that took on organizing the second Tour de Farm bike event and included interns Laura Rose Dailey from Saratoga PLAN and Jacky Thompson from Saratoga National Historical Park. Patrick and his cohorts did a terrific job making the event a big success. We wish them all good luck in their studies!

## Dedicated Customers and Loyal Friends Pitch in to Protect Denison Farm



Thanks to the generosity of more than 160 local food and farm enthusiasts, ASA has raised the final \$23,000 needed to complete the protection of Denison Farm in Schaghticoke. The 164-acre vegetable farm, owned by Brian and Justine Denison, is home to a 510-member CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) and provides great produce for the Troy and Saratoga farmers' markets.

Brian and Justine, who are committed to mentoring new farmers, wanted to make sure their farm would be protected and available for the next generation of farmers. Working with them, ASA secured a majority of funding needed to complete the farm's conservation through grants from the Federal Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program, the Castanea Foundation and Pew Charitable Trust. In its first farm-specific fundraising campaign, ASA called upon farm customers and the public for the final push.

Matt and Dana Kopans, CSA members from Round Lake, explain why they supported the campaign. "I think just about everyone who joins a CSA knows the reasons to support local farming: it helps build community, it strengthens the local economy, local food tastes better, etc. But we support local

farms (and the Denisons in particular) for two very specific reasons - our twins, Zack and Eden. Watching our kids grow up so quickly (too quickly!) it's very clear that what we feed them is, in a very literal way, making them who they are. In this economy, our family, like so many others, needs to invest carefully, and we want to do whatever we can to ensure that Zack and Eden grow up healthily and in a healthy community. The Agricultural Stewardship Association and the Denisons are helping us to do both."

Now fully funded, the project will be completed at the end



*The Denison Farm Crew*

of the year and ASA and the Denisons are planning a celebration for the spring. Many thanks to all who've contributed to help Brian and Justine Denison realize their conservation goal and protect this special farm for our community.





## Recent Events and Programs

In March, ASA was thrilled to host an evening with Kristin Kimball, author of "The Dirty Life: A Memoir of Farming, Food and Love" at WAMC's The Linda in Albany. Kristin and her husband Mark discussed the story behind the book, how they chose a life in agriculture and the sustainable farm they built in Essex County, New York. Verlyn Klinkenborg, New York Times editor and author on agricultural topics, was the special guest speaker at ASA's annual dinner in April which was attended by more than 200 guests.



ASA teamed up with the Adirondack Wildlife Refuge & Rehabilitation Center to offer a Barn Owl and Kestrel Pest management workshop at Larry Steele's conserved Kingsbury farm in June. In September naturalist Howard Romack led another family Walk on the Wild Side on Joslin Lane Farm in Buskirk and mycologist Sue Van Hook took about 50 fungus fans in search of wild mushrooms on the Sanders property in Salem in September.

**Many thanks to the landowners, educators and partners for making these programs possible...**

Adirondack Wildlife Refuge & Rehabilitation Center, Constance Kheel, Howard Romack, Derial and Gail Sanders, Larry Steele, Sue Van Hook  
 Funding for ASA's Make a Connection with the Land programming is made possible by the generosity of local businesses—please thank them with your support! Black Creek Valley Farms, Inc., Capital Tractor, Inc, Dickinson & Company CPAs, Fronhofer Tool Company, Glens Falls National, John Stokowski & Sons, Juniper Farm, Saunder's Transmission Service, LLC



## 10th Anniversary Landscapes Show Draws Record Crowds

Nearly 2,000 people turned out to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Landscapes for Landsake Art Exhibition over the course of Columbus Day weekend. This year's show featured work from 60 artists and included a special Legacy Exhibition highlighting work from many artists who've participated in past shows.

Curator and past participating artist Barbara J. Sussman explained her approach to organizing the exhibit. "Each artist interprets the landscape in his or her own way. As the curator and as an artist, my challenge was to make a cohesive exhibition out of many parts, weaving the diversity much like a tapestry. Every artist represents a different thread—color, texture, depth and feel, old and new—interlocking into one another to make another work of art, our very own 10th anniversary celebratory exhibition!"

ASA was pleased to honor host Larry Sconzo, artist Harry Orlyk, and conservationist Barbara Glaser as a few key people who've been critical to the show's success. Artists generously donated 50% of the proceeds from the sale of their work to support ASA's efforts to protect the landscapes that inspire their beautiful art.

Thanks for Making Landscapes 10th Anniversary a Success!

Major Sponsors: Ackley & Ross Funeral Home, Black Watch Steakhouse, Carovail, Charles R. Wood Foundation, The Chazen Companies, The Fort Miller Group, Juniper Farm, Owl Pen Books, Rupert Veterinary Clinic, Select Sothebys International Realty, Whiteman Osterman & Hanna LLP

Additional sponsors: The Adirondack Trust Company, Atticus Communications, Dickinson & Company CPAs, John Stokowski & Sons, Stewart's Shops, Wells Fargo, LLC, Alan Brown Realty, Battenkill Veterinary, PC, Black Dog Wines & Spirits Ltd, Caffry & Flower, Attorneys at Law, Cambridge Lantern Works, Capital Tractor, Inc, DeLaval Direct, Farm Credit East, Glens Falls National, Jordan & Kelly, Judith Klingebiel, CPA, Lewis Waite Farm, Miller Printing & Lithograph, Peckham Industries, Premier Dairy Service LLC, Schutze Family Dentistry, Wells Fargo, LLC, and Wiley Brothers

Artists: Deborah Bayly, Gigi Begin, John Begin, David Brown, Paul Chapman, Adrien Colt, Valerie Craig, James Daly, Alexandra Eckhardt, Kathryn Edwards, Stella Ehrich, Dietrich Gehring, Ari Gradus, Ken Karlewicz, Sarah Keyser, Carolyn Kibbe, Serena Kovalosky, Annie McNeice, Bob Moylan, Harry

Orlyk, Leslie Peck, Christopher Pierce, Dawne and Dean Polis, Steven Sanford, Brian Sweetland, Shira Toren, George Van Hook, Takeyce Walter, Lawrence White, Regina Wickham

Legacy Artists: Corrina Aldrich, Constance Alexander, Paul Baker-Porazinski, Jean Clark, Ian Creitz, Julie Duggan, Stu Eichel, Susan Harding Merancy, Lisa Haun, Clarence King, Lynne Knobel, Stephen Lack, Leah McCloskey, Patricia McEvoy, Virginia McNeice, Reed Olsen, Judith Lee Page, Leslie Parke, Art Poulin and Gail Fraser, Mallory Rich, Jim Schanz, Rebecca Sparks, Arlene Targan, Mark Tougias, Frank Vurraro, George Wilson, Rod Wilson, and Helen Young

Volunteers: John and Gigi Begin, Jay and Judy Bridge, Nancy Brown, Clem and MaryDee Crowe, John and Minette Cummings, Amy Maxwell and Salem CSD Future Farmers of America, Cathy Firman, M.L. Healey, Christine and Matthew Hoffer, Ed and Millie Lawrence, Mark and Quimby Mahoney, Beth Meer, Lisa Randles, John Rockwell, Jim Schanz, Rachel Skellie, Dick Skellie, Renee St. Jacques, Katie Stone, Bob Cheney and VOSCA, Jessica Ziehm, Ben Zipperer



## Kid's Farm Photographs Bring Home Conservation Mission

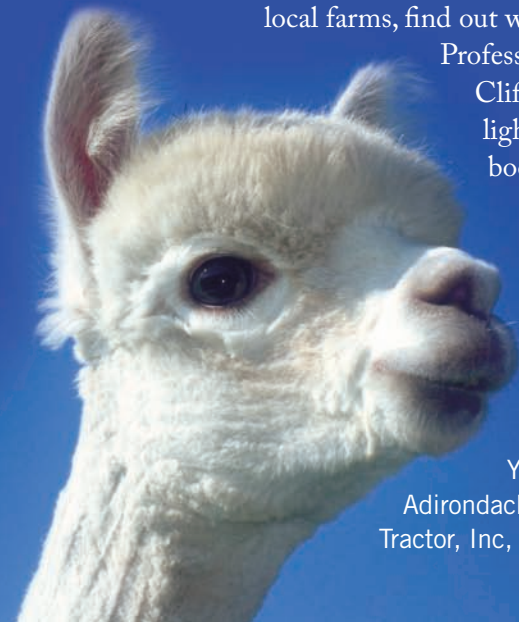
ASA's Farm Photography for Kids program gave 25 kids ages 8 and up the opportunity to visit six diverse local farms, find out why they're so special and worth protecting, and learn how to take great photos.

Professional photographers Dona Ann McAdams, Corrina Aldrich, Sean McEntee and Cliff Oliver took turns teaching kids the fundamentals of photographic composition and lighting. Photos from each participant were then featured in a special exhibit at ASA's booth at the Washington County and Schaghticoke fairs.

Many thanks to those that opened up their farms so we could visit: Elihu Farm, Northern Spy Farm, Flying Pigs Farm, Alpacas of Easton and Tiashoke Farm, Walkers Farms and Denison Farm.

If you are interested in participating in upcoming Farm Photography for Kids workshops, please contact Meegan at meegan@agstewardship.org or (518) 692-7285.

Farm Photography for Kids was made possible, in part, with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts Decentralization Program, administered locally by the Lower Adirondack Regional Arts Council. Additional sponsors include Booth's Blend Compost, Capital Tractor, Inc, Cargill, Dickinson & Company CPAs, Glens Falls National, Juniper Farm and TD Bank



## Upcoming Programs

Dates TBD

Only Mother Nature knows!

### Spontaneous Snowshoeing

ASA will be hosting a series of spontaneous snowshoe trekking adventures this winter. Visit some of our conserved farms blanketed with snow. We have a limited number of snowshoes available on a first-come first-served basis and beginners are welcome. E-mail meegan@agstewardship.org to receive notice of scheduled outings.

January 25th

6:30 p.m. Location in Greenwich TBD

### Land Conservation Programs Workshop

Free program, registration requested

Hosted by ASA and the Washington County Soil and Water Conservation District, this session of the Rural Land Ownership series will focus on options for landowners. Scott Fitcher, USDA NRCS Conservation Program Manager from the Greenwich Service Center, will give overviews of federal grant and contractual agreement programs designed to protect agricultural land and wildlife. ASA will discuss donated, bargain sale and purchased easement programs and their associated income and property tax benefits.

February 11th

9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Petersburg Veteran's Memorial Visitor Center, Petersburg

### Ties to the Land: Planning for the Future of Your Woodlands

\$40 per person, \$10 each additional family member, registration required

Cornell Cooperative Extension, ASA, Rensselaer Land Trust, and Rensselaer Plateau Alliance present a workshop for forest landowners. Succession Planning (preparing your property and your family for a change in ownership) focuses on the challenges facing family forest owners and the communication and legal planning tools needed to maintain family ties to the land. Includes Q&A with local experts, workbook and DVD. For registration and workshop details, please check successionplanning.ning.com, or contact Maureen Mullen at mmm394@cornell.edu, or 607-254-6556. Snow date is March 3rd.



# 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.

The following lists include contributions made between April 27, 2011 and October 31, 2011. 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.

## Foundation

Anonymous (2)  
Castanea Foundation  
The Community Foundation  
of the Greater Capital Region  
Horowitz Family Foundation, Inc.  
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## Government

Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor  
Land Trust Alliance  
New York State Conservation  
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Rensselaer County  
Town of Easton

## Cream of the Crop

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### Jeff Gaess Forever Farmland

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*Renee Bouplon*  
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## Special Thanks

We would like to thank two of our members for hosting special gatherings over the summer to promote our farmland conservation work. Connie Kheel opened up her beautiful Historic Barns of Nipmoose, www.nipmoosebarns.org, in Buskirk for a dinner in June and a brunch in August. And Alexander and Marine Zagoreos hosted a Greek-themed barbecue at their lovely home, Jermain Hill Farm, in White Creek in August. These gatherings provided us a wonderful opportunity to connect with new supporters.

We would also like to thank the Phil Sweeney Memorial Softball Tournament for choosing to donate a portion of the proceeds from the tournament to support ASA's farmland conservation work. Phil was an avid softball player who cared deeply about farming and his community. What a wonderful way to honor his memory.





Agricultural Stewardship Association

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Peggy Cannon, Mary Ellen Williams  
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## Make Local Farmland Conservation a Priority in Your Giving This Season

If the stories you've read about people in our community who've protected their land inspire you, please show your support with a gift this season. There are many more landowners asking for our assistance and contributions and support from people like you are the lifeblood of our work. Happy Holidays!



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