

Save These Dates!

June 7
9 a.m.-1p.m.

Fishing on a Batten Kill Farm

Join ASA, the Batten Kill Watershed Alliance, Trout Unlimited, and the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) for a free fly tying, casting and fishing clinic on the Batten Kill. The clinic will be held on the conserved Hi-Brow Dairy Farm on Skellie Road in Jackson and will include lessons in fly tying and casting techniques. Equipment will be provided, appropriate for all ages.

July 13

Tour de Farm

Join ASA for a scenic 21-mile bike tour of conserved farms and farmstands in southern Washington County that begins and ends at the Cambridge Farmers' Market.

Sept 27-28

Local Farms, Local Food Tour

Partnering with farmers, the Town and County, we will host a tour of farms in Schaghticoke.

Oct 11

Opening Reception
3-6 p.m.

Landscapes for Landsake

Join ASA at Maple Ridge in Coila for the seventh annual Landscapes for Landsake show featuring art inspired by our working landscapes. Proceeds benefit ASA's farmland conservation program.

Record Funds Awarded to Protect Farms in Washington and Rensselaer Counties

The Agricultural Stewardship Association (ASA) partnered with two counties and three towns to prepare applications on behalf of eight farms in the 2007 round of New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets Farmland Protection Program Grants. A record seven farms were awarded more than \$2.5 million in funding.

ASA has been working with Washington County since 1997 and last year the Rensselaer County Legislature asked ASA to administer its farmland protection program as well. Rensselaer County Executive Kathy Jimino explains "Protecting our local farms and providing our agriculture industry a sound foundation for years to come is vital to our County's future. Our partnership with the Agricultural Stewardship Association has proven to be invaluable as their professionalism and expertise in farmland protection has been instrumental in securing \$3.4 million from the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets to conserve 2,494 acres on ten farms in the county. Protecting these farms helps ensure that the many benefits of farming will continue in our communities now and in the future."

Working with Washington and Rensselaer counties, ASA successfully submitted an innovative bi-county application to protect two farms located in the towns of Jackson and Hoosick. Dairy farmer Guy Clark rents a fertile section of land just north of the Village of Cambridge along Route 313 in Jackson and part of the Stearns Farm located in Hoosick and Petersburg. Both parcels are integral to his operation, and their owners were retiring and wanted to sell.

ASA's conservation partner, Castanea Foundation, purchased the Jackson and Stearns properties. Funding was granted to protect both farms, as well as a portion of the Clark Family Farm in White Creek. This will enable Clark to purchase both farms at their more affordable agricultural value, resulting in the conservation of 521 acres.

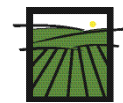
Ed Slocum's 324-acre property is a productive and well-managed farm that straddles Route 40 in Easton overlooking the Hudson River Valley. It is surrounded by more than 1,000 acres of protected farmland and plays an important role in the local agricultural community. Three neighboring farms depend on using portions of the land for raising crops, calves and heifers, and pasturing dry cows.

Funding has also been granted to purchase development rights on the Stewart Farm on Route 40 in Easton. The Stewarts are a multigenerational dairy farm family who protected a portion of

continued on pg 4



Cannon Cattle Ranch Farm



Agricultural Stewardship Association

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asa@agstewardship.org
www.agstewardship.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

This Four color newsletter was partially underwritten by a grant from the Howard & Bush Foundation.

Photography by Janet Britt, Kerri Culhane, Meegan Finnegan, Jim Newton, Cliff Oliver, Dale Riggs and Maria Trabka. Troy Framers' Market photo courtesy of Jamie Felitte.



Agricultural Stewardship Association

Local farms and forests are vital to our future.

The Agricultural Stewardship Association is a nonprofit land trust founded in 1990 by local farmers, agribusiness representatives, and conservationists to protect land for agricultural and forestry uses in Washington and northern Rensselaer Counties. We accomplish our mission through land conservation and public education programs. To date, we have assisted landowners with the conservation of 7,661 acres of farm and forestland.

ASA receives funding from its members and supporters, Castanea Foundation, 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. Together, we are working to ensure that farms and forests will be part of everyone's lives for generations to come.

| | |
|---|--|
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 www.agstewardship.org

WE HAVE MOOOOVED

Come visit ASA at our new office!
 14 Main Street, Suite 100 (the next building to the south on Main)
 Greenwich, NY 12834
 We are in need of a picnic table if anyone has one to donate!

From the Executive Director



ASA is on the move! This has been an exciting time of expansion for ASA that has afforded us an opportunity to work with some wonderful farm families, as well as new partners who are helping further our farmland conservation work. After being asked to administer Rensselaer County's farmland protection program, we applied for state funding on behalf of eight farms and were delighted to have a record seven chosen.

The excellence of these farms and an increase in the state farmland conservation budget made it possible for us to take a big leap forward in our goal to conserve another 10,000 acres by the end of 2010.

We are working for the first time in the southern part of Rensselaer County helping conserve Stone Wall Hill Farm, home of The Berry Patch, in Stephentown. Assisting Dale Riggs and Don Miles with the protection of this beautiful and beloved farm, which provides so many locals with delicious berries and fresh produce, is a real treat.

We are also enjoying making new connections with members of the community who support farmland conservation. This June, we will be hosting our first-ever Batten Kill fishing event, which takes place on a beautiful section of the river where it runs through the conserved Hi Brow Farm in Jackson. The Batten Kill Watershed Alliance, Trout Unlimited, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and Orvis will be helping make this a fun and educational event for all ages -- don't miss it!

Cambridge Valley Cycling and Cornell Cooperative Extension will help us organize another Tour de Farm bike ride in July. Beginning and ending at the Cambridge Farmers' Market, riders will pedal through scenic hill and dale, stop at conserved farms and farmstands and get a great workout! And a grant from Troy's Howard & Bush Foundation is enabling us to work with farmers and Town and County officials to develop a farm tour in Schaghticoke this fall.

Growing concerns about our environment, climate and energy costs, combined with a renewed interest in buying healthy, fresh local food, is making farmland conservation a top priority and rallying point for our community. We are truly fortunate to live in a region that is rich with productive farmland and talented and experienced farmers. I am grateful to the many landowners who are choosing to protect this valuable resource for future generations and this wonderful community for supporting them in their decision.

—Teri Ptacek

Our Farmland Protection Program Expands to Southern Rensselaer County

ASA Assisting with Conservation of Stone Wall Hill Farm, home of The Berry Patch, in Stephentown

ASA was originally formed in 1990 by local farmers to protect working land in Washington County and today is one of only two land trusts in the state whose primary mission is to conserve agricultural land. Last year, Rensselaer County appointed ASA to administer its farmland protection program.

They also asked ASA to help complete the protection of Stone Wall Hill Farm in Stephentown, which had been granted funding through the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets Farmland Protection Program in 2006. Recognizing the important role Rensselaer County farms play in our region's agricultural community, ASA's board of directors agreed to expand their service area and take on the project.



Strawberry picking at Stone Wall Hill Farm

Dale Riggs and Donald Miles own Stone Wall Hill Farm and operate The Berry Patch, a popular farmstore selling berries, vegetables and cut flowers on Route 22. Dale had been a vegetable specialist for Cornell Cooperative Extension who had big dreams of starting a farm of her own. She and Don bought 91 acres in 1995 and acquired an adjacent 114 acres, which gave them a total of 90 tillable acres.

What began as a hobby growing berries and vegetables soon became a full-time operation with eight seasonal employees. They believe in supporting their local agricultural economy and are proud that, in addition to their own fruits and vegetables, they provide a market for several other area farmers.

Dale and Don feel fortunate to have been able to acquire good farmland as first-generation farmers and feel strongly about protecting it. Dale explains, "We want to use our farm as a model to attract employees who want to acquire the wisdom and experience needed to run a successful farm operation. Now that the farm will be protected, we know future farmers can carry on working this land and investing in its future."



Cauliflower for sale at Stone Wall Hill Farm

Troy Foundation Supports Farmland Conservation in Rensselaer County

The Howard & Bush Foundation has awarded ASA a grant of \$17,000 to expand outreach, education, and stewardship activities in Rensselaer County. The funding enables ASA to develop a tour of conserved farms, expand distribution of our newsletter, and prepare mapping and baseline documentation reports to build stewardship capacity.

"The trustees of the Howard & Bush Foundation have long been supportive of land conservation work in Rensselaer County," said Deborah Byers, administrator for the Foundation. "Many people shop at the Troy Farmers' Market and know that



Troy Farmers Market

without our local farms, there would be no market. Farms enhance quality of life even when you live in the city."

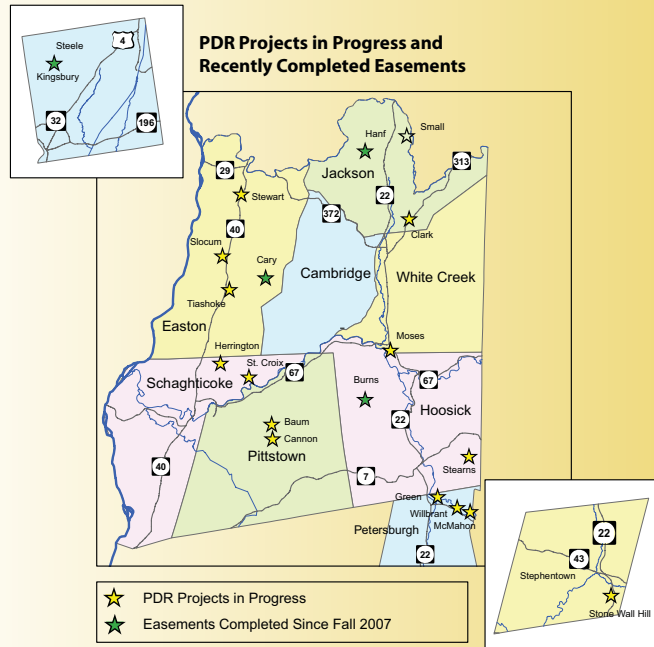
their highly productive farm in 1999. Now, funding will enable them to complete the conservation of their entire farm and prepare for a transition to the next generation.

The Hooskip Farm, owned by John, Mary and Dan McMahon, is also a multigenerational dairy farm that has protected the 371 acres it owns in Vermont with agricultural easements. New York State funding will enable them to protect their remaining 335 acres located in Petersburg. The farm is part of a 1,327-acre contiguous block of farmland along the Hoosic River Valley that ASA has protected or is in the process of protecting.

The 355-acre Cannon Cattle Ranch Farm in Pittstown is located along Otter Creek, a major tributary of the Tomhannock Reservoir. Owners Matt and Peggy Cannon rent a 33-acre field from a neighbor who is nearing retirement and wants to protect the land with an agricultural easement before selling it to the Cannons. Funding will be used to purchase development rights on both properties to protect this productive land, which serves as a buffer to Troy's drinking water supply.

Robert and Jane Herrington's Robe-Jan Farm in Schaghticoke is a 115-acre, family-operated dairy farm with a large percentage of high-quality soils. The farm is located along Mill Hollow Brook and Kidney Creek, both tributaries to the Hudson River, and it overlooks two other farms that have been protected with agricultural easements.

ASA's Executive Director Teri Ptacek said "We are very pleased with the success of our applications this year. These are all excellent farms that play an integral role in our farming community. Protecting them now ensures their availability for agriculture in the future."



Innovative Planning Keeps Land in Agricultural Production

The Cary Farm on Cooke Hollow Road in Easton was owned and operated as a dairy farm for many years by Richard Cary and, after retiring, he rented the land to a neighboring dairy farm for corn and hay production. Mr. Cary needed to extract some equity for his retirement but wanted the farm to remain in agriculture. He met with ASA to discuss options for conserving the farm. Castanea Foundation, a conservation partner, purchased a 30-acre parcel on Vly Summit from Mr. Cary, along with an option to purchase the remaining 172-acre home farm at a later time.

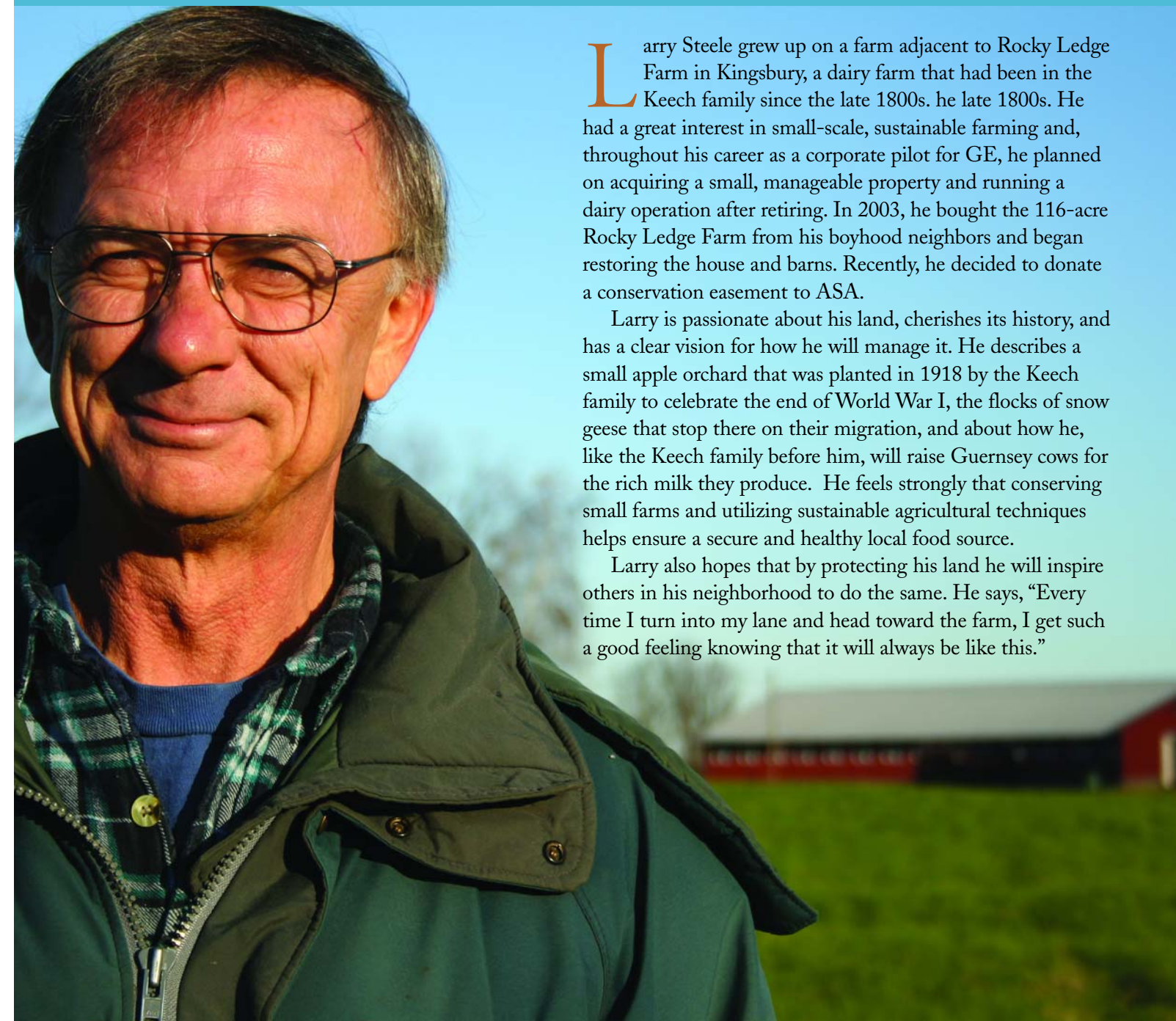
Mr. Cary died in late 2006 and Castanea Foundation subsequently purchased the home farm from his estate. The foundation donated a conservation easement on the entire farm to ASA. ASA retained a preemptive right to purchase the farm at its more affordable agricultural value. This is the first instance in which ASA will include this technique for keeping protected land affordable. The right enables ASA to repurchase the farm at its agricultural value should the property be offered for sale for nonfarming purposes at any time in the future.

Castanea Foundation is committed to maintaining the local agricultural economy by protecting the land base for farming. The farm has been offered for sale at its agricultural value to a qualified farmer. At an open house held in March, over 50 people from local farms came to assess the farm and eight proposals to purchase the farm were submitted. Castanea Foundation's board of directors will select a proposal by late May. We'll keep you posted on the progress of this project in our next newsletter.



The Cary Farm

Larry Steele Conserves Rocky Ledge Farm in Kingsbury



Larry Steele grew up on a farm adjacent to Rocky Ledge Farm in Kingsbury, a dairy farm that had been in the Keech family since the late 1800s. He had a great interest in small-scale, sustainable farming and, throughout his career as a corporate pilot for GE, he planned on acquiring a small, manageable property and running a dairy operation after retiring. In 2003, he bought the 116-acre Rocky Ledge Farm from his boyhood neighbors and began restoring the house and barns. Recently, he decided to donate a conservation easement to ASA.

Larry is passionate about his land, cherishes its history, and has a clear vision for how he will manage it. He describes a small apple orchard that was planted in 1918 by the Keech family to celebrate the end of World War I, the flocks of snow geese that stop there on their migration, and about how he, like the Keech family before him, will raise Guernsey cows for the rich milk they produce. He feels strongly that conserving small farms and utilizing sustainable agricultural techniques helps ensure a secure and healthy local food source.

Larry also hopes that by protecting his land he will inspire others in his neighborhood to do the same. He says, "Every time I turn into my lane and head toward the farm, I get such a good feeling knowing that it will always be like this."

visit us online > agstewardship.org

What is an Agricultural Conservation Easement?

An agricultural conservation easement is a legal agreement between a willing landowner and a qualified organization, such as ASA, that permanently protects a property's agricultural and forestry characteristics by restricting the type of nonagricultural development that can occur on the land. In addition to farming and forestry, home-based businesses and rural enterprises are often permitted, as long as they do not negatively impact the agricultural and forestry uses of the property.

The landowner still owns the property and retains the right to sell, lease, gift or transfer it. Each easement is tailored to achieve the landowner's conservation goals and he/she continues to manage the land. ASA's agricultural easements are designed to provide flexibility for farming and other compatible uses, recognizing that farming will change over time. The right to develop the property outside of those provisions is permanently extinguished. ASA is responsible for ensuring that the purposes of the easement are upheld in perpetuity.

Here are some important points to remember about ASA's agricultural conservation easements:

> ASA works with each landowner to negotiate the terms of the easement to suit the land's conservation values and the owner's goals. In addition, if ASA determines that the farm might qualify for state farmland protection funding, ASA will work with the county agricultural and farmland protection board and the town in which the land is located to apply for funding.

> Agricultural easements do not require public access to the land. Easements can be donated, sold or a combination of both. Landowners who donate an easement are often able to take advantage of significant state and federal income tax deductions.

> ASA maintains confidentiality while working with the family during the conservation process. The transaction becomes public record when it is recorded with the county clerk.

> If funding is available, landowners can sell their development rights and extract equity from their land without selling it for development. Landowners can also combine both approaches, selling their easement at a reduced rate (bargain sale), and receive both equity and tax benefits.

For more information on agricultural conservation easements, visit www.agstewardship.org and download ASA's Landowner's Guide.

Burns Farm Protected for Future Generations of Farmers

Ken and Marge Burns ran a dairy operation on their 202-acre farm on Clay Hill Road in Hoosick for most of their lives. Listening to Marge, it is easy to understand how their experience as farmers, caring for and improving the land that sustained them, led to a decision to conserve their family farm.

When this farm was purchased by my family in 1939, it had been a sheep farm and had grown nursery stock (raspberry and strawberry). With a small herd of milking cows, we raised a good part of our grain for the herd in the beginning. The oats and corn were stored in a granary to be taken as needed to a grist mill and turned into rations for the cows. As the herd increased, this became unpractical, so the grain was delivered by tractor trailer and blown into one's own grain silo.

We also raised our own replacement heifers, feeling we produced through artificial insemination a better quality of cow than we could purchase. The acreage needed some TLC to become a dairy operation. The fields were restored with lime and fertilizer. Sometimes crops were planted in the fall and plowed under in the spring to enrich the soil.

We have worked towards improving the land by tiling fields with wet spots, removing stone walls, thinning woodland. Our son's home was built with lumber from the woods on the farm, and we have a huge stone fireplace built with stones picked from our fields. The original barn on our farm was lost to a fire. When we rebuilt, we installed a pipeline for milking. Milk no longer had to be carried by pail to the tank in the milk house. Our dairy operation was considered medium sized. We had about 65 milking cows and 20 to 25 replacement heifers.

The farm had been in our family for three generations, when we decided to discontinue farming. The problem that faced us was



Constance Kheel with Marge and Ken Burns

that if we sold the property, what would happen to it as an agricultural entity?

Working with Constance Kheel, a private conservation partner who has worked with several landowners in the West Hoosick Hills neighborhood, they were able to come to a unique agreement to keep their land in farming. Kheel purchased the property and donated a conservation easement to ASA. The Burns retained a life estate. Their productive fields are now cropped by the Ziehm family, and Ken and Marge feel satisfied knowing that the work they put in to caring for the land will be appreciated by those who farm it in the future.

Hunters Stand Up for Farmland Conservation

West Hoosick Hills Hunters Become ASA Members

Keith Armstrong has been involved with hunting and agriculture throughout his entire life. He worked as an inseminator for 33 years and now runs a commercial sugaring operation on his protected 207-acre sugar bush in Pownell, VT. He helped his daughters start a vegetable business to save money for college and has grown it into a 40-acre operation producing tomatoes, sweet corn and pumpkins.

Keith is also an avid deer hunter, who understands that conserving land for agricultural and forestry purposes provides a big

benefit to hunters. He approached The Persistence Foundation, a private foundation that has conserved three farms in the West Hoosick Hills area, and offered to gather a group of local hunters to help manage their lands. Through controlled deer harvesting, the hunters have maintained a healthy deer population and habitat and helped minimize crop damage for farmers who rent the land.

Keith is passionate about the need to conserve working land. He explains how 23 hunters from the group decided to join ASA. "This year we got everyone together and talked about it and it wasn't a hard sell. The more land that's developed, the less is available for hunting. We want to help the conservation process and support local land trusts so we continue to have places to hunt."



Keith Armstrong

It Takes Your Support to Make Farmland Protection Happen.

The board and staff of the Agricultural Stewardship Association would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who has made a contribution since our last newsletter. The conservation work we do depends on the generosity of people like you; with over 25 new projects in the works, each contribution will go a long way towards protecting our area's most treasured farms and forests.

Reflected below are contributions made between October 13, 2007 and April 14, 2008. Every effort has been made to ensure this list is accurate. Please contact Meegan Finnegan at 692-7285 to note any changes that should be made for the next issue of our newsletter.

Foundations

Castanea Foundation
Howard & Bush Foundation
The Conservation Fund
Nordlys Foundation

Government

Senators Joe Bruno and Betty Little
Assemblyman Roy McDonald
NYS Conservation Partnership Program*
NYS Agriculture & Markets

In Kind Services

LaVelle & Finn, LLP

Cream of the Crop

Anonymous (2)
David Darrin
Gina, Stephan and Ajanta Deibel
Ethna Duffy
Philip Gitlen and Melody Mackenzie
Gordon Foundation
Noel and Judy Hanf
Constance Kheel
Arthur and Suzi Place
Salem Farm Supply, Inc. Employees
Daniel and Deko Stone

Benefactor

Anonymous (1)
Norman and Gertrude Allen
Nancy and Alan Brown
James L. Fitzgerald and
Cathy Fairbanks
Field Horne
Ruth A. Ihne
K.C. Consulting, Erich
Kranz and Martha Culliton
Lisa Randles and Remus Preda
Teri Ptacek
Richland Farms
Mary Ellen Williams

Steward

Anonymous (1)
Grace Campbell
Dickinson & Company CPAs
Alexander and Wynn Ewing
First Pioneer Farm Credit
Jim Klein and Sangeetha Sagar
Josh Levy and Julie Simms
Chris Lincoln and Tammara
Van Ryn – New Minglewood Farm
Louis E. Marchaland
Douglas Reed and the Winship Family
Scotch Hill Farm – Maurice Sendak
and Lynn Caponera

Carol Serotta
Meg and Rob Southerland
Toolite Farm LLC
Wes Haynes and Anne Van Ingen
Thomas Wallace
Washington County
Cooperative Insurance
Robert Wolff

Sustaining

Hugh Amoroso, Triple I Farms
Keith Armstrong
Sarah Ashton and John Mooney
Battenkill Conservancy
Douglas and Linda Bischoff
Janet Britt and John Dojka
Matt and Peggy Cannon
Capital Tractor, Inc.
Gene and Jean Ceglowski
Paul Charbonnel
John Cogan, MD
Wilson M. Compton
Concra Appraisal Associates
Barbara Coughlin and John Fallon
Kerri Culhane and Jason Black
Nathan Darrow and Marie
Christine Gaud

Leslie J De Groot, MD
El Paso Energy
William Frazier and Joann Pickett
Megan and Jeff Galbraith
Ari and Diane Gradus
George and Carol Green
Kristen Greer and Jim Woolery
Susan and Stephen Griffing
Colleen Hart Mason
Barbara Hennig
Donald and Carolyn Henry
Ken Herrington
Hi Brow Farms, LLC
Kenneth and D. Nancy Johnson
Kenyon Hill Farm
Sharon and Jurgen Kruger
Joan and By Lapham
Dorothy Malossi
John F. Meagher, Thistle Ridge Farm
James A. Ballard and Lorraine J.
Merghart Ballard
Jim Mulligan
George and Ellen Mulvaney
Sandra and Scott Noble
Mary Obering
Miriam W. Peters
Planners East Incorporated
William Ralston and Joan Bleikamp
Linda and Richard Randles

Gordon Sacks, C.L. King
& Associates, Inc.
Kathy Sanderson
Mary Sautter and Peter Genier
Lee Shapiro and Patrick Gill
Donald and Donna Skellie
Timothy D. Smith and Lisa Smith
Dr. and Mrs. Harry Stein
Gary Stine and Nina Lockwood
Stone Hill Farm – Greg and
Ellenor Hansen
The Dreidel Fund
Carol Towey
Walkers Farm, Home and Tack
Anne and Ethan Winter
Alexander and Marine Zagoreos

Supporting

Anonymous (1)
Corrina Aldrich
Ashcroft Construction
Jay and Heather Bellanca
Beverly's
Richie and Lynne Bittner
Lawrence and Cynthia Blakemore
Brookfield Farms
Al and Nancy Budde
Catherine Burkly
Elizabeth Call
Cambridge-Pacific, Inc.
Brandon Carey
David Cerilli
Carl W. Cipperly - Fra-Mar Farms
Harold and Druscilla Craig
Clem and MaryDee Crowe
C. M. Davidson
David and Eleanor deVries
Bill Eberle
David Ebershoff
Raymond and Marti Ellermann
Elm Spring Farm – Tudors
George E. Foster
Catherine and Lawrence Hamlin
John and Jennifer Hand
Tom Hazelton
Joseph Hess
Ideal Dairy Farms, Inc.
Don and Kathy Idleman
Reginald H. Kilmer II
Jeannine Laverty
Evan Lawrence
Ed and Millie Lawrence
LeBarron Valley View Farm
Main Street Counseling
Gary and Joy McCoola
Maryann McGeorge
Mary Ann and John T. Mitchell

Monks of New Skete
Moses Farm
Melissa Murray
O.A. Borden & Sons Inc.
Peg Olsen
David Owen
Judson Parker and Faith Lamb-Parker
Andrew Pate and Anastasia Nute
Perry's Orchard
Yvonne Porter
Mary and Robert Pratt - Elihu Farm
Ron Renoni and Naomi Meyer
Peter and Ruth Sauer
Paula J. Sawyer
Michael and Michelle Schreiner
Jim and Karen Sheldon – Woody
Hill Farm

Jennifer Small and Michael
Yezi – Flying Pigs Farm
Susan and Stephen Snyder
Mike and Karyn Sobing
Julie Stokes
James and Amy Stott
The Chronicle - Mark Frost
William Throop III
Tiashoke Farms
Kay Tomasi
Fred Tomkins
Towpath Antiques & Books
John and Peg Underwood
Phyllis and Wayne Underwood
Up and Over Farm
Nancy Vang and Fay Kittelson
Rey Wells
Rolf Wentorf
D. Alan Wrigley and Christine Kopec
Sharon Zankel

Friends

Don Armstrong
Robert Baker
Nancy Battis
Michael Boratto
Kathy and John Braico
Sandy and Matilda Brett
Allan Brock
Clinton Brock
Ben Brownell
Mike Brownell
Jack and Pam Brownell
William Brundige
Donna Cornell
Patricia Daly
Stephen and Arlene Davie
Mrs. Nancy C. Downing
Elaine Eisenbraun
Cathy Firman

Tracy Frisch
Roberta Gabrenya and
Maryellen Gilroy
Frank Gates
Cyndy and John Golde
Gregory Hanna
Happy Hill Farm
Sherman Herrington
Bill Hyde
Alice Jackson
Megan Karlen
Blair Keller
Pam Keniry
Susan Earl Klebl
James Howard Kunstler
Leena Kutti
David Kwasniak
Marna McLendon
Roger Meyer
Charles Moses
William Pichet
Penelope Poor
Joseph Randles
Charles Rayner
Marion Reynolds Dunleavy
Burton W. Richmond
Marjorie and Joseph Robertson
Donald Schaefer
Marvin Schechter
Howard Smith
Steve Stearns and Sarah Hoffman
Judith W. Summers M.D.
Peter T. Throop
Robert Wagner and Janet Warren
Dave Whitman
Terry Young

In Memory of Leslie Bouplon

Anonymous (1)
Kristen Admiraal
Russ Baint
The Bouplon Family
Cambridge Pee-Wee Football
Nancy Canedy
Jerry Cosgrove and Judy Anderson
Frederick and A. Marie Gregory
Richard and Christina Hernandez
Willis and Barb Hunt
Richard Jordan
Kelly and Kristen Kernan
Land Trust Alliance
David and Cynthia Maroney
Edwin and Carole Maroney
John and Pat Masi and Frances
and Wendy Bahan
Todd and Suanne McLenithan
Leon Methot

Henry, Harriet and Charles Peabody
Linda Pierce
Teri Ptacek
David and Mary Roedel
Edward and Christine St. John
Alexandra Stevens
Ronald and Judith Tate
United Counseling Service
Everett and Pam Wager
Mary Ellen Williams

In Memory of George Wilson

Sandra and Scott Noble
Teri Ptacek

Thank you, volunteers.

ASA would like to give special thanks to the people who help us stewarding easements, mailings and special events as well as those that lend us their professional expertise. We really appreciate your help!

Doug and Linda
Bischoff, Judith Bridge,
Mary Jo Burton, Clem
and MaryDee Crowe,
ML Healy, Millicent and
Ed Lawrence, Katherine
Littell, Annie Miller,
Don Minkle, Glen Nesbitt,
and Cliff Oliver



© Dona Ann McAdams

Photo, "Tuesdays With Albert Sheldon"
By Dona Ann McAdams

The Table

By Nancy White

Pick over beans, shell the peas,
peel scalded tomatoes, seed peppers,
cut corn milky off the cobs, the little
ones in the corner wiping cukes with a rag.

Hundred of pints, hundred of quarts, and if
a batch went bad you were sick at the waste.
The smell of relish, steam on the windows,
writing our names—hot jars in rows like soldiers,
fitted with red rubber rings bought new every year.

You had jugs of vinegar, the big bag of salt,
a sack of sugar, dill heads, mustardseed.
We took turns splitting more wood, the shake
of her head, lips pursed if it got too
hot, she hated waste, she worried.

First pea season, then greenbeans, and for
a sweet tooth, jelly: strawberry, blackcap,
raspberry, thimbleberry, currants, blackberry,
the concord grape. Applesauce, cherries,
and we had a good pear tree then,
like moons in the jar.

For chili sauce it all went through the grinder
he got at the fair, and I loved the sound
of onions practically popping, the squelch,
so that was my job, at least till my arm wore out.
Then beets, the pumpkin, apple butter, mincemeat
from venison, then the cold coming on,
and the year turned around to start over.

Cambridge native Nancy White received a grant from the Lower Adirondack Region Arts Council to support her latest poetry project. Interviewing farmers, current and retired, she has been gathering stories, opinions, memories and details to weave into poems that capture the area's history and the local spirit of working on the land.

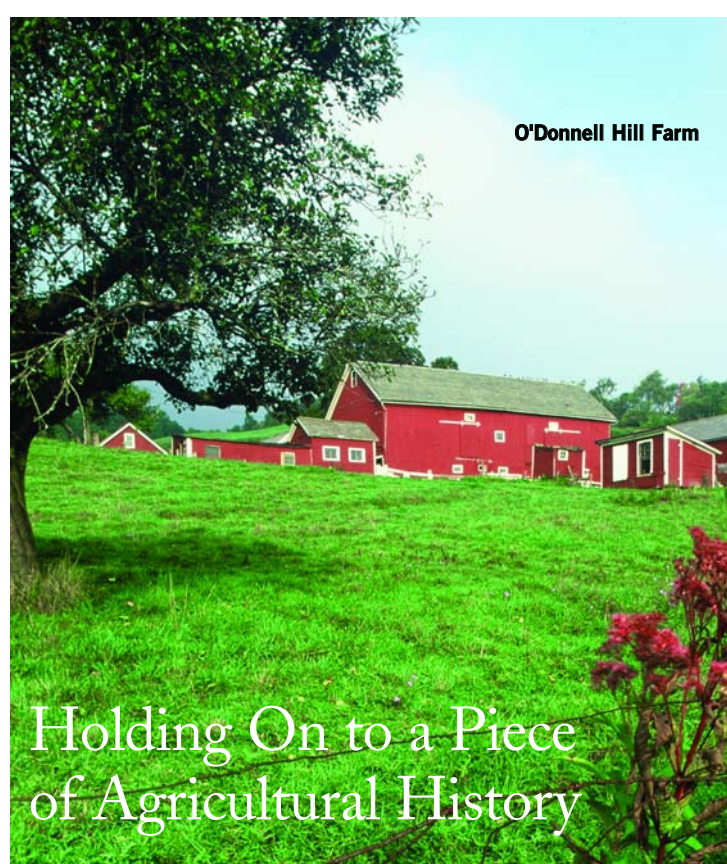
Family Ties Lead to Batten Kill Farmland Protection in Shushan

Jeff Small moved with his parents from New York City to Shushan when he was a child during the Depression. He graduated from Salem High School and worked for the Washington County Highway Department before joining the Army and going to Korea. He met his wife Sally at the University of New Hampshire and started working for the White Motor Company. Although work took him to other places, Shushan was always “home” to Jeff, and the house has remained basically as it was in the 1940s and 50s.

Jeff and Sally’s appreciation for the area was instilled in their children at an early age. They spent their summers taking dips in the Batten Kill and exploring neighboring farms. The childhood experiences and connection to the area prompted their daughter Jennifer Small and her husband Michael Yezzi to purchase an adjacent property where they operate Flying Pigs Farm, a heritage breed pig farm.

Down the road from their house, Jeff and Sally own a 35-acre farmland parcel located on the Batten Kill across from the Georgi Museum and Park Center. The upper field is used for pasturing pigs and chickens during the winter months and the lower field is for growing corn by a neighboring dairy farmer. To ensure the farmland is available for future farming needs and to protect the Batten Kill river corridor that meanders along the property boundary, the Smalls conserved their land by donating an agricultural conservation easement to ASA.

“This year I’m looking forward to planting black walnut trees with my grandchildren. Those trees will be descendants to the walnut tree Jeff’s parents planted so long ago. I want the next generation to have roots here too,” remarked Sally Small.



O'Donnell Hill Farm

Holding On to a Piece of Agricultural History

O'Donnell Hill Farm is tucked into the rolling hills along Route 61 in Jackson. With spectacular views towards the Batten Kill valley and a well-tended cluster of house and barns, it has long impressed many passers-by with its scenic charm. Noel and Judy Hanf first fell in love with the property



Noel and Judy Hanf

when it was owned and operated by Vince O'Donnell as a sheep farm and butchery, but couldn't afford to buy it when it went up for sale.

Instead, a couple from Manhattan bought it and subdivided it, intending to sell it off in 5- to 15 acre pieces to people wanting second homes with a great view. Fortunately, their plans did not come to fruition and, in 1973, the Hanfs were able to purchase the farmstead with 14 acres. Gradually, they put the original farm back together, acquiring parcels as they became available. A

deep appreciation for their land and respect for the agricultural heritage of the area motivated the Hanfs to donate a conservation easement on 130 acres.

The Hanfs rent land to two neighboring dairy farmers and keep a small herd of beef cows for local use. “With help from neighboring farmers and augmented by our small hay and beef operation, on what might have been a housing subdivision, we have maintained agriculture and its related landscape. We feel indebted to the generations of farm families who have made this region what it is and are happy to play a part in protecting it for others.”

The Phantom Laboratory Donates \$12,000 to Support Farmland Conservation

The Phantom Laboratory in Salem, which manufactures specialized test tools used by medical physicists worldwide, has been operating in Washington County since 1989. Each year, the company generously donates a portion of their profits to philanthropic causes. All 15 employees sit down together to talk about issues that are close to their hearts and together they come to a consensus on how to distribute the funds.

The Phantom Laboratory has given a significant portion of their funds to ASA because of the organization’s success in protecting farmland, which is integral to maintaining the high quality of life that makes our region a wonderful place to live and work. They find giving at the local level a rewarding experience and enjoy passing by conserved farms knowing that the scenic landscapes and fresh produce they provide today will be enjoyed by future generations as well.



Ways to Help!

We need your help as never before. Conserving our working landscapes ensures that there will always be land available for farming and forestry in our community. It also protects valuable natural resources, wildlife habitat and the open spaces we enjoy. Everyone can play an important role in helping to conserve these lands, and we greatly appreciate your support. There are many ways you can help:

Become a member
In addition to your critical financial support, your membership demonstrates that our community supports conservation and helps ASA leverage funds from the government and private foundations.

Make a bequest
Farmland and forestland conservation requires ASA to be the long-term stewards of each conservation easement agreement. Your bequest can help ensure that ASA has the resources to do this, as well as step up the pace to conserve new lands before they are lost to unplanned development. Consider making a lasting impact by leaving a gift of land or property in your will to ASA.

Volunteer ASA needs volunteers to help with organizing outreach events, and implementing membership mailings.

Conserve your land
You can become a conservation leader by protecting your land and ensuring that it will retain its rural character for years to come.

Host a neighborhood gathering
Introduce your friends and neighbors to land conservation by hosting an informational get-together with ASA board and staff.

For more information, contact Meegan Finnegan at (518) 692-7285 or by e-mail at asa@agstewardship.org.



The Small's property in Shushan