

## Assisting Farmers Doesn't Stop at the County Border



Bob Weir Sr. (left) and Bob Weir Jr. (below) protected their third-generation family dairy farm and secured a key neighboring parcel.

### ASA Steps up Protection of Farms in Northern Rensselaer County with Conservation of the Weir Dairy Farm

Washington County has a strong agricultural community which is supported in part by the productive farms of northern Rensselaer County. Helping to conserve these farms in the face of growing development pressures from the Capital District is an important part of ensuring that a strong infrastructure and land base will be available for future farmers. While easements have been donated by several landowners in Rensselaer County, conservation of the Weir Dairy Farm in Schaghticoke is the first purchase of development rights (PDR) project that ASA has completed in the area.

### A Family Long Committed to Farming

Bob Weir's grandfather rented what is now the Weir Dairy farm during the depression and brought up seven children there, three of whom operate farms in the area. Bob's dad, who is still working hard at the age of 83, bought the farm in 1952. As a family, the Weirs have grown their operation into a 75-cow dairy which produces over 1.25 million pounds of quality milk a year.

As part of their dairy business, Bob rented a key 52-acre parcel that backed up to his barn from a neighbor. The parcel contains some of the best soils in the region and is integral to his operation. When he found out that it had been through the preliminary subdivision process and was on track to be developed into eight house lots, he knew he had to figure out a way to acquire it.

Bob explains, "We'd been renting this piece of land for more than 30 years and always hoped to own it. We know what's out there and this is some of the best land to be had. Pouring concrete on it would have ruined it forever."

*continued on page 4*

## Local farms and forests are vital to our future.

The Agricultural Stewardship Association is a non-profit land trust founded in 1990 by local farmers, agribusiness representatives, and conservationists to protect land for agricultural 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 6,972 acres of farm and forest land.

ASA receives funding from its members and supporters, 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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## From the Executive Director



Since our last newsletter we have had the opportunity to assist a wide variety of people with the conservation of their land. We have worked with lifelong dairy farmers, rural entrepreneurs, woodlot owners and a farming couple making the transition into retirement. What they all have in common is a love and understanding of their land and

a desire to protect it from development.

Fortunately, support for conservation in our community is growing. We have been delighted to welcome many new members in the past few months. They, like the landowners we have worked with, share an appreciation for the farms and forests that are the foundation of our community.

ASA is truly a grassroots organization and with every success and every new member we gain momentum. By demonstrating their commitment to conservation, members have helped us leverage support from all three of our state legislators and enabled us to forge new relationships with private partners, a critical component of future success.

Now is the time to get this important work done. The changes we face in the world today make it ever more important to conserve our natural resources and invest in our local community. It's daunting to contemplate changing the world. It's a lot easier to get together with friends and neighbors to work on issues that affect us at the local level such as protecting our farms and forests.

It's amazing to see what we can do as a community when we set our minds to it. And yet, we recognize that there is so much more work to be accomplished-to help landowners conserve their land and connect future generations with the land. I'm so excited by how far we've come and look forward to all the work we'll be doing together in the future. Thank you so much for your support.

Teri

## Protecting their Land Helps a Farm Family Grow their Dairy Business



Members of the Skellie family have been farming the rich land along the Batten Kill since the early 1800s. Jay and Kim Skellie, and Jay's cousin Tom Jilek and his wife Diane are the fourth generation to make a living here. They are partners in Hi-Brow Farms, LLC, a 450-cow dairy operation. They have a deep emotional connection to this highly productive farmland and a desire to see it remain in agriculture.

Collectively, the partners owned three farms and rented Richland Farm, on which their milking facility is located, from their uncle Dick Skellie. The four farms total 665 acres and are located in the towns of Jackson, Salem and Greenwich. Together they have over 1.5 miles of river frontage on the Batten Kill and 1 mile of river frontage on the Black Creek.

When Dick Skellie decided to sell Richland Farm, Jay and Tom knew they had to find a way to acquire it. ASA

contacted The Conservation Fund, who purchased the farm as an interim buyer. This gave ASA and Washington County time to secure state farmland protection funding and purchase conservation easements on all four farms. The Hi-Brow partners used the proceeds to secure Richland Farm and invest in their dairy. They are satisfied to know that their land will always be available for farming.

Tom explains "We did this because we know firsthand that our land is well suited for a variety of agricultural uses. In our family, farms aren't just handed down to the next generation, you have to earn them. This land is so productive that even if our own children decide not to go into the dairy business, others will want to farm here. By conserving it now we have made it affordable for the next generation."

ASA helped Jay Skellie (above) and his cousin Tom Jilek conserve their land which enabled them to buy a key parcel from their uncle.



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ASA asked The Conservation Fund to purchase the property as an "interim buyer". Then, working with Rensselaer County, ASA successfully applied for state and federal funding to conserve the Weir farm and the neighboring parcel. Bob was able to buy the 52-acre parcel at its agricultural value and ensure a more secure



The rich soils of the Weir farm will be available for future farmers

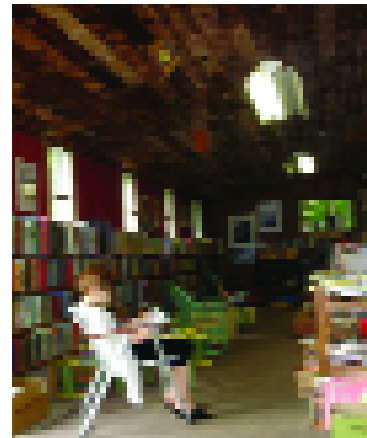
foundation for his dairy's future. For Bob, conserving this top quality farmland was the sensible thing to do because he knows that future farmers will value it as he and his family have.

### More Land to be Conserved in Rensselaer County Soon

Farmland protection in Rensselaer County is picking up speed as ASA assists a number of landowners in their efforts to conserve their land. ASA expects to receive a donated easement on a Hoosick farm this summer and four key farms have received state farmland protection funding with the assistance of ASA and Rensselaer County: Moses Farm, Evergreen Farm, Maple Lane Farm, and St. Croix Farm. When completed, these projects will bring the total number of acres conserved in Rensselaer County to 2,216. "Increasing numbers of farmers are asking for our assistance" noted ASA executive director, Teri Ptacek. "Our members know how important this is and provide the organizational support that allows us to work with numerous farm families each year."

## Conservation Benefits Rural Enterprise

### The Charming Wooded Setting of the Owl Pen Bookstore is Protected



The first time you take Riddle Road north of Greenwich to the Owl Pen Bookstore you might wonder if you've got the directions wrong. The rural dirt road seems to wind ever deeper into the surrounding woods and seems unlikely to lead to a bookstore. But upon arriving you realize that the

natural serenity of its location is precisely what makes the Owl Pen such a charming destination.

Hank Howard and Edie Brown started a book selling enterprise while living in Saratoga County but Hank had always admired the landscape of Washington County and jumped at the chance to buy the Owl Pen in 1980. Originally a poultry farm, the Owl Pen's delightful collection of picturesque barns, shady lawns and quiet nooks make it ideal for browsing through their eclectic collection of books. The mix of mature woods, open fields and wetlands provide a diverse habitat for deer, turkey, and birds.

Hank and Edie have supported ASA's conservation work as members, volunteers, and sponsors of the annual Landscapes for Landsake art show. The appreciation they have for their land inspired them to donate a conservation easement on 101 acres. Hank explains, "We would like our land on Riddle Road to forever represent the beauty and charm that is so abundant in Washington County."

Booklovers and the community appreciate the Owl Pen's unique rural character. Owners Hank Howard and Edie Brown donated an easement on 101 acres to ensure its protection.



## Protecting Forested Land is an Important Component of ASA's Conservation Goals

Al and Deborah Klein have always admired the scenic patchwork of farms and forests that define the working landscapes of our region. Twenty years ago they purchased a 65-acre woodlot on the Cambridge-Battenville Road in Jackson which they recently decided to protect with a conservation easement.

As an ASA board member, Al has been involved with many conservation projects and wanted to demonstrate the commercial and community value of protecting forest land. He explains, "The idea of 'farm' is not limited to tillable land. It also includes productive woodlots. Agriculture and forestry have long been combined in this area of the Hudson Valley."

The Kleins follow a forestry management plan designed to yield timber on a 12-15 year cycle, promote a diverse wildlife

habitat, and allow for recreational usage. Logger Kevin Kuzmich recently remarked, "I enjoy working with woodlot owners like the Kleins who understand and appreciate properly managed forestland and whose goal is to achieve quality timber and income over the long term using sustainable forestry methods."

Many woodlots are part of larger farming operations and supply farmers with extra income and firewood. They serve as windbreaks which help to prevent soil erosion, create moist microclimates and provide habitat for wildlife such as birds, bats and insects that are beneficial to agricultural enterprises. The conservation of woodlands is an important component of

ASA's mission to protect a land base that will ensure a future for farming and forestry in our community.

Farming and forestry go hand in hand in the rural landscape. Logger Kevin Kuzmich helps Al and Deborah Klein manage their conserved woodlot using sustainable forestry methods.



## 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 non-agricultural 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 the flexibility to allow 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 write and administer a grant application.

> Agricultural easements do not require public access to the land. To allow each farm family to consider various aspects of conservation during the process, ASA maintains confidentiality while working with the family. The conservation transaction becomes public record when it is recorded with the county clerk.

> 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, generally 30-50% of their adjusted gross income for up to six years against the value of the easement donation.

> 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](http://www.agstewardship.org) and download ASA's Landowner's Guide.

## Additional Income Tax Deduction for Conservation Easement Donations Helps Farmers and Landowners

Section 1206 of the pensions bill (HR 4) passed by Congress will help farmers and landowners get a significant tax benefit for donating a conservation easement, restricting future development of their land, and conserving important forestlands, farmlands, and wildlife habitat. Conservation easements that qualify for this program, and are donated between now and the end of 2007, will:

> Allow the landowner to increase the maximum deduction he/she can take for donating a conservation easement from 30% of their adjusted gross income (AGI) in any year to 50%;

> Allow qualifying farmers and ranchers to deduct up to 100% of their AGI;

> Extend the carry-forward period for a donor to take tax deductions for a voluntary conservation agreement from 5 to 15 years.

Land trusts are working together with the Land Trust Alliance to ensure this provision becomes permanent. However, at this point, the additional income tax benefits will end at the end of this year.

Landowners need to contact ASA prior to August 2007 to ensure they have adequate time to complete the conservation easement process necessary to meet the IRS guidelines.

## Lifetime Love for the Land Inspires the LeBarrons to Protect their Farm

Loren and Marilyn LeBarron protected Valley View Farm, their 137-acre property located on Stevenson Road in Cambridge. Loren grew up on the farm and he and Marilyn raised their three children there as well. The LeBarrons know that, with its mix of fields and forests, the farm is



Conserving their family farm enabled the LeBarron's to achieve their retirement goals and stay on the land they cherish.

suitable for any number of agricultural enterprises.

As a boy, Loren remembers helping his father hand dig the four to five acres of potatoes that they planted each year. For a time, he had a job cutting ice on local ponds using a big saw blade powered by a Model T Ford engine. He used a hand chisel to make the final cut and recalls that it was often a cold, wet job.

Throughout most of its history the farm has supported a dairy operation and has recently been used to raise heifers, straw and hay. Marilyn and Loren are avid gardeners and still raise much of their food themselves. Marilyn is busy at harvest times canning and freezing for the winter months.

For the LeBarrons, the farm is steeped in personal history and selling it for development was an unwelcome option. They are retiring and wanted to find a way to stay on the farm they love. As Loren put it "We took care of the farm all these years. I figure it's time for the farm to take care of us."

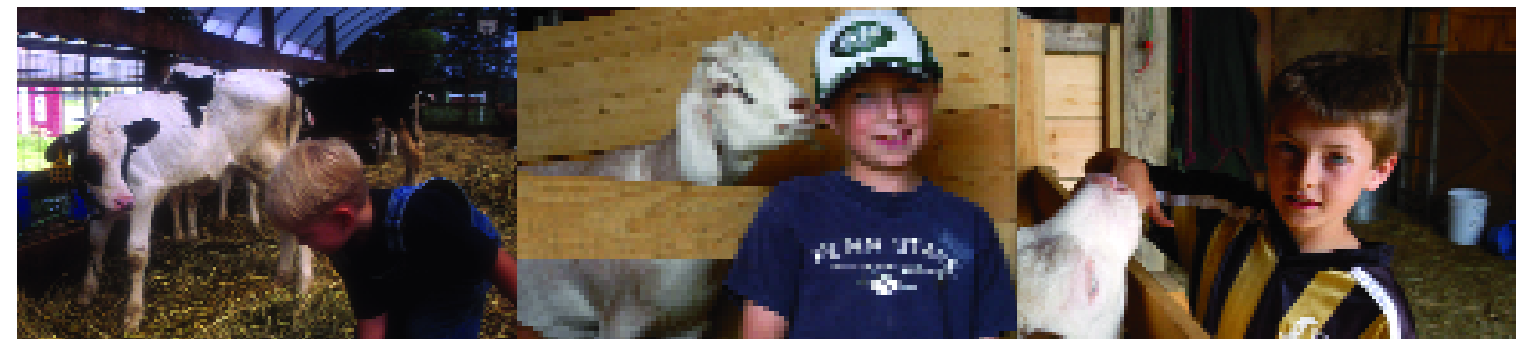
Given the outstanding nature of the farm, ASA was able to find funding from a private foundation to purchase a portion of the value of the development rights and the LeBarrons donated the rest. This arrangement allowed them to meet their retirement planning goals and achieve a long-term desire to conserve the family farm.

## Connecting Kids to the Land

### Farms Welcome Families in Support of ASA's Conservation Work

Farmers know that connecting kids to the land is important-and what better way than to invite them to visit a farm. ASA is excited to offer kids and their families some great opportunities to learn about area farms, pick delicious produce and help support farmland conservation.

These farms are taking the lead in supporting farmland protection by donating a portion of proceeds from the day's event to support ASA's conservation efforts. For more information about the farms or to obtain directions, visit our website at [www.agstewardship.org](http://www.agstewardship.org) or call Meegan at 692-7285. We would like to say a special "thank you" to these farms for their support.



#### June 23rd, 10am – noon

Dairy Farm Tour Take a tour of Autumn View Acres, a 125 cow dairy farm (2054 State Route 40, Greenwich), with Dr. Dave Horn, large animal veterinarian.

#### July 21st, 9am – noon

Blueberry Pick Your Own Join us in celebrating blueberry season at Gardenworks (1055 State Route 30, Salem).

#### September 1st, 9am – noon

Pick Your Own Juicy Raspberries Hand's Farm (State Route 29, Greenwich).

#### September 15th, 9am – noon

Pick a Peck of Peppers (or Tomatoes) Moses Farm (State Route 67, White Creek).

## Joseph Bruno, Betty Little, and Roy McDonald Pitch in to Support Farmland Conservation

Our area legislators are playing an important role in conserving the farms and forests in our region. Senator Joseph Bruno has secured a \$5,000 legislative grant to support ASA's conservation efforts. Senator Betty Little has secured a \$10,000 grant through the Community Projects Fund and Roy McDonald has awarded \$10,000 through the Department of Agriculture and Markets to help ASA assist the growing number of landowners who want to conserve their land.

"Preserving farmland while keeping operational farms viable is very important," said Senator Betty Little. "Farmland is an asset – a gift provided to us by generations of farmers who worked very hard to clear, cultivate, plant and harvest the land. If we lose that, we will never get it back." Ms. Little continued, "As more people recognize the importance of protecting farmland, interest in conservation programs will

continue to grow. That's why I am pleased to be able to support the work of the Agricultural Stewardship Association by securing funding in this year's budget."

Farm and forestland protection takes a great deal of time, effort and technical skill to meet the long-term legal and conservation requirements. These grants enable ASA to leverage \$25,000 from a generous challenge grant that matches contributions dollar for dollar up to \$133,000.

ASA Executive Director Teri Ptacek explains, "Betty Little and Roy McDonald have been staunch supporters of ASA's work. Now Joseph Bruno has recognized the importance of this work as well. We are grateful to have the support of our legislators as they join hundreds of people in our community who know we must act now to assist our farmers and landowners conserve the land we all cherish."

## 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 monitoring, taking digital photographs of beautiful landscapes, assisting with fundraising 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.

### Washington County Fair, August 20 – 26

Spend the day at the Fair, meet your neighbors and talk to people about the importance of conserving farmland. Call to sign up to help at our booth.

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



## Congresswoman Gillibrand Vows to Fight for Farmers at ASA's Annual Dinner

The Middle Falls Firehouse was packed for this year's annual dinner. More than 170 members, supporters, and agricultural leaders turned out to hear key-note speaker Congresswoman Gillibrand speak about her commitment to the agricultural community and conservation organizations like ASA. Ms. Gillibrand noted how important it will be to stabilize



Sisters Grace Campbell (l) and Dorothy Malossi (r) are long-time supporters of ASA's conservation work

milk prices and reduce energy costs for dairy farmers.

Gillibrand actively pursued appointment to the Agricultural Committee and is now one of only three representatives from the entire northeast to sit on the committee. Her first piece of legislation, The American Dairy Farmer Protection Act, extends and enhances the existing dairy price support program

and sets a higher minimum price for Class One milk.

She is also seeking more than \$6 million from the House Appropriations Committee for farmland conservation efforts. She warned that the chances of getting projects funded is slim but that putting these requests forward engages our government on the important topic of conservation.

A central portion of the event focused on honoring former ASA president Kate McQuerrey and Davis Cherington, an important partner on many conservation projects. Both Kate and Davis played an important role early in the organization's history in establishing ASA as the regionally respected organization it is today. ASA would also like to thank Spoonful Catering who prepared a delicious meal featuring food raised by local farmers.

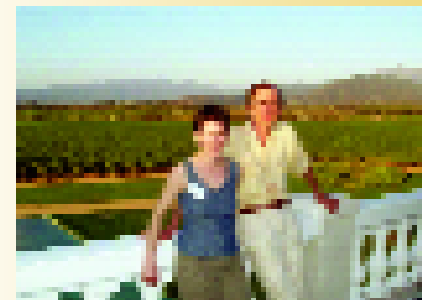


Supporting farmers and farmland conservation is a top priority for Congresswoman Gillibrand

## ASA President Seth Jacobs Graduates from LEAD New York

Seth Jacobs has graduated from LEAD New York, a two-year intensive program designed to teach leadership skills to those working in the agricultural community.

"Committing to the LEAD program was a big step for me," Seth remarked. "It took me off our farm and gave me a broader perspective of agriculture, from local to global. I learned valuable skills important to my work with ASA and have a greater understanding of the political process at all levels of government."



Jacobs' class traveled to Chili to get a global perspective on agricultural issues

visit  
us  
online  
> [agstewardship.org](http://agstewardship.org)

# It Takes Your Support to Make Farmland Protection Happen. Thank You.

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 November 1, 2006 and April 27, 2007. 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

Anonymous Local Foundations (3)  
The Conservation Fund  
Nordlys Foundation

## Government

Senator Betty Little  
Assemblyman Roy McDonald  
New York Conservation Partnership Program\*

## Cream of the Crop

Anonymous (4)  
Nancy and Alan Brown  
David Darrin  
Gordon Foundation  
Philip Gitlen and Melody Mackenzie  
Dave and Margaret Horn  
McGraw-Hill Companies  
Salem Farm Supply, Inc.- Phil and Berta Lewis  
Robbins Foundation  
Daniel and Deko Stone

## Benefactor

Norman and Gertrude Allen  
Jeffrey Alton and  
Jessica Adelson-Alton  
Kerri Culhane and Jason Black  
Gina, Stephan and Ajanta Deibel  
Ethna Duffy  
Kranz Culliton Consulting  
Lisa Randles and Remus Preda  
Richland Farms  
Mary Ellen Williams

## Sustaining

Randall Adams  
Agard & Lapan Land Surveying  
Don and Tracey Boyd  
Janet Britt and John Dojka  
Sheldon Brown, Woody Hill Farms  
Davis and Jamie Cherington  
Jerry Cosgrove and Judy Anderson  
Alexander and Wynn Ewing  
Jon Farbman and  
Jacqueline West-Farbman  
James L. Fitzgerald and  
Cathy Fairbanks  
William Frazier and Joann Pickett  
Caroline Eastman and  
Bertram H. Freed

## First Pioneer Farm Credit

Edith Gambie  
Bruce Goff  
Ari and Diana Gradus  
Granville Veterinary Service  
Terry Griffen and Peter Deming  
John and Jennifer Hand  
Hi Brow Farms, LLC  
Bob Holman and Elizabeth Murray  
Judy and Edward Hughes  
Seth Jacobs and Martha Johnson  
Patricia Johanson  
Kenneth and D. Nancy Johnson  
Margaret P. Jones and  
Cailie A. Currin

## IBM

Kings-Ransom Farm  
Jim Klein and Sangeetha Sagar  
Land Trust Alliance  
Josh Levy and Julie Simms  
Chris Lincoln and Tammara Van Ryn  
- New Minglewood Farm  
Louis E. Marchaland  
Lucinda Marek  
Bruce McAllister  
Assemblyman Roy McDonald  
Bliss and Robbie McIntosh  
Moses Farm  
Shirley M. Mulligan  
David Owen  
Jim and Anita Perry - Perry's Orchard  
Planners East Incorporated  
William Ralston and Joan Bleikamp  
Linda and Richard Randles  
Ron Renoni and Naomi Meyer  
Sheafe Satterthwaite  
Edith B. Schiele  
Michael and Michelle Schreiner  
Scotch Hill Farm - Maurice Sendak  
and Lynn Caponera  
Donald and Donna Skellie  
Meg and Rob Southerland  
Gary Stine and Nina Lockwood  
Jane and David Suttle  
Wiley Borthers, Inc.  
The Winship Family  
Anne and Ethan Winter

## Supporting

Anonymous (2)  
3-Corner Field Farm  
Ronald and Felicitas Anderson

Sarah Ashton and John Mooney  
Jay and Heather Bellanca  
Richie and Lynn Bittner  
- Wildflower Graphics

Renee Bouplon  
Kathy and John Braico  
Sally Brillion  
Arthur F. Brod Jr.  
Caffry & Flower, Attorneys at Law  
Grace Campbell  
David Cerilli  
The Chronicle - Mark Frost  
Laura Coldwell  
Clem and MaryDee Crowe  
Leslie J De Groot, MD  
Bill Eberle  
Alexandra Eckhardt  
El Paso Energy  
Raymond and Marti Ellermann  
Elm Spring Farm - Tudors  
George E. Foster  
Drexel and Betsy Frye  
Amy and Barry Goldstein  
Tom and Rulyn Graves  
George and Carol Green  
Tom Hazelton  
Bill and Maria Heinrich  
Field Horne  
Hubbell Realty Services, Inc.  
Don and Kathy Idleman  
Bonnie and Kent Jones  
Kenyon Hill Farm  
Reginald H. Kilmer II  
James Kunstler  
Joan and By Lapham  
Evan Lawrence  
Kristin and Joel Lilley  
Dr. and Mrs. Patrick McCullough  
Mrs. Elizabeth Meer  
Mary Ann and John T. Mitchell  
Monks of New Skete  
George and Ellen Mulvaney  
O.A. Borden & Sons Inc.  
Richard Parks and  
Clarence Garland Jr.  
Judson Parker and  
Faith Lamb-Parker  
Yvonne Porter  
Rojan Farms, Inc.  
Barney Rubenstein and  
Sandra Scroggins

Dr. George Ruta and  
Ms. Barbara Thompson  
Mary Sautter and Peter Genier  
Norma J. Skellie  
Timothy D. Smith and Lisa Smith  
Susan and Stephen Snyder  
Sno Kats Snowmobile Club, Inc.  
Mike and Karyn Sobing  
Rolf Sternberg  
Shelly Stiles and Michael Batchler  
Stone Hill Farm - Greg and  
Ellenor Hansen  
James and Amy Stott  
Gary Sytsma and Angelynn  
Cerridwen  
Up and Over Farm  
Dr. Paul K. Walker  
Diane Watters  
Alan Wheelock  
Mary M. Withington

## Friends

Anonymous (1)  
Evelyn Braymer  
John and Pam Brownell  
Carl W. Cipperly - Fra-Mar Farms  
Eleanor S. Darcy  
John Evertsen  
Cathy Firman  
Aaron Gabriel  
Cyndy and John Golde  
Edmund and Ellen Green  
M.L. Healey and Rick Gottesman  
Happy Hill Farm  
Barbara Hennig  
Robert and Carolyn Holstein  
Susan Earl Klebl  
Jeannine Lavery  
Kim and Catherine Littell  
Leslie Parke  
Daniel and Maryanne Patane  
Penelope Poor  
Joan and Erich Ruger  
Dr. and Mrs. Harry Stein  
Frank and Claire Vurraro  
Robert Wagner and Janet Warren  
Lisa Williams

\* The New York State Partnership Program is administered by the Land Trust Alliance Program with support from the State of New York.

## New Seminars Teach Landowners and their Advisors How to Maximize the Benefits of Conservation and Achieve Financial Goals

Land is often a family's most valuable financial and sentimental asset. Protecting that asset with a conservation easement can help landowners resolve issues related to retirement, taxes, and estate planning while protecting the land they value.

With support from the Nordlys Foundation, ASA and Saratoga PLAN are offering two seminars to help landowners and their advisors understand the implications of conservation easements and how to make them work to their best advantage. The first seminar is designed for landowners and the second for attorneys and financial advisors. Both will be taught by Stephen Small, Esquire, a national expert on the finances of conservation.

> Wednesday, July 11th from 6 - 8 p.m. at the Saratoga Arts Council in Saratoga Springs - Landowners who are interested in donating or selling a conservation easement are invited to learn about how conservation will affect their finances.

> Thursday July 12th from 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Gideon Putnam Resort and Spa in Saratoga Springs - Attorneys, financial advisors and tax professionals are invited to learn how to maximize financial advantages for clients interested in conserving their land. Application for accreditation for three NY Continuing Legal Education credits for this seminar is currently pending. There is a \$50 fee to attend.

For more information or to sign up for either of these seminars, contact Meegan Finnegan at 692-7285 or e-mail [asa@agstewardship.org](mailto:asa@agstewardship.org). The deadline to sign up for the professional seminar is July 6th.



## Give a Gift for Future Generations — Remember ASA in Your Will

Would you like to help protect farmland and forestland in the Washington County region for future generations? If so, consider making a lasting impact through a gift in your will to the Agricultural Stewardship Association.

ASA would be happy to provide you with sample language that can be used when preparing your will. If you already have a will, all that is needed to include ASA is a codicil. This is an easy job for an attorney.

Conservation work will take the efforts and support of generations of people who care about the land. ASA greatly appreciates the generosity of people who wish to leave a gift in their will to ASA. If you would like more information concerning ASA, please contact Teri Ptacek at 518-692-7285.

## Thank you Volunteers!

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

Judy Bridge, Clem and MaryDee Crowe, Dieter Drake, Jana King, Katherine Little, Annie Miller, Don Minkle, Glen Nesbitt, Cliff Oliver, Art Place, Jill Robinson



# save these dates

Sunday, September 30th

## Tour De Farms

ASA is pleased to be partnering with Cambridge Valley Cycling to bring area cyclists a weekend of biking in Washington County. Cambridge Valley Cycling offers its annual Fall Foliage Tour and Century Bike Ride on Saturday September 29th. On Sunday, September 30th, with assistance from Cambridge's own Farm Team Cycling Group, ASA will host riders for a tour of conserved farms and farm stands.

Jana King, of Cambridge Valley Cycling says, "Having grown up on a farm, I have a deep love and appreciation for our rural landscapes which is just perfect for biking. We are happy to be helping ASA in this important work."

Saturday, October 6th

## Landscapes for Landsake

**Opening reception, 3–6pm**

Join ASA at Maple Ridge in Coila for the sixth annual Landscapes for Landsake art show. Area artists will display and sell unique works of art that celebrate the beauty and diversity of our working landscapes as well as the important role that farms and forests play in our community.



**Agricultural Stewardship Association**

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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