Our Annual Fall Country Luncheon & Silent Auction

This year’s luncheon will be held at beautiful Caora Farm in the Town of North East!

Sunday, October 8th from 12 to 2 pm

Duncandale Farm: A Family’s Legacy

You’re traveling north along Route 22 in the historic Coleman Station District of the Town of North East. You’re surrounded by open, green fields with crops growing, silos visible, cows grazing. You’re immediately relaxed, and filled with a sense of peace and history and of man’s longstanding connection to the land.

Imagine descending the slight hill just before you get to Coleman Station Road. You look to the right. What if you saw the high, open, beautiful farm fields and sweeping views to the east dotted with row upon row of houses on small lots? No trees, no farm fields, no cows grazing. Can you imagine it? No?

Well now you never have to – thanks to the Duncan family and their commitment to the permanent protection of their 158-acre Duncandale Farm. “We are grateful for this opportunity to protect a small parcel of agricultural land in this area from future development. Farmland is essential to ensure production of a continuing supply of food and to provide a home for wildlife,” said Sharon and Don Duncan.

Working in partnership with the DLC, Scenic Hudson, Dutchess County and New York State, the Duncans recently sold the development rights on their family farm ensuring that the land will remain open, in productive agriculture, and contributing to the scenic, rural character of the Coleman Station area.

The property has been owned and farmed by the Duncan family since the 1700s. Don’s parents started a dairy operation in 1900, which Don gradually took over and operated until the mid-1990s. Due to challenges facing the dairy industry at the time, Don moved to working full time off the farm.

Though the dairy operation closed down, Don continued to produce hay, an average of 7,000 square bales per year. The majority of the hay is sold to a local hay dealer, and the rest is sold to local goat, sheep and horse farms. In addition to the hay operation, Don also raises cattle, keeping between 12 and 14 animals at a time.

Beef cattle are sold to a dealer who transports the animals to auction at either Chatham, NY or Lime Rock, CT, and Holstein heifers are sold for replacement in regional dairy operations. Caring for cattle has mostly remained a small operation in comparison to the hay, but Don now plans to expand this with the help of two of his sons.

Don and Sharon say, “Our family has owned and loved this farm for over 200 years. Living on a farm is a wonderful way to raise a family. Our three sons all helped with the farm work and learned where food comes from and developed a connection to the land and the animals it supports. Our sons and grandsons continue to help on the farm as their time allows.”

The preservation of Duncandale Farm adds 158 acres to the 1135 acres already protected in the Coleman Station area. The farm also lies in the western area of a chain of mostly connected, active farms totaling almost 2,000 acres, extending south of Millerton through the Harlem Valley within the Town of North East. And it is part of the pastoral agricultural view as seen from the Harlem Valley Rail Trail.
Dutchess County’s farm families,” said Steve Rosenberg, Scenic Hudson’s Senior Vice-President and Executive Director of The Scenic Hudson Land Trust. “With the DLC and Hudson Valley’s many other capable land trusts working together to conserve the region’s most productive farms, we achieve far more than we might have working alone.”

“Partnering with Scenic Hudson gives us the ability to jointly advance our mutual interests, helps us bring together our shared values, priorities, resources, and competencies, and because of this, increases the likelihood of success. We are linked by a common vision when it comes to the importance of our farms to our local communities,” notes Becky Thornton, DLC’s President.

It all started with a meeting. In total, the DLC and Scenic Hudson working together have protected 13 key farms and 1,100 acres, raising over $7 million through federal, state, county, town and local funding. Scenic Hudson itself has provided a total of $1.6 million to close the funding gap on these transactions. Together we’ve promoted the importance of agriculture as a business, as a way of life, and as part of our rural agricultural heritage to our federal, state and local representatives, helping to spread the word about the critical role farming plays in our communities.

For more on the local farms protected through the partnership between the DLC and Scenic Hudson, please visit our website.

At Ronnybrook Farm Dairy’s Schultz Hill Farm Closing. From left: DLC’s Becky Thornton and Karl Roux, Ted Osofsky, Kate Osofsky, Ronny Osofsky, Rick Osofsky, Jerry Cosgrove, Freddi Osofsky Sanderson, Jean Osofsky, Scenic Hudson’s Seth McKee and Car Watkins-Bates.

We can’t always do it alone. Luckily, we’re able to reach out, brainstorm, and work with others to ensure that more valuable farmland, habitat, natural resources, and scenic landscapes are protected. We collaborate with local communities, Dutchess County, and land trust partners. One of our most valued partnerships is with Scenic Hudson.

It all started back in 2009 with a meeting held at the Elmendorf Inn, hosted by the Town of Red Hook, attended by several local farm families, community members, and staff from the Scenic Hudson Land Trust and the DLC. The discussion was about the Town’s new Purchase of Development Rights matching program. Just prior to this, a petition had been submitted to the Town on behalf of 14 area farmers about protecting farms along West Kerley Corners Road, an area that is part of what is locally known as the “Red Hook Breadbasket,” an important agricultural region dedicated to farming that contains one of the largest concentrations of prime farmland soils in the Hudson Valley.

At that time, both the DLC and Scenic Hudson knew that this initiative would catalyze a collaboration at a scale never before achieved in the region. This project would include coordinated efforts focusing on multiple transactions within one particular assemblage, amplifying the efforts of both Scenic Hudson and the DLC, while engaging new partners and vaulting our collective land protection efforts to a whole new level.

And so, working together on all aspects of the project, Scenic Hudson and the DLC jointly protected eight farms, closing in 2012, including Northwind, Migliorelli, Three Pond, Missing D, Trezza, Panorama, Sturges and Karpinski Farms. Together, these farms represented 12% of the town’s active farmland. We were greatly assisted in this effort by funding from the Town of Red Hook and the federal Farm and Ranchland Protection Program. This multi-faceted collaboration was the start of a successful partnership between the DLC and Scenic Hudson that helped galvanize a productive and ongoing relationship to this day.

Since that time, our partnership has grown as we have continued to work collectively to protect five more farms (including a portion of the Ronnybrook Farm Dairy, this time with funding from the State of New York) that meet our overlapping priorities. We have repeated this model of partnership and secured funding to protect four additional farms, all of which are anticipated to close in 2017.

“It is with a real sense of appreciation and excitement that we look at everything we have accomplished in partnership with DLC and Dutchess County’s farm families,” said Steve Rosenberg, Scenic Hudson’s Senior Vice-President and Executive Director of The Scenic Hudson Land Trust. “With the DLC and Hudson Valley’s many other capable land trusts working together to conserve the region’s most productive farms, we achieve far more than we might have working alone.”

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Reaching out to the next generation of conservationists:

In February, as part of their capping class, Environmental Science majors at Marist College screened the film, “Green Fire,” about the conservationist Aldo Leopold. They later participated in a lively discussion about the film and land preservation. Students at Dover Middle and High Schools learned about how land protection impacts their lives at the annual Dover Schools Earth Day Fair in April.

The Arlington High School AP Environmental Science class welcomed the DLC to their classroom in April and learned about all aspects of land protection, stewardship, and how the DLC assists local communities. And, in May, a Vassar College Environmental Science class traveled to the Millbrook School to learn about land trusts, conservation easements, and natural resources. After a classroom learning session, they took a walk on the school’s easement-protected property and saw surrounding preserved lands.

Engaging friends and meeting new ones:

The gloomy weather didn’t stop a group of intrepid birders from gathering at the Stone Church Preserve in Dover on Earth Day (April 22nd) for a birding walk led by our friends at the Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club. Many local bird species were spotted (and heard) to the delight of all who attended.

The Black Sheep Hill Farm Fest held on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend drew over 200 attendees – about half of whom were under the age of 8! It was a wonderful way for all to learn about local farms and what they have to offer. Black Sheep Hill Farm, Ronnybrook Farm Dairy, Chaseholm Farm, Full Cirus Farm, Mead Orchards, and JACuTERIE offered a selection of their products, such as grilled meats, cured salamis, lovely cheeses, organic vegetables, apple cider, honey, milkshakes, and more. Hudson Valley Sheep & Wool Company was there to demonstrate the fiber arts: felting, spinning, and knitting, and volunteers from the North East Community Center hosted a creative station for children. Another station, hosted by Full Circus Farm, allowed children to plant seeds and learn about gardening. If you missed it this year, the Farm, Food and Family Event takes place annually on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend.

Connecting with Municipal Officials:

In January, our Online Natural Resource Mapping Tools workshop provided a guided hands-on exploration of online mapping tools. Participants practiced conducting a preliminary site assessment to determine conservation values for a municipal open space acquisition program.
Hosted by Bonnie Stedt at her gorgeous Foxrace Farm in Amenia on Saturday, May 13th, co-chairs Terry and John Regan, Victoria and Yuri Salnikoff, and Nancy and Bill Stahl pulled off an amazing evening – despite the Nor’Easter that swept through the countryside. Celebrity Auctioneer Gordon Elliott charmed the crowd into placing maximum bids for a variety of live auction items and after a delicious dinner by Gourmet to Go caterers, the dance floor filled as Harlem Line played under twinkling lights.

Our sincere thanks to the following – we couldn’t have done it without you!

To our host, Bonnie Stedt, for allowing us to have our event at her beautiful Foxrace Farm and lending us the help of her farm manager and staff.

To our co-chairs, Terry and John Regan, Victoria and Yuri Salnikoff, and Nancy and Bill Stahl for their hard work to ensure that the event was a huge success and enjoyed by all.

To our Underwriters, we thank you for your overwhelming support!

To all of our auction donors and winners – your donations and bids help us continue to fund our programs.

To all who braved the weather to support our event – Thank you!
Quincey Tompkins Imhoff has wonderful memories of time spent on Butternut Farm in Millbrook, the home of her grandparents, Faith and Jack Tompkins, and the place her dad, Doug Tompkins grew up. The Tompkins family settled full-time in Millbrook after World War II and fostered a deep and abiding respect for the outdoors and the land. Doug grew up to become a world famous conservationist and philanthropist, who preserved more than two million acres in Chile and Argentina, before his untimely death in 2015. His mother Faith, died several months after him in her 100th year. She graciously left a generous bequest to the Dutchess Land Conservancy in her will. We wanted to chat with Quincey about her family’s long legacy of conservation and she was thrilled to have a conversation with us.

(DLC) How long has your family been in Millbrook?

(QTI) Almost 70 years, since the late 1940s. After the war, my grandparents were living in the city, but wanted to raise their boys in the country. They moved to Butternut Farm and they only ever had that property. Selling it [after my grandmother’s passing] was a big milestone in our family. The good news is that a really lovely family bought it.

(DLC) Considering your father’s work and your grandmother’s bequest it appears that conservation is very important to your family. Can you speak about your sense of that growing up? Was preserving and caring for the land part of your family’s ethic? Was it discussed, or just a case of leading by example?

(QTI) My parents were business-minded people, but my dad was an adventurer and the world was his playground. It was actually in 1990 when he shifted gears full-force, and did a 180, turning away from business and toward philanthropy—actually in 1990 when he shifted gears full-force, and did a 180, turning away from business and toward philanthropy. It was an adventurer and the world was his playground. It was an adventurer and the world was his playground.

(DLC) Did you know about your grandmother’s plans to leave a bequest to the DLC?

(QTI) I did, to the extent that I was the executor of her estate. And it makes sense. My grandparents put the property into conservation 25 years ago or so. My grandfather was very fiscally conservative, so saving on taxes would have appealed to him. Also, my dad would hold his conservation meetings at the house in Millbrook when he was back from South America, and there would be activists, colleagues, and other philanthropists in attendance. I think that further inspired her to name the DLC in her estate plan.

I spent a lot of time with my grandmother in the last ten years and we would drive around. She loved the beautiful, rural, pastoral landscape. She would ask me if I thought it had changed much. And thanks in part to the work of the DLC, it really hasn’t.

My grandmother had a long and happy life, and I took my role as her trustee very seriously. By virtue of my family history (philanthropist) I really enjoy encouraging people to do the same thing, that’s why I want people to know about her bequest.

Planned gifts include gifts created through your will, living trust, retirement plan or life insurance policy and enable you to create a philanthropic legacy much more meaningful than you may have ever imagined. Take a look at some of the options designed to help you achieve different goals, and feel free to contact us with questions.

By including the DLC in your will or trust, you can make an important impact that doesn’t cost you anything during your lifetime, but is priceless as part of your legacy.

By using your IRA (if you are 70 and 1/2 years or older) you can make a gift during your lifetime from an asset that would otherwise be subject to multiple levels of taxation if it remained in your estate.

By creating a life income plan such as a charitable remainder trust you continue to receive benefits from assets that later pass to the DLC.

By designating the DLC as beneficiary of part or all of a life insurance policy, or by donating a paid up policy you no longer need, you can fund a sizable gift with little or no effect on you during your life.

By creating a charitable lead trust to pay income to the DLC for a fixed time, then pay the remainder to your heirs, you can reduce gift and estate taxes while still leaving a substantial part of your assets to your heirs.

This material is not offered as legal or tax advice. Please visit our website: Dutchessland.org for more information; or call Tara Kelly, DLC Director of Development at 845-677-3002.
Over 40,800 acres of protected land!

In 2016 and the first part of 2017, over 1,365 additional acres of our area’s farmland, natural resources, habitat, scenic views and open land have been protected. While almost 500 of these acres belong to local farms whose easements were purchased to provide valuable funds to keep the land in agriculture, the remaining acres were protected by caring owners who donated land or conservation easements so that their land would remain forever as it is now. Easements are a lasting legacy and a way to make your mark on the land that you love.

THANKS TO OUR TRUSTEES OF THE LAND

Trustees of the Land, the DLC’s most ardent supporters, demonstrate their steadfast commitment to land conservation with annual gifts of $10,000 or more.

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