

Annual Report of the Trustees





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OUR UNSPOILED OPEN LAND IS A GIFT, THANK YOU FOR RECIPROCATING!

Dear Conservationists,

With this 2023 Annual Report, our new look celebrates the spacious nature of our gifts. Our collective gratitude for the beauty we share in North Salem is great and we reciprocate! As we watch rampant development and the depletion of natural resources in many neighboring places, we reckon with the health of our planet. That's why your conservation practices, protecting our priceless watershed and wildlife habitats, is more crucial than ever. *In North Salem, we enter a gateway to the natural world.*



Our unspoiled open land is a gift, thank you for reciprocating—the trustees, staff, members and friends of this foundation along with our town—actively protect this precious ecosystem. With your monetary and volunteer support, we care for more than 1300 acres of meadows, woodlands and waterways. We relish the peace and beauty of walking, horseback riding and skiing on miles of trails and fields. *Our mission is crucial for the health of our climate and ourselves.*

We envision and plan to preserve land for the future as we celebrate a half century of conservation in 2024!

This is a magical place, a wink away from urban bustle, we welcome the respite and relief of the natural world. Keep ever mindful of this ecosystem of ours. "Eco" comes from the Greek word oikos, meaning 'home.' *This land, our home, our healthy, breathtaking home, is ours to cherish.*

With admiration for your on-going support,







PRESERVING A LEGACY

In keeping with the Foundation's mission statement, we work tirelessly to maintain the environmental and ecological integrity of the area, therefore ensuring its health and vitality for future generations. The North Salem Open Land Foundation's Land Stewardship Team works vear round to care for our Preserves and monitor Conservation Easements. With careful project planning, our Stewards tackle a number of environmental issues - natural resource management. trail maintenance and safety, invasive species remediation, and general upkeep including mowing, trimming, and monitoring encroachment.

Aside from the physical maintenance, our Stewards spend ample time planning for future projects, learning about new or ongoing threats to our environment and the impact they may have, building programs for community engagement and volunteer training, as well as learning new skills. We value the ecological importance this protected land holds and we know how much it means to our community. We take pride in our work and look forward to connecting with you out on the land.





- · Sound Finances
- · Ethical Conduct
- · Responsible Governance
- · Lasting Stewardship

Volunteers in Action





LENDING A HAND

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

- Margaret Mead

It is impossible for us to be everywhere all the time when managing 1,300 acres of land, so we are forever grateful to our volunteers! You are always ready to lend a helping hand, and you do such amazing work! Many of the projects that you tackle include trail maintenance, clean up after storms, invasive species removal, bridge repair, trimming vines from stone walls, litter removal, and so much more. We are so thankful for your endless support!



Impact Report



STEWARDSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Habitat for Bobolink and Other Ground Nesting Birds:

NSOLF conserves 211 acres of land as habitat for bobolink and other ground nesting birds. These birds primarily like large hayfields for coverage of their nests. NSOLF is unique in that we carefully manage mowing the fields at specified times to ensure all ground nesting birds have fledged. Each year, we delight in watching the birds return to this safe area to continue breeding.

Westchester 4H Group Helps with NestWatch 2023:

A dedicated group of local, teen volunteers from the Westchester 4H Group helped us double the number of bird boxes we have to participate in the Nest Watch program. They assisted in all aspects of building and installing the new boxes, including setting up GPS coordinates for each box and monitoring the progress of the nesting birds.





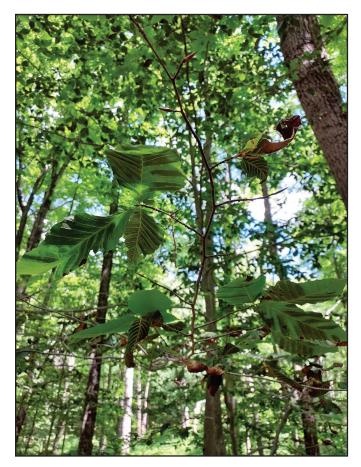
NSOLF Volunteer Stewards:

Our staff would not be able to monitor 28 Preserves without the eyes, ears and footwork of our corp of Volunteer Stewards. Stewards are assigned to a specific Preserve, and report to NSOLF staff any maintenance or encroachment problems they see so that staff can take action to remediate issues right away. Cheers to our boots-on-the-ground citizen Stewards.

Regional Partnerships to Tackle Spotted Lanternfly (SLF):

SLF feeds on fruit, ornamental and native trees, and is impacting the agricultural industry of New York and surrounding areas. Two organizations are helping us—the Lower Hudson Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (LHPRISM) and the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets. We captured 92 nymphs and adults during a three-month period using two traps provided by our partners. We continue to monitor for SLF and work with other local organizations to stay updated on remediation techniques.





Forest Health and Invasive Species Management:

We surveyed 329 acres for our Forest Health Program assessing tree health. We monitor, treat or remove Hemlock trees infested with an insect called the woolly adelgid and Ash trees infected by the emerald ash borer. Beech Leaf Disease is the latest forest health issue we are addressing caused by a nematode. We also tackle a variety of invasive plant species, including Lesser Celandine and Mile-a-minute vine.



Artemis Farm; a New Conservation Easement:

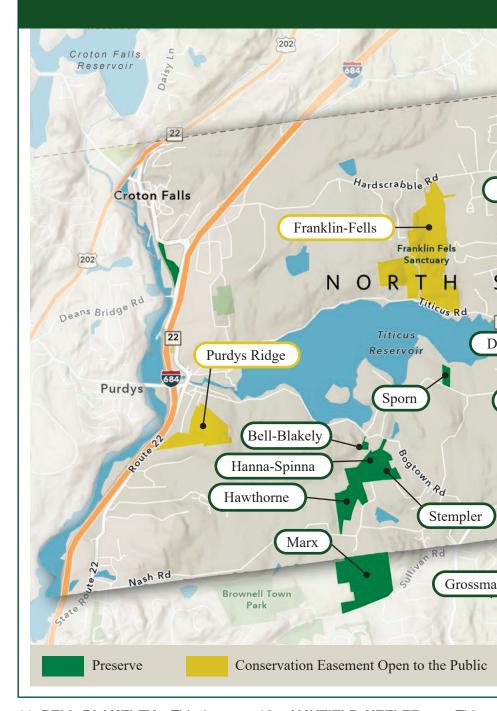
Thanks to Jesse and Carol Goldberg for their generous conservation easement to ensure this beautiful land will remain free from development. This 6-acre parcel is part of the Goldberg's farm, which they have owned for more than fifty years. It holds great ecological value with its open fields, meadows, and forests, and provides protection for wildlife habitats. This land will remain private.

Imeline OF PRESERVES

Since its inception, NSOLF has obtained 1,331 of land through donations, easements and acquisitions. We are grateful to our members, friends and neighbors who support us. We continue to work tirelessly to preserve our town's rural character and natural beauty.

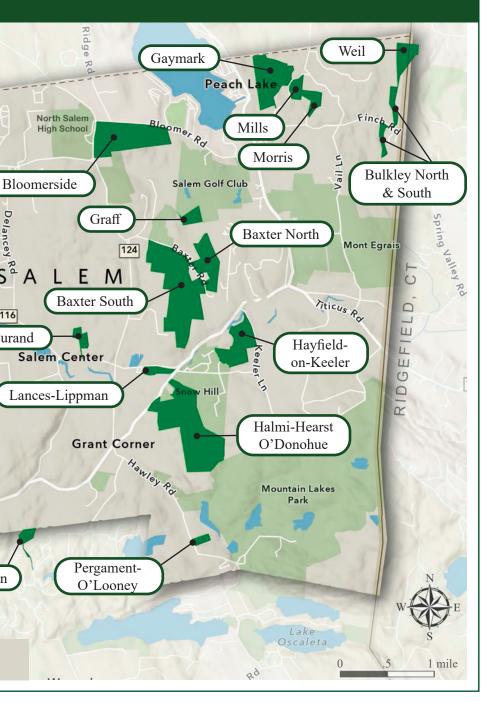
- **1. LANCES** Leo and Audry Lances made the first land donation of 2+ acres in 1974.
- **2. GRAFF** Elizabeth Graff, former NSOLF President, followed with an 11-acre parcel in 1974.
- **3. HEARST** This 6-acre parcel on the Titicus River was donated by William and Austine Hearst in 1976.
- **4. HEARST-MEAD** Of this 70-acre parcel, 62 acres were donated by William and Austine Hearst; the remainder were added in 1977 by Eugenie Mead.
- **5. MARX** More than 100 acres were donated in 1976 by the Marx Family.
- **6&7: BULKLEY NORTH and SOUTH** Situated on opposite sides of Finch Road, these parcels (more than 30 acres and 7 acres, respectively) were donated in 1979 by the Bulkley heirs.
- **8. HAWTHORNE** A 34-acre preserve donated to the Foundation in 1979 as part of the development of the Hawthorne Lake area, which provides a sanctuary for many species of wildlife.
- **9. BAXTER SOUTH** Home to "The Racetrack," this popular parcel boasts a rich history in horse racing dating back to the 1950s. The "Baxter Road Group" donated the first 114 acres in 1979, another 15 acres was added in 1985 by the "Baxter Road 1981 Associates." At the heart of the preserve, sits a beautiful 8-acre pond.
- **10. BAXTER NORTH** Directly across from Baxter Preserve South, this 37-acre parcel was donated by the Baxter Road Group in 1980. It is a popular returning site for the bobolink.

Our Preserves and Public



- 11. BELL-BLAKELEY This 3-acre parcel at the intersection of Mills and Bogtown Roads was donated by Eleanor Blakely Bell and Bertha Bidda Blakely in 1980 and has a wide trail along a NYS wetland.
- **12. GENTILE** Rosalina Gentile donated this 3-acre parcel in 1994, which boasts a popular horse and walking trail.
- **13. HAYFIELD-KEELER** This 38-acre slice of heaven was purchased by the Foundation in 1994, thanks to the generous contributions of neighbors and members.
- **14. MILLS** Longtime board member, Ruth Mills donated these 10 acres.

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS



- **15. DURAND** In 1996, John Durand donated this 10-acre parcel behind the Ruth Keeler Memorial Library. It is a popular destination as it features extensive walking trails through the woods.
- **16. GROSSMAN**-This 10-acre tract located in Lewisboro was donated by the Grossman Family in 1998.
- 17. SPORN This 5-acre tract was
- donated in 1999 by Samuel and Ellen Sporn. The parcel is largely open and quite wet due to its situation at the banks of the Titicus River.
- **18. HALM**I Donated in 2002 by Robert Halmi Jr., this 53-acre parcel can be accessed from Grant Road and provides an extensive trail system for walking and riding opportunities.

- **28. HANNA-SPINNA** In 2023, the Hanna Family donated 4.3 acres adjacent to Stempler Preserve and nearby Hawthorne and Bell-Blakely Preserve. It's primarily wetland, and home to native flora and fauna.
- 27. JEFF MORRIS Named for longtime board member and friend to NSOLF, this 11-acre parcel was purchased from our neighbors William and Nancy Clark in 2020. It abuts Mills Preserve, and connects Dingle Ridge and Finch Roads.
- **26. WEIL** In 2018, this 88-acre hidden gem was bequeathed to us by Paula Weil, a local environmentalist and late board member.
- **25. LIPPMANN** A beautiful preserve was created adjacent to Lances Preserve, along the Titicus River. Lois and Ken Lippmann donated these 6+ acres in 2016. A serene spot in the middle of town.
- **24. PERGAMENT-O'LOONEY** Annika Pergament and Michael O'Looney donated 5.4 acres in 2015. This parcel of land features forests, woodlands, and rockoutcroppings on Hawley Road.
- 23. BLOOMERSIDE EXTENSION NSOLF purchased 8.5 acres in 2007 to bridge the gap between the Bloomerside and Gentile Preserves. This acquisition permanently protects the intersection near June and Bloomer Roads.
- **22. STEMPLER** 44 acres of forests, wetlands, and fields along Bogtown Road was generously donated to NSOLF by long time NS resident Stephen Stempler in 2006.
- **21. O'DONOHUE** Acquired in 2006, this 11-acre parcel located along Grant Road has extended the corridor of preserved space in the center of North Salem.
- **20. BLOOMERSIDE** a coalition including NSOLF, Town of North Salem, and a generous neighbor, who worked together to raise the appropriate funds. The Public Schools are able to make use of this property due to its proximity.
- **19. GAYMARK** NSOLF purchased this 58 acre parcel In 2005 with donated funds, the support of many neighbors, and the generosity of the Scheuer family, who were former owners of the property. This parcel features four distinct habitats woodland, wetland, swamp and field.



WATCHING BIRDS COME TO LIFE

Imagine peering into a bird box to find a nest with newly laid eggs and feeling that sense of awe and connection to nature. Envision then visiting that same location over several weeks to find that the baby birds have hatched, opened their tiny beaks wide to receive sustenance, and taken their first wobbly flights. That is the wonder that we experience with Nest Watch each year.

It has been a thrill to participate in this national monitoring program by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. The program is designed to track trends in reproduction, nesting habits, and survival rate of hatchlings. A database is compiled with all of the information provided by Nest Watch participants. The data helps scientists study issues including the effects of climate change and habitat loss on avian reproduction.

Here is what we found during our 2023 participation, which took place from mid-May through mid-August:

- 10 boxes were in place in the field
- 3 different species documented utilizing boxes Eastern Bluebird, Tree Swallow and House Wren
- Total of 50 eggs laid across species
- 34 nestlings hatched and 34 fledglings flew the coop

With the help of the Westchester 4H Group, we added five more bird boxes to our inventory. We are already looking forward to the 2024 Nest Watch to see the positive impact these will make on our local bird population.









	2023	2022
Revenue		
Memberships & Gifts	\$ 311,210	\$ 239,527
Weil Property Income	6,266	
Total Income	\$ 317,476	\$ 239,527
Expenses		
Member Programs and Outreach	19,444	13,877
Weil Headquarters & Preserve	52,298	87,969
Management/Administration	222,806	200,167
Stewardship	130,326	114,755
Land Acquisition Expense	4,581	6,918
Total Expenses	\$ 429,455	\$ 423,686
Net Operating Income/(Loss)	\$ (111,979)	\$ (184,159)
Race for Open Space Event (net)	-	38,543
Interest & Dividend Income (net)	 133,872	 87,003
Available Income/(Loss)	\$ 21,893	\$ (58,613)



BREAKFAST WITH THE BOBOLINKS



WE THANK ALL OF OUR GENEROUS PARTNERS AND VOLUNTEERS!

In 2023, many members, volunteers and guests contributed their time, talent and resources to furthering the cause of land preservation in North Salem.

In particular, the Board of Trustees wishes to extend a

SPECIAL THANKS

to the following:

- Sheila and Charles Perrin for hosting the Donor Appreciation Party at their lovely home.
- Helen Houghton, Ben Allen, Volunteers and Staff **Photographers** for capturing the beauty of our open land in photographs.
- **Our tremendous Volunteers** who helped us on various projects in 2023 that contributed to the continued conservation efforts throughout the Preserves.

Our Volunteer Stewards for their hard work monitoring **NSOLF Preserves:**

John and Kate Arens, Mark and Jenifer Barnett, Brian Barsch, Steven Berzin, Rebecca Bose, Mike Chaves, Kimberly Chaves Abend, Virginia Connolly, Jeannie Crowley, Nina Eisenman, Sally Frank, Andrea Good, Lorraine Karafel, Lewis and Melissa Kohl,

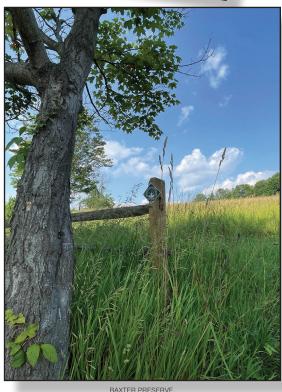
Rob and Maureen Leder, Josh Leicht, Lois and Ken Lippmann, Marc Mayhew, Darren Mazza, Jocko McKean, Keith Reed, Edris Scherer, Angel Sierra, and Paraic and Hilary Sweeney

Our partners and volunteers for their dedication to our mission:

The Garden Conservancy; Golden Bridge Hounds; Hogan, Rossi, and Liquori Attorneys at Law; Jim Nordgren; Land Trust Alliance; North Salem Bridle Trails Association (NSBTA); Lewisboro Land Trust;

New York-New Jersey Trail Conference; Lower Hudson Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (LHPRISM); NYS Department of Environmental Conservation; NYS Watershed Agricultural Council; Roe Intieri; TULA Yoga for Wellness; Waltz Landscaping; Westchester 4H Group







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Ken and Lois Lippmann *

Benefactor: \$20,000 - \$39,999

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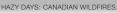
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ACCESS NATURE PROGRAM WITH LEWISBORO LAND TRUST.



P.O.Box 176 North Salem, NY 10560



MISSION STATEMENT

The North Salem Open Land Foundation, Inc. is dedicated to preserving the character and natural beauty of the town of North Salem, New York and the area around it by establishing land areas free from exploitation, development, and deterioration and by maintaining the environmental and ecological integrity of the area.

NORTH SALEM OPEN LAND FOUNDATION

P.O.Box 176 North Salem, NY 10560



