



ViewPoints

Vol. 2, No. 1

April 2005

Growing

Looking West...

Because so many areas of the Mohawk Valley cry out for preservation, the Conservancy has expanded its vision, committing to operate in a broad target area that extends beyond the boundaries of Albany County. ACLC already owns the Schoharie Creek Preserve, and is working on additional projects in Montgomery and Schenectady Counties. To oversee the development and management of current and future ACLC resources in areas of the valley not served by other land trusts, the Board has recently established a Mohawk Valley Committee. Initially it will focus on western Schenectady and eastern Montgomery Counties, where development pressure is strongest. Neighborhood Committees have already begun developing management and work plans for the Schoharie Creek preserve in Burtonsville and a future preserve in Amsterdam.



The Schoharie Creek Preserve

... But Remembering Our Roots

In the Tri-Village area of the Town of Bethlehem, the Conservancy currently owns the Swift, Normanskill, and Phillipinkill Preserves, and is committed to assisting with the conversion of the abandoned former D&H railroad to a trail.

At its December meeting the ACLC Board created a Greenway Committee to manage the three area preserves. A primary responsibility of this committee will be to play a leading role in developing a system of trails linking the Conservancy's preserves with nearby natural and recreation areas including the Five Rivers Environmental Center, the Pine Hollow Arboretum, the Elm Avenue Park and the EMT and Veterans Memorial Parks.



The Phillipinkill Preserve

Be a Part of It

As ACLC takes on more responsibility there are more opportunities for our members to actively help. Planning, management and stewardship of Conservancy properties are the responsibilities of committees established by the Board. "Neighborhood committees" recommend and implement management and work plans for individual preserves. The Mohawk Valley and Greenway committees are "regional committees," "created to develop and manage a group of Conservancy-owned preserves and other resources in a large geographic region. Like a "neighborhood committee," a regional committee works with the Board's Stewardship Committee to create and implement management and work plans for the resources in its region, but the charter for the regional committees also allows them to become involved in other things, such as land acquisition.

If you would like to be involved with this work, leave a message at the Conservancy's answering machine (436-6346) or send an email to aclc@albanylandtrust.org.

Board adopts tougher standards

The Albany County Land Conservancy is a sponsoring member of the Land Trust Alliance, an umbrella organization serving America's more than 1,500 land trusts. The LTA promotes voluntary land conservation and strengthens the land trust movement by providing the leadership, information, skill and resources land trusts need to conserve land for the benefit of communities and natural systems. The Board has adopted the [LTA's Standards and Practices](#) to guide the operations of the Albany County Land Conservancy. The "Standards and Practices" are "guidelines for operating a land trust legally, ethically, and in the public interest, [while] conducting a sound program of land transactions and stewardship." The LTA has recently revised and strengthened the "Standards and Practices" and the ACLC Board has adopted the revisions. They cover such topics as avoiding conflict of interest, adhering to sound financial and asset-management practices, and insisting on Board accountability.

You are invited to

The Annual Meeting

Of the

Albany County Land Conservancy

Saturday, May 21, 2005

The Stockade Inn

Church St and Union Ave in Schenectady

11:30 Press Conference

Noon Lunch

12:45 Short Business Meeting

**1:00 Speaker: Frederick E. Miller,
Executive Director of the Mohawk Valley
Heritage Corridor Commission**

\$25 Choice of chicken marsala or eggplant roulade
Questions and responses to Susan Filipp 439-4187,
40 West Bayberry Road, Glenmont, NY 12077
Please respond by May 15
Your check is your reservation.

A full-color version of this publication is available at
<http://www.albanylandtrust.org/pubs.htm>

History on the move

The Woodside School is an historic one-room schoolhouse located on Route 32 at LaGrange Lane west of Feura Bush. It is in the Onesquethaw Valley Historic District, which includes the Wemp Barn where the Conservancy held its annual Gala last year. The school was built around 1860 and remained open until 1946.

The school stood in the way of a state Department of Transportation project to straighten Route 32, but, fortunately, the DOT obtained a grant to save the school -- it has been moved a few hundred feet closer to LaGrange Lane, out of the way of the proposed highway project, and placed on a new foundation. DOT has drilled a new well to serve the school building, and installed a new septic system.

In August 2002 DOT offered the building to the Conservancy and the Conservancy accepted. Ownership of the schoolhouse should be transferred to the Conservancy this summer. ACLC will be responsible for preserving and protecting the historic building.

Once the Conservancy repairs the inside of the school, it will be open to visitors. In the meantime, if you happen to drive along Route 32, you will see the one-room schoolhouse overlooking the historic Onesquethaw Valley.



Moving up day

Events... Coming Soon

Up n' Down Day: Dynamics of a Waking World

At Thacher Park and Phillipinkill Preserve, April 23, 10 AM

A general rule of thumb is that spring is delayed 4 days for each 400 feet in altitude. The Friends of Thacher Park and the Albany County Land Conservancy will explore this rule with a joint nature walk at two locations. On the 'top' side, hikers will explore early spring flowers on the trail at the Thacher Nature Center. Below the escarpment, the hikers will explore spring at a more advanced stage at the Phillipinkill Preserve in Delmar. By going to an 'up' and a 'down' preserve on the same day people can see the difference made by altitude. Will there be red trillium? Will there be hepaticas? How do the two ecosystems differ? Leaders Sigrin Newell and Carl George will point out special features on the trails.

Hikers will begin at 10AM at the Nature Center. Bring a brown bag lunch for a picnic at the center before driving down to the Phillipinkill Preserve for a walk beginning at 1 PM. Both hikes will be of moderate difficulty. Families are welcome. We'll go 'drizzle or shine' and cancel in case of really bad weather.

The Nature Center is located just beyond Thacher Park on Thompsons Lake. Take Route 157 to Ketcham Road, then take Ketcham to Nature Center Way. After turning on Nature Center Way, look for the building on your left, then turn into the parking area on your right. Call 872-0800 for more information.

To reach the Phillipinkill preserve, from Delaware Ave. (Rte. 443), turn onto Fisher Blvd. (about .6 miles SW of Bethlehem Central High School). Take the second left into the Mansions at Delmar and immediately turn left; the entrance to the Preserve is at the edge of the woods, across the lawn from the parking area.



A trail on an ACLC Preserve

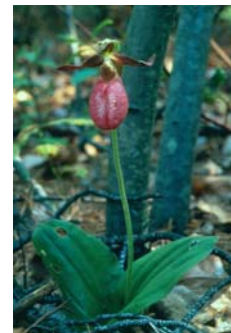
Albany History Fair, Sunday, May 1, noon to 4PM
At the Albany Heritage Area Visitors Center at the corner of Clinton Avenue and Broadway in Albany

The theme of the 6th Annual Albany History Fair is "Places, Spaces and Faces of Albany", and the event will include tours, displays, and a variety of family activities. Several organizations, including the ACLC, New York State Museum, Albany County Historical Association, and others, will have display tables.

Also offered will be tours of the Ten Broeck Triangle and St. Joseph's Church, "splashdowns" by the Albany Aqua Ducks, a children's activity focusing on the natural environment of the Hudson River, music and more.

The History Fair is presented by the Albany Heritage Area Visitors Center, Historic Albany Foundation, and Historic Cherry Hill. Some fair activities will have modest fees. All proceeds from the fair will support Historic Cherry Hill's educational mission.

For more information, contact the Visitors Center 434-0405 or Historic Cherry Hill at 434-4791.



Mother's Day Birds & Bagels, May 8, 8 AM

At the Lower Farm, Berne, NY

Join expert birder Frank Murphy and members of the Albany County Land Conservancy on a morning spring bird walk. On this yearly outing we usually see many old bird friends as well as some new ones like last year's cuckoo!

Please RSVP to Helene at 797-3532 or hggpjb@msn.com no later than May 1, 2005 if you wish to join us. The Lower Farm is located at 483 Gifford Hollow Road in Berne.

And Later...

A Bryophyte Walk

At the Winn Preserve, July 23,



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Name: _____
 Address: _____
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- Please send me more information about land conservation options available.
- I would like to host a Friend-raiser Gathering.
- I would like to be a Conservancy volunteer.
- The above membership is a gift from _____

All contributions to the ACLC, Inc. are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.