

## Living Landscapes



Dear Supporters:

The Mohonk Preserve is a place where conservation happens because of committed individuals. In the pages that follow are some of the exciting highlights of our work in 2014 made possible by your support.

Careful planning has always been the foundation of the Preserve's success. In 2014, the hard work of our **Conservation for the Next Century** capital campaign came to fruition when we reached our \$5.5 million goal on December 31.

What did the campaign achieve?

- **Acquisition of the 857-acre Mohonk Preserve Foothills:** After raising \$2.2 million, the Preserve stepped up, through creative conservation loan financing with the help of Open Space Institute, to purchase for \$4 million this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to protect farms, marshes, forests, and historic resources. (See stories on pages 3 and 4.)
- **Restoration of eight miles of historic recreational carriage roads:** The Spring Farm, Bonticou and Cedar Drive carriage roads were most urgently in need of rebuilding, and these key sections of our 30+ mile historic carriage road network now provide more enjoyable travel for hikers, cyclists, runners, equestrians, skiers, and snowshoers.
- **Enriching the experience at the Visitor Center:** The new orientation theater experience, multi-media interactive exhibits, expanded J & S Grafton Sensory Trail, outdoor Children's Forest, and hands-on indoor Kid's Corner discovery areas are helping people of all ages and abilities connect with nature in a more intimate way.
- **Building the endowment:** It's important for the future that our modest invested working funds can sustainably support more of the annual operating budget needs, lessening reliance on annual fees and other more fluctuating income sources to deliver high quality land and educational experiences.

Also in 2014, we launched our next **Strategic Plan** and began to implement its vision, derived through a participatory, stakeholder-centric process. While ever-mindful of the Preserve's legacy, mission, core values, and conservation ethic, the plan addresses how we can be responsive to our rapid evolution in recent years. We strive to manage growing expectations as a leading quality-of-life organization. Our model of integrated natural area management and community-oriented conservation is increasingly being recognized at regional, statewide, and national levels.

The three themes of the new Strategic Plan are:

**Visit...Mindfully** – providing people with an immersive visitor experience to ensure they feel a deep personal connection to their time on the Preserve, as exemplified by the following stories on our new Lime Kiln Loop Trail and Citizen Science programs.

**A Mountain of Choices** – engaging a broader population to serve different constituencies more inclusively through communication, outreach, and removing barriers to access, as illustrated by stories on our new summer camp, teen, and outdoor education programs.

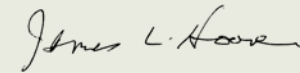

**Share Our Vision** – asserting that land conservation is an important thread in the fabric of our regional quality of life. As shown by our efforts to forge a stewardship network with other land trusts and to train outdoor leaders in search and rescue.

Although a time-tested model of how a privately funded organization can both protect and inspire people to experience the environment, it is ever more complex and financially challenging to protect and safely manage 8,000 acres, balancing natural areas with diverse human uses. With your help, the Preserve remains a place where people and nature come together. Respect for the natural world is cultivated through inspirational environmental education, world-class conservation research, and the protection and stewardship of a magnificent whole landscape.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Glenn D. Hoagland (L)  
Executive Director

James L. Hoover (R)  
Board President



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Photo Credits

Front Cover: Bonticou Crag by Gerald Berliner

Left: Glenn Hoagland and Jim Hoover by John Mizel





## Connecting Living Landscapes

Centuries ago, Aristotle noted that “the whole is more than the sum of its parts.” Never has this been more accurate than in the case of whole-landscape conservation, which involves creating a connected ecological network for the benefit of nature, wildlife and people.

Mohonk Preserve’s early conservation efforts were launched at a time when today’s environmental problems, like climate change, were not yet understood. The days of designating isolated parcels for preservation have given way to a new vision of connected conservation. Going forward, the Preserve is embarking on a more integrated approach to protecting resources – one that realizes the ecological, social and economic roles conserved lands play in our communities.

By addressing conservation challenges at a landscape level, Mohonk Preserve is able to identify connections between recreation, agriculture and the environment. The Preserve harnesses cooperative efforts in a more powerful way through conservation research, land protection and stewardship, environmental education, and partnerships with neighbors and other preservation organizations.

The natural areas we manage are unique and exceptional places, alive with plants, birds, mammals, and insects, and we will continue to protect these valued wildlife habitats. But insular areas alone are not enough—nature cannot flourish in isolation. Wildlife and even plants need room to move, especially in the face of climate change.

Taking a whole-landscape conservation approach is particularly important in complex geographies on the urban fringe, such as those protected by Mohonk Preserve. The landscapes in the Preserve’s care are combinations of the natural and human-made, and of interaction, evolution and change that challenge the artificial boundaries between nature and culture. Even our “wildest” places were and still are sites shaped by people on an ongoing basis.

As the Preserve works to protect community-designated, high-priority cliffs and forests, foothills and farmlands, and streams and wetlands in the Rondout and Wallkill Valleys, we are creating a connected, river-to-ridge conservation landscape. Working with our communities and partners, we are committed to balancing the protection of critical natural resources, such as watersheds, important wildlife habitats, working farms, and forests, while helping to reconnect people with the natural world, providing accessible open space and ensuring that nature is a part of everyone’s everyday life.



## Protecting With Purpose

Mohonk Preserve's Land Protection program is rooted in conservation science, cultural history and community access. The lands in our care are carefully chosen for their value as diverse habitats, scenic viewsheds and healthy outdoor activity potential.

In 2014, the Preserve welcomed **Peter Karis, RLA**, as the new Director of Land Protection and Stewardship. Peter was already a familiar face having worked with the Preserve on the design of the West Trapps Trailhead improvements, our community conservation planning in the Northern Preserve, and the Foothills Trails Master Plan. As a New York State Registered Landscape Architect, Peter brings almost 20 years of open space and recreation planning and design experience to the Preserve.

Last year, to ensure accuracy and to facilitate quicker access, Land Protection staff embarked on a project to update and digitize our property records and, with the help of **2014 Thom Scheuer Land Management Intern Bret Coffey**, developed GIS-based location and property-use maps for each of the five municipalities in which the Preserve is located.

In July 2014 Mohonk Preserve prevailed in litigation to protect Bonticou Crag lands

from an attempt by private landholders to claim ownership of 45 acres when the State of New York Supreme Court Appellate Division unanimously upheld a decision affirming the Preserve's ownership.

The primary focus of Land Protection staff this year culminated in December with the purchase of the Mohonk Preserve Foothills, the organization's largest land acquisition in 25 years. The Preserve also accepted a small but strategic conservation easement donation in the Town of Rochester. In addition to our owned properties which are purchased or donated outright, conservation easements are an important way landowners can help protect open space through development and use restrictions, while retaining ownership rights to their property.

Together with our partners and community members, the Preserve's Land Protection program is building a whole-landscape conservation legacy that will safeguard special places forever.



Top: Peter Karis, RLA by Gerald Berliner  
Left: Mohonk Preserve Foothills by Gerald Berliner  
Right: Rochester Easement by Peter Karis





## Securing a Landmark Landscape

Entering into the largest land purchase in a quarter century is no small undertaking, but with our committed Board of Directors and support from land conservation partners and generous donors, that's just what Mohonk Preserve was able to do in 2014.

Favorable purchase terms from the [Open Space Institute Land Trust](#) (the land acquisition affiliate of the [Open Space Institute of New York](#)), plus donations to the Preserve's "Conservation for the Next Century" capital campaign, a grant from the [New York State Environmental Protection Fund](#), and private conservation financing enabled the Preserve to buy the entire Mohonk Preserve Foothills tract, an 857-acre property strategically located between the Village of New Paltz and the protected areas of the Shawangunk Mountains. The Preserve will continue fundraising initiatives to cover the remaining purchase and stewardship costs of the Foothills.

The Foothills landscape was identified by the community as the "number one cherished landscape" according to the Town of New Paltz Open Space Plan and includes the local historic landmark Testimonial Gateway gatehouse structure (c.1908); the Humpo Marsh, a critical wildlife and migratory bird area; and the historic Brook, Pine and Kleinekills Farms, which continue the property's heritage agricultural operations. This acquisition

will permanently protect the iconic National Historic Landmark Landscape and Shawangunk Mountains Scenic Byway views of Sky Top and Bonticou Crag from New Paltz and the Wallkill Valley below.

"The purchase of the entire Mohonk Preserve Foothills represents the fulfillment of the conservation legacy originally envisioned by the Preserve's founders. It creates a community resource that integrates open-space stewardship, world-class recreation, participatory environmental education and conservation science, along with sustainable agriculture and a remarkable viewshed. Protection of all of these resources provides a unique and inspiring experience on the land," said [Mohonk Preserve Executive Director Glenn Hoagland](#).

The Mohonk Preserve Foothills project is a great example of how public and private nonprofit organizations can team with dedicated individuals in the community to support whole-landscape conservation that benefits not only local residents, but the entire Hudson Valley region.



Top: The Pin Oak Allée by Michael Neil O'Donnell  
Left: Testimonial Gateway by Kate Schoonmaker  
Right: Marking the Foothill Boundaries by Gerald Berliner





## Model Stewardship

As a longtime leader in land stewardship, Mohonk Preserve is now at the center of creating a regional land stewardship network. With support from the Peter and Carmen Lucia Buck Foundation, we are working with other land trusts to share land stewardship information and expertise in an effort to increase our collective capacity and become better stewards of the open spaces we protect.

In 2014, the Preserve moved further toward establishing a mountain search and rescue (S.A.R.) center of excellence by partnering with leading national organizations to host advanced S.A.R. training sessions.

The Stewardship team made progress on the Preserve's carriage road restoration plan, completing the Overcliff Road restoration, restoring of a portion of Old Minnewaska Road, and beginning restoration work on Trapps Road. Staff also participated in carriage road construction and maintenance training at Acadia National Park in Maine.

At the Visitor Center, Stewardship staff oversaw construction of a new salt and storage shed, major emergency repairs to the geothermal heating and cooling system, and installation of a higher capacity water storage tank.

The aging roof was replaced on Spring Farm's Slingerland Pavilion, the condition of the fields was improved with our new finishing mower, and historic stone walls

north of Spring Farm were cleared of vegetation and debris.

In the Trapps, historic vistas were opened on Overcliff and Old Minnewaska Roads, and work continued at the Coxing Trailhead area to ensure a safe environment for visitors.

Volunteers played a huge role in trail improvements including projects such as walkway and stair construction on the Shongum Path, planting 500 Cedar trees at Spring Farm, creation of a Pin Oak nursery in the Mohonk Preserve Foothills, and replacement of a bog bridge on the Cedar Trail.

At Mohonk Preserve, whole-landscape conservation extends from acquisition through perpetual stewardship and management of the natural lands, while providing a safe, participatory experience in nature for 165,000 annual visitors.



Top: Overcliff Carriage Road by Jane Vacchione

Left: Search and Rescue Training by Frank Tkac

Right: Ranger Andrew Bajardi Directing Visitors by Janet Bachant





## Linking The Lime Kiln Loop

In 2014, Mohonk Preserve completed significant trail work on the Lime Kiln Loop Trail, extending into the Town of Rosendale in the Rondout Valley and linking to the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail.

The **Lime Kiln Loop Trail** is named for the area's historic lime kilns, which played an essential role in Rosendale's celebrated cement industry. The trail, with its deep forest and dramatic views, also includes the northernmost reach of significant conglomerate cliffs, outcrops and talus fields.

As part of our land management planning for this area in 2012, the Preserve, **Open Space Institute**, and **Wallkill Valley Land Trust** collaborated on an open public planning process to establish a plan for access to Preserve and WVLT recreation and preservation areas in and around Rosendale.

Another group that has worked closely with the Preserve on this area is the **Gunks Climbers' Coalition**. The GCC has pledged a total of \$50,000 to the Preserve in support of planning and stewardship in the Northern Shawangunks.

In addition to providing financial support, GCC members have also collaborated with the Preserve in managing controlled public

access and promoting proper use of the bouldering areas. In 2014, along with the Preserve's Conservation Science and Ranger teams, GCC members co-led several introductory public programs on the Lime Kiln Loop Trail.

In late autumn, a group of scouts led by Eagle Scout candidate Abe Longbotham, joined with Preserve Rangers to complete trail work and install signs. The signage and public programs were supported by a grant from **Patagonia**.

Participants in the **Preserver Membership Program** also helped blaze (mark) the trail during a special hike in September as part of a series of "Hikes and Happenings" conservation activities for this dedicated group of annual giving leaders.

The **Lime Kiln Loop Trail** is a great example of how Stewardship staff is teaming with Preserve members, volunteers and supporters to help make connections to and extend permanent protection of this special section of the Shawangunks.



Top: View from the Lime Kiln Loop Trail by John North  
Left: Preservers Blazing the Trail by John North  
Right: Preservers Blazing the Trail by John North



## Extending The Reach of Environmental Education

For nearly 30 years, Mohonk Preserve's education programs have responded to the need for expanded and inclusive outdoor education. In 2014, the Preserve's programs helped over 13,100 children and adults get into nature.

Last year, the Preserve's Education team expanded our popular summer camps, welcoming the new Young Explorers camp for 4-6 year-olds and offering additional spots in Camp Peregrine and Mountainside Adventures.

Through funding from [The North Face Explore Fund](#), and the [Bourne and Norcross Wildlife Foundations](#), and with the generous support of Preserve donors, we launched a year-long program of outdoor field studies with urban students from the [San Miguel Academy of Newburgh](#). They learned critical STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) skills through orienteering and map reading, fire ecology, winter survival and more.

With funding from the [Dorr Foundation](#), we developed a two-week, school-based outreach Climate and Species Change program, using a century of weather and

species data from the Preserve's [Daniel Smiley Research Center](#) to chart and analyze trends in local climate change.

We continued to build on our [NatureAccess®](#) program, acquiring our first all-terrain wheelchair with grant funding from [The North Face Explore Fund](#) and [Norcross Wildlife Foundation](#), and holding our first fully accessible public program featuring the assistance of American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters.

Also, as highlighted on the facing page, we launched the new [Junior Ranger Program](#) for teens, helping to nurture the next generation of conservationists.

Whether in the classroom or on the land, Preserve educators continue to create and deliver programs that inspire people of all ages and abilities.



Top: Pond Study at Duck Pond by Kate Johnson  
 Left: San Miguel Students at Bonticou Crag by Gerald Berliner  
 Right: Bow Drills at Spring Farm by Kate Johnson





## Teens In The Wild

In June 2014, Mohonk Preserve launched our new Junior Ranger Program, providing an opportunity for teens ages 13-16 to learn the skills and gain the knowledge needed to pursue a career as a ranger or naturalist.

The goals of this ambitious program are to provide instruction and preparedness in areas such as **Wilderness First Aid**, **Hunter Education**, **CPR**, and **Leave No Trace** practices.

Participants develop skills in rock climbing and backcountry navigation, as well as in team building and leadership. The program culminates in a weeklong backpacking expedition in the Adirondacks, where the rangers-to-be apply their newly acquired skills.

The **Junior Rangers** develop confidence through activities including successfully navigating an orienteering course and scaling cliffs in the Trapps, and constructing quinzhees (snow shelters) outside the Preserve's **Daniel Smiley Research Center**.

"I used to be afraid of heights, but I was able to put aside my fears and make it to the summit," one Junior Ranger noted. "And I was really impressed when my group was able to build our quinzhee in spite of difficult snow conditions."

Taught by staff from the Preserve's Education and Land Stewardship

departments, this program meets monthly on Saturdays from September through May.

"This is an exciting program because it goes beyond simply reading about the outdoors or even going on a hike," said **Preserve Education Coordinator for Public & Youth Programs Anna Harrod**. "Our goal is to give the participants the skills and confidence they need to be a leader in the wilderness, and to pursue an outdoor career later in life."

The **Junior Ranger Program** extends the Preserve's educational programming to reach a larger teen audience.

"We have longstanding education and camp programs for younger kids, but this new program gives us the opportunity to reach out to teens with a meaningful way to connect with nature and each other," Anna added.

The **Junior Ranger Program** received strong support from charitable bidders at the Preserve's Annual Benefit Auction in June 2014, and the spaces in the inaugural group were filled within a few weeks of the program's launch.



Top: Wayfinding Skills by Gerald Liddelow

Left: Visiting the Daniel Smiley Research Center Archives by Gerald Liddelow

Right: Snowshoeing by Gerald Liddelow





## The Science Of Conservation

At Mohonk Preserve, conservation science is central to everything we do, from land protection and management to environmental education and citizen science.

In 2014, the Preserve launched its **Citizen Naturalist Program**, led by former intern and new Preserve **Citizen Science Coordinator Hallie Schwab**. The Mohonk Preserve Foothills Phenology Project and Climate Trackers Program were both new Citizen Naturalist initiatives.

Despite the Shawangunks being well-studied over the past century, there are still exciting new discoveries being made by Preserve Research Associates. In 2014, 68 new bryophyte species were found by **Loewy Fellow Michael Tessler** (American Museum of Natural History) studying the mosses and liverworts of the Preserve. While exploring one of the most extensive cave networks in the Shawangunks, **Research Associate Luis Espinasa** (Marist College) discovered another new species on Mohonk Preserve, a cave amphipod (*Stygobromus allegheniensis*).

with data posted to [www.skylakesnewpaltz.edu](http://www.skylakesnewpaltz.edu).

Preserve **Board Member Ron Knapp** and **John Thompson** worked with SUNY New Paltz **Professor Giancarlo Traverso** to establish the **Giuseppe Traverso Citizen Naturalist Internship**, which was awarded to SUNY student **James Byam**. James also joined fellow **Schaefer Intern Clara Wilkinson** and **Mount St. Mary College-Sarro Intern Amanda Green** to develop a forest understory assessment and map, which was presented at the first annual Research Symposium at the Mohonk Preserve Visitor Center in July.

Recognizing a career of dedication to nature study, Preserve **Research Director Emeritus Paul Huth** was awarded an honorary doctorate of science degree from SUNY New Paltz and gave the 2014 Commencement Address focusing on "respect and responsibility."

Through our research, monitoring, management and outreach efforts, we are advancing conservation science on the Preserve and expanding opportunities for community participation region-wide.



Monitoring was expanded at one of the most-studied lakes in North America by **Loewy Fellow Dave Richardson** (SUNY New Paltz) working with **Preserve Director of Conservation Science John Thompson** to install sensors recording changes in Mohonk Lake as part of a Sky Lakes study

Top: Paul Huth by Jay Diggs

Left: 2014 Interns by Hallie Schwab

Right: Loewy Fellow Michael Tessler by Michael Tessler





## Inspiring Citizen Naturalists

Mohonk Preserve's Citizen Naturalist Program, launched in 2014, invites members of the community to engage in scientific research and long-term ecological monitoring through direct participation in natural history observation, data collection and analysis.

Citizen Naturalists receive training and support from Preserve staff and experienced volunteer leaders, becoming a critical part of the Conservation Science team's efforts to study the Shawangunk Ridge.

Citizen Naturalists take part in a wide range of ongoing studies by assisting with daily weather monitoring; sampling ridge springs, lakes and streams; mapping bird territories; recording the timing of seasonal events through the Foothills Phenology Project; documenting the fall hawk migration; or monitoring nesting peregrines through the Falcon Watch program.

Through the Mohonk Preserve Foothills Phenology Project, volunteer observers document the appearance and duration of key stages in the life cycles of select plants, including the first ripe blueberry, pollen release in red cedar, and fall color in sugar maples.

Participants gain a keen appreciation for the subtle changes of the seasons and hone their observation skills while contributing

valuable data to the growing field of climate research based on biological indicators. In 2014, Preserve volunteers entered over 17,000 observations to the National Phenology Network Database, which is used by professional scientists to answer landscape-level questions.

The Citizen Naturalist Program is part of Mohonk Preserve's commitment to providing opportunities for people of all ages and experience levels to participate in conservation on the ridge. The Preserve is proud to partner with Ulster-Greene ARC, a regional organization that offers people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities opportunities to live and experience full lives. In 2014, the group from ARC volunteered nearly 400 hours over the course of weekly visits to the Phenology Trail, and one volunteer was inspired to pursue a career in entomology.

Through hands-on experience in the "natural laboratory" of the Shawangunk Ridge, we're breaking down barriers and mentoring a new community of naturalists.



Top: Phenology Volunteers by Jacob B. Reibel  
Left: Phenology Volunteers by Jacob B. Reibel  
Right: Phenology Volunteers by Hallie Schwab

## A Tradition of Giving

### Bequests

Planned testamentary gifts to the Preserve honor an individual's vision to protect the place they care for most. We are deeply grateful for the generosity of those people who include the Preserve in their estate plans. In 2014 the Preserve received bequests from the following:

John L. Brooks  
 Marion L. Cubberley\*  
 Jean E. Groff  
 Marian Harris  
 Marcella S. Nelson\*  
 Jeanne Rabbitt  
 Ruth B. M. Robinson  
 The Estate of Lyman Spitzer, Jr.  
 Jill E. Wilson  
 John Winkler

\*Legacy Society Member

### Endowment

Protecting the Shawangunk Ridge for future generations requires robust funding that will endure as long as the land itself. A perpetual investment in the Preserve, endowment gifts are invested into our permanent capital base, creating an annual source of income to fund critical operations.

Named endowments permanently recognize an individual's or family's deep commitment to the Preserve. The following funds have been established with a gift or pledge of \$50,000 or more:

Anonymous  
 Matthew Bender IV Endowment  
 The Sean E. Davis Endowment Fund  
 Philip Allan Carlson Education Endowment  
 Vincent R. Clephas Endowment  
 Jim and Mary Ottaway Endowment  
 Salt Family Endowment  
 Lisa and David Endowment

### Legacy Society

We are honored to acknowledge the following group of extraordinary donors and their families who have connected their legacy with the Preserve's future either through their will, a gift annuity, charitable trust, insurance policy, or other estate planning instrument.

Anonymous (5)  
 Jim and Lee Amigh  
 Robert Anderberg and Elaine LaFlamme  
 Burton and Anka Angrist  
 Muriel Ayres  
 Michael Batchter and Shelly Stiles  
 Valclav E. Benes  
 John B. Blenninger  
 Robert J. Bole and Mary B. Vasse  
 Peter Bort  
 Joseph Bridges  
 John Careccia  
 June Carlson  
 Andrew Clegg  
 Eileen Clegg  
 Vincent Clephas and Mary Burns  
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 Howard and Shayna Sebold  
 John and Sara Senior  
 Albert and Nina Smiley  
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 Susan F. Sosin  
 Tom Spence  
 Michael and Mary Tannen  
 Jane K. Taylor  
 Mary Vasse and Robert Bole  
 Dorothy Weinberger  
 Daniel and Marianne Winfield  
 Eric and Allison Zencenko





Chipmunks by Jay Diggs

## Preserver Membership Program

Leading the way in annual giving are the dedicated members of the Preserver Membership Program who infuse the Preserve with vital operating funds. Pledging to donate \$1,000 or more annually for multiple years, they ensure the future of this magnificent place with their consistent support. In return for their generosity, they enjoy special programs and events that deepen their relationship to the ridge.

### Millbrook Circle (\$10,000-\$24,999)

Galia Meiri and Troy Mack

### Trapps Circle (\$5,000-\$9,999)

Anonymous (3)  
James Clark and Sandra Guenther  
Kristen Copham  
Jennifer Cunningham  
Gary Finger and Liz Hoskinson  
James Hoover and John Aubry  
Ronald and May Knapp  
Kirk Lawson and Dr. James Braun  
Peter and Christine Naktenis  
Glenn Sutherland and Cynthia Lowe  
Michael and Mary Tannen

### Bonticou Circle (\$2,500-\$4,999)

Anonymous (4)  
Jonathan Allen and Shelley Farmer  
Vaclav Benes and Inge Reuter Benes  
Gerd Grieningner and Mary Ann Chiasson  
Glenn Hoagland  
Brian and Sistine Jarvis  
Richard and Barbara Marsh  
Tom McCarthy and Violaine Huisman  
Richard and Tracy McNally  
Elisabeth and John Todd Miranowski  
Leslie and Brad Quick  
Sue Schemel  
Michael and Jamee Schleifer  
John and Sara Senior  
Peter F. Smith  
Susan F. Sosin  
G. William and Sandra Strein

John and Regina Tegeler  
Shelley and Anthony Ullman  
Anthony Wright

### Sentinel Circle (\$1,000-\$2,499)

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Howie and Chrissy Burke  
Herbert and Beverly Chase  
Donald and Sandra Christian  
Robert Cook and Kealy Salomon  
Timothy and Deborah Copeland  
Alvin DeMaria  
Gail S. Ganter-Toback  
Liz and Angus Glover Wilson  
Richard Gottlieb and Teri Condon  
Maureen and Peter Hales  
Dawn and Michael Hein  
Jenny and Gary Kennedy  
James Kenny and Viola Ortiz  
Steven Miller and Elisa Gonzalez  
John and Marianne Mizel  
Meghan Newcomer  
James and Mary Ottaway  
Robert and Rachele Ottens  
Thomas and Carol Phelan  
Neil Platt and Yolanda Wu  
Colin and Ellin Purcell  
Susan Fox Rogers  
Raymond and Jean Schrag  
Anthony Scordino  
Ron and Linda Sussman  
Saul Zuchman and Holly Fisher

## Annual Contributors

Annual gifts from members, friends, foundations, and businesses are critical to supporting every facet of the work that we do at the Preserve. We continue to count on you, our most loyal supporters, but never take your commitment for granted. Your vision and generosity are as awe-inspiring as the land itself.

The following people made contributions to the annual fund, land protection and stewardship, education programs, the Daniel Smiley Research Center, endowments funds, and the portion of special events where no goods or services were received. While this list includes donors with cumulative contributions received of \$100 or more who received no goods or services in return, we dedicate this annual publication to each and every one of our supporters.

### Summit Circle (\$25,000 and up)

Anonymous (1)  
Sam and Joy Grafton  
John and Barbara Kavanagh  
Lydia Newcombe  
James and Mary Ottaway  
Albert and Nina Smiley  
Gerow Smiley  
Alfred and Ann Smiley  
Arthur O. Sulzberger, Jr.

### Millbrook Circle (\$10,000-\$24,999)

Anonymous (3)  
Adam and Sabina Deaton  
Penny Switlik  
Glenn Sutherland and Cynthia Lowe  
Fredericka V. Slingerland Family  
Foundation  
Galia Meiri and Troy Mack  
Richard and Barbara Marsh  
James Hoover and John Aubry  
Noah and Maria Gottdiener  
Norman Goluskin and Susan Scher  
Michael Emblar and Maria Cilenti  
Linda B. Donovan

### Trapps Circle (\$5,000-\$9,999)

Anonymous (4)  
George Ahl III  
June Carlson  
Jennifer Cunningham  
Malcolm and Virginia Dorris  
Carole Ferrara  
Gary Finger and Liz Hoskinson  
Paul and Diane Guenther  
John Heppollette and Rebecca Wassner  
Ronald and May Knapp  
Floyd Lattin  
Kirk Lawson and Dr. James Braun  
Joslyn Levy and David Spector  
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Penelope Scott and Franco Mueller  
James Silbert and Elizabeth Horton  
Pril Smiley and Keith LaBudde



Grasshopper by Renee Zernitsky

Deborah Sumner and Eileen Feeney  
Michael and Mary Tannen  
Lucy R. Waletzky, M.D.  
Mary Waterman and Bill Lunt  
Steve Wood and Carol Meyer  
Lisa Woods  
Eric and Allison Zinczenko

#### Bonticou Circle (\$2,500-\$4,999)

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Barbara Appel  
Muriel Ayres  
Barbara F. Babb  
Vaclav Benes and Inge Reuter Benes  
Michael Berkovich and Catherine Chen  
Randy Bitonte  
Rose Burke  
Agnes Campanile and Jeanne Bauer  
Jerry and Donna Cerchia  
Donald and Sandra Christian  
William and Elizabeth Dearstyne  
Kim Elliman  
Ann Falutico  
Gena Feist and David Griffiths  
Frank J. Gould II  
Gerd Grieninger and Mary Ann Chiasson  
John and Loretta Hayes  
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Jules Kaufman and Ann MacDougall  
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"Mohonk [Preserve] has meant so much to both of us. We have been so fortunate. Thank you for your many years of management and work that you contributed to make Mohonk Preserve what it is." Nancy Pfirman

Giant Swallowtail by John Mizel



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Ox-eye daisy with Goldenrod Crab Spider by Renee Zernitsky

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**Millbrook Circle (\$10,000-\$24,999)**  
 Eastern Mountain Sports

**Trapps Circle (\$5,000-\$9,999)**  
 Gunks Climbing Coalition  
 Mountain Skills Climbing Guides, Inc.  
 New York Road Runners  
 Rock and Snow, Inc.

**Bonticou Circle (\$2,500-\$4,999)**  
 Alpine Endeavors  
 Frost Valley YMCA

**Pitch Pine Circle (\$1,000-\$2,499)**  
 America's Best Value Inn of New Paltz  
 Central Hudson Gas & Electric  
 Colucci Shand Realty, Inc.  
 Gardens at Rhinebeck  
 Glynwood Center  
 Gunks Trail Challenge  
 High Xposure Adventures  
 Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union  
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 M & T Bank  
 New Paltz Health & Nutrition  
 On Sight Climbing Guides LLC  
 Stop & Shop  
 Tuthilltown Spirits Distillers  
 Ulster Savings Bank

Green Frog by Linda Moriarty



#### Ridge Keeper (\$500-\$999)

Alpine Logic  
Barra & Trumbore Stone Fabricators  
Barton & Loguidice  
Bicycle Depot  
Coppersea Distilling  
Denny Pratt Realty  
Four Seasons Realty  
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Main Street Bistro  
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New Paltz Farmer's Market  
Stewart's Foundation  
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The Durst Organization  
The Sheeley House Bed & Breakfast  
Thruway Sporting Goods  
Verizon Foundation

#### Crag Circle (\$250-\$499)

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Alpine Outdoor Adventures  
Beek's Auto  
Blue Stone Cottage Bed and Breakfast  
Blue Willow Guest House B & B  
Brodhead House  
Clarksons Appliance  
Clove Cottages  
Coombe, Bender & Company  
Creek Locks Bed & Breakfast  
Dedrick's Pharmacy  
DM Weil Gallery  
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Emerald Forest Bungalows  
FirstCare Walk-In Medical Center

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gtluke LLC  
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Hike New York  
Honor's Haven Resort & Spa  
Hudson Valley Dogwatch  
Hudson Valley eTutor, Inc.  
Hurds Family Farm  
Ignite Fitness, Inc.  
Inn at Stone Ridge  
Inn at the Ridge  
Integral Building & Design, Inc.  
Jar'd Wine Pub  
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Mountain Brauhaus Inc.  
Mountain Meadows Bed and Breakfast  
My Market  
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P & G's Restaurant  
Pages Printing & Graphics  
Patagonia Meatpacking District Store  
Plaza Diner  
REI  
Robert Rodriguez Jr. Photography  
Rock and Rye Tavern





Mom and Young Mallard by Carl Mueller

Shapers of New Paltz  
Stericycle  
Stone Ridge Wine and Spirits  
Table Rock Tours & Bicycles  
The 1850 House Inn & Tavern  
The Arbor Bed & Breakfast  
The Bakery  
The Inn at Kettleboro  
The Inner Wall  
The Rock Club LLC  
The Title Service Company  
The Undercliff  
Underhill Solutions, LLC  
Victoria Gardens  
Whispering Pines Bed & Breakfast  
White Barn Farm  
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Fort Orange Press  
Hudson Valley Tracking Club  
Modern Farmer Magazine  
Mohonk Mountain House  
Nutshell Realty  
Rocking Horse Ranch  
State Employees Federated Appeal (SEFA)

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Walter C. Klein Foundation  
Zürs Foundation

#### Ridge Keeper (\$500-\$999)

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New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation  
New York State Department of Transportation  
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The North Face

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The Peter and Carmen Lucia Buck Foundation  
The M & T Charitable Foundation

##### Trapps Circle (\$5,000-\$9,999)

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##### Pitch Pine Circle (\$1,000-\$2,499)

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##### Ridge Keeper (\$500-\$999)

Stewart's Foundation

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Hewlett Packard  
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Mohonk Preserve is grateful to all those who contribute in-kind gifts and services, and those who support our Auction. This generosity enables us to carry out our mission. We have made every attempt to ensure that these listings are accurate. Please let us know if you feel there have been omissions or errors. These lists represent gifts received between January 1, 2014 and December 31, 2014.

Eastern Bluebird by Carl Mueller



## Financial Highlights

Mohonk Preserve embarked on two critical mission-driven initiatives that came to fruition in 2014. One of the largest land acquisitions in the Preserve's history was completed and our stakeholder-driven strategic plan was finalized. In December the Preserve took ownership of the Mohonk Preserve Foothills property on the east side of the ridge, expanding our conservation commitments to agriculture, marshland, and historic structures like the Testimonial Gatehouse. In the summer, our vision for the next three years was set by adopting three strategic plan themes: "Visit...Mindfully," "A Mountain

of Choices," and "Share Our Vision." Both of these initiatives significantly influenced the financial position and expectations of the Preserve, in 2014 as well as into the near future.

As a growing organization, Mohonk Preserve needs to be fiscally tenacious to manage that growth, while maintaining our conservation, education, and stewardship expectations and pursuing the new opportunities outlined in our strategic plan. The 2014 Statement of Financial Position illustrates a growth in total assets of over \$3 million from the prior

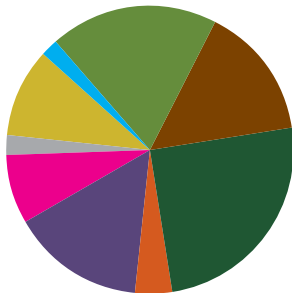
year, primarily due to land acquisition. This was accomplished in part, however, through leveraging conservation financing of \$1.8 million that will need to be raised in the near future. Other near-term capital requirements include providing access through a new trailhead at the Foothills, stabilizing the historic Gatehouse, and replacing the Trapps Bridge.

Net assets increased in 2014 by \$1.4 million, primarily due to capital and bequest donations as well as investment gains. Operating dollars were strained, resulting in a deficit as

the Preserve expanded its stewardship obligations and moved forward with growing conservation and educational programs to meet community demands outlined in the strategic plan.

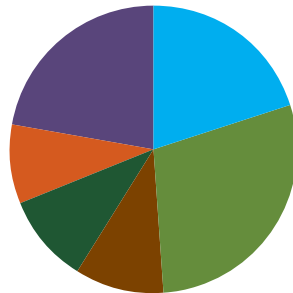
The great community commitment to the Preserve and its mission illustrated by the generous level of giving in 2014 confirms our confidence that the Preserve's near-term fiscal challenges, both capital and programmatic, will be met through continued strong support.

### 2014 Public Support & Revenue \$5,336,187



- Membership: 15%
- Contributions: 25%
- Grants: 4%
- Restricted Gifts: 15%
- Day Use Fees: 8%
- Other Program Fees: 2%
- Special Events: 10%
- Other Income: 2%
- Investment Income: 18%

### 2014 Expenses \$3,969,931



- Environmental Education: 20%
- Land Stewardship: 29%
- Land Protection: 10%
- Conservation Science: 10%
- Management & General: 9%
- Development: 22%



Baltimore Oriole by Janet Lee Bachant

### 2014 Statement of Financial Position

	12/31/2014	12/31/2013
<b>Assets</b>		
Current Assets	\$2,487,010	\$3,534,963
Investments	\$4,423,482	\$4,698,540
Endowments	\$5,495,848	\$5,130,397
Land	\$6,154,755	\$2,521,491
Fixed Assets	\$6,666,298	\$6,176,121
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$25,227,393</b>	<b>\$22,061,512</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		
	<b>\$25,227,393</b>	<b>\$22,061,512</b>
<b>Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>		
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Payables	\$418,651	\$414,226
Deferred Revenue	\$5,250	\$7,550
Note Payable	\$3,424,835	\$1,627,335
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$3,848,736</b>	<b>\$2,049,111</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
	<b>\$21,378,657</b>	<b>\$20,012,401</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$25,227,393</b>	<b>\$22,061,512</b>



## WHO WE ARE

With over 8,000 acres of cliffs, forests, fields, ponds, and streams, Mohonk Preserve is the largest member- and visitor-supported nature preserve in New York State.

Our mission is to protect the Shawangunk Mountains region and inspire people to care for, enjoy, and explore their natural world.

## WHAT WE DO

**Education** – We serve over 13,000 children and adults each year through our award-winning, innovative outdoor education programs.

**Land Protection** – We protect key recreational areas, fragile habitats, and scenic viewsheds.

**Land Stewardship** – We manage over 8,000 acres and provide a safe, participatory experience in nature for over 165,000 visitors each year.

**Conservation Science** – We use the latest scientific techniques and a century of natural history data to monitor and manage the diverse ecosystems on the ridge.

## 2014 STAFF

### Executive/Administration

Glenn D. Hoagland, Executive Director  
Ellen M. Sticker, Executive Projects Manager

David H. Toman, Deputy Executive Director,  
Programs and Operations/CFO

Bill Sticker, Associate Director of Information  
Technology  
Erica Seager, Accounting, Human Resources  
and Business Manager  
Kathy Gallagher-Palcic, Accounting and Human  
Resources Associate

Joseph Alfano, Deputy Executive Director for  
Strategic Advancement  
Eric Roth, Manager of Grants and  
Organizational Funding

### Programs

Kathy Ambrosini, Director of Education  
Anna Harrod, Education Coordinator for Public  
and Youth Programs  
Cathy Shiga-Gattullo, Interpretive Education  
Coordinator  
Kim Tischler, Education Coordinator for Student  
Programs

Peter Karis, Director of Land Protection and  
Stewardship

Hank Alicandri, Director of Land Stewardship/  
Chief Ranger  
Eric Fye, Chief Ranger and Steward  
Frank Tkac, Ranger/S.A.R. Specialist  
Justin Key, Associate Director, Facilities and  
Grounds  
Anthony Greco, Associate Director, Carriage  
Roads and Trails  
Bill Koeplinger, Grounds Worker/Mechanic  
Jon Ross, Associate Director of Visitor Services  
Ken Halpern, Visitor Services Assistant and  
Store Manager

John Thompson, Director of Conservation  
Science  
Paul Huth, Director of Research Emeritus/  
Associate Curator  
Hallie Schwab, Citizen Science Coordinator  
Chris Standley, Applied Conservation  
Coordinator

### Communications and Development

Gretchen Reed, Director of Marketing and  
Communications  
Patty Murphy, Communications Associate

Serena Marrero, Director of Development  
Elena Batt, Deputy Director for Membership  
and Development  
Annette Ferchau, Development/Database  
Associate  
John E. North, Individual Giving Manager  
Eda Sanchez, Associate Director of  
Special Events  
Stephanie Smallman, Capital Campaign and  
Development Assistant

## 2014 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Penny Switlik  
Jane K. Taylor

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Louis L. Cornell  
Anna S. Perry  
Doris Shamleffer  
Marion S. Swinden

## GENERAL COUNSEL

Paul T. Kellar, Esq.

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A copy of our latest financial report may be  
obtained from our website:  
[www.mohonkpreserve.org](http://www.mohonkpreserve.org) or by writing to the  
New York State Office of the Attorney General,  
Department of Law, Charities Bureau,  
120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271.



Mohonk Preserve  
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Get social with the Preserve! Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, YouTube, and Tumblr for updates on what's happening, along with exclusive video, photos, and more. Share your experiences on the ridge with your community and explore your natural world—even when you can't be on the Preserve.



Pine Road by John Hayes

As part of Mohonk Preserve's efforts to reduce our environmental impact, we printed this annual report on 100% post-consumer waste paper that was processed chlorine-free, manufactured with wind power, and is Forest Stewardship Council® certified.

