



## WOODSTOCK LAND CONSERVANCY

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*White Shed in June*, Linda Lynton, Oil on canvas

July, 2020

Dear Friend,

This year friends and supporters of Woodstock Land Conservancy (WLC) are telling us that our work has never seemed more relevant and important. As many of us have sought refuge in nature for its healing powers and its inspiration, WLC has redoubled our efforts to protect it. And now we're also hearing from many, who for the first time are turning to nature for solace, relying on area trails to get them through their days. Many from our weekender community have become full-time here. With all of that, our preserves have seen greatly increased activity; and the Ashokan Rail Trail, which we steward, has had more than 110,000 visitors since January. These public spaces are the most visible result of Woodstock Land Conservancy's mission to protect and conserve natural resources in Woodstock, West Saugerties, West Hurley, Town of Kingston and parts of Olive and Shandaken.

As a small non-profit land trust, our effectiveness depends on you – our amazing community. Although it may be a challenging economic time for some, we need your financial support now in order to remain a viable and vibrant organization. When social distancing required that we cancel our May Vernal Fling fundraising celebration, we also lost the opportunity to see many of you and to honor this year's William R. Ginsberg Stewards, Mary McNamara and Town of Woodstock Highway Superintendent Mike Reynolds, for their work protecting our area's water resources. They both have been exemplary in protecting the Sawkill Creek – flowing from Echo Lake, 17 miles through Woodstock, and Towns of Kingston and

Ulster, then joining the Lower Esopus before emptying into the Hudson River in Saugerties. This beautiful waterway is among our vital water sources and assuring its protection is important for all.

Now, in our fourth month of adjusting to what we euphemistically call the new normal, we have seen a harrowing loss of life and a devastating effect on the global economy. In addition to the widespread fear, loss, and uncertainty resulting from the pandemic, we are in the midst of renewed challenges to correct social injustices and this demands that WLC heighten our work toward environmental justice. Our Board is working on how we can best address this.

So, without parties, without visits, today we invite you to help us remain a sustainable organization. Your donation can help carry us through 2020 and beyond. In making this contribution you support the work we do on behalf of all the Eastern Catskill communities we serve:

- Protect land, water, species and their habitat, challenged further by climate change impacts
- Maintain public access to the spectacular natural landscape which surrounds us
- Offer educational programming
  - Renew our popular First Saturdays on the Trail program when regulations allow
  - Continue our collaborative Pollinator Pathway program, which shifted online during the recent months. More than 250 active participants are nurturing habitat on their properties to support the pollinators essential to our food web. You'll find a wealth of resources at [woodstockpollinatorpathway.org](http://woodstockpollinatorpathway.org)  
We thank our community for their great embrace of this important project.
- Advocate to relocate the massive proposed 850 Route 28 cement/steel manufacturing project directly adjacent to the beloved 3,000-acre Bluestone Wild Forest, a state forest and important wildlife habitat.

We cannot do any of this without your help. We thank you repeatedly, emphatically and with great sincerity. We welcome your feedback.

May you, your loved ones and our community be well, and recommit in the face of these challenges, moving forward toward a healthier and more sustainable future.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Most Sincerely,



Maxanne Resnick