

Annual Environment Symposium

Launched in 1986, the Rockfall Foundation Symposia address topics relating to balancing development and environmental conservation. Following a three year interval, the Foundation collaborated with the UConn Climate Adaptation Academy in 2016 to resume this program. "Our Changing Climate – Its Impacts on the Economy and the Way We Live" was presented at Middlesex Community College in April of last year and was well received.

Building on the success of this event, our collaboration continued and "Water: Too Much or Not Enough?" was held at the UConn Middlesex County Extension Center in Haddam on March 31, 2017. This dynamic program explored the effects of changing precipitation patterns in our region. Seventy-five planners, municipal representatives, environmental professionals, and concerned citizens from throughout the state attended.

2017 Sponsors

We are grateful to all of the presenters and sponsors who contributed to making the 2017 symposium a success and look forward to future events.

- DAVID VALLEE, *Hydrologist in Charge*, NOAA/NWS, Northeast River Forecast Center –**Keynote Speaker**
- AMANDA RYAN, *Municipal Stormwater Educator*, UConn CLEAR
- MICHAEL DIETZ, *Program Director*, CT NEMO
- DAVID RADKA, *Director of Water Resources and Planning*, Connecticut Water Company
- RYAN TETREAU, *Supervising Environmental Analyst*, CT Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Section
- IAN GIBSON, *Farm Manager*, Wellstone Farm
- ROGER WOLFE, *Mosquito Management Coordinator*, CT DEEP Wetland Habitat and Mosquito Management Program
- ANNE PENNIMAN and TY TRIPLETT, *Anne Penniman Associates*
- ELAINE SISTARE, PE, and KIRK WESTPHAL, PE, CDM Smith

Links to each presentation are available on the "Symposia" page of our website, www.rockfallfoundation.org.

2015-2016 Grant Awards and Community Impact

Guided by the generosity of our donors and grounded in the day-to-day work of our grantee partners, we help to strengthen our community's environmental literacy and capacity for conservation. Please visit www.rockfallfoundation.org for a list of our 2016-2017 grant awards.

Special Mayor's Ball Award Middletown Public Schools "Science in Nature" \$6,750

The Rockfall Foundation was fortunate to receive funds from the 2015 Mayor's Ball to award a special grant to reach all of Middletown's sixth graders at the Keigwin Middle School and provide them with an opportunity to better understand and appreciate their environment. Approximately 240 students participated in field-based programs at the Connecticut Audubon Society Glastonbury Center and the Keigwin Middle School grounds aimed at improving their critical thinking skills and environmental awareness. Students studied weather and climate change and put their knowledge into action by gathering information from five different habitats on the grounds of the Center and their school.

Connecticut Audubon Society Conservation and Science Program Coordination Benefiting Middlesex County \$5,000

Through the Roger Tory Peterson Estuary Center, Connecticut Audubon Society (CAS) expanded the Science in Nature Program in the Lower Connecticut River Valley, reaching more than 200 elementary school students from Essex, Lyme, and Old Lyme. Teachers trained with CAS naturalist educators using 2017 Next Generation Science Standards and current STEM curricula. Through late 2016, teachers had delivered more than 800 hours of student instruction encompassing Bird Ecology, Weather and Climate, and Adaptations.

Connecticut River Coastal Conservation District (CRCCD) Wait...There's More! Revised and Expanded Edition of Invasive Plants in Your Backyard \$1,000

With guidance and assistance from the CT Invasive Plant Working Group, the CRCCD produced a full color, expanded edition of *Invasive Plants in Your Backyard! A Guide to Their Identification and Control*. The guide includes nine additional plants and helps build awareness of the detrimental impacts of invasive plants on natural habitats and provides landowners with tools and information to protect and enhance the natural resources on their properties. CRCCD printed 12,500 copies of the guide for distribution throughout the region and posted an electronic version on their website.



Sampling water as part of the 21st Century Environmental Learners in Action program.

Connecticut River Museum Invaders: They come by Air, Land and Water \$6,860

Funding provided displays for the Museum's in-house and traveling exhibit that was on view from April 1 to October 10, 2016. An estimated 10,000 visitors viewed the exhibit, including several school groups. A "call to action" section within the exhibit educated visitors about the various ways to prevent the spread of invasives and how they can get involved. The exhibit is now traveling to Middlesex Community College in Middletown and then on to the Children's Museum in West Hartford.

Lawrence Elementary School, Middletown Lawrence School Learns Outside \$1,550

Hands-on science and outdoor learning were the focus of this program that allowed one-third of the school's students – from kindergarten through 5th grade - to participate. Lawrence School teachers partnered with educators from Everyone Outside to lead classroom experiences, as well as a 9-week after school program with the goal of connecting children to the natural world in their schoolyard and nearby grounds. For older grades, common core themes and science curriculum were tied to activities, including field trips to Indian Hill Cemetery and Wadsworth Mansion.

Middletown Garden Club / Farm Hill School, Middletown Butterfly Garden/Outside Classroom \$2,500

A restored and enhanced Butterfly Garden at Farm Hill School has become an outdoor classroom, enabling elementary school students to learn about pollinators in their natural environment. The garden provides an outdoor laboratory for learning about the life cycle of flowers, fruits and vegetables, and enhances the science curriculum with hands-on experiences with pollinators. The construction of raised beds and addition of stones to create a learning circle completed the project.

Middletown Public Schools 21st Century Environmental Learners in Action Program \$8,640

Educators at Keigwin and Woodrow Wilson Middle Schools created a project-based experiential education program focused on developing 21st century skills. To date, 77 middle school students explored water quality in Connecticut through field work and visits to the CT Science Center and Middletown Public Water Authority. The students used their knowledge of water testing to determine how water quality impacts soil and presented their findings at the CT Science Center. The next phase of the program is to build a community garden at Woodrow Wilson Middle School as part of the 21st Century Learners in Action After School Program.

Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School, Moodus Accessing Outdoor Education \$1,125

Forty students and twelve adults participated in the project to expand and further develop a student-built hiking trail where students learn about local flora and fauna. The students GPS mapped the trail, identified more than 40 species of trees, and installed benches and picnic tables nearby. The trail is used by the school's cross-country team, as well as the East Haddam community. Students also planted and maintain an organic garden and compost bin to foster a sustainable community.

SoundWaters / Coastal Explorers 2016: A Bridge to Sustainability for Watershed Exploration for Middle School Students \$4,650

This bridge grant provided funding to sustain the innovative "Coastal Explorers" program that began in 2013 for Middlesex County middle school students. Utilizing a curriculum aligned with Next Generation Science Standards, 115 students participated in an inquiry-based field study that highlighted the importance of watersheds from upstream to the estuarine ecosystems. Using scientific equipment to develop and test hypothesis, students increased their literacy of: water and its properties, life cycles of marine and local species, species' locomotion and feeding adaptations, dynamics of life in coastal habitats, species' form and function as it relates to behavior, and essential requirements for species survival.

Wesley Elementary School, Middletown Wesley Walks \$1,300

This program introduced the Wesley School community to the natural world surrounding the school through guided nature walks for students, teachers, and families. Each class at Wesley participated in three guided nature hikes and a public hike was offered for families, raising awareness of the accessible open space near the Wesleyan Hills community and increasing environmental literacy for all constituents. Additionally, a teacher-mentoring component led by naturalists from Everyone Outside assisted teachers in linking the natural world to their classroom science curriculum.

Wesleyan University Feet to the Fire: Riverfront Encounter \$750

The Green Street Teaching and Learning Center hosted 19 elementary-age at-risk youth for a once a week after-school program where students created environmentally inspired artwork following the theme of "The River." The students' projects were featured at the Feet to the Fire: Riverfront Encounter festival.

The Rockfall Chronicle

Spring 2017

Dear Members and Friends,



Elementary school students studied bird ecology, weather and climate, and adaptations with CT Audubon Society.

We are so pleased to present to you the latest edition of The Rockfall Chronicle!

While this publication has been on hiatus for a couple of years, we now look forward to keeping our Members, friends, partners, and grantees up to date with a print edition twice a year. Our email newsletter is distributed monthly and we encourage you to subscribe through our website to be sure that you receive the very latest news from the Foundation.

Within these pages, we share news of several recent activities, acknowledgment of our Members, and our 2015-2016 fiscal year financials. More importantly, we are happy to report the significant impact **your** support has had via our grants program over the past year – **thank you!**

The success of our grantees' programs has resulted in hands-on nature discovery and environmental education activities for thousands of children and youth. Public education programs and conservation projects reached a wide audience of families and adults, as well.

In 2017, we reach an important milestone as we celebrate 45 years of grant making! The Foundation is commemorating the occasion with the launch of a special campaign to bolster environmental literacy for kindergarten through 8th grade students in the Lower Connecticut River Valley. Please read more about the **Fostering Future Stewards** initiative on page three and consider joining us in this important endeavor.

Thank you again for your support and interest in the Rockfall Foundation. We look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming events.

Robin Andreoli
—Robin Andreoli,
Executive Director

Tony Marino
—Tony Marino,
Associate Director

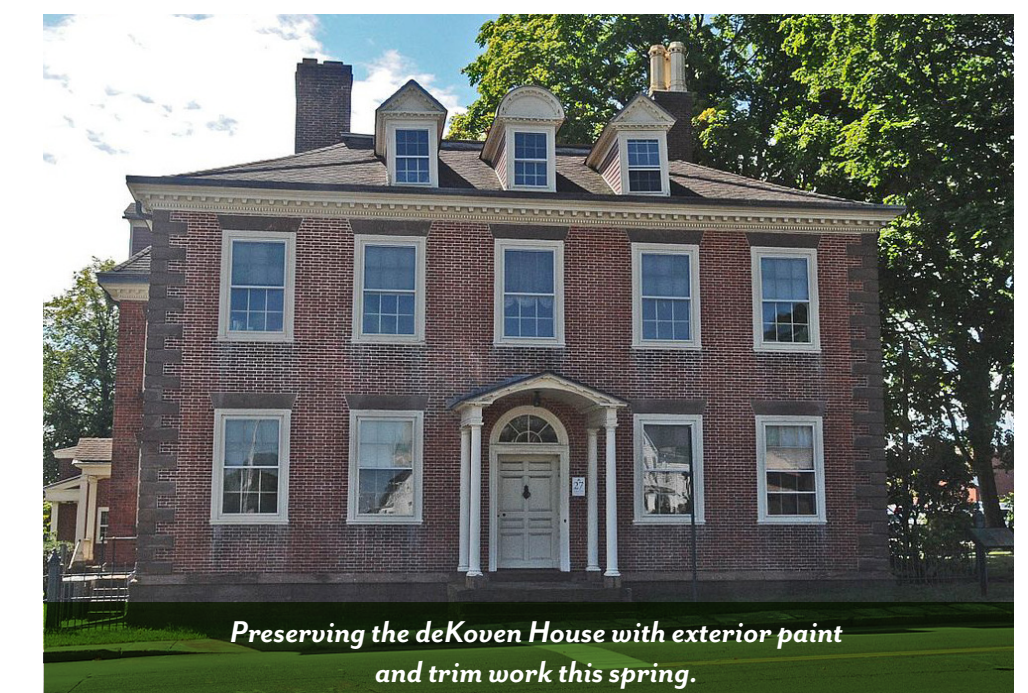
Upcoming Events

- 6.15.17 | MEET YOUR GREENS: An early evening cruise on the Connecticut River with CT River Expeditions
- 7.20.17 | MEET YOUR GREENS: Pre-show reception and discussion with Dic Wheeler of ARTFARM's *Hamlet* in the Grove at Middlesex Community College
- 8.17.17 | A Night at the Ivoryton Playhouse to benefit the Rockfall Foundation: 40th anniversary performance of *Saturday Night Fever*

For additional information, visit www.rockfallfoundation.org



1772 Foundation Grant Awarded for deKoven House Exterior Maintenance



Preserving the deKoven House with exterior paint and trim work this spring.

The Rockfall Foundation is pleased to announce that we are the recipients of a matching grant from the 1772 Foundation to support exterior maintenance of the deKoven House Community Center.

Bequeathed to the Foundation by the organization's founder, Clarence S. Wadsworth, and just yards from the banks of the Connecticut River, the deKoven House is listed on the national register of historic buildings as the Captain Benjamin Williams House.

Since 1942, the Rockfall Foundation has provided subsidized, low-cost office space in the deKoven House to a variety of nonprofit environmental organizations whose missions are concerned with natural resource education, research, and conservation in the Lower Connecticut River Valley. Two meeting rooms are also available for use by community groups for association gatherings, workshops and trainings, and other meetings.

This exterior project is part of a long-range plan to care for the building. Previous projects included upgrading and replacing electrical panels, fire/safety alarm systems, and the replacement of the heating system to energy-efficient gas boilers and furnace. The meeting room area was upgraded with paint, new carpeting and tile, and the renovation of the kitchen area. In 2016, available space was renovated to add new offices. The work included painting, cabinetry, and the installation of energy-efficient heat pump systems for heat and air conditioning. For information about the use of the meeting rooms, please contact Tony Marino at 860-347-0340.

Non-profit Org
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The Rockfall Foundation
deKoven House Community Center
27 Washington Street
Middletown, CT 06457
(860) 347-0340 | www.rockfallfoundation.org

The Rockfall Foundation

Greening and Growing the Lower Connecticut River Valley since 1935

The Rockfall Foundation supports environmental education, conservation programs and planning initiatives in the Lower Connecticut River Valley. Established in 1935, it is one of Connecticut's oldest environmental organizations.

We envision a healthy quality of life for all, achieved through wise environmental stewardship and community planning, enhanced environmental education, and the experience of a meaningful connection with nature now and for future generations.

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The Rockfall Foundation
deKoven House Community Center, 27 Washington Street, Middletown, CT
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2016 Annual Meeting & Environmental Advocacy Awards

The Rockfall Foundation held its 81st annual meeting and Environmental Advocacy Awards presentation on November 3, 2016 at the deKoven House. Westbrook resident and conservationist Thomas ODell received the Distinguished Service Award. Tom chaired the Westbrook Conservation Commission for the past 46 years, upholding its mission to preserve forest lands that protect the water quality of the town's wetlands, streams, rivers and Long Island Sound. He has been instrumental in achieving a designation of conservation land for nearly 2,000 acres of Westbrook. He served on the Board of the Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions and was editor of the organization's quarterly newsletter. Tom also chaired the Rockfall Foundation's Awards Committee and helped develop a program to recognize environmental efforts by youth in the Lower Connecticut River Valley region.

Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Connecticut Water Company and RiverQuest - Connecticut River Expeditions. Connecticut Water Company provides high-quality drinking water to 56 towns across the state and conducts its business in a manner that respects the natural environment and acts as a steward with regard to conservation of water and other natural resources. RiverQuest - Connecticut River Expeditions of Haddam is family owned and operated by Captain Mark and Mindy Yuknat. Since 2002, they have been providing the general public access to the lower Connecticut River, educating passengers on the ecology and beauty of the area while cruising aboard RiverQuest, an environmentally friendly "green" vessel powered by two four stroke outboard engines.



Distinguished Service Award recipient Thomas Odell with Tony Marino, Associate Director.

Treasurer's Report

For the year ended June 30, 2016 the net assets of the Foundation were \$4,229,372 compared to \$4,528,058 in the previous fiscal year. This is a decrease of \$298,686. The annual audit completed by Guilmartin, DiPiro & Sokolowski LLC Certified Public Accountants showed the income and expenses as follows:

REVENUE (excluding endowment)	FY2016	FY2015
Rental Income	31,025	28,500
Donations and Bequests	31,387	37,210
Symposium	1,302	-0-
Special Event	28,458	565
Sale of Assets	38,915	-0-
TOTAL REVENUE:	131,087	66,275
EXPENSES		
Program Services		
Community Services	150,739	152,949
Environmental Grants & Projects	70,005	36,835
Development	12,129	16,594
Management and General	52,929	87,236
TOTAL EXPENSE:	285,802	293,614
(DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES		
(before applying endowment support):	(154,715)	(227,339)
ENDOWMENT SUPPORT		
Dividends & Interest	97,837	95,742
Net realized gain (loss) on investments	42,365	(508,371)
	140,202	(412,629)
Net (Decrease) Increase in Fund Balance	(298,686)	(178,943)
FUND BALANCE BEGINNING OF YEAR	4,528,058	4,707,001
FUND BALANCE END OF YEAR	4,229,372	4,528,058

The Foundation's investment manager is Vanguard. All actions taken by the officers, directors and committee members are in compliance with the Foundation's Conflict of Interest Policy. Financial statements, the annual audit report, and the tax return are on file in the office of The Rockfall Foundation and may be viewed by any person interested.

The investment objectives are to preserve in real terms the future purchasing power of the endowment and to provide a prudent level of support for current operations. Going forward, we will continue to ensure the stability of the Foundation's endowment and success of our philanthropic activities.

-Donald S. Peruta, Treasurer (2015-2016)

Amazing things happen when we join together with generous people like you to enrich the community through the power of collective philanthropy!



Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School students study the geology of their school grounds with Professor Peter Patton.



Middletown middle school students participated in a water quality field study during the summer.



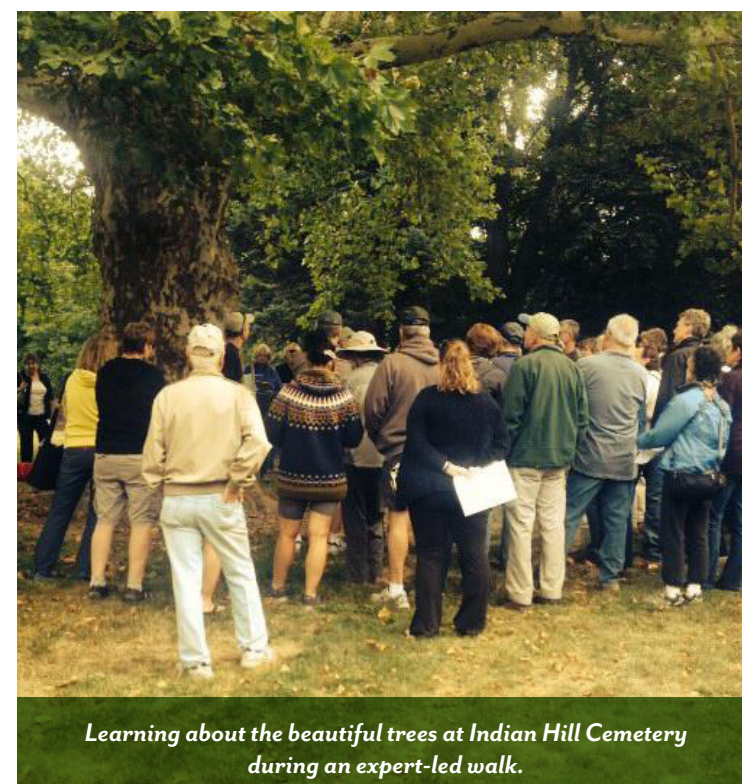
The highly interactive exhibit, "Invasives: They Come by Air, Land and Water" at the Connecticut River Museum.



Keigwin Middle School students testing soil temperature at the CT Audubon Society Glastonbury Center.



Peter and Elsie Patton; Marilyn Ozols, President; and Robin Andreoli, Executive Director celebrating the Patton's extraordinary gift to the Fostering Future Stewards Fund!



Learning about the beautiful trees at Indian Hill Cemetery during an expert-led walk.



Keigwin Middle School students exploring nature at the CT Audubon Society Glastonbury Center.



"Coastal Explorers" from Old Saybrook Middle School examine marine wildlife on the Connecticut Shore.

Fostering Future Stewards

Commemorating 45 Years of Grant Making with a Commitment to Future Stewards



For the last 45 years, the Rockfall Foundation's grant making has supported and promoted outstanding environmental programs delivered by non-profit organizations, schools, and municipalities throughout the Lower Connecticut River Valley. The first grants awarded in 1972 provided a total of \$5,000 to support four planting projects in Essex, Old Saybrook, and Chester. Since then, the generosity of our Members has helped us to fund **350 programs** with awards totaling **nearly half a million dollars**. We are proud of the fact that much of the support provided has been leveraged by grantees to secure other funding and maintain important programs.

To honor this important milestone, the Rockfall Foundation is undertaking a special campaign to raise **\$45,000** over two years for the **Fostering Future Stewards** fund. Donations to the fund will be used to provide multi-year grants to schools for kindergarten through 8th grade environmental education programs in the Lower Connecticut River Valley. Consecutive years of funding will allow educators to continue programs that introduce and sustain environmental literacy and the continuity of those programs will greatly benefit students.

As we began discussing the need to sustain local environmental programming, two of the Foundation's most ardent supporters stepped forward with a pledge of \$5,000 toward the campaign. We are grateful to **Peter and Elsie Patton** for inspiring others through their passion for this cause and their generous gift. With additional support from our Board of Directors and staff, we have already **achieved 25%** of our goal!

Taking the time to reflect on and celebrate the achievements of our grantees and our commitment to environmental education has never been greater. We invite individuals and businesses to join with us to strengthen our common interest in developing the next generation of environmental stewards. Please consider a gift to the **Fostering Future Stewards** fund today!

The Rockfall Foundation Members and Donors

We are grateful to our Members for the remarkable difference their generosity makes. Thank you to all who partner with us to uphold the legacy of the Rockfall Foundation through care of the deKoven House Community Center and the advancement of environmental education, conservation, and responsible planning.

BENEFACTOR (\$1,000+)	Larry and Patty McHugh James and RD McHutchison Andrew and Lucy Meigs David and Betsy Morgan Wilfredo Nieves Tom and Carol Odell Harold and Lorraine Panciera Jennifer Saines S. Jerome Prattner, In honor of Virginia R. Rolfe's Birthday Raczka Electric, Inc. Christine and Rob Rickenback Melissa and Bill Roberts Dana and Jenny Royer Attorney Daniel B. Ryan Bob and Lisa Santangelo Deborah D. Shapiro Jean and Biff Shaw Paul Tascione and Robin Andreoli David Vance Ellen Wadsworth Vestergaard Anna Wasescha and Richard Kagan William Wasch Krishna Winston, In honor of Katchen Coley	Cynthia and Phil Rockwell In honor of Bill Holder Howard Rosenbaum Renny and Judy Schoonmaker Cynthia and David Sullivan Lynda Tragakes Dyer S. Wadsworth Dic Wheeler and Marcella Trowbridge Barbara Wolf and Andy Schatz Mary and Ted Xenelis	Connecticut Audubon Society Connecticut Forest & Park Association Connecticut Land Conservation Council Connecticut Water Company Marianne Corona Mary Anne Cox Daniels Energy Darien Land Trust Raul and Emilie deBrigard Thomas Degnan Chris Donnelly East Haddam Land Trust Norm and Sue Emond Ever Green Landscaping, Inc. Eversource Farrell, Geenty, Sheeley, Bocalatte and Guarino, P.C. Andrea Fassler Michele Fitzpatrick Juana Maria Flagg Dr. Julie Flagg Linda Francois Nathan Frohling and Debra Bloom Tony and Melanie Giamei Leslie Gianelli Laurie Giannotti and Robert Butterworth Katherine W. Green Anthony and Janet Griggs Guilmartin, DiPiro & Sokolowski, LLC Harding Development Group Jane and Gregory Harris David Holahan William and Elisabeth Holder William and Eleanor Howard Lynda Hunnicutt Drew Iacovazzi Integrated Security Group Anthony Irving and Deborah Lee JC Larkin Company Terry Jones Marian Katz Jennifer Kleindienst David Lauretti The Lee Company Liberty Bank Lindberg and Ripple Lewis and Ellen Lukens Eric Luningbeal Lyme Land Conservation Trust Tony Marino and Patricia Moran Doug and Klairie Martin Brian and Jean McCarthy James and RD McHutchison Andrew and Lucy Meigs Middlesex Community College Middlesex Hospital	Middlesex Land Trust Michael and Diana Moller-Marino Elisabeth Moore Nathan L. Jacobson & Associates Northeast Collaborative Architects Northstar Wealth Partners LLC Kate and Ross Novick NRG Energy Inc. Tom and Carol Odell Old Lyme Land Trust Marie Goe Olson W. Lee Osborne Marilyn Ozols Amy B. Paterson Peter and Elsie Patton Real Fundraising R.J. and Virginia R. Rolfe Sandra Russo-Driska and Bruce Driska Attorney Daniel B. and Helen Ryan Salem Land Trust Starr and Philip Sayres Melissa Schlag Renny and Judy Schoonmaker Linda Schroeder Alfreda Shapere Sarah Shrewsbury Irene and Allen Silberstein Doug Smith Joan Smith Robert Smith Melissa Spear Jonathan Spinner Jon and Charles Stone David Sutherland and Nancy Benben Andrew Szegedy-Maszak and Elizabeth Bobrick Susan and Humphrey Tyler Sydney Van Zandt David and Regina Vance Patti Anne Vassia William Wasch Anna Wasescha and Richard Kagan Wesleyan University Christine and Allen Witkowski Jo Ann Woickelman and Bill Baroni, Jr. Xenelis Construction Rep. Melissa Ziobron
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We apologize for any errors or omission. Please contact the Foundation with any corrections.