

www.prlc.net

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# The Pound Ridge Land Conservancy Green Spaces

Non-Profit Organization

— Preserving Pound Ridge Lands Forever

— Spring 2011

## New Land Steward Position Receives Grant Award from New York State Conservation Partnership Program

We are thrilled to report that PRLC, along with 57 other land trusts across New York State, is the recipient of a 2010 grant award for \$12,500 from the New York State Conservation Partnership Program for ½ the salary of a 12 month professional land steward beginning this summer. This grant award will be matched by PRLC's endowment funds and rent-free residence at the newly renovated Armstrong House. The grant, funded through New York State's Environmental Protection Fund promotes public-private partnerships to facilitate local land conservation initiatives.

Your land conservancy has been busy reviewing the almost 50 resumes received for the position, conducting 12 telephone interviews of top candidates, and meeting with four finalists from across the North East.

Our new land steward is Kristin Quell-Garguilo who, as luck would have it, is from Stamford Ct. and has a BA from Alfred University and a MS from Slippery Rock University and is an adjunct at WCC developing curriculum for energy systems' majors. Kristin was an environmental education graduate assistant at an education center for sustainable systems for two years while pursuing her Master's Degree.

The goals of the grant are to create and implement a conservation plan for the 43-acre Armstrong Preserve to ensure sound land management practices; in short, to build PRLC's organizational competencies and land stewardship capabilities. In conjunction with the development and implementation of this plan, the land steward/educator will be responsible for creating a structured volunteer and outreach program for the newly renovated, off-the-grid Armstrong House and Education Center. The program will aim to grow community connections and school partners to conduct both citizen science and expand hands-on educational opportunities. Al-

ready, discussion has focused on using the varied habitats of the Preserve to educate landowners in best practices with respect to meadow management, vernal pool identification and importance, woodland health as well as wetland, stream and pond best practices.

The Preserve's 180 sq. foot community edible garden, currently under construction, will showcase permaculture gardening techniques, heirloom fruit tree care and include specialized areas for outreach and educational programming to both young and more experienced gardeners. Future plans are many, but include a forest understory and ground cover garden showcasing and studying plants rarely now seen in light of deer overbrowse.

Indoor spaces in the off-the-grid residence are targeted for use as gathering places for seminars, lectures, hands-on citizen science, and demonstrations. Kristin will assist other volunteers and experts with developing programming on issues of sustainability, and 'living lighter on the land' and, along with school and community clubs, will target professional groups for continuing education. Energy tours of the residence will be given and indoor spaces will be available for volunteer work groups constructing new additions to the residence's existing energy systems, including a planned biogas digester and wind turbine.

On Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup> from 4-6 p.m., please join us at the Armstrong House and Education Center in welcoming our new land steward, taking a tour of the residence and its energy systems, and a hike on the Armstrong loop trail- not yet open to the public. Please RSVP for the open house/request directions and look for announcements of future programming in the local paper, online at our website [www.prlc.net](http://www.prlc.net), or send your email if you are interested in volunteering or being included on our event notification list. E-mail us at [info@prlc.net](mailto:info@prlc.net).

### In This Issue

- ▶ New Land Steward Position Receives Grant Award from NYS Conservation Partnership Program
- ▶ President's Message May 2011
- ▶ Armstrong House Update...New Land Steward's Residence and PRLC's New Education Center
- ▶ 3rd Annual Spring Birding Expedition
- ▶ PRLC 2011 Walks/Talks/Projects Calendar

### Our Mission

The Pound Ridge Land Conservancy is a private, non-profit corporation, with the mission of preserving the semi-rural character of Pound Ridge through the acquisition, conservation and stewardship of land in town. The Conservancy's preserves are kept in their natural state for aesthetic, ecological and educational purposes. The preserves are held in perpetuity, i.e. they cannot be sold.

### Save the Dates

**Armstrong Open House**  
Sunday, June 5th  
4pm-6pm

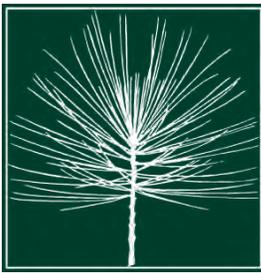
**50/50 Raffle Drawing**  
July 4th Fireworks

**Preserve Walks/Talks/Projects**  
See schedule inside



### Welcome! Kristin Quell-Garguilo as PRLC's New Land Steward

Kristin Quell-Garguilo is a sustainable systems and resource management expert. She teaches college courses on sustainability and alternative energy. As a Westchester, NY native, she brings a lifetime of both professional and personal knowledge of the area. Kristin will be joining the Pound Ridge Land Conservancy as their new Land Steward and, with her husband, Mike, will reside in the off-the-grid Armstrong House. "I'm just so excited to become part of the conservancy. I hope to nurture and enhance its mission". Kristin hold a master's of science in resource management and sustainable systems, and brings over seven years of experience to the position. **Come meet Kristin at the Armstrong Open House at the Armstrong House and Educational Center on Sunday, June 5th from 4-6PM.**



[www.prlc.net](http://www.prlc.net)

## Board of Directors

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## Our Preserves

Clark  
Carolin's Grove  
Halle Ravine  
Russell  
Bye  
Richards  
Thalheim  
Isaacson  
Della Torre  
Fancher Meadow  
Goldfein  
Robert Whitehead  
Armstrong  
Schwartz  
Private Preserves

*The Pound Ridge Land Conservancy is a 501 (C)(3) non-profit organization*

# President's Message....

Dear Friends,

Your home-grown land conservancy... yes- we're your neighbors and friends...have enjoyed our many outreach and education events these past few months. Not only are we one of the largest land-owners in Pound Ridge with 350 acres in 15 protected preserves, we also participate in community events showcasing land and natural resource conservation and environmental sustainability. These juniors at Fox Lane High School stopped by our booth at the Bedford 2020 Sustainability event in January to learn about community service opportunities with us, whether on the trail, building out our edible community garden at the Armstrong Preserve, or doing research on habitat protection. Just this past month, we participated in the John Jay High School Sustainability event, showcasing the philosophy of 'living lighter on the land' with our off-the grid Armstrong land steward residence and soon to be open, education and resource center. Our educational exhibit at Scotts Corners' Market in early May was the first of many community outreach efforts highlighting what private landowners can do to protect important habitat in town, and conserve their land in perpetuity by conservation easement which restrict future development. These private efforts, over the 35 years of PRLC existence, have created our 15 protected preserves, trails throughout town, and wooded and wetland viewsheds, which we all cherish as part of our town's living legacy.



FLHS Students at Bedford 2020 Sustainability Event

Along with education and outreach, we are proud to introduce several new initiatives to get everyone exploring our outdoors. We have set up a geocache at one of our preserves. To find out which one, you'll have to go to [www.geochaching.com](http://www.geochaching.com). This site will also clue you in as to what a geocache is. In addition, we have created a pilot seasonal scavenger hunt at Carolins' Grove with beautifully photographed naturescapes and nature's objects to be identified your family are hunting for these taking a quiet hike, please take you love, send it on and we'll you credit of course!

**“... 15 protected preserves, trails throughout town, and wooded and wetland viewsheds, which we all cherish as part of our town's living legacy.”**

Inside this newsletter lope. By supporting us, you will reach, education and conservation it is through community support- again our neighbors and friends- that our liability insurance, our tax preparation, materials for trail maintenance and printing and postage for outreach efforts - are paid. In addition, try for a chance in our 2011 50/50 Raffle. Please look for us at the market, at upcoming town events, and at the July 4<sup>th</sup> Fireworks where the winner will be announced!

Elyse Arnow Brill, President  
May 2011

you will find an important enve- be sustaining our growing out- activities here in Pound Ridge. It

## Welcome New PRLC Board Members Deborah Sherman and Susan Cox

**Deborah Sherman**, Pound Ridge resident since 1998, is an avid gardener and lifelong environmentalist who fell in love with the Armstrong House project. As a supporter of open space, the maintenance of wildlife corridors and bird sanctuaries, Deborah found a home on the Board of the PRLC.

**Susan Cox**, Pound Ridge resident for only 8 months, was looking for an organization to join to meet new people, and be involved in her passion of the outdoors. Finding PRLC is it. She discovered a place to combine her background in architecture and art, work with a dedicated and wonderful group of people, and discover just how much she doesn't know. She is most excited to be part of the mission of the Armstrong House.

## NEW Scavenger Hunt at Carolins' Grove for Family Fun!

Check out the beautifully photographed naturescapes and nature's objects you and your family can identify on the trail. While you and your family are hunting for these treasure troves or taking a quiet hike, bring your camera to take your own pictures. Got a shot you love? Send it to us at [info@prlc.net](mailto:info@prlc.net) and we'll share it, giving you credit, on our website home page!

## Armstrong House Update..Renovation Completion by Mid-Summer as Land Steward's New Residence and PRLC's New Education Center

The renovation of the Armstrong land steward's residence and education center proceeds towards completion and mid-summer occupancy. We continue to make all decisions based on principles of maximum energy efficiency and extended durability of the structure. Existing and donated recycled and reused materials continue to play a prominent role in both structural and non-structural elements of the renovation.

Prior bead-board wall and ceiling coverings have been reconditioned and reapplied minimizing introduction of new materials and maintaining the historic feel of structure. Where bead-board is not used as a wall covering, a greener, more sustainable drywall has been substituted. Our drywall is manufactured with post and pre-consumer recycled content and faced with 100% recycled post consumer paper. Drywall sheets have been locally sourced having been manufactured at a plant within 500 miles from the project site. This GreenGuard indoor, air quality certified, wallboard with its impregnated mold resistance, mitigates issues relating to durability and indoor air quality of standard drywall.



Installation of sustainable drywall

The installation of our low temperature radiant panels is complete. In total, we have over 2,000 sq. ft of radiant panels in our floors, walls and ceilings that are supplied by over 4,400 linear feet of PEX tubing and 18 individual circuits from our 24 port manifold. While unusual, this square footage will allow a significantly lowered design temperature (~90 degrees at 10 degrees outside) that interfaces efficiently with our existing, basic flat plate solar thermal collectors. In the future, the Armstrong house has the ability to be heated 100% from solar energy with minimal upfront expense.

In the living room, our radiant floor panels are covered with mixed pine flooring re-sawn from reclaimed beams. The

PRLC office has donated hickory wood flooring, unused surplus from another construction project. Kitchen and bathroom floor panels have been covered with cement board underlayment prior to the installation of sustainable green linoleum. In the three upstairs bedrooms, the radiant panels have been placed on the walls and ceiling to allow for the reuse and reconditioning of the existing 100-year old yellow pine floors. Over the next months, we will be finishing our wood floors, walls, and ceiling coverings with green finishes and trim rooms with recycled wood.

In preparation of our blower door test and to allow for adaptive and innovative residential usage patterns, we have continued with our insulation efforts. Window and door penetrations and exterior cavities have been resprayed with expanding foam insulation. All hot and cold domestic water supply lines have been individually insulated to minimize condensation potential and conserve heat energy. Radiant heating PEX supply lines are insulated as well in the interior partition walls and ceilings to allow for advanced zoning strategies to conserve energy.

Next, we are installing our heat recovery ventilation system with similar attention to flexible usage patterns and energy efficiency. All appliances will likewise be selected with a premium placed on energy efficiency and durability. Attention to these details achieves PRLC's goals 1. preserving the historic character and landscape viewshed of the residence so important to our community, 2. mitigating the residence's environmental footprint and, 3. demonstrating how to 'live lighter on the land' while providing a residential living space ahead of modern standards and with reduced life-cycle costs. The Armstrong Land Steward's Residence and Educational Center has been designed and built as a future, net-zero energy structure.



Installation of radiant panels - solar powered

### PRLC Calendar of 2011 Walks/Talks/Projects

Join local naturalists and PRLC board members for a series of guided walks. Children welcome.

- Jun. 5<sup>th</sup>** **Spring Open House at the Armstrong House and Education Center.** Come welcome our new land steward to the community. Tours of the renovation in progress and residential energy systems will be given. Special expert 'guest' will be available to answer your questions. A guided Armstrong 'loop' trail hike will start at 4:45pm. Refreshments will be served.  
Sun 4-6pm
- June 26<sup>th</sup>** Join PRLC Board Members for a **'Walk with a Purpose'** at the Richard's Preserve located off Honey Hollow Road. We will conduct our annual 'steward, reporting walk, highlight the PRLC's obligations management philosophy for conserved land, and bring our GPS along to map the trail and selected boundaries.  
Sun 1pm
- July 9<sup>th</sup>** Join us for an **exploration of the Halle Ravine's undulating wooded paths** through the ravine and experience mid-summer's lush greenery by the ravine's edges. We will search out our pre-established study plots to collect our annual summer data and practice citizen science. Meet at the Halle Preserve kiosk and parking off Trinity Pass.  
Sat 1pm
- July 30<sup>th</sup>** Join us as we continue our **cutting of the invasive Phragmite plants at the Isaacson Fen** to constrain their growth into this important, yet rare, local habitat. Other work dates are scheduled for **Sunday, Jul. 31st at 4pm and Saturday, Aug. 6th at 8am and Sunday, Aug. 7th at 9am.** See our online calendar to confirm these dates and times closer to the events.  
Sat 8am
- Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>** **Learn best practice trail maintenance** by joining us at the Halle Ravine for a two hour volunteer work session. Meet at the Halle Preserve kiosk and parking off Trinity Pass. Check our online calendar closer to the event for instructions on what hand tools to bring and what to wear.  
Sun 2pm
- Oct. 15th** Join us for a **board-guided walk at the Clark Preserve** located off Autumn Ridge Road at the height of Autumn colors.  
Sat 2pm
- Dec. 4th** Join Board Member, Matt Coulter, and local birding expert for our first annual **duck migration outing**, location to be announced. Check our online calendar closer to the event for details.  
Sun 8am

# Diary from the Field...3rd Annual Spring Birding Expedition with Matt Coulter

...After setting up my spotting scope at the protected Russell Preserve, I pointed out a blue heron as it flew out from the wetland. On this early Sunday morning in May, we are looking for small, colorful migrating songbirds, Warblers, Vireos and others. Last year, at the same time, we saw a Wood Duck and Pie-Billed Grebe, reminding me that this would be a good preserve to set up a hidden, duck blind for observation. Moving slowly into the preserve, we spotted many American Robins, Common Grackles and a few Canadian Geese. We heard Northern Cardinals and a single Red-bellied Woodpecker. A Mallard Duck couple swam through a marshy area. Further along, we spied a few European Starlings and an American Crow.

Making it back to the pond, we began to see the first of many American Tree Swallows with their blue, iridescent backs and white fronts, generally seen skimming the water, rarely stop-

ping. Several Tree Swallows were observed going in and out of nesting boxes and perching on tree branches. I was surprised, and told the small group they were fortunate to observe them quiet; usually it's difficult to keep up with their movements.

Returning through the preserve, we were lucky to get a good look at a pair of Northern (Baltimore) Orioles as they passed us and quietly observed several Black-capped Chickadees, one with nesting materials in its beak.

A Tufted Titmouse made its appearance. We were momentarily stumped by what I thought was a Thrush, although we needed to get a better look at its features- specific colorations, contrasts, eye ring, any grayish cheek coloring and reddish coloring on its back tail feathers. Ending our expedition with the Sibley's Guide, we determined our last observed visitor was a Thrush. All-in all, a wonderful morning..... Now time for coffee!

## Volunteers Always Welcome

e-mail or call us to learn about the many ways you can help

## Go Green, Go Online!

become a member or renew - make an online donation

## Upcoming Preserve Walks/Talks/Projects

June 5th	Armstrong Open House Tour and Hike
June 26th	Richard's Preserve
July 9th	Halle Ravine
July 30th	Isaacson Preserve
September 18th	Halle Ravine
October 15th	Clark Preserve
December 4th	TBA-see online calendar

## Armstrong Open House

Sunday June 5th from 4-6PM

## Armstrong House Work Sessions

Every Saturday 10am-2pm

Check our online calendar for the schedule

This newsletter is printed on sustainable forested paper.

# Neighbor

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