

The Pound Ridge Land Conservancy Green Spaces

Private Non-Profit Organization

Preserving Pound Ridge Lands Forever

Spring 2016

www.prlc.net

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Pound Ridge, NY 10576

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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
Honey Hollow
Sand
Schwartz
Old Stone Hill
Laurel Ponds

Upcoming Events

See the Events section on our website www.prlc.net for full event listings.

Clark Volunteer Work Session
Build Bog Bridges and Clear Barberry

Saturday, June 4th 10a-12p

Pound Ridge Pride Day

Sunday, June 5th 2-4:30p

Armstrong Preserve Learning Landscape Guided Hike

Saturday, June 25th 12p-2p

Halle Preserve Volunteer Work Session
Halle Staircase

Saturday, July 9th 10a-2p

Halle Preserve Volunteer Work Session
Clear Winged Euonymus and Barberry

Saturday, August 6th 10a-2p

Halle Preserve Volunteer Work Session

Saturday, September 10th 10a-2p

Notes From The Field...

With the completion of initial native plant restoration areas at Clark, Carolin's Grove, and Russell Preserves this season, our stewardship team is turning its attention next to the much-loved **Halle Ravine Preserve** off Trinity Pass. Over the next year, we have planned a number of projects to improve trail safety for hikers along the Ravine's steep slopes and stream crossings, while simultaneously working toward greater long-term ecosystem health in the Preserve. Bridge repairs, tree and shrub planting, wildflower protection and the development of a Certified Forest Management Plan are all in the works, thanks to our generous partners and donors in the community.

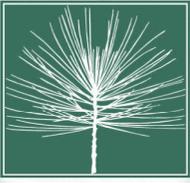
You may have noticed that we have already begun to clear invasive plants from the preserve entrance and around the kiosk, where Japanese barberry and burning bush (winged euonymous) were most abundant. Our aim is to replace these shrubs, where possible, with the valuable native shrubs that were historically found in this forest, such as dogwood and arrowwood (*Viburnum*). Non-native, invasive plants are undesirable because they outcompete native plants for space, light and nutrients, yet provide little food for wildlife. They gain a foothold in areas that are over-browsed by deer or that are eroded or disturbed in some way, such as when a tree falls. Without a native plant to fill the

gap, an invasive will fill it, some of which, like barberry, then alter the soil to exclude other kinds of plants from growing. We promote the establishment of native plant reservoirs by fencing those that we find, or plant, to protect them from deer, and weed around them periodically. We train and encourage volunteers to help us with this task.

PRLC can also help to guide you in the similar stewardship of habitats on your own property through attendance at one of our volunteer events or guided hikes, or through written materials available by email request to landsteward@prlc.net. A schedule of events is can be found on our website, www.prlc.net. Our regular volunteer work sessions, usually on the first Saturday of every month, are a fun way to meet neighbors and to learn about the land with a natural history guide, while giving back to nature. Help us this month and next to plant and protect trees and wildflowers at Halle, or join our trail crew this summer and fall to work on constructing new steps along the steep path on the eastern bank. We invite you to take a hike in the Ravine and let us know how together we can continue protecting this historic landmark preserve!

Krista Munger, Land Steward





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Land Conservancy**
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President's Message

I, and the rest of the Board of the Pound Ridge Land Conservancy would like to thank Elyse Arnow for her enormous efforts during her 11 years as President of the organization. Elyse is remaining on the board, and became the Secretary as of January 20. When Elyse began her tenure as President, PRLC's main activities involved maintaining the trails on some of our preserves. Under her guidance, PRLC not only added four new preserves to those we own and manage, but greatly expanded the scope of our activities. We remade the existing house on the Armstrong Preserve into an off the grid home powered by solar energy as a demonstration of how to "live lighter on the land." We created the Armstrong Education Center and integrated working backyard, and invited the public to share our experience. We hired a full-time, professional land steward and established summer internship programs for local high school and college students. The PRLC is very lucky to have had someone as dedicated as Elyse as its President.

We, and our partners at the Westchester Land Trust held a successful Halle Preserve neighborhood gathering on April 30th at Pamela Corey's home on Winterbottom Lane. The \$6,350 we raised, along with the \$6,900 grant that we received from the Land Trust Alliance, will enable us to complete most of the projects we have planned at the preserve this year. We will hire a certified forester to write a management plan for the preserve. We have already restored two of the bridges. We will rebuild the embankment steps to reduce erosion. With the assistance of neighborhood volunteers we have cleared many acres of invasive winged euonymus and will replace it with native shrubs. Thank you neighbors for helping us maintain and restore this beautiful preserve!

The state of conservation in Pound Ridge is both exciting and concerning to me. Exciting because of volunteer initiatives such as The Invasives Project Pound Ridge created by Carrie Sears, the volunteer support that the PRLC receives, and the efforts of private citizens like Christine Morris and Connie Marchetti who are trying to help control the Japanese knotweed problem in town.

Concerning because as I drive about town and as I walk on our preserves I see how very much work needs to be done. It is striking, and not in a good way, to see how much the Pound Ridge landscape has changed since I first moved here in 1972. When I was

a boy, the underbrush was dense and there was a diverse mix of young and old trees. It was exciting and rare to see a deer in our back yard. Forty-odd years later the deer population has exploded and they have eaten most of the underbrush and the small trees. Invasive plants have replaced natives, reducing bio-diversity. Invasive insects and diseases have wiped out the elms and chestnuts that once dominated our forests. Ash trees will be gone soon.

These changes are causing PRLC to shift its mission. We used to focus on maintaining the public hiking trails in our preserves. Hiking and public access will always be very important to PRLC. But we are now also treating our preserves as environmental reservoirs.

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We are conducting many activities at our preserves to serve both purposes. We added new bog bridges in the Clark Preserve and a bench in the meadow to memorialize our dear friend and former board member, Matt Coulter. At the Armstrong vernal pool under the cliffs our new viewing platform will be completed in June. The trail has educational signage.

Removing invasive plants and replacing them with natives will be a significant goal of the organization going forward. We started this process four years ago and have made major strides. We cleared more than 30 acres of barberry and winged euonymus at the Clark preserve and more than 10 acres at Armstrong. We also cleared large areas of invasives at the Halle and Russell Preserves. You can see deer exclosures at Clark, Armstrong, Halle and Carolin's Grove Preserves to enable the trees that we plant there to grow large enough that they can resist deer browsing. We cleared the Armstrong meadow of invasives and planted pollinators to encourage butterflies and birds.

Your donations and volunteer hours enable us to improve our trails and to better our environment. We hope to see you hike our trails and to join us for volunteer work sessions the first Saturday of every month. Check our website, www.prlc.net, for a full calendar of events. We thank you for your support.

Michael Kagan, President

**Adults & Students - Volunteer
Earn Community Service Credits
Summer Internships Available**

Email us at info@prlc.net

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Support our field projects and programs