



Putnam County Land Trust News

Spring 2006

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Putnam County Land Trust

PCLT Honors Dr. Jim Utter

by Beverley Elgar

It is not everyday I have the opportunity to spend time on a cold Friday afternoon in a busy Brewster café, sipping hot coffee and talking with a leader of the local environmental community discussing critical issues. I recently did with Dr. James (Jim) Utter, a tireless advocate for local conservation with an outstanding career in environmental education spanning over three decades. In celebration of his achievements, Dr. Utter, founder and Chairman of Friends of the Great Swamp (FrOGS), will be honored with PCLT's Blue Heron Award at our Annual Benefit Dinner/Auction on April 8th.



For Dr. Utter, who grew up in Oneonta, a small town in New York, his fascination with the wilderness and the animals that inhabit it began in second grade when his enthusiastic teacher encouraged the class to join the junior Audubon Club, which was sponsored by the National Audubon Society. Looking back, he is very thankful to the materials that Audubon supplied and said that his teacher definitely "struck a chord". His love of birds began when his sixth grade teacher invited him to help her husband raise pigeons at their home. The interest and support for local environmental concerns within the community in which he grew up encouraged Dr. Utter to become attentive to conservation issues in his adopted community. After completing his undergraduate studies, Dr. Utter left Oneonta to pursue his Ph.D in Zoology at Rutgers University in New Jersey. He then joined the staff at SUNY Purchase and has held a position as Associate Professor of Environmental Sciences there for over twenty-five years.

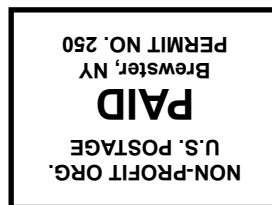
"We've got to reach out to the kids because they are our future. It's important that we protect enough for them to work with and make them aware and sensitive to the natural environment."

After moving to Putnam County, he soon became fascinated with the Great Swamp. Thunder Ridge owner, Bob Conklin introduced him to this vast 6,000-acre wetland and took him canoeing there. Since then he "has been stomping around in the mud for decades" as he committed himself to the preservation of the Great Swamp. This dedication involves extensive and critical research into the Swamp's biodiversity, especially the migratory birds that populate this watershed. Through education and outreach, FrOGS holds a variety of programs including International Migratory Bird Day, Pine Island River Walk, Cross Country Skiing in the Great Swamp and many other activities. In March, Great Swamp enthusiasts will get a chance to meet Dr. Utter when he discusses the rare and endangered Bog Turtle in Turtle Talk.

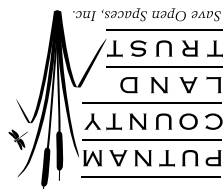
Dr. Utter said that the most important aspect of his work is meeting people who are involved and supportive. He loves to teach children and get them interested in the values of the Great Swamp. He stressed the significance of looking after this local treasure, "We've got to reach out to the kids because they are our future. It's important that we protect enough for them to work with and make them aware and sensitive to the natural environment. The community makes more impact working on a local level. We need to have a variety of people to work toward these common goals. If we at FrOGS and PCLT can advocate protection of our environment, it's critical that we do it on a local scale. Think globally, act locally."

We hope to see you at the Land Trust's 2006 Annual Dinner on April 8th as we celebrate Dr. Utter's outstanding accomplishments and contributions to the environmental community.

Find out more about our Annual Dinner on Page 5!



Putnam County Land Trust
PO Box 36
Brewster, NY 10509



Yes! I'd Like to Join the Putnam County Land Trust

(Clip and Mail with check payable to: Putnam County Land Trust, PO Box 36, Brewster, NY 10509)

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Telephone (day): (____) _____ Telephone (eve): (____) _____
Email Address: _____

Membership Levels: (please check one)

Individual: \$15 _____ Family: \$25 _____ Contributing: \$50 _____
Sustaining: \$100 _____ Life Member: \$1000 _____

Areas of Interest: (Fundraising, Preserve Stewardship, Newsletter, Land Acquisition, Etc.)

As an individual or family member you will receive a year's subscription to our newsletter and calendar of events, as well as occasional discounts to Special Events. Higher levels have additional benefits.

Membership fees are tax deductible up to the limit allowed by law

As an organization that is 37 years old, we have long since stopped taking baby steps and have become a contributing force for land protection in eastern Putnam County. There is always much to do to ensure that we work efficiently and effectively. To make our work more manageable, it helps to focus on the individual parts while keeping in mind the need to address overall issues and prepare for future challenges.

Some of the areas of focus include the need to:

Have a functioning board with active committees. Because the PCLT board needs to follow both national and state regulations and guidelines that cover non-profit organizations, we have a Board Governance committee and a Fiscal Oversight committee to help us do that.

Insure that the board stays fresh, connected and provides for continuity by recruiting and orienting new people to our committees and, where appropriate, to board membership.

Create a process to manage our properties. We need to insure that properties we own are monitored and protected from incursion, dumping and destruction. For properties that have a trail system, trails need to be blazed and maintained.

Have a very active acquisitions committee in order to increase our existing preserves, to identify parcels that we might want to acquire for their open space value and to review parcels offered for donation.

From the President's Desk

By Judy Terlizzi



Take an active role in regional and local organizations which support our mission.

Offer programs that acquaint citizens with our natural world so they will better understand and appreciate the importance of preserving open space.

Communicate what we are doing to our members and the larger community through our newsletter, press releases and website.

Raise funds to support all of the above. The fund development program and our traditional fund raising programs such as the Annual Benefit Dinner, Canoe Trip and Friends of the Trails programs.

The willingness and dedication of so many who offer their time and talents to us is reassuring and immensely helpful. Hundreds support us through membership donations and dozens support us by donating their time, skills, and abilities to enhance our various programs and projects. The large number of responses to the volunteer questionnaire gives hope that - working together with our trustees - we can accomplish many important and necessary tasks this coming year.

News and Notes:

The Putnam County Land Trust is deeply indebted to Bob Demchuk and Melissa Cook for their year end gift of appreciated stock. 2005 is the second year PCLT has been the recipient of their generosity. In making this gift, Melissa told us "It is important for us to be part of the work you are doing". It is our hope that their generosity will inspire others to do the same.

The PCLT Dinner Committee is looking for donations of goods and services to be offered as auction items at our annual benefit dinner. Please contact Judy Terlizzi at (845) 228-4520 or Edie Keasbey at (845) 878-6169 for more information.

The Putnam County Land Trust will make a presentation to the Town Of Kent Planning Board on Thursday evening, April 6th. We will be discussing ways in which the Land Trust can aid the town in planning for both development and open space protection.. The meeting will be held at the Town Center on Route 52 in Kent and begins at 7:30 pm.

This newsletter is published by Putnam County Land Trust: Save Open Space, Inc. PO Box 36, Brewster, NY 10509

Submissions for publication may be emailed to jeff@bongoboy.com

The newsletter is published 3 times annually, Winter, Spring/Summer and Fall and is provided free of charge to our members.

Board Officers:

Judith Terlizzi, President
Bruce K Bothwell, Vice President
Kenneth Harper, Treasurer
Rosemarie Bruno, Secretary

Board Members:

William Buck, Denis Castelli,
Dod Chahroudi, Eileen Goren,
Beth Herr, Robert Charles Lund,
Robert Maddock, Ed Rinde,
Douglas Staples

Judith Terlizzi: Editor
Jeff Green: Layout/Production

Land Trust Annual Membership Meeting

By Bruce Bothwell

The annual membership meeting of the Putnam County Land Trust will be held on Sunday afternoon, May 21 at 2 pm at a place to be determined. As a membership corporation, PCLT is required to hold an annual membership meeting to address corporate business. This includes the nomination and election of Trustees for terms from 1 to 3 years and the nomination of Officers for a one year period.

In addition, this year PCLT will be addressing some up dates to PCLT By-laws. In 1994, the membership adopted very minor changes to the 1979 Bylaws. In effect, PCLT has been operating on a set of By-laws that are over 27 years old. These have served us well. But a number of issues have arisen that call for adjustments.

Some examples are:

- 1) Need for inclusion of a "Conflict of Interest" clause for members and Trustees
- 2) Addition of an honorary membership category, Emeritus Members
- 3) Clarification of Officer's roles and duties
- 4) Addition of a "non-discrimination" clause
- 5) Clarification of the procedures for amending the By-laws
- 6) Legal protection for Officers, Trustees and volunteers through the purchase of Directors and Officers Liability Insurance.

All By-laws amendments have been reviewed and approved by our Board of Trustees and also by attorney, Michael West of the Council of Community Services of New York State which offers expert assistance to non-profit organizations such as ours. He has reviewed the proposed By-laws and provided much of the new language being included. Members wishing to review the proposed By-law changes may call Judy Terlizzi, PCLT President at (845) 228-4520 for a copy.

We invite you to circle the date and attend on May 21 to hear, and see, Ralph Szur's captivating program. Details about location will be sent out to the membership before the meeting. Or, check our website [www.pclt.net] for updated information.

Visit our website at
www.pclt.net
for up-to-date information
on events and news!

Board Seeks Candidates for Trustee Positions

By Bruce Bothwell

Have you ever thought about who makes the decisions to keep the Putnam County Land Trust operating? Oh sure, we all know Judy Terlizzi, the energetic President of the Land Trust. Judy organizes the meetings, hosts the Annual Dinner, and in general, inspires a large number of volunteers and contributors to help get our work done.

But most people aren't aware that there is a 15 person Board of Trustees who meet monthly to make the legal and operational decisions for the PCLT.

The current Board has attracted a wide variety of men and women, almost all of whom are local residents with some sort of environmental interests. Most are not experts in this field, but their interest levels are high, and every person on the Board works hard to set aside open land for long-term preservation.

Of course, there is always turnover in the Board's membership. Right now the Board is operating with 13 active Trustees. So there are two vacancies waiting to be filled. Might you be interested? But first, let me tell you a bit more.

Board meetings are usually held once a month on Sunday evenings. Meetings last about 2 hours. Board members are asked to join one or two committees. We have a variety of ongoing tasks for committees such as acquiring new properties, preparing and organizing our new Cobb Road Headquarter, leading or arranging programs (nature hikes, educational workshops, etc.), Stewardship work (trail building and maintenance) on the preserves we already own, fund raising, Board Governance, and running the Annual Dinner.

There's always something to be done and as a Trustee, you would be making a major contribution toward improving the quality of life for all citizens of Putnam County.

Might you be interested? If so, please call Bruce Bothwell at (845) 225-1031, or Judy Terlizzi at (845) 228-4520. No obligation. Just ask questions, and if you continue to be interested, we'll set up a time to meet and talk in greater depth - to see if this is an organization you'd like to join. We hope to hear from you.



Peach Lake
photo by
Bob Dumont

Upcoming PCLT Events

Saturday, March 18th

Evening program sponsored by the Oblong Land Trust. "Maintaining a Healthy Backyard" with WOR radio personality Ralph Snodsmith of The Garden Hotline at the Aiken Free Library, Quaker Hill, Pawling. Call Sibyll Gilbert for more information and to register at 855-3266.

Sunday, March 19th 2:00 pm

Turtle Talk - The science behind tracking the rare Bog Turtle with Dr. Jim Utter (FrOGS) and the Wood Turtle with naturalist Beth Herr (PCLT). This program is free and open to all. This program will take place at the Lawlor Building, 2 Route 164 in Patterson.

Saturday, April 22nd 7:30 am

Woodcock Walk to observe the amazing mating flight of the Woodcock. This trip will be led by Jim Utter and Beth Herr. Please call Beth Herr at 228-5635 for further information.

Saturday and Sunday, May 6-7

Times: 9:15 am, 12:30 pm and 2:45 pm.

Two hour naturalist led canoe trips in the Great Swamp launching from Green Chimney's beach off Doansburg Road in Patterson. Call Judy Terlizzi for more information and to reserve space at 228-4520

Saturday, May 13th

International Migratory Bird Day Activities Check the FrOGS website for updates on activities. www.frogs-ny.org.

Sunday, May 14th 1:00 pm

Mother's Day Wildflower Walk bring your camera! Location to be determined. Call leader/naturalist Beth Herr at 228-5635 to register.

May 20 or 21

Ecological Safari depending on interest an all day canoe trip through the Great Swamp with Dr. Jim Utter. Lunch included- call Evelyn Chiarito for more information and to register at 877-6498

May 27-28 and June 10-11.

Naturalist led Great Swamp Canoe Trips from Green Chimney's Launch. Call Evelyn Chiarito, 877-6498 for more information and to register.

Saturday, April 8th 5:30 pm

The 2006 Putnam Land Trust Annual Benefit Dinner

Entertaining live auction, our Blue Heron Award, great food and terrific people. \$45 a person at Starr Ridge Banquet and Conference Center, 38 Starr Ridge Road, Brewster. Reserve your place today by calling JudyTerlizzi at (845) 228-4520

"Secrets from the Hive" At Our Annual Meeting

What's that buzz? Join the honeybees and their keeper Ralph Szur and members of the Putnam County Land Trust for their annual meeting on May 21st at 2 pm and hear the buzz. Learn about honeybee history, contributions, and connections to our surrounding. What is the secret potion that makes a queen bee? What is the first flower of spring from a honeybee's pollinators? How does the queen know when to start laying eggs?

The talk will be followed by an outdoor excursion to find pollinators and their food sources. Place to be determined. Check our website [www.pclt.net] for an update or call Ralph at 228 5635.

Watch for THIS event!

The Night of the Salamander - Explore a vernal pool and observe the spring migrations of local amphibians. When conditions are perfect for the spring migration of local amphibians (the first warm spring rain after the return the phoebe) we will call to let you know when and where to meet. To be placed on the call list, register with Beth Herr at 228-5635. Dress for the weather and wear boots. It will help to bring a flashlight as well.

Join us on our Great Swamp Canoe Trip

Join Putnam County Land Trust as we meander through thousands of years of natural history on our annual Great Swamp Canoe Trip. This year's trips are scheduled for Saturday, May 6th and Sunday, May 7th. Reservations are a must! Our expanded trips will go for a full two hours with an extra 15 minutes allowed for preparation. Trips leave the Green Chimneys Beach on both days as follows:



What it Costs:

Members \$12.00 adults, \$8.00 children (6 -12)
Non Members \$20.00 adults, \$12.00 children (6 -12)



Times:

9:15 am to 11:15 am
12:30 pm to 2:30 pm
2:45 pm to 5 pm

PCLT provides canoes, paddles and personal flotation devices. Wear clothing and footwear that you won't mind getting wet. No paddling experience is necessary. Our expert guides give instruction before each trip. If you would feel more comfortable with paddlers, we can provide them.



Gather a group of friends or plan a family reunion with the canoe trip as a part of it. Each trip can accommodate up to 25 people with 2, 3 and sometimes 4 (two adults, 2 children) in a canoe. You will be amazed at what you will see and experience. Once you round the bend toward the lake you will feel as if you are in a different part of the country. Naturalists will explain how one of the largest wetlands in New York State functions and will point out the plants, animals and birds that make the Great Swamp home or a rest stop during migration.

Call Judy Terlizzi at (845) 228-4520 for reservations.

Great Swamp photos by Jim Cook

Images from our 2005 Dinner Honoring Dr. Samuel B. Ross, Jr.



Putnam County Land Trust's Annual Benefit Dinner and Auction Saturday, April 8, 2006 - 5:30 PM

Starr Ridge Banquet and Conference Center - 38 Starr Ridge Road, Brewster, NY

Join in the celebration as the Land Trust marks another year of preserving open space and protecting sensitive habitats in Putnam County. There will be displays and presentations about Land Trust properties and Putnam County's many scenic areas. Recognitions and awards will be presented to those in the environmental community

Our past auction donations have included: Golf outings, accommodations at a private villa in Kauai, Hawaii, wine baskets from around the world, gift certificates, unique jewelry, many one of a kind items and much, much more.

Don't miss this special occasion and event.

There will be live music, a sumptuously wonderful buffet dinner and an exciting Live Auction led by Ivan and Laura Cohen with our famous silent auction of eclectic items, many hand crafted just for this event!

For more information contact Judy Terlizzi at 845-228-4520

All proceeds will benefit the preserves and programs of the Putnam County Land Trust. Seating is limited. Reserve now with the form below! Consider donating goods or services for the silent auction and placing an ad for the journal. We need your support to preserve open space and sensitive habitats in Putnam County.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Please reserve my seat at the Land Trust dinner on Saturday April 8th. Enclosed is my reservation fee of:

___ \$45.00 - Per Person

___ \$90.00 - Per Couple

___ \$360 - Table for 8

___ \$450 - Table for 10

___ I require a Vegan Meal

___ I am unable to attend but wish to make
a contribution in the amount of \$ _____

___ I would like to donate an item/service for auction

___ I would like to place an ad in the Dinner Journal
and have enclosed a check for: \$ _____

___ Full Page \$95.00

___ Half Page \$65.00

___ Large Quarter Page \$40.00

___ Please call me for additional information

___ Enclosed is my Camera Ready Artwork

Please send your check and form to: Putnam County Land Trust • P.O. Box 36 • Brewster, New York 10509

Photos by Peter Krupenye