

Shawangunk WATCH

Friends of the Shawangunks and The Shawangunk Conservancy

DECEMBER 2017

Volume 22 Number 3

Climate
Change

Resistance!

Hardie
Truesdale

Education
of a
Mountain
Steward

PRESERVING OPEN SPACE IN THE SHAWANGUNKS SINCE 1963

RESISTANCE AND RESILIENCY IN THE TIME OF TRUMP

“Alice laughed: ‘There’s no use trying,’ she said; ‘one can’t believe impossible things.’ ‘I daresay you haven’t had much practice,’ said the Queen.

‘When I was younger, I always did it for half an hour a day. Why, sometimes I’ve believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast.’”

—Lewis Carroll, *Alice Through the Looking Glass*

WE LIVE IN AN AGE where truth is replaced by alternative facts, science is supplanted by ideology, and the fox is guarding the henhouse. Strong words for interesting times but consider the President’s picks to head those federal agencies most closely related to the environment in general and climate change in particular:

- ✗ **SCOTT PRUITT** as Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), an agency he repeatedly sued to block major environmental rules.
- ✗ **RYAN ZINKE** as Secretary of the Interior, a department that under Zinke will greatly expand oil and gas production on federal public lands.
- ✗ **RICK PERRY** as Secretary of Energy, one of the three agencies Perry said, in a 2011 presidential debate, that he would eliminate if elected, though he couldn’t remember the name of the department at that time.

Each one of these appointees has deep ties to the fossil fuel industry. Pruitt, as Oklahoma’s Attorney General, worked closely with major oil and gas companies and their lobbyists to coordinate legal strategy to fight the same EPA regulations he is now charged with enforcing. While Pruitt’s title has changed, his relationship with big energy and its lobbyists has not. Each of the men has shown unrestrained support for President Trump’s decision to withdraw from the Paris Agreement and has instructed staff to remove references to “climate change” and “global warming” from federal web pages and grant proposals. Each one has challenged, delayed or terminated Obama-era environmental regulations and projects ignoring the research results of his agency’s own scientists. See National Geographic’s “Running List of How Trump is Changing the Environment”.

Just about now, you may be suffering a bit of ecoanxiety - feelings of loss, helplessness, and frustration in the face of the enormity of climate change. Don’t despair; resist!



“Uncle Abe’s” Alder Lane, Kerhonkson. October 2017. PHOTO: JOHN HAYES

the presidential election. From the Women’s March on Washington to the March for Science to the 4/29 Climate Marches, ordinary people are stepping up and speaking out in support of affordable health-care, immigration reform, funding for public education, and climate change mitigation. State and local governments have stepped in with regulations to fill the void left by the EPA roll-backs. California, the only state that can set more stringent emission standards than the federal standards, is leading the way, much to the consternation of the auto industry and Pruitt. Twelve other states, including New York, follow California’s stricter emission standards which California expanded in 2006 to include greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Pruitt’s recent decision to revisit the emission and fuel economy standards adopted by the Obama administration has set Washington and California on a collision course.

President Trump’s withdrawal from the Paris Agreement, not to mention the administration’s focus on outmoded fossil fuel in lieu of renewable energy, has resulted in an increase in state and local climate change initiatives. Under the name We Are Still In, a coalition of cities, counties, states, business, colleges and universities have pledged to uphold the U.S. commitments under the Paris Agreement. Working with America’s Pledge, led by Michael Bloomberg and Gov.

Jerry Brown, the two groups will measure the effects of the pledges and of climate-friendly policies already in place with the aim of including the information in future reports on the progress made by the signatories to the Paris Agreement. All of these efforts at resistance have one thing in common; they depend on an informed citizenry willing to make their wishes known at the polls and at the cash register.

Resistance through its many forms has as its core a call to action. Consider the steps you can take as an individual that collectively can have a significant impact on climate change.

For example, a simple dietary change – substituting beans for beef – can go a long way towards reducing GHG emissions (primarily methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O)). While carbon dioxide (CO₂) has been at the forefront of recent emission mitigation efforts, GHG emissions play a pivotal role in climate warming too. Methane is considered at least 25 more times as effective at warming the planet as CO₂ and global livestock farming is responsible for more than half of man-made methane (CH₄) and N₂O emissions. A team of researchers from Oregon State University, Loma Linda University and Bard College recently calculated the impact on GHG emissions if U.S. households substituted beans for beef. This one

RESISTANCE

THERE HAS BEEN A NOTICEABLE SURGE in grassroots activity since

by Elaine Laflamme

dietary change could yield “approximately 46 to 74% of the reductions needed to meet the 2020 GHG target for the US”. While the research looked at the “beef to beans” exchange in isolation, the results demonstrate that dietary changes – substituting plant sourced foods for animal sourced foods – can play a significant role in climate change mitigation. Try it for a week. Research other changes you can incorporate into your life that may help to arrest global warming. Pay attention to your emissions foot print.

However, if you would rather conserve land than give up beef, consider landscape resiliency and the role played by Friends of the Shawangunks.

RESILIENCY AND FOS' LAND CONSERVANCY

THE STUDY OF LANDSCAPE RESILIENCY starts from the premise that the climate is changing faster than at any time in recorded history. It asks, in a rapidly changing environment which sites within classified geophysical settings (distinct combinations of geology and elevation, e.g. limestone valley, shale slope, coarse sand plain) are naturally resilient, that is, have the capacity to adapt to climate change while maintaining biodiversity and ecological function (e.g. processes that enable species and ecosystems to persist and propagate). To determine site resiliency in the northeast, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) with a team of 60 scientists analyzed three factors:

- ✘ **GEOPHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES** (e.g., geology, topography, bedrock, and soil).
- ✘ **The presence of MICROCLIMATES** that buffer resident species from changes in regional climate.
- ✘ **LANDSCAPE PERMEABILITY** (e.g. the number of barriers and the degree of fragmentation within a site that hinder population movement and reorganization).

According to the resiliency maps produced by TNC, our beloved Shawangunk Ridge is highly resilient. Moreover, years of advocacy and land conservation efforts by FOS, Open Space Institute, NY State Office of Parks, NY Department of Environmental Conservation, NY/NJ Trail Conference, Bashakill Area Association, Mohonk Preserve and others have helped to assemble a connected network of resilient sites critical to sustaining a diversity of plants and animals in the face of climate change. But the work is not finished and FOS continues to play an important role. “Maintaining a connected landscape is the most widely cited strategy in the scientific literature for building resilience and has been suggested as an explanation for why there were few extinctions during the last period of comparable rapid climate change (citations omitted).”

FOS' ability to act quickly and purchase connecting parcels like Alder Lane (see August 2017 issue of the WATCH) is crucial to restoring connectivity and increasing the resiliency of the Ridge. Working hand in hand with the State and other conservation groups, and with the generous support of its members, FOS can continue to identify and acquire such key connecting parcels. Let FOS be your call to action.



DUCK POND

a Shawangunk Hiking Destination *by John Hayes*

NESTLED DEEP WITHIN THE EASTERN SLOPE of the Shawangunk Ridge is a gorgeous lake known as Duck Pond. It is a favorite spot among hikers as a refreshing place for a lunch stop, a contemplative rest or to simply get out the camera and capture the idyllic scenery, which everyone seem to do.

Duck Pond is actually not a natural lake at all, but rather a result of the damming of the Kleine Kill, the stream that continues to feed it. The damming took place in 1908.

At the southern end is a sitting area that is also at the intersection of a number of popular hiking trails.

How do you get there, you ask? If you take Butternut Road from either Rt 299 or County Route 6, you need to turn onto Pine Road, which is equidistant between the two (approx. 1 ½ mi). Take Pine Road to the end, where you'll find a small parking lot. Get there early as it is bound to fill up by late morning. As you will be on Mohonk Preserve Land, you will need to pay a day fee, or show your MP member ID.

Hike up the trail that leads to Lenape Lane, where you make a sharp right. When you get to Kleine Kill Farm, make a left, go about a mile until you reach the pond.

Duck Pond is teeming with wildlife. Lots of turtles, often sunning themselves over on the far side. Some of them will appear near the water's edge by the sitting benches, as some visitors have been known to share a little of their lunch. In the spring it is possible to see the mating snakes on the logs at the shallow end. Walking along the water's edge, Duck Pond Road, the view of the escarpment and cliffs of Skytop becomes brilliantly visible, along with the Smiley tower.

There are many choices of trails and carriage roads that can be taken from Duck Pond. For example, Glory Hill Road leads to Oakwood Drive which can take you all the way over to Rhododendron Bridge. Duck Pond Road leads you to Kleine Kill Road, which is steep, but takes you up to Forest Drive, a beautiful carriage road that runs beneath the Skytop escarpment.

Even if Duck Pond is your final destination, it is a terrific short hike that's perfect to bring friends if you want to show off a perfect Shawangunk water feature that's easy to reach in most any season!

The Education of a Mountain St

AN OVERDUE THANK-YOU NOTE *by Laura Waterman*

A DAY IN EARLY FALL, cool enough for sweaters, the clouds pushing the sunlight in and out across the cliff. I was on the cliff, too. The cliff was 300 feet high and I was near the top, air on three sides. The rock was in front of my nose. A rope extended from my waist up to my belayer. This new word had just entered my vocabulary, along with pitch and piton, route and up rope. It felt like the most momentous day of my life, and, in retrospect, it was because it led to so much more.

The climb was Easy Overhang and it carried its name well. It went straight up. It was steeply vertical. There was an overhang, a place where the rocks jugged out like an upside-down staircase. I could feel adrenalin shoot through me. I saw the holds—another word—or new use of an old word. My fingers found the roughness that secured me to the rock and kept me going higher. Exhilarating! Like a singer who hits the note square, and the ease of it satisfies the entire body. I was living in New York then, and went often to the opera.

That was my first climb and the attraction was instant. It was similar to falling in love. This happened not long after, also a first, and to a climber. One who had been climbing for some years. Guy Waterman had three boys and a dog named Ralph who, at the beginning, I mistook for his fourth son. He was almost divorced.

On the weekends we arrived at the cliffs in the dark. Roped up in first light and climbed with cold fingers. The elongated song of the winter wren followed us up the cliff, and the hermit thrush, the wood

thrush, and the other early birds. I was beginning to learn their calls and songs. I was expanding my knowledge of tree identification. A gnarly trunked laurel bush grew out of a crack on Moonlight. Three gigantic white pines spread their roots down Three Pines. I could belay under a shadbush.



LAURA WATERMAN

From the ranger who drove his truck on the carriage roads that ringed the Trapps cliffs I bought four carabiners and nylon webbing to make a sling. Attached the ‘biners and carried the sling across my shoulder. I had a hammer that fit in a leather holster. I used it to remove pitons that the leader, usually Guy, collected from me at the belay ledges and snapped back on his rack.

The process up the cliff was orderly, methodical in a visceral way. The rhythm of the climb: the movement up the cliff face; the stasis at belay ledges for the change overs; the elation at the top where gear was sorted and the rope coiled—often my responsibility—had the precision of a string quartet if there were four people, or a double piano sonata if there were just two: each performer integral for the success of the work.

Guy Waterman and I were married in the parlor of the Mohonk Mountain House, huge windows looking out on the lake and the beautiful white quartzite conglomerate of the cliff’s rock. We entered together under raised ice axes held by our climber friends. “Is this a Quaker custom?” asked a hotel guest who was passing by. We did not know the Smiley family but everyone knew they were Quakers. It was their land we climbed on. In the early 1960s the fam-

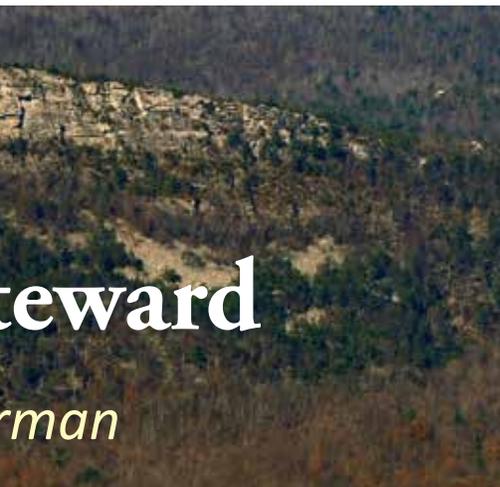
ily had set aside all of it, several thousand acres, excepting the Mountain House itself and some land around it, to establish a preserve: The Mohonk Preserve. Hence the ranger in the truck who collected from us a modest fee for the privilege of climbing.

I’m not sure why, but shortly after our marriage a Smiley family member picked Guy to join the board that managed the land. He was told they wanted a climber. The cliffs were filling up. More climbers than ever before. Responsible land owners, the Smileys understood the imperative of stewardship.

Guy’s new position brought us together with the brothers, Dan and Keith, and their wives, Virginia and Ruth. We began to learn from them: Dan was the naturalist, Keith was in charge of the conferences, often on peace, that had been held at Mohonk for decades. The natural beauty to be found in the land made a perfect setting.

Dan was a record keeper: ice out on the Lake, ice in; the return of all birds, their departure. Blooming times of wild flowers and spring ephemerals. And much, much more. He carried a set of index cards in his breast pocket along with pens. Weather records at Mohonk dated to the 19th century. Dan was carrying on all this data-gathering.

After our marriage Guy and I began planning a big life change that would take us away from the cliffs and to Vermont. We wanted a less split life, a life where our work and play blended, were virtually the same. “You begin keeping records,” Dan said, patting his breast pocket. “You don’t know where it will lead. You just start.” We remembered this. We acted on it. Guy already carried index cards, but he carried more.



We often spent rainy, non-climbable afternoons with Dan and Virginia. A stone fireplace with ash log seats on either side eighteen inches in diameter. Shelves cozy with books. Cups of tea, Virginia's cookies. Our understanding of this new word, stewardship, takes wing.

An invitation to visit a seasonal pond with Ruth and Keith, at dusk. A ritual for them extending back decades. Peepers and wood frogs in tune-up mode, a wild orchestra. Ruth, radiant-faced, can hardly contain herself, as if she's hearing this rite-of-spring for the first time.

Climbing Slide Mountain with Dan. He has turned seventy and leads the way. He points out forest succession as we move through the deciduous and into the conifers. The conifers get smaller and smaller and we emerge on to a rocky summit. There are views into the Catskills and Dan points out the peaks. There is also trash, and fire rings. We break up the fire rings and pick up the trash. Dan talks about John Burroughs, the Catskill naturalist.

I practice observing. I practice tree identification. I'm beginning to understand what it means to be a steward of the land, the Shawangunks for our classroom, the Smileys our gentle tutors.

Guy and I went on to practice what we had learned here in the Gunks on our own land and in the mountains of the Northeast. We wrote a few books. We could pay back best, what we owed to the Smileys and to the cliffs, by passing on the stewardship message, watch it spread out, like ripples in a pond.

Laura is a member of FRIENDS

HARDIE TRUESDALE

PHOTOGRAPHER AND CONSERVATIONIST

by Annie O'Neill



PHOTOGRAPH: STEPHANIE TRUESDALE

SHORTLY AFTER FRIENDS OF THE SHAWANGUNKS launched its campaign to preserve the key Alder Lane parcel, photographer Hardie Truesdale generously responded. Hardie volunteered to donate the entire purchase price and save this land for eventual acquisition by Minnewaska State Park Preserve.

Those who know Hardie were delighted and not surprised. His passion for the Shawangunk ridge has grown over almost half a century. Here, during this time, his conservation instincts and his remarkable photographic talents have been honed.

I have known Hardie for almost fifty years. Hardie's dad was a poet, professor and founder of New Rivers Press and his mom brought up three kids and trained horses. In the late 'sixties they bought a weekend home in the shadow of the Trapps. Thirteen year old Hardie began climbing and acquiring a daredevil reputation.

His passions were climbing and skiing. He went to Windham College and then spent time as a ski bum in the winter and climber in the Gunks in the summer. He eventually returned to Manhattan, and working with Michael O'Neill, learned about large format cameras, technical lighting and darkroom printing.

Hardie was really meant to be outdoors carrying a 4x5 Deardorff view camera into the wild to capture dawn light on a remote talus slope. He focused on nature on rainy misty days when he could not do his crazy solo climbs. This determined his trajectory toward what he calls "atmospheric photography" and his fascination with the elements that "isolate and simplify."

He worked as a nurse on the New Paltz rescue squad, and as an emergency room technician. His growing success as a calendar photographer for the Sierra Club, National Geographic and other publications allowed him to dedicate himself to photography.

He taught himself, and mastered, all aspects of analog printing from black and white to color before finally making the big leap to digital printing. I was astonished to observe his transformation from "wild child" risk taker into a precise, detail-oriented and sensitive photographer.

Hardie now lives on Cape Cod where he is a serious year-round windsurfer. He continues to return to the Shawangunks to photograph, work on his books and install superb exhibitions at the Mark Gruber Gallery in New Paltz. The Gunks will always have a special place in his heart. For Hardie it is an aesthetic and spiritual landscape. Although he has travelled the world, he feels there is just no place like the unique environment he finds here.

He is continuing his work in conservation on Cape Cod with the Orleans Conservancy. Each day he learns more about the beauty of the ocean and the bays.

For a fascinating in depth look at Hardie Truesdale's images, books and accomplishments go to www.Hardietruesdale.com

Thank you so much Hardie for your commitment and dedication to our environment.

Annie is an ex-Board Member of FRIENDS

Global Climate Change and the Shawangunks

BY *David C. Richardson*

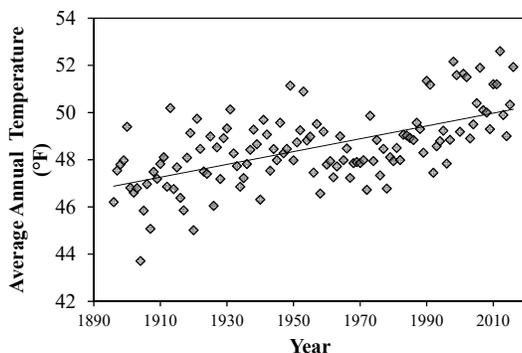
CLIMATE CHANGE IS REAL AND INCONTROVERTIBLE. The climate is rapidly changing as a result of human generated emissions of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, warming the air and affecting storms, drought, and heat on the ground across the world. As I write this, we are currently experiencing the effects of climate change across our nation with widespread droughts and wildfires in the west and north, and floods across the east and south as result of major storms. Tropical cyclones (hurricanes or typhoons) are not caused by climate change but they are made stronger by traveling over warmer water. To date, 2017 has been the only recorded year where more than one Category 5 Atlantic hurricanes have made landfall: Irma and Maria. While these current catastrophes have not specifically affected our region, we have still experienced changing local climate. Tropical storms Irene, Lee, and Sandy have caused wind damage and flooding in our region over the last 6 years. Climate change has resulted in shrinking winters, drier summers, and less frequent but more powerful precipitation events. Plants and animals are shifting their ranges north and uphill to regions that were previously too cold.

Data collected by regional and local scientists and citizen scientists have all supported theories and predictions made at national and global scales. For example, the Shawangunk Ridge has lately experienced record temperatures. Since 1998, the Mohonk Preserve has measured 9 of the 10 warmest years in their 121 year record. This includes the 3rd warmest occurring in 2016 and warmest in 2012 (see Figure 1). In 2011, the Shawangunk Ridge had over 8 inches of rain in one day (Tropical Storm Irene) and then, only a week later, 7 inches in 4 days (Tropical Storm Lee). Nine of the top 10 largest rain storms have occurred since 1998 in the 40 year Mohonk Preserve record. This year, I led a group of scientists in a study that examined the water temperature from 231 lakes across the northeastern United States and Canada. We found that 90 percent of the lakes studied had warming surface waters over the last four decades. This includes Mohonk Lake with long-term data collected by the Mohonk Preserve and their Climate Trackers Citizen Science program. This data is supported by lakes around the world which have also recorded increasing lake temperatures.

While we are seeing dramatic change at our local and even the national level, the current administration under President Trump gets to decide the federal strategy. This administration has focused on loosening environmental regulation; this is the prerogative of the executive branch and appointed federal administrators. However, denying climate change is ignoring data. As famed astrophysicist and director of the Hayden Planetarium, Dr. Neil deGrasse Tyson said “The good thing about science is that it’s true whether or not you believe in it.”

In this divided country, arguing politics seems like a futile endeavor. Instead, I present a few reasons why you (or your relatives, neighbors, and friends) should care about climate change science.

LOCAL SECURITY: Inevitably, the effects of climate change are felt at the local scale. The rain we experienced locally in the 2011 tropical storms pales in comparison to the record setting rains from Hurricane Harvey just dropped on Houston and surrounding areas. However, Irene and Lee were two successive storms that came on the tail of an already wet August with aging infrastructure



ABOVE: Average annual temperatures between 1896 and 2016 measured daily at the Mohonk Mountain House by the Mohonk Preserve and the Smiley family. BELOW AND TOP RIGHT: Flooding from Hurricane Irene, Walkkill Flats, New Paltz, August, 2011. PHOTOS: SUSAN LEHRER



(buildings, roads, bridges) that was built to withstand much smaller scales of wind and flooding. Lives were lost and homes were destroyed. In a YouTube video posted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) titled “Remembering Irene and Lee,” Jeffrey Allen, the Pennsylvania Disaster Recovery Coordinator, said “The communities that were mostly impacted because of Irene and

Lee are still recovering to this day in 2016.”

NATIONAL AND GLOBAL SECURITY: In upstate New York, we have made it through this year so far without any major issues – it has been a reasonably cool and wet summer. However, at the national and global scales, the world has been heating up, polar ice is melting, wildfires are spreading, and floods are raging. We are affected through our concern for our relatives, friends, fellow Americans, and humans around the world. This also affects our national and global security. Much of our wheat, soy, and corn comes from the Midwest, fruits, nuts, and vegetables from California, Florida, and Mexico, poultry from the Southeast, beef and pork from all over the country. Wars are fought over a scarcity of food and water. Current Secretary of Defense James Mattis agrees that climate change is an issue of global security as “Climate change is impacting stability in areas of the world where our troops are operating today...”



NATURAL RESOURCES: For our region, healthy natural resources lead to enjoyment and economic returns. Our region is a beautiful and bountiful region that provides amazing experiences for locals and tourists alike. Hiking, swimming, angling, birding, and hunting all rely on a healthy and conserved environment. Further, those activities draw visitors to our region and drives local economic success through local restaurants, lodging, and other businesses.

There are many things to do locally – for example, reduce travel or use public transit, support regional farms by eating food produced close to home, buy less stuff, support renewable energy through solar, wind, or your energy supplier. Local, county, and state governments can lead the way in meeting emissions reductions and preparing for climate change. For example, mayors from almost 400 cities with 70 million Americans agreed to “adopt, honor, and uphold the commitments to the goals enshrined in the Paris Agreement” and “...work together to create a 21st century clean energy economy.” New York State’s Climate Smart Communities Program aims to create communities around the state prepared to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the predicted changes. Local counties (Ulster and Orange), cities (Kingston), and towns/villages (for example, New Paltz, Rosendale, Saugerties, Woodstock) are all Climate Smart communities. Support local, county, state, and federal leaders and politicians that support these types of programs and acknowledge the human contribution to the changing climate. The time to act is now.



Professor Richardson (second from left) and students Mike Forcella (BS '06, Computer Science MS '17), Philesha Teape (Biology BS '20), Nyoka Bigsby (Biology BS '18) at Sky Top, Shawangunk Ridge.

PHOTO: ROBIN WEINSTEIN

David C. Richardson, PhD, is an associate professor in SUNY New Paltz’s Biology Department. He also holds appointments as a Research Associate at the Mohonk Preserve and Visiting Scientist at the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies. Dr. Richardson received his doctoral degree from the University of Maryland in the Marine, Estuarine, and Environmental Studies program with a focus in stream ecology and his Bachelor of Science from Cornell University as an Operations Research and Industrial Engineer. His general research and teaching interests are in aquatic ecosystem ecology and include the study of invasive species, biogeochemistry, and metabolism. His favorite field locations are the Sky Lakes on the Shawangunk Ridge where he brings students to row, paddle, bike, hike, and sample Lake Minnewaska, Lake Awosting, and Mohonk Lake.

Shawangunk WATCH

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Keith LaBudde, Steve MacDonald, and
Thomas Nozkowski*



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*Friends of the Shawangunks, Inc.
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The latest financial report of
Friends of the Shawangunks
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may be obtained by writing to the
Office of the Attorney General,
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the above address.

NOTES FROM THE SOUTHERN SHAWANGUNKS by Susan Erny

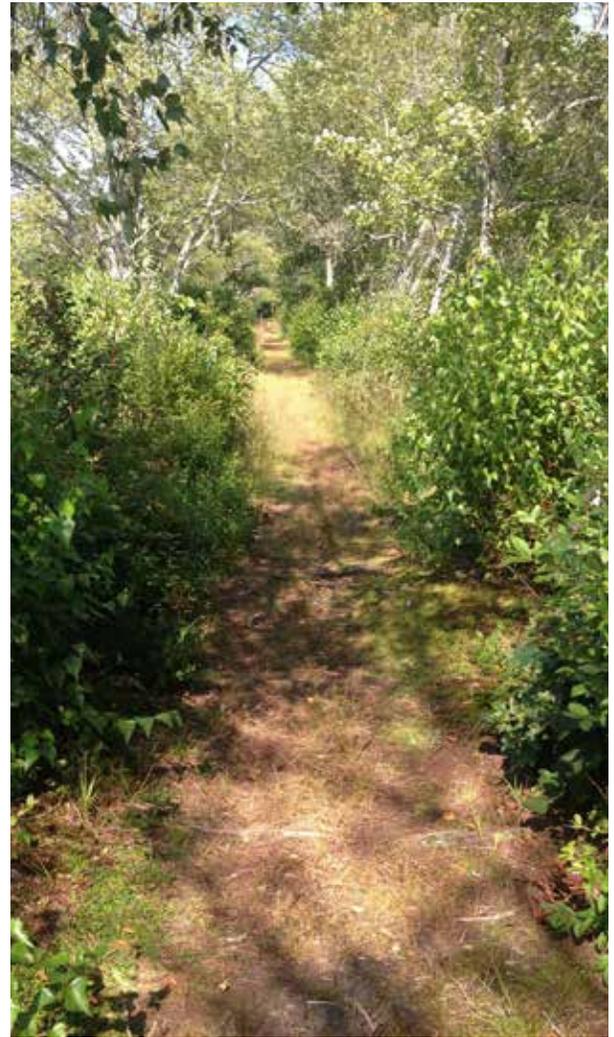
REMEMBER THE DA TANG MUSIC STORE on Galley Hill Road owned by Alan Adler that was built a year ago to support Dragon Springs' music academy? Ten days after receiving its Certificate of Occupancy the store applied for an addition, with incomplete plans. This practice is known as segmentation, building in phases to skirt the environmental review process. In this case the addition was actually a separate building. The addition wasn't mentioned in September, when Da Tang came before the Deerpark Planning Board, although the town engineer did raise issues with the septic system, a retention and filtration pond, boundaries, well distance from the neighbor, as well as parking and plantings. Dang Tang must address these issues and return to the Planning Board.

In other Dragon Springs news—or non-news—the town has not yet acted on the illegally built eighth floor of the rehearsal building.

A new project, New Century Film, located at the 40-acre former New Hope Horse Farm, came before the Deerpark Planning Board in August. The project has been endorsed by New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo as well as the County Arts Council so it has received a lot of positive publicity. This property is in the valley along the Neversink River, in the flood zone. Deerpark Rural Alliance's considers the existing septic system inadequate.

The Alliance has continued to monitor town meetings and has scheduled meetings with people from each Deerpark hamlet to plan citizen involvement. One step is to ask people to attend town meetings. "Education of the citizenry is paramount," writes The Alliance's Grace Woodard.

A NEW THREAT has wormed its way onto the southern end of the Ridge—a 200-foot tall, 6 gigahertz Emergency Medical Services tower being built in the town of Mount Hope. The site is on county land and thus not subject to the town's Ridgeland Protection Act. Mount Hope citizens have complained about the tower—no studies were conducted on its impact on the environment, endangered species, or health hazards—and the town has issued a stop-work order, but it remains to be seen whether the county will honor it. Local activists have asked the county to postpone further construction of the tower for six months until a proper study can be done and a more suitable site found. An activist website (stopmounthopetower.com) includes an online petition. Legal recourse is being considered.



The beautiful and serene O&W Railtrail carries the Long Path and the Shawangunk Ridge Trail along the east side of the Basha Kill. One more reason why we care about the Southern Shawangunks.



JOIN US! DEVELOPMENT THREATENS ALL PARTS OF THE SHAWANGUNKS. JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP.

- BENEFACTOR** \$250.
- PATRON** \$100.
- FAMILY** \$25.
- INDIVIDUAL** \$15.
- OTHER** \$ _____

NAME _____

STREET _____

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I would like to make an additional contribution to The Shawangunk Conservancy for land acquisition.

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