



November 16, 2011

Dear Lime Hollow Friend:

As we approach the Thanksgiving and holiday seasons, uplifting and local stories of success create hope for many of us concerned about uncertain economic times, federal and state budget cuts, and global environment distress. Folks in central New York need not look any further than Lime Hollow for good news. Consider just a few of the accomplishments we've achieved with your help this last year!

✧ **A successful yearlong focus on stewardship and land preservation.** Delivering on last year's promise to focus on the preservation component of our mission, we shared our message with more local citizens than ever before:

- During late winter and spring, NYS DEC Forester John Graham performed a detailed forestry management survey of our 400 acres of land. John's report included recommendations on invasive plant removal, forest understory regeneration, deer browsing control measures, and other helpful tips on managing the diverse habitats within our preserve. Work has already begun on implementing many of John's recommendations.

- This fall, we had record attendance at our monthly trail work days. And thanks to our friends and trail sponsor, *Heyer Physical Therapy*, our tired but fired-up volunteers were well fed after a rewarding day of sprucing up our park.

- As a result of a series of land conservation articles and forums, several adjacent property owners have approached us about preserving and protecting their precious land. We are very excited about the potential expansion of our green space through a variety of land conservation practices.

✧ **Record attendance at summer camp!** We hosted **920** children at our themed, outdoor-focused summer camps, exceeding last year's attendance by an astounding **21%**. Highlights included:

- Our first ever "Family Campout" during Lime AloHollow Week. In addition to learning about native Hawaiian culture (including traditional hula dances), the week ended with a luau complete with dishes to pass and our very own roasted pig—Polynesian style!

- Our dear friend and artist extraordinaire, Tony Ferro, partnered with Lime Hollow's favorite didgeridoo player, Paul Speight, and added a new and whimsical sculpture to the Eric Kroot Art Trail. Tony and Paul worked directly with our campers and created a one-of-a-kind working didgeridoo masterpiece on the southeastern corner of our art meadow. Thanks to Tony, Paul, and our kids, the art meadow continues to grow into a magical place for young and old alike.

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✧ **Dedication of the Lehigh Valley Trail.** After years of planning and hard work, Lime Hollow has finally realized our dream of improving and connecting the entire Cortland County Linear Park. Renamed the Lehigh Valley Trail, this former railroad right-of-way now spans a 2.6-mile stretch from the Lamont Circle neighborhood park to the Tompkins County border.

- In the true spirit of collaboration, Lime Hollow partnered with Seven Valleys Health Coalition, the Town of Cortlandville, Cortland County, Cortland Career Works, the Boy Scouts, SUNY Cortland, the Seven Valley Snow Goers Snowmobile Club, and an army of volunteers to build and repair bridges, fill in low spots, construct parking areas, install informational kiosks, and clear invasive plants along the old railway corridor. Given the current fiscal environment, we firmly believe that these types of public-private partnerships are key to sustaining and maintaining an organization like Lime Hollow in the years ahead.

- For many years we've informed dog owners that Lime Hollow did not have a place for them to walk their pet. Fortunately, this is no longer the case. As part of our Lehigh Valley Trail upgrade, between Gracie Road and Lime Hollow Road, we designated a dog-friendly section for our four-legged friends. We also added a convenient parking area with kiosk on Gracie Road near the trail intersection for people and their pooches. We are happy to report that more dogs than ever before are exercising their owners on our premiere trail.

✧ **Our Nordic Ski Center attained a three-fold increase in attendance last winter.** Not only did central New York experience a banner year for snow in 2011, we saw a record number of winter enthusiasts enjoying the great outdoors on our new XC ski and snowshoe courses. Based on feedback from our skiers, we made improvements to and expanded our back-country ski trail just in time for the upcoming season. And thanks to our friends at the Seven Valleys Health Coalition, we've added more cross country skis and snowshoes to our inventory for this year. For those XC ski thrill-seekers looking for nighttime excitement, please contact Glenn about our newly formed "Nordic Knights." In the meantime, think snow!

✧ **Other highlights:**

- **Upgraded bluebird trail, Leopold benches, Fenway Pond fishing hole, and a 16' load-bearing bridge.** Local Eagle Scouts Evan Graney, Bill Fluger, Orion Hayes, Kenny Lampke, and Allen Perry volunteered hundreds of hours making improvements to our trails, recreation areas, and conservation projects. We are extremely proud of these fine young leaders and their organizations.

- **Beginning of Gracie Pond wetland restoration.** Thanks to SUNY Cortland intern, Shane Cavanaugh, Gracie Pond underwent a makeover near the Governali Bird Watching Platform. Shane led summer work crews and trail day volunteers on a comprehensive and challenging invasive plant removal operation along Gracie Pond's western shore. Shane and dozens of others followed up with planting native trees and shrubs. Shane has jumpstarted our long-term commitment to restoring Gracie Pond to its natural beauty.

These are but a few of the success stories YOU helped underwrite during the last fiscal year. Here are three ways your continuing support can keep us strong in the year ahead!

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OUTDOOR INITIATIVE 1: RESTORATION OF THE WETLAND AREA AT HISTORIC GRACIE POND:

As previously mentioned, Gracie Pond (located due south of our Visitor Center and offering a spectacular view from the both the Dryden Rotary's deck and Governali Overlook) is a vital wetland and water feature for Lime Hollow and our community at large. However, the man-made dam at the southern end of this four acre pond—originally established to power a lumber mill circa 1850—has deteriorated greatly over recent years, lowering water levels and thereby reducing the site's beauty and value as a wildlife resource. Your designated contribution to this initiative will help us secure materials, skilled labor, and construction equipment to carry out the approved restoration design.

OUTDOOR INITIATIVE 2: PURCHASE OF A NEW MAINTENANCE VEHICLE: While our tractor is in good shape, Lime Hollow has been without a dumpster-style pick-up truck for five years. This severely limits our ability to transport mulch, gravel, wood chips, landscaping stones, lumber, building supplies, trail tools, holiday trees, and firewood (*read: poor efficiency and undue volunteer hours spent behind wheelbarrows!*). Additionally, many such transport duties are unfairly transferred to the personal vehicles of our staff members... an untenable situation for several reasons, not the least of which is potential liability. Your designated contribution to this initiative will help us purchase a new or pre-owned dump truck to handle our maintenance duties.

OUTDOOR INITIATIVE 3: EXPAND LIME HOLLOW'S GREEN SPACE: Help us build on our success from last year and increase Lime Hollow's natural areas. With your help, we can preserve and protect more open space, wetland areas, and forests that already surround our nature preserve. Your designated contribution for this initiative will help us purchase more land, enter into conservation easements, and pay for administrative costs associated with increasing our green space holdings.

And, of course, we are always happy to receive and make use of gifts for these ongoing needs:

- 1) Camperships – your gift of \$160 sends a child with demonstrable financial need to a week of Lime Hollow summer camp.
- 2) Lime Hollow's endowment fund – designed to yield interest income only.
- 3) General, "unrestricted" gifts – toward our general operations fund.

Thank you, once again, for your support of Lime Hollow over this last year—and for your renewed support again this year. We promise to be good stewards of any gift you can make.

Glenn Reisweber
Executive Director

Paul Allen
Board President

PS: Please use the enclosed Donor Gift-Designation Form to indicate which initiative you are most excited about. And remember, every contribution to this—our only annual financial appeal each year—is greatly appreciated and will be put to good use!

DONOR GIFT-DESIGNATION FORM

Yes! ____ I recognize a successful and worthy local investment when I see one. Please accept my gift to Lime Hollow in the amount of _____ and apply to one of the following budgets:

OUTDOOR INITIATIVE 1: WETLAND RESTORATION AT HISTORIC GRACIE POND

OUTDOOR INITIATIVE 2: PURCHASE OF A NEW MAINTENANCE VEHICLE

OUTDOOR INITIATIVE 3: GREEN SPACE EXPANSION

OTHER ONGOING NEEDS; PLEASE APPLY TOWARD:

Camperships

Lime Hollow's new endowment

General, "unrestricted" gifts toward our general operations (i.e.: staff salaries/benefits, insurance, maintenance, office & trail-keeping supplies, utilities, computers, etc.)

I am interested in discussing a substantial "legacy" gift to Lime Hollow. Please have Glenn Reisweber or a Lime Hollow Board member contact me in strict confidence to discuss my philanthropic goals or ideas.

Without any obligation, please send me a free copy of Lime Hollow's legacy gift brochure.

