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About the cover image:
Celebrating the Full Flower Moon at Overmountain in Ancram.

Opposite page:
A black-and-white warbler getting curious at Borden’s. Visit this and nine other properties at events this summer - register at ColumbiaLand.org/Events.
Summertime feels luxurious. Fruit ripens, flowers burst into bloom.

Lazy hazy days and long hours of sunshine beckon to us: slow down. Spend time together. Lay on a blanket in a meadow, naming the shapes in the clouds. Dangle your feet in a creek’s cold water, and watch the ripples travel downstream.

It is a season to savor the wind on your face, juice running down your chin, the warmth of the sun on your skin. And a season to be grateful for the land that makes all these experiences possible.

The land we care for has been the site of so many connections this year.

In April, new anglers gathered at Sutherland Pond at Ooms to try their hand at fishing for the first time through a partnership with the North Chatham Free Library. No fish were caught, but everyone was able to make use of free equipment to try something new.

In May, we celebrated the Flower Moon at Overmountain in Ancram, learning about the plants in bloom and soaking up the sun at the Kite Hill Gazebo. If you’re looking for somewhere to spend one of those long summer days watching the clouds, you can’t go wrong there.

We also kicked off our brand new Land Camp workshop series. These workshops invite participants to learn, try, and DIY land management techniques they can practice at home. The first two workshops at Ooms in Chatham focused on field management, with particular attention to caring for our regionally-rare grassland birds.

This is just a small selection of happenings, photos of which are included on the next pages. When I look at these images, I’m struck by how evident the sense of joy is on everyone’s faces. I’m honored by the opportunity to play a small part in making these moments happen.

I hope to see you at an event this summer! I’ll be at the Let’s Get Out Together events on July 20 at Overmountain and August 24 at Greenport. Bring the family, bring a picnic blanket, bring your dog - maybe we can spend some time naming the clouds together.

Troy Weldy
President

P.S. Want to chat more about anything mentioned in this newsletter? Be in touch at Troy.Weldy@ColumbiaLand.org or 518.557.1762.
SUMMER FUN

Top: Students at a Kite’s Nest program explore pond habitats at Schor.
Bottom (L): Spring migration bird walk at Drowned Lands,
(M) Tiger swallowtail butterfly at Overmountain, (R) Forest walk with Tom Wessels at Hand Hollow
Top: Kicking off the volunteer season at Schor.
Bottom: Posing with Earl the Squirrel on a Nature Quest hike.
Side: Trying out kayaks at a Fish & Float event
**Flow at High Falls**
Go chasing waterfalls this summer

- Park at 540 Roxbury Road, Hudson, just outside the Village of Philmont.
- Take Waterfall Way to the Waterfall Overlook and marvel at the beauty and power of the Agawamuck Creek! Head back the way you came, or take a detour and enjoy the Agawamuck Trail.
- Total distance: 0.6 miles one way, for a total of 1.2 miles.

**Drowned Lands, Ancramdale**

**Big views at Drowned Lands**
Climb the Summit Trail

- Park at 654 County Route 3, Ancramdale.
- Follow the trail to the right from the parking lot.
- Total distance: 0.6 miles round trip - but it’s a steep 0.6 miles! The trail has a standard grade of 19%, which is almost five times steeper than a standard ramp.

**Quiet forests at Harris**
Take a secluded stroll in this quiet, cool forest.

- Park at 105 Bloody Hollow Road in Austerlitz - there are two Bloody Hollow Roads, so be sure you are entering from Stonewall Road.
- Take the Salamander Loop to the pond. Enjoy the bench overlooking the pond and sit quietly - perhaps you’ll see or hear an owl flying by! This pond was likely formed by mining magnesium.
- Total distance: 0.9 miles on a narrow, forested, packed earth trail. The average grade is 13%.
CLC is lucky to be hosting two fabulous interns this summer. Though their time with CLC may be relatively short, they’ve already made a big impact!

Ruby Bashant is a rising senior studying Conservation Biology at St. Lawrence University. Prior to joining the CLC team, they spent summers leading an AmeriCorps team in Arizona and as a camp counselor in Colorado. At CLC, they assist the easement stewardship staff with monitoring properties, and hike the trails with the public lands team, making sure everything is mapped for future reference.

*Ruby says “I love talking with the team about plans for the future of CLC’s public lands, and how we can improve access and the visitor experience. Being part of this team makes me excited for how future generations will get to connect to the land.”*

Kira Gruber recently completed graduate school, earning a master’s in Political Science from the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy at SUNY-Albany, where she completed several public policy internships. At CLC, you may find her hiking the trails and collecting photos and videos, tabling at community events, or assisting at education programs.

*“Interning with the Columbia Land Conservancy has been amazing. Getting to know the people of Columbia County and encouraging them to embrace nature has been such a fulfilling experience. Plus, the fantastic team here makes everything even better!” Kira says.*
Let's Get Out Together
Summer event series
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
July 20 at Overmountain, Ancram
August 24 at Greenport, just outside Hudson

Floating Friday
July 12, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Hand Hollow, East Chatham

Volunteer Orientation
August 15, 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Virtual

Register in advance!
Visit ColumbiaLand.org/events
Text “hello” to 518.535.3252
Scan the QR code