

We gratefully acknowledge the many foundations, individuals, businesses, and corporations who made charitable donations to  
The Palisades Parks Conservancy, Inc.

April 1, 2014 and March 31, 2015

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THE PALISADES PARKS CONSERVANCY  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2014-2015



**PALISADES CLIFFS PROTECTED!**

*Coalition to Protect the Palisades Reaches LG Agreement*

For nearly three years, the Protect the Palisades coalition worked diligently to ensure that the majestic Palisades of the Hudson remain an unspoiled swath of greenspace on the western shore of the Hudson River. The group of more than 30 environmental organizations and individuals formed in response to LG Electronics' proposed office tower headquarters, designed to rise to a height of 143 feet – 70 feet above the tree line and more than 100 feet taller than existing zoning in the area. The Coalition feared that construction of the new headquarters would not only mar the sweep of the Palisades, but would create a dangerous precedent and lead to additional high-rise development along the natural and historic landmark cliffs.

So, this grassroots group of citizens and organizations began to speak up and speak out. Lawsuits were filed. Four former NJ Governors petitioned LG to reduce the height of its tower. The National Trust for Historic Preservation and the World Monuments Fund declared the Palisades national and international treasures in need of preservation. By 2014, with a pending legal appeal looming, LG's management and the leaders of the Protect the Palisades coalition began to discuss a way forward.

Throughout the struggle, both sides wanted to make sure that Englewood Cliffs did not lose the potential economic benefit of having LG as a cornerstone of its community. The coalition asked LG to build out rather than up. After 11 months of negotiations, LG agreed to reduce the height of the building to 70 feet, putting the tower right at the tree line. Just a few months later, the NJ appellate court ruled in favor of the plaintiffs, legally requiring LG to apply for a new zoning variance in Englewood Cliffs.

The successful legal appeal and the agreement with LG ensure that the Palisades have, once again, been saved. The 200 million year old cliffs will remain an expanse of green in the NYC metropolitan area. This conclusion would not have been possible without the hard work of hundreds of people across the country. The Conservancy is thankful to everyone who spoke up to protect the Palisades. We are proud to have been a part of the battle to save the cliffs and consider ourselves fortunate to be among your company. Well done!



The Palisades Cliffs in Summer

The Palisades Parks Conservancy was founded in 2002 as the non-profit "Friends" group of the Palisades Interstate Park Commission. Since then, our work has expanded so that today, we promote the following:

*The Palisades Parks Conservancy's mission is to support and protect the natural and cultural resources of the parks and historic sites of the Palisades Interstate Park system, while raising public awareness and supporting educational opportunities about the parks' national heritage.*

The Conservancy's vision for the parks and historic sites we serve is as follows:

*The Palisades Parks Conservancy's vision is for enhanced public access and education that supports and is in harmony with the preservation of the natural, recreational, and cultural resources of the Palisades Interstate Parks system.*



Sign up for daily event notifications, register to receive our online newsletter, and find information about PIPC parks, historic sites, programs, and celebrations by visiting our website and other social media accounts:

www.palisadesparks.org



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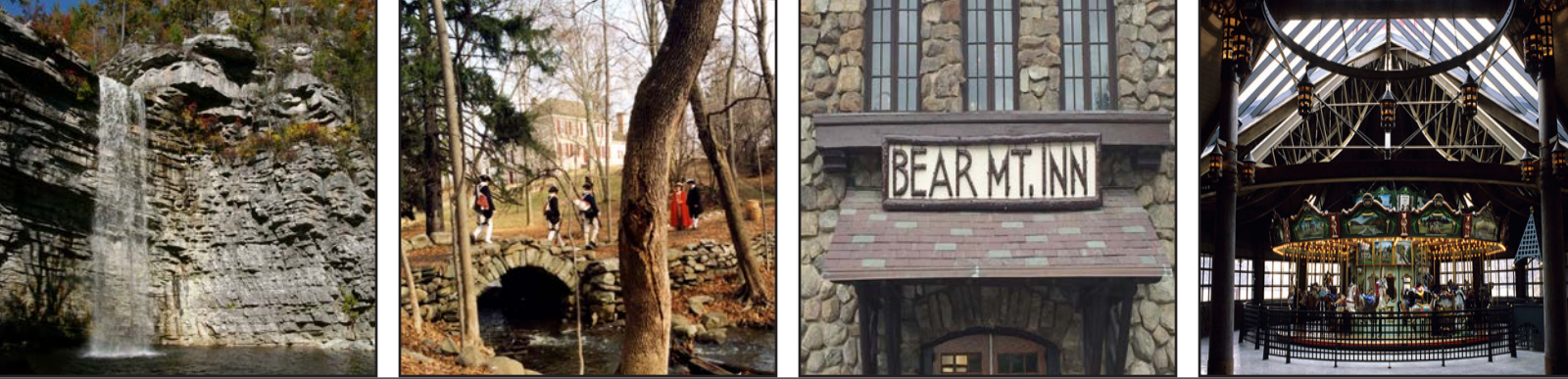
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## A Message From Our Board

Dear Friends, Partners, and Supporters,

From New Jersey's Palisades Park to Minnewaska State Park Preserve, the Conservancy spent 2014 working to improve the Palisades Interstate Park Commission's parks and historic sites. With the help of more than 300 individual, foundation, and corporate donors, the Conservancy was able to fund the construction of new trails and rare species habitat conservation, provide free public programs, support environmental education at the group camps, restore the Appalachian Trail, and more. Thank you to everyone who donated; our work is only possible because of you.

I would also like to thank the many supporters of the campaign to Save the Tower of Victory at Washington's Headquarters in Newburgh. We started the campaign in September of 2012, with the goal of raising \$1.6 million to return the Tower to its original appearance and function. I am pleased to announce that, with the help of so many generous benefactors, we have met our goal and the Tower will be restored!

I am also pleased to announce that our work on the Hamilton Point carriage road in Minnewaska State Park Preserve is complete! The Hamilton Point carriage road winds through some of the park's most scenic areas, providing multi-use access to the public. In 2012, we were awarded funds from the State of NY to restore and reopen this 3.7-mile long multi-use pathway through Minnewaska. Thank you to our partners at the PIPC, OSI, the Alliance for Parks, and OPRHP for making this project such a success. Next time you're in the area, cycle, ski, or take a walk along the newly restored carriage road.

The Conservancy also successfully raised funds in 2014 to survey for and restore the habitat of the very rare Golden-winged Warbler. This tiny migratory bird visits Harriman, Bear Mountain, and Sterling Forest State Parks every spring to nest and raise its young. Their numbers, however, have dwindled so that they are under consideration for federal listing as an endangered species. Fortunately, PIPC parks provide a haven for these beautiful birds and we are working hard to make sure that their habitat remains vibrant.

I am also very pleased that, after a long negotiating period, LG Electronics has agreed to lower the height of its proposed office complex to just below the tree line! This agreement has literally saved the Palisades again and laid the framework for a second century of preservation of the cliffs. The Conservancy would like to thank LG for their willingness to compromise, Larry Rockefeller for leading the negotiations, and all the members of the Protect the Palisades coalition for keeping up the pressure and making their voices heard.

Finally, I would like to welcome our newest board members, Graham Jones, JoAnn Dolan, and Paul Tomasko. I look forward to working with them to continue to improve the parks.

On behalf of the Conservancy, thanks to everyone who has worked with us and supported our efforts this past year. Here's looking forward to many more great years working together!



**Joshua E. Hyman**  
President

### Palisades Parks Conservancy Board of Directors

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Erik A. Larsen, M.D., Treasurer  
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## Events Update

### 14th Annual Conservancy Benefit Gala

This year at the PPC Annual Gala, the Conservancy celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Bear Mountain Inn's opening by honoring those who have kept "the people's inn" flourishing over the past century.

George W. Perkins, Sr., the first President of the PIPC, conceived of the Bear Mountain Inn more than a century ago. Funding the construction out of his own pocket, Perkins' had the Inn constructed in 9 months. It opened on June 26, 1915. So, it was only fitting that there were more than 30 members of the Perkins family celebrating the great success of George W. Perkins, Sr. at the benefit. The Perkins' remain, to this day, one of the most consistent supporters of the PIPC and its parks.

Also present were members of the Martin family who operated the Inn during its heyday in the 1940s - 1960s. Representing the Martin family at the benefit was the Honorable John S. Martin, Jr. He was joined by Terry Martin Hekker, Jack Martin's daughter who provided wonderful information and photographs for this year's film, Margaret Martin Ables, Margaret Martin, Susan Martin, Anne Martin Richards, Thomas Hekker, and Annie Hekker Weiss.

In addition, the PPC honored *Guest Services, Inc.*, the current operators of the Inn who have helped to once again make it a worldwide tourist destination.

*Guest Services* is a nearly 100 year old non-profit company that provides food and lodging at Big Sur, Mount Rainier, and the National Mall.

The Conservancy would like to thank everyone who took part in the Inn's 100th birthday party to celebrate the Perkins and Martin families, and *Guest Services*.



### 4th Annual Palisades Race

On May 3rd, the Conservancy hosted its 4th annual running race series at Ross Dock, NJ.

Nearly 800 runners took part in three race events with all proceeds supporting improvements within the New Jersey section of the Palisades Interstate Park.

This event would not be possible without our presenting sponsor, Benzel Busch Motor Car Corp, and all the other partners, including: NY Waterway, Mack-Cali Realty, Fairway Market, the NY and NJ Running Companies, Race Awesome, Weichert Realtors, Ragnar Events, the Englewood Field Club, sport-memories.com, and Tiger Schulmann's Mixed MMA. Thank you as well to the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference for partnering with us again to put on the 6K.

A HUGE thank you to the 50 volunteers who made this event possible, including PPC board member Victor Del Rio who has championed the races from the beginning.

**Join us next year on Sunday, May 1, 2016!**

### Tower of Victory Benefit Dinner

On October, 21st, the Conservancy and friends hosted a fundraiser to benefit the campaign to Save the Tower of Victory. Anthony's Pier Nine in New Windsor, NY catered and author James Patterson served as honorary dinner chair.

Nearly 150 people attended, including U.S. Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney, Newburgh Mayor Judy Kennedy, and NY State Senator William J. Larkin. That night we also received a \$100,000 grant from the William and Elaine Kaplan Family Private Foundation!

The Conservancy would also like to extend a very special thanks to campaign committee Denise Doring VanBuren, Barney McHenry, Joe Bonura, David MacFarland, Andy Komonchak, Jim Smith, Thomas Sullivan, James Taylor, Nick and Susan Valentine, Karen Minogue, William Vacca, Jeffrey Werner, and Donna Cornell for their support! Thank you as well to the many community partners who pitched in to help raise funds to Save the Tower! Your support made the event a great success.



## Projects & Grants

### Tower of Victory Campaign

The Conservancy officially launched the \$1.6 million campaign to Save the Tower in September of 2012. Since then, the Conservancy has received donations from across the country - all in an effort to finance the restoration of the Tower of Victory at Washington's Headquarters in Newburgh, NY to its original appearance and to preserve it for posterity.

**With the assistance of many supporters, friends, and partners, we have reached our goal!** Contract documents have been drawn up and bids have been solicited. The restoration is slated to begin in 2016!

The Conservancy would like to thank everyone who donated to the campaign, including: NYS OPRHP, the William and Elaine Kaplan Family Private Foundation, The Thompson Family Foundation, the American Express Foundation, Jennifer Speers, the Charina Endowment Fund, Taylor Recycling Facility, Lucy R. Waletzky, Anne Perkins Cabot, Barnabas McHenry, Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corp., Denise Doring VanBuren, Assemblyman Frank Skartados, Dick Polich, Bryce O'Brien, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Jeffrey Werner, Michelle Hinchey, Larry Rockefeller, Joe Bonura, and so many more.

### Together We Saved the Tower!



### PIPC Archives Project

In the past year, the Conservancy has put time and resources into improving the PIPC archives, a collection of nearly 500,000 books, letters, photographs, artifacts, and other items - all related to the history and activities of the PIPC.

The Conservancy has purchased new archival cabinets, cataloged the map collection, arranged the photographs, and is currently working to organize and conserve the library.

Still, the Conservancy needs help to continue this important work. In particular, volunteer assistance is a big need. Cataloging, digitizing, cleaning, and reorganizing 500,000 objects is a lot of work! *If you are interested in assisting in any way, please contact Matthew Shook via e-mail at [shookm@pipc.org](mailto:shookm@pipc.org).*

### Grants Received & Completed in 2014

In the 2014 fiscal year, the Conservancy applied for and received the following grants:

- *NY State OPRHP* - The Conservancy was awarded a \$500,000 grant to restore the Tower of Victory.
- *William & Elaine Kaplan Family Private Foundation* - The Kaplan Foundation of Newburgh supported the Tower of Victory project with a \$100,000 grant.
- *My Good Fund Trust* - The Trust, and Ms. Jennifer Speers, provided a \$50,000 to support the restoration of the Tower of Victory.
- *Sarah K. de Cozart Perpetual Trust* - This \$40,000 grant was the second installment of a two-year project to conserve the Golden-winged Warbler in Harriman, Bear Mountain, and Sterling Forest parks.
- *Charina Endowment Fund, Inc.* - The Charina Fund provided a matching grant in the amount of \$25,000 to support the Tower restoration project.

In addition to the new grants listed above, the Conservancy also completed the following grant-funded projects:

- *The Upper East Face Project* - Working with our partners at the NY-NJ Trail Conference, the Appalachian Trail at Bear Mountain was rerouted, restored, and revitalized. We sincerely thank the NYNJTC for their amazing work!
- *Carriage Road Restoration Project* - As part of the larger project to restore Minnewaska's historic carriage road system the Conservancy and its contractors completed the restoration of the 3.7-mile Hamilton Point carriage road. The path is officially reopened to multiple uses including hiking, biking, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing.



## Conservancy Small Grants Update

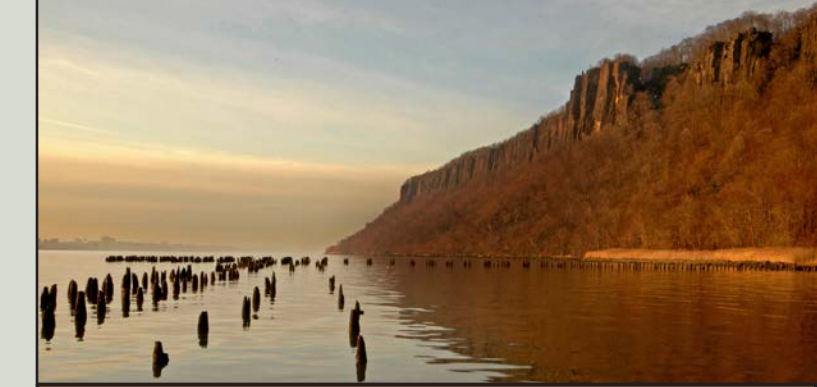
Each year, the Conservancy gives out small grants (up to \$500) to promote free public events at PIPC parks and historic sites and support educational programming. In 2014, seventeen such grants were awarded.

Small grants from the Conservancy in 2014 supported the following:

- Outdoor educational programs for students at Minnewaska State Park Preserve
- Educational and writing workshops at Washington's Headquarters, New Windsor Cantonment, and Knox's Headquarters State Historic Sites
- The new introductory film at Knox's Headquarters
- Plein air painting and receptions by the Palisades Interstate Park Artists in the Parks
- The annual birthday celebration at Washington's Headquarters
- Seasonal public events and animal enrichment at Trailside Museums and Zoo
- Knox's Headquarters holiday open house
- Reenactments and educational programming at Fort Montgomery State Historic Site
- Living history programs at Fort Lee Historic Park
- Square dancing at Palisades Interstate Park
- Earth Day at Trailside Museums and Zoo
- A Memorial Day musical performance at the New Windsor Cantonment
- Children's Day at the New Windsor Cantonment
- The annual Group Camps Canoe Regatta
- Lighthouse Day at Stony Point Battlefield
- The Washington's Headquarters annual Volunteer Day

In addition, Conservancy funds were also used to -

- Fund four summer Regional Museum directors throughout the season who provided hands-on environmental education programs to thousands of group campers in Harriman State Park
- Continue efforts to improve, organize, and catalog the PIPC archives
- Support the annual PIPC employee recognition event and picnic



## Statement of Activities April 1, 2014 - March 31, 2015

### Support & Revenue:

Individual Contributions	\$110,409
Grants	\$694,343
Events	\$69,815
Investment Income	\$7,848
<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>	<b>\$882,415</b>

### Expenses:

<i>Program Expenses</i>	
Archives	\$3,560
Artists in the Parks	\$4,480
Group Camps	\$24,911
Memorial Programs	\$2,924
Minnewaska Carriage Roads	\$407,006
Tower of Victory	\$27,087
Trailside Museums & Zoo	\$32,823
Special Projects	\$10,606
Appalachian Trail	\$55,989
Golden-winged Warblers	\$26,907
Knox Headquarters	\$1,969
Protect the Palisades	\$1,146
Purple Heart Hall of Honor	\$1,754
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>	<b>\$597,162</b>

### Supporting Services:

Management and General Fundraising	\$38,826
<b>Total Supporting Services</b>	<b>\$47,287</b>

### Net Assets:

Net Assets Beginning of Year	\$689,003
Net Assets End of Year	\$922,779
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$233,776</b>

A copy of our audited financial statement is available upon request