

## Land Trust to Honor Ralph E. Ogden Foundation

Posted on: May 10, 2016.

Posted by:



Kathy Welsh

SUGAR LOAF – Orange County Land Trust will honor the Ralph E. Ogden Foundation at their 2016 Annual Benefit Reception and Auction on Friday evening, June 17 at the Falkirk Estate and Country Club in Central Valley.



L-R: Karen Washington of Rise & Root Farm, with Bea Stern, Lisa Stern and Michael Bruno showcase just some of the organic vegetables and herbs grown in the rich black dirt soil at the Chester Agricultural Center. The Orange County Land Trust will honor the Stern family of the Ralph E. Ogden Foundation at the OCLT's Annual Benefit Reception and Auction for their support of the CAC. Photo provided

The Ralph E. Ogden Foundation will be honored for their longtime commitment to land conservation and for their vision in launching the 270-acre Chester Agricultural Center. A partnership between Northeast Farm Access, Orange County Land Trust and a group of social impact investors, the CAC works with new organic farm start-ups to provide for long term and secure access to farmland. There are currently five new organic farms operating on site.

According to Benefit Chair Michael J. Bruno of Tuxedo Park, the theme for this year's Benefit Reception is "Investing in Farms, Food and People."

The evening will be a celebration of land conservation, the bounty of Orange County farmland, and the people who are helping ensure agriculture remains a vibrant and valuable part of Orange County's economy and heritage.

"The Ralph E. Ogden Foundation has been a strong voice in support of sustainable farming and we are delighted to honor them at this year's Benefit Reception," said OCLT Executive Director Jim Delaune.

"With the launch of the Chester Agricultural Center last year, it has been exciting for all of us involved in this effort to see several young and beginning farmers provided with an opportunity to get onto the land, work hard – and experience great success. It's hard to believe that little more than a year ago this was all just a concept," said Delaune.

The reception will feature cocktail-style dining overlooking the grounds of the Falkirk Estate, as well as an exciting silent auction, and raffle of original artwork.

Tickets are \$150 each, and are available for purchase online at [www.oclt.org](http://www.oclt.org) or by calling the Land Trust at 845.469.0951, x10. For more information, and for sponsorship and advertising opportunities, please visit [www.oclt.org](http://www.oclt.org)

The Land Trust is grateful for the support of its many individual land patrons, and to the following businesses and organizations for their support of the 2016 Benefit Reception and Auction:

- Tuxedo Hudson Company
- The Jack and Louise Birnberg Foundation
- Blackburne Farm
- Lowland Farm
- Cornerstone Environmental Group, LLC
- The Valley Table Magazine
- First Federal Savings of Middletown
- Lehman & Getz Consulting Engineers
- Hill-N-Dale Abstracters, Inc
- Masterwork Home
- Bonni Masi Oswald State Farm Insurance
- Pell Wealth Partners
- Ralph E. Ogden Foundation, Inc
- Rider, Weiner & Frankel, PC
- Satin Fine Foods
- Scialo, Reimann & Varley, CPA, PC
- Turner Miller Group, NY LLC