

CONTACT
Hawthorne Valley Association / Sushannah Laurange
Marketing Associate
518-672-4465 x 224

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hawthorne Valley Farm plants 300 trees for Silvopasture

June 22, 2020, Ghent, NY – Hawthorne Valley Farm (HVF) is pleased to share that it has planted over 300 trees as part of a silvopasture project. Silvopasture is the incorporation of trees into farm field management in such a way that benefits grazing animals and improves carbon capacity.

The 300 trees were planted by 20 volunteers in a meadow on the Farm's Schnackenberg Road campus in Ghent. The varieties include a mixture of Honey and Black Locust, Mulberry, Hybrid Poplar, and Chestnut which all have high quality feed value for cows in the pasture.

"The impulse for the project came out of the growing awareness of the agricultural value of trees," says Spencer Fenniman, director of Hawthorne Valley Farm. "This awareness has lived at Hawthorne Valley for a number of years in the long standing effort of the farm in collaboration with Farmscape Ecology to create a mosaic agricultural landscape."

An opportunity to make the idea of silvopasture a reality came after Sophia Hampton, a member of the first cohort of Hawthorne Valley's gap year program Place Corps did an independent study that focused on this form of agriculture. In collaboration with Connor Steadman of Apple Seed Permaculture, Hampton and HVF staff developed a plan to establish strips of tree crops in a young stock meadow that suffered from excessive Southern exposure.

"The goal of these trees, planted along contours on the hill, is to improve the carbon capacity of our agricultural fields, to provide shade, create habitat corridors, and tree fodder for our cows who do seek out leaves to eat," says Fenniman.

For more information about Hawthorne Valley Farm, please visit our website:
<https://farm.hawthornevalley.org>.

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About Hawthorne Valley

Hawthorne Valley is a place to rediscover one's connection to nature, to how the food that we eat every day is produced, and to ourselves as participants in a dynamic social and natural ecosystem. Through the

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active production of food, educational programs for children and adults, ongoing social and scientific research, and the cultivation of a vibrant artistic community, we pursue a modern way of living embedded deeply in the natural world and emphasizing the social, ecological, and economic importance of agriculture in our daily lives.

Our integrated learning campus sits in a 900-acre Demeter-certified Biodynamic® farm in Ghent, NY, in the Hudson Valley's scenic Columbia County. Organized since 1972 as a 501(c)3 nonprofit, our initiatives include: an early childhood through grade 12 Waldorf school; on-farm education programs; a full-line organic/natural foods and grocery store; a Biodynamic creamery, organic bakery, and fermentation cellar; a 300-plus member Biodynamic CSA; social, ecological, and cultural research groups; teacher education programs; arts initiatives and more.

Our work is based on genuine human relationships, wonder and love of nature, and continued commitment to self-development and lifelong learning in a social context.

For additional information, please visit <https://hawthornevalley.org>.

About Place Corps

Place Corps is a year-long, experiential learning program designed for 18-25 year olds. Participants develop the skills and wisdom needed to live and work in ways that make their lives, their communities, and the Earth truly thrive. They also become certified in permaculture design, learn to grow their own food, build green, create regenerative place-based projects, plus more.

Situated on a 900-acre Biodynamic® farm in the Hudson Valley, participants explore the urban and rural region as a living classroom. Over the course of the year, they self-design college accredited study plans, engaging with accomplished practitioners, and organizations working at the forefront of social, ecological, and economic regeneration. They develop a professional work portfolio aligned with their unique interests and future goals.

The program is a collaborative effort between Hawthorne Valley and The Good Work Institute (goodworkinstitute.org). Learn more at placecorps.org.