



## Finger Lakes Land Trust Questions and Answers on Bequest and Living Trust

### **Can I make a gift to the Land Trust but still use my land?**

Many landowners wish to retain maximum flexibility during their lifetimes and choose to carry out their conservation plans through a bequest or a living trust. A landowner can conserve important lands by donating property or donating a conservation easement through their Wills.

A bequest is a provision in the landowner's will or codicil (a Will amendment) that instructs the estate's executor to convey land or a conservation easement to the Land Trust. A living trust can achieve the same results but avoids the probate process.

Both the bequest and the living trust can assure the permanent protection of the land, permit the donor to control the property during his/her lifetime, and may reduce the donor's taxable estate.

If you wish to donate property or a conservation easement through your Will, please contact the Land Trust so we can work with you to create a conservation plan. After discussing your plans with us, the Land Trust should be named in your will as: 'The Finger Lakes Land Trust, Inc., a nonprofit organization, incorporated in New York State, and with the business address of 202 E. Court Street, NY, 14850.'

### **How can I find out more information?**

Call the main office at (607) 275-9487 or write or e-mail the Finger Lakes Land Trust to talk with a staff member about your conservation goals.