



The Land Steward

NEWSLETTER OF THE FINGER LAKES LAND TRUST

working to protect the natural integrity of the Finger Lakes Region

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Rare Stretch of Canandaigua Lake Shoreline Protected

Beverly Reed's mother was nine years old when she first began spending summers at the farmhouse on Bare Hill, above Canandaigua Lake's eastern shore in Middlesex, Yates County. "Mom loved these woods growing up," said Reed. "I was also nine when mom and dad built our first cottage here, so I know what it's like to spend a childhood discovering bobcats and warblers in these woods."

Now, thanks to the Reed family's commitment to conservation, as well as the support of the Land Trust's donors and partners, 68 acres on Bare Hill and nearly 400-feet of shoreline on the east side of Canandaigua Lake will be available for the next generation of explorers. In June, Beverly and her brother Charles sold their property to the Land Trust for considerably less than its appraised market value.

According to Land Trust Executive Director Andy Zepp, the Reed property had long been recognized as a priority for protection, both for its undeveloped shoreline and its shared border, for more than 2,000 feet, with Bare Hill State Unique Area. "There's very little frontage available on Canandaigua Lake today, and what becomes available is often very expensive," Zepp said. "Thanks to the generosity of the Reeds, the support of our donors, and a low interest bridge loan from the Ithaca-based Park Foundation, we were able to secure this scenic property and create a continuous corridor of conserved lands from the shoreline to the summit of Bare Hill."

Support for the project has included contributions from both the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council, and the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association. Kevin Olvany,

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New Boardwalk Premiered at Emerald Necklace Dedication

On the sweltering final day of May, approximately 75 Land Trust supporters gathered at the Roy H. Park Preserve in Dryden, Tompkins County, to celebrate the first major link in the Emerald Necklace greenbelt and the opening of a new boardwalk and trail connecting the Land Trust's preserve to Hammond Hill State Forest.

The original preserve was created from three adjacent properties acquired by the Land Trust between 2007 and 2011. Generous funding to purchase these lands came from many supporters, including lead gifts from Dorothy Park and her daughter Adelaide Park Gomer, who named the preserve in honor of the late media entrepreneur and Ithaca resident Roy H. Park.

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RICK LIGHTBODY

JIM FRALICK

The choices facing us in the Finger Lakes are nowhere more clear than on Bare Hill overlooking Canandaigua Lake's eastern shore. Thanks to the Reed family and supporters of the Land Trust, more than 60 acres of wooded hillside and a rare stretch of shoreline will be available for future generations to enjoy. And this land is part of a growing network of protected lands in this area.

One need only look across the road, however, to see a new serpentine road laid out on steep slopes and a sign advertising lots for a sale—clear indication of our ever present quest to squeeze one more house on the lake.

With increasing frequency, it seems, news reports from Canandaigua describe roads washing out and steep hillsides giving way during summer thunderstorms. In one case, a house was literally filled with mud and stones from a nearby landslide. All of this means more erosion and runoff into the lake and a commensurate decrease in water quality.

I can think of no better memories than the times I've spent with friends at their homes on various Finger Lakes. Summers at a lakeside cottage have helped create and maintain family bonds that last through the generations.

A sad truth is that not everyone can have a lakeside home or cottage, and as someone who doesn't own a lakeside getaway, this is especially sad for me! The shoreline of our Finger Lakes is finite. The most developable shoreline has already

been used, and only the steepest, most erodible areas remain. For better or, in my view, for worse, these lands are rapidly being sold parcel by parcel as the last of our lakefront house lots.

Our lakes and the steep hillsides around them can only support so much development. And in some cases, the steepest areas just simply shouldn't be developed. Unless we act now to secure our last undeveloped shoreline and the steep, verdant hillsides overlooking the lakes, we risk losing them forever along with the sparkling waters that so many of us love.

The acquisition of the Reed property must be the beginning of a collective, region-wide effort to secure our last remaining undeveloped shoreline. Given the high cost of these lands, this will require a much greater commitment on the part of our public conservation agencies, perhaps on a par with recent conservation investments within the Adirondack Park. In addition, local communities must increase their oversight of construction on steep slopes and develop policies that support conservation of sensitive lakeside areas.

Increasingly, the Finger Lakes region is being recognized across the country, and indeed around the world, as a remarkable place. Please join with us to keep it that way.

—Andy Zepp

Land Trust Recognizes Passing of Local Conservation Leaders

The Land Trust lost two of its most passionate supporters this spring when both Howard Hartnett and Charles Pearman passed away. Both were dedicated conservationists who left a legacy of conserved land here in the Finger Lakes.

Howard served on the Land Trust's Board of Directors and its Advisory Council, as well as a number of other charities and civic organizations in Cayuga and Tompkins counties. When a key parcel within the wildlife-rich Owasco Flats was slated for auction on short notice, Howard used his own money to acquire the land and then sold it to New York state for inclusion in a wildlife management area when funds were available. In honor of Howard's dedication to the land, the Land Trust's Board of Directors has named the newly constructed boardwalk at the Roy H. Park Preserve "Howard's Walk."

Charles Pearman is the donor of two conservation easements to the Finger Lakes Land Trust. Woodlands in Ellis Hollow, east of Ithaca, and fields and forest bordering Trumansburg Creek are now secure thanks to his foresight. With his wife Carol Skinner, Charles also agreed to sell his beloved "Pearman Woods" to the Land Trust for far less than its appraised value. Today one can stroll through this mature forest alongside a babbling brook and listen to the hoot of a Barred Owl and the trill of a Winter Wren.

Both of these conservationists will be missed, but their spirit will live on in the lands they conserved.



Rare Stretch of Canandaigua Lake Shoreline Protected *continued from cover*

watershed manager at the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council, said his organization supported the project because of its importance to the Council's member municipalities. "It's in the public's best interest to permanently protect these steep hillside areas that are incredibly sensitive to development," he said.

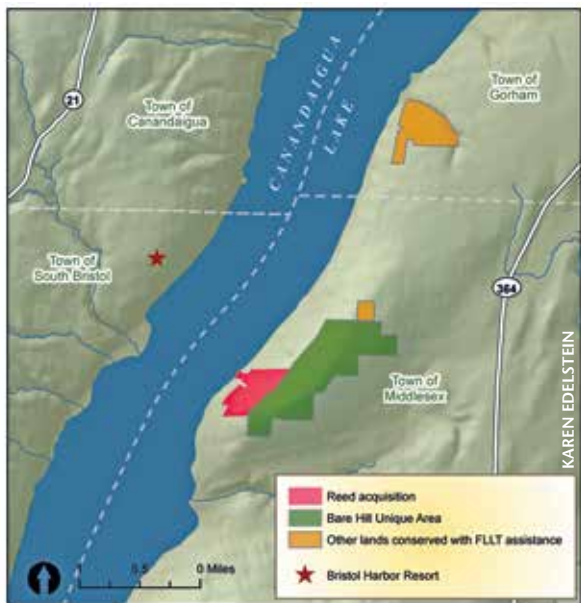
The acquisition includes two single-family homes, a first for the Land Trust. The homes are currently available for sale (see related article for additional details), and proceeds from the sale will be used to repay the bridge loan from the Park Foundation. The Land Trust plans to maintain the lakeshore portion of the property as a public conservation area that will provide a welcome destination for kayakers and canoeists on Canandaigua Lake. As for the wooded portion of the property, the Land Trust plans to sell it to the state as an addition to the adjacent Unique Area, a popular destination for bird watchers and hikers.

"Our hope is that, one day, you'll be able to get out of your kayak and hike all the way up through the woods to Bare Hill's summit and its sweeping views of the lake," said Zepp. "I also hope that we'll one day have the opportunity to continue that hike southward through Vine Valley, over South Hill and beyond into the Naples Valley—all through a corridor of conserved lands."

Beverly Reed, a retired science teacher, looks forward to seeing others enjoy the land and says time outdoors can stimulate all sorts of life choices. "I was up and down that hill all the time," she said. "Inspired by my family's history of grape growing at Bare Hill, I ended up doing my master's thesis on the ecological succession of grapevines to forest."

The protection of the Reed property is the Land Trust's third acquisition on Bare Hill. In December, 2012, the organization acquired 13 acres adjacent to the entrance to the state's Unique Area. In 2007, it partnered with the Town of Gorham and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation to conserve 96 acres of woodland bordering East Lake Road across from the Rushville water plant. Elsewhere within the Canandaigua Lake watershed, the Land Trust has completed acquisitions and conservation easements that have secured farmland, gorges, wetlands, and riverside woodlands.

"I support a lot of organizations," said Reed. "But the Finger Lakes Land Trust is trying to conserve everything around the lake, so I turned to them first."



Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association President Jack Dailey (center) presents Land Trust staff member Elizabeth Newbold with a \$5,000 donation for the acquisition of the Reed property on Bare Hill. Land Trust board member Bob Brancato is on the left.

As of press time, the Land Trust had raised approximately half of the funds needed to cover acquisition costs and provide for long-term management of the site. Fundraising efforts are continuing through the Land Trust's regional capital campaign. Please contact the Land Trust's Director of Development Kelly Makosch if you'd like to make a contribution in support of this project. —Kate Frazer

The Land Trust gratefully acknowledges Attorney Sarah Pellerin of the law firm of Harter Secrest & Emery LLP in Rochester for providing pro bono legal services in support of this project.

STAFF Developments

The Spring of 2013 has brought its share of comings and goings here in our Ithaca office. Our Development Associate, Amanda (Mandy) Mazzawi, has left the organization to spend more time with her family. To fill the position, we have hired Nora Burrows who will take over the role of enabling the organization to continue to provide top notch services to our growing membership. Nora joins us from Family & Children's Services of Ithaca, where she was a Development Associate for the last 3 years.

Emily Eisman, our Membership and Outreach Manager, has announced that she will be departing at the end of July and relocating to the high peaks of the Adirondacks. As many of you know, Emily has played a key role within the organization for quite some time—12 years to be exact. Her dedication, friendly demeanor, and personalized attention to every detail of the membership and outreach world here at the Land Trust office has been extraordinary. We will miss her deeply. We hope to have Emily's replacement on board shortly and will make an announcement in our next issue.

In the programs department, Director of Land Protection, David Diaz, has moved on to pursue a career in viticulture, and Zachary Odell will be taking over the reigns of our land protection program. Zack comes to us from The Nature Conservancy's Central and Western New York Chapter in Rochester, where he spent the last 8 years as their Director of Land Protection. Zack is an accomplished professional in the field of land protection and holds a Masters of Science in Forest and Natural Resources Management from SUNY ESF.

We would like to wish Mandy, David, and Emily every good fortune in their future endeavors and give a hearty welcome to Nora and Zack.

Easement Gift Ensures Future of Yates County Farmland

A married couple, who have farmed organically and raised grass-fed beef cattle for the last 16 years on two farms in Jerusalem, Yates County, recently donated an agricultural easement to the Land Trust on one of their farms.

Debbie Koop and Len Saner, both highly valued Land Trust volunteers since 1993, reside in Jerusalem on Brookside Farm. The 72-acre farm now under easement is known as Potter Farm. The two farms, totaling 135 acres, have been certified organic by the Northeast Organic Farming Association for New York for six years, where Koop and Saner raise breeding stock and feeder cattle, board dairy heifers, and grow hay.

"It's been a long-time dream to have our farms under conservation easement—and now the Potter Farm easement has closed!" said Koop.

The Potter Farm includes more than eight acres of wetlands, including a vernal pool, which the couple had already secured through an easement completed in 2006 with the United States Department of Agriculture's Wetlands Reserve Program. Now, the Land Trust agricultural easement will protect both farmland and the wetlands, as the latter will include a special protection zone status that prohibits cows, trails, access roads, and commercial harvests to insure minimal impact to this sensitive area. Vernal pools are an important spring wildlife habitat that supports spawning salamanders, frogs, and a host of other organisms.

Though Potter Farm is without a house, it does have barns and watering facilities. Under the agricultural easement conditions, the farmland will continue as an active, working landscape, though easement terms have reserved a corner of the property for building a house. The rest of the farmable land is designated for agricultural use only.

"Yates County is a very agriculturally based county with some of the best farmland and

soils in the state," said Elizabeth Newbold, a Land Trust land protection specialist dedicated to the Western Lakes region. "It is important to conserve agricultural lands and that kind of economic activity in Yates County," as the area is under pressure from growing development, she added.

"We hope that this easement can be an educational tool to help other farmers and landowners conserve their land for future generations," Koop said.

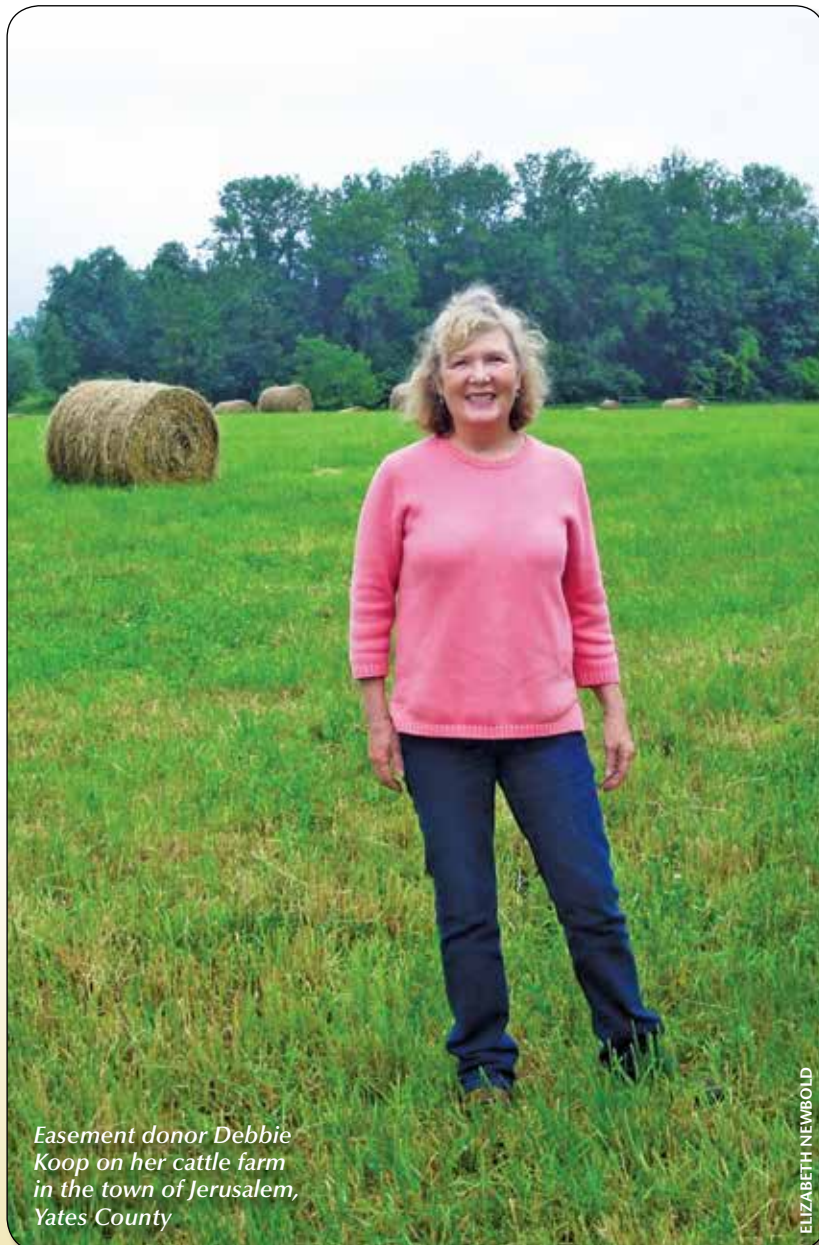
Koop has been involved in the organic food industry since the 1970s. Her involvement in land protection began in 1983, in North Carolina, when friends started the Carolina Mountain Conservancy. After moving to Geneseo, in the Finger Lakes, she and Saner were peripherally involved with launching the Genesee Valley Conservancy. After moving to Brookside Farm in Jerusalem, they formed an alliance with the Finger Lakes Land Trust.

Saner was raised on his grandparents' dairy farm in Clyde, NY, and recently retired as a United Airlines captain. He now looks forward to spending more time farming.

This latest agricultural conservation easement is the Land Trust's fifth in Yates County, where more than 1,300 acres of prime farmland is now secure from development.

—*Krishna Ramanujan*

The Land Trust gratefully acknowledges Attorney Katie Henderson of the law office of Don Scheinder in Penn Yan for providing pro bono legal services in support of this project.



Easement donor Debbie Koop on her cattle farm in the town of Jerusalem, Yates County

ELIZABETH NEWBOLD

Wetland Donation Protects Trout Habitat in Owego Creek

The Land Trust has received a donation of conservation-priority wetlands on the west branch of Owego Creek at the border between Tioga and Tompkins counties. Conservation of this 12-acre property in Caroline will protect habitat for eastern brook trout, a species for which Owego Creek is well known. By prior arrangement, the Land Trust intends to donate the wetland to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, which will manage it as an addition to nearby Robinson Hollow State Forest.

Andrew Larkin, a New Jersey resident, donated the property in memory of his father, Bud Larkin—a long time area resident, former Ithaca Town Justice, business owner, and community leader.

“My father lived his life with a love of nature and the desire to preserve it,” Larkin said. “He bought this land to maintain its beauty and integrity, [and] the Finger Lakes Land Trust has provided the means to do this.”

The Larkin wetland provides habitat especially for juvenile trout on a stretch of Owego Creek designated a protection priority by the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture, a collaboration of conservation agencies and non-profits interested in restoring brook trout populations throughout their historic range.

Elsewhere in the Owego Creek watershed, the Land Trust has protected 244 acres in the Goetchius Wetlands Preserve and King Nature Preserve. A story on an easement protecting a portion of Owego Creek’s east branch, in the Southern Tier, appeared in the spring issue of this newsletter.

Funding to cover transaction costs associated with the Larkin donation were provided by a grant from Trout Unlimited through its Coldwater Land Conservancy Fund, a program established to protect native trout habitat within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Owego Creek drains south, ultimately, to the Chesapeake Bay. Funding for this program was provided by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Forest Service.

Kevin Anderson, Land Conservation Coordinator for Trout Unlimited said, “With the Larkin project and others, the Finger Lakes Land Trust has proven to be an ideal partner. They’re using [our] modest grant to leverage major conservation benefits, for fish and for anglers.” This latest project is the Land Trust’s third completed with support from the Coldwater Land Conservancy Fund.

“This has been a fantastic project, bringing so many partners together,” said Land Trust Director Andy Zepp. “We’re especially grateful to the Larkin family for a long-range vision for their land—and as conservation partners.” —Eben McLane

The Land Trust gratefully acknowledges Attorney Peter Miller of Ithaca for providing pro bono legal services in support of this project.

New Boardwalk Premiered at Emerald Necklace Dedication *continued from cover*

The Park Preserve is one of the first and most significant additions to the Emerald Necklace, a planned network of protected lands covering more than 50,000 acres in an arc around the southern end of Cayuga Lake. The Land Trust has been actively seeking opportunities to fill in gaps between previously conserved properties by purchasing lands outright and by protecting privately held lands with conservation easements.

“Protecting and providing public access to beautiful, ecologically important areas like the Park Preserve is why we launched our first regional capital campaign,” said Zepp. “There is always more to do.”

The Park Preserve is a sparkling jewel in the necklace, and the first official link, because it connects three different protected lands—Hammond Hill State Forest, Yellow Barn State Forest, and Cornell Old 600 Natural Area. As a result, the preserve joins more than 7,600 acres of contiguous protected land.

Many of the speakers at the dedication—including representatives from the New York State Department of Environment Conservation, the Tompkins County Legislature and the Town of Dryden—energetically expressed their appreciation for the conservation vision exemplified by the Emerald Necklace project.

“In our open space planning, we typically look at larger tracts of land that can be designated as State Forests or Wildlife Management Areas,” said Ken Lynch, Regional Director of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. “But lately, we have been looking more and more at smaller connector properties between existing protected lands, and this preserve is an excellent example of how beneficial that strategy can be.”

In addition to linking several parcels of protected land, the Park Preserve also connects to more than 20 miles of recreational hiking and skiing trails in the adjacent state forests, thereby broadening public access to the entire area. Much of this is the result of trail-blazing efforts from Land Trust volunteers over the past two years.

The most striking feature of the new trail system is the boardwalk near the north entrance to the Park Preserve. The boardwalk, designed by Tetra Tech Architects and Engineers and built by Mike Ward and Doug Derr of Oakcrest Builders, crosses Six Mile Creek and then meanders along its eastern bank, offering benches and viewpoints for bird-watching across the wet meadow. The trail eventually connects with other established multi-use trails in Hammond Hill State Forest.

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Participants arriving on the new trail and boardwalk from Hammond Hill State Forest



On May 31st...

members of the community, neighbors and friends, joined the Finger Lakes Land Trust to celebrate the first link in the Emerald Necklace and the opening of a new trail and handicapped accessible boardwalk at the Roy H. Park Preserve in the town of Dryden, Tompkins County. (See *article on page 1 for details.*)



ALL PHOTOS BY RICK LIGHTBODY





(left to right) Ethan Winter of the Land Trust Alliance, Finger Lakes Land Trust Executive Director Andy Zepp, Oakcrest Builders' Doug Derr, Tompkins County Legislature Chair Martha Robertson, Dryden Town Supervisor Mary Ann Sumner, NYSDEC Regional Director Ken Lynch, Oakcrest Builders' Mike Ward, Land Trust Director of Stewardship Chris Olney, and Land Trust President Stu Schweizer



Conservationists Honored at Annual Meeting

JIM WILLIAMSON: Volunteer of the Year

This year's Volunteer of the Year recipient is Jim Williamson, a neighbor to one of the Land Trust's newest preserves, the VanRiper Conservation Area. Jim serves as Highway Supervisor for the Town of Romulus, located just west of the preserve. The conservation area features 68 acres of forest, a deep gorge, and 1,400 feet of undeveloped Cayuga Lake shoreline—a true rarity in the region. As is usually the case when opening a new property to the public, there was much work to be done. Trails had to be cut or cleared, a kiosk constructed, garbage hauled away, and a parking area built.

So when Chris Olney, Director of Stewardship, called Jim to see if the town would help the Land Trust out by removing some trash and old junk, Jim stepped forward as both a neighbor and a town employee. Not only did he participate in the volunteer work day, but he also used his personal truck and ATV to tow and winch large objects up and out of the gorge, and then arranged for town trucks to haul the junk away.

Acting on behalf of the town, and at no cost to the Land Trust, Jim was instrumental in preparing the site for the preserve's new parking area. And when it was clear that the Land Trust was going to need to remove an old, rusty boat

hoist from just off shore, Jim again rose to the occasion and used his ATV to tow the bulky hoist out of Cayuga Lake. He graciously worked within the Land Trust's time frame to get the preserve ready for the dedication event in September 2012.

Jim was born and raised in the area and lives there today with his wife, Judy. In fact, in the 1960s his father farmed a piece of the land that is now part of the conservation area. He and his father would take walks through the woods and down to the lake, and for years he would hunt and fish around the area. Today, he likes to walk on the trails and observe wildlife and the changes in season. His kids and grandkids now get to enjoy the outdoors with him and have the same experiences he had with his father. He loves the beauty of the lakes, woods and ravines, and he says that "the sunrises and sunsets are like none other."

Sometimes, in the daily work of land conservation and stewardship, we at the Land Trust meet someone whose eagerness to help out coincides with particular skills and resources, making that work easier and more enjoyable. Jim Williamson is definitely one of those people.

HINCHCLIFF FAMILY: Conservationists of the Year

When Land Trust member John Hinchcliff learned the organization was launching a campaign to preserve nearly 200 acres on the east side of Skaneateles Lake, he saw a great opportunity for his family to help protect the wooded hillsides they love.

The Hinchcliff family has deep roots on the lake's eastern shore, and they have come together, with lead support from John's aunt, Ann Hinchcliff, to make it possible for the Land Trust to purchase a mix of wooded slopes, farm fields, and deep gorges that stretch for more than a mile above the lake.

For Ann, her gift is both a tribute to her late husband and a reflection of her family's deep devotion to the lake. Dave Hinchcliff first fell in love with Skaneateles and its steeply sloping woods when he was 11 years old and

his parents bought a cabin on Spafford Landing for \$1800—a price that included a rowboat! He spent every summer on the lake, first bringing Ann there when they were in college.

The family has contributed in many ways to ensure the south end of the lake retains its characteristic forests, sweeping views and clear waters. In December, John and his wife Robin donated a conservation easement on 31-acres of their Spafford Landing property. The easement adjoins property the Land Trust is purchasing and protects 5,600 feet of land along Randall Gulf Creek, a tributary to the lake.

"My dad and his brother grew up tromping in the woods and creek, followed by me and my cousins, and then our kids," said John. "It became a tradition to hike up the stream to route

41, collecting fossils and watching the woodlands change over the years."

"It really is impossible for me to describe what our little piece of heaven on Spafford Landing meant to Dave and means to me and our children and grandchildren," Ann said. "Having John and Robin and their girls next door there is the 'icing on the cake'." Every summer, as the younger generations have grown up, they've been able to wander up the creeks and gullies, build forts, collect fossils, and enjoy the experience of being in the woods.

We are pleased to collectively honor Ann, her daughters and their spouses, Kate and Mont Pooley and Jennifer and Bill Warning, and John and Robin Moss Hinchcliff as the Land Trust's Conservationists of the Year.

The Hinchcliff family has been instrumental in the Land Trust's conservation efforts at the southern end of Skaneateles Lake.

A CLOSER LOOK

Passing Along a Passion for Birding – A Father’s Perspective

Just this winter, a spark dormant for 11 years went off and my son Tilden’s interest in birds roared to life. I wasn’t completely surprised. After all, my wife Miyoko Chu is an ornithologist and I myself am crazy about birding. Tilden and his sister Francesca have grown up with bird art on our walls, bird books dominating our shelves, and binoculars right next to dirty plates and stacks of homework on the kitchen table.

Since Tilden’s interest took off, he and I have gone together on long outings most weekends and even before school now and then, seeing many birds and compiling an impressive species list. I could regale you with stories of our adventures and even try to confide the profound emotional meaning of this shared pastime and the precious bonding that it creates. But I think I’ll save the self-indulgent yarns and sappy personal stuff for another space.

Instead, I’d like to explore a couple of simple questions that I’ve been pondering while watching and teaching Tilden this spring: How do kids and adults develop their birding skills? And how can teachers and guides help this process along most effectively?

I don’t claim to be some great authority, but having mentored Tilden and having led dozens of bird walks for people of all ages and stages of development (including six just this May for the Land Trust, one especially for kids), I do have some running theories and favored approaches.

The most important element is the most obvious. Birding skill comes from getting out and looking for birds. The obvious challenge, especially for kids, is overcoming inertia and the hypnotic allure of television, video games, and computers. More subtly, in my view, even field guides and bird apps on smartphones will distract a new birder concentrated on them instead of actual birds.

Then once you’re out, it helps to create a framework to turn seeing and hearing into retention and learning. When I lead groups of kids, I tell them to ask the following questions.

1. Where is the bird?
2. What is the bird doing?
3. How does the bird look?
4. How does the bird sound?
5. What is the name of the bird?

Even a three-year-old can answer the first two questions. Answers yield surprisingly substantial information to help with ID. Even more importantly,

thinking about location and behavior connect us more deeply with the bird’s life, not just its name on a checklist, and open up new understanding and expanded wonder.

The next two answers—how the bird looks and sounds—are harder to articulate, but even the youngest and least experienced can try. Then together, the four questions help answer the last.

“Up in the sky, flying very slowly, huge, blue and gray with long legs and a long bill! It’s a Great Blue Heron!”

“In the top of that cottonwood, singing and moving around, blue with wing bars, sounding rough with a rising note at the end! It’s a Cerulean Warbler!”

There are other ways to turn observing into learning. If you get to know the most common birds very thoroughly by sight and sound, you create a point of reference against

which to tell immediately if something is different. Knowing your ubiquitous neighborhood Song Sparrows will prepare you to recognize an uncommon migrant Lincoln’s Sparrow. Watching chickadees and knowing them down to their silhouettes and thin call notes will have you much more ready when some warbler flies in and issues an unfamiliar chip.

Through repeated observation and comparison, the best birders reach a

point where bird ID is immediate and intuitive. In a way that seems uncanny to novices, ace birders recognize birds as they recognize a familiar word or face, without having to parse field marks and figure the identification out analytically. I don’t know how to teach this intuition. Indeed, it is still a faraway goal for my own birding, even after 20 years.

But somehow Tilden is catching up to me very fast with intuitive birding, even among notoriously difficult taxa such as gulls and redpolls. I can’t prove or definitively explain anything, but I feel certain that his young mind makes connections faster and builds much more efficient cognitive networks than mine could ever do. Maybe he’s just smarter. Maybe he inherited some talent from his mom. Or, as seems more likely, maybe all young birders can learn as fast as Tilden, just as kids pick up language more readily than adults do.

Whatever the reasons, Tilden’s talent has made me see the learning process and birding itself in a new way. His spark has set off a spark in me—making me a better teacher, surely a better birder, and a very happy dad.

—Mark Chao





CELEBRATE CAYUGA LAKE!

Thursday, July 25 • 4:00 until 7:00 PM

Ithaca Farmers' Market Pavilion and Docks

Join the Land Trust and other local organizations and businesses to discover all that Cayuga Lake has to offer! Try out kayaks, paddleboards and canoes; learn about the lake and its watershed through hands-on educational activities, including a live birds of prey demonstration; enjoy music by Nate and Kate and the Common Railers; and savor food by the Piggery and On the Street Gyros and drinks by Sheldrake Point Winery and Bacchus Brewery.

The event will also serve as the launch of the draft of the Cayuga Blueway Trail Plan, a network of shoreline natural areas and businesses that cater to kayakers and canoers. Come see what it's all about! More info at www.flit.org.

See you on the 25th!

Helping the Land Trust with a charitable IRA gift

Did you know that Congress extended the charitable IRA roll-over through December 31, 2013? This is how it works:

Unless an IRA is a Roth, the account owner is required to make yearly minimum distributions starting at age 70½ and pay tax on the withdrawals. With the extended charitable IRA rollover, a donation sent directly to a non-profit like the Land Trust from your IRA can count against the minimum required distribution you would otherwise be required to take.

The roll-over allows you the freedom to give up to \$100,000 from your account to the Land Trust, which will reduce your adjusted gross income, satisfy your minimum distribution, and demonstrate your clear commitment to local conservation.

It's important to note that, to satisfy requirements of the new law, your IRA administrator—not you personally—must send the gift directly to the charity of your choice. Please consult your tax advisor to learn more about how both you and the Land Trust can benefit from the charitable IRA roll-over this year.

New Boardwalk Premiered at Emerald Necklace Dedication *continued from page 3*

"When we first acquired this part of the preserve, a beaver dam along Six Mile Creek had created a pond in this area," said Land Trust Executive Director Andrew Zepp. "So we knew we needed a trail that could weather periodic flooding by beavers. A boardwalk was the perfect solution."

At the dedication, the boardwalk was named Howard's Walk, in honor of Land Trust Board Vice President Howard Hartnett, who passed away unexpectedly earlier this year and will be missed.

—Jeff Tonole

Our appreciation for gifts in honor of

Joel and Susan Brock

FROM
Jeff and Jane Doyle

Betsy Darlington

FROM
Lois Darlington

Becca Epstein

FROM
Susan and Joel Savishinsky

Peggy Kane

FROM
Bruce and Jane Baker
Jon and Nancy Bell
Mr. and Mrs. William Boudway
Maria Bucci
Judith DeLuca
John and Marion Fladd
Edward and Frieda O'Hanlon
Robert Sax
Mike and Tarry Shipley
Joan and Philip Tierney
John White
Patricia Wormley

Jon Hirschberger

FROM
Ann Woodbury
Chris Olney
FROM
Vicki Gayle

Our deepest gratitude for thoughtful gifts in memory of

William Beck

FROM
Bob Beck

Charles and Mabel Cladel

FROM
Nancy and Charles Scholes

Nancy Davis

FROM
Janet Fredericks

Remington

FROM
Tracy Stokol and John Parker

Joseph Doyle

FROM
Susan Sherman-Broyles
Aureliano Bombarely
Adrian Powell

Thomas Eisner and Dick Root

FROM
Community Foundation's
Tom and Maria Eisner Fund

Karen Lou Cowles Harrell

FROM
Robert Lee Harrell

Howard Hartnett

FROM
Diane Cohen
Louise and Burch Craig
Bill and Suzanne Jablonski
Lynn Leopold
Kelly and Kenny Makosch
Chris Proulx and Varya Siegel
Stuart and Lucy Schweizer
Douglas B. Sutherland and Nancy Kramer
Andrew and Rocio Zepp

Steve Isler

FROM
Peter Isler

Adam Kopley

FROM
Margaret Usdansky and Gustav Niebuhr

Jeremy Landen

FROM
Rose Ann and Ron Gay

Carl Leopold

FROM
Amy Jaffe

Charles Pearman

FROM
David Benn
Jane D. Crawford
Patty and Tom Davis
William and Margaret Goldsmith
Diane & Jeff Newton
Joan and Edward Ormondroyd
Tom Reimers
Mary Salton
Sidney and Dolores Saltzman
Ben and Joanne Widom

Dick Root

FROM
Ann Hajek and Jim Liebherr

Laura Lee Smith

FROM
James and Janis Smith

Tom Spicer, Annemarie Groth-Juncker and Dan Hemming

FROM
Lakeland Rovers

Edward John Thompson

FROM
James X Lucey
Robert and Amy Sweet

John Thompson

FROM
Cayuga Landscape Co.
Jeff and Jane Doyle
Andre and Jean Jagendorf
Mary Salton
Harold and Miriam Scheraga
Robert and Amy Sweet

Nick Vandam

FROM
Karen Hansen and Robert Schneider

Sheldon Weiner

FROM
Joan and Edward Ormondroyd

David Woodard

FROM
David A. Weinstein and Christina Stark

Talks & Treks

SUMMER 2013

Saturday, July 20, 10:00 AM, Just for Kids! Creek Walk at the Etna Nature Preserve, co-hosted with Earth Arts. Join EarthArts mentor Simone Heartwood for an exploration of what lives under the rocks and in the streambed of the Etna Preserve. We'll learn a little about stream health and see what else we can find on the preserve. Be sure to wear shoes you don't mind getting wet. Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Don't forget water and snacks! Directions: From Ithaca, follow Rt. 13 north to junction with Rt. 366. Follow Rt. 366 north for 1/2 mile. Preserve is located on both sides of road, next to cemetery. Park on left side and cross Rt. 366 to find the entrance to the preserve.

Saturday, August 17, 10:00 AM, What Lives in Grimes Glen? Come see the improvements that have been made at Grimes Glen! Join Ontario County Soil and Water District's educator Edith Davey to look under rocks and explore the creek. Great for kids and adults alike. Be sure to wear shoes you don't mind getting wet. Grimes Glen is at the end of Vine Street in the Village of Naples.

Saturday, September 14, 10:00 AM, Goldenrods and Asters at the Park Preserve, co-hosted with the Finger Lakes Native Plant Society. Join Susanne Lorbeer to learn more about the fall wildflowers at the Roy H. Park Preserve in Dryden. The group will be meeting at the SOUTH parking area. Directions: From Ithaca, take Rt. 13 North towards Dryden. Go approx. 12 miles and turn right on Irish Settlement Rd. Continue on Irish Settlement approx. 5 miles to find the parking area on the left, just after Goodband Rd. If you get to Midline Rd, you've gone too far.

Saturday, September 21, 10:00 AM, West River Interpretive Paddle. The south end of Canandaigua Lake has great significance to the Seneca Nation and also is rich in wildlife and scenery. Join public historian and Ganondagan interpreter Michael Galban and naturalist Eric Cosman to explore this area by canoe or kayak. You must provide your own boat and space is very limited, so please register early by calling 607-275-9487 or emailing info@fllt.org. The group will meet at the public boat launch in Woodville, just off Rt. 21 north of the Village of Naples.

Events are free and open to the public. For detailed directions and information, call 607-275-9487 or visit www.fllt.org. Walks go rain or shine so please dress appropriately for the weather and be sure to bring water and snacks.

Volunteer Work Days

Saturday, July 13, 9:30 AM – 1:30 PM, Wesley Hill Nature Preserve, Gulick Road, Town of Richmond, Ontario County. The western lakes beckon! Your help is needed to spread woodchips, provided by the Town of Richmond, near the Wesley Road trailhead. Assistance is also needed to cut back invasive shrubs along some of the trails. If you are in the Ithaca area, and are interested in joining this work day, carpooling can be arranged. Meet at the snowplow turnaround on Wesley Road.

Friday, August 2, 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM, High Vista Nature Preserve, Vincent Hill Road, Town of Scott, Cortland County. Perched high above the south end of Skaneateles Lake, the High Vista Nature Preserve anchors the ever-expanding corridor of protected lands surrounding this pristine Finger Lake. Please help us maintain the trail network by joining us to cut back shrubs encroaching on the trail, as well as refreshing the paint blazes. If anyone in the Ithaca area is interested in joining us, carpooling can be arranged. Meet at the parking area on Vincent Hill Road.

Saturday, August 17, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Sweedler Preserve at Lick Brook, Townline Road, Town of Ithaca, Tompkins County. The Sweedler Preserve at Lick Brook is one of the gems of protected lands that surround Ithaca. Here you will find breathtaking waterfalls, towering hemlocks, and abundant wildflowers. But, the forest is under attack by non-native invasive species. Japanese barberry is running rampant along the edge of the forest on the floodplain of Cayuga Inlet. Please help us control this vigorous alien, and restore the Sweedler Preserve to its natural state.

Please register for all work days by emailing Jason Gorman at jasongorman@fllt.org or calling 607-275-9487. Tools and work gloves will be provided by the Land Trust; please bring your own water, snacks and/or lunch and wear sturdy shoes or boots. We look forward to seeing you on the trail!

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Advisors:

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Forestry Consultant: Michael DeMunn
Stewardship Advisor: Betsy Darlington

Finger Lakes Land Trust

202 E. Court Street
Ithaca, New York 14850
Ph: 607-275-9487
Fax: 607-275-0037
email: info@fllt.org • www.fllt.org



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202 E. Court Street
Ithaca, NY 14850

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Summer 2013 Calendar

THURSDAY, JULY 25th, 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm: Come *Celebrate the Lake!* with us at the Ithaca Farmer's Market. (See page 10 for details.)

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14th, 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm: Please join us at the Vine Valley Community House in Middlesex to hear about our land protection efforts on Bare Hill and elsewhere in the area. The event will be co-sponsored by the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association whose representatives will discuss the threats of development to the steep slopes of the area. Learn about how actions by private landowners through the use of conservation easements can work to further protect our landscapes.

PLEASE SEE PAGE 11 FOR OUR SUMMER 2013 TALKS & TREKS SERIES & VOLUNTEER WORK DAYS

See our web site for maps and photos of the preserves.

WALKS GO RAIN, SUN OR SNOW. PLEASE BRING SNACKS AND WATER, AND WEAR STURDY SHOES. CALL THE LAND TRUST AT (607) 275-9487 FOR DETAILS.

HOUSES FOR SALE!

In conjunction with the acquisition of conservation lands on Bare Hill from the Reed family, the Land Trust acquired two homes that are now being re-sold. Both homes border woodlands that will soon be added to the adjacent Bare Hill State Unique Area. The first is a raised ranch featuring three bedrooms and a deck with seasonal views of Canandaigua Lake. The home is located on a 1.79-acre lot and is listed for \$119,000.

The second home is a charming farmhouse/cottage that is considered to be one of the oldest homes in the area. It has a relatively new steel roof but lacks functional heating and plumbing systems. The home is located on a 1.55-acre lot and is listed for \$70,000.

Both properties are listed with Powers Realtors. For additional information or to arrange to see either home, please contact Kristin Sharlow Meyer at 607-426-7225.

