



# The Land Steward

NEWSLETTER OF THE FINGER LAKES LAND TRUST

working to protect the natural integrity of the Finger Lakes Region

Vol. 23, No. 3 • Summer 2011

## Land Trust Accepts Gift of Scenic Acreage Near Canandaigua Lake

Thanks to the generosity of Victor-based Constellation Brands, the Land Trust recently accepted a donation of 64 scenic acres adjacent to High Tor Wildlife Management Area in the town of Italy, Yates County. Previously managed as a vineyard by Widmer Wine Cellars, a Constellation Brands subsidiary, the property is located on Sunnyside Road with deeded access to the nearby West River.

"Constellation Brands is very pleased to donate this beautiful parcel of land to the FLLT," said Rob Sands, company president and chief executive officer. "This land will provide nature admirers with additional areas to enjoy the natural majesty of the Finger Lakes."

Aside from the beauty of the land itself, the property fits nicely into the Land Trust's twin long-range goals of connecting already protected lands in the area with new acquisitions of high conservation value and creating a Canandaigua Highlands Heritage Area around the south end of Canandaigua Lake.

*continued on page 4*



STEVE KNAPP



BETSY LANDRE

Sisters Margaret White (left) and Helen Launt

## Sisters Donate Easement on 7th Generation Farm in Ontario County

When a farm has been in the same family for more than 200 years, it takes on a special meaning so personal that it is almost impossible to describe. This was the case for sisters Helen Launt and Margaret White, seventh generation owners of a beautiful 180-acre farm in Richmond, Ontario County. They recently donated a conservation easement on their shared property to the Land Trust.

The sisters' sense of responsibility to the land was so profound that they were compelled to take action to protect the property itself and, in a broader sense, their family legacy. Helen explained her feelings about her property this way: "When I walk on the farm, just knowing about the generations before me that have walked and worked this land ... it's sacred land to me."

The farm was part of a 400-acre parcel transferred in 1798 from the vast Phelps and Gorham Purchase land holdings in Western New York to William Baker, the sisters' great, great, great grandfather. William Baker worked the land, as has every generation since. Occasionally, the land was sub-divided to accommodate a growing number of heirs.

*continued on page 5*

PLEASE  
JOIN US FOR  
THE...

Land Trust's 22nd Annual Meeting & Celebration  
Sunday, July 24th at the Skaneateles Country Club,  
overlooking beautiful Skaneateles Lake. (SEE INSERT FOR DETAILS.)

All across America and here in our Finger Lakes Region, community leaders and activists are patiently building a network of trails and greenways over land and water, connecting cities, towns and villages with parks and other conserved lands. These corridors provide us with opportunities to connect with nature and enjoy scenic landscapes, as well as a chance to get out of our cars and reach our destinations on a bicycle or on foot or in a canoe.

The Catharine Valley Trail is just one example of how local communities are benefiting from these efforts. Extending south from Watkins Glen, the trail follows the path of a rail line that was abandoned in 1972. The trail was envisioned by the late Ed Hoffman, an Elmira attorney who worked tirelessly for years toward the goal of establishing this greenway. He worked with others to raise the funds needed to acquire the 12-mile corridor, successfully pitched the project to state park officials, and negotiated the legal agreements needed to knit together the corridor over a five-year period.

Today, we can all enjoy the fruits of his efforts, as well as the work of those who have followed in his footsteps. Visitors can enjoy miles of trail with scenic views of Queen Catharine Marsh and the tumbling

waters of Catharine Creek. Work continues there today as well as on other trail projects across the region. More and more volunteers and local officials are working together to plan and implement long distance trails, neighborhood walking paths, and corridors of open space that provide valuable wildlife habitat along with recreational opportunities.

To support these efforts, the Finger Lakes Land Trust is partnering with Parks and Trails New York to offer the Finger Lakes Regional Trails and Greenways Conference on September 23-24. To be held at Cornell University, this conference will provide a variety of workshops relating to trail development and the creation of greenways. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn from national experts as well as from each other.

Conference program and registration materials will be available at [www.ptny.org](http://www.ptny.org). Come join us to learn how you can help create a network of trails and greenways that spans our entire region.

—Andy Zepp

## Tornado Uproots Forest at Kingsbury Woods Preserve

On April 29, 2011, at approximately 1:30 am, Danby resident Sheela Kingsbury awoke to a severe thunderstorm. As she walked into her living room, the storm grew in intensity, and the roar of the wind became deafening — she saw, but did not hear, a door slam in the house. In the flashes of lightning outside, she could see trees falling and large branches blowing horizontally past the house. “I huddled with my dogs on the couch, praying the roof of my house wouldn’t blow off,” said Sheela.

According to officials at the National Weather Service, the intense storm Sheela endured for several terrifying minutes was a tornado that touched down in Danby, producing winds of up to 100 miles per hour. The tornado, which left a swath of destruction 1.75 miles long and one-sixth of a mile wide, blew through a number of properties in Danby, including Sheela’s and the adjacent Kingsbury Woods Conservation Area. Sheela donated the 48-acre Kingsbury Woods parcel to the Land Trust in late 2008 and serves as its steward.

The extreme winds uprooted and blew down many trees throughout the Kingsbury Woods preserve. “The difference was stunning,” said Chris Olney, the

Land Trust’s director of stewardship. “Shaded areas of forest had suddenly become open to the sky.”

After surveying the damage, the Land Trust is moving to restore public access to Kingsbury Woods. Thanks to a generous donation from a longtime Land Trust contributor and volunteer, the Land Trust will soon be clearing the trail that runs through the preserve.

Olney said that the dramatic changes to the preserve will give visitors an opportunity to see a forest in transition. “You never know what natural forces will shape the texture of the landscape,” he said. “This is a great opportunity to watch how a forest changes after a major cataclysmic event.”

Sheela added, “Although a little weather-beaten at the moment, I am excited to see the regenerative power of the forest.”

—Jeff Tonole



Recent storm damage at Kingsbury Woods Conservation Area in Danby

CHRIS OLNEY

Please note, the hiking trail at the Kingsbury Woods Conservation Area is closed until work can be scheduled to clear the storm damage. We expect to have this completed during the summer months ahead. Please contact the Land Trust office before attempting to visit the preserve.

# Land Gift & Partnership Result in New Preserve Near Skaneateles Lake

*Thanks to a generous land donation, an exciting and unusual property at the highest point in the Skaneateles Lake watershed will now be made into a nature preserve.*

Landowner Janice Hinman donated the 118-acre hilltop property to the Central New York Land Trust (CNYLT) in partnership with the Finger Lakes Land Trust (FLLT) to make sure that her property in Spafford, Onondaga County, would be permanently protected.

Hinman donated her property to CNYLT with the understanding that FLLT will hold and monitor legal restrictions that require that the land be managed as a public nature preserve. Both groups worked together to complete the transaction.

The land at the summit of Ripley Hill includes about 23 acres of meadow and seven acres of working farmland. The extensive meadow will be managed as habitat for birds such as Eastern Meadowlarks and Bobolinks, while the tilled farmland will also contribute to open space for these and many other birds. The remainder of the property is wooded and will remain so.

The property is split into roughly two halves by Ripley Hill Road, with the eastern portion including the open fields and close to 40 acres of mature woodlands and a few seasonal streams.

The western portion is fairly wet, with groves of eastern hemlock and, significantly, vernal pools—small forest pools in the spring that provide critical habitat for wood frogs as well as insects and a wide variety of forest animals.

“The western part of the property is very special with all its vernal pools,” said Jeff Devine, CNYLT’s executive director. “It’s terrific amphibian habitat.”

The hilltop property, which will be called the Ripley Hill Nature Preserve, straddles the watersheds of Skaneateles and Otisco lakes, and stands as the highest point in the Skaneateles Lake watershed and the third highest point in Onondaga County.

“Before the forest grew up there and obscured the view, it is reported that you could see Lake Ontario from

the top of the hill,” said Andrew Zepp, FLLT’s executive director.

During the coming months, CNYLT will develop a management plan for the site, which will be open to the public for hiking and watching wildlife during daylight hours.

The tract is part of a growing network of conserved lands on the east side of Skaneateles Lake. The future Ripley Hill Nature Preserve lies approximately one mile northeast of FLLT’s High Vista Preserve, and approximately four miles southeast of



Land Trust Executive Director, Andy Zepp (right), discusses land management issues with Central New York Land Trust board member Matt Young at the Ripley Hill Nature Preserve.

Eventually, CNYLT will develop a modest parking lot and a trail system. Old logging roads on the property could readily lend themselves for conversion to trails. But since the property can be wet, assessing the best locations for trails will be a yearlong process, allowing time for land managers to observe where the property floods, especially during spring rains, Devine said.

CNYLT’s High Hickory Nature Preserve.

“We are grateful to Janice Hinman for her commitment to the land,” Andrew Zepp said. “We’re also delighted to have the opportunity to work in partnership with the Central New York Land Trust to make this scenic natural area accessible to the public.”

—Krishna Ramanujan



The new tract lies between extensive wetlands along the West River and forested hillsides that rise steeply from the Naples Valley. The land is located within the heart of the High Tor Wildlife Management Area, a sprawling 6,000 acre expanse of state-owned wild lands. Directly across Sunnyside Road lies the entrance to Clark Gully, a popular hiking spot and a place of special historical significance to the Seneca Nation of the Iroquois. High Tor has been designated an "Important Bird Area" by the National Audubon Society and is also included as a priority project for conservation in the New York State Open Space Plan.

The property is also located in close proximity to the Land Trust's 226-acre Great Hill Preserve overlooking Canandaigua Lake and adjoins the Perlman Tract, a parcel acquired by the Land Trust in 2007 which features 1,700 feet of frontage on the West River.

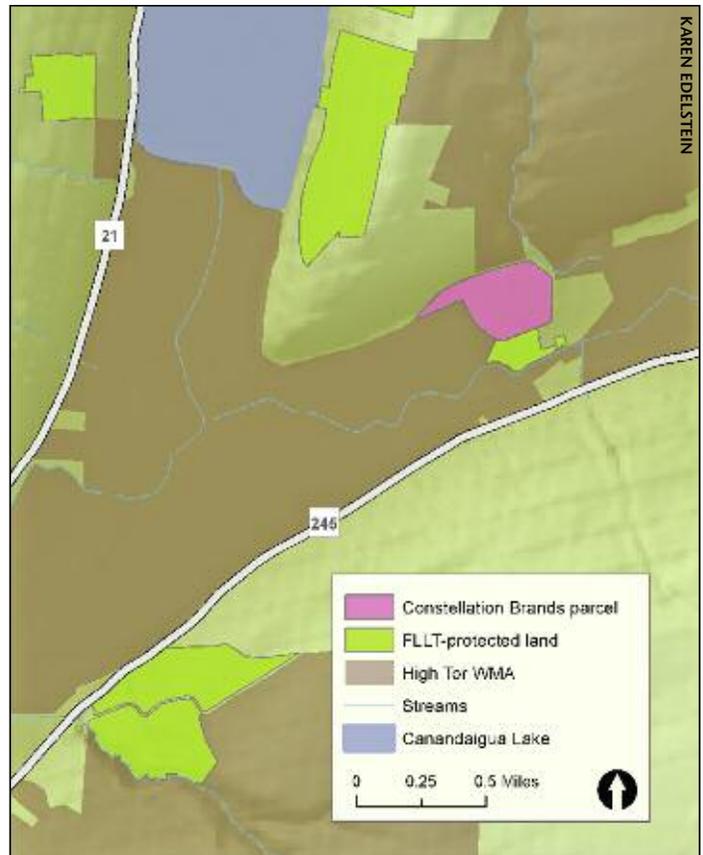
"This is a wonderful gift to the community as conservation of this land will help ensure Canandaigua Lake's water quality while providing high quality bird habitat and enhanced recreational opportunities," said Land Trust Executive Director Andrew Zepp.

Inclusion of the Constellation Brands Tract within this assemblage of protected open space has several public benefits. The property commands a sweeping view of the broad, U-shaped Naples valley left behind by glaciers retreating during the last Ice Age, as well as seasonal views of the West River. With extensive road frontage on Sunnyside Road, the property is easily accessible to the public. These scenic views are enjoyed by even the most casual passerby.

Its location between High Tor's forested hillsides and the West River, with its associated wetlands far below, provides a natural corridor for the movement of wildlife. Now, with the addition of public access, it expands opportunities for recreational users, too.

This tract is also central within the Canandaigua Highlands Heritage Area, a 45-square mile focus area identified in the Land Trust's 2010 report "A Vision for the Canandaigua Lake Watershed." Local communities and stakeholders, such as the Finger Lakes Visitors Connection and Canandaigua Lake Watershed Alliance, have enthusiastically received the notion of the Heritage Area.

Among other things, the Land Trust's report identifies three important goals within the area around the south end of the lake: promoting compatible economic development in the village of Naples and hamlet of Middlesex; enhancing recreational opportunities and public interpretation of the rich natural, cultural and historic resources of this scenic area; conserving natural resources through a variety of tools including strong land use planning, select acquisitions of open space



parcels by conservation organizations and public agencies, and the use of conservation easements on other tracts.

The Land Trust intends to engage the local community through a management planning process that will identify appropriate uses for the site. Some ideas have already been suggested, such as the restoration of native grassland bird habitat, and the installation of interpretive signs for visitors.

To restore wildlife habitats and prepare the site for public access, the Land Trust will first have to remove grape trellises and grape vines that were abandoned 15 years ago. The Land Trust has begun investigating options for site restoration and will be seeking funds, perhaps in combination with in-kind services, to accomplish this task.

—Betsy Landre

*The Land Trust gratefully acknowledges Attorney Scott A. Forsyth of the law firm Forsyth & Forsyth in Rochester, NY for providing pro bono legal services in support of this project.*

## Conservation Easement Buffers State Forest

Thanks to the generosity of Frank and Jean Schonfeld, Birdseye Hollow State Forest will now benefit from a conservation easement that ensures 23 acres of adjacent woodlands and field will continue to serve as both wildlife habitat and buffer to these public lands.

Birdseye Hollow hosts a popular segment of the Finger Lakes Trail and also encompasses several ponds and a portion of Mud Creek.

The Schonfelds donated their property to the Land Trust with the understanding that it would be sold subject to a

conservation easement. Located in Bradford, Steuben County, the property includes frontage on both sides of Myers Road. The land was recently sold to a family that intends to use the property as a rural retreat, just as the Schonfelds had for many years.



## Sisters Donate Easement on 7th Generation Farm *continued from cover*

Today, the sisters lease most of their land to a neighboring farmer who cultivates hay and a variety of crops. A majestic 70-acre woodlot cloaks a hillside and includes a large, forested wetland. A stream flows out of the forest and traverses the fields. Tucked away in the rolling hills northeast of Honeoye Lake, it is a verdant and peaceful place.

The White/Launt property is contiguous to a 200-acre farm on neighboring Green Road, placed under a conservation easement in 2005 by Donald Green, a distant relative. The Land Trust holds this donated easement as well.

Land Trust Executive Director Andrew Zepp said, "Not only is the farm exceptionally scenic with many natural resource values in its own right, but this project adds to a block of conserved land. The community now has 380 acres of productive farmland, forests and wetlands protected forever by conservation easements ensuring that future generations can work the farm and enjoy the land."

Under the terms of the conservation easement, the farm will stay intact, as sub-division is prohibited. No residence exists on the property at this time. Under the agreement, a single family home may be constructed in a designated area. The easement also allows for the construction of agricultural buildings. This provision will give future owners of the property flexibility to adapt to new farming practices. The owners can harvest trees subject to an approved forest management plan that takes into account the sensitive wetland.

With nearly 3,500 feet of level frontage on scenic Pierpont Road, division of the farm for house lots was certainly one possible future scenario. The sisters have been approached multiple times to sell small lots along the road. Asked if it was hard to resist those offers, Helen exclaims, "No way! We have no wish to sell."

But they admit they were concerned about what could happen if development pressure increased for the next

generation. Margaret has five children and Helen has three; they intend to pass the land on to eight heirs. They both worried that somewhere along the line, the farm would be broken up. "We had been thinking about what to do about the farm," Helen said. "Then I saw an article in the paper about Mr. Houghton's conservation easement on Grimble Road and I said to Margaret, 'This is it! This is what we should do!'"

Helen was referring to Bill Houghton's 2002 donation of a conservation easement to the Land Trust on his 110-acre property in East Bloomfield. The sisters understood the deep passion the then 85-year old man held for his land, and they shared his desire to protect it from future development as housing tracts.

After more deliberation and careful financial planning, the sisters contacted the Land Trust and began an earnest and thoughtful process of preparing for the eventual transfer of the farm to their children with a conservation easement in place.

"We are delighted that it is done," Margaret said about the easement process. "It's all fallen into place. We both feel like this was meant to be."

The Land Trust is excited, too, and appreciates the tremendous commitment two seventh-generation landowners made to conserving a rural landscape and heritage. "It was a privilege to work with this family," said Andy Zepp. "Their easement is an extraordinary gift and we're honored to play a role in helping them continue their tradition of stewardship."

—Betsy Landre

*The Land Trust gratefully acknowledges Attorney Edward F. Premo, II of the law firm Harter Secrest and Emery in Rochester, NY for providing pro bono legal services in support of this project.*





*Land Trust Executive Director Andy Zepp and Senior Field Representative Betsy Landre on the Chemung River during a recent staff field trip*

# SCENES

from Around  
Our Region...

DAVID DIAZ



*The Goetchius Wetland Preserve in the town of Caroline, Tompkins County*

BETSY DARLINGTON

Volunteers helping to clean up the Van Riper/Moran property, the Land Trust's recent acquisition featuring 1,500 feet of undeveloped shoreline on Cayuga Lake in Seneca County.



CHRIS OLNEY



ASHLEY MADDEN

The Canandaigua Academy Outdoor Club poses alongside the stone steps they just finished building at the Wesley Hill Nature Preserve in Ontario County.



BETSY DARLINGTON

Preserve Management Committee member Roger Hopkins enjoys a brief respite atop a giant grapevine at the recently acquired Van Riper-Moran property on Cayuga Lake in Seneca County.

# Notes from the Field: 2011 Spring Bird Quest

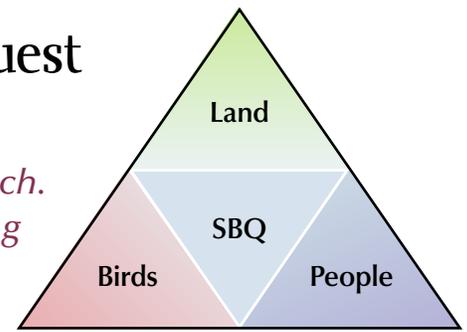
*I recognize in myself a tendency (call it a character flaw if you like) toward verbosity. I write too long. I definitely talk too much. This problem seems worst when I'm excited or when I'm trying to communicate something complicated. Therefore, in hopes of saving a thousand words, I offer a picture.*

The Finger Lakes Land Trust Spring Bird Quest (SBQ) is the sky-blue space in the center of this triangle. The idea is to get birders, who live happily along the black line at the bottom, to recognize that land is the key element enabling us to connect with birds at all. At the same time, the SBQ strengthens the right leg linking land and people, which is where the Land Trust operates every day—preserving habitats, creating recreational open space, and advocating for responsible land stewardship throughout our region.

Held over Memorial Day weekend, the SBQ has two main elements. One is bird walks on Land Trust preserves. This year, about three dozen people joined me on these outings. The shared wonders were many: a pair of Scarlet Tanagers following each other through the shadows of the hemlock woods at the Sweedler Preserve at Lick Brook; a male Yellow-bellied Sapsucker offering a

rare full-frontal view of his dazzling contrasting colors, right next to the Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve parking lot; a Black-billed Cuckoo feeding furtively in the treetops but then making stunning aerial dashes across open space at Lindsay-Parsons; a panoply of species, from Bobolinks to Green Herons, posing for scope views at the Goetchius Wetlands Preserve; a mystery bird that turned into the surprise of the weekend—a Broad-winged Hawk, cruising high over the Roy H. Park Nature Preserve and eventually fanning its telltale single-banded tail; and much more.

The SBQ is also a fundraising effort, based on pledges per bird species that I find over the weekend on Land Trust properties. This year, despite a late Memorial Day and hot weather, I managed to find 92 species in a little more than 12 hours of birding on these four Land Trust preserves. Embarrassingly,



my character flaw caused me to miss two Ruffed Grouse, which others heard flushing and drumming as I was prattling on about something. Oh well—in any case, even without that 93rd species, this year's SBQ will yield over \$3200 for the Land Trust.

The messages of the triangle graphic and the SBQ itself are simple. Birds infuse our human lives with joy and wonder. Land sustains healthy bird populations. And we people are at once the greatest threat and the best hope for land stewardship and bird conservation. If we recognize these relationships, each leg of the triangle can positively reinforce the others, giving this triune structure strength and balance, like a truss or a sturdy stool.

I could go on all day, but I'd better make myself stop.

Many thanks to all who participated and pledged support!

—Mark Chao



BETSY DARLINGTON

*On the look out at the Lindsay-Parsons Preserve in the town of Danby, Tompkins County*

# A CLOSER LOOK

## Tree Masting: Survival of the Seediest

Gazing out my study window one morning this spring, I noticed that a familiar white ash tree seemed more full, somehow more sumptuous-looking, than usual. I went outside to take a closer look and found drooping heavily from the newly leafed-out branches a bumper crop of seeds like I'd never seen before—ten times the normal number, I guessed. The other white ashes in my forest bore the same super-crop.

This is a phenomenon known as “masting,” in which trees of the same species periodically produce an overabundance of seed in a brilliant strategy to ensure species survival. From an Old English word for “meat,” mast is the fruits, seeds and nuts of trees, serving both to propagate the tree species and to nourish a broad spectrum of wildlife. Years in which trees produce an unusually large crop are called mast years.

Seed merchant Rick Sheffield of Locke, Cayuga County, knows all about mast years. According to Sheffield, red oaks in the northeast had mast crops in 1999, 2005 and 2009; sugar maples masted in 1998, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2008, and they flowered heavily this spring—presumably a harbinger of heavy seed rain to come.

Local variations in tree genetics, tree health and weather are clearly factors influencing seed production, yet mast years still occur simultaneously among all trees of a common species and over a wide geographical area. Red oaks throughout the Finger Lakes and across the northeast, for example, will all have a synchronous mast year followed by one or two years of relatively scant acorn production before the next mast year. Sugar maples, shagbark hickories and others follow their own mysterious masting cycles. Just what triggers a mast year in any given species is not well understood. They just do it.

Masting has dramatic effects that ripple through forest ecosystems, influencing everything from animal populations to overall forest composition. Ecologist Tom Wessels observes in his book *Reading the Forested*

*Landscape* that pure forest stands of same-aged trees may well be the result of a mast year for that species immediately following a forest disturbance, such as logging, or the abandonment of farm pasture. The trees that grew up are the fortunate result of a super-crop of seeds too numerous for wildlife to consume, coinciding with plenty of available sunlight.

voles. She has found a strong correlation between mast years in several tree species and population changes in the animals that eat the seeds: it's boom or bust, for both trees and rodents.

“Masting has a short-term benefit to the animals because increased food resources means they can increase their numbers,” she explained. “The strategy also works well for the trees



*Old White Oak at the Martin Preserve in the town of Catharine, Schuyler County*

So why do trees do this?

Forest biologist Jackie Schnurr, a professor at Wells College in Aurora, explained that researchers are investigating two hypotheses: “First, if everyone reproduces at the same time, then the chances of pollination increase, especially for wind-pollinated species like oaks and maples. And, second, if everyone reproduces at the same time, then the seed predator populations will be swamped by all the food in the environment, and a greater percentage of seeds will escape predation and germinate.”

Schnurr's research mostly concerns the second hypothesis, concentrating on the effects of masting cycles on forest rodents, including chipmunks, white-footed mice and red-backed

because in non-mast years there isn't enough food for the seed predators, and they die off or relocate, so that populations are at a minimum the next time masting occurs....And the cycle continues!”

Aside from small forest rodents, the chief seed eaters in the Finger Lakes are turkeys and deer. Understandably, the bigger nuts—acorns, hickory and beech nuts—are favored by almost all seed predators. An increase in the small mammals that directly benefit from mast years provides indirect benefits to animals higher up the food chain, including owls, foxes and coyotes—with converse effects in non-mast years.

*continued on page 10*

# Advisory Council Grows

*We are delighted to announce the addition of Neil Murphy, Dick Raines, and Lynn Leopold to the Land Trust's Advisory Council.*

Neil Murphy is president of SUNY's College of Environmental Science & Forestry in Syracuse. A holder of many distinguished degrees, Neil's expertise lies in the areas of environmental science and engineering, hazardous waste management, renewable energy systems, limnology, urban runoff planning, and industrial wastewater treatment.

In addition to serving as advisor to many prominent organizations throughout Central New York, Neil serves on several boards, including O'Brien & Gere, OP-TECH Environmental Services, and Bergmann Associates.

Dick Raines is president of CARFAX, a leading internet consumer information business that tracks the history of cars. Prior to that, he managed various information service companies. Dick holds an MBA from Harvard Business School. He is active in a number of conservation groups and serves on the board of the Virginia League of Conservation Voters, the American Bird Conservancy, and Clean Air, Cool Planet. Dick has also been involved in international development and co-founded a rural drinking water nonprofit called Agua del Pueblo based in Guatemala.

Lynn Leopold will need no introduction to many of you. Her late husband Carl was the Founding President of the Land Trust and played an active role in the organization until his death in November, 2009.

A self-described "mountain girl," Lynn grew up in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. After earning a bachelor's degree in music from Colorado College in Colorado Springs, Lynn came to Ithaca for a master's degree in science and environmental education at Cornell University. She has done public education for the Tompkins County Solid Waste Division and is currently a board member of the Finger Lakes Reuse Center as well as a Trustee for the Village of Lansing.

"Carl was passionate about many things," Lynn comments. "But of all his pursuits, none was any dearer to him than that of the Land Trust. I can think of a no more fitting way to honor his memory than to continue his legacy that lives and breathes today in the continuing efforts of the Land Trust."

**Neil, Dick, and Lynn: Welcome aboard!**

## A CLOSER LOOK: *continued from page 9*

Rick Ostfeld, a researcher at the Institute for Ecosystem Studies in Millbrook, N.Y., has been looking at masting from another perspective: its implications on Lyme Disease. He has found deer tick population explosions in northeast forests following oak mast years.

Jackie Schnurr is familiar with Ostfeld's research and explained that deer drawn to a bumper crop of acorns in an oak forest carry infected adult ticks that drop to the ground and lay eggs, resulting in a forest teeming with ticks the next year. "In periods of little or no mast, tick populations fall way off," she said, "and you begin to see them more evenly dispersed throughout all the habitats (like maple forests and fields) as deer feeding habits change—it's an interesting way of looking at habitat use by deer but, weirdly, through ticks."

If there's one thing the phenomenon of masting underscores, it's the interdependence of plants and animals in the environment. It's interesting to think that small rodents might have been somehow responsible for trees evolving a strategy to outmaneuver them and, in the same stroke, sustain them.

—Eben McLane

## Our appreciation for gifts in honor of:

Drew Bruce and Amber Pollak  
FROM  
Liz and Ed Thorndike

Burch Craig  
FROM  
Lisa and Jon Gandelot

Dr. Robert Horn, Jr  
FROM  
Dryden Family Medicine  
Tompkins Trust Company

John and Jo Ingle  
FROM  
June Oates

## Our deepest gratitude for thoughtful gifts in memory of:

Sybil Craig  
FROM  
Kathleen Craig Knight  
Arthur and Maureen Holtzman

Thomas Eisner  
FROM  
Rita and Joe Calvo  
Mary Costich  
Roger and Harriet Cramton  
Joe and Cathy Crymes  
Betsy and Dick Darlington  
Robert Jeffrey Dean  
Maya Gasuk  
Ronald and Rebecca Harris-Warrick  
Karl and Leslie Kieburz  
Simon and Carole Levin  
Anne Moffat and Mitchell Masters  
Elizabeth and Dennis Regan  
Richard B Root  
Ronald Rutowski  
Mary Salton  
Sidney and Dolores Saltzman  
Stuart Schweizer  
Sinauer Associates  
David Winkler and Amy McCune  
Lynn Wintriss  
Helen Wivell  
Mariana Wolfner and Jim Rothenberg  
Christina Wu  
Kathleen Yen

Carl Leopold  
FROM  
Amy Jaffe  
Barbara Keeton

Henry and Marion Miller  
FROM  
Rachel Miller

John A. Wenrich  
FROM  
Edward Gable  
Dr. and Mrs. Kirby M. Milton  
Gehrig Robinson, Terry Williams and  
Jason and Mary Hubert

# Talks & Treks!

Summer 2011

## **Saturday, July 16, 9:00 am, Blooms, Birds and Butterflies at the Roy H. Park Preserve.**

Join ecologist Charlie Smith to explore the fields, forests and stream corridors of this preserve. If it's a sunny morning, butterflies should be in abundance! Bring binoculars and cameras if you have them. 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, July 30, 10:00 am, Paddle the Honeoye Lake Inlet.**

Join naturalist and educator Eric Cosman for a paddle through this significant natural area that is home to bears, otters, beaver, turtles, songbirds and more. Meet at Finger Lakes Community College's Muller Field Station at the south end of Honeoye Lake. Bring your own canoe or kayak. *Limited to 15 people—please call 607-275-9487 to register.* Directions: From Rt. 20A in Honeoye Village, turn left on County Rte. 36 or West Lake Road, just west of the village center, and follow past the end of Honeoye Lake. Look for Muller Field Station sign on your left.

## **Saturday, August 27, 10:00 am, Wildlife Tracks and Signs at the Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve.**

Join tracker and naturalist Linda Spielman to learn about what's been visiting the preserve. From Ithaca, take Rt. 13 south to junction with Rt. 34/96. Continue south on 34/96 to hamlet of West Danby. Preserve entrance is on left, 1/2 mile past Sylvan drive.

## **Saturday, September 10, 10:00 am, Forest Management and Conservation Easements.**

Co-sponsored by the Finger Lakes Land Trust and the Western Finger Lakes Chapter of the New York Forest Owners Association and hosted by the Morse Conservation Club. Join Future Forest Consulting Vice President, Scott Graham, and Land Trust staff members on a hike through the Morse Conservation Club Property in the town of South Bristol to learn about the compatibility of timber management, recreation and conservation easements. This beautiful property is managed for timber production, quality deer and recreation. It is also protected by a conservation easement with the Land Trust. Parking is limited; please call 607-275-9487 to reserve your spot.

## **Saturday, September 17, 10:00 am, Fall Flowers at the Roy H. Park Preserve.**

Co-hosted with Finger Lakes Native Plant Society. Join plant enthusiast Susanne Lorbeer for a look at late summer and early fall plants and wildflowers. 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. Contact Susanne (257-0835) for more info.

## **Volunteer Work Days**

### **Saturday, July 9th: Great Hill Preserve, South Hill Rd., Towns of Italy and Middlesex, Yates County.**

Trail work volunteers are needed to continue work begun last fall, stabilizing and improving a hill-side footpath at this preserve located high above Canandaigua Lake. There is a hike in of at least a half-mile, and the work will be somewhat strenuous, using mattocks and hoes to level out dirt along the trail. Meet at 9:30 am at the preserve entrance on South Hill Road. We will work until approximately 3:00 pm.

### **Friday, July 22nd: Steege Hill Preserve, Steege Hill Rd., Town of Big Flats, Chemung Co.**

This project is rescheduled from last fall, when weather did not cooperate. We need 6-8 people to help carry an already-assembled wooden footbridge from a truck and trailer along a hiking trail to a stream crossing where it will be installed. Carrying distance is approximately 800 feet, and then digging tools and rebar and will be used to secure the bridge at the new location. Participants can expect this to be strenuous work, but a group effort. Meet at 9:30 am at the preserve entrance on South Hill Road. We will work until probably 1:00 or 2:00 pm. *It is very likely that we will go out for a beer and fish fry after the work is done.*

### **Saturday, August 27th, 9:30-11:30 am Parker Preserve, County Rt. 16 and Velie Road, Town of Bath, Steuben County.**

Have you ever been to the Parker Preserve? Not too many people have. Are you looking for a place to take a short hike on your way to your Keuka Lake wine tour or fishing the Cohocton River? Here's a good spot. Volunteers are needed to help clean up roadside litter, and then we will take a hike on the trails. We will meet at the preserve parking area on Velie Road. Please bring a lunch and water with you.

*Directions to our preserves may be found on our website at [www.fllt.org](http://www.fllt.org)*

# Finger Lakes Land Trust

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## Summer 2011 Calendar

### SUNDAY, JULY 24, 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Please join us for the Land Trust's 22nd Annual Meeting & Celebration at the Skaneateles Country Club overlooking beautiful Skaneateles Lake. See insert for details.

### FRIDAY & SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23-24

#### Finger Lakes Regional Trails and Greenways Conference at Cornell University

To promote the advancement of regional trails and greenways, the Land Trust is supporting Parks and Trails New York in putting together a two-day conference to provide a variety of workshops that will be designed for both trail advocates, planning board members, and other local officials. Please visit [www.ptny.org](http://www.ptny.org) for more information.

PLEASE SEE PAGE 11 FOR THE SCHEDULE OF OUR 2011 SUMMER 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.

## CONSERVATION BUYER WANTED

For 35-acre rural retreat located Just outside of Ithaca in Town of Danby. Features mixed hardwoods and hemlock. Located on Olsefski Road (seasonal).

To be sold subject to conservation easement.

Asking price is \$35,000. Contact Ed Finegan at 607-272-8213