



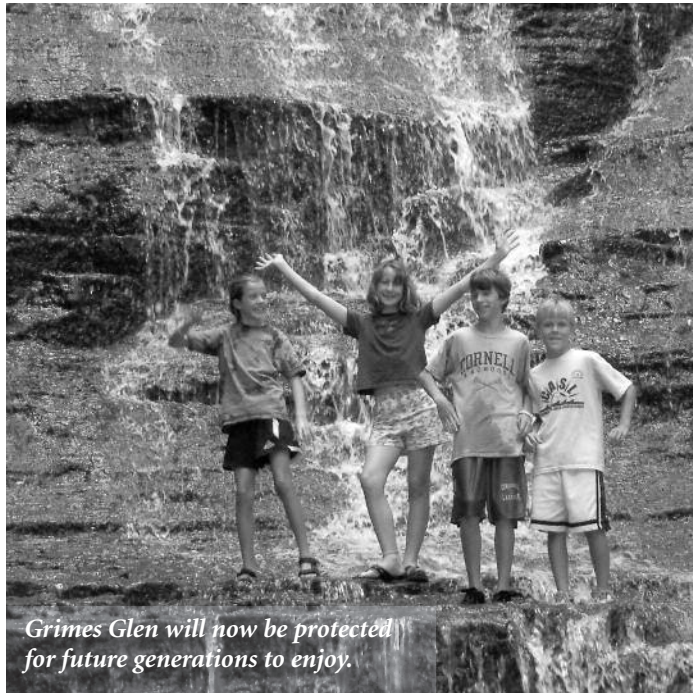
THE LAND STEWARD

Newsletter of the Finger Lakes Land Trust

Vol. 21, No. 1

working to protect the natural integrity of the Finger Lakes Region

Winter 2008-2009



BETSY LANDRE

Grimes Glen will now be protected for future generations to enjoy.

Grimes Glen Finally Protected!

In a joint announcement with Ontario County in early November, the Land Trust celebrated its acquisition of 32 acres in the heart of popular Grimes Glen, Naples. This purchase caps nearly five years of negotiations between the Land Trust, the county, the DEC and local landowners, including the property owner, Don Braun of Naples.

The Land Trust raised \$150,000 to purchase the scenic glen and maintain into the future a conservation easement on the property. Meanwhile, the property's title has been transferred to the county to manage the land as a public park.

"We consider Grimes Glen one of the region's premier gorges," said Land Trust Executive Director Andy Zepp. "The project itself is an example of how we can work together with a variety of partners—from local and state governments to watershed watchgroups—to protect important open space lands and provide for long term stewardship."

The project might have been completed as early as 2005 but hit a snag when the DEC discovered an unresolved issue regarding an historic dump site near the gorge entrance and existing parking lot. An additional holdup developed over a boundary dispute with an adjacent land owner. Finally, after three years and

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Land Trust Acquisition to Influence Owasco Lake Water Quality

The Finger Lakes Land Trust recently purchased a key parcel with 2,000 feet of frontage land on the Owasco Inlet, the largest tributary of Owasco Lake. The property is located within the Village of Moravia just south of the lake, and with proper natural restoration, it could greatly influence the lake's future water quality by reducing sediment run-off from this flood-prone area.

The 15-acre parcel, purchased from the estate of Jeremy Green, borders State Route 38 to the north and is within the Owasco Flats—an area of wetland and cropland just south of Owasco Lake.

The Green property was identified as a high priority for protection through the Land Trust's Owasco Flats Conservation Planning and Stakeholder Survey Project. Funded by the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board, the project assessed natural resources within the flats, surveyed landowners and developed recommendations for the area's long-term conservation.

"The Green property... is an excellent site to showcase how wildlife habitat restoration can benefit the community," said Carl Schwartz of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "Native grasses and shrubs can reduce sediment that goes to Owasco Lake and provide recreational opportunities for residents."

Also, planting trees and shrubs in eroding areas will bolster stream banks and could prevent some 5,000 cubic yards—or the

equivalent of over 400 truckloads of sediment—from eventually moving into the lake.

Much of the property is used for farming, and the Land Trust will work cooperatively with the local farming community to

continued on page 2



BILL HECHT

Aerial view of the Green property (center right portion of photo) which features 2,000 feet of frontage on the Owasco Inlet.

PERSPECTIVES



In a region known for its gorges, Grimes Glen truly stands out. Just a few steps from the village of Naples, the glen provides a welcome respite on a hot summer day, an impressive display of spring wildflowers and towering ice formations in the winter.

Thanks to an innovative partnership between the Land Trust and Ontario County, with additional support from the town of Naples and a variety of public and private sector partners, the future of this gem of a natural area is now ensured.

This project could not have happened without the efforts of a great many

people. The multi-year effort to permanently protect the glen stands out among the Land Trust's projects as one of the most challenging we have ever tackled.

Prolonged negotiations both to resolve a thorny boundary dispute and to ensure clean up of a historic dump site made us sometimes wonder if it would ever all come together. Each time we had doubts, however, we just had to take a walk back into the glen for additional inspiration to forge ahead.

Now, everyone will have the same opportunity—today and in the future. The Land Trust will continue to work with the county to ensure that this special place remains both special and

accessible to the public.

Thanks are due to the more than 200 donors who contributed to the fundraising campaign for Grimes Glen, to every member of the Land Trust who has supported this project, and to many, many more through their annual contributions.

Thank you, thank you, thank you. We couldn't complete these projects without you!

—Andy Zepp

Leadership Gift Honors Memory of Roy H. Park, Sr. and Fuels Land Protection Efforts

Philanthropist Dorothy Park of Ithaca recently honored the Land Trust and the memory of her late husband, Roy H. Park, Sr., by making a significant gift to support land protection efforts within the Cayuga Lake Watershed and the Emerald Necklace Greenbelt.

Through this gift, the Land Trust has created the Roy H. Park Legacy Fund. The Fund will support the acquisition of key parcels within identified focus areas and also provide for their long-term stewardship. Negotiations are already underway with several landowners regarding possible acquisitions that would be supported by the Fund.

A media executive and entrepreneur, Park made his home in Ithaca. Following his death in 1993, the Park Foundation was established and continues his legacy, dedicated to the aid and support of education, public broadcasting and the environment.

"This is an extraordinary gift that will really make a difference," said Land Trust Executive Director Andrew Zepp. "We are grateful to Dorothy and her family for the generous commitment they've made to the Land Trust."

Land Trust Acquisition to Influence Owasco Lake Water Quality *continued from cover*

keep leasing some of the land for growing crops. According to Land Trust Executive Director Andy Zepp, "it's important that we demonstrate how agricultural production can proceed in conjunction with watershed protection efforts." Still, the proposed restoration plan would discontinue farming in the most flood-prone areas of this parcel.

"For the nearly 13 years I've been involved in flooding issues, this property has remained in corn production," said Bruce Natale, an environmental engineer with Cayuga County Planning.

The heaviest water flow through the area usually occurs between late October and mid-May, after the corn harvest but before new sprouts germinate, said Natale. "That means that every time we have a high flow and/or a flooding event, the flows occur over corn stubble and bare soils," he added. Planting native species in such areas will reduce the amount of sediment, phosphorus and debris entering the Owasco Inlet and Owasco Lake.

Once habitat restoration efforts are complete, the Land Trust will create a small parking area just off State Route 38, and a footpath from there will provide public access for fishing and wildlife observation.

The Land Trust financed the purchase through an internal loan and has now embarked upon a campaign to raise \$100,000 to cover the cost of the property as well as habitat restoration, public access sites, and ongoing education and outreach efforts associated with the Owasco Flats.

This latest acquisition represents the organization's third land protection project within the Owasco Flats. Two years ago, the Land Trust assisted the Owasco Flats Nature Reserve in acquiring a parcel at the northern end of the flats. Last year, Land Trust board member and Moravia resident Howard Hartnett purchased a parcel at a tax auction with the intent of protecting the land.

"We are thrilled that finally attention and action is happening in this critical environmental area," said Joseph Wasileski, president of the Owasco Watershed Lake Association. "Perhaps this restoration will serve as a model for future acquisitions and action in this environmentally sensitive area."

—Krishna Ramanujan

The Land Trust gratefully acknowledges Attorney Kim Rothman and the law firm Miller Mayer, LLP for providing pro bono legal services in support of this project.

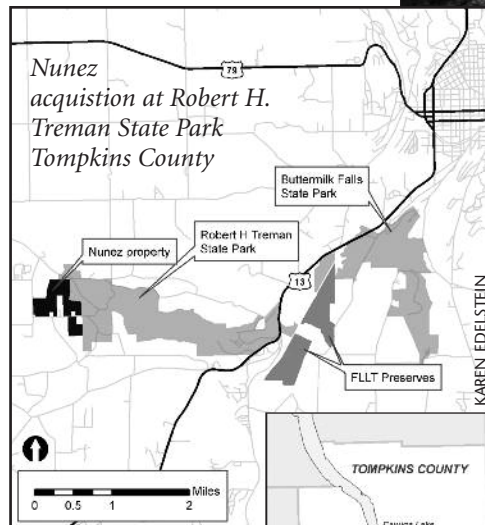
Outreach Effort Leads to Expansion of Robert H. Treman State Park

What started with a conversation about conservation easements led to the recent acquisition of a 142-acre addition to one of the region's premiere state parks just outside of Ithaca. The acquisition of this parcel by New York State Parks culminated several years of discussion that ultimately spanned two generations.

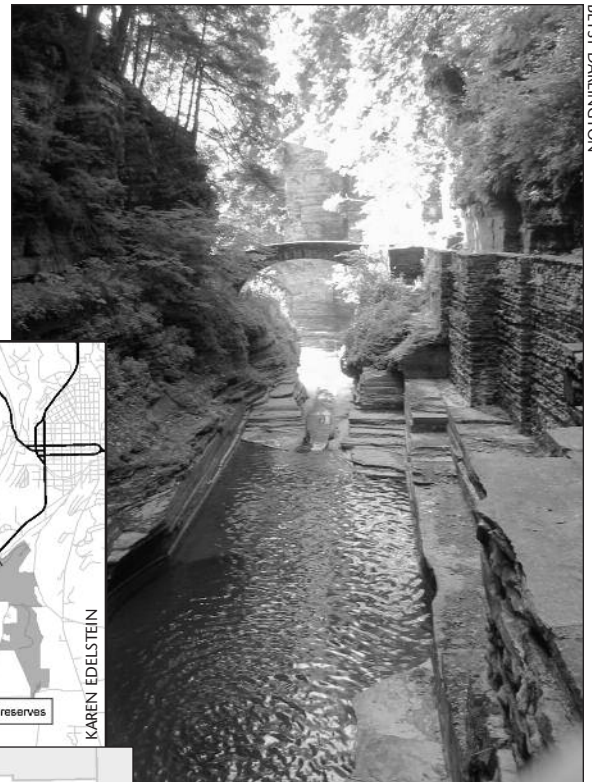
Land Trust staff initially contacted landowner Rudy Nunez several years ago in response to his interest in learning more about conservation easements. Talks continued over the course of two years before Rudy's untimely death due to cancer.

Subsequent conversations with Rudy's family revealed an interest in the possibility of a sale of the property for conservation. New York State Parks officials considered the property a desirable addition to Robert H. Treman State Park because of its proximity to Enfield Creek and the fact that the land hosts more than a ¼ mile of the Finger Lakes Trail. The land features a mix of mature woodlands, fields and brush land. It is located at the western end of the park, spanning both sides of Woodard Road in the Town of Enfield.

After the Land Trust introduced the family to New York State Parks officials, the State proceeded to complete the transaction directly. "We were delighted to support this acquisition," says Land Trust Executive Director Andrew Zepp. "This is a wonderful addition to the park and a key parcel within the Emerald Necklace Greenbelt."



Inset map: Location of Nunez property in Tompkins County



Treman State Park is well known for its narrow gorges and beautiful waterfalls.

Finger Lakes State Parks Director Tim Joseph adds, "We are very fortunate to be able to work with the Land Trust to achieve some important public objectives. Their connections in

the community and their ability to move quickly have enabled us to do things that a government agency might not be able to accomplish alone."

Land Gifts Secure Mature Woodlands While Providing Financial Support

Through the generosity of Sarah Newman of Ann Arbor, Michigan, and Frank and Jean Schonfeld of New York City, the Land Trust recently received two wonderful gifts of woodland property. By prior agreement with these donors, the parcels will be sold by the Land Trust subject to conservation easements that will protect their significant natural resources while allowing for the construction of a single home on each site.

Earlier this year Sarah Newman donated her 50-acre woodlot on East Miller Road in the Town of Danby, Tompkins County. Located within the watershed of Buttermilk Creek, the parcel features a small stream and

diverse woodlands that were once farmed many years ago.

Frank and Jean Schonfeld donated their 23-acre retreat to the Land Trust this fall. The parcel is located in the Town of Bradford, Steuben County and borders state forest land on two sides. The Schonfelds enjoyed using their land as a seasonal retreat and decided to donate the property to ensure that its character would be maintained in the future.

"These are wonderful gifts," said Land Trust President Chris Proulx. "We're deeply appreciative of the generous commitment that Sarah Newman and the Schonfelds have made to both the Land Trust and our region. Through

these gifts, we will permanently protect forests that provide significant wildlife habitat and help to maintain water quality. We will also generate funds to support the protection of additional lands."

The Newman property is already available for sale and is listed with Ed Finegan of Christopher George Realty in Ithaca. Additional information is available from Ed at (607) 272-8213. A conservation plan for the Schonfeld property is still under development; the property will be listed for sale this spring. Please contact the Ithaca office of the Land Trust if you would like to receive information about this property.

20TH ANNIVERSARY SERIES

Birth of the Finger Lakes Land Trust: *The Early Years: 1988-1993*

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Finger Lakes Land Trust which was founded in 1989. To commemorate the event, a series of articles will appear in the next few issues of The Land Steward, providing a historic chronology of the Land Trust, beginning with its early roots. This article is the first in that series.

The year was 1985 and Andy Zepp, a transplant from the suburbs of New York City, was a restless Cornell undergraduate. One day while hiking, Andy discovered the quietly sublime, multitiered falls of Lick Brook. He could not believe that such an awe-inspiring place existed just a mile from downtown Ithaca, and he realized that it would not survive for long without protection.

After graduation, Andy first volunteered for, and was later hired by, The Nature Conservancy (TNC). Within a year and a half of graduating from college, he had already established his first land trust, the Middlesex Land Trust in Middletown, Connecticut. A half-year later, he took a leave of absence from TNC and returned to his alma mater for a one-year master's degree in Natural Resource Policy. His master's project would be to create a land trust that could preserve the places he had grown to love.

In November 1988, Andy invited a handful of local conservation activists to a meeting in Cornell University's Fernow Hall to discuss the possibility of creating a regional land trust. One of the attendees was Dr. Carl Leopold, son of pioneering environmentalist Aldo Leopold and at that time a professor of plant physiology at the Boyce Thompson Institute; Carl would become the first president of the newly created Finger Lakes Land Trust. Also present was Betsy Darlington, then chair of the City Conservation Advisory Council in Ithaca. An overcommitted Betsy reluctantly agreed to be vice-president; she could not foresee that she would spend the next 20 years volunteering full-time for the Land Trust. The fledgling organization hired Andy for the summer of 1989, in the last months before he returned to TNC. Although he would collaborate with the Land Trust many times in the coming years, Andy would not work for it again until he became its executive director in 2003.

In the beginning, the Land Trust had

neither an office nor paid staff, and it ran on little more than enthusiasm. The initial successes were small but heartening. Betsy herself donated the first conservation easement in February 1990; two more easements came later that spring. The first nature preserve, acquired in January 1991, was just one acre: the

Trust contacted most of the landowners in the Six-Mile Creek watershed area, offering them the opportunity to ensure that their properties would forever remain undeveloped. The first easement was acquired in April 1990, and the Six-Mile Creek conservation process continues to this day. To date, the trust has obtained 14 conservation easements and one nature preserve in the watershed.

The acquisition of the Sweedler Preserve at Lick Brook, on the other hand, was quite complicated. Moss Sweedler, the owner of the 127-acre property, agreed to



BETSY DARLINGTON

A hike at the Sweedler Preserve at Lick Brook in 1991, just before it was acquired by the Land Trust.

Leedy's Roseroot Preserve, which protects a globally endangered wildflower. The owners of the parcel were uncertain about the stability of the young organization, so Andy facilitated a compromise: an easement was granted to TNC and ownership was granted to the Land Trust.

The new organization's primary concern in the early years was to protect certain critical areas in Tompkins County; of particular urgency were the Six-Mile Creek watershed and Andy's old hiking grounds, Lick Brook. Conserving Six-Mile Creek was, in some ways, the easier task: it merely took a lot of hard work. The Land

swap his land for something very specific: a secluded pond no more than a ten-minute drive from downtown Ithaca, in any direction except west (so that he would not have to navigate the notorious intersection known as "the Octopus"). Almost every weekend, Moss and Bob Beck, the Land Trust's first executive director, scouted out local ponds. Moss strictly enforced his "ten-minute rule," resetting his stopwatch and odometer before each trip. After almost two years of searching, Bob found a property Moss liked—which was, ironically, more than ten minutes away from downtown, on the

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Grimes Glen Finally Protected! *continued from cover*

ANDREW ZEPP



One of the Glen's several waterfalls.

afar. Donations to the Land Trust for the Grimes Glen project came from hikers and waterfall enthusiasts from near and far—one donation arrived from, of all places, Antarctica!

In part, public interest in the pleasures—and challenges—of hiking through the gorge was what fueled the Land Trust's determination to protect it. Don Braun, as owner of the lower 32 acres of the glen for years, had always welcomed visitors. In recent years, especially, a ramble through Grimes Glen had become almost a public right.

In 2004 Braun approached the Land Trust, wanting both to sell the property and to preserve the public character of the gorge—two aims he understood could be at odds. The Land Trust was immediately interested and looked around for ways to structure an agreement that would preserve the natural area and keep it open to the public.

When Ontario County showed its interest in creating a park there, a partnership developed quickly and naturally. The result is an agreement involving restrictions on development within the glen as well as on several acres of sensitive land adjacent. Ontario County may make improvements in a defined area at the foot of the glen to make the park entrance more attractive to visitors.

In addition to its famous waterfalls, Grimes Glen specializes in beautiful spring flowers growing out of the rich, moist ground alongside the creek. Gnarled hemlock trees protruding from fissures high in the limestone gorge walls, small as they seem, are often a hundred years old, or more.

Much older still is the Naples Tree fossil unearthed near the mouth of Grimes Glen in 1882 by local resident D. Dana Luther. *Lepidosigillaria*, as the Naples Tree is called, lived more than 350 million years ago and was an early species of forest land plant. The Devonian era tree stood about 15 feet tall, with a diameter of nearly a foot; it had small leaves spiraled around an unbranched trunk; it probably did have a leafy crown, as others of the same order had, but the fossil doesn't tell.

The tree did not, however, live at Grimes Glen. When the tree died, Naples and the glen were under a shallow sea. It likely floated about as driftwood for some time before sinking to the muddy bottom at Naples, where it gradually became fossilized—and there awaited discovery.

Local support of the Grimes Glen project was overwhelming and deeply gratifying to the Land Trust. Among the significant contributors were the Naples Rotary, Naples Historical Society, Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council, Canandaigua Lake Watershed Alliance, Five Star Bank and a great many individuals.

Additional costs incurred over the course of the long project commit the Land Trust to raising a further \$25,000. Anyone interested in making a donation toward this cause can contact the Land Trust offices in Ithaca or Canandaigua.

The Grimes Glen project marks the Land Trust's 10th conservation easement in Ontario County as well as the fourth case of a cooperative venture with local and state partners in the Canandaigua Lake watershed.

— Eben McLane

many meetings between the partners, these issues were resolved and the property purchase went forward.

Commenting on the cooperation between all parties involved, Ontario County Director of Planning and Research Kris Hughes said, "An extraordinary partnership has enabled the preservation of this truly unique natural resource for the people of New York."

The spectacular cascades and swirling pools of Grimes Creek, which courses through the glen, have long attracted local residents and visitors from

Board and Advisory Council Grow

We are delighted to welcome Stu Schweizer to the Land Trust's Board of Directors. As the former owner of Schweizer Aircraft Corporation in Big Flats, Stu brings to the board a wealth of experience and expertise in running an organization. A native of Elmira, Stu received a B.S. in engineering from Dartmouth College and an MS in aeronautical engineering from Princeton University. Clearly, his passion for flying has given him a keen appreciation for our region's beautiful landscapes and a well-grounded concern for their protection and conservation.

We are also delighted to announce and welcome two new members to the Land Trust's Advisory Council: Alexa Gifford and Mark Stash. Alexa is the executive director of the New York Wine and Culinary Center, an educational group located in Canandaigua, dedicated to creating and building awareness of New York's food, wine and culinary industries. Prior to that, she was president of the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance. Alexa lives near Seneca Lake with her husband, Mark, and two children, Eric and Sidney. She and her family enjoy many outdoor activities, including biking, hiking and boating.

Mark Stash is the Editor of *Life in the Finger Lakes* magazine located in Geneva. His favorite pastime is spending time outdoors with his family, enjoying such activities as hiking, skiing, bicycling and kayaking. He values the importance of securing the protection of open natural spaces for future generations. "The Finger Lakes region offers a unique mix of forest and farmland," Mark commented, "and preserving it is, first and foremost, my shared goal with the Finger Lakes Land Trust."

Welcome aboard Stu, Alexa and Mark!

Please see this issue's centerfold which has been dedicated to photos of Grimes Glen.

Scenes' from Grimes Glen...

BETSY LANDRE



Generations of residents and visitors have sought out the cooling waters of the Glen.

FRED BERTRAM



An inscription on a rock ledge at Grimes Glen reads "P.S. Grimes 1847."

JIM KERSTING



Grimes Glen offers a quiet respite during winter months.



ANDY ZEPP

Board Member Jim Kersting, marveling at the high falls of the Glen.



BETSY LANDRE

Grimes Glen offers kids of all ages a chance to learn about and enjoy the natural world.

“When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.”

— Aldo Leopold, 1924



ABBIE CHERNELA

Besides being known for its waterfalls, the Glen is also known for its diverse woodlands and native flora.

Coast to Coast for Conservation: Notes from the Road

On the shores of Puget Sound last August 12, Jim Kersting and Brad Edmondson strapped on their helmets and started pedaling east, the whole continent before them. Their journey took them through the Cascades, to Glacier and Yellowstone National Parks, the Badlands of South Dakota, across the farmland of Minnesota and Wisconsin, past the shore of Lake Michigan, and through our home region en route to the Atlantic. Finally, on October 22, more than 4,000 miles from the starting line, Jim and Brad dipped their tires into the sea on the coast of Maine and marked the end of their remarkable cross-country trek.

For Brad and Jim, both former presidents of the Land Trust's Board of Directors, it was not only the personal experience of a lifetime, it was also a way to draw attention and support to the cause of land conservation in our region. Their efforts paid off impressively indeed: the grand journey raised about \$39,000 for the Land Trust.

The ride achieved this sum thanks to hundreds of pledges, including a generous matching grant from the family of Albert B. Craig, Jr., in whose memory Jim and Brad made the ride. The ride also honored the long service of Betsy Darlington, who, after twenty years with the Land Trust, recently retired from her position as Director of Preserve Stewardship. Funds raised will support new stewardship initiatives under the direction of Chris Olney, Betsy's successor.

Also a longtime Land Trust supporter, Jim's wife Sara Kersting made the trip as well, driving the support vehicle and providing indispensable assistance every day with navigation, setting up camp, and other key logistics. Brad's wife Tania and many other friends and family members joined the journey at various points, as fellow riders, hosts and supporters.

Brad maintained a blog about the trip, with occasional contributions from Jim. Here we present some excerpts. For their full account with many more photos, see <http://www.fltr.org/blog>.

— Mark Chao

Day 1: Up the Skagit River

The scenery changed; suddenly there were tall hills to the north and south of us. It was about 70 degrees and sunny and so beautiful



Marilyn Wood, executive director of the Flathead Land Trust shows Jim Kersting the lands they are working to conserve.



Mt. Oberlin, Glacier National Park.

BRAD EDMONDSON

that Jim, Bill [Yust, a friend along for the ride] and I took turns making whoops and exclamations and all those things you do when you can't put something wonderful into words. Jim and I have been talking about making this ride for two years, and all day I was having trouble processing the fact that it is finally underway.

Pinball Thoughts [entry by Jim Kersting]

Wind is among our short list of weather friends. A slight headwind keeps our heads cool enough to avoid heat exhaustion with these 105°-110° road temperatures. To fully understand what it is like to top the pass and rip downhill at 30+ mph into a mounting noon day heat wave over a 100°, you would need to roll up your [car] windows and turn your heater and fan on full, and shove your face into the rush of super heated air.

Days 13 & 14: Route 93 to Glacier National Park

Jim has a flag on the back of his bike, so he rode last and made "pull out" hand motions to oncoming cars. This helped a lot; when there was no oncoming traffic, most drivers gave us a wide berth. But there were a few who didn't, and it made me wonder whether they didn't see us or were intentionally trying to scare us. I think maybe there are some people in the world, mostly men who don't have good jobs, who are, as my good friend Wade says, "locked in the pissed-off position." A group of men wearing funny clothes, moving slow, and maybe a little bit in your way? That's a convenient target.

But really, I don't want to scare you. It wasn't so bad, and we all made it through without a scratch.

Montana: Flathead Land Trust

The Flathead River meanders through a 40-mile corridor after it leaves Glacier National Park. It winds south to Flathead Lake, the largest natural freshwater lake west of the Mississippi River. We met with Marilyn Wood, executive director of the Flathead Land Trust. She took us to a knoll overlooking the undeveloped north shore of the lake. "This is an iconic Montana landscape," she said. "If we can't save this, we ought to just pack up and go home."

The drive to preserve the shore got going when two Whitefish developers proposed a 300-unit luxury housing development. "Imagine three hundred homes in that field, with trees planted between the houses and the highway so you wouldn't even know the water is there," Wood said as she drove us around. "The county commissioners here are pro-development, but people came out of the woodwork to oppose this."

In the end, it comes down to whether or not the community

has the will to protect its natural beauty. Today things look good for the Flathead River. Wood and her board are out there working like hay farmers who see rain clouds on the horizon. They're conjuring up the community.

Days 20 & 21: Belt Mountains to Livingston, MT

Deep Creek turned out to be a perfect travel companion. Stream corridors in arid environments can be magical places, with explosive diversity of plant life, small fish wiggling in the pools, lots of bird songs, and the promise of animal sightings at dawn and dusk. Water evaporates quickly here so there are also a lot more smells—they reminded me of eucalyptus, wet earth, sweet alder, and sage.

Day 28: Cody to Shell, WY

The high prairie of the Bighorn Basin opened up on all sides—vast, treeless, cut through with arroyos and marked by low hills in the distance. It felt like our first day on the Great Plains. Riding a bicycle through a landscape like this is like being on a sailboat; you're moving at about the same speed, you're paying close attention to the wind and the surface, and the scenery changes slowly, slowly.

Days 36-37: Rapid City to White River, SD

There was a nice stiff tailwind, and we cruised at about 20 miles per hour through fenced grassland. After 90 minutes of this, I told Jim that I loved this fast, effortless riding and could go all day. A slight pause. "There is a boredom factor," he said.

"Then you just have to retreat into your inner life," I said.

"I tried that," he said. "After 45 minutes, I was done."

Day 38: Missouri River to Freeman, SD

Corn, dry beans, hay, milo, soybeans, sunflowers, more corn. Mile upon mile. "Hey, I saw a gumdrop," said Jim. "A big green gumdrop lying in the middle of the road."

"Don't you dare stop," I said. "If you stop and eat that, I will call Sara and we'll drive you to the nearest psych ward."

Day 48: Elroy to Green Lake, WI

I did hear and see evidence that Wisconsin is the undisputed alcohol and cholesterol capital of the country. "You have no idea," said the woman who served us breakfast. "If you want to know, go down to the Sportsman's Bar tomorrow, get an Old Style and some deep-fried cheese curds, and

stay until kickoff. You'll see some stuff, for sure." I had to take her word for it, which pained me greatly.

Day 63: Rochester to Savannah, NY

I was back in familiar territory, moving along roads I had ridden while I was training for the cross-country ride, and less than 15 miles from a gathering of our friends at the Audubon Center in Savannah. It felt like the ride was over and in a sense it was, because I was back home.

About 30 Land Trust members and friends



JON CRISPIN

From left to right, Jim Kersting, Sara Kersting, and Brad Edmondson finally reach the Atlantic Ocean!



BRAD EDMONDSON

Jim Kersting riding through Big Horn Basin, Wyoming.

met us at the Center with cold beer, pizza, and lots of questions. Jim and I gave Andy Zepp the \$14.62 in change we had found on the side of the road over the last nine weeks, and now we are even closer to our fund-raising goal! Just kidding. It was a great party—thanks to everyone who came.

Day 73: Rochester, NH to Wells Beach, ME

About 2:30 pm we threaded our way down Drakes Island Road to the Wells Reserve's beach, where we ceremonially dipped our tires in the water. We also unveiled the hat of Al Craig, in whose memory Jim and Sara made the trip, for the last time. Sara brought some bubbly and we had a toast, but it was too cold to stay long. So we went to a nearby restaurant and said our good-byes over tasty bowls of real clam chowder. Then it was time to disband.

The trip ended well. We finished in good shape physically, and Jim and I still like each other enough to plan more rides together. Not until it warms up, though.

We are deeply grateful for donations in memory of:

- Matthew Ruppert
FROM
- Robert Bland
- Mary Helen and Larry Cathles
Friends at CISER
- Ciprian Crainiceanu
Finger Lakes Cycling Club
- Donal and Sandra Fitterer
- Michael Freimer
- Tim and Anne Marie Johnson
- Xihong Lin
- Sarah McLellan
- Mr. and Mrs. Paul Monkman
- Al and Judith Nappi
- Joe and Linda Piskorowski
- Martha and Steve Robertson
- Steven Rockey
- John Rueckheim
- David Ruppert
- Anne Shapiro
- Margaret Spear
- Sara Strickland
- Sally Thurston
- Judy Virigilio
- Diane Wiessinger

- Barley
FROM
- Tom Barron and Martha Gold

- Louise Carpenter
FROM
- Dan and Jean McPheeters
- Liz and Ed Thorndike

- Dr. Albert Craig, Jr.
FROM
- Kathleen Ford
- Lisa and Jon Gandelot
- Lewis and Beneth Morrow

- Charles and Ann Jankey
FROM
- Walter and Sarah Medlin

- Mr. and Mrs. Marx
FROM
- Carol and John Morris

- Glenn Russell
FROM
- Amy Christian

- Odell Scott
FROM
- Barbara Scott

- Phil Tavelli
FROM
- Hollands Tavelli

Birth of the Finger Lakes Land Trust *continued from page 4*

west side of the city, and next to a new housing development.

Although the Land Trust's transaction with Moss did not end with the land swap originally proposed, but with a purchase, his property was safeguarded for posterity in February 1993. Today, the entire Lick Brook gorge is protected through a combination of conservation easements, preserves and a Cornell Natural Area.

In the fall of 1993, the Land Trust finally acquired its first office: a single room in a small building in Ithaca, containing little more than a desk, a big table, a cardboard box for files and a computer. With five years' of valuable learning experience behind it, the organization was growing more confident and ready to start the next, and even more successful, chapter of its history.

—Jacqueline Stuhmiller

[Next issue: The Western Lakes Expansion]



Current Executive Director Andy Zepp (center) with Land Trust members, scouting out the High Vista Preserve in the winter of 1993.

Our sincere thanks for gifts in honor of:

Vincent Daniele
FROM

Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Sachs

Lauren Kenworthy and Eric Schaeffer
FROM

Elizabeth Bixler and Betsy East

Eric Lessinger and Meredith Ellis
FROM

Janet McCue and Robert Kibbee

Ari Epstein and Rima Shamieh
FROM

Dia Noor Qirreh

Mark and Deirdre Silverman

Lindsay Speer

H. Stephen and Francine C. Straight

Andrea Rankin and Paul Pitkin
FROM

Judith Rothenberg

Charles and Betty Chu
FROM

John Henderson and Margaret Shepard

Is the Stock Market Getting You Down?

A Gift to the Land Trust Can Help Lift You Up.

Even with the recent volatility, your stocks may still be highly appreciated. You will not pay capital gains tax on a gift of appreciated securities to the Land Trust, and your gift is valued on the date of transfer at its full fair market value.

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A CLOSER LOOK

Insects on Ice

Winter is here, and much of the life outdoors has withdrawn or shut down for the season. A walk in our local woods or fields might reveal a sparkling spectacle of snow, ice and sky, but little animate activity—except for chickadees, nuthatches and woodpeckers here and there, most everything seems white and silent, numb and still.

But upon looking closely, one can find signs of life, sometimes in the most unlikely forms and in the most unlikely places. Perhaps the greatest marvels come from some of the tiniest creatures—insects and their kin. In streams, on rocks and trees, and even on the snow itself, they move about hardly deterred by the cold, despite their small size and their lack of the fur, fat or feathers on which we vertebrates rely for warmth in winter.

So how do insects and other arthropods survive the season? Some (including, most famously, monarch butterflies) simply migrate south. Most, however, hunker down in the ground or other sheltered place in a dormant state called diapause. Some winter-diapausing insects create compounds known as cryoprotectants, which lower the freezing point of body fluids. Ethylene glycol, the key ingredient in automobile antifreeze, is one common biological cryoprotectant; other alcohols, proteins and sugars can also play this role. In another strategy, insects actually do freeze solid, but survive because water exits cells and freezes outside the cell membrane, leaving living tissue intact inside.

And in rare cases, insects do not migrate or enter diapause at all, but remain active throughout the winter. Among these, the winter stoneflies and craneflies are the ones we're most likely to see.

Winter stoneflies include species in four families, all of which occur in New York. The best-known is probably the Boreal Willowfly, or *Taeniopteryx nivalis* (also known informally as the early brown or early black stonefly). All stoneflies have a distinctive shape, in which one wing folds right on top of the other, with two tails sticking out behind the rounded wing tip.

Female winter stoneflies lay eggs in free-flowing streams. (Stonefly eggs and larvae require high levels of dissolved oxygen, and have a low tolerance for organic contamination. They are therefore a good indicator of overall stream conditions. They are also an important food source for trout.) Even as temperatures drop throughout the fall, larvae remain active, feeding on algae, decaying plant matter or other insects. Finally, in winter, the adult stoneflies emerge, often coming right out onto the snow.

Winter craneflies are not actually members of the cranefly family (Tipulidae), but are close relatives, in the family Trichoceridae. With long legs and abdomens, both true craneflies and winter craneflies look a bit like giant mosquitoes, but do not actually bite. Winter craneflies inhabit and feed on decaying plant matter. On warmer winter days or in early spring thaws, as with stoneflies, you might see them on the snow.

Look carefully and you might see yet another amazing species in late winter—the "snow flea" (*Hypogastrura nivicola*). This species shares the prodigious jumping ability of real fleas, but is actually not a flea at all, nor even an insect. It's a springtail. As six-legged terrestrial arthropods with antennae,

springtails once were considered insects, but given peculiarities of anatomy and life history, entomologists now place them in their own taxonomic class (Collembolae). Springtails are so named because of an appendage called the furcula, which is attached to the bottom of the abdomen by a hinge-like structure called the tentacula. Upon release of the tentacula, the furcula snaps downward, propelling the springtail up to a hundred times its 1-2 millimeter body length.



BRIAN VALENTINE©

Winter crane flies can be found on the surface of the snow on warmer winter days.

Like most springtails, snow fleas live in upper layers of soil. They are remarkably abundant and widespread, but because of their small size and dark color, we rarely notice them. On warmer winter days, snow fleas emerge from the ground en masse and gather at the bases of trees or in shallow depressions such as animal tracks. Against the white canvas of the snow, swarms of snow fleas resemble generous dashes of black pepper.

So if the deadness of winter should leave you feeling cold and empty, consider the marvelous lives of these arthropods. The mind-boggling microspectacle can melt away any winter blues that one might feel. And it's all around us and underfoot. Bundle up, stick a magnifying glass in your parka pocket and get out and look.

—Mark Chao

Finger Lakes Land Trust

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2009 CALENDAR

Hike for the Highlands Series:

Join Executive Director Andrew Zepp for a series of daylong hikes through the wilds of the Skaneateles Highlands, the Bristol Hills, and the Emerald Necklace Greenbelt. The hike series will provide participants with an introduction to these scenic landscapes while at the same time help raise funds to secure their protection. Details to follow in the Spring issue of *The Land Steward*, but save these dates:

Saturday, May 30th - Hike through the Skaneateles Highlands
Saturday, June 6th - Hike through the Bristol Hills
Saturday, June 13th - Hike through the Emerald Necklace Greenbelt

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

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