



FINGER LAKES LAND TRUST
ANNUAL PROGRAM SUMMARY
2011 - 2012



During its 2011-2012 fiscal year, the Finger Lakes Land Trust completed 15 land protection projects totaling 1,022 acres of the region's most significant open space lands. Projects were completed in five Finger Lakes counties and collectively secured approximately two miles of stream frontage, a square mile of productive farmland, and more than 300 acres of mature forest. The following projects were completed during this period:

Canandaigua Lake Watershed – Hicks Farm: A conservation easement now ensures the future of 78 acres of scenic fields, vineyards, and rugged woodlands overlooking Canandaigua Lake. Located just north of the Bristol Harbor Resort, the Hicks Farm is adjacent to conserved land and is part of a growing network of open space lands in this area. This project was completed in partnership with the Town of Canandaigua and New York State's Department of Agriculture & Markets (Conservation Easement Purchase, Canandaigua, Ontario County).

Canandaigua Lake Watershed – Wyffels Farm: Located in a rapidly developing residential area, this 136-acre farm is well known to local residents for its scenic pastures. A conservation easement will now ensure that its productive agricultural soils continue to be farmed. This project was completed in partnership with the Town of Canandaigua and New York State's Department of Agriculture & Markets (Conservation Easement Purchase, Canandaigua, Ontario County).



Hicks Farm

Nigel Kent

Canandaigua Lake Western Shore – Luley Tract: A conservation easement now secures an additional 21 acres of fields and woodlands overlooking Canandaigua Lake's western shore, just south of the Bristol Harbor Resort. This latest easement is adjacent to conserved land and represents the Land Trust's fifth completed project in this area (Conservation Easement Donation; South Bristol, Ontario County).

Keuka Lake Watershed – Gillette Farm: This 237-acre farm features scenic views of Keuka Lake as well as extensive road frontage and prime agricultural soils. The property has been operated as a farm by the Gillette family for five generations. This project was completed in partnership with Yates County and New York State's Department of Agriculture & Markets (Conservation Easement Purchase, Jerusalem, Yates County).

Seneca Lake Watershed – Wilson Farm: Bordering State Route 14, this 158-acre farm features scenic views of Seneca

Lake and prime agricultural soils. The project was completed in partnership with Yates County and New York State's Department of Agriculture & Markets (Conservation Easement Purchase, Torrey, Yates County).



Wilson Farm

Megan Fenton

York. The McIlroy Sanctuary is located within an Audubon-designated Important Bird Area and features a popular bird watching trail (Land Donation, Summerhill, Cayuga County).

Montezuma Wetlands – Whitehorse Tract: Located just east of Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, this 122-acre property provides excellent habitat for migratory birds and features a mix of wetlands and rich upland forests. The easement also protects more than a mile of undeveloped road frontage (Conservation Easement Donation, Aurelius, Cayuga County).

Dorothy McIlroy Bird Sanctuary – Empire Pipeline Tract: This 15-acre addition to the McIlroy Sanctuary encompasses towering white pines and swampy woodlands. The property was acquired under the direction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as mitigation for wetland impacts in western New

Trumansburg Creek – Pearman/Skinner Tract: The donation of a conservation easement on this 21-acre property ensures the future of mature streamside woodlands and an agricultural field located just outside of the Village of Trumansburg. The easement is the second donated by landowners Charles Pearman and Carol Skinner (Conservation Easement Donation, Ulysses, Tompkins County).

Fall Creek Corridor – Henderson Tract: Thanks to a donation from Elizabeth Henderson and Roger Beach, this streamside property is now managed as part of the Land Trust's Etna Nature Preserve. Located just upstream from the existing preserve, this latest addition features 2,000 feet of frontage on the creek and 12 acres of streamside woodland. The parcel also features a small parking area on State Route 366 (Land Donation, Dryden, Tompkins County).

Fall Creek Corridor – Thomas Tract: Located next to the Henderson Tract, the 1.5-acre Thomas tract secures additional streamside woodlands and undeveloped road frontage. This acquisition represents the Land Trust's 17th land protection project within the Fall Creek Watershed (Land Purchase, Dryden, Tompkins County).

Emerald Necklace/Deputron Hollow – Chauncey Tract: A conservation easement now secures this 35-acre woodlot that is located



Fall Creek, Henderson Tract

Andrew Zepp



Goetchius Wetlands Preserve

Betsy Darlington

within a county-designated Unique Natural Area. This property was donated to the Land Trust with the understanding that it would be sold subject to a conservation easement (Conservation Easement as Condition of Sale, Danby, Tompkins County).

Emerald Necklace/Cornish Hollow – Sanford Tract: This 47-acre property borders Cornell University’s Arnot Forest and features 4,000 feet of frontage on McCorn Creek. The Sanford tract is one of 24 parcels within the Emerald Necklace Greenbelt that are now protected by easements held by the Land Trust (Conservation Easement Donation, Van Etten, Chemung County).

Emerald Necklace/Ellis Hollow – Seeley Tract: The donation of a conservation easement ensures the future of 100 acres of mature woodlands that are located near the headwaters of Cascadilla Creek. This property is located within a county-designated Unique Natural Area and borders a parcel already protected by an easement held by the Land Trust (Conservation Easement Donation, Dryden, Tompkins County).

Goetchius Wetlands Preserve – Armitage II Tract: This 7.5-acre addition to an existing preserve features two restored wetlands, as well as upland meadows that provide important buffer to the site. The property was acquired under the direction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as mitigation for wetland impacts in Broome County (Land Donation, Caroline, Tompkins County).

Skaneateles Lake Watershed – Dewitt Tract: Located just west of State Route 41A, this 21-acre parcel is recognized for its prime agricultural soils. The donation of a conservation easement by Bob Dewitt ensures that it will remain available for farming (Conservation Easement Donation, Niles, Cayuga County).

In addition to these completed land protection projects, the Land Trust also made substantial progress toward protecting other lands through the successful negotiation of purchase agreements for three parcels in designated focus areas. To advance land protection efforts within the region’s Southern Tier, the Land Trust worked with partners to develop a preliminary resource assessment and conservation plan for the Upper Susquehanna Watershed.

To increase understanding of the region’s natural assets, as well as conservation tools such as easements, the Land Trust educated more than 500 people through a combination of field trips, seminars, public workshops, and other programs.

Workshops on conservation easements were presented to landowners and local officials through partnerships with Cornell Cooperative Extension, Regional Planning & Development Boards, and the New York Forest Owners Association. In addition, members of the public enjoyed 15 naturalist-led field trips that were made available at no charge through the organization's popular Talks and Treks series.

During the past year, the Land Trust significantly expanded its land management activities through the addition of its second full-time staff position to support this function, as well as its deployment of seven student interns and more than 200 volunteers.



Talks and Treks: Butterfly Walk

Kelly Makosch

In addition to successfully monitoring more than 240 miles of boundary and maintaining 35 miles of hiking trails, Land Trust staff and volunteers worked together with representatives of the Town of Geneva to provide for public access to the recently dedicated Kashong Conservation Area.

Substantial progress was also made on the development of site improvements for public access at three recent Land Trust acquisitions: the VanRiper Conservation Area on Cayuga Lake; a parcel adjoining High Tor Wildlife Management Area that was donated by Constellation Brands; and the Berntsson-

Millier tract, which links two state forests to the Land Trust's Roy H. Park Preserve near Ithaca.

Throughout the region, Land Trust staff, volunteers, and contractors also worked on a number of projects involving the control of non-native invasive plants. A particular emphasis was placed on defending high quality areas of native vegetation from encroachment by invasive plants from more disturbed adjacent areas.

To support the activities highlighted above, the Land Trust enlisted the support of more than 1,900 members and worked in partnership with numerous landowners and a variety of partner organizations and government conservation agencies. The accomplishments described here represent not just the work of the Finger Lakes Land Trust, but the results of a growing coalition of conservationists who are committed to the future of the region.



Paddle on Skaneateles Lake

John Sutton



Replacing a bridge at the Steege Hill Preserve



Planting trees at the Roy H Park Preserve



Cleaning up the VanRiper Conservation Area

FINGER LAKES LAND TRUST
2011-2012 OPERATING
FINANCIAL SUMMARY*

Revenue

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------|
| Annual Appeal | 285,293 |
| Membership Contributions | 107,335 |
| Project Contributions | 93,020 |
| Grants | 36,432 |
| Workplace Giving | 5,077 |
| Interest/Dividends | 8,212 |
| Earnings from Stewardship Funds | 51,846 |
| Transfers from Land Projects | 76,912 |
| Campaign Allocations | 92,000 |
| Other | 2,320 |

Total Revenue **\$ 758,447**

Expenses

| | |
|----------------------|---------|
| Personnel | 440,902 |
| Fringe Benefits | 100,562 |
| Contract Services | 61,512 |
| Occupancy | 23,552 |
| Supplies & Equipment | 11,773 |
| Printing & Postage | 39,179 |
| Travel | 26,833 |
| Meetings/Receptions | 10,994 |
| Transaction Costs | 10,494 |
| Other | 14,657 |

Total Expenses **\$ 740,458**

Net Ordinary Income **\$ 17,989**

*Unaudited. Income does not include \$2,257,354 additional funds raised for land protection projects, stewardship fund, and campaigns.



Red Eft

Fred Bertram



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