

CONSERVED FOREVER.



ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015

Dear Friends,

We are so pleased to report that the Finger Lakes Land Trust completed **14 land protection projects** last year and opened **two new preserves** for everyone to enjoy. We expanded public conservation areas and protected pristine shoreline, prime farmland, and scenic vistas.

With the help of over **200 volunteers**, our team now stewards more than **17,000 acres** – including **36 nature preserves** with nearly **40 miles of hiking trails** and **119 conservation easements** that conserve land that remains in private ownership.

Our heartiest thanks go to you – one of more than **2,000 Finger Lakes families** who have given generously and invested in our mission so we can protect more of the lands and waters we all love. We look forward to conserving more of our region's special places in the future – and we know that with your continued support, we will succeed in our efforts.



Andrew Zepp
Executive Director



Holland Gregg
Board President



Front cover photo of Logan Hill Nature Preserve by Bill Hecht

Back cover photo of Skaneateles Lake by Bill Hecht



The Land Trust's Newest Lands

One way the Land Trust protects our region's lands and waters is by owning land outright. Currently, the Land Trust stewards more than 35 preserves for everyone to enjoy. The following projects highlight lands newly acquired in the last year:



Logan Hill Nature Preserve

Candor, Tioga County

Nearly 290 acres was given to the Land Trust by Betsy and Dick Darlington, two of our most dedicated members. The property features a wondrous cross-section of landscapes and diverse habitats, including a considerable stretch along Catatonk Creek, a significant tributary to the Susquehanna River.

Harry Littell



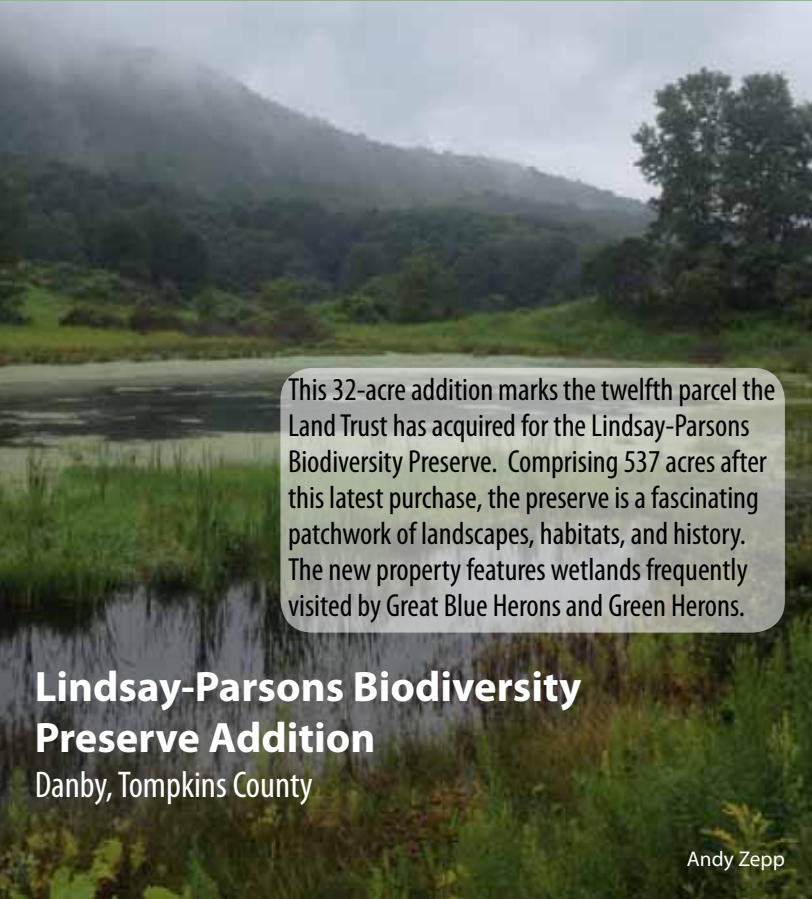
High Vista Nature Preserve Addition

Scott, Cortland County

The Land Trust purchased one of two privately owned properties bordering the State Route 41 overlook above Skaneateles Lake. The new parcel lies in close proximity to High Vista Nature Preserve and provides valuable buffer for this beautiful vista.

©John Francis McCarthy- Finger Lakes Photography

The Land Trust's Newest Lands...

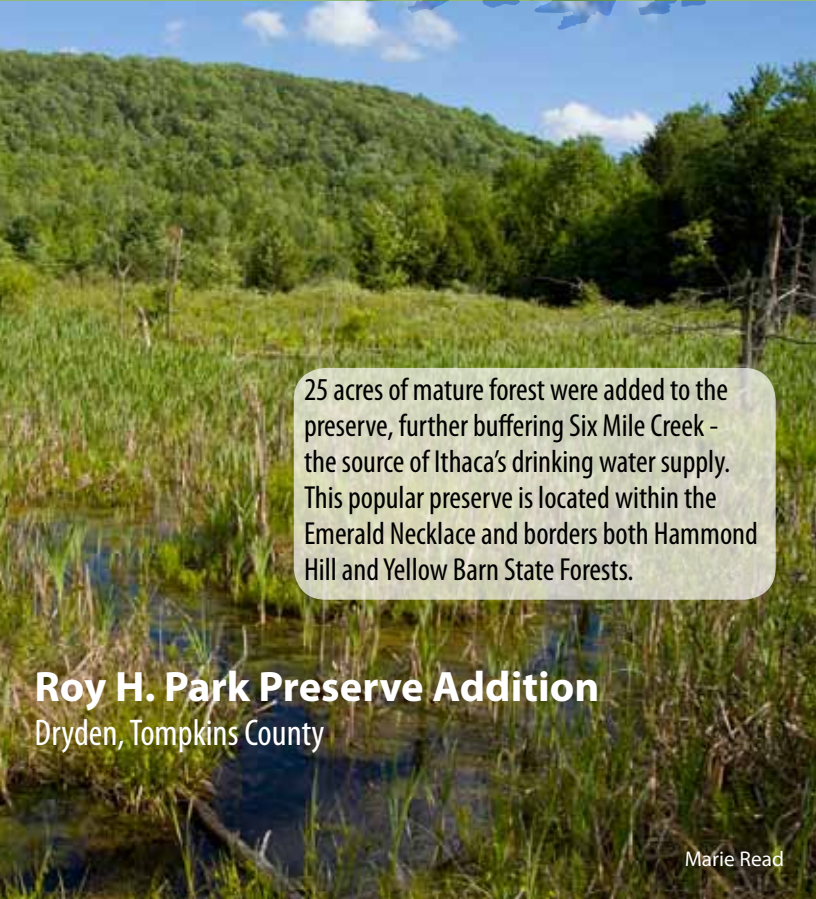


This 32-acre addition marks the twelfth parcel the Land Trust has acquired for the Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve. Comprising 537 acres after this latest purchase, the preserve is a fascinating patchwork of landscapes, habitats, and history. The new property features wetlands frequently visited by Great Blue Herons and Green Herons.

Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve Addition

Danby, Tompkins County

Andy Zepp



25 acres of mature forest were added to the preserve, further buffering Six Mile Creek - the source of Ithaca's drinking water supply. This popular preserve is located within the Emerald Necklace and borders both Hammond Hill and Yellow Barn State Forests.

Roy H. Park Preserve Addition

Dryden, Tompkins County

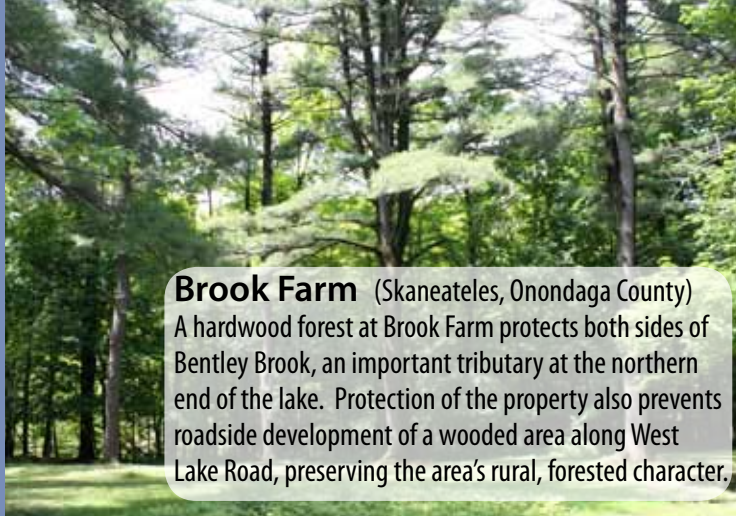
Marie Read

Conserving privately owned lands

The Land Trust also protects the region's special places by conserving lands that remain in private ownership.

This tool, called a conservation easement, helps land owners permanently protect their property in perpetuity.

Conservation easements allow landowners to retain ownership and keep land on local tax rolls, while greatly reducing future development pressure and ensuring protection of environmentally sensitive features. The Land Trust accepted the following conservation easements last year:



Brook Farm (Skaneateles, Onondaga County)

A hardwood forest at Brook Farm protects both sides of Bentley Brook, an important tributary at the northern end of the lake. Protection of the property also prevents roadside development of a wooded area along West Lake Road, preserving the area's rural, forested character.

Fenton (Italy, Yates County)

The easement protects 181 wooded acres and borders New York State's High Tor Wildlife Management Area, an area recognized by National Audubon as one of New York's Important Bird Areas. This easement is the Land Trust's tenth protection project near High Tor Wildlife Management Area.



Mike & Carrie Koplinka-Loehr

Koplinka-Loehr (Lansing, Tompkins County)

With over 4,200 feet of seasonal streams flowing across the property and draining directly into Cayuga Lake, the easement helps protect the lake's water quality. The property is adjacent to land already conserved by the Land Trust. Together, these two properties include nearly 100 acres of a county-designated Unique Natural Area on the hillside opposite Taughannock State Park.

Conservation Easement Properties...

Lego1 & 2 (Sennett, Cayuga County)

Two easements on adjacent properties will protect approximately 95 acres of prime working farmland in an area with intense development pressure. One of the two farms is certified organic since 1999 and provides many of the local foods served at the nearby Elderberry Pond restaurant.

Lou & Merby Lego

McIntosh Trust (Springport, Cayuga County)

This 58-acre property protects 3,300 feet of shoreline on Cayuga Lake with rare old-growth trees and pristine wildlife habitat. The Land Trust holds a separate conservation easement on 650 acres of adjacent farmland and forested land that includes a large portion of the Great Gully Natural Area.

Bill Hecht

Melveney (Hector, Schuyler County)

This 121 acre property sits, like a keystone, between two blocks of the Finger Lakes National Forest. Conservation of the lands provides important habitat for animals as they move across the landscape, protects a significant stretch of Tug Hollow Creek including forested wetlands, and buffers a segment of the Finger Lakes Trail.

Edie Jodz



Partnership Projects

The Land Trust works closely with many partners across the region to increase the pace of conservation, including the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. This year we worked with the NYSDEC to add lands to important wildlife areas across the region, increasing the size and value of these special places:



Connecticut Hill Wildlife

Management Area (Catharine, Schuyler County)

The Land Trust recently acquired 16 acres bordering the state's largest wildlife management area on three sides at the request of NYS. The lands are traversed by a tributary to Cayuta Lake and feature mature hardwood forest. The property will be transferred to the state as an addition to the wildlife area.

Stefanie Delaney

Yellow Barn State Forest (Dryden, Tompkins County)

In 2010, the Land Trust purchased 169 acres; we added lands on the east side of Irish Settlement Road to the Roy H. Park Preserve and recently transferred 87 acres on the west side of the road to the state as an addition to the adjacent Yellow Barn State Forest. The new addition lies in the heart of the Emerald Necklace and features a mixed forest of hardwoods, pine and hemlock, as well as wetlands bordering Six Mile Creek.



Sugar Hill

State Forest (Reading, Schuyler County)

The Land Trust acted at the request of the NYSDEC to purchase 139 acres in 2012. This wooded property is nearly surrounded by the state forest and borders Glen Creek, one of two tributaries that create the famous gorge at Watkins Glen. Recently transferred to NYS, the property is now part of the public forest, simplifying forest management and eliminating the threat of development in this environmentally sensitive area.

Steve Knapp

New places to explore!

The Land Trust added two new preserves to the growing list of places we both protect and make available for everyone to enjoy. We now manage 36 preserves and conservation areas. Please join us on our newest properties:

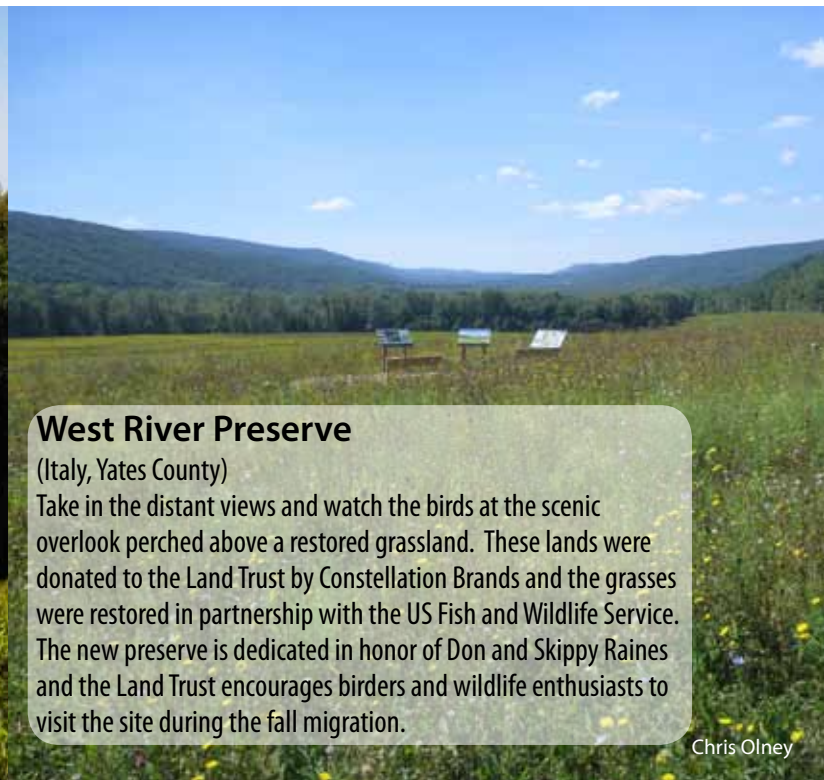


Hinchcliff Family Preserve

(Spafford, Onondaga County)

Take a hike on the 1 ½ mile loop trail with panoramic views of Skaneateles Lake and the green hillsides that surround the southern end. This new 206-acre preserve is part of a growing greenbelt that protects the lake's clear waters, provides outdoor recreation opportunities, and provides diverse wildlife habitat.

Tom Reimers



West River Preserve

(Italy, Yates County)

Take in the distant views and watch the birds at the scenic overlook perched above a restored grassland. These lands were donated to the Land Trust by Constellation Brands and the grasses were restored in partnership with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The new preserve is dedicated in honor of Don and Skippy Raines and the Land Trust encourages birders and wildlife enthusiasts to visit the site during the fall migration.

Chris Olney



*Over 17,000 acres
to protect*

In addition to all the amazing work that went into opening two new nature preserves, the Land Trust's stewardship team worked with more than 200 volunteers to carefully steward 36 preserves, almost 40 miles of trails, and 119 conservation easement properties.



Clearing the way



Building bridges



Trail work is complete!

Education and Outreach

Connecting people to the land

Community members across the region had a chance to learn with the Land Trust this year. We held more than 30 events that included everything from our Story Walk project in Tompkins County to a kids fishing trip in Seneca County to a bird-watching trip in Ontario County to a plein air painting event in Onondaga County. We also hosted volunteer work days, presented to conservation groups and connected with landowners, municipal leaders, and non-profit groups.

The all-new FLLT.ORG

We invite you to visit our new website where you can find hundreds of beautiful photos, better online giving tools, and an interactive map of nature preserves and trails! With the new web site, you can get involved and get outdoors.

Please visit FLLT.ORG!



Tom Reimers



Bob Brancato



Rick Lightbody



Brian Maley

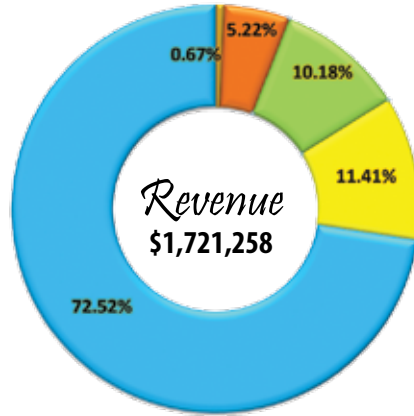


Mark Chao

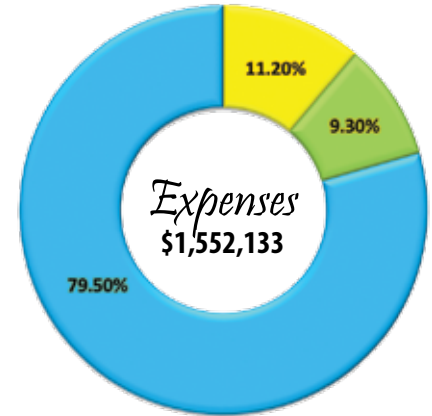
Finger Lakes Land Trust 2014-2015 Year in Review

We're Growing!

3 NEW PRESERVES
200+ VOLUNTEERS
36 TOTAL PRESERVES
7 NEW CONSERVATION EASEMENTS
17,000+ ACRES SAVED
30+ EVENTS
119 TOTAL CONSERVATION EASEMENTS
40 MILES OF TRAILS



Gifts & Memberships	\$1,248,286
Grants	\$196,376
Stewardship Fund Income	\$175,186
Prior year gifts & bequests	\$89,929
Other	\$11,481



Program	\$1,234,080
Admin	\$173,160
Development	\$144,893

Unaudited financials for fiscal year ending June 30, 2015. Does not include value of donated land and conservation easements.

CONSERVED FOREVER.



Finger Lakes Land Trust

202 East Court Street, Ithaca, NY 14850

fltl.org

*To conserve forever the lands and waters of the Finger Lakes region,
ensuring scenic vistas, clean water, local foods, and wild places for everyone.*