



Annual Report

2015-2016

Dear Friends,

Did you know that we protected lands and waters across 15 towns and nine counties in the last year alone?

Perhaps more importantly, these projects conserved more than 1,200 diverse and beautiful acres, including 1,300 feet of lakeshore and several miles along the banks of key tributaries to the Finger Lakes.

With the help of over 200 volunteers on the ground, our team now stewards nearly 20,000 acres – including more than 30 nature preserves with over 40 miles of hiking trails that are open to everyone.

We also hold 124 conservation easements that protect lands that remain in private ownership and available for agriculture and forestry.

Your generous support is producing real results. We look forward to conserving more of our region's lands and waters in the coming year – and with your help, we can ensure more scenic vistas, clean water, local foods, and wild places for everyone.

With gratitude,



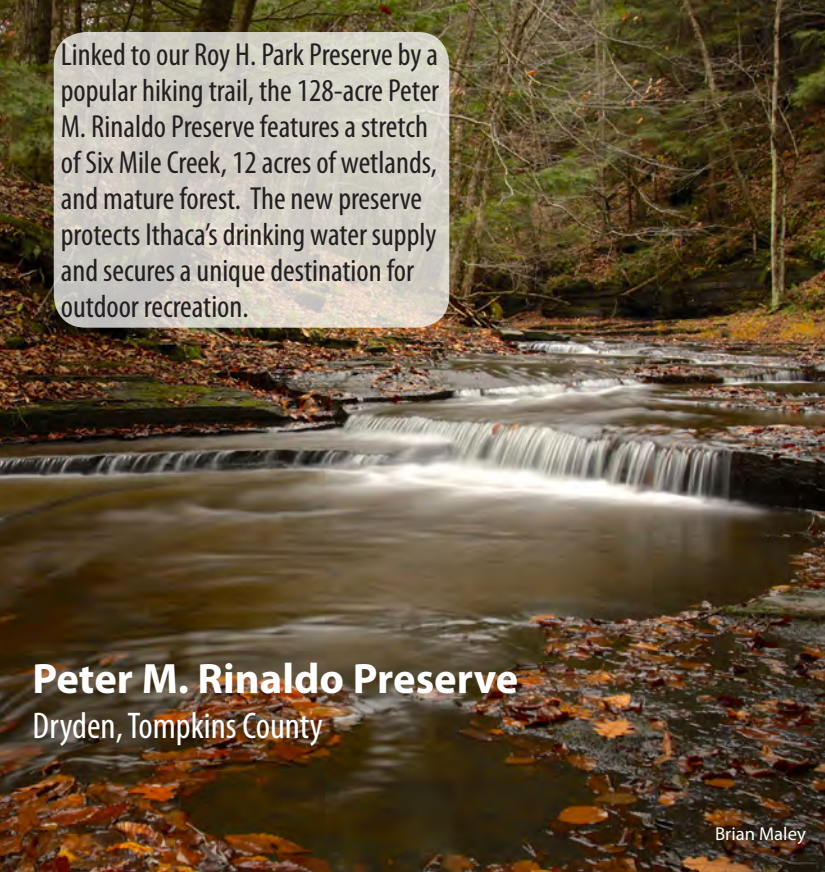
Andrew Zepp
Executive Director



Holland Gregg
Board President

NATURE PRESERVES


Last year, the Land Trust created four new nature preserves that protect some of our region's finest natural areas.



Linked to our Roy H. Park Preserve by a popular hiking trail, the 128-acre Peter M. Rinaldo Preserve features a stretch of Six Mile Creek, 12 acres of wetlands, and mature forest. The new preserve protects Ithaca's drinking water supply and secures a unique destination for outdoor recreation.

Peter M. Rinaldo Preserve
Dryden, Tompkins County

Brian Maley



Longtime Corning community leaders Jamie and Maisie Houghton donated the 195-acre Houghton Land Preserve that features forests and meadows on Spencer Hill Road. This site will provide easy access to nature for Corning residents and visitors alike.

Houghton Land Preserve
Corning, Steuben County

Edie Jodz

This 18-acre property, overlooking Canandaigua Lake and High Tor Wildlife Management Area, features scenic meadows, oak-hickory woodlands, and borders a deep gorge with a tributary to Canandaigua Lake.

Canandaigua Highlands Overlook

Naples, Ontario County

Nigel Kent

The Land Trust was offered a rare opportunity to protect 1,300 feet of wild shoreline on Otisco Lake. This 38-acre property features mature forests, several rugged ravines, and a 40-foot waterfall. Protecting these lands helps maintain Otisco Lake's water quality and provides a home for Bald Eagles and migratory waterfowl.

Otisco Lake Preserve

Spafford, Onondaga County

Bill Hecht

NATURE PRESERVES

We invite you to visit over 30 nature preserves and discover new places for hiking, paddling, birding, and family outings.

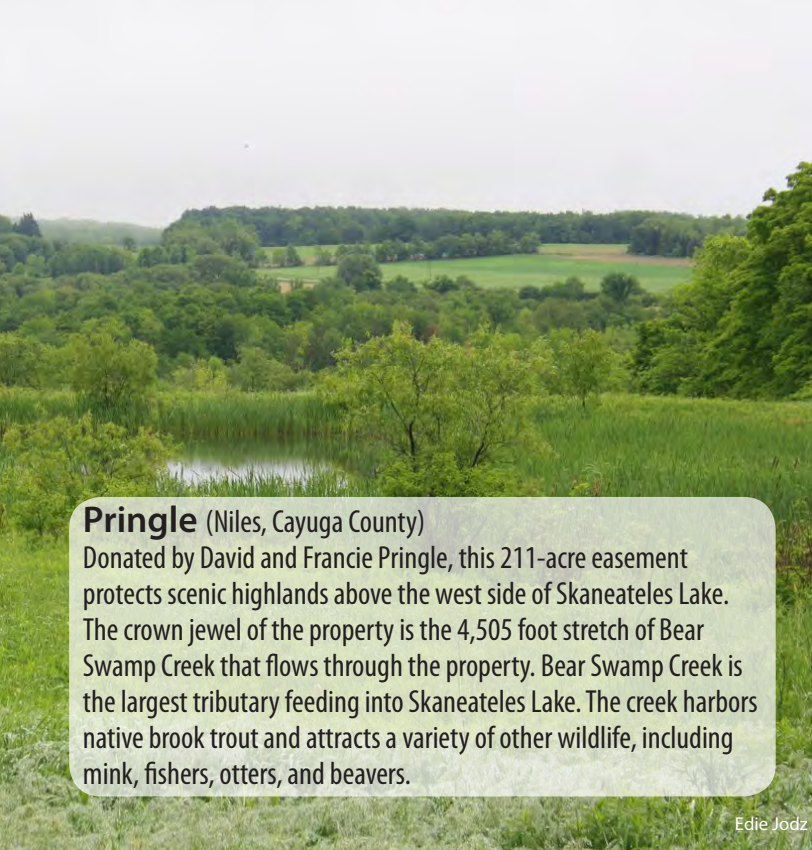
Our preserves are free and open to all. Find one near you at flt.org/map!

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

We also protect the region's special places by protecting lands that remain in private ownership. Through the use of conservation easements, landowners are able to conserve their land while continuing traditional agricultural and forestry uses. Easements provide a flexible tool that keeps land on the tax rolls while addressing the threat of inappropriate development.

Howell and Roehlke (Elmira, Chemung County)

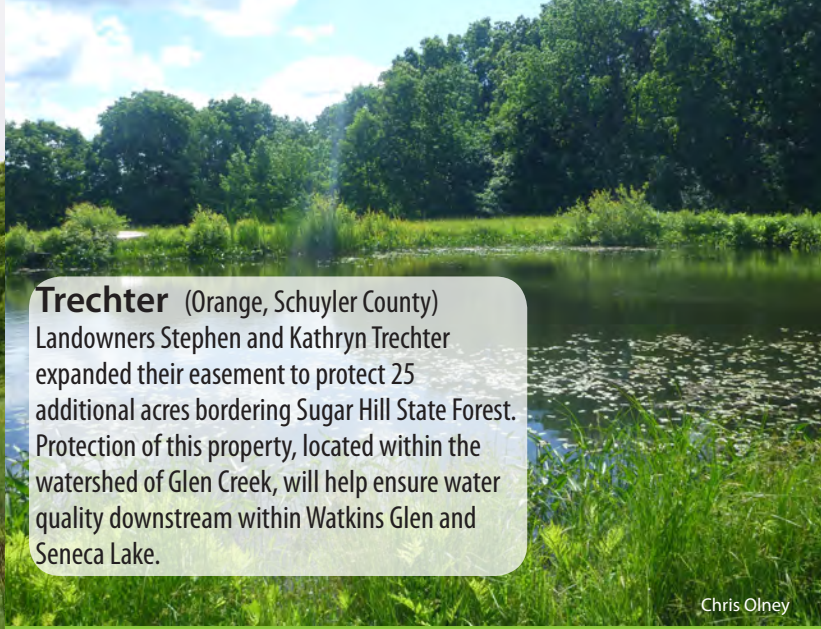
The Land Trust accepted the donation of three conservation easements from George Howell, his daughter Katherine, and her husband Thomas Roehlke. Together, these easements protect over 235 acres of meadows and woodlands immediately adjacent to Quarry Farm - which once served as a summer home and writing retreat for Samuel Clemens, the writer well-known as Mark Twain.



Pringle (Niles, Cayuga County)

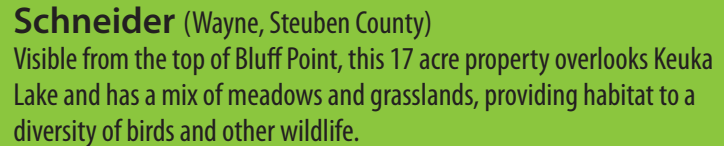
Donated by David and Francie Pringle, this 211-acre easement protects scenic highlands above the west side of Skaneateles Lake. The crown jewel of the property is the 4,505 foot stretch of Bear Swamp Creek that flows through the property. Bear Swamp Creek is the largest tributary feeding into Skaneateles Lake. The creek harbors native brook trout and attracts a variety of other wildlife, including mink, fishers, otters, and beavers.

Edie Jodz



Trechter (Orange, Schuyler County)
Landowners Stephen and Kathryn Trechter expanded their easement to protect 25 additional acres bordering Sugar Hill State Forest. Protection of this property, located within the watershed of Glen Creek, will help ensure water quality downstream within Watkins Glen and Seneca Lake.

Chris Olney



Schneider (Wayne, Steuben County)
Visible from the top of Bluff Point, this 17 acre property overlooks Keuka Lake and has a mix of meadows and grasslands, providing habitat to a diversity of birds and other wildlife.

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

Last year, the Land Trust protected over 450 additional acres through the use of conservation easements which brought our total number of easement properties to 124.

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 (NYSDEC) and local municipalities.



Owasco Flats Wildlife Management Area

(Moravia, Cayuga County)

In 2008, we purchased a 15-acre parcel with 2,300 feet of frontage on the Owasco Inlet with partial funding from the Fred L. Emerson Foundation. After working with the US Fish and Wildlife Service to restore wildlife habitat at the site, we recently donated this parcel to the NYSDEC to be managed as public conservation land.

Bill Hecht



Bear Swamp State Forest

(Sempronius, Cayuga County)

In partnership with the NYSDEC, we acquired 145 acres of woodlands, fields, and wetlands with 1,600 feet of frontage on Bear Swamp Creek – the largest tributary to Skaneateles Lake. The lands will be added to the state forest in the future.

Bill Hecht



Connecticut Hill Wildlife Management Area

(Catharine, Schuyler County)

The Land Trust acquired 86 acres bordering the state's largest wildlife management area. The property will be transferred to the state as an addition in the future.

Bill Hecht



Bare Hill Unique Area

(Middlesex, Yates County)

The Land Trust protected an additional 16 acres on Bare Hill- the iconic promontory overlooking Canandaigua Lake's eastern shore. This parcel will ultimately be transferred to the NYSDEC.

Nigel Kent

Robinson Hollow State Forest

(Richford, Tioga County)

Michael Barnes donated 28 acres with the understanding that the property will ultimately be conveyed to NYS as an addition to Robinson Hollow State Forest. Robinson Hollow is in the Emerald Necklace, a sweeping expanse of existing public open space that extends in an arc around Ithaca. These lands host 80 miles of the Finger Lakes Trail, two Audubon-designated Important Bird Areas, and are recognized as a priority for protection within New York State's Open Space Plan.



West Hill Conservation Lands

(Ithaca, Tompkins County)

The Land Trust helped the Town of Ithaca purchase 58 acres of rugged woodlands on West Hill. This property is adjacent to existing town conservation land.

PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS

GO TEAM STEWARDSHIP!

With nearly 20,000 acres to protect, the Land Trust's stewardship team worked with over 200 volunteers to steward over 30 nature preserves, 124 conservation easements, and 40+ miles of trails! Last year, we created a multi-use trail that connects the Bishop Nature Preserve to the Cayuga-Seneca Canal Trail, worked with volunteers to build a trail system at the new Logan Hill Nature Preserve, and dedicated the Hinchcliff Family Preserve and the West River Preserve.



EDUCATION & OUTREACH

We connect people to the land. Community members across the region had a chance to learn with the Land Trust last year. We held more than 30 events that included Story Walk program in Dryden, bird-watching at the new Logan Hill Preserve in Candor, paddling to Staghorn Cliffs on Skaneateles Lake, and a stream exploration at Grimes Glen County Park in Naples. We also hosted 16 volunteer work days and offered 7 conservation workshops to landowners, municipalities, and non-profit groups.



Darin Harrison



Lindsay McMillan



Rick Lightbody



Rick Lightbody



Marie Read



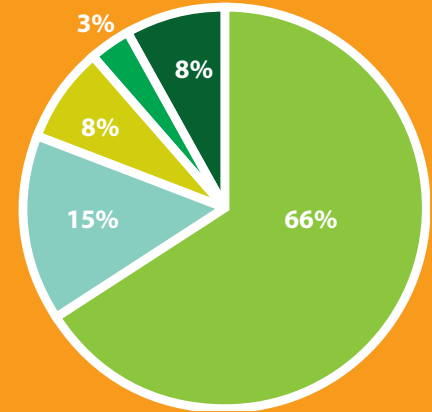
Wendy Houseworth,
Manifesto Designs

FINANCIALS

2015-2016

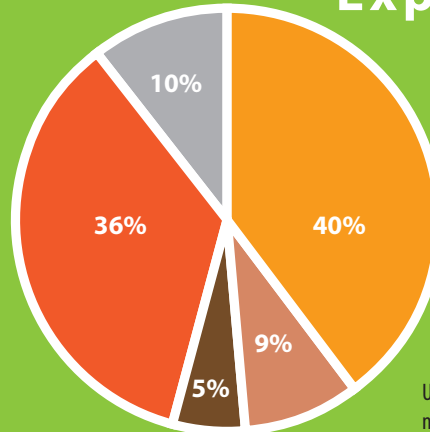
Revenue

Gifts & Memberships	\$1,688,232
Grants	\$386,566
Proceeds from Transfer of Natural Areas*	\$204,000
Stewardship Fund Income	\$196,869
Other	\$82,755
Total	\$2,558,422



*We partner with other agencies to add lands to important conservation areas across the region.

Expenses



Program	\$1,013,068
Purchase of Natural Areas	\$904,208
Funds earmarked for Land & Stewardship expenses	\$261,926
Administration	\$231,182
Development	\$135,326
Total	\$2,545,710

Unaudited financials for fiscal year ending June 30, 2016. Does not include value of donated land and conservation easements.

Finger Lakes Land Trust

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



202 East Court Street, Ithaca, NY 14850 | 607.275.9487 | flt.org