



Annual Report

2016-2017



A beautiful sunrise at Sheffield Farm in Tompkins County

Dear Friends of the Finger Lakes,

The Land Trust is hard at work protecting our clean waters, rural landscapes, rich soils, and open spaces. Last year, our work took staff and volunteers across our beautiful region where we protected over 1,660 additional acres of land. We now carefully steward more than 20,000 acres, including 132 conservation easements on private lands and 41 nature preserves with miles of hiking trails open to the community, free of charge.

We made a particular effort this year to help people understand both the threats facing our region's clean water and rural beauty and the steps necessary to start proactively protecting these resources. Our report **Lakes, Forests, and Farms Forever** presents ten strategies to combat the dual threats of toxic algae and sprawling development – realities we faced on many of our lakes this summer.

The Land Trust is also trying to get more people outside, to actively appreciate our region's open spaces. In order to encourage outdoor adventures, the Land Trust released Go Finger Lakes – an online discovery tool that connects outdoor enthusiasts of all ages and abilities to 58 of the region's best outdoor destinations. We invite you to visit gofingerlakes.org to plan your next outing.

We are immensely proud of the work we are doing together, with your support. Thank you and please remember that the lands we are protecting now will be protected forever.

With gratitude,



Andrew Zepp
Executive Director



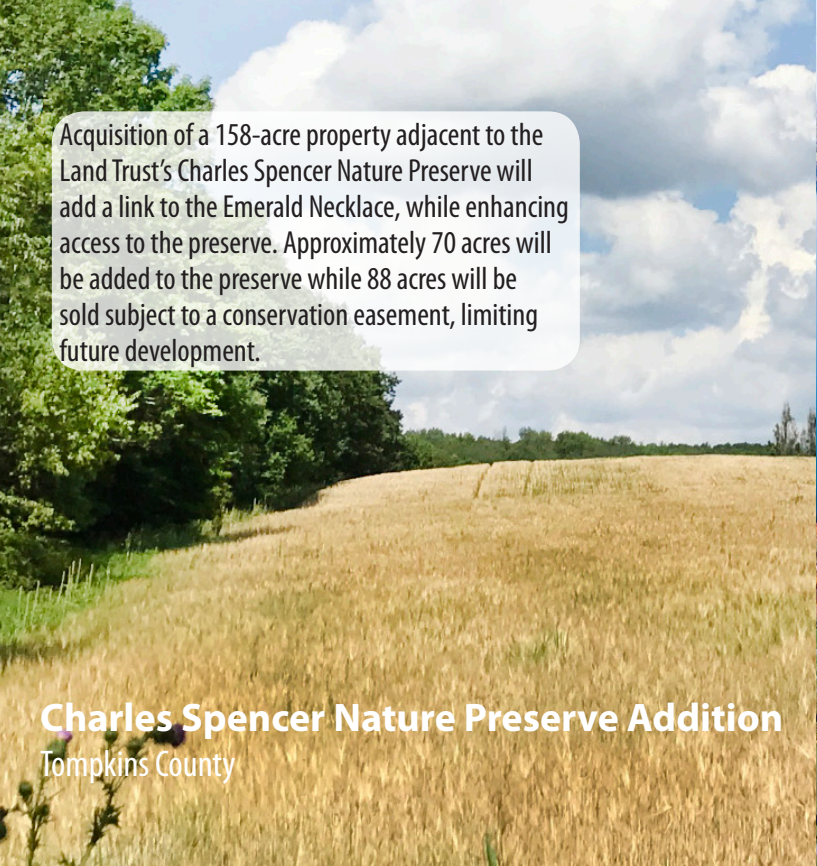
Holland Gregg, III
Board President

NATURE PRESERVES

Last year, the Land Trust created a new nature preserve and expanded two conservation areas.

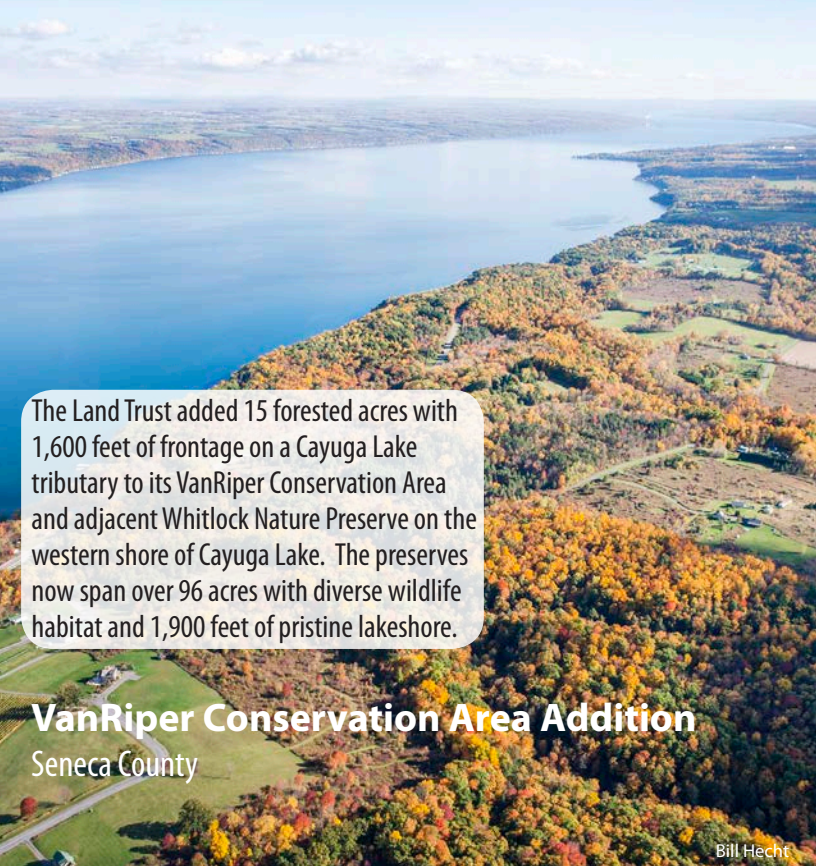
This 43-acre property with 1,480 feet of frontage on the Chemung River was once slated for residential development. Thanks to the generosity of Phyllis Kehoe, this property is now a publicly accessible nature preserve with stunning views of Frenchman's Bluff.

Kehoe Nature Preserve
Chemung County



Acquisition of a 158-acre property adjacent to the Land Trust's Charles Spencer Nature Preserve will add a link to the Emerald Necklace, while enhancing access to the preserve. Approximately 70 acres will be added to the preserve while 88 acres will be sold subject to a conservation easement, limiting future development.

Charles Spencer Nature Preserve Addition
Tompkins County



The Land Trust added 15 forested acres with 1,600 feet of frontage on a Cayuga Lake tributary to its VanRiper Conservation Area and adjacent Whitlock Nature Preserve on the western shore of Cayuga Lake. The preserves now span over 96 acres with diverse wildlife habitat and 1,900 feet of pristine lakeshore.

VanRiper Conservation Area Addition
Seneca County

Bill Hecht

NATURE PRESERVES

Discover new places for hiking, paddling, birding, and family outings at flt.org/map!

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

Conservation easements are voluntary legal agreements that permanently limit future land use in order to protect the land's conservation value. Lands subject to conservation easements typically remain in private ownership, on local tax rolls, and available for traditional uses such as farming and forestry.

Sheffield Farm (Tompkins County)

The 470-acre Sheffield Farm on Ithaca's West Hill features a mosaic of meadows, woodlands, and brushland habitat. Three conservation easements, donated by Jan and Susan Suwinski, will protect the property's natural and scenic features while allowing continued equestrian and agricultural use.

The Land Trust is building upon this gift by working with partners to create the West Hill Wildway – a greenbelt that will ultimately extend from Sheffield Farm to Robert H. Treman State Park.



Newell (Schuyler County)

Donated by Anastasia Newell, this easement will forever conserve a 104-acre horse farm that provides a valuable buffer to the Finger Lakes National Forest, New York State's only national forest.

Anastasia Newell



Paige (Schuyler County)

This 62-acre easement, donated by Richard Paige, protects frontage on Taughannock Creek, a tributary to Cayuga Lake and the stream that forms the 215-foot drop known as Taughannock Falls.

Joshua Seidman-Zager

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS


Last year, the Land Trust protected over 1,300 additional acres through the use of conservation easements!

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

Catalpa Farm (Ontario County)

The Land Trust permanently protected 596 acres of prime farmland in partnership with the Pritchard family, New York State's Farmland Protection Implementation Program, and the Town of Canandaigua. Catalpa Farm is located just north of Canandaigua where many property owners face increasing development pressure.






Woldt (Onondaga County)

The Land Trust protected 29 acres on the eastern hillside overlooking Skaneateles Lake. The easement, donated by Art Woldt, protects 1,640 feet of creek frontage and will help ensure water quality within the lake and maintain the rural beauty of the area.

Rob Howard



Gifford-Schuster (Ontario County)

Landowners Gladys Gifford and Alvin Schuster generously donated an easement on their 41-acre property in South Bristol. The property features a mix of fields, wetlands, forests, and over a half mile of the Finger Lakes Trail's Bristol Hills Spur.

Gladys Gifford

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS

The Land Trust works closely with many partners across the region, including local municipalities and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) to increase the pace of conservation.



Parker Trust (Yates County)

Located within an Audubon-designated Important Bird Area, this 86-acre property will ultimately be conveyed to NYSDEC as an addition to High Tor Wildlife Management Area. The WMA spans 6,100 acres in Ontario and Yates Counties near the south end of Canandaigua Lake.

Bill Hecht



Vaeth (Tompkins County)

This 144-acre property was purchased in partnership with the Finger Lakes Trail Conference (FLTC), NYSDEC, and Tompkins County. It will ultimately be conveyed to New York State as an addition to Danby State Forest. The project protects a segment of the 585-mile Finger Lakes Trail (FLT) and features mature forests within the Emerald Necklace.



STEWARDSHIP

With over 20,000 acres to monitor, the Land Trust's stewardship staff worked with nearly 200 volunteers to carefully steward 41 nature preserves, 132 conservation easements, and more than 40 miles of trails! Staff and volunteer Trailblazers built new trails at the Houghton Preserve in Corning and our new preserve on Otisco Lake. Through our First Fridays in the Field, volunteers helped staff members control invasive species, clear trails, and build bridges at our preserves across the region.

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 25 events that included a herp hike for kids and families at Thayer Preserve in Ithaca, a 15th anniversary hike at Steege Hill Nature Preserve in Big Flats, a Staghorn Cliffs paddle in Skaneateles, and a Story Walk at the Ellis Hollow Nature Preserve in Dryden.



Jenny Sweet



Vinnie Collins



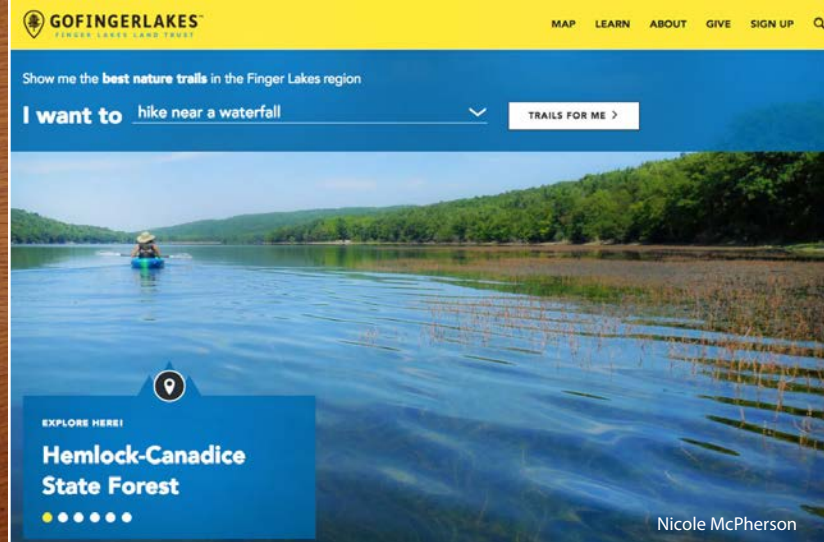
Darin Harrison



Lakes, Farms, and Forests Forever

The Land Trust published a bold new conservation agenda that highlights both the threat of toxic algae and sprawling development on the region's land and water resources. The report, developed with valuable input from partner agencies and institutions, calls for an investment of \$100 million over the next decade to address these threats.

fltl.org/top10



Go Finger Lakes: Your free guide to the best hikes, bikes, and outdoor adventures

Gofingerlakes.org is a free public service from the Land Trust designed as an online discovery tool for outdoor enthusiasts of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds. The site currently features 58 locations with over 650 miles of trails across the 12-county Finger Lakes region. It's mobile-ready, with a searchable map, scenic videos, photo galleries, driving directions, and trail descriptions.

gofingerlakes.org

CATALYZING CONSERVATION



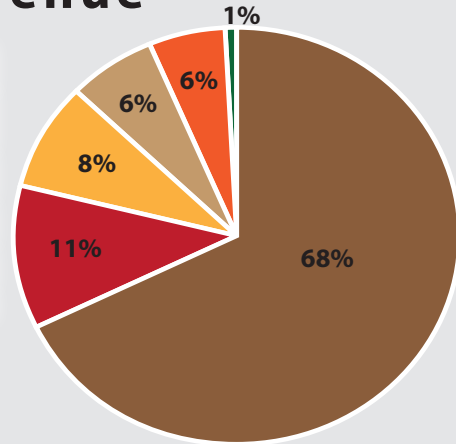
Marie Read

FINANCIALS

2016-2017

Revenue

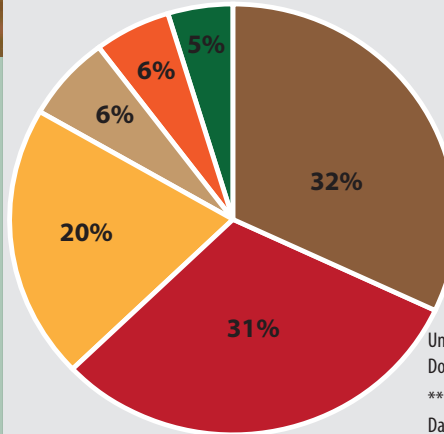
Gifts & Memberships	\$2,409,670
Proceeds from Transfer of Conservation Areas*	\$393,500
Loan	\$301,000
Grants	\$225,921
Stewardship Fund Income	\$199,689
Other	\$20,578
Total	\$3,550,358



*Lands added to public holdings or sold subject to perpetual easements as per prior agreement with donor.

Expenses

Program	\$1,115,595
Funds transferred for long-term Land Stewardship expenses **	\$1,079,594
Land Purchase	\$709,583
Loan Repayment	\$225,000
Administration	\$193,028
Development	\$159,544
Total	\$3,482,344



Unaudited financials for fiscal year ending June 30, 2017.
 Does not include value of donated land and conservation easements.
 ** Includes a special one million dollar gift to create the Darlington Stewardship Fund.



Peter M. Rinaldo Preserve in Tompkins County

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.*



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Photo of Canandaigua Lake & Great Hill by Bill Hecht