

CONSERVED FOREVER



Annual Report

2017-2018



SWEEDLER PRESERVE AT LICK BROOK, TOMPKINS COUNTY, PHOTO: CHRIS RAY

Dear Friends of the Finger Lakes,

We are so pleased to report that the Finger Lakes Land Trust completed 12 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 21,000 acres – including 36 nature preserves with over 40 miles of hiking trails and 136 conservation easements that conserve privately owned lands.

Our heartiest thanks go to you – one of nearly 2,500 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.

With gratitude,



Andrew Zepp
Executive Director



Holland C. Gregg III
Board President

NATURE PRESERVES

Discover new places for outdoor adventure at flt.org/map!



OWASCO LAKE, CAYUGA COUNTY, Photo: Bill Hecht



OWASCO LAKE, CAYUGA COUNTY, Photo: FLT

The Land Trust acquired 74 acres on beautiful Owasco Lake with over 1,100 feet of pristine shoreline and spectacular lake views.

Now, the Land Trust is working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to restore wildlife habitat, and with volunteers to create hiking trails.

NEW PRESERVE ON OWASCO LAKE

Cayuga County

flt.org/owasco



LINDSAY-PARSONS BIODIVERSITY PRESERVE, TOMPKINS COUNTY, PHOTOS: CHRIS RAY

LINDSAY-PARSONS BIODIVERSITY PRESERVE ADDITION

Tompkins County



The Land Trust recently expanded this flagship preserve by protecting a key parcel located in the heart of the property. The critical 9-acre addition protects an active Great Blue Heron rookery and part of a kettle pond—securing wildlife habitat, helping maintain water quality, and offering opportunities for outdoor recreation.

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.



VIEW OF BUTTERMILK FALLS, TOMPKINS COUNTY, Photo: Chris Ray

West Hill Wildway Addition

(Tompkins County)

Acquisition of this 73-acre property will help protect water quality in the Cayuga Lake watershed, secure diverse habitats, provide recreational opportunities, and add to a growing greenbelt on Ithaca's West Hill. The FLLT is partnering with the Town of Ithaca to conserve these lands in perpetuity.

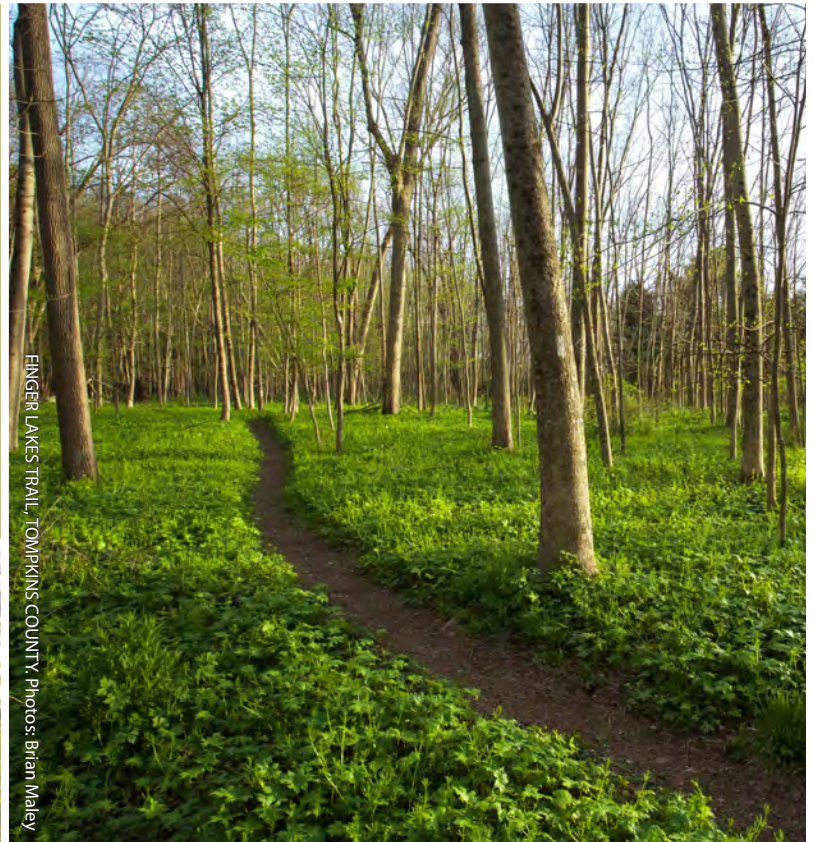


VIEW OF CAYUGA INLET VALLEY, TOMPKINS COUNTY, Photo: Chris Ray

Protecting the Finger Lakes Trail

(Tompkins County)

The Land Trust purchased 50 wooded acres in the town of Caroline that borders a 144-acre parcel the organization purchased last year. Together, the properties link Danby State Forest to Coddington Road and help protect the Finger Lakes Trail. This project was made possible by a loan from the Finger Lakes Trail Conference and the property will be sold to the NYSDEC as an addition to the State Forest when public funding becomes available.





Bare Hill Unique Area Addition

(Yates County)

Completion of the Land Trust's sixth acquisition at Bare Hill ensures the protection of 14.5 acres of mature oak-hickory forest with scattered pines and maples.

This property will be transferred to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) as an addition to Bare Hill Unique Area.





Finger Lakes National Forest Addition (Schuyler County)

The FLLT recently purchased 24 wooded acres that provide prime habitat for a diversity of wildlife in an area recognized as one of New York State's Important Bird Areas.

Located in the heart of the Finger Lakes National Forest, the property will ultimately be transferred to the US Forest Service as an addition to the forest.

Chemung River (Chemung County)

Thanks to an anonymous donor, a 6-acre property with 1,000 feet of shoreline on the Chemung River is now conserved forever. The property is located close to the Land Trust's Kehoe Nature Preserve.

With a conservation easement held by the Land Trust, the land will be transferred to the Town of Big Flats for management as a conservation area allowing public access for kayaking and canoeing.



TRADELAND PROPERTIES

Lands are generously donated to the Land Trust to be sold subject to a conservation easement. Proceeds from the sale of the properties are used to protect additional land and water!

Six Mile Creek Protection

An anonymous donor recently gave the Land Trust 167 forested acres within the Six Mile Creek watershed, the source of Ithaca's drinking water. Donated in memory of Helen Edwards, the property will be sold subject to a conservation easement that prohibits future subdivision and helps protect water quality.

As development pressure in the Finger Lakes region increases, the Land Trust is working to protect water quality by buffering our streams and wetlands and conserving large intact forests.



SIX MILE CREEK, TOMPKINS COUNTY.
Photo: Brian Maley



WOODS, STEUBEN COUNTY. Photo: Steve Knappp

Tenmile Creek Projects

The Land Trust received two incredible gifts of land in the Tenmile Creek watershed in Steuben County. The first, a 200-acre property in Prattsburg, was anonymously donated and sold subject to a conservation easement, carefully limiting future development. All funds generated from the sale will support education and outreach, including a new initiative connecting inner-city Rochester youth to nature.

The second gift, a 183-acre property, straddles two hilltops separated by a valley containing a stretch of Tenmile Creek, a trout stream that flows into the Cohocton River. Proceeds from the sale of this easement property will provide funding for future land and water conservation projects.

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

Conserve land in perpetuity, while keeping it in private ownership and on local tax rolls.



SKANEATELES LAKE VIEW, ONONDAGA COUNTY. Photo: Rob Howard



WELLES EASEMENT, CHEMUNG COUNTY. Photo: Kiri's West

WEATHERLY CONSERVATION EASEMENT

(Onondaga County)

This easement, generously donated by Gil and Melinda Weatherly, protects over 60 scenic acres overlooking the eastern shore of Skaneateles Lake. The property remains available for agricultural use and also helps protect the Skaneateles Lake watershed, which provides drinking water for the city of Syracuse.

WELLES CONSERVATION EASEMENT

(Chemung County)

Landowners Tim and Paddy Welles generously donated an easement on their 82-acre property in Horseheads. Conserving the property, located on a hilltop nearly 800 feet above the Chemung River Valley, will help to protect water quality in the Chesapeake Bay.



Photo: Sarah Nickerson

Community members across the Finger Lakes region had a chance to learn with the Land Trust. We held more than 25 free events, including a creek walk for kids and families, moth night, beginner birding, Story Walk, and a workshop on macroinvertebrates.

We also continued to encourage everyone to find a new place to get outside, using gofingerlakes.org



Photo: FLIT



Photo: Thomas Hoebel Photography



Photo: Rick Lightbody

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO THE LAND



STEWARDSHIP

21,000 ACRES & 40 MILES OF TRAILS!

It's been a busy yet exciting year for the Land Trust's stewardship program. A **big thank you** to our hardworking group of volunteer Trailblazers! Highlights include:

- 🌿 Dedicating the Kehoe Nature Preserve in Chemung County and the Houghton Land Preserve in Steuben County
- 🌿 Working to combat invasive species and protect the hemlock trees
- 🌿 Building new footbridges at the Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve with help from our friends at Cayuga Medical Center
- 🌿 Expanding the number of acres we mow to maintain grassland bird and butterfly habitat
- 🌿 Improving the easement stewardship program with our new Conservation Easement Steward
- 🌿 Stabilization the stream bank at the Stevenson Forest Preserve with Tompkins County Soil & Water
- 🌿 Performed routine trail maintenance and boundary checks
- 🌿 Capturing candid images and videos of wildlife with our new trail camera



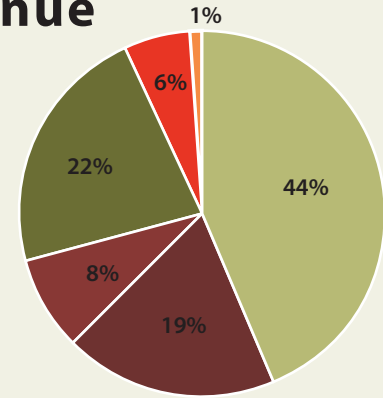
FINANCIALS

2017-2018

SWEEDLER PRESERVE AND LICK BROOK TOMPKINS COUNTY Photo: Chris Ray

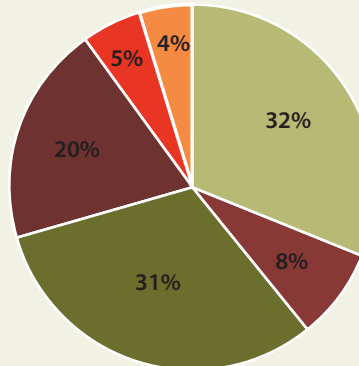
Revenue

Gifts & Memberships	\$1,644,744
Grants and Foundations	\$838,851
Proceeds from Transfer of Conservation Areas*	\$700,543
Loan for Land Purchases	\$312,000
Stewardship Fund Income	\$219,042
Other	\$34,866
Total	\$ 3,750,046



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

Expenses



Land Purchase	\$1,178,000
Program	\$1,171,019
Funds for Pending Land Acquisition	\$731,278
Funds Transferred for Long-term Land Stewardship Expenses	\$300,000
Administration	\$195,372
Development	\$174,377
Total	\$ 3,750,046

Unaudited financials for fiscal year ending June 30, 2018.
Does not include value of donated land and conservation easements



SWEEDLER PRESERVE AT LICK BROOK, TOMPKINS COUNTY. Photo: Chris Ray

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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