



CONSERVED ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19 FOREVER



Cover: Skaneateles Lake, Matt Champlin; Above: Lick Brook, Brian Maley



Dear Friends of the Finger Lakes,

Since its beginnings as an all-volunteer group in 1989, the Land Trust has grown into an accredited conservation organization protecting lands and waters across a 12-county region. Now in our 30th year, the Land Trust manages more than 35 nature preserves open to everyone and holds 140 conservation easements protecting private lands.

This year, we completed a record number of conservation projects. The enclosed report offers highlights of our work to protect the rural landscapes and clean waters that makes the Finger Lakes so special.

Thanks to your support, the 23,000 acres we have protected so far will be protected forever. We very much look forward to what we will accomplish in the years ahead.

With gratitude,

Andrew Zepp
Executive Director

Dave Birchenough
Board President

An aerial photograph of a rocky shoreline next to a body of water. The water is a vibrant blue-green color, transitioning to a darker blue further out. The shoreline is composed of dark, layered rock formations. A small waterfall flows down the rocks into the water. The surrounding land is covered in dry, brownish vegetation and some green shrubs. The text 'CLEAN WATER' is overlaid in large, white, sans-serif capital letters on the right side of the image.

CLEAN WATER

Skaneateles Lake / Matt Champlin

Conserving Pristine Skaneateles Shoreline

Ongoing efforts to protect the Skaneateles Lake watershed continue with our recent lakeshore acquisition in the town of Spafford. This 90-acre property has 900 feet of shoreline and is immediately adjacent to our Cora Kampfe Dickinson Preserve. Together, the two Land Trust properties permanently protect 2,200 feet of contiguous lakeshore.



West Branch, Owego Creek / Andy Zepp

Protecting Owego Creek

Across the road from its Goetchius Wetland Preserve, the Land Trust acquired 20 acres that protect over 3,000 feet along the West Branch of Owego Creek. The property, a mix of wetlands and meadows, features panoramic views of nearby Hammond Hill State Forest. The Land Trust is working with the Upper Susquehanna Coalition to enhance habitat for wetland-dependent migratory birds and improve water quality.

Forested Property Protects Six Mile Creek Watershed

A land gift made in memory of Helen Edwards was recently protected with a conservation easement. Nearly all of the 167-acre property is located within the Six Mile Creek watershed, the source of Ithaca's drinking water.



Six Mile Creek Watershed / Chris Ray



Lake Como headwaters / Bill Hecht

Expanding the Dorothy McIlroy Bird Sanctuary

A property protecting approximately 715 feet of Fall Creek's streambank was added to the Dorothy McIlroy Bird Sanctuary in the town of Summerhill thanks to the Fragnoli family. Their land gift falls within a unique conservation area near the creek's headwaters at Lake Como.



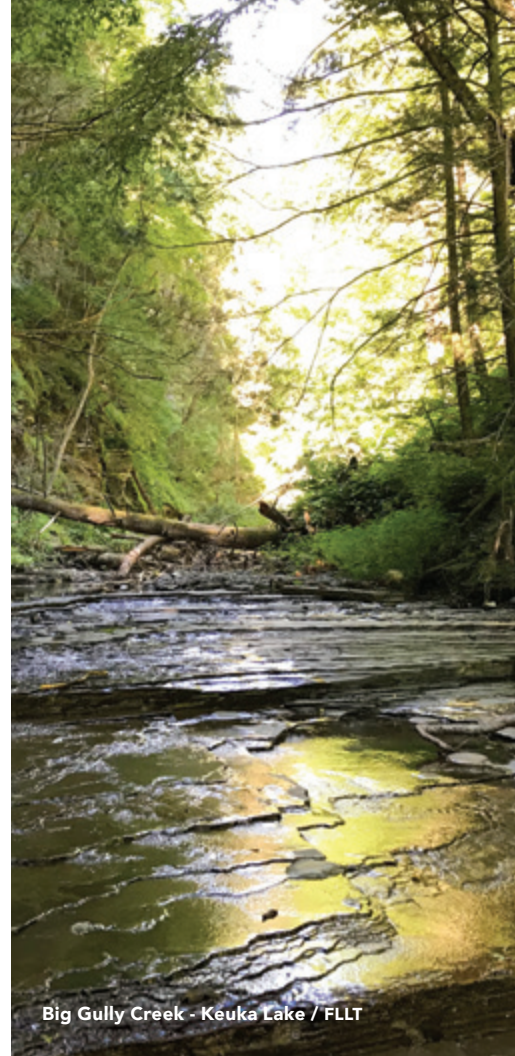
Prairie Warbler / Marie Read

Protecting Skaneateles Lake

Anne Mackenzie and Frank Girardi donated six forested acres on the west side of North Glen Haven Rd. The gift helps protect Skaneateles Lake by prohibiting development on its steep slopes. The Land Trust is weighing options for the property's long term conservation, including a possible transfer to NY State as an addition to Bear Swamp State Forest.

New Nature Preserve in Keuka Lake Watershed

The Land Trust received a 28-acre property from Art and Kay Wilder that features a half mile of Big Gully Creek—a tributary to Keuka Lake that runs through a deep gorge near Branchport. The property will become the first Land Trust nature preserve in the Keuka Lake watershed, and efforts to conserve additional lands here are ongoing.



Big Gully Creek - Keuka Lake / FLLT



Chemung River Aerial / Stefanie Delaney

**Protecting the
Chemung River's
Iconic Palisades**

The Land Trust acquired 104 acres of hillside forest that protects over 4,000 feet of Chemung River streambank in the town of Big Flats. The property, known locally as the Palisades, provides a scenic backdrop for Chemung River paddlers and adds to a growing network of conserved lands. The parcel will be conveyed to NYS's Big Flats Wildlife Management Area in the future.

PROTECTED PLACES



Our stewardship staff and corps of over 200 volunteers deserve some applause! They worked hard this year to keep more than 35 nature preserves with 43 miles of trails open and accessible. Two highlights from the trail include extensive trail work at our Lick Brook Gorge preserves in Ithaca and the opening of a new trail connecting our Hinchcliff Family Preserve to Ripley Hill

overlooking Skaneateles Lake. Stewardship staff are also working to ensure permanent protection of our conservation easement lands—properties that are forever protected but remain in private ownership and available for traditional uses such as farming and forestry. Together with volunteers, our staff monitored over 140 easements, walking more than 300 miles of boundary.



Lick Brook Gorge / Chris Ray

A landscape photograph showing a vast green field in the foreground, a dense line of trees in the middle ground, and rolling hills in the distance under a sky filled with large, dramatic clouds. The text 'LOCAL FOODS' is overlaid on the right side of the image.

LOCAL FOODS

Protecting a 6th Generation Farm

Brock Acres, a 700-acre farm in Ontario County, is now permanently protected with a conservation easement held by the Land Trust. Special thanks to the landowners, the Town of Canandaigua, and New York State's Department of Agriculture & Markets for their partnership.

Partnership Protects Farmland with Sweeping Views

The Land Trust and the Town of Gorham worked together to secure 50 acres of prime farmland in the Canandaigua Lake watershed. The property, protected by a conservation easement, overlooks Canandaigua Lake and provides the public with scenic views from Twitchell Road.



Brock Acres / Nigel Kent



WILD PLACES

Finger Lakes Trail / Chris Ray

Twin Conservation Projects Protect the Finger Lakes Trail

The Land Trust gratefully accepted a 138-acre property near Ithaca with expansive views. The land was a gift, donated by Dr. Ann Boyer with the understanding it will be open to the public as the Summerland Farm Preserve in the coming years. Conserving the property permanently protects more than ½ mile of the Finger Lakes Trail.



Conservation Corridor Land / FLLT

Land Donation Expands Conservation Corridor

Long-time member Dawn Cottrell, who passed away in 2017, gave the Land Trust 55 acres just outside of Syracuse. The property is adjacent to a Central New York Land Trust nature preserve and the two organizations plan to work together on the site's long-term protection.

Expanding Environmental Education Opportunities

Together, the Land Trust and Finger Lakes Community College protected a 33-acre addition to the college's East Hill Campus—one of the school's sites for outdoor recreation and environmental education. The property is in close proximity to High Tor Wildlife Management Area's miles of multi-use trails and the Finger Lakes Trail.



High Tor / Chuck Feil



Charles Spencer Nature Preserve / Bob Teitelbaum

Growing the Emerald Necklace and Charles Spencer Nature Preserve

The Land Trust acquired 38 forested acres in the town of Newfield that border Cornell University's 4,000-acre Arnot Research Forest and are in close proximity to the Land Trust's Charles Spencer Nature Preserve. Nearby, an additional 89 acres were protected with a perpetual conservation easement. This property is immediately adjacent to the Charles Spencer Nature Preserve and was originally acquired along with 70 contiguous acres that were immediately added to the preserve.



Red Fox / Pete Wiedmann

Land Gift to Fund Future Conservation

A generous family gave the Land Trust 42 acres near Watkins Glen. The property will be sold to a private buyer subject to a conservation easement limiting development. Proceeds from the sale will be used to conserve additional lands and waters.

Protecting Honeyoe Inlet

The Land Trust acquired 32 acres adjacent to Honeyoe Inlet Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and located near Wesley Hill Nature Preserve, Cumming Nature Center, and Harriet Hollister Spencer State Park. Protecting the property, which will be added to the WMA, enhances habitat connectivity and recreation opportunities.



Honeyoe Inlet & Lake / Chuck Feil



Canandaigua Lake Morning / Julie Bertram

Conservation on Bare Hill

Our conservation work on Bare Hill continued with our 7th acquisition. The 11-acre property overlooks Canandaigua Lake's eastern shore and is located off North Vine Valley Rd., in close proximity to Bare Hill Unique Area. The land will be conveyed to the state as an addition to its unique area in the future.

Black Diamond Trail Project

The Land Trust acquired 12 forested acres between the Black Diamond Trail and the Cayuga Lake Scenic Byway/NYS Route 89. Protecting the property was a priority for the Land Trust, Tompkins County, and NYS Parks because of the buffer it provides along the trail. The land will be transferred to the state when funds are available.



Black Diamond Trail / Jeff Katris

We presented 16 outdoor education events this year on topics ranging from bird, tree, and moth identification to wildlife tracking. We asked people to use natural navigation to find their way and to get involved in citizen science by making observations on our phenology trail. All of these Talks and Treks were led by volunteer naturalists and offered free of charge.



Great Egret / Chris Ray



Steage Hill / FLLT

CONNECTING WITH THE LAND

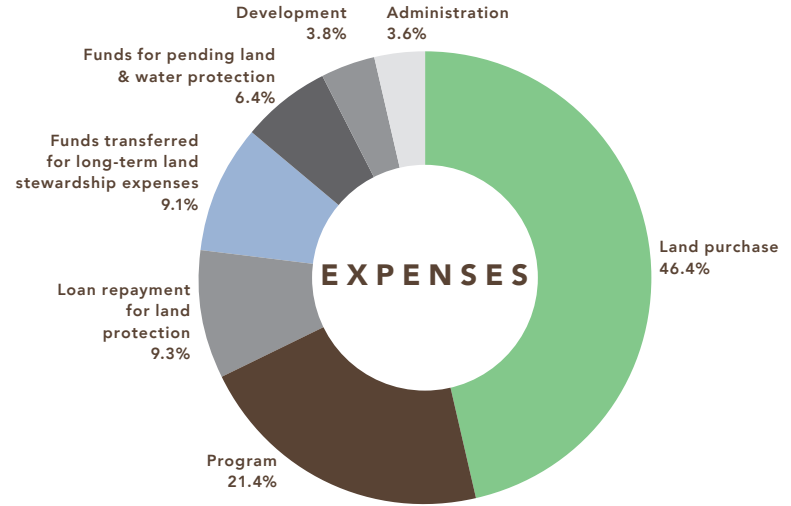
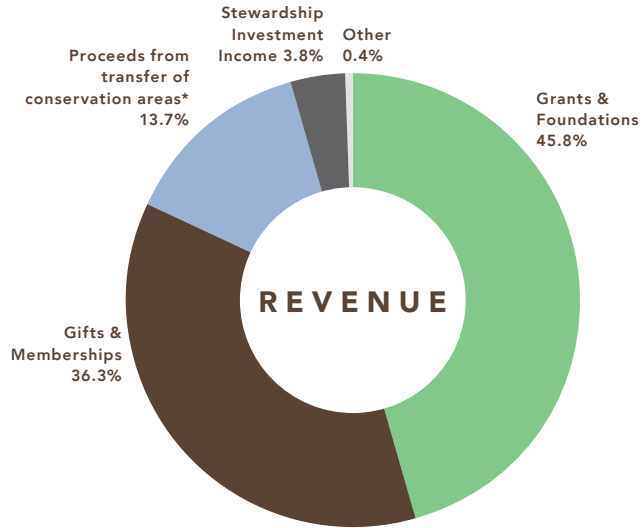


Logan Hill / Heather Ainsworth



Roy H. Park Preserve / FLLT

FINANCIALS 2018-2019



Gifts & Memberships	\$2,161,830.46
Grants & Foundations	\$2,729,679.19
Stewardship Investment Income	\$226,039.62
Proceeds from transfer of conservation areas*	\$816,500.00
Other	\$23,481.38
Total	\$5,957,530.65

Program	\$1,273,256.03
Administration	\$212,048.37
Development	\$226,312.56
Loan repayment for land protection	\$553,412.00
Land purchase	\$2,766,728.00
Funds for pending land & water protection	\$380,556.87
Funds transferred for long-term land stewardship expenses	\$545,216.82
Total	\$5,957,530.65

*lands added to public holdings or sold subject to a perpetual conservation easement per prior agreement with donor.

Unaudited financials for fiscal year ending June 30, 2019.

Does not include the value of donated land and conservation easements.





TO CONSERVE FOREVER THE LANDS AND WATERS
OF THE FINGER LAKES REGION, ENSURING
SCENIC VISTAS, LOCAL FOODS, CLEAN WATER,
AND WILD PLACES FOR EVERYONE.