



The Land Steward

NEWSLETTER OF THE FINGER LAKES LAND TRUST

working to protect the natural integrity of the Finger Lakes region Vol. 33, No. 3 • Summer 2021

Conservation Easement to Protect Ithaca's Drinking Water

Lois Lounsbery lives on a 125-acre farm in Brooktondale, Tompkins County, that has been in her family for generations—so long, in fact, that the road that bisects the property is called Lounsbery Road.

For many years, Lois has been interested in protecting the farm from development through a conservation easement, but had been unsuccessful at securing the funding to cover the costs associated with it. However, a partnership with the Finger Lakes Land Trust (FLLT) finally brought the easement to fruition.

The Lounsbery farm has more than 6,000 feet of frontage on Six Mile Creek, which is the primary source of drinking water for the City of Ithaca. Consequently, the FLLT applied for and received a grant from the New York State Water Quality Improvement Program (WQIP) to purchase a conservation easement on the Lounsbery farm. Another portion of the grant will be spent on restoring the corridor along the creek, including streambank stabilization, riparian vegetation planting, and wetland restoration.

In addition to the WQIP, the FLLT also received contributions from the Tompkins County Natural Infrastructure Capital Program and the City of Ithaca's Six Mile Creek

Watershed Protection Fund, which will help fund the restoration project on Six Mile Creek and the long-term stewardship of the easement.

The Lounsbery family has lived on the farm for more than 150 years, as the property was originally acquired by Lois' fourth-great-grandfather, John Cantine. Attracted by the fertile soil and the creek running through it, he acquired the property from the state. "He specifically chose the location because of the creek," said Lois. "And now we've come full circle, as the creek is the key reason we're able to protect the farm today."

John's granddaughter Harriet married Peter Lounsbery in the 1820s, and their son Cantine (Lois' great-grandfather, who was named for his own great-grandfather) moved onto the farm in the 1860s. The Lounsbery family has been inhabiting the property ever since.

The Lounsbery farm was primarily a dairy operation, but they also raised chickens and maintained hay pastures on the

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The New York Times recently reported, "The last seven years have been the warmest since the beginning of modern record-keeping nearly a century and a half ago."

The effects of this warming are clear and evident around the world. As I write, another heat wave is forecast for the western United States, shortly after temperature records were smashed in the northwest and subsequent wildfires broke out. In our part of the world, the changes tend to seem less dramatic but are very much as real.

Warmer temperatures bring volatile weather events. Our region is seeing increasingly frequent and intense rainstorms that wash nutrients into our lakes—feeding toxic algae outbreaks.

The number of non-native, invasive species which were previously held in check by low winter temperatures is now increasing as we experience milder winters. As I drive around the region, I can't miss the proliferation of Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus*), a favorite of the destructive spotted lanternfly.

A changing climate is also directly threatening our native species. The white pine, for example, is increasingly susceptible to White Pine Needle Disease—a syndrome that appears to be related to several native fungal pathogens and a native insect whose impact on the tree is increasing with warmer, wetter conditions during the late spring and early summer.

Climate change is here and it will take our collective effort to alter its alarming trend line. Reducing energy emissions and increasing our use of renewable energies are both essential. We must also sequester more carbon—taking advantage of natural solutions such as conserving and expanding our forests.

These efforts will take time, so we must also do our best to mitigate current impacts from climate change. For example, preventing further development within known floodplains will help address the risk of increased flooding from more volatile weather patterns.

At the Finger Lakes Land Trust, we are addressing these issues right now:

- In partnership with organizations such as the American Farmland Trust and The Nature Conservancy, we are assessing our region to determine which sites are most suited for renewable energy facilities. At the same time, we are identifying areas that should instead be prioritized for conservation.
- We are expanding our efforts to protect intact blocks of native forest that sequester carbon and restoring woodlands in streamside areas that also play an important role in filtering runoff to our lakes and rivers.
- To mitigate the impact of more extreme weather events, we are working to protect floodplains while also partnering to restore wetlands and vernal pools that detain stormwater runoff, reducing peak flows within our streams and rivers.

It has taken decades for us to get into the situation we are in and we will not turn things around overnight. We are confronted by daunting tasks and a high degree of uncertainty.

Despite this, I take heart from those conservationists who have accomplished miraculous things in the past. One need only take the short drive between Ithaca and Taughannock Falls State Park to be inspired by these past efforts—Osprey, Bald Eagles, and Peregrine Falcons all nest within a stone's throw of State Route 89 today. Back in my student days at Cornell University, none of them did.

Time to get to work. We have no time to waste.



Andrew Zepp, Executive Director



Conservation Easement to Protect Ithaca's Drinking Water *continued from cover*

property. Lois' father was the last of four generations in the Lounsbery family to actively farm the property; when he died in 1958, Lois's mother leased the land to a nearby farming family until her death in 1990. The Snow family, who are also multi-generational farmers in the area, currently lease the land, growing hay for their own dairy operation and subleasing a portion for sheep grazing.

Reflecting the property's varied landscape, the easement provides for several different zones: a 25-acre Environmental Protection Zone that encompasses Six Mile Creek and its frontage; a 25-acre Forest Management Zone covering two different groves

of forest land; a 70-acre Agricultural Management Zone, which will allow for continued farming activity; and a five-acre Residential Active Use Zone, which includes the existing houses and barns on the property.

Despite the long process, the easement has been a labor of love for Lois, who will continue to live on the property. "The farm has been a part of my entire life," she said. "It's important to me to give back." —Jeff Tonole

The Land Trust gratefully acknowledges attorneys Peter Miller and Beth Reiter of Ithaca, NY, for providing pro bono legal services in support of this project.



CHRIS RAY

Land Trust Protects Over 300 Acres of Scenic Farmland in Cortland County

This past spring, the Finger Lakes Land Trust (FLLT) completed the acquisition of two conservation easements on adjacent 145-acre and 165-acre farms owned and managed by the Birdsall family. The lands have been in Kay and Rod Birdsall's family for multiple generations, and Dennis and Heather, their son and daughter-in-law, have raised beef cattle and leased to local dairy farms in the area.

The 310-acre farmland is located directly on the Cortland-Homer-Preble Aquifer, which serves as the drinking water source for approximately 40,000 people, including the City of Cortland. In addition, there are multiple intermittent creeks on the farm's forested hillsides which drain into Factory Brook—a state-classified trout stream and tributary of the Tioughnioga River, which is part of the headwaters of the Upper Susquehanna watershed.

The two properties are located on State Route 41, a heavily traveled road that runs north/south along the east side of Skaneateles Lake. Protection of these farmlands adds to a network of conserved land along State Route 41 which includes the publicly accessible Hinchcliff Family Preserve and High

Vista Nature Preserve, both owned and managed by FLLT, and multiple farm properties protected by conservation easements.

These projects protect fields and forests that are located in an area well-known for its scenic vistas, rolling hills, and farmland surrounding Skaneateles Lake. Protection will ensure that the farms are not subdivided and remain available for farming operations for years to come. The Birdsall family has long championed sustainable farming and land stewardship. In addition to granting additional conservation easements to FLLT in 2019, Dennis and Heather Birdsall received the 2015 Skaneateles Lake Watershed Agriculture Program *Environmental Steward of the Year* award, in honor of their high-

quality agricultural practices.

FLLT project manager Elizabeth Newbold stated, "It was an honor to work with the Birdsall family to protect their farm which is rich with family and natural history. Now their second farmland protection project, the Birdsall's donation extends the conservation of quality farmland and furthers sustainability of the area's agriculture and open space."

These conservation easement projects were funded by the Farmland Protection Implementation Grants (FPIG) program managed by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets. Over the next few years, the FPIG program hopes to reach the goal of 100,000 acres of farmland conserved throughout New York State.



Land Trust Acquires Mouth of Iconic Gorge in Canandaigua Watershed

The south end of Canandaigua Lake is blessed with a diversity of natural areas that include mature oak-hickory forests, extensive wetlands along the West River, and several rugged gorges. This scenic landscape is a Finger Lakes Land Trust (FLLT) focus area due to the significance of its natural resources.

One of these gorges cuts through Great Hill (also known as South Hill) and is locally known as Clark Gully. It is a popular destination for hikers who are willing to scramble up its steep slopes. Several waterfalls tumble through chutes of layered shale.

Most of the gully is located within the state's High Tor Wildlife Management Area. The mouth of the gully, however, has been stewarded for years by the Jones family, who enjoyed using the land for family camping trips. The FLLT recently purchased their 3.4-acre parcel which features 2,200 feet of frontage on an unnamed creek that flows through the gorge. The property was identified as a high priority for protection since it is surrounded by state land and located directly across the road from the FLLT's West River Preserve.

Both South Hill and the gully are of special significance to the Seneca Nation. The Seneca refer to themselves as "The People of the Great Hill, or O-non-dowa-gah, and this area is referred to as the place of their origin. One of the earliest Seneca towns was located in the valley just south of the West River.

During the coming year, the FLLT will consult with representatives of the Seneca Nation, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and local residents to explore long-term conservation options for this special place.

"We are grateful to the Jones family for helping us permanently conserve this wonderful natural area," said Executive Director Andy Zepp. "We are very much looking forward to working with our partners and the local community to consider the future of this land."



Clark Gully

NIGEL KENT

Planting 1,200 Trees along the Chemung River



CHRIS RAY

In 2016, the Finger Lakes Land Trust (FLLT) accepted the Kehoe Nature Preserve as a gift from Pine City resident Phyllis Kehoe. The 42-acre property features 1,480 feet of Chemung River frontage, and was once slated for development of more than 30 homes. Now the mostly wooded property remains as wildlife habitat, buffering the river from a residential neighborhood.

By the time the FLLT acquired the property, a 5-acre field near the river once used to grow corn had become infested with a rogue's gallery of non-native invasive trees and shrubs like Asiatic bittersweet, buckthorn, multiflora rose, honeysuckle, and tree-of-heaven—a preferred host plant for the invasive spotted lanternfly. In Ecology 101 classes, students often learn that succession is the orderly shift in vegetation that happens when a disturbance is removed from an area and plants are allowed to grow. Open ground is taken over by easily dispersed and fast-growing grasses and flowers. Over time, slower-growing shrubs will crowd out the early arrivals but then the shrubs, in turn, are replaced by taller trees. Or so the basic model goes.

Nature is rarely as orderly as old textbooks describe. Our increasingly connected modern world is full of

disturbances like the introduction of non-native plants and animals or the removal of predators with consequential impacts to both their prey and the plants that prey eat. These modern-day disturbances can prevent the succession of natural communities. At the Kehoe preserve, these forces combined to prevent the establishment of native plant communities and reduced the quality of wildlife habitat to the point that an intervention was needed to reset the stage.

Late in 2019, FLLT worked in partnership with the Upper Susquehanna Coalition (USC) to start an ambitious effort to restore the 5-acre field. The USC, which works with partner organizations to improve water quality in the Upper Susquehanna River Basin, took the lead by clearing vegetation from the site last winter and returning to mow the area this spring.

Large piles of branches were created in hopes that they will provide cover for wildlife—possibly for a hibernating bear in coming winters.

USC then coordinated the planting of 1,200 native trees and shrubs such as sugar maple, oak, hickory, elderberry, serviceberry, and dogwood and protected each one from nibbling deer, mice, and rabbits with plastic tree shelters.

In the coming years, FLLT and USC staff will work with volunteers to monitor progress, managing competing vegetation and removing shelters as the plants grow. Over time, we hope to see the site once again dominated by trees and shrubs native to the region and supporting abundant and diverse wildlife that call the Kehoe Nature Preserve home.

SCENES

from Around Our Region...



The Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve wetland, home to Great Blue Herons, river otters, and many other species of wildlife

ANDY ZEPP



Longtime FLLT member and volunteer Marty Dodge preparing the Canandaigua Vista Preserve for public access in Canandaigua, Ontario County

CHRIS OLNEY



LONG CREEK PHOTOGRAPHY

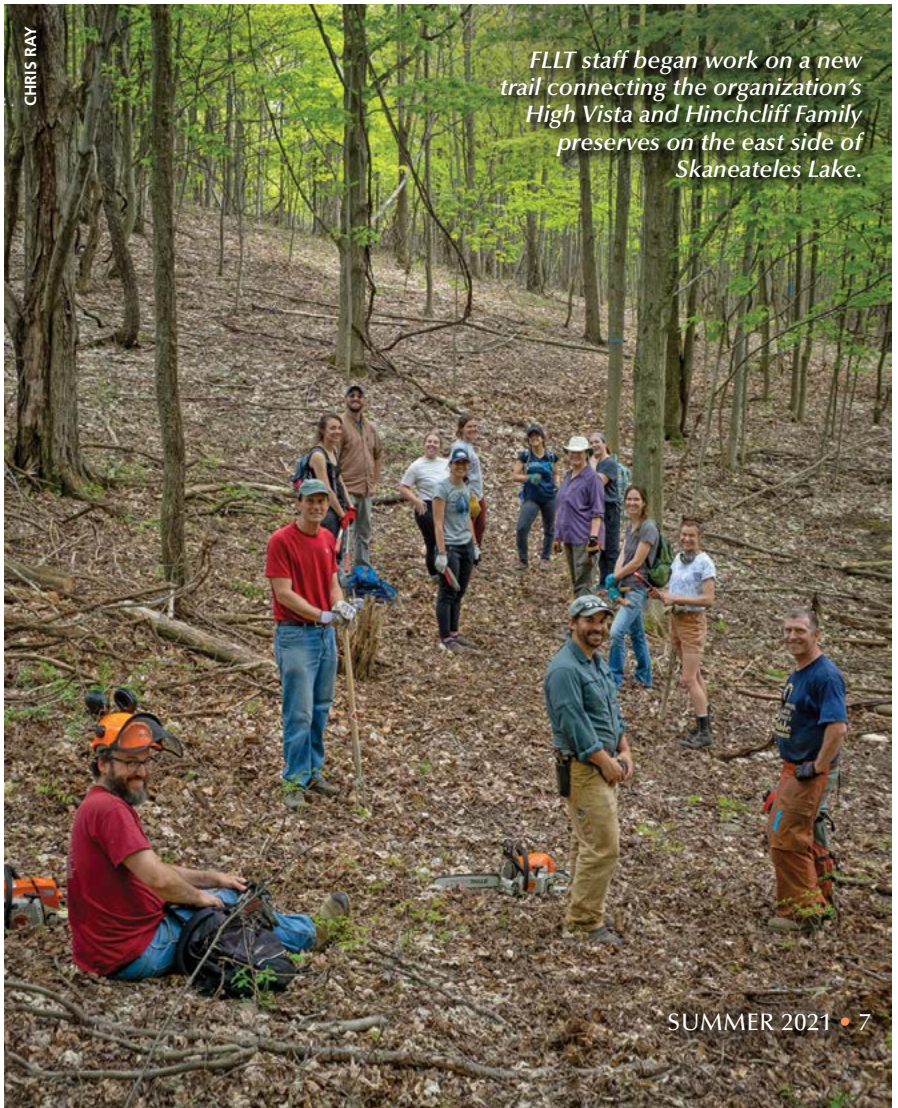
Volunteers worked on restoring meadow habitat for New York Invasive Species Awareness Week at the Logan Hill Nature Preserve in Candor, Tioga County.



BETSY DARLINGTON



Great Blue Heron and nestlings at the FLLT's Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve in West Danby, Tompkins County



CHRIS RAY

FLLT staff began work on a new trail connecting the organization's High Vista and Hinchcliff Family preserves on the east side of Skaneateles Lake.

Land Donation Protects Owasco Lake Watershed and Yields Funds for Conservation

When a conservation-minded member of the Finger Lakes community makes a generous donation of land, there are several options to ensure its protection. If the property doesn't meet the Finger Lakes Land Trust's (FLLT) criteria for retention as a nature preserve, but still has significant conservation value, it can become a conservation tradeland.

These types of donations are made with the clear understanding that the property will be sold to a private buyer, subject to a perpetual conservation easement, with the proceeds going to fund the FLLT's future conservation efforts.

In late 2019, the FLLT was delighted to receive a donation of a 93-acre property from the Estate of Katherine Sutphin in the town of Groton, Tompkins County. In June, the land was sold to a private buyer, subject to an easement that will limit development and permanently protect this environmentally sensitive parcel. Proceeds from the sale will be used to support the FLLT's growing land protection and stewardship programs.

The property features wetlands, fields, mature woodlands, and 4,710 feet of frontage on the Owasco Inlet and an unnamed tributary. As they flow north to the lake, these waterways provide significant habitat for a variety of terrestrial and aquatic wildlife.

Further north in Cayuga County, the inlet and a diverse floodplain at the southern end of Owasco Lake, collectively known as the Owasco Flats, serves as an important water quality buffer for the lake. Over half of the lake's water flows through the inlet, so its importance for the community cannot be overstated.

The FLLT has completed five projects here and will continue to focus on this area in the future. During the coming months, the organization will partner with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to restore wetlands on a parcel that was acquired last year.

We are grateful to the late Katherine Sutphin and all of our donors whose gifts of land help advance our conservation efforts.

Inaugural Bioblitz a Success

The Finger Lakes Land Trust held its inaugural Bioblitz from June 11 through June 13, 2021. Forty-one participants fanned out over 23 of the Land Trust's preserves, photographed or recorded living things, and then used the iNaturalist mobile and online platform to compile and identify observations. Participants logged 2,300+ observations across more than 730 species, including 385 plants, 193 insects, 48 fungi, 41 birds, 23 arachnids, 11 mollusks, 5 snakes, 4 amphibians, and even 6 protozoans (myxomycetes, also known as slime molds).

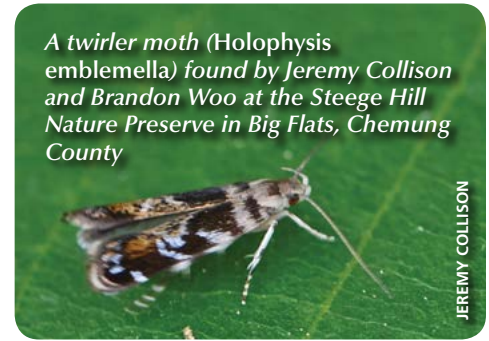
Highlights included, among many others, the following:

- The first New York State record in more than 100 years of a twirler moth, *Holophysis emblemella*, found by Jeremy Collison and Brandon Woo at the Steege Hill Nature Preserve in Corning. Jeremy saw this moth dancing in circles, changing direction, pausing, and then starting up again.
- Nearly 200 species of moths found by Jason Dombroskie during a night visit to the Kashong Conservation Area near Geneva.
- Four species of native snails found by Marla Coppolino at the Ellis Hollow Nature Preserve in Ithaca. At the Bioblitz Recap event in late June, Marla showed a remarkable video of one of these species (the Pyramid Dome Snail, or *Ventridens intertextus*), showing the snail's two-chambered beating heart, visible through its translucent shell.
- A fungus named *Helvella elastica* (also known commonly as the Elastic Saddle or the Brown Elf Saddle) found by Pauline Johnson and David McCheyne of the Rochester Area Mycological Association (RAMA) at the VanRiper Conservation Area and Whitlock Preserve in Romulus. This was only the eighth record of this species in New York State.
- Several slime molds found by Larry Jensen, Sue Heavenrich, and others at various preserves. Some of these myxomycetes are aptly and evocatively named for their striking colors and texture, including the Red Raspberry Slime Mold (*Tubifera ferruginosa*), the Chocolate Tube Slime Mold (*Stemonitis splendens*) and the Scrambled Egg Slime Mold, also known as the Dog Vomit Slime Mold (*Fuligo septica*).
- An aquatic plant known as the Prickly Hornwort (*Ceratophyllum echinatum*), found by Michael Hough at the Dorothy McIlroy Bird Sanctuary in Cayuga County. The only member of its genus native to North America, this species is rare across the state and especially in central New York.

Many thanks to all participants—and stay tuned for news of future FLLT Bioblitzes!

To view Bioblitz observations and statistics, see <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/finger-lakes-land-trust-june-2021-bioblitz>. —Mark Chao

To view a recording of the recap event, see fllt.org/bioblitz2021.



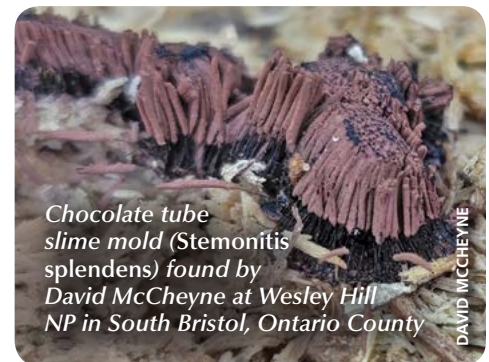
A twirler moth (*Holophysis emblemella*) found by Jeremy Collison and Brandon Woo at the Steege Hill Nature Preserve in Big Flats, Chemung County

JEREMY COLLISON



Blunt ambersnail (*Oxyloma retusum*) found by Marla Coppolino at Salmon Creek Bird Sanctuary in Lansing, Tompkins County

MARLA COPPOLINO



Chocolate tube slime mold (*Stemonitis splendens*) found by David McCheyne at Wesley Hill NP in South Bristol, Ontario County

DAVID MCCHEYNE



CHRIS RAY

Partnership Enhances Public Access at Steege Hill Nature Preserve

Local officials along with staff and volunteers from the Finger Lakes Land Trust (FLLT) gathered for a ribbon-cutting ceremony in June to celebrate the formal opening of a new hiking trail, and other public access improvements, at the Steege Hill Nature Preserve in Big Flats, Chemung County.

Over the past year, the FLLT and partners worked on several projects to provide expanded and safer access to the preserve: students from Greater Southern Tier BOCES cleared an area in preparation for the project; the Town of Big Flats Highway Department installed a culvert and entrance to a new parking area, also working to smooth the new stone surface; and the Chemung County Soil and Water Conservation District planted new grass seed to areas that were disturbed by the project.

Additionally, FLLT staff and volunteers installed a professionally designed interpretive kiosk and created a new trailhead that can be accessed from the new parking area—approximately 2,000 feet uphill from the former parking area on Steege Hill Road. The new public access was constructed to increase capacity and address traffic safety issues relating to the old parking lot.

Funding for the project was provided by a grant from the New York State Conservation Partnership Program administered by the Land Trust Alliance in coordination with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

At 793-acres, Steege Hill is the FLLT's largest conservation area and is part of a growing network of conserved lands along the Chemung River including the Plymouth Woods and Kehoe nature preserves.

"We're grateful for the support of our partners for helping to make these much-needed improvements possible," said FLLT Executive Director Andrew Zepp. We are now able to better accommodate the public and provide safe access to this popular preserve."

Michael Rogers, Community Relations Director for State Senator Tom O'Mara; Town of Big Flats Supervisor Ed Fairbrother; Scott Esty, Chief of Staff for Assemblyman Chris Friend; Finger Lakes Land Trust Board Member Kristin Swain; and longtime Steege Hill Volunteer Steward Bob Corneau celebrated the new improvements with a ribbon cutting ceremony.

VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR Mary and Robert Hanno

Mary and Robert Hanno have been assisting with preserve stewardship at the nearly 350-acre Logan Hill Nature Preserve since it opened in 2015. Their home is in the village of Candor, and they often hike to the preserve from their front doorstep. The Hannos are very modest when it comes to the amount of work that they do on the preserve. If you were to ask Mary, she would say, "We don't do much but move a few sticks off the trail." While true, they also do much much more.

The Hannos serve as our eyes and ears on the preserve and help with many tasks. They often trim encroaching brush along the trails, and on numerous occasions, Mary has cleaned up illegally dumped trash. Any rock that you might step on in a muddy spot was likely carefully placed there by the Hannos. One of the most impressive feats of stewardship they have accomplished is creating what the Finger Lakes Land Trust stewardship staff calls "Mary's Ditch." Mary's Ditch is a hand-dug drainage ditch along a section of Logan Hill Road, a minimally maintained seasonal road subject to frequent erosion. The Hannos took it upon themselves to dig this ditch to make the road more passable, and often clear it of debris and branches.

Their tireless efforts and great communication have helped to make the Logan Hill Nature Preserve the wonderful place that it is. Thank you, Mary and Robert, for your dedicated stewardship!



JASON GORMAN

Our appreciation for gifts in honor of

- Dave Birchenough**
FROM
Mike Ward and
Paula Peter
- Tyler and Ani Fish**
FROM
The Willis Project
- Aaron Goldweber**
FROM
Michael and Ashlee
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BRIAN MALEY

A CLOSER LOOK

Ol' Greenie Back-eye: The Eastern Newt

The three weird sisters in Macbeth stirred eye of newt and toe of frog, wool of bat and tongue of dog, along with a number of other eclectic ingredients, into their cauldron.

Although there's some speculation that "eye of newt" might have been an herbalist's term for mustard seed or daisy, it's quite likely that the witches were in fact using small amphibians to give extra oomph to their spirit-conjuring potion. Following are a few reasons why you, too, might want to consider using the eastern newt (*Notophthalmus viridescens*) in your own enchanted homebrew this summer.

In the first place, newts have miraculous regenerative abilities. A lizard can regrow a boneless and stumpy tail, but a newt can regrow almost any body part perfectly and from scratch: eye, heart, jaw, ear, even spinal cord and brain.

Second of all, newts are, like adder's fork or blind-worm's sting, wonderfully poisonous. There's probably nothing special about their eyes, but their eggs and skins are saturated with a powerful neurotoxin called tetrodotoxin. It dissuades fish, though apparently not frogs and turtles, and it's the same substance found in the flesh of *fugu*, the deadly pufferfish prized by Japanese gourmands. According to urban legend, hallucinations can be induced by licking amphibians, but licking a newt is likely to land you in the hospital, or worse. (The newts of the West Coast are even more poisonous than those of the Finger Lakes. In one infamous case, an entire Oregon camping party died when a rough-skinned newt fell into their coffee pot.) Tetrodotoxin won't pass through intact skin, though it can irritate eyes and mucous membranes. Ironically, we're far more toxic to newts than they are to us: the oils, salts, and chemicals that coat human hands soak right into their permeable skins.

Finally, they're even more spectacular shapeshifters than our other local amphibians. A newt starts life as a dull-colored, translucent, minnow-like larva that feeds on even smaller aquatic crustaceans and insect larvae. Its almost invisible, twig-like legs are dwarfed by feathery gills growing like squirrel ears from the top of its neck.

After two to five months, the larva metamorphoses into

the terrestrial juvenile form known as the eft. (Linguistic note: "eft" is an ancient form of the word "newt." Through changes in spelling and pronunciation, mistakes in copying texts, and shifts in language patterns, "a newt" became the standard way to refer to certain members of the family Salamandridae, whereas "an eft" became a rare dialect form. Like the creatures themselves, one word slowly

transformed into another over time.) The gills of the larva disappear and lungs develop; the rudderlike tail shrinks; the legs grow much more substantial, and eyelids grow over the eyes. Its body floods with tetrodotoxins, a fact that it advertises by changing its color to an uncanny red-orange that stands out like a neon sign against the dark forest floor. The larva had the furtiveness of a tiny prey item, but the eft moves with the doggedness of an animatronic toy. Like other animals with prominently advertised chemical defenses such as skunks, efts don't need to move quickly or hide from predators. They look good enough to eat – I've always thought that they resemble Japanese gummy candy – but they're ten times more poisonous in this stage, so please resist putting them in your mouth.

The eft's noxiousness is so well respected by predators that several other species have evolved reddish coloration in order to piggyback on its success: the red salamander (*Pseudotriton ruber*), the northern redback salamander (*Plethodon cinereus*), and the spring salamander (*Gyrinophilus porphyriticus*).

After several years, the eft grows up. Skin that was dry and vermillion becomes slimy and dull olive-green; the rudder-like tail regrows and the adult re-enters the water, though it keeps its lungs for the rest of its life. Most of the poison ebbs from its body and it will rely primarily on camouflage for protection. Its wild teenaged years may be over, but it retains tiny red spots on its back that are a sign to the local fish that it still contains enough tetrodotoxin to make a charm of powerful trouble: like a hell-broth, boil and bubble.

—Jacqueline Stuhmiller



CHRIS RAY

Finger Lakes Land Trust

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Gretchen Salm, *Land Conservation Support Specialist*
Becky Sibner, *Land Protection Specialist*
Kris West, *Senior Field Representative*

Newsletter Editor: Edie Jodz

Newsletter Layout: Leigh Dezelan

Advisors:

Forestry Consultant: Michael DeMunn
Stewardship Advisor: Betsy Darlington



GOFINGERLAKES™
FINGER LAKES LAND TRUST
gofingerlakes.org

[instagram@gofingerlakes](https://www.instagram.com/gofingerlakes)
 [instagram@fingerlakeslandtrust](https://www.instagram.com/fingerlakeslandtrust)
 [facebook.com/FingerLakesLandTrust](https://www.facebook.com/FingerLakesLandTrust)
 [@FLLandTrust](https://twitter.com/FLLandTrust)

Ph: 607-275-9487 • email: info@flt.org



Finger Lakes Land Trust

202 E. Court Street
Ithaca, NY 14850

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Upcoming Events

Tuesday, August 17 at 7:30 pm

The Little-Known World of Land Snails

Come explore the fascinating world of land snails and learn about their secret lives with malacologist and naturalist Marla Coppolino. This lively online multimedia presentation includes images, videos, sounds, and stories about snails and their close cousins, the slugs. You'll learn about their biology, behavior, and why land snails occupy an important place in the ecosystem. Registration required. [Visit fllt.org/events](http://visit.fllt.org/events) to learn more.

Guided Hikes

The Finger Lakes Land Trust is offering guided hikes on several of its nature preserves this fall. See details at fllt.org/events.

Saturday, September 18 at 10:00 am

Hike at Steege Hill Nature Preserve in Big Flats, Chemung County

Saturday, October 2 at 10:30 am

Hike and Picnic at Wesley Hill Nature Preserve in Richmond, Ontario County

Saturday, October 16 at 10:00 am

Hike at Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve in West Danby, Tompkins County

Hemlock Lake