



The Land Steward

NEWSLETTER OF THE FINGER LAKES LAND TRUST

working to protect the natural integrity of the Finger Lakes Region

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Founding Board Member Pledges Donation of 290-Acre Nature Preserve

Conservation is a family tradition with the Darlington of Ithaca, and Betsy Darlington has led the way. She quickly signed on as a founding board member when the Land Trust was created back in 1989, and she remains actively involved today. Her tireless efforts on behalf of the Land Trust have resulted in the protection of thousands and thousands of acres across our Finger Lakes region.

Back in 1972, Betsy and her husband Dick acquired a tract of old farmland and forest located on Logan Hill—a classic Southern Tier landscape located in the village and town of Candor in Tioga County. Some years later, the family added another parcel, creating a refuge that now encompasses 290 acres.

The Darlington have been using the property as a retreat and as a place to experience nature. To enhance habitat diversity, they created ponds, wetlands, and vernal pools. They mowed areas to maintain meadows and brush land. To ensure the future of the land, in 1990 they donated a conservation easement on a large portion of the property, the first of ever received by the Land Trust.

Today, the Darlington property encompasses a wonderful mosaic of woodlands, meadows, wetlands, ponds, and watercourses. Despite its location next to the village, the parcel is remarkable for its sense of remoteness.

Hilltop meadows provide distant vistas of the Allegheny Plateau, while thick forests harbor abundant wildlife. Brushy areas resound with a chorus of birdsong. A steep downhill descent takes visitors to the banks of Catatonk Creek, a significant tributary

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State's Largest Wildlife Management Area Grows with Help from Land Trust

Sprawling across more than 11,000 mostly forested acres, Connecticut Hill is New York's largest Wildlife Management Area.

It is a well known destination for hunters and hikers alike. Located on the border of Tompkins and Schuyler Counties, Connecticut Hill is also recognized as one of the state's Important Bird Areas, supporting a diversity of songbirds—some of them threatened by forest habitat destruction. The forest also is home to wide-ranging mammals such as Black Bear.

At the request of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the Land Trust recently acquired a 16-acre parcel that will be added to the wildlife area as soon as state funds are available. Though modest in size, in comparison to the existing wildlife area, this latest acquisition features frontage on both banks of a perennial stream that is a tributary of nearby Cayuta Lake. It also features mature hardwood forest and borders state land on three sides.

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ANDY ZEPP

When I heard about Toledo, Ohio's drinking water ban this summer, I thought about my experience paddling the length of Cayuga Lake several summers ago. At Long Point, it had been impossible to resist jumping in for a swim, but a few miles later, just north of Union Springs, the sparkling waters of the lake gave way to pea soup. Though I was in the center of the lake, it reminded me of paddling through bottomland swamps down south.

Toledo's problems with algae blooms are largely due to the excessive runoff of phosphorous into Lake Erie, the source of the city's drinking water. The phosphorous comes from a variety of sources, including farm fields, failing septic systems, and storm water runoff from parking lots and urban areas.

The Finger Lakes are not immune to this problem. In fact, the Cayuga County Health Department issued a warning about the likely presence of toxic algae in Owasco Lake this summer. This announcement followed a reported manure spill into the lake earlier this year.

In 2013, there was a similar concern about algae in Honeoye Lake. And in Cayuga Lake, swimming has been forbidden at Ithaca's Stewart Park since 1964. Excessive algae and turbidity is a particular concern in this area.

This problem is likely to pose a greater challenge in the future, as climate change is expected to bring more frequent, intense rain storms to our region, with increased runoff into lake waters. We experienced a number of these events this summer, with each storm carrying more sediment, and phosphorous into the lake. If you want to take a look at this problem, find a high point overlooking one of our lakes after a significant rainstorm. Look for where a major stream enters the lake, and you'll frequently see a plume of chocolate brown waters mixing with the blue waters of the lake.

So, what do we do about it? First, we've got to do more to protect our remaining wetlands and streamside floodplains. These areas play a vital role in helping to maintain the quality of water entering our lakes. Unfortunately, it is still legal to dump fill in many floodplain areas, thus diminishing the plains'

ecological function and reducing their ability to retain floodwaters. In some areas, such as Ithaca, extensive wetlands have been filled, and we'll need to create new wetlands to carry out these functions.

More must also be done to address agricultural runoff. While some farmers take care to manage their lands in a "lake friendly" manner, other farms lack adequate streamside buffers, and better safeguards must be in place to protect against manure spills. We must also figure out how best to slow down runoff that is expedited by a combination of field drains and roadside ditches.

And for those of us who live in town, we've got to do more to reduce runoff from the built environment through the construction of rain gardens, pocket wetlands, and swales, and the increased use of porous pavements.

There is no silver bullet to this problem, and many smart, persuasive people have been working to address the issue for a long time. I hope that the news from Toledo will serve as a wake-up call to us all and will spur a renewed effort to address these crucial issues and foster new, creative approaches that will be needed.

Our lakes are worth the effort.

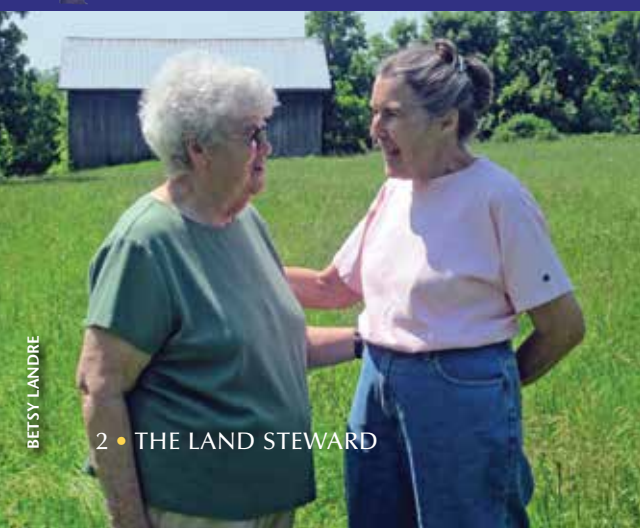
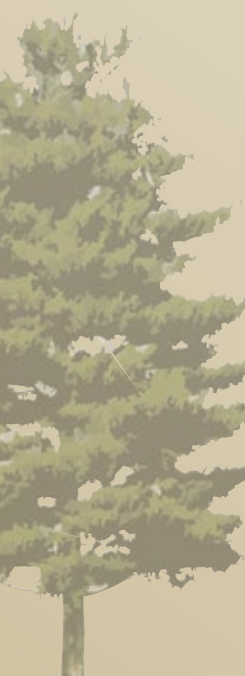


Andrew Zepp, Executive Director, Finger Lakes Land Trust



A plume of sediment-rich runoff spilling into the south end of Owasco Lake

BILL HECHT



Easement Donors Featured in Land Trust Video

Landowners Margaret White and Helen Launt talk about their decision to donate a conservation easement to the Land Trust in a video, filmed and produced by Nick Millard, a recent graduate of St. John Fisher College in Rochester. It tells the story of how two sisters from Ontario County worked with the Land Trust to protect their 7th generation family farm.

Check out the video by visiting the Land Trust's website at: http://www.fllt.org/protect_your_land/video_launt_white.php

Sisters Margaret White (left) and Helen Launt

With Some Help from Our Friends

This past summer, volunteers from the Land Trust and the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association joined Land Trust staff to prepare a recent acquisition on the eastern shore of the lake for public access.

The land is located on Bare Hill and features a rare stretch of undeveloped shoreline. It was purchased through the Land Trust's *Shoreline to Summit Capital Campaign*.

This impromptu work crew tore down an old shed and the remains of a small wooden cottage. Trash was hauled out on boats, as there is no easy vehicle access to this steep lakeshore property. Piles of scrap metal and debris were ferried to nearby Vine Valley, and then carted away by pick-up trucks. Metal collected from the site was recycled and netted the Land Trust \$114! Additional work remains to clean up piles of wood still on the land and to provide a safe path between East Lake Road and the Canandaigua Lake shoreline. A formal opening of the site is planned for 2015.

In the future, the Land Trust also hopes to work with the NYS



(left to right) Staff member Jason Gorman with Cornell University Intern Seth Lutter and local volunteer Rob Gray help with efforts to clean up the Land Trust's recent acquisition on Canandaigua Lake.

Department of Environmental Conservation to develop a hiking trail that links the shoreline with the summit of Bare Hill.

Partnership Addresses Stewardship Issues at Great Gully



New signage being installed at the entrance to Great Gully

Located on the east side of Cayuga Lake, Great Gully has long been known for its scenic waterfalls and towering forests.

Although most of the gully is privately owned, this unique natural area has traditionally been open to the public. The Land Trust became involved with Great Gully in 2012, when it accepted the donation of a conservation easement on 650-acre Great Gully Farm, which includes the portion of Great Gully traditionally used by the public.

This tradition of public access was threatened during the past year, with reports of excessive partying, vehicular trespass, camping, tree cutting, and littering. If these abuses could not be addressed, it was feared that public access to the gully would be curtailed. Fortunately, the Land Trust was able to partner with Dan McIntosh, the owner of Great Gully Farm, to take action.

First, to inform the public about the status of this portion of the gully, and to list basic rules and regulations, the Land Trust installed a sturdy sign at the primary access point. Second, to prevent vehicular access, Dan McIntosh moved several boulders to create a solid barrier. Third, to ensure better oversight of the area, both the Land Trust and Mr. McIntosh reached out to local law enforcement as well as Springport Town Supervisor David Schenck.

A month after these steps were taken, conditions at Great Gully are much improved. As a thankful visitor wrote: "It is not often that input from the public is acted upon so quickly by organizations, so you have my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation."

Support of local residents in protection of popular natural areas gives us at the Land Trust great optimism. Great Gully needs stewardship from the Land Trust AND from all who love the land they live on.



Founding Board Member Pledges Donation of 290-Acre Nature Preserve

continued from cover

to the Susquehanna River that is deep enough to float a canoe or kayak for much of the year.

Through the years, the Darlington family has been returning to the land again and again, sharing their love of nature with their children Lois and Jean and grandson David. Reflecting on their experience with the land, Betsy said: "Our passion for this land has grown and grown as the years have passed. What we love most about the property is the quiet and peacefulness, and the diversity."

After owning the land for 42 years, the family discussed plans for its future and decided that they wanted to donate all but a small portion to the Land Trust, to be managed as a nature preserve. "We feel confident that the Land Trust will be the best long-term stewards," Betsy said.

The transfer of the property is anticipated sometime in the coming months. Efforts are underway to raise funds needed to accommodate public access to the site, and also to add to the Land Trust's Stewardship Fund to provide for long-term management of the property.

Once acquired, the Land Trust intends to develop a network of hiking trails along with a parking area and

interpretive kiosk. The organization also intends to work with the Town of Candor to develop a public canoe/kayak launch on Catatunk Creek. As the Darlington family has requested, the site will be known as the Logan Hill Nature Preserve.

"This donation shows a tremendous commitment to the land and to the community," said Land Trust Executive Director Andy Zepp. "The Darlington family's action is truly inspiring, and Betsy continues to blaze a path for other conservationists to follow. All of us at the Land Trust are grateful to the family and honored to have the opportunity to care for this gem of a natural area."

If you would like to make a contribution to support the establishment of the Logan Hill Nature Preserve, please contact the Land Trust's Director of Development and Communications Kelly Makosch at (607) 275-9487 or kellymakosch@fllt.org.

The Land Trust gratefully acknowledges Attorney Dick Ruswick in Ithaca for providing pro bono legal services in support of this project.



Despite its location next to the village, the Darlington parcel is remarkable for its sense of remoteness.

BOB BRANCATO

State's Largest Wildlife Management Area Grows with Help from Land Trust

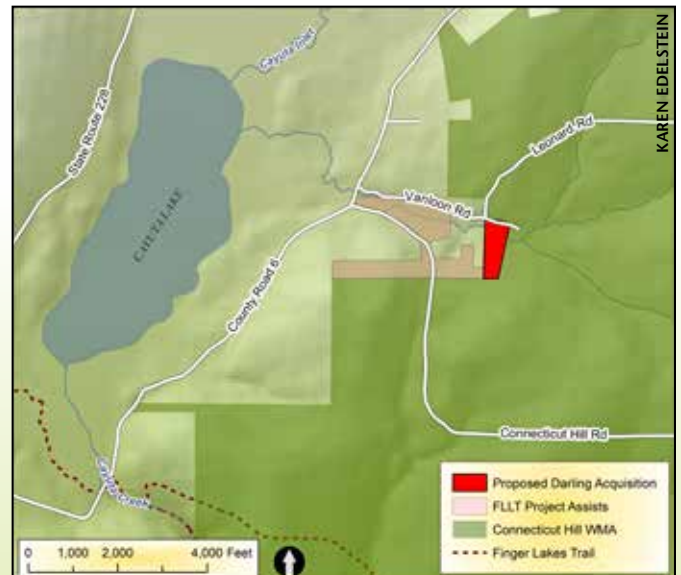
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Acquisition of the property helps ensure the integrity of a healthy, shaded stream. Further, it adds to one of the largest blocks of conserved forest land remaining in the Finger Lakes.

"One look at the property convinced me that we needed to act," said Land Trust Director of Land Protection Zack Odell. "It was listed for sale and an adjacent lot had already been developed. A modest public investment will help ensure the integrity of one of our region's most extensive conservation areas."

For those who would like to visit this property and the adjacent wildlife management area, look for a guided field trip to be offered through our *Talks and Treks* series sometime next year.

The Land Trust gratefully acknowledges Attorney Scott A. Forsyth of the law firm Forsyth & Forsyth in Rochester, NY for providing pro bono legal services in support of this project.



KAREN EDELSTEIN

Protecting Our Wetlands

The ability of wetlands to recycle nutrients, purify water, and recharge rivers, lakes, and estuaries makes them critical to the overall functioning of Earth itself. Wetlands serve as the gatekeepers to our water supply and are vital to the healthy functioning of most other biomes worldwide.

These unique ecosystems on the margin between land and water provide habitat to myriad plants and animals and are responsible for our quality of life and, ultimately, our very existence.

Here in the Finger Lakes, many acres of wetland have already been lost to development or drainage for agricultural use, but the Land Trust is making great strides to protect and preserve those that remain in our region. Through conservation easements, acquisitions, and partnerships with municipalities and state agencies, the Land Trust has safeguarded several thousand acres of wetlands and their associated buffering uplands.

"It is difficult to preserve a wetland without also protecting the critical uplands that buffer them," said Andy Zepp, the Land Trust's executive director. "We've been gaining ground on both fronts."

Thanks to Land Trust efforts across the Finger Lakes, the future of wetlands directly associated with Canandaigua, Owasco, and Seneca lakes is now secure. In addition, wetlands bordering significant tributaries to the Susquehanna River, Cayuga Lake, and Skaneateles Lake, have been protected. Diverse protected wetlands may now be visited at sites such as the Roy H. Park Preserve in Tompkins County; the Dorothy McIlroy Bird Sanctuary in Cayuga County; the Owasco Flats at the south end of Owasco Lake; Queen Catharine Marsh at the south end of Seneca Lake; and the West River marshes at the south end of Canandaigua Lake.

On several occasions, the Land Trust has used funding directed by public conservation agencies to mitigate wetland impacts associated with, for example, the construction of a highway interchange or the extension of an airport runway. At the Goetchius Wetlands Preserve, in Tompkins County, the Land Trust partnered with the Upper Susquehanna Coalition to acquire existing wetlands and associated uplands and to restore wetlands that had been drained for agriculture.

To stretch hard-earned conservation dollars, the Land Trust works together with public conservation agencies and other non-profit organizations. At Owasco Lake, for example, the Land Trust helped the Owasco Flats Nature Reserve acquire a key parcel bordering the Owasco Inlet. And at the south end of Seneca Lake, the Land Trust has partners in both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the New York

State Department of Environmental Conservation to acquire, restore, and manage wetlands. In this case, the Land Trust recently acquired 140 acres of wetlands that will be restored and enhanced by the USFWS, to be eventually conveyed to the state as an addition to the adjacent Queen Catharine Marsh Wildlife Management Area.

"This is a great example of where each partner is bringing something to the table," said Zepp. "By working together, we can protect and restore more wetlands."

Protecting wetlands and their vital ecological services is essential to our survival. For example, wetlands act as giant sponges, soaking up rainwater and discharging it slowly over time. This prevents flooding and erosion and recharges groundwater supplies by returning water to underground aquifers.

Watersheds that retain their wetlands are 80 percent less prone to flooding than those without them, studies show.

Much like super-efficient

wastewater treatment plants, wetlands purify the water by absorbing harmful chemicals and filtering pollutants and sediments. Microbes living in wetlands break down suspended solids and neutralize harmful bacteria. Wetlands can remove up to 90 percent of nitrates and trap phosphorus-laden sediments, keeping excess nutrients from polluting adjacent rivers.

Working synergistically with the land and waters around them, wetlands directly improve these other ecosystems. They revitalize rivers by slowly releasing decaying vegetative matter and thus feed fish and other organisms. Wetlands can also help drive local economies because of their importance to agriculture, recreation, and fishing.

Wetlands serve as nurseries for innumerable fish, and at least 80 percent of North America's bird populations rely on wetlands for their survival. Some species of amphibians depend exclusively on seasonal wetlands as their only habitat. Others forage elsewhere, but return to wetlands to breed. Isolated seasonal wetlands lacking predatory fish make excellent amphibian safe-havens.

Still, wetlands are in peril. Over half of our nation's original 220 million acres of wetlands in the lower 48 states have been drained for agriculture and building new highways,

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The Goetchius Wetland Preserve in the town of Caroline, Tompkins County, where the Land Trust has protected extensive wetlands



BETSY DARLINGTON

SCENES

from Around Our Region...



JESSICA EVETT-MILLER

Founding board member Betsy Darlington and her husband Dick on their land in Candor, Tioga County, which they've pledged to donate to the Land Trust (see article on page one for details)



Lick Brook winding its way through the Sweedler Preserve in the town of Ithaca, Tompkins County



Fall foliage in the West River Valley at the south end of Canandaigua Lake

DAVID KOTOCK



Cornell Mycologist Kathie Hodge leading the ever-popular Fall Fungus Walk at the Ellis Hollow Nature Preserve in town of Dryden, Tompkins County

BRIAN MALEY



©MELISSA GROO



STEPHEN E. THOMPSON

Skaneateles cake cutting ceremony celebrating the Land Trust's 25th anniversary: (pictured left to right) Land Trust board member Holly Gregg and Executive Director Andy Zepp with Congressman Dan Maffei, Land Trust board member Dave Birchenough and Skaneateles Town Supervisor Mary Sennett

Deeply wooded Briggs Gully, one of the Finger Lakes' largest, is a fine example of local geological history following the last ice age.

PRESERVE PROFILE

Wesley Hill Nature Preserve: Jewel of the Western Lakes

Autumn in the Land Trust's Wesley Hill Nature Preserve has a sublime feel. The open hardwood forest has unusually sweeping views, offering a glimpse of a pair of scruffy coyotes, a lone red fox, or even a bear pawing the ground in search of food. The animals of Wesley Hill leave their footprints along muddy trails after a heavy rain. And the air roars with the sound of rushing water coursing downhill through ravines that transect the preserve's terrain.

Located in the town of South Bristol on the east side of Honeoye Lake, this high-terrain preserve is one of the most popular among visitors in the western lakes region. In 1999 the Land Trust bought a roughly 90-acre parcel owned by children of Rochester-area artists who had fallen in love with the land and had made it their retreat for peace, quiet and contemplation. The children wanted the land protected for future generations just as their family had during their stewardship. In 2001 adjacent tracts were added through a combination of purchases and gifts, bringing the total size of the property to its present 359 acres.

The preserve's popularity is easy to understand. Quite a few notable plants are at home there. Witch hazel (fall flowering) and flowering dogwood (spring) thrive in the cool understory of the forest. Though not usually found in terrain this high, spicebush grows in abundance along one stream in the far western end of the preserve.

Spring wildflowers include round-lobed hepatica, trailing arbutus, fringed polygala, star flower and the relatively rare wild licorice. A field guide comes in handy for hikers.

Visitors will find just about every shade of local habitat in one corner

or another of the land—old-growth forest, field, wetland, stream, pond and deep gorge. Where farmland once dominated in the northern and eastern portions, healthy young hardwoods have transformed field into forest. One or two open fields and clearings still exist. A



Looking southwest from a scenic overlook at Wesley Hill

BILL DAVIS

BETSY DARLINGTON

field near the Gulick Road entrance even boasts a beautiful reed-lined pond in the middle, perfect for sunny picnic days in summer where visitors can take pleasure in the sights and sounds of Red-winged Blackbirds and Song Sparrows that frequent this spot.

Hikers in the western side of the preserve will undoubtedly stumble upon the old Wenrich cabin. The cabin and nearby privy were built in the 1920s for Rochester artist John Wenrich and his family as a rustic retreat from the big city. Some years ago, one visitor left a logbook on the cabin porch, and people since then have been recording their thoughts and impressions, leaving us with a wonderful piece of the preserve's recent history.

The older forest growth consists of a rich mix of large white pine and hemlock, oak, hickory, and maple. Massive white pines and stout white oaks along the Gully Trail belong to another age. The forest along that steep trail down into Briggs Gully on the south side of the preserve might never have been logged, accounting for its almost primeval feel. Here, one expects to find the bear's den and the great horned owl's roost.

Deeply wooded Briggs Gully, one of the Finger Lakes' largest, is a fine example of local geological history following the last ice age. Melting glacial waters cascading downward to fill the Honeoye Lake valley carved an enormous gorge through soft sedimentary rock, leaving a breathtaking sight for hikers today. At various points the preserve's Rim Trail offers overlooks, from which hikers can gaze south across the broad expanse of the ravine to the undisturbed woods on the other side. To the west lie the Honeoye Lake inlet valley and, beyond, the forests of Harriet Hollister State Recreation Area.

Four important tracts of protected land are already secure around the southern end of Honeoye Lake: the Cumming Nature Center at the head of Briggs Gully, operated by the Rochester Museum and Science Center; the Land Trust's Wesley Hill Nature Preserve; the wetlands of the Honeoye inlet, managed by the New York DEC; and the Harriet Hollister State Recreation Area. It should be inspiring for land protection advocates to think that someday adjacent properties might be added to provide a wilderness corridor around the southern end of Honeoye Lake for all to enjoy.
—Eben McLane

Protecting Our Wetlands *continued from page 5*

strip malls, and housing developments. Between 2004 and 2009 alone, an estimated 62,300 acres of wetlands were lost in the contiguous United States, and the alarming downward trend continues.

In all cases concerning wetland protection, the Land Trust's interest is in conserving water quality for the future of the Finger Lakes, while sharing the responsibility with its partners.

"We're interested in expanding the scale of our efforts, and we hope to involve new partners in our work relating water quality and the protection of fish and wildlife habitat," Zepp concluded.
—Candace E. Cornell



Carl Schwartz of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service consults with Executive Director Andy Zepp and the Land Trust's Preserve Management Committee on wetland restoration plans at the Owasco Flats

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To learn more, please call Kelly Makosch at the Land Trust office at (607)275-9487.

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New Ithaca Bakery Bread Cards Available

ITHACA BAKERY is generously offering bread cards to all current Land Trust members again this year. The bread card entitles members to one FREE loaf of bread per month with a \$5 minimum purchase at the 400 N. Meadow Street location only. Please visit the Land Trust's main office at 202 E. Court Street in Ithaca if you would like to pick up your bread card.



Conservation Land For Sale with Cabin

The Land Trust is selling a 53-acre parcel of land with cabin – subject to a conservation easement—for a price of \$125,000. The property is located in the town of Danby, Tompkins County and includes forest land, two streams, and a ridgetop meadow with distant views where the cabin is located. For further details, please contact realtor Ed Finegan at 607-279-0234.



On June 21, 2014, the Land Trust hosted an event in each of the twelve counties of the Finger Lakes region in celebration of 25 years of successful land protection efforts. Over 200 people enjoyed a hike, bike, run, or paddle on Land Trust protected lands. A BIG thanks to our 25th Anniversary sponsors:

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A CLOSER LOOK

Our American Mink

Several members of the family Mustelidae are native to New York State: fisher, marten, two kinds of weasels, river otter, and American mink (*Neovison vison*). These animals differ in size but otherwise look quite similar to each other, with long, narrow bodies; tiny, rounded ears; dense fur; and well-developed anal glands. All of our native mustelids are cute, but the mink, with its curious, alert face and shiny, button-like brown eyes, looks especially like a toy. Don't be fooled, though: it punches far above its weight of a mere one to three pounds.

The long, narrow body of the mink allows it to hunt successfully in many different environments. It prefers to be in or near water, and slips as easily as an eel after fish, frogs, crustaceans, and muskrats. It can wiggle into burrows to catch rodents—it has occasionally been tamed and used to hunt rats—or shimmy down holes to grab snakes. Its bounding, rolling gait is comical, but it is fast enough to catch rabbits and birds. Amazingly, it does not seem to be handicapped by its tiny head and jaws and doesn't hesitate to attack animals several times its own size.

Because mink sometimes wreak havoc in henhouses, destroying entire flocks at once, people assume that they kill for pleasure. This behavior is not completely understood, but probably has more to do with physics than hedonism. The same body shape that makes the mink such an agile, adaptable predator also has a high surface-area-to-volume ratio that leaves the animal extremely vulnerable to heat loss. In order to stay alive, it must eat a third of its own body weight every day, and since it is a solitary animal, it must find food on its own. The problem is compounded when the temperature drops, because the mink does not migrate, hibernate, enter torpor, or stockpile a significant amount of food in winter. Perhaps because it must remain light and sleek in order to hunt effectively, it doesn't store much body fat, either. In order to gain a little more food security, it may kill more than it can eat at one time and cache the rest under the ice and snow. The mink that kills

all of the chickens in a coop and leaves the carcasses lying around is probably only following its instinct to kill whatever, and whenever, it can—after all, in the wild, animals do not live in large densities inside small spaces that have no escape routes.

The mink is of course synonymous with its thick, glossy, dark brown fur (domesticated mink, which are larger and less hardy than wild mink, have been bred for many different coat colors). Hundreds of thousands of mink pelts were exported to Europe between the seventeenth and nineteenth centuries; when the price was not high enough to justify the transport costs, the pelts were simply burned at the trading posts. Its cousin, the sea mink, was driven to extinction by this merciless overexploitation, but the tough little American mink somehow managed to ride out the era of the fur trade. In fact, the animal still apparently occupies the same range that it did before Europeans arrived in North America, endemic to most of the U. S. (with the exception of the arid southwest corner of the country) and almost all of Canada. Today, the most serious threats to the mink come from the destruction of wetlands and water pollution. Because of its position at the top of the food chain and its extreme sensitivity to toxins, the mink is a bioindicator for aquatic environments. A study is currently underway to measure how PCBs in the Hudson River are affecting the species.

The story of the mink has taken an ironic twist. When mink fur became extremely fashionable in the early and mid-twentieth century, fur farms stocked with American mink were established in many areas of Europe. Over time, animals escaped (or were deliberately released by animal activists) and established themselves in the wild. The American mink is now a serious pest in Europe, where it is contributing to the precipitous decline of native species. One of the hardest hit is the European mink, which is now critically endangered.

—Jacqueline Stuhmiller



A mink, recently photographed at the Land Trust's Roy H. Park Preserve in the town of Dryden, Tompkins County

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Autumn 2014 Calendar



Saturday, October 25, 2:00 – 4:00pm: Tree Identification Walk at the Bock-Harvey Forest Preserve, Town of Enfield. Co-hosted with the Cayuga Trails Club. Akiva Silver, naturalist, landscaper, and outdoor educator, will lead a walk that will focus on tree identification, natural history, wildlife value, the role of invasive plants, as well as survival uses of trees and shrubs. The walk will last two hours or more so please come prepared with appropriate clothing and footwear for the weather and terrain. From Ithaca, take Rte 13 south and turn right onto Rte 327 north, following signs for the Robert H. Treman State Park. After about 3.5 miles, turn left onto Hines Road. Take the first right onto Rockwell Road. The destination will be on the left side of the road. Look for a sign that says Bock-Harvey Forest Preserve. There is plenty of space to park on the shoulder of the road.

The Bock-Harvey Forest Preserve is protected through a partnership between the Finger Lakes Land Trust, the Finger Lakes Trail Conference and the Cayuga Trails Club.

See our web site for maps and photos of the preserves.

WALKS GO RAIN, SUN OR SNOW. PLEASE BRING SNACKS AND WATER, AND WEAR STURDY SHOES. CALL THE LAND TRUST AT (607) 275-9487 FOR DETAILS.

