



THE LAND STEWARD

Newsletter of the Finger Lakes Land Trust

Vol. 14, No. 2

working to protect the natural integrity of the Finger Lakes Region

Spring 2002

The Dorothy McIlroy Bird Sanctuary

New Preserve to Honor Legacy of Bird Enthusiast

When I asked local birder Matt Young to meet me at the soon-to-be Dorothy McIlroy Bird Sanctuary in early January, he said, "Sure, but you won't see much this time of year." If what I saw wasn't much, I can't wait to get back in the spring! We spent two hours threading our way through dense Canada yew, tramping over frozen sphagnum hummocks, and crunching across frozen shallows. It was unlike anyplace I have ever been in central New York.

This new preserve is approximately 120 acres of northern swamp forest at the outlet of Lake Como in the Town of Summerhill in Cayuga County. The headwaters of Fall Creek bisect this preserve in a pocket on the high plateau that runs from Locke to Homer. A slight ridge to the west blocks prevailing winds; combined with the elevation, it makes the preserve just a bit colder than the surrounding area. Hemlock and yellow birch, the dominant trees on the site, are typical of the Adirondacks, but are generally found only in the high steep valleys of the Finger Lakes. The cool temperatures and northern plant species support breeding populations of boreal birds like Dark-eyed Junco, Hermit Thrush, Blackburnian Warbler, and Mourning Warblers. State forests and a state park nearby, in combination with the surrounding agricultural land, provide a large range of habitat types and give this whole plateau some of the highest bird diversity in the state.

But the most unusual aspect of this preserve is the flora. Rich shrub fen grades into peat swamp and forest on either side of the creek. While at least a dozen fens grace Fall Creek

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Photo by @Lang Elliott, www.naturesound.com

A Hermit Thrush, one of the bird species that makes a home in the Dorothy McIlroy Bird Preserve.



Photo by ©Marie Reed

The Percy Browning Parcel of the Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve features some of the finest hardwood forest of the preserve.

Cayuga Inlet Valley Conservation Area Protected by Addition to the Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve

Drama, magnificence, and an extraordinary range of micro-ecosystems grace the Land Trust's new 50-acre addition to the Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve. Donated by Percy Browning, the parcel extends the preserve northeastward over a shoulder of Thatcher's Pinnacles, a striking group of abrupt prominences crowning the eastern wall of the upper Cayuga Inlet valley at West Danby.

Through the lowest part of the new addition, Cayuga Inlet has cut a shady course between wooded bluffs of unconsolidated glacial material. Here nineteenth century railroad builders, constrained by dependence on hand labor, closely followed the winding course of the creek, and laid out some very tight curves. These were later eliminated by excavation of a deep cutting one hundred yards to the west. The abandoned streamside grade now lies hidden in the forest. Where bridges once spanned the creek, only the stone abutments remain today, opportunely offering support for trail crossings. An impressive beaver dam, more than eight feet high, impounds the Cayuga Inlet near the parcel's northern boundary.

Above the bluffs, the valley floor, beautifully forested with mature trees, rises gently eastward in a succession of mounded heights and moist hollows, until it reaches the base of the rocky wall below the pinnacles. This area is continuous with the rich Blummer Woods,

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Join us on May 5 for our 13th Annual Celebration. See insert for details.



SIGN OF THE LONE PINE

“Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and cheer, and give strength to the body and soul alike.”
—John Muir

I spent a lot of time last fall thinking about homeland security. As I wrote in our last issue, those words create in me a mental vision of a human community living in a kind of harmonious wisdom, assuring human comfort while securing the ecological means to sustain that comfort. Because of my line of work, my mind tends to jump forward 50 to 100 years as we make decisions today, and I wonder how we can go about sustaining ourselves in this beautiful place without gradually degrading the healthy ecosystem that underlies the beauty.

One thing I know without a doubt is that we are in this together as a community of communities scattered across the Finger Lakes. Our future will be made of an accreted mosaic of individual choices. And the impact of those choices will flow across the borders of private lands and municipal boundaries to affect us all. This is especially true of matters of rural economy. For example, our farm community needs to stay intact enough to keep agricultural infrastructure in place. Without a critical mass of farms, the processing plants, equipment dealers, and feed stores can't stay in business.

Tourism is another critical rural industry for the Finger Lakes and is highly dependent on the visual resources of our area. The scenic valleys and ridgelines, productive farms and

forests, sinuous lakes and special geology all combine to create our distinctive “home” landscape. According to Scenic America, travel and tourism is a \$440 billion a year industry, and the nation's third largest retail industry. Travel researcher Stanley Plog writes, “The most central feature that needs protection is the natural beauty and setting of a place. Once lost, it can seldom be restored.” A new awareness of the economic benefits of identifying and protecting scenic corridors has been backed up by a growing number of studies across the country.

Our hope here at the Land Trust is to provide both support and expertise to communities interested in protecting and promoting the beauty of their landscape. To that end, we have contracted with Yates County to conduct an inventory of the scenic vistas in each town within the county during the coming year. Our Keuka Chapter leaders Debbie Koop and Phil Whitman will work with Land Trust staff to host community meetings so that people may discuss the importance of scenic resources and begin visual assessments of their own hometowns.

The first step in protecting your community from the effects of haphazard development is to understand what makes your home landscape unique. When the Yates County inventory is complete, people will have a much clearer idea of what features define their communities and how they can protect or improve these features. By working together across municipal borders, they can protect the visual splendor of the Keuka Lake area with its farms and vineyards, forests and gleaming water. This, I believe, will be a wonderful step towards a long-lasting and robust economy based upon tourism and agriculture. A step on the path to homeland security through scenic stewardship.

—Gay Nicholson, Executive Director

In Memoriam

Our deepest thanks for generous donations in memory of

Chris Gulick

From

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Our sincere thanks

for generous contributions, in honor of

Betsy Darlington

From Lois Darlington

Jim and Ellie Fralick

From Dr. Michael and Mary Anne Finigan

Joel Rabinowitz

From Cassandra George

VOLUNTEER PROFILE

Emily Eisman

Over the past twelve years the Land Trust has had an amazing number of student volunteers who are simply outstanding—and Emily Eisman ranks right at the top.

Emily grew up in Lodi on Seneca Lake and has always enjoyed the beauty of the Finger Lakes. She's been a volunteer since 1999 when, as a student at Finger Lakes Community College, she saw a plea for help in *The Land Steward*. Practically every week since, she's been in the office or out in the field. A versatile woman, Emily is equally at home working on publicity, membership, and special events or marking preserve boundaries and taking plant inventories.

In January 2000 Emily received her associate's degree in horticulture and transferred to Cornell University, where she majored in plant science. But her increased academic workload didn't stop Emily's weekly stint at the Land Trust, where she took on the task of writing all of the thank-you letters to our many generous members and donors.

Ed. note: Queried by the editor (who likes to slip in homey little touches) as to whether those notes were hand-written, the author, herself an office volunteer, responded via email: "HEAVENS NO! Those thank-yous were NOT handwritten—

that would have been easy. Mail-merging 40-60 letters each week is a gigantic pain in the *&% and Emily did it very well.")

By 2001 we were able to hire Emily as a summer employee to take the place of all of the other school-year volunteers and interns, meaning she continued to do her job as well as those of two or three other people—a major help to a very grateful staff. She continued at Cornell, graduating this past December 21. Which is great for Emily—but very sad for the Land Trust, for now she has left us. Her long-term plans include graduate school, but just now she's out Wyoming way in REAL winter country, skiing and snow-boarding, among other things!

What does Emily have to say about her three-year sojourn with us? Quite modestly, "I really liked working at the Land Trust because the people were so nice and the work was so interesting." Amen.

—Merry Jo Bauer



Photo provided by Harriet Eisman

Emily Eisman at her December 2001 graduation from Cornell.

The Dorothy McIlroy Bird Sanctuary...

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between Lake Como and McLean—the limestone bedrock of the creek favors fen development—the surrounding northern forest makes this site exceptional even among the other Fall Creek fens. Because the Land Trust first saw this property this past May, we don't have anywhere near a complete plant list. Yet we've already found calla lilies, four species of blueberries, Canada yew (ground hemlock), thick carpets of sphagnum, sweet gale, purple fringed orchid, pink lady's-slipper, mountain holly, and many other plants that are uncommon or rare in our region.

The west side of the preserve has been selectively logged over the last 20 years. A logging road goes through from north to south on a ridge; it may serve us as the basis for future trails. The northeastern side of the creek is less disturbed (no road frontage and more water made it more difficult to log) and that is where the greatest variety of plant species is, but you can't get there without getting wet! That inaccessibility may be what has saved this site from development for so long; Lake Como itself is surrounded by homes.

Dorothy McIlroy loved birding and was instrumental in beginning the Lab of Ornithology at Cornell University. When she died, her family arranged a memorial gift for a nature preserve. To honor her memory, we wanted to find land that Dorothy would have loved—and there's no doubt we did. Although an anonymous donor will be helping to cover some of the costs of creating this sanctuary, we will need to raise an additional \$10,000 to build a boardwalk and observation platforms to make this fragile, special spot truly accessible to bird and plant lovers. If you are interested in supporting this project, please contact the Land Trust office.

Matt and I spent much of our visit in January walking on little ice "byways" that are soggy depressions most of the year. As we picked our way back to the logging road, Matt said, "It's much easier walking here now than in the summer. In the summer you get all wet and beat up by the brush. I've got to get you back here in May ... you haven't lived until you've heard a Hermit Thrush!"

I'm betting it will be totally worth getting wet and beat up.

—Gail Blake



Photo by Betsy Darlington

The larger purple fringed orchid is one of the uncommon or rare plants found in the unique northern forest and fen area of the Dorothy McIlroy Bird Sanctuary.

Cayuga Inlet Valley...

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familiar to those who have already explored the eastern reaches of the preserve.

The glacially oversteepened slopes beneath the pinnacles are clothed in oaks and hickories and abundantly strewn with loose, broken rock. Ledges of the most resistant sandstone strata stripe the hillside. The elevated western exposure maximizes the drying influences of the afternoon sun and prevailing winds, which conspire with the thin rocky soil to produce harsh growing conditions. Scraggy deciduous trees lean outward, seeking to overtop those below them and escape the overreaching branches of those above. Maple-leaf viburnum and blueberries form a low understory of irregular density, punctuated by a scattering of ragged pitch pines and other evergreens. The shrubs anchor deep drifts of fallen leaves, which attract numerous ground-nesting forest birds. Notable among these is the Worm-eating Warbler, a southern species with a preference for steep forested hillsides, whose breeding in the Finger Lakes region is confined to a few specially favored locations. Notable too is an endangered West Danby endemic (indeed, found nowhere else), the fine-bladed “wood reedgrass,” *Calamagrostis porteri perplexa*.

This new addition offers for the first time a practical, albeit arduous, route of ascent from the heart of the preserve to the Danby State Forest and the pinnacles. There, hikers can find spectacular views over the Cayuga component of the valley-heads moraine, a region-wide glacial structure marking the limit of the most recent southward passage, twelve millennia ago, of the mile-thick ice in the principal valleys of the Finger Lakes. Its expression here is exemplary, not to say stupendous, and a hike to the overlook repays magnificently in appreciation of the glacial landscape below. (The Abbott Loop trail, a spur of the nearby Finger Lakes trail, also reaches the overlook by an easier route from the east.)

Some decades ago, a nearby landowner operated a large illegal dump on the banks of the Cayuga Inlet, in the lowest corner of this mostly-pristine property. The Land Trust set out to clean this up. Working on weekends over a period of several months, more than 140 volunteers removed, sorted and loaded 35 tons of trash,



Photo by Betsy Darlington

A large illegal dump, created by a previous owner of the property to the north of the Percy Browning parcel, was on the northern part of this otherwise-spectacular piece of land. Over 140 volunteers cleaned up the mess. Neighbor John Smith used his backhoe and other equipment, greatly facilitating the whole operation. John Gale, the General Manager of Superior Disposal, generously arranged for us to have the use of nine gigantic construction dumpsters, at no charge beyond the tipping fees—and he put in many hours of his own time to haul them in and out. Phil Zach and Marty Wodka of TEAM Environmental Services generously provided a Phase I Environmental Investigation of the dump on a tight time schedule and at a highly discounted price.

15 tons of scrap metal and appliances, hundreds of tires, and various other refuse. The task was greatly assisted by donations of hauling services, equipment-time and expertise. We're deeply appreciative of the help of so many people, as well as the great generosity of Percy Browning. This manifest evidence of the value our members and friends place on the Land Trust's work magnifies the pleasure of introducing this addition to the preserve.

—Geo Kloppel

Join us for a Mother's Day Wildflower Hike at this new addition on May 12th. See the calendar on page 8 for details.

“Bombs-to-Bluebirds” nest boxes

We have sturdy nest boxes, made from Seneca Army Depot ammo boxes. \$5 minimum donation requested.

Our sincere thanks to the following people who shared their tax refunds with the Land Trust!

Irene Brown
Tom and Lisa Cavataio
Elizabeth Conrey
Joseph Dallett
Samuel Flaxman
Bob McGuire and Judy Keil
Joan Ramage

Land Trust giving goes online!

At the request of our membership, you can now donate through our web page at www.fllt.org. It's fast, easy and secure.

THE ETHICS OF CONSERVATION

Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Sustainable Land Use

Excerpted from the address to members of the Finger Lakes Land Trust at its 12th Annual Celebration, April 29, 2001

We've all heard the expression, "a sense of place." What are its older equivalents? Well, there's "kingdom"—a place where a king controls the domain. And other words like it—such as fiefdom and dukedom. And for those who like to play with words, how about wisdom—"a place where the wise control the domain." Finally, if we think about domain, from the Latin word *domini*, "god-like or sacred," we understand that wisdom means a place where the wise understand the sacredness of a place.

Land trusts are a keystone species in the emergence of a new ecosystem between society and nature. They are a bridge between the past and the future, between the way land was once owned and exploited, and how it will be protected and stewarded.

No great transformation in history, positive or negative, has ever occurred that did not contain a perceptual, spiritual, and formal legal change in our relationship with the land. All land trusts are at the epicenter of that change. How can the Finger Lakes Land Trust help bring about a positive vision in our region for the next seven generations?

First, the Land Trust must continue to strengthen our regional ties. Our strength comes from the unity of our membership and chapters. Our power comes from the democratic strength of the organization as a whole.

Next, the Land Trust must continue to focus our mission through coordinated acquisition and targeted easements and preserves. This way, we will be able to help shape the land use patterns of the region, rather than just preserving a scattering of properties: "green measles," as some of us call it.

Thirdly, we must expand our base. Many constituencies, approached correctly, could see great mutual benefit in joining

the Land Trust in our efforts to preserve the lands of the Finger Lakes Region.

In addition, the Land Trust must refine its message. We must remember the legitimacy of those who perceive the importance of private property as a means to personal freedom. And we must develop our mission to show a new way to personal and community independence through land protection and preservation.

Lastly, the Land Trust must grow our focus and expand our vision to include not only the "natural world" but human society itself. As Ebenezer Howard, founder of modern land use planning and the author, in 1898, of the classic text *Garden Cities of To-Morrow*, wrote, "The countryside and the town must be married" if society is to reach a new threshold of social justice. We can begin to do this by exploring opportunities to develop community land trusts, preserve affordable housing and the quality of neighborhoods, promote farmland trusts to ensure our agricultural heritage, and support the development of an ecologically sustainable economy. In doing so, the Land Trust will be doing something truly profound: helping to create the institutions that will allow humans the opportunity, not only to protect the land, but to live with it in harmony.

This is a very big charge. And although the Finger Lakes Land Trust has a very dedicated and competent and talented staff, they cannot accomplish this alone. In order to be a success, the Land Trust will continue to need its dedicated volunteers, an active and effective board, and an enthusiastic, supportive membership.

People in history rarely understand the profundity of their actions at the time. Take Thomas Paine, for example: this unemployed corset-maker, on the day he decided to go to America, could never have known that he had set upon a path that would lead him to write a series of pamphlets that would inspire two of the most profound revolutions in world history.

So too are we involved in a great revolution, perhaps the greatest revolution in human history. By supporting the work of the Finger Lakes Land Trust we are helping to foment a change in our perception of ownership, and once we begin to change the idea of whether nature and other species can be "owned," then we begin to change our perception of sovereignty. And once something becomes sovereign, then we begin to change our perception of sanctity. And once that is altered, we begin to change our idea of sacred. And each of these things follows in an exorable sequence of logic, one after the other.

In our support of and participation in the work of the Finger Lakes Land Trust, we are helping to create this change, to pave the way for wisdom—to be wise in our sense and knowledge of place, and of its sacred worth.

—Rob Young

Exercise your membership
rights by voting
for the 2002-2003 Board of Directors
candidates today. Please see the
"Candidates for Election to the Finger
Lakes Land Trust Board of Directors"
insert for details.

BUSINESS PARTNER PROFILE

Wineries

If you came to our holiday party in December, it's likely you sampled the donated wares of two of our newest business members: Standing Stone Vineyards and Lamoreaux Landing Wine Cellars, both of Lodi, New York. Both wineries are located along the eastern side of Seneca Lake, where the soil and microclimate are perfect for the finicky *Vitus vinifera* grapes from Mediterranean climes which are used to make their wines. Seneca Lake is especially deep here. Its thermal mass, with the prevailing winds, moderate the local climate and prevent early warm spells and early frosts that might otherwise destroy the crop.

"The most important thing is the dirt," says Standing Stone's Marti Macinski. Experts from France chose the land back in the 1960s for Gold Seal Vineyards as the best in the Finger Lakes for Chardonnay grapes. Marti and Tom Macinski have owned the vineyards for 10 years now and produce a small variety of red and white wines with a list of awards as long as my arm! They are out in the vineyards every day—every season has its jobs. This kind of attention allows them to minimize pesticide use and to pick the grapes at exactly the right time. "We aim for excellence through attention to detail," says Marti. Visit their website at www.standingstonewines.com for details on their wines and to plan your visit for a tasting.

Lamoreaux Landing's Mark Wagner runs a small winery where most things get done by hand. As Mark and I talked, some of those hands were down in the cellar bottling the 2000 Pinot Noir. Lamoreaux is best known for their Chardonnay; they also produce sparkling wines, which is unusual for a small winery. Mark has been growing grapes all his life. He started this winery in 1990 and has won hundreds of awards, beginning with his very first vintage. Visit the stunning Greek-temple-inspired home of Lamoreaux Landing for a tasting and check out their website at www.fingerlakes.net/lamoreaux.

—Gail Blake

"The most important thing is the dirt,"

says Standing Stone's Marti Macinski.

Correction

Our winter issue misspelled the name of one of the donors of our new conservation easement in Big Flats. Silvie and Michael's last name is Wiczorek.

Our sincere apologies!

Need the Perfect Gift for your land-loving friends?

Stop by the office and check out our t-shirts, Leopold benches, and "tree-free" kenaf note cards.

And now, you can give a gift membership or adopt a cerulean warbler online at www.fllt.org

Wish List

Floor Lamp
Folding Card Tables
Kitchen Chairs
Tea Kettle
Hand Truck

Thank You to Our New and Renewing Business Members

Angelheart Designs, *Spencer*
Alternatives Federal Credit Union, *Ithaca*
Banfield and Associates, *Ithaca*
Borg-Warner Automotive, *Ithaca*
Cayuga Lake National Bank,
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Cayuga Landscape, *Ithaca*
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Healing Hands of Ithaca, *Ithaca*
Ithaca Bakery, *Ithaca*
Ithaca Foreign Car Service, *Ithaca*
Stephen Ladenheim, D.D.S., *Syracuse*
Lamoreaux Landing Wine Cellars, *Lodi*
M&T Bank, *Regional*
Money With A Mission, *Ithaca*
Muddy Paws Pottery, *Newfield*
Performance Systems Contracting, *Ithaca*
Savings Bank of the Finger Lakes,
Regional
Southern Tier Custom Fabricators,
Elmira Heights
Standing Stone Vineyards, *Lodi*
Superior Disposal, *Newfield*
TEAM Environmental Services, *Ithaca*

A CLOSER LOOK

Bears

I don't have a bear story, but I know several people who do. My next-door neighbor, for one. On a rare evening last fall when I'd actually gone out on the town, a big black bear sauntered about in her yard for awhile, just opposite my driveway, stopping every car that passed.

Black bears, long extirpated from the Southern Tier and the Finger Lakes, are pressing north from Pennsylvania's adjoining tier of counties—which, after all, are only a couple of bear-travel-days away. Most are young, transient males, newly on their own, says Lou Berchielli, black bear specialist with the New York Department of Environmental Conservation. They won't be ready to mate until they're about four years old, so sojourning for a year or two with us is an "out of sight, out of mind" solution for the conflicts they'd otherwise face with bigger, bossier males.

Sometimes even a female may wander up from Pennsylvania. One recently denned for the winter in Broome County, while several have denned and borne cubs in Steuben County. And neighbors report that black bears den at the Land Trust's Steege Hill Nature Preserve in Big Flats, Chemung County.

It looks like bears are ready for re-entry into their ancestral domain. But are we ready for them? Bears yank down bird feeders (they love sunflower seeds), root through compost piles, and trash the garbage. Sure, electric fences (small solar panels can power them) and sturdy, secure sheds can keep them away from these and suchlike temptations—barbecue grills, pet food, and more. But can't bears be dangerous; say, if you inadvertently get between a mom and her cubs?

Not likely, says Berchielli. In the 20 years he's been working with bears, he's known of only one "mom-defending-cubs" attack—back in the 70s, when a teenager kidnapped two cubs. He'd snatched them and was running off when the mom nailed him in the butt. He dropped the babes and scrambled up a tree; she took off with the cubs; end of story.

As with any wild animal, respect is the name of the game: don't crowd a bear in what is just as much its territory as yours. "If a bear feels you've gotten too close, it may huff, snap its jaws, and stomp the ground," says Berchielli. "It may even 'bluff charge'. Stand your ground, then slowly back away. And if you run—well, sure, a bear may follow you. Bears are curious."

Indeed, for a creature with such formidable teeth and claws, it's amazing how little flesh bears actually crave. Roughly 80 percent of what bears eat is tender leaves and shoots in the spring, berries and nuts during summer and fall. But they love grubs and such. "When bears eat road kill, it's likely the fly larva that's attracting them," says Berchielli. Although there may be parts of the country where bears take sheep, goats, or deer (or—in Canada—moose), Berchielli's never seen them kill such "game" in New York—even in the Catskills and the Adirondacks, where bears have long held their own.

It's no wonder bears raid bird feeders, when you consider that sunflower seeds are potent, high-energy sources of the nutri-



Photo by ©Tony Newlin, www.tonynewlin.com

Black bear

ents they need to make it through the winter. Bears really pack on the pounds, increasing their body weight by a third; females especially have to watch their weight. After all, every second year they've got to birth and nurse their young while snoozing away until spring green-up is well underway. Yet bears don't actually hibernate. "If you inadvertently disturb a bear while it's denning, it can get up and run off," says Berchielli. "That's different from the true hibernators, like woodchucks or bats."

And where will our returning bears den up? It may be several centuries before the forests we have saved are like those of yore, with their enormous hollow trees. And caves or rock clefts in our region are few. "We've found bears digging deep dens into big heaps of bulldozed earth," says Berchielli. In fact, they may even curl up for the winter in a briar patch or under a blow-down.

Tough cookies, these bears. And a century from now, will those beautiful forests we've protected provide adequate home range for such awesome beasts? Hard to say. Female bears need 10 square miles; to have adequate access to females, males range over 100 square miles; having enough of both sexes to prevent inbreeding is crucial.

Does welcoming back beasts that may inconvenience us by knocking over bird feeders and tearing through the trash seem like maybe a bad idea? Posing the question in the context of land preservation over decades and centuries to come perhaps suggests an answer. For if we care about bears—these majestic creatures that share our world and need plenty of room in order to survive—then we must care about more than pretty places, but about quality habitat over entire ecosystems, however or by whom the land itself is owned.

—Mary Woodsen

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SPRING 2002 CALENDAR:

Saturday, April 13, 7 PM: Woodcock Watch at Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve in West Danby. Meet toward east end of Walding Lane, just before the woods. From Ithaca, take route 13 south, then 34/96. Pass W. Danby Fire Station, and take next left on Walding Lane. Led by Geo Kloppel and Betsy Darlington.

Sunday, May 5, 12 noon-5 PM: ANNUAL CELEBRATION. See details in insert!

Sunday, May 12, 2 PM: Mothers Day Plant Walk at the new addition to the Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve. Co-sponsored by the Native Plant Society of Ithaca. From Ithaca, take route 13 south, then 34/96. Go about 7 miles, to the preserve parking lot, about 1/2 mile beyond the W. Danby Fire Station. Please arrive promptly—we might be carpooling to the small fishing access parking area next to the railroad tracks on Station Rd.

Saturday, June 1, 1 PM: Lick Brook Loop Trail Dedication and nature hike at the Sweedler Nature Preserve. Come celebrate National Trails Day at this event, co-sponsored with the Cayuga Trails Club. A beautiful new route of the Finger Lakes Trail in the Sweedler Preserve that was completed last summer, and the existing FLT, make a great loop trail of about two miles. Hike is strenuous. From route 13/34/96 south of Ithaca, take Sand Bank Rd. (just south of Buttermilk Falls State Park). Go right where the road splits at Town Line Rd. From route 96B south of Ithaca, take West King Rd. to Sand Bank Rd. Follow Sand Bank Rd. to Town Line Rd. Turn left on Town Line Rd. Preserve is on the right. Contact Tom Reimers if questions at 607-272-8679 or nyhiker@localnet.com.

Sunday, June 9, 9 AM: Nature Walk at the new Robert and Mary Carver King Preserve. From Ithaca, go east on route 79 to Richford. Turn right on route 38, then right on Andersen Hill Rd. (at the "55 MPH" sign, just beyond the village). This will make a right-angle turn up the hill. Go about 1/3 mile and park in or near the logging road, on the right. Led by Tom Reimers and Betsy Darlington.

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, or check our website: www.fltl.org.