



# THE LAND STEWARD

Newsletter of the Finger Lakes Land Trust

Vol. 17, No. 2

*working to protect the natural integrity of the Finger Lakes Region*

Spring 2005

## Land Trust Partners with Ontario County – Launching Campaign to Save Grimes Glen

With the recent announcement of a \$150,000 fundraising campaign, the Land Trust launched the first phase of an innovative partnership with Ontario County to conserve Grimes Glen, a popular scenic gorge located in the town of Naples. The Land Trust and County will work together to acquire 27 acres from landowner Don Braun that he has traditionally made available for public use. Once purchased, the lands will be managed as an addition to the Ontario County Park System.

Grimes Glen is well known for its scenic waterfalls as well as its paleontological significance; the New York State Museum today displays a tree fossil recovered from the Glen that has been described as “one of the finest Devonian plant fossils ever discovered.”

The Glen’s pristine forests also harbor an abundance of wildflowers and play an important role in maintaining water quality within the creek as well as Canandaigua Lake. Just downstream from the Glen, the creek’s clean waters flow through the village of Naples and into Naples Creek, a popular trout stream. Naples Creek, in turn, flows a short distance northward into Canandaigua Lake.

For many years, landowner Don Braun has kept his property open to the public. Located just outside the village of Naples, a gravel drive and parking area provide easy access to the Glen. Naples residents and visitors alike have long enjoyed the summer pastime of hiking through the Glen’s streamside forests and wading in the cool waters of Grimes Creek.



ANDREW ZEPP

*Grimes Glen, with its majestic waterfalls and streamside forest, will be protected for all to enjoy*

continued on page 2

## Tompkins County Conservation Easement Protects Farmland and Forest for the Future



BETSY DARLINGTON

*Historic barn on the McConkey property*

The Land Trust is excited to announce a new conservation easement, protecting 168 acres of land in Enfield, owned by Jim and Gladys McConkey. This expansive property in the Taughannock Creek watershed includes roughly 100 acres of active farmland. The balance is largely forested.

“We are grateful to the McConkeys for their wonderful gift to the Land Trust and the community, says Land Trust Executive Director Andy Zepp. Their easement ensures the future of their wonderful farm views which can be enjoyed by anyone who drives down Waterburg or Aiken Road.

The property stands at the corner of Waterburg and Aiken roads. To the south lies an uninterrupted view of Connecticut Hill. In order to preserve this open view, the McConkeys fought to have high tension wires routed down an alternative path. A gentle rise of earth obscures every house between here and the horizon. The Finger Lakes National Forest can

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**PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE LAND TRUST’S 16<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING ON SATURDAY, APRIL 23RD AT STEAMBOAT LANDING IN CANANDAIGUA. (SEE INSERT FOR DETAILS!)**



# PERSPECTIVES

Over the past 15 years, the Land Trust has worked with 61 families who voluntarily made a commitment to the future of our region by donating either land or a conservation easement. Thanks to their generosity, we can all enjoy a stroll through the beautiful forest at our new Plymouth Woods Preserve, for example, which is profiled in this issue. Through 48 different easement donations, we also benefit from conservation of watershed lands, wildlife habitat, productive farmland and scenic vistas — just a few of our favorite things.

Many of these landowners have benefited from federal tax incentives that support private land conservation efforts across the nation. Although each owner ultimately chose to make a donation out of a deep commitment to the

land, tax incentives have played a big part in what we have been able to do together. As this issue of *The Land Steward* goes to press, however, these incentives are at risk. Responding to concerns over cases of abuse of deductions, the Joint Committee on Taxation in Congress has proposed severely curtailing incentives for the donation of land and easements.

Under the proposed new rules, conservation easement donations involving properties that include a landowner's personal residence would no longer be considered tax deductible. On other properties, the maximum deduction possible would be reduced from 100 percent of its fair market value to only 33 percent. Gifts of land would only be deductible on the basis of their original cost, as opposed to their current fair market value

If enacted, these proposals would have a significant adverse impact upon the Land Trust's work. These tax incentives are an integral part of our efforts and allow landowners to offset some of the very real costs associated with the donation of land or an easement.

The Land Trust is right now working with the Land Trust Alliance (LTA) and other partners to communicate with our congressional delegation and express our concern. To learn more about these proposals, and what you can do, please visit the LTA's web site at [www.lta.org](http://www.lta.org) or call the Land Trust's Ithaca office.

— Andrew E. Zepp,  
Executive Director



ANDREW ZEPP

*The high falls at Grimes Glen*

## Land Trust Partners with Ontario County...

continued from cover

The Land Trust has already secured a purchase option for the property and will assume lead responsibility for raising the funds needed to acquire the site. Once sufficient funds have been raised, the Land Trust will buy the property, and then convey the land as a gift to Ontario County, subject to a conservation easement. The County will ultimately be responsible for day-to-day management of the natural area.

Ontario County Executive Geoff Astles says, "The Grimes Glen project is public/private cooperation at its finest, made possible by the public spirit of Mr. Braun and the support of the Finger Lakes Land Trust for the benefit of all."

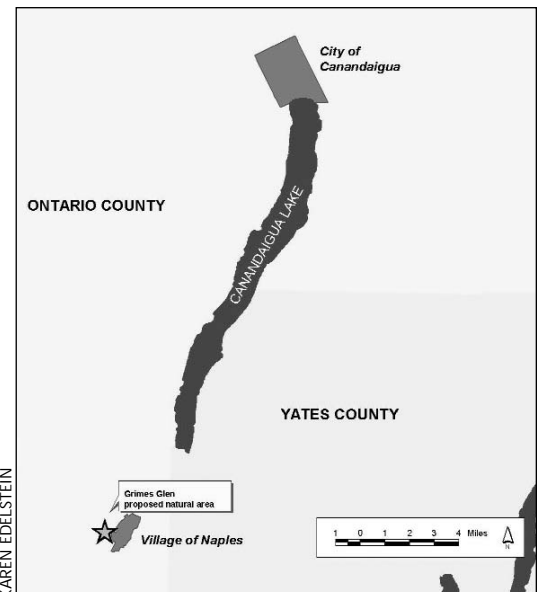
"We are delighted to have the opportunity to work with the County to continue Don's tradition of stewardship at the site," says Land Trust Executive Director Andy Zepp. "By working together, we can ensure the future of this outstanding natural area."

The Land Trust has established a fundraising goal of \$150,000 to cover the cost of purchasing the land, provide for a modest stewardship endowment for the conservation easement to be held on the property, and to fund ongoing efforts to develop long-term conservation plans for sensitive lands within the Grimes Creek

Watershed and other areas within Ontario County.

One third of this amount has already been raised through the Land Trust's successful Nature's Gift fundraising campaign, which was completed last year to fund land protection efforts in the western Finger Lakes. Funds from this campaign have also supported the Land Trust's recent partnership with the town of South Bristol to conserve lands on the hillside above Canandaigua Lake and provided for long-term stewardship of the Land Trust's preserves at Great Hill and Wesley Hill.

The Land Trust intends to lead guided field trips to the Glen later this year as part of its fundraising efforts. For additional information, check out the Land Trust's web site at [www.flt.org](http://www.flt.org) or call the Canandaigua office at (585) 394-4189.



KAREN EDELSTEIN

# PRESERVE PROFILE

## A Walk Through Plymouth Woods

Visitors to the Plymouth Woods preserve near Elmira are greeted by a stone tablet inscribed with Robert Frost's well-known poem "Stopping By Woods on a Snowy Evening."

*Whose woods these are I think I know.  
His house is in the village, though;  
He will not see me stopping here  
To watch his woods fill up with snow....*

The poem's mood of reflection, a moment of quiet solitude stolen from the midst of life's persistent duties, is entirely appropriate to this lovely 90-acre preserve tucked away in the hills west of the Chemung River. The lines were chosen by retired Elmira physician Dr. Edward Grandt. These were *his* woods for many years before he donated the property to the Land Trust in 2003, and he had on many winter evenings quietly watched them fill with snow before returning to his house in town.

Through the Land Trust, Dr. Grandt has ensured that his mature woods and small meadows belong forever to all who want to visit. "I thought at the time by giving the land near Elmira, where there is only one preserve, I might make people more aware of the importance of keeping wild places around us," he said.

Plymouth Woods is the Land Trust's second acquisition within the stretch of forested highlands bordering the Chemung River between Corning and Elmira. The Steege Hill preserve lies a mile or so north of Plymouth Woods.

Bordered on the north and east sides by handsome fieldstone walls dating back to the first farming use of the land roughly two centuries ago, Plymouth Woods is now a fine example of mature oak-hickory forest. The forest composition is somewhat different from what Finger Lakes residents further north are used to. Oak and hickory far outnumber maple and beech, and there are fine understory stands of mountain laurel and flowering dogwood, a delight in spring. It is truly a Southern Tier forest habitat.

Of particular interest, perhaps, are American chestnut trees scattered throughout the preserve. Once common in the northeast, the American chestnut is virtually gone from our forests, decimated by a fungus blight. The Plymouth Woods trees have attracted the interest of the

American Chestnut Society, which collects nuts from healthy trees and cultivates them for transplantation in an effort to preserve the species.

The open woods afford birders clear views of wild turkeys, woodpeckers (including pileated woodpeckers), rose-breasted grosbeaks, wood thrushes and many warblers. Less common residents, such as the winter wren and the black-billed cuckoo, are a special treat.

Winter tracking in Plymouth Woods reveals an abundance of white-tailed deer and red foxes, as well as eastern cottontail rabbits. The land is also home to porcupines, rare in the Southern Tier and Finger Lakes and, rarer still, black bears. The bears may be attracted to the larvae and eggs of the Allegheny mound ant, whose large colonies can be seen in the meadow in the northeast corner of the preserve.

Although little is known of the human history of this land, some stories passed on from recent owners lend even more color to an already lovely and lively place.

The preserve's name comes from a 1937 Plymouth automobile, pieces of which Dr. Grandt discovered scattered across the property when he bought it from a local farmer. As the story goes, the farmer dismantled the car, scuttled but apparently still in running condition, and spread the pieces around the woods, fear-



EBEN McLANE

*The shiny grill of a 1937 Plymouth, the preserve's namesake, proudly welcomes visitors to this special place*

ing that his children might drive the car off the land onto nearby public roads and end up hurting themselves. Dr. Grandt carted the pieces away, except the front grille which had caught his imagination. He had it cleaned up at a nearby body shop and made it the centerpiece of the welcome sign at the parking area.

For years Dr. Grandt actively maintained the property he and his family took so much pleasure in during their hiking and camping trips. They opened the trails that visitors now enjoy, cleared a small meadow with beautiful southern views, and even planted buckwheat along the meadow borders for wildlife consumption.

An obstetrician, Dr. Grandt needed a way in pre-cellphone, pre-pager days to remain in touch with the hospital in case one of his patients went into labor while he was working on the land. So he had a friend at the telephone company run a line through tree branches into the middle of the woods to a call box. A bell strung high in a nearby oak alerted him of a call wherever he might be on the property, and in short order he was back in town, ready for work in the delivery room.

The Land Trust owes much to Dr. Grandt's generosity and his vision of sharing Plymouth Woods with the public.

—Eben McLane

### Plymouth Woods Dedication

Please join us on Saturday, June 4th  
at 1:30 pm to help us celebrate  
the opening of our newest preserve.

#### Directions to Plymouth Woods:

From Route 17 east of Elmira, take the Church St./Route 352 exit (Exit 56). Go through Elmira and turn left on Route 225 (Hendy Creek Rd.). Go approx. 3 miles and turn right on Kneale Rd. Go 0.4 miles to the preserve parking area, on your right.



# REFLECTIONS ON CONSERVATION

## The Rewards of Protecting Our Beloved Land

In 1962, my family moved from Ithaca to a classical revival farmhouse at a country crossroads in the town of Enfield. Twenty years after we bought that old house and the surrounding fields and woods, I wrote an autobiographical essay, “The Laughter of Zeus,” that early on describes my feelings upon bringing our first belongings into our new dwelling:

“I looked out the window at the wild-rose brambles just beyond the glass and at a field of corn whose dark-green leaves were shimmering in the August sunlight, and I was caught by the

global holocaust made me sharply aware of how much I loved my wife and children, as well as the natural world from which we had come and to which we would return. I was in pursuit of as much peace and permanence as I could find.

In remembering my personal feelings, I’ve also been aware of those of Gladys, married to me for sixty years, and those of all three of our sons. Though our professions have sent us in different directions, the five of us share similar spiritual values. A reader of my autobiographical work, particularly of *Court of Memory* and *Stories from My Life with the Other Animals*, will find much evidence of the fulfillment provided all of us by this house and its surrounding fields and woods. Two sons have married, and live with their families in adjacent country houses near the Delaware River in New Jersey; they look from their windows at their own meadows and woods. The third son ultimately returned to the farmhouse in which all three grew to maturity, his initial reason being that we had plenty of pasture for some goats he had just bought.

Nobody in my family wants to relinquish the house and landscape each has cherished for more than forty years, but all five of us recognize that inevitably we must. Like the Iroquois who once had settlements nearby, we always have felt ourselves fortunate stewards rather than owners of property. Our sons want to preserve the beauty of the land, in actuality as well as in memory: they are gratified that Gladys and I have arranged with the Finger Lakes Land Trust for a conservation easement on the majority of our 225 acres. Cultivation of the fields that provide us our most lovely vistas will follow the best environmental practices, and the woods will be used as a model for the kind of forestry management that, oblivious to immediate profit, looks to the future: for the sake of the many maturing and

mature healthy specimens and their progeny, only the diseased or otherwise detrimental trees will be removed.

Our house, which is nearly 175 years old, is intimately connected with the land, for it was built from trees that were harvested so that fields could be cultivated. Those trees were turned into beams and planks at the sawmill that long ago stood by the creek a short distance down Aiken Road. Though it has eroded—as have some earthworks of unknown origin farther up the stream, at the very center of the woods—the dam that made the millpond is still discernible.

Eventually others will gain legal title to this property. If Gladys and I are still alive when that happens, we can describe to the new owners everything that fascinates us about the land. We can also pass on to them what has been transmitted orally from purchaser to purchaser from the time the property was first sold: the carpenter who built the house was paid fifty dollars and all the hard cider he could drink. In addition, we can tell those new proprietors that the loveliness surrounding their house will be protected in perpetuity.

—Jim McConkey



BETSY DARLINGTON

Hardwood forest along creek on the McConkey property in Enfield

sense of a lovely strangeness that yet was familiar—a response so intense as to be astonishing, and of the kind that perhaps comes only when the outer eye perceives what the inner one, which is blind to everything but the ideal, has all along visualized as the omphalos of the universe, as its long-sought home.”

Fully to explain such a response would require a book that begins with some of my earliest memories; here I can suggest only the most obvious reasons. I grew up during the years of the Great Depression, and my childhood was anything but stable. From the time of my birth onward, my father—always in search of employment more suitable to his talents and dreams—moved his family at least once every year to some new apartment or house in major urban centers of the East, Midwest, and South. As a consequence, I had always wanted my family more firmly attached to a specific place, especially to one in which we could sense the continuity within the flow of nature. (Even as an adolescent, I had dreamed of living in an old house in the country or a quiet village.) By the time we moved into the farmhouse, the Cold War was well underway, threatening everybody and every living thing with nuclear annihilation. The possibility of such a

# LEGISLATIVE NEWS – SPRING 2005

*Recent experience has shown us that much environmental action for at least the next four years is less likely to come from legislative action than from legal challenges to Executive Orders from the White House. Environmental groups such as the Natural Resources Defense Council and the Sierra Club, or the states and their Attorneys General can be expected to take the lead in such challenges. For example, last year the Bush administration changed some of the restrictions in the Clean Water Act, softening the rules governing wetland protection, so that under current EPA guidelines wetlands that do not directly drain into a lake or pond do not require protection. After a Syracuse housing project was proposed on a 19-acre wetland, New York's Attorney General Eliot Spitzer threatened a lawsuit aimed at reversing the federal government's interpretation of wetland protection. Recently the suit was resolved, protecting the acreage in question as a federal wetland and scuttling the development project.*

## IN ALBANY

It is early in the legislative year. The governor has presented his budget to the legislature, and the item of greatest interest to land trusts is the Environmental Protection Fund budget. The figures are the same as last year: \$125 million for land protection, \$500,000 of which is allocated to the Land Trust Alliance of New York, which provides grants to land trusts statewide to be used for land acquisition. Some of the \$125 million will be used by the state to purchase 20,000 acres of forest preserve and 84,000 acres of conservation easements in the Adirondack Park from the Domtar Paper Co.

Land Trust members will be heartened to know that, while not directly related to land preservation, the State

has reached an agreement with operators of four coal-fired power plants to dramatically reduce their toxic air emissions. Governor Pataki, who brokered this agreement with help from Attorney General Spitzer, called this move the largest single reduction of pollution ever in New York. The greatest reductions will be nitrogen oxide and sulfur dioxide emissions, the primary components of acid rain, which threatens the health of ecosystems throughout Central New York. Coal-fired power plants are also the country's largest unregulated source of mercury pollution affecting our water resources. Two of the New York plants are near Buffalo, one is in Broome County and one is in Yates County. The AES Cayuga Plant (aka Milliken Station) was not included in the discussion

because it already uses "state of the art" emissions equipment.

## IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

Congress is back at work, but little in the way of environmental legislation is on the immediate horizon. We are likely to hear more debate over private use of public lands, primarily in Western states and Alaska. Drilling for oil in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge remains an administration energy priority.

The Land Trust is still interested in passage of the "Charities Bill" (H.R. 7), which would increase tax deductions for land donors and donors of conservation easements. It has not been acted upon in the last two sessions of Congress.

—Merry Jo Bauer

## Tompkins County Conservation Easement Protects...

*continued from cover*

be seen off to the west.

The McConkey farmland and the patchwork of neighboring farms are well worth preserving as a reminder of our agrarian roots. Well-managed farmland contributes enormously to our economic base and preserves scenic open space.

Preserving and managing the McConkey parcel's two streams and wetlands also play an important role in the watershed as a whole. Maintaining forested buffers for stream corridors is one of the environmental goals of the Tompkins County comprehensive plan, as it is also for the Land Trust. A forest management plan is in place for the introduction of oak, hickory, cherry, white pine, basswood and ash with seed and seedlings from other woodlands. Strengthening the forest's genetic diversity will surely keep this beautiful property healthy for generations to come.

"It is encouraging to see private landowners working with the Land Trust to protect agricultural land as well as other important natural features," said Ed Marx, Tompkins County Commissioner of Planning.

Marx applauds this new easement for its consistency with the county's new comprehensive plan. Formally adopted by the county legislature in December 2004, the plan has a broad charter to guide development decisions affecting the quality of life for

county residents. Priorities for the protection of the environment, water resources, agriculture and natural features are among the plan's cornerstones.

Jim McConkey is an acclaimed author, and his family homestead figures prominently in many of his stories. His motivation for protecting the land from future development and ensuring its proper management comes from a humble love for the place. "We always have felt ourselves fortunate stewards rather than owners of property," he said.

I thoroughly enjoyed my afternoon with Jim and Gladys, hearing their tales from nearly 40 years on this patch of earth. They used to sleep from time to time in a tree house that Jim built in the woods, literally immersed in nature. It must be satisfying for them to know that although the tree house has fallen apart by now, these woods and open spaces will endure.

—Rich Sheiman



*Conservation Easement Donors  
Gladys and Jim McConkey*

BETSY DARLINGTON

# Scenes' *from our Protected Lands...*

JIM KERSTING



*Winter morning in Grimes Glen (see top of page 1)*

BETSY DARLINGTON



*Birding at the Dorothy McIlroy Bird Sanctuary (see insert for McIlroy nature walk on May 28th)*

## Thank you

Our sincere appreciation to the following volunteers for their diligent efforts in patrolling the Steege Hill Nature Preserve during last fall's hunting season:

Gail Blake, Catherine Caneau, Vinnie Collins, Bob Corneau, Ed Hart, Steve Jacobsen, Jim Kersting, Howard London, Linda Spielman, and Irene Szabo.

BETSY DARLINGTON



*Sunset frog walk at the Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve (see insert for "Sunset Symphony" at Lindsay-Parsons on May 21st)*





*New easement donors, Jim and Gladys McConkey, touring their property with Board Member Tom Reimers (see bottom of page 1)*

## Wish List

Volunteer  
photographer(s)  
available to take  
photographs of our  
nature preserves and  
special events.

*“In the end, our society will be defined not only by what we create, but by what we refuse to destroy.”*

— JOHN SAWHILL



*Bird watchers at the Salmon Creek Bird Sanctuary (see insert for “Seeing Ceruleans” at Salmon Creek on June 11th)*



*Forested wetland at the Dorothy McIlroy Bird Sanctuary*

# THANK YOU!

*The Land Trust's work is made possible through the efforts of over 1500 members and supporters. Your commitment to this region and the natural world has enabled us to conserve more than 7,000 acres of rolling hills, pristine forests, deep ravines, and productive farmland in the Finger Lakes region.*

*Thank you to all of our supporters and, in particular, those who made leadership gifts in 2004.*

## **Land and Conservation Easement Donors**

Donald and Margot Hughes  
Bob McGuire and Judy Keil  
Rune Hill Retreat Center  
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## Leopold Center Open House

**Tuesday, April 12, 2005  
 7:00-9:00pm**

Land Trust members and prospective members are invited to an open house at the newly renovated Leopold Center, the Land Trust's headquarters in downtown Ithaca. Guests will have the opportunity to learn about current Land Trust projects, gather information on Land Trust nature preserves, and learn about this summer's Talks and Treks series. Light refreshments will be served. Please join us!

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# *Keeping Bald Eagles in Sight*

*A pair of adult bald eagles (Haliaeetus leucocephalus)*

On a Sunday morning in late January, Paul Lattimore of Auburn stood on his lawn looking through a pair of binoculars at a large raft of winter ducks on the north end of Owasco Lake. Suddenly, the ducks spooked, and a hundred or so took to the sky.

"I panned my binoculars south and saw a bald eagle had grabbed a mallard," Lattimore said. "The eagle was fighting to get airborne and the mallard was in its talons."

Grasping the flapping duck, the eagle flew along the shoreline over Lattimore's house. The duck shook itself loose and fell in the water. The eagle made a pass, the duck dove, and after circling twice, the eagle flew off.

"I've lived on the lake since I was a child, some 40 years," Lattimore added. "That's the first time I've seen an eagle on the lake."

The chances of sighting a bald eagle are indeed going up. After plummeting to endangered species status by the early 1960s, their numbers are now climbing in New York State and elsewhere. In the 1950s and 1960s, widespread use of the pesticide DDT contaminated water sources the bald eagles depended upon. Although this large bird, with a wingspan of six to seven feet, may feed on waterfowl and small mammals, its primary prey is fish, whose fatty tissues are known to accumulate chemicals. A diet of DDT-laden fish made the birds' eggshells fragile, and most bald eagle chicks died before they hatched. Ironically, this great country almost lost sight of its national symbol completely. By 1970, only one nesting pair remained in the state.

The country banned DDT in 1972. In 1976, the New York State Bald Eagle Restoration Project began reestablishing breeding birds in the state. Between 1976 and 1988, young bald eagles were moved, mostly from Alaska, and hand-reared to independence. Almost 200 were released in New York state. Ten breeding pairs had nests by 1989, and the project ended with its goal attained.

The birds prefer areas with few people, near large lakes, swamps, marshes and along rivers where there is open water for

them to fish. In New York State, most nests can be found in the southern Catskill region along the Delaware River and to the north between the Hudson and St. Lawrence rivers. Last year's count of 84 potential breeding pairs marked a high point since restoration began, according to the 2004 New York State Bald Eagle Report. The state's annual survey occurs during the first few weeks of January. In 2004, the 363 total bald eagle sightings added up to another record.

Bill Ostrander, of the Chemung Valley Audubon Society, acknowledges that even around the Finger Lakes region, sightings have increased in the last three or four years. Growing up in Elmira, he saw a stray bird once in his teens. During this year's annual survey, Ostrander spotted two bald eagles near Elmira. He also glimpsed a golden eagle, an extremely rare bird for the area, especially in winter. The golden eagle was perched in the Land Trust's Steege Hill Preserve, west of Elmira.

The N.Y. S. Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) considers human presence and loss of key habitat as the eagle's biggest threat. Identifying and protecting key habitats will be essential for future populations to succeed, the bald eagle report cautions. If anecdotal evidence is any indication, Ostrander provided more proof of the bald eagle's well-being during a trip to the Montezuma Wetlands Complex at the north end of Cayuga Lake last September.

"I observed 16 bald eagles in one day," he marveled.

While it's glorious to see bald eagles in person, the DEC warns that the birds have excellent eyesight and are easily disturbed. Steering clear of nests is crucial for keeping them around. Still, a careful glimpse, like the one Paul Lattimore was privileged to get in January, can leave a lasting impression.

"Seeing that bird in action will be in my mind forever," Lattimore said. "It's a hopeful sign to me that the eagles are now possible in the area."

—Krishna Ramanujan



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## SPRING 2005 CALENDAR

### Tuesday, April 12, 7:00-9:00 pm: *Open House at the Leopold Center.*

Meet fellow Land Trust members and prospective members at the newly renovated Leopold Center, the Land Trust's headquarters in downtown Ithaca. Guests will have an opportunity to learn about current projects, gather information on our nature preserves, and learn about this summer's *Talks and Treks* series. Light refreshments will be served. Please join us!

**Saturday, April 16, 10:00 am: *Work Party at the Dorothy McIlroy Bird Sanctuary.*** See insert for details.

**Saturday, April 23, 11:30 am: *Annual Meeting in Canandaigua.*** Please join us for the Land Trust's 16th Annual Meeting at Steamboat Landing, 205 Lakeshore Drive in Canandaigua. (See insert for details and reservation form.)

**Saturday, April 30, 10:00 am: *Work Party at the High Vista Preserve.*** See insert for details.

**Saturday, May 7, 9:00 am: *Garlic Mustard Pull at the Wesley Hill Preserve.*** See insert for details.

**Saturday, May 7, 9:30 am: *Garlic Mustard Pull at the Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve, with the Finger Lakes Native Plant Society.*** See insert for details.

**Saturday, June 4, 1:30 pm: *Dedication of the Plymouth Woods Preserve.*** Join us in celebrating the opening of our newest preserve. See page three for directions.

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR 2005 TALKS AND TREKS SERIES. SEE INSERT FOR PROGRAM DETAILS.**

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

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