



THE LAND STEWARD

Newsletter of the Finger Lakes Land Trust

Vol. 14, No. 1

working to protect the natural integrity of the Finger Lakes Region

Winter 2001–2002

Robert and Mary King Preserve will protect Tioga County hills forever

I had the pleasure of visiting our new Robert and Mary Carver King Preserve with Betsy Darlington and Tom Reimers on a bright morning in early October. A trace of snow, the first of the season, just dusted the ground, but the colors were glorious. As we walked in along an old farm road from the south edge of the preserve, marveling over the witch hazel in bloom and black birch saplings, Betsy looked across to the south-facing slope covered with native hardwoods and announced, “I declare peak color to be right now on this slope!” What a perfect day!

The preserve is just south of the village of Richford in Tioga County on slopes to the west of Route 38 off Andersen Hill Road. Its 161 acres are made up of two hillsides divided by a creek valley that runs roughly west to east and drains into the East Branch of Owego Creek. A short distance to the west is Andersen Hill State Forest.

Much of the southern end of the preserve is a meadow that was probably an old farm field 35 or 40 years ago. There is a pond at the edge of this meadow (which looks like good salamander habitat) that Tom says has filled in quite a bit since he



Photo by Betsy Darlington

View of the forested hillsides on the King property protected by a conservation easement, adjacent to the King Preserve.

first saw it about five years ago. Some apple trees around the pond (with tasty apples!) point to more historical farming activity
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Sing Sing Creek Natural Area in Chemung County Conserved



Photo by Betsy Darlington

View of Sing Sing Creek from the Fridie easement land.

A lovely 47-acre tract along Sing Sing Creek in Big Flats is the setting of our first conservation easement in Chemung County.

Donor John Fridie has memories of the place stretching back over 62 years. One area, with tall, straight white pines, was a dense grove of young pine— so dense you couldn't see through it. Another area, now thick with brush and young trees, was a farm field. The forest in the northeast corner includes an unusual grove of white cedars, planted in the 1920s by Boy Scouts working through the Civilian Conservation Corps. John says these haven't grown much for many years. A particularly lovely place—a trail high above the creek, framed by muscledogwood trees and tall red oak— was so dense back then with gray dogwood that you could barely get through. On the other hand, a forested section with large oaks has hardly changed, the trees only slightly larger than he remembers them being. Forester Michael DeMunn reports that two of the white oaks are probably about 300 years old.

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JOIN US FOR A WINTER HIKE! SEE PAGE 8 FOR DETAILS.

SIGN OF THE LONE PINE



Homeland Security

Just how is a community supposed to go about providing security for a homeland? Doubtless in the short run, it makes sense to

focus on the usual concerns of civil defense— security personnel, public health, armaments. But we all know that will not get us the kind of enduring security we yearn for during these uncertain times. That will not provide a sense of homeland.

“There are moments in history where the fabric of everyday life unravels,” wrote playwright Tony Kushner, “and there is this unstable dynamism that allows for incredible social change in short periods of time. People and the world they’re living in can be utterly transformed, either for the good or the bad, or some mixture of the two.” Can we find sufficient collective vision to look at our new awareness of our vulnerability and recognize the scope, scale, and direction of change that is needed? This might well be our opportunity to finally get serious about creating a truly sustainable way of life here in the Finger Lakes, one that provides us with essential security by assuring a regional basis for food, water, and energy.

During my interview for this job six years ago, I remember we were talking about social change and environmental ethics when our founding president, Carl Leopold, suggested that land trust work was fundamental to a sustainable future because “land is so basic.” And he’s right. A key premise for creating a sustainable community is that a sound ecological infrastructure undergirds the interacting human enterprises. This means clean water, healthy forests, and plenty of fertile soils.

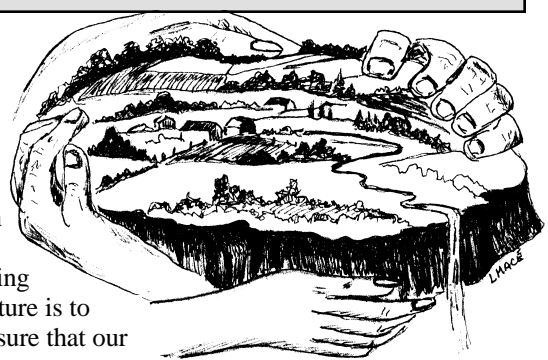
I believe our land trust community has a natural leadership role to play in the Finger Lakes Region on this issue of home-

land security.

The obvious place to start on the complex task of co-creating a sustainable future is to take steps to ensure that our land and water sources are kept viable for their role in that future. We need to make sure we can provide our own supply of pure drinking water. We need to make sure we can feed ourselves from a well-diversified agricultural base. We need to make sure we are developing alternative sources of energy— whether wind, solar, or biofuel. If we were to make progress on these basics, we might have the confidence to tackle other ways to reconstruct our regional economy so that it reflects both our values and a wise balance between regional autonomy and global interdependence.

At a recent gathering of environmental grantmakers, Paul Gorman of the National Religious Partnership on the Environment hoped that our response to this crisis would “not be just about muddling through, but growing in spiritual and moral as well as civic maturity— about confidence, not just coping.” He is right: we face challenges that will be answered within, over the landscape of our inner habitat. Collectively, we may be ready to consider significant social change; but individually we must be prepared to lead by example, by helping others see what can be done sustainably. Let’s start with the basics of our security—the land and water of this place we call home.

—Gay Nicholson, Executive Director



BUSINESS PARTNER PROFILE



Photo provided by Alternatives Federal Credit Union

Alternatives Federal Credit Union

The Credit Path— it’s a path to opportunity. The Alternatives Federal Credit Union (AFCU) has been helping members of the greater Ithaca community walk down that path since 1979, when a group of small business owners who couldn’t get loans at banks got together to create their own financial institution.

AFCU is a hybrid organization that provides the services of a regular bank plus programs targeted for people who

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The staff of the Alternatives Federal Credit Union in Ithaca, NY.

VOLUNTEER PROFILE

Eric Cosman, Steward and Advocate

Every day, Eric Cosman, his wife, Sue, and their dog, Bridger (named after the Bridger Teton Wilderness Area in Wyoming) walk the trails of the Wesley Hill Nature Preserve, a prized Land Trust holding on the slopes above the south end of the Honeoye Lake valley.

Eric is the steward of the preserve. He looks for changes, for signs of misuse, and for obstructions along the trails. He clears away fallen trees and other debris, makes sure the trails are marked clearly, checks that the signs are in place, and replaces them when necessary.

Formerly an environmental chemist, Eric now teaches science in Canandaigua. He and Sue, also a science teacher, own land surrounded by the preserve. They live in the big, old 19th century Wesley farmhouse—the last house to get power on Wesley Road. They enjoy life on the land immensely, growing flowers and vegetables, keeping bees and making maple syrup, and depending on wood for heat.

Being the steward of the Wesley Hill Preserve is a meaningful extension of Eric's life. "I have been walking it, enjoying it, and sharing it with everybody that I can, explaining its intent and how to make responsible use of it," he says. "It is a wonderful example of old forest and rejuvenated forest. It brings me peace."

That peace was interrupted recently when Eric received a call at school that there was smoke on the preserve. A second call advised that everything was all right. But when he got home that day, he recalls, "about six fire trucks and other

vehicles were coming down the road." There were two historic cabins on the property, and one had burned down. "We went back to the cabin and found the fire almost out. About thirty people worked on the site for at least four hours to make sure everything was under control."

A month later, Eric took his ecology students to the site to restore the fire line, clean up around the site of the fire, and put some deer fences in place. "The area has recovered remarkably well," he says. "My ecology classes will make future visits to learn about the impact of fire." It is deeply satisfying to him to share his ideas and concerns in an active way with his students. He is a very popular teacher, always on the lookout for opportunities to take students into the field, and once a year he leads a trip to the Adirondacks.

Eric is respected and admired for his quiet dedication to the preserve. Western Lakes Chapter Chair, Jim Kersting, related a recent incident when "We had a trail building crew at the preserve. While Eric was walking from the west end near where he lives to the east side to join us, he encountered a large white pine that had snapped off 50 feet up and was hanging perilously over the trail. He worked on that by himself all morning, never asking for help, just willing to tackle the job alone."

Born in Rochester, New York, Eric majored in biology at the State University of New York at Cortland, minoring in chemistry, geology, and environmental science. His earliest sense of



Photo provided by Eric Cosman

Eric Cosman (far right) and his students place deer fences around vegetation left after the fire at the Wesley Hill Nature Preserve.

caring about the environment, however, came from his parents with whom he did "lots of camping and fishing." He is currently a member of the Adirondack Mountain Club, a supporter of the National Outdoor Leadership school, and he and Sue are ardent backpackers.

A three-year member of the Land Trust, Eric has helped to organize and been involved with the Land Trust's Talks and Treks series, an effort that has been very effective in spreading word of the Land Trust's mission. "What attracts me to the Finger Lakes Land Trust," says Eric, "is simply the good people in it and the cause." And Eric is clearly one of those good people—an outstanding advocate for the cause of land preservation and conservation.

— Caissa Willmer

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are underserved by other financial institutions— low income, minorities, women, micro-entrepreneurs, nonprofits— while keeping money in the community. The innovative programs AFCU offers their membership include: the Flexible Mortgage program, which provides mortgages for people whose income or credit would not qualify for a traditional mortgage; Individual Development Accounts, which help low-income people become financially self sufficient through money

management courses and matched savings accounts; and the Community Enterprise Opportunities program, which offers classes, business plan assistance, networking opportunities, and more to people starting small businesses.

As an organization that is walking its talk, AFCU also pays attention to being a good employer. The starting wage at AFCU is based on their Livable Wage study, a biannual look at what it takes in Tompkins County to support a person

above the poverty level, and the results of this research are available to other employers and organizations.

AFCU is breaking ground this autumn for a new building on Fulton St. in Ithaca's west end, where there will be room for a business center to house support services for micro-entrepreneurs. You can learn more about AFCU by stopping by 301 W. State St. in Ithaca or visiting their website at <www.alternatives.org>.

—Gail Blake

Tioga Hills Protected

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in this part of the preserve. Straddling a side branch of the creek near here is an old multilevel foundation that defies explanation. Too near the creek to be a house, not enough water power for a mill, but too big to be a springhouse? The western edge of the meadow grades from blackberry thicket to oak saplings to a young wood dominated by red maple.

The creek valley is deep with steep hemlock-lined slopes. The creek itself is a series of drippy shale ledges and pools. The understory is thick with partridgeberry, Indian cucumber, wild sarsaparilla, wood sorrel, foam flower, *Lycopodium*, and many kinds of mushrooms. We even saw a tiny salamander in one shallow creek riffle.

The northern end of the preserve is “a real northern hardwood forest,” according to Betsy, made up of mostly maple, beech, and birch with hardly any oaks. This part of the preserve is criss-crossed with old logging roads. It is hard to say how long ago this land was logged, but it was long enough that the forest appears mature and the canopy is largely closed. The contrast was marked when our hike brought us to the northwestern edge of the preserve and onto land that is currently being logged.

Robert and Mary King searched for many years for land to buy and preserve. Certainly, the wait was worth it. This new preserve is a wonderful example of at least three typical southern Finger Lakes habitats— hardwood forest, steep hemlock ravine, and long-fallow fields. The Kings have also donated a conservation easement on their adjoining 48 acres, as well as a remainder interest in that parcel— meaning that the property becomes ours on the owners’ death.

We are deeply grateful to Robert and Mary King for their generosity and fine stewardship of their land.

Watch for the announcements of the property’s dedication and organized walks to introduce our newest preserve.

— Gail Blake



Photo by Betsy Darlington

A hemlock-lined creek valley on the Robert and Mary Carver King Preserve.

Sing Sing Creek Natural Area Conserved...

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Although the old fields on the place superficially resemble any number of abandoned farm fields, the unusual species that John and his wife, co-donor Beverly Fridie, have turned up is quite extraordinary. Stiff gentian, bottle gentian, narrow-leaved gentian, northern willowherb, hairy willowherb, ditch stonecrop, turk’s-cap lily, nodding onion, cranberry, and more grace the property.

One of the strangest places on the property is an area with *enormous* ant mounds— 6 feet across at the base, 3 feet high (see photo on left). Beverly Fridie says that in the summer, the red-and-black inhabitants are often up in the trees, and she always checks before going under the branches because sometimes they drop off and deliver painful bites! No trees grow among the mounds. Perhaps the ants eat the roots of seedling trees, or inhibit them somehow?

John and Beverly Fridie— who were among the first to join our Land Stewardship Registry, back in 1990— are attached to their land in a way that few people in my experience are. They walk there daily, look up every unfamiliar plant they find, and remember exactly where they found it, sometimes protecting it from the deer with a bit of wire caging. They know and cherish every square inch of the property. Co-donors daughter and son-in-law Silvie and Michael Mieczorek share the Fridies’ love of this place.

Big Flats was once known for its botanical wealth, but much has been paved over. Arnot Mall is just a bit south of the Fridies’ land, with considerable residential development all around. Developers have repeatedly approached the Fridies, but they’ve always chosen to protect the land over making money off it.

This conservation easement allows one home, as well as limited, noncommercial tree cutting. We’re immensely grateful to the Fridies who, along with their daughter Silvie and her husband Michael Mieczorek, have provided such generous stewardship for this beautiful piece of land.

—Betsy Darlington



Photo by Betsy Darlington

Beverly and John Fridie (left), donors of a conservation easement on their 47-acre property in Big Flats.

THE ETHICS OF CONSERVATION

Knowing Where We Are

To care enough about a place in order to work toward conserving it, we first of all need to belong to the place in a vital way. We need to claim a place as home and possess what Barry Lopez has termed “local knowledge,” which is not primarily the scholar’s knowledge, but the hard-won knowledge of men and women with long experience in a specific landscape. It’s comprised of the characteristics, interactions, events, and stories that are passed on through family and community lore and that serve as a guide for how to live in a place successfully. For instance, most people who live at the northern end of the Finger Lakes know that snow almost always falls more heavily north of the New York Thruway than south of it, and they use that knowledge when planning trips. What they may not realize is that the Iroquois tribes knew that too, from centuries of experience, and that’s why their main cross-state trail followed that route – a route which colonial settlers then transformed into a turnpike and which ultimately became our thruway. That’s local knowledge, and without it, in a challenging landscape, you may freeze, drown, or go hungry.

Indigenous peoples, including Native Americans, tend to ritualize in myths, place names, and ceremonies the crucial body of knowledge of their locale to pass it on to the young so that they will survive and prosper there. Many such stories and rituals are associated

with particular locations in the territory so that stories and place names become a map of the terrain, an encyclopedia of the seasons, the perils, the flora and fauna. And the map extends beyond the practical: an outcrop of rock becomes a reminder to give thanks, a lake evokes a myth of origin, a mountain echos an elder’s sage advice. Local knowledge turns the landscape into a cultural text, a collection of visual mnemonics that guide a people and speak their history back to them.

We’ve left our own visual reminders on the land from which there’s plenty to learn, too. For example, why are so many of the fields and roads in our region of upstate New York bound by perfect right angles? Why are local townships named after Roman and Greek warriors and poets? There’s nothing indigenous about any of that. Rather, those boundaries and names are relics of the great grid-making project of our country’s early history, the creation of the so-called military tracts, boundary lines imposed from a federal office with no regard for local conditions, farm parcels assigned to veterans of the Revolutionary War, and place names chosen by committees partial to the classics.

There’s been a substantial loss of local knowledge because of the way we’ve imprinted our culture on the landscape. We lost crucial advice when Indians were driven off their land and silenced. For instance, the Seneca have

numerous sayings embodying their agricultural experience. They say one shouldn’t plant delicate crops in this region until “the first oak leaves of spring are as big as a red squirrel’s foot.” As Onondagan chief Oren Lyons has warned, whenever the language of an indigenous people is lost, the knowledge of a place is lost. Of local knowledge, he says “It comes from being in one place for 15,000 years, and working with it, celebrating it, teaching the next generation.”

Local knowledge has dwindled in this country given our historic restlessness and mobility, our drastic reinventions of the landscape, and the pattern of rural populations shifting to cities. We live in a country in which people move, on average, every four or five years. There is not enough stability or continuity in most communities for local knowledge to be accumulated and passed on. And the land itself is routinely bulldozed away, landmarks literally destroyed. But we are an exception in world culture. As Lopez says, “In forty thousand years of human history, it has only been in the last few hundred years or so that a people could *afford* to ignore their local geographies as completely as we do and still survive.” If we don’t stay in any one place long enough to know it, to become impassioned about protecting it, and if we don’t attend to the landscape and live respectfully within it, our places will continue to be expendable.

— Deborah Tall

Land for Sale

ABUTTING FINGER LAKES NATIONAL FOREST:
34-acre parcel on Chicken Coop Hill Rd., to be sold with conservation easement. 9-acre woodlot, 25 acres open fields with sweeping views. Trumansburg School District. Call (607) 387-8080.

Our sincere thanks for

Generous Gifts In Honor of
Suzy & Todd Rose, on the occasion of their marriage,
from: *Becca Harber*

Jim Kersting, on the occasion of his retirement, from:
Cristine and Jon Crispin
Elizabeth Kirchner
Tom and Carol Terrizzi

STAFF PROFILE

Stewardship Coordinator and So Much More

Karen Edelstein is working technological magic these days in the Leopold Center. Using a powerful new computer and new Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software, she downloads aerial color infrared photographs of sites in the Finger Lakes, overlays those with topographical features of the same sites, and identifies tracts of land worthy of the Land Trust's attention. These great tools didn't drop out of the heavens, of course; Karen's grant writing expertise is what did the job. "Not only did we get the software, which is quite expensive," she says, "We also got a very good computer, a color printer, and a digital camera, which will be very helpful for our monitoring work."

Karen's official position is— this is a bit of a mouthful— conservation easement stewardship coordinator. She oversees the monitoring of the Land Trust's 36 conservation easements. Each easement has a volunteer steward committed to walking its boundaries at least once a year, noting naturally occurring changes or violations of the conditions of the easement, such as logging or development. Details of such changes are recorded so that should it be necessary to go to court over some infringement of the easement agreement, we will have concrete and detailed evidence.

Karen is an exceptionally active and committed advocate for the environment. In addition to her part time job at the Land Trust, she is co-chair of the Tompkins County Environmental Appreciation Days, a member of the

Tompkins County Environmental Management Council, and spent last summer as a naturalist for the Finger Lakes State Parks.

She was not always so committed to the environment, however. A musician and dancer, she entered Cornell intending to pursue a degree in ethno-musicology or anthropology. But a required course in biology so shook that determination, she dropped out to think things over. She played a lot of music, she says, supported herself by making sandwiches at a local deli, and began to read on natural history. One book— Annie Dillard's *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*— "turned my world upside down." She discovered a fascination for aquatic sciences; did an internship in an outdoor school on the eastern shore of Maryland; then returned to Cornell, earning a BS in Natural Resources and, more recently, a Masters in Environmental Management.

Since then, Karen has devoted much of her time to environmental education. She spent eight and a half years as an education specialist with Cornell Cooperative Extension, and wrote three sets of curricular materials— one on water quality monitoring for junior high and high schools; one for 9 to 13-year-

olds on pond and stream ecology (her particular passion); and a book of general interest called *Lasting Impressions: A Guide to Understanding Fossils in the Northeastern United States*.

This past summer, she gained enormous satisfaction from the success of the Land Trust's Talks and Treks program in the Chemung River Watershed. She

sought out a diverse set of experts on natural and cultural history, scheduled the events, and then watched with growing excitement as more and more people were attracted to programs. Over the course of the summer, hundreds of community members in the Chemung watershed became aware of our mission as a Land Trust.

"Karen is bringing wonderful new energy and expertise to our land protection and outreach

programs," says Gay Nicholson, who hopes to find the means to employ her full time. "She has a global view that leads to interesting cross-disciplinary connections. Her work with the new GIS system is helping us reach audiences with compelling maps that quickly tell our land protection stories. Karen is a dynamic presence, and we are lucky to have her representing the Land Trust."

— Caissa Willmer



Photo by Tony Ingraham

Karen Edelstein

Volunteer Needed

...a dedicated volunteer to distribute newsletters and brochures to Ithaca-area businesses.

This is a monthly one-hour commitment and a car is needed. Please contact Abbey for more information at 607-275-9487.

In Memoriam

Our deepest thanks for a generous donation in memory of

Dr. David Peakall
from

Sally Spofford, of Portal, AZ

A CLOSER LOOK

The Lakes in Winter

Photo by Harry Littell



Lower reservoir, December 2, 2000

Shortly after dawn one January morning a few years ago, I stopped at the point at Taughannock Falls State Park. The temperature was fifteen below zero. The air was still, and Cayuga Lake was giving up some of its last warmth to the frigid air above it, forming a super-cooled fog. Low sunlight shone eerily on the water through Arctic-like mist that had feathered the tree branches with hoarfrost.

I discovered two men from Mecklenberg fishing from the pier. A few mallard ducks paddled among thousands of shards of ice that clinked together in gentle waves near the shore.

I could feel the heat seeping out of my torso into the surrounding abyss of cold. I retreated to my car, and then to my office. It took me the rest of the morning to warm up.

Last summer, each of the Finger Lakes was “stratified.” That is, the sun had warmed the surface of the lake, forming a warm layer of water called the “epilimnion.” A transition zone, called the “thermocline” or “metalimnion,” separated the warm layer from the much denser, cold water below, the “hypolimnion.” The difference in density between the epilimnion and the hypolimnion prevented wind from mixing them.

In the deeper lakes, the epilimnion

temperature in July can be in the high seventies, while the hypolimnion may remain nearly as cold as it was at the end of the previous winter, at 39 or 40 degrees. Only Honeoye, the shallowest Finger Lake, does not normally stratify in summer except during calm periods.

During fall, the epilimnion of each lake gradually radiates heat, until the density differential decreases to the point where a strong wind finally causes the lake to “turn over.” The two layers mix and the temperature of the lake becomes essentially the same throughout. During the rest of the fall and winter, the lake continues to give off heat. This moderates the climate along the shore, permitting the growth of vineyards and orchards.

Just as winter forces changes in life on land, life in the lakes adapts as well. Aquatic plants have mostly died, and many smaller zooplankton are dormant. The pace of life and feeding slows down and fish rely on fat reserves. In summer, lake trout and salmon are in deep, colder water. But in fall and winter when the water temperature is all the same, they disperse throughout the lakes. People such as the frosty souls I met can catch them from shore.

All of the lakes except the deepest, largest lakes—Cayuga and Seneca—regularly freeze over during January or

early February, though the mid-sized lakes, such as Canandaigua and Keuka, may stay partially open during mild winters. Ice usually covers the shallow ends of Seneca and Cayuga Lakes, which have frozen end to end only a few times in the past two centuries.

Ring-billed, herring and great black-backed gulls weather the winter in open water. So do ducks including redheads, greater scaups, black ducks and mallards. Large numbers of Canada geese float on the lakes, making frequent trips to eat leftover corn in nearby fields.

The great, wind-mixed volumes of the larger lakes are slow to warm in the spring. Though the air may be warm, water temperatures may be only in the forties or fifties, making spring boating hazardous for those who might capsize without wetsuits.

By June, most of the lakes are completely stratified again, although Seneca and Cayuga sometimes take until early July to feel

warm once more—which is a long way off from a frigid January dawn.

—Tony Ingraham

Editor’s Note: The above photograph, “Lower Reservoir, December 2, 2000” is of the lower reservoir along Six-Mile Creek in the Town of Ithaca.

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WINTER 2002 CALENDAR:

Sunday, January 13, 10 AM: Guided hiking and cross-country skiing at Wesley Hill Preserve, above the southeastern end of Honeoye Lake. From Canandaigua, go west on Rte. 5 & 20, then south on Rt. 20A & Rt. 64, then stay on Rt. 20A going west. Just before the Village of Honeoye, go south on E. Lake Rd., then take a left on Pine Hill Rd. and then a right, following signs to the Cumming Nature Center. This road becomes Gulick Rd. Turn right on Wesley Hill Rd. Meet at the preserve parking area, on your right, one mile down the hill. Questions? Call the Western Lakes Chapter office at 716-393-1640.

Sunday, February 10, 10 AM: Guided hiking and cross-country skiing at Great Hill: Nundawao Preserve. From Rte. 5&20, east of Canandaigua Lake, turn left on Rte. 364 South. Continue to Middlesex N.Y. At the town center, turn right on Rte. 245 South. Continue 4.8 miles and turn right on Sunnyside Rd. Go over the West River for 0.4 miles and bear left at fork in the road. Go 0.4 miles to the next fork and bear right onto South Hill Rd. Meet at the parking lot, 0.7 miles up the hill on left side of road. Questions? Call the Western Lakes Chapter office at 716-393-1640.

Sunday, March 3, 1:30 PM: Winter walk at Stevenson Forest Preserve in Enfield. From route 79 between Ithaca and Mecklenburg, go south on route 327. Turn right on Trumbull Corners Rd., go about 1/2 mile and meet at parking area on the right. Led by Betsy Darlington.

Sunday, March 10, 10 AM: Guided hiking and cross-country skiing at Wesley Hill Preserve, above the southeastern end of Honeoye Lake. Join us for a winter exploration of this beautiful preserve. Meet at the parking lot on Wesley Hill Road. Directions: see Jan. 13th hike description above. Questions? Call the Western Lakes Chapter office at 716-393-1640.

Sunday, 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.

Sunday, April 28th, 12 NOON to 5 PM: Save this date for the Land Trust's Annual Celebration! Details will be in the spring newsletter.

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. In W. Danby, turn left on Station Rd., soon making a turn to the right. Just beyond the railroad tracks, park in fishing access lot on left.

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.