



# The Land Steward

NEWSLETTER OF THE FINGER LAKES LAND TRUST

working to protect the natural integrity of the Finger Lakes Region

Vol. 23, No. 2 • Spring 2011

## Key Acquisition Protects 1,400 feet of Cayuga Lake Shoreline

Undeveloped shoreline is extremely rare along Cayuga Lake's banks, but thanks to the generosity of two families, the Land Trust has acquired a 65-acre property that boasts a stunning steep gorge, old and young woods, and 1,400 feet of coveted waterfront.

The Van Riper and Moran families sold the property for significantly less than its appraised value, allowing the Land Trust to purchase the land through gifts from several anonymous donors and an interest-free loan from the Norcross Wildlife Foundation.

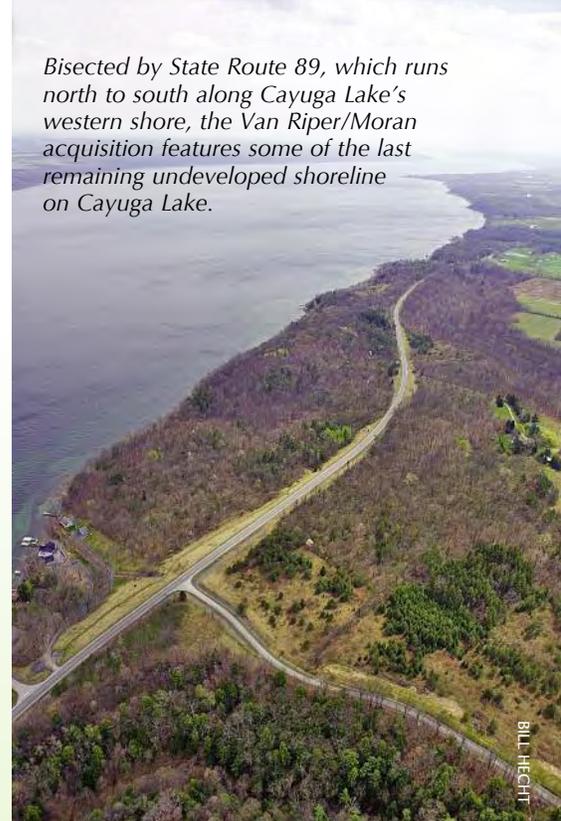
For some time now, the Land Trust has had its eye on protecting the Van Riper/Moran property, since it sits directly next to the Land Trust's existing 13-acre Whitlock Nature Preserve. Together, the two properties account for 1,900 feet of nearly contiguous undeveloped shoreline.

"This will be one of the only places in the Finger Lakes where the public has access to a significant stretch of natural shoreline," said Andrew Zepp, the Land Trust's director.

The new acquisition, in the town of Romulus, Seneca County, sits directly across the lake from the village of Aurora and Wells College, and is bisected by State Route 89, which runs north to south along Cayuga Lake's western shore and is designated as part of the Cayuga Lake Scenic Byway.

*continued on page 2*

*Bisected by State Route 89, which runs north to south along Cayuga Lake's western shore, the Van Riper/Moran acquisition features some of the last remaining undeveloped shoreline on Cayuga Lake.*



BILL HECHT

## Family's Land Gift Preserves Skaneateles Lake Shorefront

*The Land Trust recently received a donation of 20 acres, including 1350 feet of Skaneateles Lake shorefront, from retired Syracuse-area dentist David Dickinson and his family. This new acquisition includes a portion of the well-known Staghorn Cliffs along the southeastern shore.*

A middle-aged hardwood forest covers the terrain above the cliffs. An array of maples—both sugar and red—as well as other locally common hardwoods have established themselves in the years since farming ceased on these upland slopes. A few small ravines make their way down the slope to the clifftop, with ice forming on the cliff face in winter.

David Dickinson's mother, Cora Kampfe, was introduced to the area by a college friend at Syracuse University whose family had a cottage on Staghorn Point, just to the north of the cliffs. A native of Brooklyn, Cora held a deep appreciation for the area's open space and the lake views, according to her son. She and her friend spent occasional weekends on Staghorn Point in their undergraduate days, arriving by steamer after a trolley car ride from Syracuse to Skaneateles.

*continued on page 4*



*The 20-acre donation includes a portion of the well-known Staghorn Cliffs along the southeastern shore of Skaneateles Lake.*

MARK WHITMORE

The Dickinson and Van Riper families, both featured in this issue, have deep roots in our Finger Lakes region. Each year, family members return from far-flung locales to savor the experience of relaxing at their familiar lakeside spot while reconnecting with relatives and close friends.

Both families are committed to the future of our Finger Lakes and have for many years carefully stewarded one of our most precious assets—undeveloped shoreline. Thanks to their commitment to the land, and their willingness to work with the Land Trust, the future of 2,700 feet of pristine shoreline on Cayuga and Skaneateles lakes is now secure.

To date, the Land Trust has worked with landowners from throughout the region to conserve more than a mile of shoreline. These lands are vital, both to the health of our lakes and to our own spirit. They provide a perch for the increasing numbers of Bald Eagles, a secluded cove for the fisherman, and a welcome respite for those seeking shoreline that is not overrun by housing.

With opportunities to conserve undeveloped shoreline dwindling, the Land Trust is redoubling its

efforts, through select acquisitions as well as conservation easements, to secure lands that remain in private ownership.

Given the high cost of lakeside real estate, conserving these lands presents a particular challenge to conservationists—a challenge made more critical by recent reductions in public funding of land conservation projects.

If you care about the future of our lakes, please consider making a special gift to our Land Protection Fund, so that we can ensure that each Finger Lake retains at least some of its wild shoreline.

It will soon be summer, and as the Dickinson and Van Riper clans gather, they will do so with the knowledge that the shoreline they cherish will again welcome them with the cry of a gull, the sound of water lapping over cobblestones, and the wonderful quiet that comes with a moonlit night on a pristine beach.

—Andy Zepp

## Key Acquisition Protects 1,400 feet of Cayuga Lake Shoreline *continued from cover*

Approximately 35 acres of the property are located on the east side of Route 89, featuring a mix of hardwood forest with scattered hemlocks and pines extending down to the lakeshore. Along the shoreline, a narrow strip of cobble beach is punctuated by cottonwoods that tower over the lake.

Spotted Sandpipers race along the water's edge, while Canada Geese, Brants and other waterfowl seasonally congregate in the waters offshore. Bald Eagles also take advantage of the tallest trees as an occasional roosting site. At least one local birder has remarked upon the uncommon experience of viewing a Common Loon offshore while listening to a Scarlet Tanager's call from the property's forest.

Forests on the lakeside parcel range from relatively young stands that reflect the site's agricultural history to areas of mature trees that have not been disturbed for many years. In particular, one large white oak towers over a small stream that cuts through the property and is estimated to be 250 years old. In the same area, a

giant grape vine winds its way up a nearby hemlock.

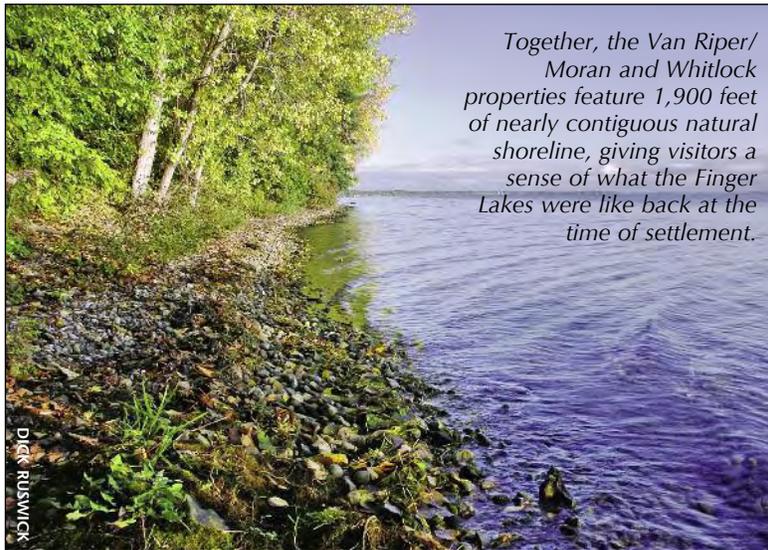
On the west side of Route 89, 30 additional acres have a steep and stunning gorge with a winding stream

access while ensuring the protection of sensitive habitats. The Land Trust intends to make sure the parcel remains inviting to wildlife and human visitors alike. Alongside Route 89, a parking area will be constructed, with a kiosk and hiking trails leading into the property. The Land Trust would like to dedicate the preserve by the summer 2012.

A fundraising goal of \$1.2 million has been set to cover acquisition costs, site improvements associated with the provision of public access, and a contribution to the Land Trust's stewardship fund to support long-term management of the site. To date, the organization has secured \$900,000 in gifts and pledges, including a

grant of \$400,000 from New York state's Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation.

—Krishna Ramanujan



*Together, the Van Riper/Moran and Whitlock properties feature 1,900 feet of nearly contiguous natural shoreline, giving visitors a sense of what the Finger Lakes were like back at the time of settlement.*

through hillsides of mature hemlock, beech, maple and oak, as well as upland meadows and planted stands of spruce and pine.

During the coming year, the Land Trust's preserve management committee and staff will develop a management plan for this latest acquisition and the adjacent Whitlock Nature Preserve that will provide for appropriate public

*The Land Trust gratefully acknowledges Attorney Kim Rothman and the law firm of Miller Mayer, LLP in Ithaca for providing pro bono legal services in support of this project.*

# Thayer Family Gift Expands Network of Open Space with Public Access in Ithaca

*In February the Land Trust announced it had received a donation of 20 acres of mature woodland along Lick Brook in the town of Ithaca. The new land, with more than 2,000 feet of frontage on the popular brook, is a gift from long-time friend of the Land Trust, Ree Thayer, and her children.*

The donated land links two parcels already owned by the Land Trust, as well as land owned by New York state and managed as part of Buttermilk Falls State Park. The new parcel provides the Ithaca area with another public access link in the Emerald Necklace.

Lick Brook and its gorge have long been a favorite destination for hikers and others who love natural beauty.

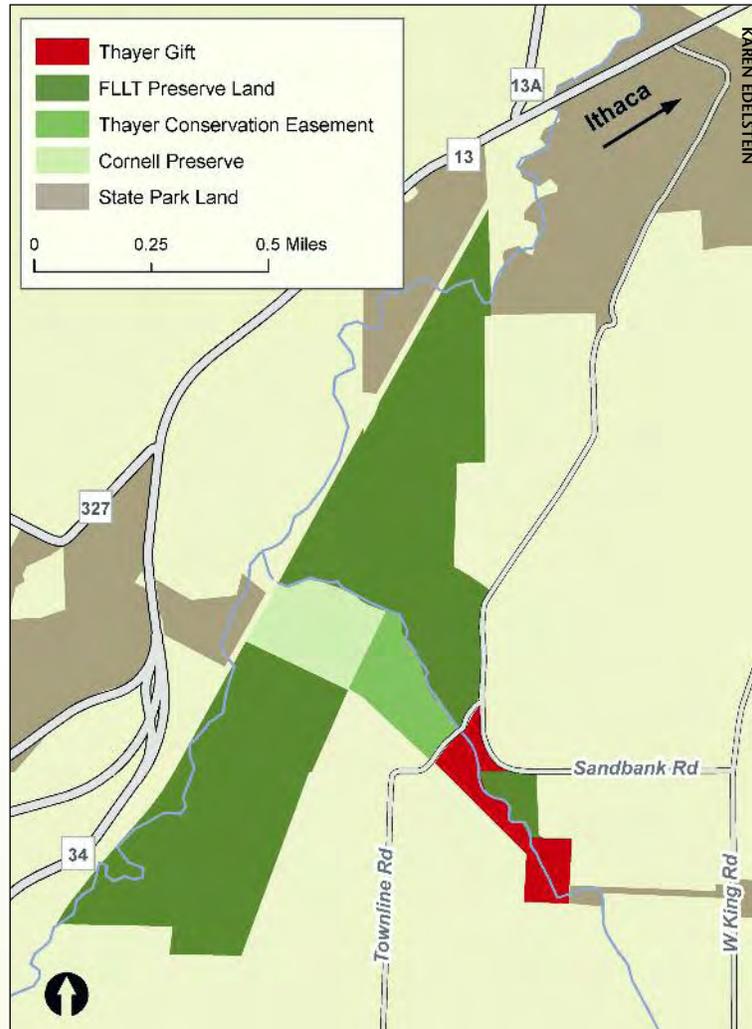
“When you’re walking along the brook, it’s easy to imagine that you’re many miles away from civilization, when in fact you’re actually in Ithaca’s backyard,” said Land Trust Director Andy Zepp.

The Land Trust identified the Lick Brook corridor early on as a priority for its open space conservation efforts. The Sweedler Preserve, protecting the lower sections of the brook, was established in 1993. More recently, the Land Trust has focused on the area as an integral part of the Emerald Necklace, stretching from the Finger Lakes National Forest in the west to Hammond Hill and Robinson Hollow state forests in the east.

To date, the Land Trust has secured more than 2,000 acres of open space as links in the necklace. The Thayer gift follows a recent donation of 50 acres further upstream on Lick Brook by Sheela Kingsbury of Danby.

The new parcel borders both Town Line Road and Sandbank Road. A hiking trail crosses the land and links it to the Land Trust’s nearby Sweedler Preserve. There was already a conservation easement on the property, and the Thayer family chose to donate the land in order to ensure continued public access and stewardship of the land as a conservation area.

Ree and Bill Thayer met when they were students at Cornell. They subsequently married and settled in western New York, where they raised their children—John, Tracey, Mathew and Andrew. A little over 20 years ago, they fulfilled a dream of retiring to the Ithaca area, where Bill grew up, and where they both had fond attachment to the terrain of their youth.



Daughter Tracey Bennett recalled her parents’ excitement at finding land along the ridge just south of Ithaca, with a majestic view to the west and a good deal of frontage on secluded Lick Brook. They bought the land and built their retirement home overlooking the deep valley below.

The donated land has a lot of sentimental value for the Thayer family. Tracey has especially fond memories of visiting from her home in Colorado, playing with her kids along the brook and walking through the woods with her parents.

Ree was an early and active board member of the Finger Lakes Land Trust when the organization was in its infancy. She loved the land around her and had a keen eye for its protection. She was a devoted volunteer steward at the Sweedler Preserve, the steeply forested slope containing one of Ithaca’s most scenic gorges. The preserve borders the land

she and Bill purchased and built their retirement home on.

Retired Director of Preserve Stewardship, Betsy Darlington, fondly remembers Ree’s days as a member of the trust’s Land Committee, when the two went together on many site visits to evaluate the conservation needs of particular properties. “She’s very down-to-earth,” Betsy wrote in an email. “She loves the outdoors, is physically tough, and has a great sense of humor.”

Ree and Bill began talking about estate planning with their children many years ago. After Bill died in 2007, and as Ree aged, their children worked to maintain the pattern of land conservation their parents had established as a kind of legacy.

Last year, Tracey arranged for her mother to move to Colorado, so that they could be closer. What Tracey and her brothers wanted—and what their mother wanted, too—was a way to celebrate the many happy, active years Ree and Bill had spent in Ithaca.

*continued on page 4*



## Family's Land Gift Preserves Skaneateles Lake Shorefront *continued from cover*

Years passed but the friendship stayed strong, as did Cora's attachment to Skaneateles Lake. When an opportunity arose in the 1940s, Cora and her husband, William Gilford Dickinson, bought land of their own along the shore south of Staghorn Point, stretching back up the cliff and into the steeply sloping hardwood forest above.

At the time, David Dickinson noted, much of the upland slope was open pasture, affording magnificent, sweeping views up and down the lake. Since then, many pastures and fields have grown in with young trees, limiting the view while still retaining the wild beauty of the land.

Part of Cora's attraction to the area must have been her interest in the region's geology—she did both undergraduate and graduate work in geology at Syracuse University. The Staghorn Cliffs, which rise as much as 100 feet from the water's edge, are prized by geologists for their fossil layers, including corals, brachiopods, trilobites and cephalopods. These are the fossilized remains of 300 to 400 million-year-old sea creatures, from when the area was covered by a shallow ocean.

A year in the making, the Dickinson family donation to the Land Trust reflects the family's desire to keep the land forever wild. "That was our intention all along," David said. "My mother discovered the property. We wanted to retain the beauty of the cliffs and preserve the gorgeous south end of the lake in appreciation of her."

"This is an incredibly generous gift and we're very grateful to the Dickinson family," said Land Trust Executive Director Andy Zepp. "The Staghorn Cliffs are a fine example of the wild shoreline that once defined our Finger Lakes, and by insuring its future preservation, the Dickinsons have left a legacy that we can all be proud of."

—Eben McLane

*The Land Trust gratefully acknowledges Attorney Douglas P. Bates in Auburn for providing pro bono legal services in support of this project.*

## Thayer Family Gift Expands Network of Open Space with Public Access in Ithaca *continued from page 3*

It seemed only fitting, Tracey said, to call up the Land Trust and ask for advice on how the family could creatively express such a tribute, and so the idea of donating the new 20 acres along Lick Brook was born.

"Part of our motivation, since we don't get back to Ithaca much, was in knowing that the Land Trust would monitor the land and take care of it," Tracey said. "I was really grateful to Andy [Zepp] for his help in giving us a meaningful way to celebrate my mom leaving the area—it is just a beautiful little celebration."

"We're grateful to the Thayers as well," Andy Zepp said. "It's beautiful land and, from a conservation perspective, particularly important as part of a growing network of open space with public access along the brook."

—Eben McLane

*The Land Trust gratefully acknowledges Attorney Peter Miller and the law firm of Adams, Theisen, May, Miller & Yehl in Ithaca for providing pro bono legal services in support of this project.*

*Ree Thayer (second row on the left) and family were honored at a Land Trust celebration last summer.*

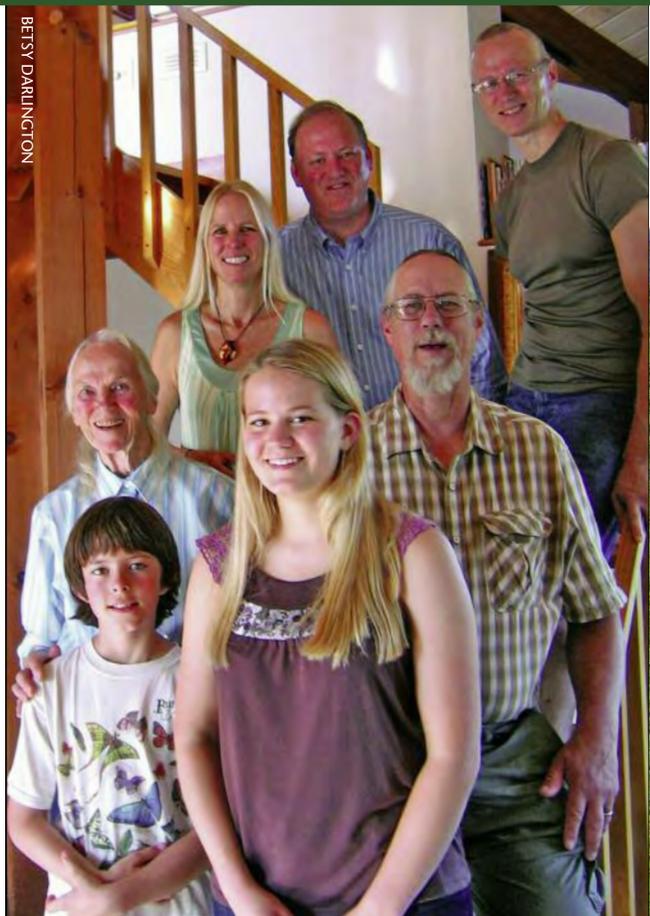
## In Memoriam



*Thomas Eisner  
1929-2011*

The Land Trust lost a great friend with the recent passing of Cornell biologist Tom Eisner. Known as one of the fathers of the field of chemical ecology, Tom was a leading advocate for biodiversity conservation and also played a key role in helping to promote a greater understanding of the world of insects. He served on the Land Trust's Advisory Council and led successful efforts to achieve a landmark agreement between the Land Trust, Cornell University, and Schering-Plough to utilize the Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve as the world's first temperate zone reserve for bioprospecting. All of us at the Land Trust share our condolences with the Eisner family.

BETSY DARLINGTON



# Conservation Easements Add to Emerald Necklace in Caroline

Jack Booker and Nelly Farnum live on 22 acres of land along White Church Road in the town of Caroline, not far from the Shindagin Hollow State Forest. Jack, a professor emeritus of mechanical engineering at Cornell, also owns an adjacent 75-acre parcel that consists primarily of wooded hillside with a small meadow and a quiet, rocky stream.

The parcel was also a former farmstead dating back to the 1800s; evidence of this can be found in various locations on the property. “Remnants of stone fences, old apple trees, a former blacksmith shed—it all gives you a glimpse into the history of the land,” said Jack.

A desire to protect this combination of natural beauty and the living history of the land led Jack and Nelly to recently establish conservation easements with the Land Trust on both the 75-acre parcel and their 22-acre home parcel. “We have a real connection with the history of this property,” said Nelly, who is a biomedical sciences professor in the Cornell veterinary school. “We believe that it’s very important to preserve this history for future generations.”

Each easement allows for a single dwelling and small-scale farming on the property, but otherwise extinguishes any future development. The land had been heavily logged in the past, well before Jack’s ownership, and as an active steward of his property, Jack was concerned about the potential impact of future logging on local water quality, particularly given the property’s steep slopes. With that in mind, the easement permits timber harvesting within the constraints of a forest management plan approved by the Land Trust.

The seeds of these conservation easements were sown nearly 20 years ago, back in the early days of the Land Trust, when Nelly was acquainted with Carl Leopold, the founding president of the Land Trust. “At that time, Carl was looking into a conservation easement for his own property, so we had some awareness of the concept,” Nelly said.

However, the couple didn’t revisit the idea until 2007, when at a charity event they happened to meet Rocci Aguirre,

the Land Trust’s Director of Land Protection at the time. Thus began a dialogue that would eventually lead to an agreement that ensures the existing character of the property will be protected in perpetuity.

In addition to connecting with the human history of the land, Jack and Nelly have a deep appreciation for the wild creatures that have become part of the fabric of the landscape (with the possible exception of the deer, which have an overzealous affinity for Nelly’s wildflower garden). They enjoy the coyotes howling in the Willseyville valley, the raptors circling overhead as they hunt for prey, and the occasional appearance of a black bear. The couple also keeps a list of bird species spotted on the property; they have identified 126 different species, so far. Ruffed Grouse and Wild Turkeys are their favorites.

For the Land Trust, the Booker and Farnum easements provide another important link in the Emerald Necklace—a greenbelt of contiguous protected land surrounding Ithaca. The Land Trust has a long-term conservation plan in place that involves both property acquisitions and conservation easements to provide critical links between the public lands that are the backbone of the Emerald Necklace. This property, with its proximity to the Shindagin Hollow and Danby state forests, is one of those critical links.

Jack and Nelly appreciate this aspect, too. “Nature doesn’t recognize property boundaries,” said Nelly. “To be able to contribute to land protection on a larger scale...it’s really a privilege.”

—Jeff Tonole

*The Land Trust gratefully acknowledges Attorney Peter Miller and the law firm of Adams, Theisen, May, Miller & Yehl in Ithaca for providing pro bono legal services in support of this project.*



*The Booker and Farnum easements secure a significant portion of Caroline’s Bald Hill (upper center of photo).*

# SCENES

## from Around Our Region...

*A view of the forested slopes of the Land Trust's Great Hill Nature Preserve at the south end of Canandaigua Lake in Yates County*



BILL DAVIS

*Ithaca College Interns Jesse Burgher (left) and Todd Aldrich posting boundary signs at the new Thayer Preserve at Lick Brook*



CHRIS OLNEY



CHRIS OLNEY

*New York State Electric & Gas personnel partner with the Land Trust and a conservation easement landowner to help eradicate a stand of invasive ailanthus (Tree-of-heaven) on the west side of Cayuga Lake.*



CHRIS OLNEY

*George Spak, one of two professional contractors hired by the Land Trust to conduct a variety of non-native invasive plant control projects funded by a grant from Dominion Transmission*

***“What a beautiful place to spend a beautiful spring day! Thank you to those who make it possible, and thank you for saving a corner of the earth for us to enjoy.”***

*–Comments from the visitors' log, Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve*

*The wetlands pictured below, are part of a recent acquisition on Irish Settlement Road in the town of Dryden, Tompkins County, and will soon become an addition to the Land Trust's Roy H. Park Preserve.*



TOM HOBBERT

CHAUNCEY YOUNG



*Conklin-Gully, now protected from development through the Land Trust's efforts, will ultimately be conveyed to the state as an addition to its Hi-Tor Wildlife Management Area.*

**Thank you!**  
*The Land Trust's work is made possible through the efforts of over 1,900 members and supporters. Your commitment to this region and the natural world has enabled us to conserve more than 12,000 acres of rolling hills, pristine forests, deep ravines, undeveloped lakeshore, and productive farmland in the Finger Lakes region.*

*Thank you to all of our members and supporters and, in particular, those who gave leadership gifts of \$100 or more in 2010.\**

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## The Aldo Leopold Society

*The Aldo Leopold Society was initiated by the Land Trust in 2006 to recognize those members that make gifts of \$1,000 or more for general support.*

These gifts provide a broad foundation for the Land Trust's ongoing work of protecting land. The Leopold Society now stands at 120 members, an increase of 20% in the last year alone.

Aldo Leopold, an ecologist and environmentalist in the 20th century, pioneered the land ethic – principles of land conservation that are based on pursuing a balance between human endeavors and respect for the land and the natural world. Carl Leopold, Aldo's son, was the Founding President of the Finger Lakes Land Trust and remained active with the organization until his passing in 2009. His wife, Lynn Leopold, continues Carl's legacy and is a key supporter and leader of the Society, named after her late husband's father.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Lynn Leopold, members of The Aldo Leopold Society, and all our members for your continued generosity and commitment to protecting our beautiful Finger Lakes region.

# A CLOSER LOOK

## The Mysterious Merlin

The Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) has had a long and distinguished relationship with humans. Falconry was a cherished pastime of the medieval European aristocracy, and a bird carried on the fist was a conspicuous sign of wealth and sophistication. According to one popular falconry manual, the Merlin was the perfect bird for a lady; at about a foot long and no more than half a pound in weight, it would certainly have made a handsome, portable accessory for a fashion-conscious noblewoman.

Merlins are a circumpolar species, inhabiting the prairies and boreal forests of the higher latitudes of both Eurasia and North America. There is no evidence that Merlins were ever any more than occasional visitors to New York state, which is situated on the migration route between their historical breeding grounds in Canada and their wintering grounds in the tropics.

Scientists were therefore surprised when breeding Merlins were sighted in the Adirondacks in the 1980s. The birds established themselves in the park very quickly and, from there, spread to the rest of upstate. They now both breed and winter in almost every corner of the state, from Rochester in the north to Buffalo in the west and Binghamton in the south, and have become increasingly common in urban areas.

The reason for this dramatic shift in range is not yet clear. Global climate change is pushing the ranges of many birds northward, but the range of the Merlin is expanding south, against the trend. The landscape of New York has transformed dramatically in the past hundred years, as cultivated land has reverted back to forest, a change that has benefited many species. However, because the Merlin catches small songbirds on the wing and so prefers more open habitats, it is not clear that reforestation has been to its benefit. In the nineteenth century, Merlins declined in some parts of their range due to persecution; later, their numbers were again seriously reduced by the widespread use of organochlorine pesticides, including DDT. When these chemicals were banned, Merlin populations rebounded. Yet this still does not explain why there seem to be more Merlins now than ever before.

There is no obvious answer for why Merlins have dispersed so widely around the state. It may be that, for whatever reason, the Merlin population in the north has grown, forcing individuals to colonize new territory further

south. Or perhaps a few pioneering birds deviated from their usual migratory route and found that the boreal forests of the Adirondacks were suitable habitat. Bird behavior is far more malleable than most people suspect, and Merlins seem to be a particularly adaptable species.

Scientists have a better idea of why these birds have chosen to breed and winter in cities. Merlins are tolerant of people, able to thrive in many different habitats, and feed on birds that commonly live near human habitation. In the 1970s, Merlins began appearing in cities on the Canadian prairies, apparently attracted by high numbers of Bohemian Waxwings which, in winter, feed from ornamental fruit trees. The city-born birds were much less likely to migrate

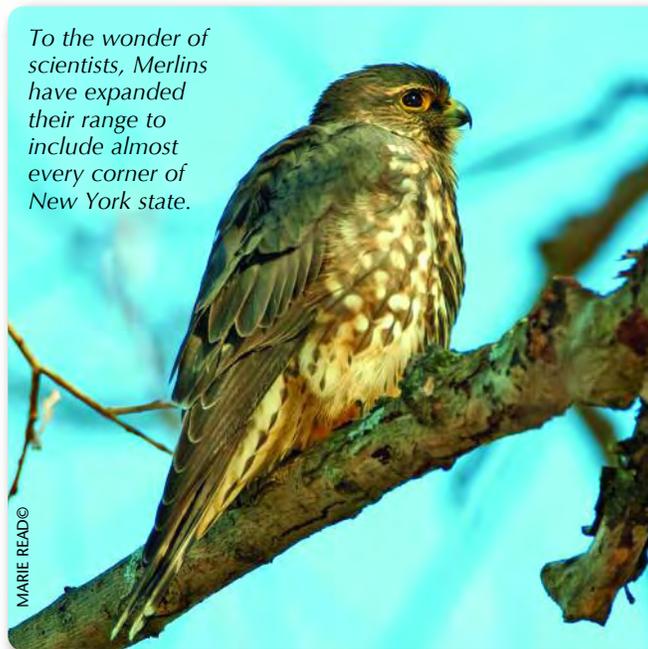
than others. It is worth noting, however, that the availability of small birds in urban areas has not increased appreciably in recent years; if anything, it has declined.

If small prey items were more common in cities in past decades, why have Merlins only recently moved into urban areas? The most likely explanation is that there has been a dramatic change in human-crow relations over the last thirty years. Merlins do not build their own nests and usually take over abandoned crows' nests, but until recently, crows have been unwelcome in areas of human settlement. Crow hunting was not regulated in the United States

until 1972, the same year that DDT was banned. Around the same time, it became illegal to discharge firearms in many urban areas. Crows are intelligent and curious birds, and they seem to have learned rather quickly that cities were now safe places to live. Parks and cemeteries, which often contain old trees, make particularly attractive nest sites for crows and the Merlins who occupy their old nests.

Merlins are not retiring birds, and are especially noisy when feeding their young. For this reason, they are not difficult to spot, once they have moved in. Appropriately enough, a pair of Merlins—"scrappy little birds," Andy Zepp called them—nested for several years in a cemetery near the Land Trust office in Ithaca. That pair has since moved on, but Merlins are becoming more visible in the Finger Lakes. In all likelihood, the species' range will continue to expand and the aerial acrobatics of this intense little falcon, once a sight granted only to a privileged few, will be more and more common with every passing year.

—Jacqueline Stuhmiller



*To the wonder of scientists, Merlins have expanded their range to include almost every corner of New York state.*

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## Spring 2011 Calendar

**LEAVE A LEGACY: GIFT PLANNING FOR YOUR FAVORITE CHARITIES**—The Land Trust is partnering with the Tompkins County Library Foundation in Ithaca and the Wood Library in Canandaigua to host a seminar on charitable planned giving at each of the respective locations. Professionals in the field will cover tax-advantaged ways to build charitable gifts into an estate plan and will discuss the implications of the new 2010 tax act that may affect estate gifts to charities.

**Tuesday, May 17th from 12 Noon to 1:30 pm, in Ithaca, at the Tompkins County Public Library, Borg Warner Room, 101 East Green Street, led by Attorney John Moss Hinchcliff.** John is a partner in the law firm of Miller Mayer, LLP in Ithaca and specializes in Trusts and Estates. A long-time resident of Tompkins County, John is active in the community, having served on several non-profit and professional organization boards. A light lunch will be provided. For this event, please RSVP to the Land Trust at 607-275-9487 or [info@fllt.org](mailto:info@fllt.org)

**Thursday, May 19th from 12 Noon to 1:30 pm, in Canandaigua, at the Wood Library, 134 North Main Street led by James Terwilliger, PhD, CFP®.** Jim is a personal financial planner at Canandaigua National Bank & Trust Company (CNB) and has worked with scores of clients to develop and implement personal financial plans. He also authors regular financial columns for CNB in local publications and hosts the program *Ask the Experts*, broadcast on WHAM 1180 radio. A light lunch will be provided. For this event, please RSVP to Barb Hamlin at 585-396-3191 or [h107@frontiernet.net](mailto:h107@frontiernet.net)

**Sunday, July 24th from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm, *The Land Trust's 22nd Annual Meeting & Celebration:*** Please save the date for this year's Annual Meeting & Celebration to be held at the Skaneateles Country Club on the beautiful shores of Skaneateles Lake. *Look for details in the Summer issue of The Land Steward.*

*Please see the enclosed insert for our 2011 Spring Talks & Treks Series and this coming Summer's schedule of volunteer work days at our nature preserves on the reverse side.*

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

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