



# The Preserve

## THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GENESEE LAND TRUST

THE GENESEE LAND TRUST PRESERVES AND PROTECTS LAND WITHIN THE GREATER ROCHESTER AREA, INCLUDING WATERWAYS, WETLANDS, FARMLAND, OPEN SPACE, FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT, AND SCENIC OR RECREATIONAL AREAS. THE TRUST DOES SO BY ACQUIRING PROPERTY OR DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS AND BY ASSISTING GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, INDIVIDUALS, AND PRIVATE GROUPS WITH THEIR OWN LAND PROTECTION EFFORTS. THE TRUST IS A TAX-EXEMPT, NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION SUPPORTED BY MEMBERSHIP FEES, GRANTS, AND OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS. DONATIONS TO THE GENESEE LAND TRUST ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE.

Photo © Nigel P. Kent

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## 114-ACRE PARMA FAMILY FARM PRESERVED FOREVER

By Randi Minetor



**W**hen the Town of Parma and Genesee Land Trust finalized the agreement in December 2010 to preserve the 114-acre Martin farm, the closing sent a clear message to Parma residents: This town plans to support farming—its number one industry—now and forever.

Equally important, Parma and the Trust came together to protect land that had been farmed by the same family since 1919, respecting a legacy of agricultural success as it passes from one generation to the next.

“Everyone needs to eat, so if we continue to eat, we have

to have someone farming the land and producing the food,” said David Martin, whose family owns the land. “This farm was started by my grandfather. It was the farm of the senior generation, and my mother and uncle are the only ones left of that generation. We’re still farming and we want to continue to farm, so we thought that this would be a nice legacy to leave.”

The Martins rotate a variety of crops on the more than 1000 acres of land that they farm. “We have cabbage and winter squash,” said David. “And we have processing peas, snap beans, soybeans, and organic corn and wheat. The grains

*(Continued on inside page)*

# 114-ACRE PARMA FAMILY FARM PRESERVED FOREVER

(Continued from front page)



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go to a local mill, and the peas and snap beans go to a processor like Seneca Foods or Allen Canning Company in Brockport. The other crops go to open market or to contract.”

Recognizing the positive impact of the Martin farm on the local landscape and food supply, the citizens of Parma voted in a June 2010 referendum to match a Monroe County Green Space Initiatives Grant to preserve this family farm. The vote passed with a three-to-one margin, and Parma matched the County’s \$129,500 grant dollar for dollar to purchase the development rights to the Martin land. Parma and the Land Trust have created a partnership to share the responsibility to ensure that the farm will remain undeveloped forever.

“I’d seen the Land Trust in the papers, and in literature that came through the mail,” David said. “It spiked my interest, seeing what they were doing with other farms in the area. The process was lengthy and time-consuming—you’ve got to have patience. But the land stays in our name, and you can never put a strip mall

or a drugstore or a housing tract on the land. It will always be agriculture. It can never be developed.”

The farming responsibility will soon pass to the next generation of Martins, David said. “We have land in Hamlin and Clarkson as well, and my son is farming here in Hamlin with us,” he said. “Also, my nephew is showing an interest in continuing with the farm. Between those two, the land will always go from one generation to the next. So we have a fourth generation farming this land.”

With agriculture as the backbone of this western Monroe County town, preserving Parma’s legacy becomes a statement of identity, David noted. “When you see the land being worked, you know this is a community that still supports agriculture. Everyone wants a little bit of identity, and they want to preserve this land because it’s part of that. They don’t want to see it all developed. We hope the next generation will appreciate it, too.” ■

## NEW MEMBERS

Diane Apere, Barb Case, Susan Cincinello, Sharon H. Clark, Matthew and Katherine Comeau, Jean M. Erskine, Karen Genett, Barbara James, Joan Gray Lindberg, Robert and Frances Marx, Lorna Wright.

## CORPORATE MEMBERS

- Canandaigua National Bank & Trust
- Paychex
- Regional Computer Recycling & Recovery

## GIFTS IN MEMORY OF

- **Christine Sevilla** from John and Suzanne Olson and George D. Van Arsdale.

## GIFTS IN HONOR OF

- **Tom Frey** and **Jacque Cady**’s birthdays, wedding anniversary and community service, from David Kotok and Loretta Armstrong, Barbara Kelley and Thomas P. Riley, Margaret and Howard Potter, Gay Mills and Yeates Conwell, Diane and Roger Cass, Steven and Carolyn Lee-Davis
- **Rachel Edwards** from Christopher and Joanna Hodgman
- **Cynthia Kesselring** from Bob Steffenhagan
- **Robert Taylor** from Cathy Feldman
- **David Kotok**’s retirement from Cherie Harder
- **Robert & Nikki Kersbergen** from Peter Henry
- **Peter Henry** from Rebecca Henry
- **Neal & Ann McNabb**’s wedding anniversary from James and Nancy MacWhinney

## INTRODUCING OUR NEW *Land Management Assistant*

Lisa Gerstenberger came to us with one of the most noble career dreams we could imagine: She wanted to work for a land trust.

“I got into the land trust idea during my undergraduate work at Middlebury College,” she said. “I worked with the Vermont Land Trust, and working with them gave me a lot of confidence in the land trust’s ability to protect land through the private sector.”

As our new Land Management Assistant, Lisa works closely with Kathy Blachowski, the Trust’s Land Preservation Coordinator, on land management tasks that range from documentation to monitoring conservation easements. Lisa got right to work on her very first day, compiling documents for the acquisition of Martin Farm and walking Alasa Farms with Kathy for the required baseline documentation.

While earning her bachelor’s degree in environmental studies at Middlebury and her master’s degree in forest and natural resource

management at SUNY-Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF), Lisa created a GIS-based model for the Nature Conservancy of Central and Western New York to identify land parcels of high priority for conservation. She led a volunteer crew on an invasive species project in Vermont, navigated a ten-day canoe trip by compass in Canada, and co-authored two studies for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation on the Adirondack Park Forest Preserve. Her bachelor’s thesis on changing attitudes toward farmland conservation easements earned her the Nuquist Award for Outstanding Research from the University of Vermont. An enthusiastic outdoor sportswoman, Lisa was on the Nordic ski team while she was a graduate student at ESF. “I’m a runner and four-season camper, and I love cycling, mountain biking, and lots of outdoor activities,” she said.

“Generally, I’m hoping to learn all about how the land trust works, and how my skills best fit with the land trust, so I can direct my career path,” Lisa said. ■





Executive Director  
Gay Mills



Dear Members and Friends,

The cards, notes, and year-end gifts from you have been wonderful reminders of how crucially important our members are to Genesee Land Trust. Your support is most needed and appreciated as we begin our new year.

This will be an exciting and challenging year as we navigate through ambitious projects like Alasa Farms, adding the Martin Farm to our roster of protected farmland. And continuing to manage over 3300 acres of land and waterways—all while preparing for the spring ground breaking of El Camino Trail! Our preservation footprint is larger because of you. Genesee Land Trust works in diverse environments, from the city to the suburbs to rural towns, and from Lake Ontario's coast to working farm landscapes. None of this would happen without your gifts and your participation in our collective work. Genesee Land Trust is happening because of you. Thank you!

Please join me in welcoming Lisa Gerstenberger, featured in this issue, who has joined the staff to help meet the demands of our land protection projects. She will be leading the volunteer work parties that will spruce up our preserves in the upcoming months.

I also hope you will join us on our springtime walks and educational events. As always, we look for opportunities for our members and their friends to enjoy the amazing wildflowers, old growth woods, beautiful creeks and streams—places that your gifts protect.

On May 21, we will again hold the Native Plant Sale at the Brighton Town Hall, and on June 25 we have scheduled a great Backyard Habitat Tour. These popular events bring us together and help raise revenue that makes a difference. All of your generosity—from year end gifts to attendance at fundraisers to volunteering at work parties—means that Genesee Land Trust can continue the work that makes it possible for children, their parents and grandparents to look forward to outings to special places—places you have preserved.

Thank you for all your gifts to Genesee Land Trust.

*Gay Mills*

## OUR HEARTFELT THANKS GO TO . . .

Photographers: **Nigel P. Kent, Gloria M. Weyerts.** Urban intern: **Erin Zalewski.** Backyard Habitat Tour 2011: **Judy Bigelow, Lee Caine, Mary Coupe, Laurie Fellows, Elthea King, Georgia Nelson, Cathy Senecal Rice.** Forever Green Auction: **Jennifer Wagner,** invitation design; **Julia Duffy, Laurie Fellows, Nancy Torpey, Judy Bigelow, Merri-Lou McKeever, Les Medall, Rick Marx, Jean McCreary, Maya Shermer, Emily Handelman, Ellen Prill, Cenie Cafarelli, Kevin Clar, Judy Culotta, Tom Witt, tKaren Kremer, Tom Frey, Lee Caine, Mary Moss, Connie Ehindero, Betsey Taylor, Roni Lee, Rebecca Kraai, Peter Henry, Cherie Harder, Marlene Cole, Valerie Douglas, Lorna Wright, Colleen Roof, Michele Gleber, Howard Potter, Louis Perticone and Victoria Benz of Artisanworks.** Check Writing: **Debbie Kornfeld.** Administrative Assistance: **Julia Duffy, Sharon Kunzer.** Preserve Work Parties: Hipp Brook Preserve: **Warren Elvin, Terry Smith,** leaders; **Nancy Torpey, Aileen Reis, Isabel Kaplan, Sam Kaplan, Maya Shermer, David Lentz, David Ferriter, Phil Schaefer, Eleanor Hartquist, Ed Lindskoog, Emily Handelman, Cenie Cafarelli, Carolyn Smith.** Brookdale Preserve: **Doug Larson,** leader; **Peter Henry, Tom Witt, Cenie Cafarelli, Dan Deveau, John Larson, David Lentz, Karen Schreiner.** Conservation easement monitoring assistance: **Maya Shermer.** Legal Assistance: **Peter Woods of ESL Federal Credit Union, Timothy Fitzgerald of Bond, Schoeneck & King, PLLC, Jean McCreary of Nixon Peabody LLP, George Parker.** Brookdale Preserve Boardwalks – Eagle Scout Project: **Caleb Young,** assisted by **Andrew Redman, Jeremy Urban, Nathaniel de Smidt, John Homer, David Homer, Jonathon Homer, John Urban, Bill Redman, Don de Forde, Morgan Mercer, Noah Peters, Josh Peters, Christopher de Smidt, Hank de Smidt, Caleb Puzio, Jacob de Forde, Steve Young, Jim Gugino, Dan Gugino.** Martin Farm: **Dan Bryson, Scott Copey, Rick Marx, Elaine Enfonde.** Alasa Farms: **Zack Odell, Jim Howe, Andy LaBruzzo, Peter Woods, Mark Gooding, Don Fisher, Ora Rothfuss, Sharon Lilla.** Willowpoint: **Tim Fitzgerald, Tom Low.** Furniture: **Nixon Peabody, LLP, Glenda Lusk, David Price, Peter Henry, Joe Dardzinski.** Gosnell Big Woods Preserve Kiosk: **Don & Donna Traver, Norma Platt, Sharon Galbraith, Jane Laskey, Hal Harris, Clark Wallace and Trust for Public Land.** Archiving and Storage: **Bill Edwards.** Financial Analysis: **Mike Kehoe. ■**

### 2010 GRANTS

- **The New York State Conservation Partnership Program**, a grant program of the Environmental Protection Fund administered by the New York Land Trust Alliance, continues its support of Genesee Land Trust's capacity development. A two-year professional development grant of \$55,000, received in November 2009, has enabled the Land Trust to leverage private matching funds in support of its growth to a three person-staff.
- **The Fred and Floy Willmott Foundation** made an award of \$6,000 in support of land protection activities.
- **The ESRI Corporation** gave a gift in kind of GIS mapping support for the fourth consecutive year.

Watch for the launch of our new website at  
[www.geneseeandtrust.org](http://www.geneseeandtrust.org)  
this spring! Made possible by a grant  
from HSBC.



# CONKEY CORNER PARK GETS A PLAYGROUND



**M**ore than 100 people volunteered for Genesee Land Trust's 3-day Community Build event September 17-20, to install a playground at Conkey Corner Park. Volunteers prepared the site for the playground installation, weeded the park's garden, and built the playground. The day ended with a great cookout served up by Miguel Melendez of Project Hope, & Genesee Land Trust intern Emily Handelman.

We can't thank everyone enough for their participation, but we're going to give it a try. (Some people may not have signed the roster, so we apologize in advance for any omissions.) Many, many thanks to Aitza Aguirre, Angel Alicea, Charlie Ball, John Barnes, Sherry Barnes, Eggon Beha, Dawn Bird-Belmonte, Leroy Brown, Jason Buoni, Danielle Burgos, Cenie Cafarelli, Pat Canty, Brad Cherin, Jessica Clar, Gerry Clark, Willies Clive, Kyle Cohen, Michael Cunliffe, Samantha Davis, M. Dillard, Katrine Edmond, Rachel Edwards, Reylanda Everett, Jeff Fahmer, Lourdes Ferrer, Sharonette Foster, Christina Gallo, Lynn Gatto, Charisma Glover, Sheryl Gracewski, Davonne Granderson, Corson

Grason, J. Griffin, Mitch Gruber, Keith and Mary Hadley, Alexis Hamilton, Allen Handelman, Megan Harsin, Ian Heke, Pete Henry, Julia Horace, Janajah Jones, Anthony Jordan, Emily Kernan, Gregory Key, Yolande Kibondo, Karen Kraut, Lorelei Kujat, Mike Langen, Jason Laster, Scoot Layer Jr., Perry Lewis, Ben Marks, Wanda Martinez, Keyonah McClary, Dianna, Julianna and Miguel McClendon, Meghan McGee, Allyson Miller, Nyoka Mills, Trey Minaroin, Zachary Mit, Noella Miti, Tim Moher, Tom Nash, Hang Nguyen, J. and Wade Norwood, John Norwood, W. Norwood Griffin, Alan Oberst, Cohen Orr, Samuel Pabon, Minerva Padilla, Reshaira Perez, Shaiquian Pinckney, Jessica Polver, Chris Potter, Howard Potter, Andy Puccio, Kendra Punaro, Deborah Puntentney, Marina Puta, Adam Quigley, Jeff Reisman, Mary Rivers, Miriam Rosa, Lindsey Sampo, Deb Tschappat, Kiesha Sinopaw, L. Smith, Joe Stansfield, Diane Stone, Fantasia Stone, Art Streeter, Julia Tedesco, Lashawn Thomas, James Thompson, B. Touer, Rodregus and Rodregus Jr. Tripp, Kayla Valentino, David Vega, E. Vega, Anthony Vinette, Jahntea White, Carly Willey, J.C. and A.C. Wilson, Tom Witt, Joel Witwer, Nijaye Young

In addition, we extend our special thanks to Emily Handelman for coordinating all of the details of the weekend and Tom Frey and Margaret Potter for seeing the project through; Emily Handelman and Maya Shermer for putting almost all of the playground together singlehandedly; Emily Handelman and Shannon Elliott for making lunch; Miguel Melendez and Sacha Montes-de Oca of Project Hope for gathering the volunteers and neighborhood residents; Luis Burgos, Jim Farr and the incredible City crew and everyone

at the City of Rochester who helped make this happen; and Linda Culliton of Gametime and the Titan Development Crew for bringing their expertise and determination to the project—we could not have done it without you!

We thank our community and corporate donors: funding for Conkey Corner Park comes to us from the John F. Wegman Fund, Greater Rochester Health Foundation and the City of Rochester. Thanks to students from St. John Fisher College, the University of Rochester and the Rochester Institute of Technology for coming en masse, Foodlink for water for the day, Walmart for gift certificates for our raffle, Ibero-American Development Corporation for parking and bathrooms, Emily Hammeren for designing the T-shirts, and Generations Daycare for babysitting services. Ibero-American Development Corporation, Healthy Kids, Project Hope, Group 14621 and the Coalition of Northeast Associations (CONEA) are our partners in the project.

**We extend our very special thanks to the Rochester Garden Club which came to the rescue** to repair seat walls at the park. Genesee Land Trust initially requested funds to cap and stabilize the seat walls and upgrade their appearance. During the Playground Build, however, some of the walls sustained unavoidable damage, as heavy equipment was required to dig the playground's foundation. Thanks to the Garden Club, the walls were repaired in short order. Members of the Club also joined in to help students from School #22 with planting and weeding! ■

## FOREVER GREEN AUCTION *"Like A Family Reunion"*

**A**midst a bevy of bidders and the sound of the band singing This Land is Your Land, someone said, "I haven't seen you since last year's auction...this is like a family reunion!"

Yes, our Forever Green Auction on Saturday, November 13, brought together members and friends for an evening of giving back to Genesee Land Trust and a rollicking good time. One hundred and fifty people attended the party at ArtisanWorks, and bought up our widest variety to date of great auction items.

The Forever Green Auction ended our 2010 events season on a high note, raising \$25,000 for our annual fund. We are so grateful to all

those who worked on this premier event for so many months. You will see their names in the Heartfelt Thanks on page 3.

Thanks also to our underwriters and sponsors: HSBC Bank, MARDEK LLC, Xerox, Boylan, Brown, Code, Vigdor & Wilson LLP, Haley & Aldrich, The Bird House, Allied Financial Partners, Conifer LLC, LeChase Construction, Harzynski Tax & Investment, M/E Engineering, NH Architecture, City Blue, Constellation Brands, and North American Breweries. To see a complete list of those who donated, and to see more photos, please visit this website page: [www.geneseeandtrust.org/ForeverGreenAuction2010Page.html](http://www.geneseeandtrust.org/ForeverGreenAuction2010Page.html) ■



# COMING EVENTS

All events are open to the public. Visit [www.geneseelandtrust.org/events.html](http://www.geneseelandtrust.org/events.html) for directions to these events.

## — SPRING WORKDAYS —

**Workdays on Preserves in March, April, May and June:** trail building and repair, invasive species mitigation and general cleanup.

**Conkey Corner Park and El Camino Trail Spring Workdays: Day of Caring, May 11; City of Rochester Clean Sweep TBD:** mulching, weeding, planting and cleanup. *To receive email updates about volunteering for any of these workdays, contact Margaret Potter at [info@geneseelandtrust.org](mailto:info@geneseelandtrust.org).*

## — EARLY SPRING LECTURES —

**Travers' Travels: Birding ecotourism in the Far East and Sumatra: lecture and photos, Wednesday, March 30, 7 p.m.** Let globetrotters and Land Trust members Don and Donna Traver be your guides for an exotic slide show of unusual wildlife. **Webster Public Library, 980 Ridge Road.** Call the library at 585-872-7075 or go online to register: [evanced.info/webster/evanced/eventcalendar.asp](http://evanced.info/webster/evanced/eventcalendar.asp).

**Purple Martins' Majesty: Attracting and Managing This Unusual Bird, Thursday, April 7, 7 p.m.** Rick Marx, Genesee Land Trust advisory board member, will show and tell about his work in establishing nesting colonies of these interesting birds. Rick's birding activities have taken him around the globe. Registration is required. **Sodus Community Library, 17 Maple Avenue, Sodus.** Library information: 315-483-9292.

## — SPRING WALKS —

**Frog Walk: Friday, April 22, 7:30 to 9:30 pm:** Join Martha Zettel on a spring night of discovery—frogs, toads, salamanders and maybe woodcock—on her property in Rush. Wear waterproof boots and bring a flashlight and mosquito repellent. Meet at 677 Five Points Road in the Town of Rush.

**Wild Iris Path Walk: Hipp Brook Preserve, Friday, April 29, 6:30-8 p.m.** Carol and David Southby are your guides for this wildflower and wildlife walk – an evening stroll to enjoy the sights and sounds of this lovely wetland in the heart of Penfield. Trails are level but can be wet in places; please wear appropriate footwear. **Directions:** Access is off of Brougham Drive, which runs west off of Jackson Rd between Atlantic Avenue to the north and Whalen Road to the south. Parking is along the roadside at the end of Brougham.

**Wildflower Walk at Crowfields: Saturday, April 30, 1:30-3:30 p.m.** Join the Southbys to explore a wooded drumlin carpeted with spring wildflowers on Steve and Mary Aman's privately owned land, which is protected by a Genesee Land Trust conservation easement. Main walk is on level ground, some optional steep trails at the end of the walk.

**Birding Trip at Amy's Ponds and Hundred Acre Wood, Sunday, May 1, 7:30 a.m.** Join birding experts John Boettcher, Norma Platt and Kimberly Sucey, on this Rochester Birding Association-sponsored walk on the privately owned land of Janet and Bob Smith, protected by a Genesee Land Trust conservation easement. Boots and binoculars recommended. RBA also leads birding field trips all across the region, including Island Cottage Woods – see [www.rochesterbirding.com](http://www.rochesterbirding.com) for times and dates.

**May Day Celebration at Peacework Farm, Sunday May 1, 2-6 p.m. RAIN OR SHINE:** Join the Peacework farmers and members of Genesee Valley Organic Community Supported Agriculture for a day touring the farm, dancing around the maypole, exploring the Kraai Preserve's creek-side woods, a wildflower walk and a delicious potluck supper. *One hour from Rochester,*

**Corbett's Glen Bird Walk, Friday, May 20, 7:30-9:30 a.m.** Join David and Grace Strong on a weekday exploration of Corbett's Glen Nature Park, Town of Brighton looking for spring migrants. Meet at the **Linden Oaks Medical Campus Surgery Center, 10 Linden Avenue,** to gather and carpool over to the Glen.

**Braddock Bay Bird Observatory (BBBO) Open House: Sunday, May 22, 8-11 a.m.** See migratory birds up close with the experts at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station, land protected in partnership with Genesee Land Trust and BBBO. Learn about the ongoing research projects and explore critical migratory bird habitat. Children are especially welcome!

**National Trails Day Celebration Hike: Saturday, June 4, 10 a.m. to Noon** Join Tom Frey to hike the abandoned railway bed before its summer transformation into the new "El Camino" trail. The two-mile walk stretches through city neighborhoods from Conkey Corner Park to Seneca Park. (A return ride will be available if desired.) Check our website for directions.

## Special Events

**"Strong Spirit for a Fragile World" Christine Sevilla's Visual Art: silent auction and sale, Tuesday, April 5, 5:30-8:30 p.m.**

Sevilla's large collection of beautiful photographic art will be sold to raise money for the development of interpretive trails at the Christine Sevilla Wetlands Preserve (a Genesee Land Trust property), and to further the work she began in environmental education. Artwork sizes and prices will suit every home and budget. **The Williams Gallery at First Unitarian Church, 220 Winton Road South, Rochester.**

Visit [www.christinsevillia.com](http://www.christinsevillia.com) for more information.



**The Native Plant Sale, Brighton Town Hall, 2300 Elmwood Ave: Saturday, May 21, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m.** Start your garden while giving to a good cause. Native plants, shrubbery, trees, herbs and Backyard Habitat Tour tickets are for sale! *If you would like to donate plants or volunteer at the sale, call Margaret Potter.*

**The Backyard Habitat Tour, Saturday, June 25, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.** Featured gardens are located in Brighton, Rochester, Penfield, and Fairport. You'll find backyard streams, ponds, and rock gardens with flowing water just minutes from downtown Rochester. Ruby Lockhart of Garth Fagan Dance will share her "Artistic Therapy Garden," and experts will share their knowledge of attracting birds, butterflies, and other wildlife to your garden. Tickets will be available in May. If you would like to "garden greet," please call or email Margaret Potter.



## The Get Preserve Electronically

Go green and save paper! Request that your copy of The Preserve be sent to you by email. You'll receive the same publication—with all the photos and layout—as a PDF attachment. To order your free email subscription, write to **Margaret Potter** at [info@geneseelandtrust.org](mailto:info@geneseelandtrust.org)



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## IN RETROSPECT: *Amy's Ponds and Hundred-Acre Wood*

by Randi Minetor

**W**hen Janet Buchanan Smith moved into her house in the Town of Ontario in 1982 with her first husband and children, including her daughter Amy, she had no idea what natural riches lay just beyond the boundaries of her land.

"Amy was hiking through the woods, and she pushed through a bunch of brambles and discovered these ponds," Janet said. "She came back and took my hand and said, 'Mom, I want to show you something.'"

The ponds belonged to the neighbors. "Amy and I began to ride horses back there, and it was an amazing miracle that became part of our lives," Janet said. "A few years later, the family that owned the land died, and a neighbor said to me, 'Mrs. Smith, if you don't buy this, it's going to turn into a development.' By then I was a widow, and I could do whatever I wanted. So I did buy it."

It's a simple story with the happiest of endings, thanks to Janet's determination to keep Amy's Ponds safe from builders and other interlopers in perpetuity. She contacted Genesee Land Trust in 1994, and donated a conservation easement on the 87-acre property. The experience was so positive that Janet and her new husband, Bob, donated an additional conservation easement on another 100 acres, a property Janet dubbed Hundred Acre Wood.

"My first so-called date with Bob was a walk through our woods," Janet laughed. "I got lost! So he thought I needed him. Bob is turning into a person who wants to preserve nature. He's working with our neighbor in making it very, very clear to hunters that they can't come over and hunt on our site."

Overall, Janet could not be more pleased with her decision to preserve her land. "When I pass away, this would have been ignored," she said. "You don't make money on this—although there are tax advantages—but mostly, it's the knowledge that it's beautiful and valuable. It gives me peace of mind and happiness. For 25 years I rode horses and made jumps in the pass, and every year we have an Easter egg hunt for my grandchildren and a turkey trot through the woods. If you love something and want to save it, this is a very, very beneficial thing to do."

Join us for a *Birding Trip on May 1 to experience the ponds, meadows and woods owned by Janet Smith and protected by a conservation easement. For more information about protecting your land with a conservation easement, go to our web site [www.geneseeandtrust.org/protect\\_your\\_land.html](http://www.geneseeandtrust.org/protect_your_land.html) or contact **Gay Mills** at 585-256-2130*

### ***A Promise to Protect Our Beautiful Landscapes Forever***

Name Genesee Land Trust in your will and you will create a legacy for generations to come. Planned gifts provide Genesee Land Trust with the financial stability necessary to grow, plan for the future and protect our community's beautiful landscapes.

Contact us to learn about charitable gift annuities and other ways you can take a charitable tax deduction while supporting **The Genesee Land Trust**.

Reach us directly: (585) 256-2130

[gmills@geneseeandtrust.org](mailto:gmills@geneseeandtrust.org)



Photo: © Elinor Osborn