

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.

Gosnell Big Woods Preserve © Nigel P. Kent

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TRUST ACQUIRES 71 ACRES IN WEBSTER

By Randi Minetor

L laurel Bruns remembers eating apples grown in her grandfather's orchards in Webster as she and her family loaded the fruit onto his big truck.

"They were Wealthy apples, an older variety that's hard to find now," she said. "They come in late August and early September. They're a good eating apple."

Some of these old apple trees still stand on the former farm on East Ridge Road in Webster, and they were part of the reason that Laurel and her brother Gary Braman decided to work with Genesee Land Trust to turn the land into a nature preserve.

When Laurel's parents passed away, the farm came to be in the hands of the fourth generation "My younger brother and I owned the back part," she said. "He was ready to let it go, so I approached him with the idea of the land trust."

Laurel knew that she could have sold the land to a developer for quite a bit of money, but the concept just made her sad "It's a great little parcel," she explained. "You can go back there and just hear the sounds of nature around you without radios or road noise. It has a creek and woods. I just could not imagine it being developed."

(Continued on inside page)

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(Continued from front page)



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Genesee Land Trust executive director, Gay Mills saw the potential in protecting the 71-acre parcel. The parcel already has “really wonderful trails. It comes down from Ridge Road to Four Mile Creek, and it has a gentle rise to the south, so it’s a big expanse. It hasn’t been mowed for quite a number of years, so the field has started to grow into red osier dogwood and ash. You get in there with the tall plants and shrubs, and you can’t see anything else. You’re in the environment.”

“It backs up to the D&M Farm, a piece of property that the town of Webster has already protected,” Gay said. “From our point of view, it’s really exciting to protect a piece of property that’s so close to and part of a protected landscape.”

The Trust is just beginning to shape the land management plan for this new property. “We will keep the trails clear, and make the preserve

available to our members and others,” Gay said. “We’ll slowly make this one of our preserves for the public to enjoy.”

Preserving the land forever is a dream come true for Laurel and her family. “The thing is, it was brought to my attention that once the land is gone, you can never get it back,” she concluded. “This land deserved something better than being ravaged by earthmovers and bulldozers. The Genesee Land Trust gave me another option.” ■



NEW MEMBERS Karen Arbegast, Craig and Theresa Brocius, Laurie and Albert Broccoli, Erin D. Caldwell and Scott Divens, Jill M. Cicero and Paul D. MacAulay, Mark and Kathy Cleary, Judith Dean, Claire Dekar, V.J. Dekar, Nick Dekar, Sheila Driscoll, Beverly Gibson, Mary and Keith Hadley, David Henion and Lisa McGuire, Kathleen Holt, Lisa Johnson, Carolyn and Steven Lee-Davis, Frances Lennie, Carol May, Richard and Lauren Nathan, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Olinger, Melissa Oskvig, Hope O’Shaughnessy and Paul Petritis, Keane and Patti Posner, Angelina Salerno, Madeline Schmidt, Gilbert and Carol Sergeant, Robert Stein, Laura Swett, Jeff Tallon and Katy Foley, John Vullo, Amy Yockel

NEW CORPORATE MEMBER

LaBella Associates

GIFTS IN MEMORY OF

Paul Metzger from Irondequoit Land Use Coalition, **Michael Williams** from Pat Tindale

GIFTS IN HONOR OF

Cathy Feldman from Robert Taylor, **Dan Hadley** from Mary Hadley, **Ann McNabb** from Jim and Nancy MacWhinney, **Margaret Potter** from Mary Hadley, **Robert Taylor** from Catherine Feldman, **Thomas P. Riley** and **Barbara Kelley** from Jean McCreary

A Meaningful Way to Remember

Genesee Land Trust member Deb Allen used her gift to Genesee Land Trust to honor someone special in a meaningful way. She wrote us this note: “I’ll be sending a donation in memory of my uncle, Victor Parks, who passed away. He was a farmer who worked in the city and Irondequoit, back when Irondequoit was mostly farms, and loved the land and growing things. I have great childhood memories of helping him, along with his daughter, Katie, to work at his farm stand. I know that part of why I connected with the land came from my experiences on Uncle Vic’s farm. A gift to Genesee Land Trust seems like a nice way to remember him.”



Executive Director
Gay Mills



Dear Members,

Genesee Land Trust is poised to join the select group of land trusts that have achieved national accreditation. This spring the Land Trust Accreditation Commission will be reviewing our land transactions, finances and operations.

The Commission is an independent program developed in 2005 to recognize land conservation organizations that operate at the highest ethical and legal standard, as defined by the Land Trust Alliance's Standard and Practices. Strong, well-managed land trusts that are ethical and efficient will have the tools to fulfill their promise to safeguard land through the generations.

We have been actively preparing for Accreditation over the past year. Lisa Strauss, flanked by volunteers, has led a thorough review and documentation of our land project files and has refined our policies and procedures—all with an eye to ensuring the permanent protection of the land we preserve.

Your comments regarding Genesee Land Trust's application are welcome. Please submit comments by May 20, 2012 about the Trust and its work within the Commission's national standards. You can submit your comments directly to the Commission at www.landtrustaccreditation.org/component/content/article/289.

Thank you in advance for your willingness to support our accreditation with your comments.

P.S. For your information the following Standards are under review: Mission/Compliance with Laws/ Board Accountability/ Conflicts of Interest/ Fundraising/Financial and Asset Management/ Volunteers, Staff and Consultants/Evaluating and Selecting Conservation Projects/Ensuring Sound Transactions/Tax Benefits/Conservation Easement Stewardship/Fee Land Stewardship

OUR HEARTFELT THANKS GO TO . . .

Preserve Editor: **Randi Minetor**. Photographers: **Nigel P. Kent, Gloria M. Weyerts, Linda M. Clark**. Greentopia: **Karen Arbergast, Jim Wood, Patty McKinny, Donna Silverman, Debbie Kornfeld, Connie Ehindero, Georgia Nelson, Jutta Dudley, Julie Duffy & her friend, Dan Deveau, Cenie Cafarelli, Nancy & Pete Torpey, Howard Potter, Chris Potter, Caitlin Godin**. Sodus Harvest Fest: **Ed Saphar, Tom Hryvniak, Bill & Jan Schwappacher, Cenie Cafarelli**. Conkey Corner Park Work Parties: Leader: **Cenie Cafarelli**. Assisted by: **Tom Frey, Karen Kremer, Dana Kimberly, Dan Deveau, Meg Hough, Tom Hryvniak, Nyoka Mills, Sana Mirza**. Conkey Corner Park Fall Fest GLT Volunteers: **Cenie Cafarelli, Erin Zalewski, Meg Hough, Matt McNear, Karen Evans, Sheila Driscoll, Tom Frey, Scott Forsyth, Nyoka Mills, Pat Canty, Dan Deveau, Howard Potter, JC & Merlyn Wilson, Brad Cherin, Bergmann Associates Chef for Fall Fest: Roberto Burgos**. Tables for Fall Fest: **Merri-Lou McKeever Rachel Edwards, members of Ibero-American Development Corporation**, Tents: **City of Rochester Project HOPE Staff: Sacha Rios, Miguel Melendez, Dawn Bird**. Game Volunteers: **Cheryl Norman, Liz Stevenson, Jo Dickinson, Daniel Lugo**. Cook Volunteers: **Wanda Martinez, Carmen Medina, Lourdes Ferrer**. Food Service Volunteers: **Andrea Hryhorenko**. Art In The Armory: **Meg Hough, Keane & Patti Posner, Bill and Jan Schwappacher, Cenie Cafarelli, Arlene Moffatt, Sandy Carbone, Robert Kraus, Connie Bowen, Andy & Suzanne Wheatcraft, Marian Coger, Cenie Cafarelli, Lisa Strauss, Tom Hryvniak, Howard & Chris Potter**. Accreditation: **Merri-Lou McKeever, Sharon Kunzer, Judy Bigelow, Caitlyn Walton, Kevin Farrell, Nancy Torpey, Scott Forsyth, Jean McCreary**. Interns: **Catherine Lansing, Kara Lokot, Sana Mirza**. Tool/equipment donations and loans: **Genesee Valley Audubon and June Summers, Karen Kremer, Allen Handelman, Fred Donohue**. Sign posting at Alasa Farms: **Merri-Lou McKeever, Sana Mirza, Cherie Harder, Tom Hryvniak, Gabriel Ritz Saphar**. Work Party at Manitou Beach Preserve, Led by **John Boettcher: Dan Wilson, John Madder, Rochester Birding Association Volunteers**. Work Party at Island Cottage Woods, Led by **Rick Worner: Linda Kohn, Cenie Cafarelli, Tom Witt**. Christine Sevilla Preserve Boardwalk Planning: **George Parker, Tom Ryther, Bruno Chalifour, Cassy Petsos, Kim Hartquist, June Summers, Carol Southby, Steven Daniel, Kim Merchant**. Eagle Scout Project at Hipp Brook Preserve, Led by **Ryan Connal, Helpers: Barb Baumer, Brian Baumer, Patrick Bowes, Alex Brophy, Chuck Canham, Trevor Canham, Sean Carroll, Bill Connal, Eileen Connal, Kim Connal, Larry Davis Jr., Larry Davis III, Sean Donnelly, Andrew Ebersol, Warren Elvin, David Frezza, Dave Frezza Sr., James Gorman, Kevin Gorman, Chris Klajbor, Will Klajbor, Ralph Merzbach, Doug Morgan, John Morgan, Matt Morgan, Del Newquist, Cal Robinson, Alex Rozanov, Nick Rozanov, Victor Rozanov, Derek Swarthout, Jeff Swarthout, Josh Vaow, Brian Vick, Dave Zariczny, Kiel Zariczny**. Trail cleanup at Ganargua Creek Preserve, Led by **Andy Scarsella, Helpers: Weblos Cub Scout Victor Pack 60**. Preserve Stewards: **John Boettcher, Norma Platt, Tom Ryther, Doug Larson, Mervyn Weerasinghe, Peter Henry, Fran McCarthy, David Ferriter, Warren Elvin, Elsa Schaefer, Phil Schaefer, Roger Cass, Diane Cass, Rick Worner, Greg Palmer, Ammie Chickering, Elizabeth Henderson, Daryl Odhner, Bill Steimer, Scott Simpson, Caryn Kiehl-Simpson, Joanne Azzario**. Attorneys: **Scott Forsyth, Peter Woods, Timothy Fitzgerald, George Parker**. Farmland: **Tom Low, Ora Rothfuss**. Environmental Review: **Nixon Peabody, LLP, Rick Marx, Elaine Enfonde, Jean McCreary**. Wonderful Space: **Spectrum Gallery at Lumiere, Bill Edwards**. Meeting Room: **Forte Capital, Jeff Hough**. Opening Their Homes To Share The Trust With Others: **Georgia Gosnell, Gretchen Voss, Jim Wood and Patty McKinny, Tom Riley and Barbara Kelley, Ed and Gabriel Ritz Saphar**. ■



LAND PRESERVED ADJACENT TO ALASA FARMS

What a difference a year makes! In 2011, Genesee Land Trust and The Nature Conservancy protected over 1,000 contiguous acres. Early in the year, in February, Genesee Land Trust protected the 637-acre Alasa Farms, and at the very end of December, The Nature Conservancy protected the adjacent 400 acres known as the Shaker Tract. The two properties combined are an important step in protecting the waters of Sodus Bay as they hold long stretches of Second and Third Creeks, large forested tracts and marsh habitats.

on Alasa Farms, the owners of the neighboring parcel approached us to see if they could sell their land for conservation. Zack Odell of The Nature Conservancy and I followed up the call with a meeting to explore his interests and possible options. Fortunately, The Nature Conservancy was able to secure funding from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to purchase the land with the future understanding that they will transfer it to NYS Department of Environmental Conservation."

"We are thrilled The Nature Conservancy has protected Shaker Tract." said executive director Gay Mills. "These lands have been on our radar screen for some time. When we first started working

The protection of these two adjacent properties, one in the town of Sodus and the other in the Town of Huron illustrates the collaborative spirit of the Genesee Land Trust and The Nature Conservancy. ■

FALL FESTIVAL AT CONKEY CORNER PARK



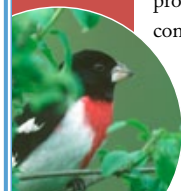
Over 300 attended the Fall Festival at Conkey Corner Park in October. All enjoyed great food, games and wonderful costumes! See all who helped in the Heartfelt Thanks!

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 **Genesee Land Trust**.

Reach us directly: (585) 256-2130 g mills@genesee land trust.org

Photo: © Elinor Obsorn



COMING EVENTS

All events are open to the public. Visit www.geneseelandtrust.org/events.html for directions to these events.

SNOWSHOE AND CROSS COUNTRY SKI TRIPS AT ALASA FARMS:

Snow, rain or shine, join us for a trip through the forests and fields of Alasa Farms. Come with your mud boots, snowshoes, or cross-country skis. RSVP to Lisa Strauss at landprotection@geneseelandtrust.org for directions to meeting spot.

- Saturday, February 18, 10 AM to Noon, led by Caitlyn Walton.
- Wednesday, February 29, 10 AM to Noon, led by Tom Hicks.

ON THE ROAD WITH RANDI AND NIC MINETOR

Monday, February 27, 7 PM: At Brighton Memorial Library, 2300 Elmwood Ave: Author and photographer team Randi (words) and Nic (photos) Minetor are on a quest to see all 397 national part units in the US and its territories. To date, they've visited 278 units in 47 states—and their stories of the animals, birds, landscapes, historic sites, and peculiar people they've discovered have been documented in more than 20 books. Their photo-rich presentation will help you start to plan your own American adventure.

"PURPLE MARTINS' MAJESTY: ATTRACTING AND MANAGING THIS UNUSUAL BIRD,"

Monday April 23, 7PM: Webster Public Library, 980 Ridge Rd: Rick Marx, GLT advisory board member/volunteer, will show and tell about his work in establishing nesting colonies of these interesting birds. Rick's birding interests have taken him around the globe. Be prepared for great information, photos and Q&A. Registration required. Please visit the Webster Library online at http://www.websterlibrary.org/Frames/frame_programs.html or call Margaret Potterat 256-2130.

FROG WALK WITH MARTHA ZETTEL, Friday, April 20, 7:30 – 9:30 PM: Come for a spring night of discovery—frogs, toads, salamanders and maybe woodcock—on her property in Rush. Wear waterproof boots and bring a strong flashlight and mosquito repellent if it's warm out. Meet at 677 Five Points Road in Rush. Please RSVP 256-2130.

MAY DAY CELEBRATION AT PEACEWORK FARM

Sunday, April 29 2-6 PM: 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 potluck supper. (Rain date: May 10, same times, call 315-331-9029 in morning if uncertain.) One hour from Rochester, directions at www.gvocsa.org

SPRING WILDFLOWER WALK AT GANARGUA CREEK MEADOW PRESERVE

Saturday, May 5 from 10 AM until noon, meet at bunker hill entrance: Join naturalists Dave and Carol Southby as we explore the hillside trail for our first flowers of spring. Optional extension into wetland at bottom of hill has muddy spots and poison ivy, please wear suitable footwear. Directions to Bunker Hill Entrance: From Rte 31 in Macedon, turn south on Rte 306 (Wayneport Road). Turn east onto Wilkinson Road. At the crest of the hill turn south onto Bunker Hill Dr. Follow Bunker Hill Dr to the end and park in the gravel area adjacent to the water tower.

BIRDING TRIP AT AMY'S PONDS AND HUNDRED ACRE WOODS

Sunday, May 6 at 7:30 AM: Join the birding experts 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. Directions: Take Rte 104 east, go north on County Line Road. At Lake Road go east, turn into the driveway of 484 Lake Road and look for the designated parking area. RBA also leads birding field trips all across the region, including Island Cottage Woods – see www.rochesterbirding.com for times and dates..

WORK DAYS

For more information about work parties, please email Lisa Strauss, Land Preservation Coordinator, at landprotection@geneseelandtrust.org. For all work parties please: Wear long pants and boots, bring work gloves, saws, shovels/pitch forks, loppers, hand clippers, and wheelbarrows.

KRAAI PRESERVE: Saturday, April 14, 9:30 AM-12:30 PM: Work will include mulching trail and trimming brush. Meet at the end of Norsen Road.

BROOKDALE PRESERVE: Saturday, April 28, 10 AM-1 PM: Work will include mulching trails and trimming brush. Meet at parking lot on Brook Road.

FAMILY FRIENDLY WORK PART AT GANARGUA CREEK MEADOW PRESERVE

Saturday, May 5, 10 AM -1 PM: Families and accompanied children welcome! Work will be light to moderate. Meet at creekside entrance, on Wilkinson Road, just before Victor Road.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

THE NATIVE PLANT SALE: Saturday, May 19 – 8:30 AM- 2 PM: Brighton Town Hall: Start your garden while giving to a great cause. Native plants, shrubs, trees, herbs and Backyard Habitat Tour ticket are for sale! If you would like to donate plants or volunteer, please call Margaret Potter at 256-2130 or email her at info@geneseelandtrust.org.

EL CAMINO RIBBON CUTTING, Saturday, June 2, 11:30 AM -3 PM: Join us for the long awaited celebration of the trail completion. Enjoy great music, food, games and walking or biking El Camino!

THE BACKYARD HABITAT TOUR, Saturday, June 23, 9 AM to 4 PM: Featured gardens are located in Pittsford, Brighton, Fairport and Webster ending on Lake Ontario! If you would like to volunteer, please call Margaret Potter at 256-2130 or email her at info@geneseelandtrust.org.

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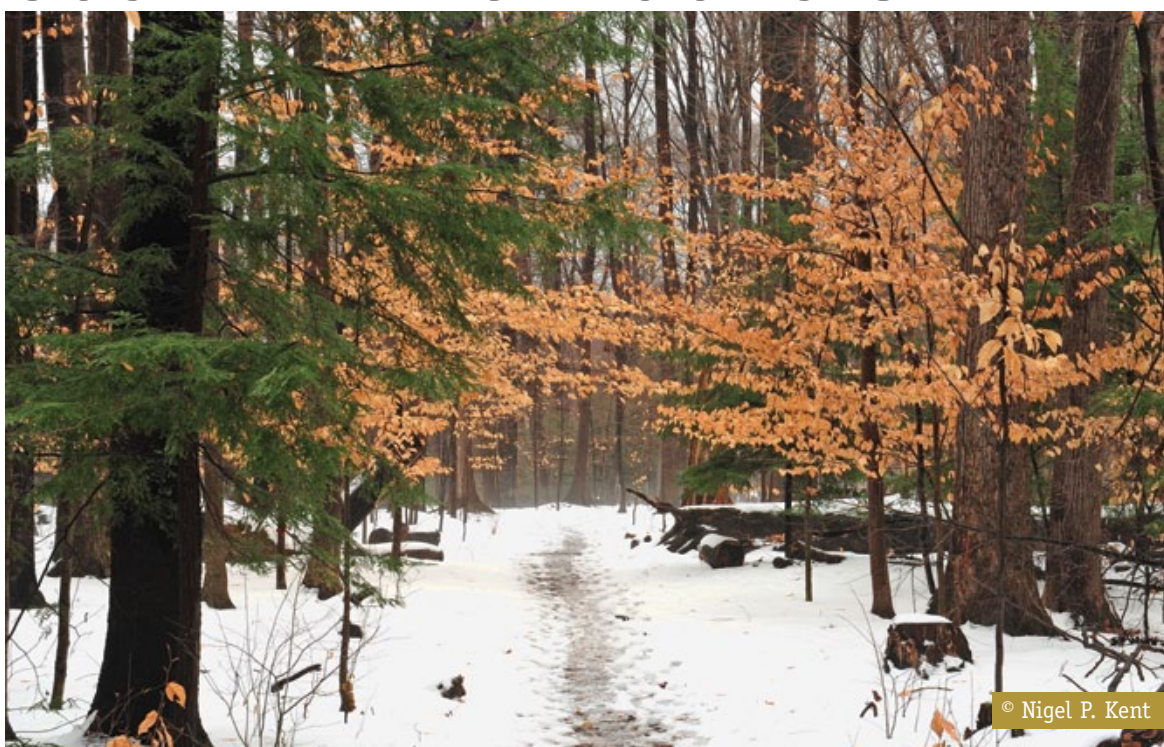


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GOSNELL BIG WOODS UPDATE



Great work is being done at the Gosnell Big Woods Preserve! Beautiful kiosks are underway that will make your visit to the Preserve's three areas, the Big Woods, the Big Field and the Meadow, even more enjoyable. Led by Genesee Land Trust, the Town of Webster, Friends of Webster Trails (FWT) and Preserve neighbors are all participating in the design. Eagle Scouts will complete the installation this summer.

Norma Platt and John Boettcher, active Trust and FWT members, have helped tremendously in the kiosk planning and in stewarding Big Woods. Norma has led volunteers in invasive species mitigation, making remarkable progress

in encouraging growth of native plants. Her husband, John, and other FWT volunteers recently installed posts at which you will be able to stamp your Genesee Land Trust/Wegmans Passport Booklet, starting this summer.

Norma and John have volunteered to be Genesee Land Trust stewards of Gosnell Big Woods, walking it regularly, keeping logs of visitor use, and helping us and the Town manage this magnificent place. Norma insists this is not work, however. "I have to pinch myself," she said. "We are so lucky—Big Woods is too good to be true!" ■