

# GLT

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GENESEE LAND TRUST

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**GLT MISSION STATEMENT** 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.

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Tom Frey and Gay Mills talk with Mayor Robert Duffy at the news conference on December 18.

## URBAN TRAIL GETS FUNDING, TIMELINE CITY OF ROCHESTER ANNOUNCES \$2.2 MILLION IN GRANTS FOR TRAIL DEVELOPMENT

Six years ago, Genesee Land Trust Board member Tom Frey proposed that the Trust embark upon an urban project – transforming an unused CSX rail right-of-way into a community walking and hiking trail. Years of labor have culminated in good news for Rochester residents: The Trust has developed a public-private partnership

with the City of Rochester that is poised to turn that concept into reality.

Mayor Robert Duffy announced on December 18, 2006, that the City has acquired a series of grants and awards totaling \$2.2 million for the construction of the El Camino Butterhole-Seneca Park Trail, a two-mile-plus conversion of the abandoned CSX railroad bed from Seneca Park to St. Paul Street.

The project will create a central link between residential areas, the City's Riverway Trail, and Seneca Park to St. Paul at Scrantom Street, reclaiming land that had lost its usefulness as the old railroad bed fell into disrepair. The City purchased the land in November 2006, the first step in turning the former right-of-way into safe, clean, open space for recreation and exercise—all in the heart of one of Rochester's most challenged and congested neighborhoods.

Genesee Land Trust, working under Frey's leadership, brought together organizations

(Continued on inside page)



Left: Bidding was brisk at the Forever Green Auction, as attendees filled out ballots for valuable items.



Right: Margaret Potter, assistant director of the Land Trust, officially launches the auction.

**GENESEE LAND TRUST**  
500 East Ave, Suite 200  
Rochester, NY 14607  
(585) 256-2130  
www.geneeseelandtrust.org

**Gay Mills**, Executive Director  
gmills@geneeseelandtrust.org  
**Margaret Potter**, Assistant Director  
info@geneeseelandtrust.org  
**KrausCreative**, newsletter design/  
production

## GENESEE LAND TRUST EXTENDS A HEARTFELT THANK YOU . . .

Auction Invitation Mailing Party: **Carolyn Ragan, Cherie Harder, Laurie Fellows, Rick Marx, Elaine Enfonde, Mary Moss; Maya Pullman**, for teaching middle-school students from St. Rita's School in Webster what Genesee Land Trust is and what life is like for migratory birds and Conservation Field Days; Thanks to **Karen Evray** and other organizers of Monroe County Conservation Field Days for inviting Genesee Land Trust to participate; Backyard Habitat Committee Members: **Lee Caine, Laurie Gunthers Fellows, Georgia Nelson and Elthea King** who worked on garden selections for Tour 2007. To **Connie Ehindero** for Direct Mail work; **Nancy and Peter Torpey, Warren Elvin, John and Chris Funt, Bruce and Mary Ann Cady, Robert and Jonathan Kraus, and David Ferriter** for their work at the Hipp Brook Preserve; Walk-A-Thon volunteers: **Casia Moffatt, Toby Terwillinger, Jonathan Kraus, Jennifer Cumbo, Katrina Hansen, Tom Witt and Tom Frey; Katrina Hansen and Art Scissum** for help with the Website; Forever Green Auction Volunteers: **Merri-Lou McKeever, Whitney Synder, Debbie Stein, Tom Witt, Elthea King, Tom Frey, Mary Moss, Randi Minetor, Ann Baker, Robert, Jonathan and Pat Kraus, Lee Caine, Elizabeth von Bacho, Connie Bowen, Howard Potter, Diane Cass, Roger Cass and the Roses of Rochester, The Chris Potter Trio, Geoff Poor, Karen Arbegast, Mike Kehoe, Tom Tette, Joan Clawson, Tom Ryther, plus Connie Ehindero and Jennifer Wagner** for auction invitation design; **Whitney Synder** for assistance with land management; **Katrina Hansen and Casia Moffatt** for administrative assistance; **Jonathan Dubner** for bookkeeping; **Peter Woods** of ESL Federal Credit Union and **Tim Fitzgerald** of Harris Beach LLP for their legal work; **Merri-Lou McKeever** for straightening out the projector and a fabulous slide show, **Carol Southby** for her critical eye at Hipp Brook, **Clark Wallace and Louise Hartshorn** for the Open Space Workshop in Greece, **Suzanne Wheatcraft** for her Parma presentation, **Connie Ehindero** for taking the time to go to the Rally, **Peter Henry, Sylvia Albrecht, Mona Rynearson, Elizabeth Henderson and Greg Palmer** for their thoughts re the Kraai nature preserve and trails, All of the volunteers of BBBO for sharing their world of migratory bird research, **Ora Rothfuss** of Wayne County Planning for all of his assistance on farmland protection projects, **Tom Ryther** for the minutes of the Trail Committee, **Dave Feindel** for his questioning, **Randi Minetor** for all her help with this newsletter; **Rosemarie Levy and Mike Sukhenko** for their graphic design and layout of the newsletter, **Bob Marcotte**, author of *Birds of the Genesee*, for donating proceeds from his book to Genesee Land Trust and requesting a matching gift from his employer, and Rochester Birding Association for their \$400 gift for boardwalk construction materials. To **Jeff Hand** for his photography. To Eagle Scout **Sam Gerace** for organizing a big crew out at Island Cottage Woods to put in boardwalks: **Mr. Zodarecky, Josh Zodarecky, Kenny Zodarecky, Mr. Drexel, Dan Drexel, Dan Acito, Jeff Gerace, Tyler Davis, Mr. Davis, Mr. Pawlak, Eric Pawlak, Bryan Houle, Mr. Houle, Joe Leathersich, Steve Hollister, Billy Morris, Michelle Gerace, Mrs. Gerace, Sam Mangiafesto, Dan Gonnella, Mr. Gonnella, Mrs. DiBella, Matt Davies, Mr. Davies, and Mr. Gerace.**

## GIFTS IN HONOR OF . . .

Ann and Neal McNabb's anniversary  
from James and Nancy MacWhinney

Kathy Magin's birthday from Thomas  
Magin

Nancy Goodman Torpey's birthday  
from Merrill and Phoebe Goodman. ■

## GIFTS IN MEMORY OF . . .

Leslie Stevenson from Hollis Budd. ■

## INTRODUCING: THE CORPORATE CLUB

The Trust is pleased to announce the establishment of a corporate level membership beginning at the \$1,000 level. Partnerships with area businesses are important to our continued success and we are working to make this list grow. Welcome to our inaugural corporate members: **RG&E, Waste Management, Paychex and Stantec.** ■

(Continued from front page)

including the Ibero American Action League, Group 14621, city schools in the area and local residents to come up with the plan for the trail. From its current state as a dumping ground for commercial waste and an elongated, brushy vacant lot, the new urban trail will become a picturesque parkway with interpretive signs and displays, two parallel trails—one paved for bicycles, skateboards and in-line skating, and one with a softer surface for walking—and access points at community centers and residential areas already found along the trail's length.

"There are destination points along the trail," Frey explained. "Ibero owns property at Clifford Street on which they will build a senior center, on the east side of the trail—where they've already built townhouses for senior living. There will be an entranceway to the trail from this center, so that seniors can get exercise at their own pace. Then, farther down, you reach the Avenue D Recreation Center, with a small park of its own—the only park in this entire neighborhood—and ball courts, a swimming pool and playground. The trail will unite these sites and others, bringing the neighborhood together."

Native plantings along the trail will replace the underbrush and overgrown vegetation found there now, defining the trail's edges without the use of high fences or other isolating structures. The wire fences and other barriers that enclose the former rail bed today will be removed, creating a welcoming environment that is accessible from the surrounding neighborhoods.

The funds announced by Mayor Duffy—including \$2 million from the federal government's Transportation Enhancement Program, \$150,000 from Eastman Kodak Company and \$50,000 in New York State funds secured by Assemblywoman Susan John—will help to bring the entire trail to completion over the next several years.

"Come spring, we'll have work days on the trail again, as we have for the last several years, so Land Trust volunteers and others will have more opportunities to help," Frey concluded. "It's that kind of effort on everyone's part that will make this project a success, both in the short term and for many years to come." ■



GLT Executive Director  
Gay Mills.

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Members,

As 2007 begins, Margaret and I will welcome a new member to our busy staff and our small office. We have created a new space for our new coworker, both in the room and in our plans!

With over 2,500 acres under our care from Newark to Greece, our responsibilities have grown . . . and with public-private projects underway in the City (see cover story), in Wayne County (farmland protection programs) and across the region, our commitments are increasing. Meanwhile, new opportunities for land preservation are expanding! The new staff member's primary focus will be on the land management and stewardship needs of the Trust, as we face the realities of preserving land in perpetuity

This growth spurt for Genesee Land Trust has been encouraged by grant support from the NY State Conservation Partnership Program administered by the Land Trust Alliance Northeast Program, and matching gifts from the Fred & Floy Willmott Foundation, the Rochester Area Community Foundation and generous members and friends.

Working together, staff and board, volunteers and members, we have built a solid local land trust from the ground up. With 1,000 supporting members and an expanded work force, we look forward to a new year dedicated to preserving more natural lands in the greater Rochester area!

## HSBC INCREASES SUPPORT OF GENESEE LAND TRUST

HSBC in The Community (USA) Inc., recently awarded Genesee Land Trust \$15,000 in general support funding. This constitutes an increase of 50% in its annual grant funding to the Trust, bringing HSBC's total contribution to \$55,000 in five years.

"The Foundation's increased support is a vote of confidence in the Trust's land protection and outreach programs," said Heather L. Malkin, Vice President and Manager of the Bank's Foundation and Grants. HSBC's Community Foundation was established to carry out its mission with a philanthropic strategy focused on two primary issues – education and the environment.



Photo by Jeff Hand

David L. Brooks, HSBC, presents check to Gay Mills, Trust executive director.

"Support from HSBC has directly facilitated our success in protecting natural lands in our community, and we are most grateful for it," said Gay Mills, Trust executive director. ■

## THE TRUST'S FOREVER GREEN AUCTION: UNPRECEDENTED SUCCESS

We are happy to announce that the Forever Green Auction, held at the Vertigo Heights Room at ArtisanWorks on October 28, netted \$14,000—the highest total yet for this popular event. Special thanks go to all of the people and organizations that helped make this event such a success, particularly Elliott Landsman and Landsman Development Corp. for underwriting this fundraising event. We also thank Star Headlight & Lantern, an original auction sponsor, plus new sponsors Haley & Aldrich and Harter Secrest & Emery LLP.

We thank Xerox Corporation for its gift of invitation printing, and Jennifer Wagner and Connie Ehindero for the beautiful design. We greatly appreciate donations of wine and desserts from Constellation Brands, Cheesy Eddie's,

The Ravioli Shop, Premier Pastry and Biscotti di Misiti. One hundred and twenty people attended the gala, with music provided by Roger Cass and the Roses of Rochester, and by the Chris Potter Trio. A huge thank you goes to Master of Ceremonies Geoff Poor, who came through for us once more, and to all the board and members who worked so hard to find great items for auction. Kudos to Merri-Lou McKeever, Lee Caine and Debbie Stein for many hours of preparatory work.

A complete list of all who made this evening stellar appears within the Heartfelt Thanks on page 2 of this newsletter. An unprecedented bottom line, attendance and great donations are the wonderful results of the efforts of our membership. You made it happen! ■





Photo by Craig Dilger



Photo by Elizabeth Henderson

## AT PEACEWORK FARM

Left and Right: Transplanting lettuces and harvesting garlic — just two of the many seasonal tasks involved in producing organic crops at Peacework Farm.

## MEET THE BOARD: MIKE KEHOE, TREASURER



Pittsford resident Mike Kehoe was recently elected Genesee Land Trust treasurer. A Mobil Chemical Company employee for 21 years,

Kehoe's accounting and financial management positions took him to New York and Houston from his home base in the Rochester area. Later, he served as director of finance for Nixon Peabody for 14 years until his retirement in 2001. President of the Rochester Chapter of Financial Executives International, Kehoe volunteers for LifeSpan and the Pittsford Trails Project and is a member of the finance counsel of his church. Kehoe has become a regular face at the Trust's 500 East Avenue office through his service to our Finance and Steering Committees. The Land Trust is lucky to have Mike Kehoe on board! (And congratulations to our outgoing treasurer, Colleen Roof, who just gave birth to her second son.) ■

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Constance Anglin, Donald and Janice Baird, Lynn Bergmeyer, Constance and John and Marian Boutet, Kevin Bowen, Teresa Braell, Esther Brill, Michael Burghart, Nancy Chevalier, Carol Clarke, Barbara Crumb, James and Jody Davis, Cathy Feldman, Anne Ford, David Frosini, Patricia Gallaher, Helen Gamble, Martin Gardner and Catharine Corby Gardner, Barbara Gibson, Michael and Patricia Kehoe, Joyce Leimberger, Emma Maher, Daryl Odhner, Gregg Pacelli, Pauline Parks, Lawrence Peckham, Glenn and Sally Pezzulo, Sue Reynolds, Edith Schneider, Donald Scordo, Cathy Senecal-Rice, Annette Shapiro, Kathleen Steel, Charles and Donna Tijou. ■



## GENESEE LAND TRUST COMPLETES LAND ACQUISITION PROJECTS ALONG BRADDOCK AND IRONDEQUOIT BAYS

As part of the Preserving Nature Forever effort, Genesee Land Trust has completed a trilogy of land protection projects in the Braddock Bay area with a final bargain sale purchase of eight acres from William Kaiser of Clayton, NY.

The newly acquired open field forms a bridge between two Trust protected habitats: the wooded, two-acre parcel that houses the Braddock Bay Bird Observatory's (BBBO) headquarters, and the five acres of field, marsh and woods protected in December 2004 that follow the shoreline of Braddock Bay with a small beach on Lake Ontario.

"This acquisition fills in the gap to form a continuous stretch of protected, near-shore habitat for migratory birds," says Trust Executive Director Gay Mills. "Genesee Land Trust appreciates Mr. Kaiser's willingness to work with us to make this happen."

Roger Cass, Trust board member and a lifetime birder, was very involved in bringing this project to its conclusion. "I am so pleased to see it come to pass in the way Betsy Brooks and I envisioned ten years ago. We have achieved our vision of protecting critical bird habitat, thanks to our partnership with BBBO and to the financial and volunteer support of Rochester Birding Association, the birding community and Trust members."

"Mr. Kaiser has been a wonderful friend to BBBO," noted Betsy Brooks, who has conducted research on this newly protected land for more than 20 years, "With this project, he has granted permanent protection to the fields and woods that are so important to migratory songbirds every spring and fall."

### Irondequoit Bay property protected

The Trust's first protection project on Irondequoit Bay reached its conclusion in fall 2006 as well, with a conservation easement over a small property along Devil's Cove. The cove is a secluded spot of the Bay that was identified by the Monroe County Environmental Management as a priority for protection in its Preservation of Environmentally Sensitive Areas report in 1996.

"With tall trees covering the slopes right down to the shore, the easement protects natural habitat for migrating and residential birds and a scenic natural shoreline for all to enjoy," said Executive Director Mills. "We thank landowner Donald Scordo, who decided to place a conservation easement on his Webster properties, protecting a natural shoreline along Devil's Cove in perpetuity." ■



Left: Peter and Nancy Goodman Torpey prepare to move mulch at Hipp Brook Preserve.



Right: Children explore the Big Woods, a Webster property protected by the Genesee Land Trust.

## COMING EVENTS

**Purple Martin's Majesty, Tuesday, February 27, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** Trust board member and a leader in the Purple Martin Conservation Project, Rick Marx, will share his knowledge of the Purple Martin including the establishment of nesting colonies. This presentation will be held at the Conference Room at the Brighton Town Library, 2300 Elmwood Ave, which is co-sponsor of this event. It is free and open to the public. Call Margaret at 256-2130 to register.

**Gardenscape 2007: Greater Rochester's 16th Annual Flower & Garden Show, Dome Arena at Monroe County Fair & Expo Center, Henrietta, March 15 through March 18:** This year's theme is "Drama in the Garden." The Trust booth will provide information about Land Preservation in the Greater Rochester region. Spread the word and gain free admittance to the event by staffing the booth for a shift. Call Margaret Potter at 256-2130 or by email at [info@geneseeandtrust.org](mailto:info@geneseeandtrust.org) if you can help.

**In Search of the Shoebill, Wednesday, March 21, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.** Genesee Land Trust members and leaders in local bird conservation, Don and Donna Traver have also made it a goal to see every bird family known to man. Trekking south central Africa, their search for the Shoebill involved bush planes rides and land roving, getting up close and personal with lions and leopards, and searching deep into the dense wetlands of Bangweulu! Free and open to the public, this event takes place at the Penfield Library (co-sponsor of this event) at 1985 Baird Road, off of Rt. 441 in Penfield. Call Margaret at 256-2130 to register.



**Work Parties, April:** Trail maintenance, boardwalk building, sign posting, clearing of invasive species, etc. Check [www.geneseeandtrust.org](http://www.geneseeandtrust.org) for details as they are confirmed. Add your name to the Volunteer Group Email to receive announcements of upcoming volunteer events, or call the office at 256-2130.

**Wildflower Walk at Ganargua Creek Meadow Preserve: Sunday, April 15, 1:00 p.m.** Join us on a hillside of spring wildflowers. Directions: from Route 31 in Macedon, turn south onto Route 306 (Wayneport Road). Turn east onto Wilkinson Road. At the crest of the hill, turn south onto Bunker Hill Drive: park at gravel area adjacent to the water tower. Boots, long pants, binoculars are recommended. The wildflower walk will take place rain or shine.

**May Day Celebration at Peacework Farm, Sunday April 29, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.** Join the Peacework farmers (Elizabeth Henderson, Greg Palmer, Ammie Chickering and Katie Lavin) and members of the 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 6, same times, call 315-331-9029 that morning if uncertain.) Approx one hour from Rochester, directions and map at [www.gvocsa.org](http://www.gvocsa.org).

**Corbett's Glen Bird Walk, Thursday, May 3, 7:30 a.m.** Join David Strong and Peter Perkins of the Rochester Birding Association (RBA) on a weekday exploration of Corbett's Glen Nature Park looking for spring migrants. Meet at the Linden Oaks Medical Campus Surgery Center, 10 Linden Avenue, to gather and carpool over to the Glen. 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.

**Birding Trip at Amy's Ponds and Hundred Acre Woods, Sunday May 6, 7:30 a.m.** Join the birding experts on this Rochester Birding Association sponsored walk on the privately owned land of Janet and Bob Smith that is 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 driveway of 484 Lake Road and look for designated parking area.

**The Native Plant Sale, Brighton Town Hall, 2300 Elmwood Ave: Saturday, May 19, 8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.** Start your garden while giving to a good cause. Wide variety of native plants, shrubbery, trees, herbs, water garden plants will be sold. Genesee Land Trust T-shirts, tote bags and more PLUS tickets to the Fifth Anniversary Backyard Habitat Tour! For information or to volunteer, call Margaret Potter at 256-2130.

**Braddock Bay Bird Observatory Open House, Sunday, May 20, 9:00 a.m. – Noon.** See migratory birds close up with the experts at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach Bird Banding Station, land protected in partnership by Genesee Land Trust and BBB0. Learn about ongoing research projects and explore critical migratory bird habitat. Children especially welcome! Directions: Take the Lake Ontario State Parkway west. Exit at Manitou Beach Road and go right. Follow Manitou Beach Road to where it bears left and become Braddocks Ave. Follow Braddocks Ave to its end.

**Exploring Gosnell Big Woods Preserve, Sunday, June 10, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.** Don and Donna Traver, long-time Trust members and Webster residents, will lead a nature walk into the Big Woods. With ancient hemlocks, stately oaks and maples, the Big Woods is a premier stand of old growth woods and is now protected in a partnership of the Town of Webster and the Genesee Land Trust. Boots and binoculars are recommended. Meet at the intersection of Vosburg and Drumm Roads in Webster. Reservations needed for this walk—please call 256-2130.



**The Fifth Anniversary of the Backyard Habitat Tour: Saturday, June 23, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** Rochester, Brighton, Fairport and Pittsford are among the locales for this special tour. Learn about native bees and sample their honey; see an exquisitely designed pond; enjoy a wooded paradise just minutes from 12 Corners...the gardens of Lee Caine and Nancy Dean are returning by popular demand! Tickets will be available in spring at all Wegmans and through the Land Trust office by calling 256-2130. Call Margaret Potter if you'd like to volunteer to garden greet.

**Salmon Creek Paddle, Sunday, June 17, 5:00 p.m.** Join Jamie Spiller for a paddle along the Salmon Creek Preserve and other protected lands along the creek. Bring your own canoe or kayak, or make arrangements to rent from Braddock Bay Paddlesports at 585-392-2628 or on their website [www.paddlingny.com](http://www.paddlingny.com). Directions: Take Lake Ontario State Parkway west. Exit at Manitou Beach Road and go south. At Manitou Road turn left. Meet at 416 Manitou Road on your left.



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Rochester, NY 14607

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## SUPPORTERS MAKE LEGACY GIFT

“I grew up in a small town, and when I was a kid at the end of the Depression, you spent time in the fields picking up potatoes,” said Neal McNabb, a retired pediatrician who with his wife, Ann, donated a conservation easement on their woods and fields in Mendon to Genesee Land Trust several years ago. “A lot of our friends were farm kids, and my grandfather was a dairy farmer. We had that appreciation for the land.”

The McNabbs recently expanded their commitment to the Trust, by taking steps to remember the Trust in their will. “We’re really environmentalists,” Neal said. “We’re tired of the sprawl, and seeing good land gobbled up. When we look at the needs and how to perpetuate land preservation, a planned gift is appropriate.

“You have to do more than give an easement or preserve a piece of land,” he explained. “You’ve got to be interested and involved to preserve land successfully. That’s why we made the decision to remember the Trust in our will. We had to make a long-term commitment.”

Please let us know if you have included Genesee Land Trust in your will. To learn more about planned giving opportunities that might be right for you, call Gay Mills, Executive Director at 585-256-2130. ■

Neal and Ann McNabb have taken steps to remember the Trust in their will.