

Spring 2017



GENESEE
LAND TRUST

The Preserve

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National Civilian Community Corps Crew serves at El Camino



A National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) crew started working May 1st along the Thomas R. Frey Trail at El Camino and Conkey Corner Park to give the trail and park some TLC in the spirit of Tom Frey.

Genesee Land Trust was awarded the NCCC crew to work in the El Camino neighborhood for the month of May as part of their year of service with AmeriCorps.



A Life Remembered Lives On Tom's Trail at El Camino



Commissioner Jones awards Tom Frey a plaque in honor of the rededication of the El Camino Trail as the *Thomas R. Frey Trail at El Camino*.

Tom will be remembered for his personal touch and his willingness to do any job to help “his” trail and community. A long-time Board member dedicated to Genesee Land Trust’s mission, Tom led the Trust’s conservation efforts in the City of Rochester and the transformation of the abandoned Rochester Running Track Railroad into a trail at El Camino.

In celebration of his leadership in the El Camino neighborhood and beyond, Mayor Lovely Warren and City Council President Loretta Scott presented Tom Frey with a Key to the City at a special Frey-Day event honoring Tom’s volunteer work. Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Services, Norman Jones also announced the rededication of the 2.2-mile El Camino Trail as the *Thomas R. Frey Trail at El Camino*.

Please join us at the 4th Annual 5K Walk @ El Camino on the *Thomas R. Frey Trail* on June 3rd for a neighborhood walk of family fitness for all ages. This year we will, as a community, honor Tom who passed away in February. Proceeds from the 5K Walk will benefit the efforts to complete the trail across the Genesee River.



Making Connections



School 22 third graders and Kevin Farrell get ready for their trip to Alasa Farms to explore the woods & visit the farm animals of Cracker Box Palace.



During last year’s field trip, School 22 students enjoyed meeting and feeding the goats of Alasa Farms.



At-risk youth finish high school and care for animals as part of Cracker Box Palace’s STEADY (Skills, Training and Employment for the Development of Youth) WORK Program.

A New Generation

Passing the Torch



“It is with a tear in his eye,” according to Larry DeMinck’s friend, that he is watching a young farmer take on the responsibilities of his family’s farm.

It is what he wanted – the farm to stay a farm. A year after conserving his farm with Genesee Land Trust with a permanent agricultural conservation easement, Larry sold the farm to Adam and Courtney Craft. Part of their agreement allows Larry to stay on in his home of 72 years and use a couple of the old barns for his tractors.

Adam is from a Wayne County farming family and he always knew he wanted to be a farmer. “You don’t get up in the morning to do what I do without liking it,” says Adam. He farms about 1,500 acres of corn, soy beans and other crops around Walworth, Ontario, Williamson and Sodus on leased land.

About the time Adam started looking for a home farm to be the center of his operation, Larry was working out how to keep his farm in agriculture and make it affordable for a young farmer.

“This was about the only way to make sure the land would go from farmer to farmer.”

Larry turned to the Purchase of Development Rights Program working with Genesee Land Trust to find a solution. A couple of years ago, Adam rented half of the farm, then last year the whole farm. “It is an excellent farm, in a good location,” according to Adam. And now that the farm is his, he has plans.

When asked how the conservation easement effects him, Adam replies, “You can use it as your own, nothing holding you back from farming it as you would like,” and the farmstead area allows him to expand his business with new barns and infrastructure. That might take a few years.

Since his early days as a boy helping his father, Larry has been a farmer. “I have never done a thing other than working on the farm,” reflected Larry, “I never thought I would quit... but, I just cannot do it anymore.”



Larry & Dianne when they first bought the farm.



Finding a young farmer to take over makes Larry very happy. “This was about the only way to make sure the land would go from farmer to farmer.”

A Tour of Backyard Habitats

Butterflies, Birds and Bees



How can you bring nature a little closer? Learn how on the Backyard Habitat Tour on June 24th. Visit eight gardens that are homes for butterflies, birds and bees...and people too! Each garden enhances local land conservation and all proceeds benefit Genesee Land Trust's programs to protect our local lands and waters.

Tickets: \$12 for members, \$15 for non-members. Available at geneseeandtrust.org, Genesee Land Trust's office or Wegmans.



Leave A Living Legacy



Your support makes a difference!

Dear members and friends,

I am excited to share that a new Endowment Fund for Genesee Land Trust was recently started by passionate friends of local land conservation at the Rochester Area Community Foundation. Gifts to an Endowment Fund give over and over through the years as only the income generated by the fund can be used by the Land Trust each year.

Your annual membership support helps to conserve new lands, create new preserves and build connections to nature -- improving the quality of life in your community today. An extra gift to the Endowment Fund can help to build a stronger future and ensure our commitment to permanence.

Thank you for your past, present and future support!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gay".

Gay Mills
Executive Director



P.S. You may contact me or Lauren Frank at the Rochester Area Community Foundation if you would like to make a gift today to the Genesee Land Trust Endowment Fund or include the Fund in your will.

Then & Now

Land Protected in Ionia

THEN...A young Hank Stebbins returned home from a trip out of town and discovered his mother had purchased a perfect spot out in the country to satisfy her “green thumb.” Hank and his siblings, Gay and Houston, and their children grew to love the land and the Hamlet of Ionia as much as his mother, Gary Armstrong Stebbins.

The first time we talked with Hank, one could tell that he had been worrying about the future of the land and the rural character of Ionia. When he talked with his neighbors, they were also thinking about the changes that might come as development continued to creep closer.

Retired from a career at New York State’s Department of Agriculture and Markets, Hank was familiar with conservation easements when he approached Genesee Land Trust. Hank wanted to conserve his land and to act as a catalyst for conservation for Ionia. Hank, along with his children, Kit and Sam Stebbins, his nieces and nephews Amanda and James Pepper and Houston Stebbins III, decided to work with Genesee Land Trust to see the land conserved forever.

NOW...Hank is excited about the future of his land – in 2016 he started leasing out 50 acres of the farm to the Wild Hill Farm a new CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) farm run by Erin Bullock.

“I’ve been keeping my eye out for a new farmer. When I met Erin who was looking for land I said, ‘We’re on!’”

Erin is busy this spring laying out plots for her pesticide and chemical-free fruits and vegetables. The families who will come to the farm this summer to pick up their shares of produce will have the chance to fall in love with Ionia and the farm, just as Hank and his mother did.

Explore and enjoy this newly conserved land at a Celebration and Annual Members Meeting on Thursday, June 15th from 6 – 8 PM. For directions and to RSVP go to geneseeandtrust.org or call 585-256-2130.



Planting for Birds: An Update

If you visit Genesee Land Trust’s Island Cottage Woods Preserve this spring you might wonder why there are hundreds of plastic tubes. Inside each of these plastic tubes there is a small native tree.

We are planting young trees under the threatened ash trees in this key stopover habitat for birds migrating to and from Canada. They will be ready to take over when the Emerald Ash Borer starts to impact the woods.

A Look at the Emerald Ash Borer Threat:

Ash trees in the Preserve: **more than 80% of the larger trees are ash**

Average size of Emerald Ash Borer: **about a 1/2 inch long**

Distance to known ash borer outbreak: **on the south edge of property**

Time it takes for the Emerald Ash Borer to kill a tree: **approximately 3 years**

A Look at the Island Cottage Woods:

Bird species observed: **143**

Plant species observed: **70**

Acres in the preserve: **61**

Trees planted to date: **822**

Shrubs planted to date: **630**

Species planted to date: **20**

How you can help:

Volunteers needed to monitor and care for the young trees: **Endless!**

If interested in volunteering, please email Kevin at kfarrell@geneseeandtrust.org



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Spring Events!

Native Plant Sale • May 20th, 2017
9am to 2pm, Brighton Town Hall

Ice Cream Social and Birds! • May 25th, 2017
6pm to 8pm, Braddock Bay Bird Observatory, Greece

5K Walk @ El Camino • June 3rd, 2017
Registration 8–9:45am, walk starts at 10am (lunch to follow),
Conkey Corner Park. Register at myelcamino.org

Celebration & Annual Members Meeting • June 15th, 2017
6pm to 8pm, Stebbins Farm 2176 Elton Rd, Ionia

Backyard Habitat Tour • June 24th, 2017
9am to 4pm, Rochester, Brighton, & Penfield Gardens. Tickets
online, by mail or at Wegmans

Check geneseeandtrust.org or call us at 585-256-2130 for details and more activities.

We invite you to sign up for our e-news and electronic updates on the home page of our website or by an email to info@geneseeandtrust.org.



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