

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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HONEOYE FALLS COUPLE PROTECTS 48 ACRES



For nearly a quarter of a century, Dr. and Mrs. Neal McNabb have cherished their secluded home on a wooded hillside in Mendon Township. Over the years, the physician and his wife have created a woodland sanctuary for birds and native plants, where grassy paths link beds of azaleas and rhododendron and where bog plants flourish along a trickling stream.

Recently, the McNabbs' concern has grown as "For Sale" signs have begun to proliferate on tracts of open land in their rural neighborhood.

In a personal effort to counteract this thrust of exurban development, the McNabbs have donated a conservation easement on 48 acres of their own undeveloped land on Parrish Road to the Genesee Land Trust.

"Both Neal and I believe in the concept of stewardship," says Ann McNabb. "Being good stewards of our land and preserving it creatively is important to us. Every day we see development pressures intensifying, and so we decided to act before it's too late."

On trips to the British Isles—especially northern Scotland—the McNabbs were impressed by the famous Inverewe Gardens, and by land preservation and urban planning efforts. "Things were different there," says Ann. "There was no 'sprawl' such as we see here."

Encouraged by their sons and daughter, the McNabbs began discussions with GLT Executive Director Gay Mills, who worked with them on fine-tuning their preservation efforts. "We've followed the work of land trusts in other areas of the East, and we're impressed with the Genesee Land Trust," says Neal. "Its approach is low-key, thoughtful, and thorough."

Assured of a safe future for their own land, the McNabbs hope their decision may be a first step in a wider effort. "We have a really good feeling about what we've done," says Ann. "Now we hope some of our neighbors may choose to join us in helping save the rural landscape that means so much to us." ■



Jane Kuitems, owner of Jane's Herb Farm, shows off her gardens to GLT annual meeting attendees on June 14

THE GENESEE LAND TRUST EXTENDS A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO...

Wal-Mart of Penfield for a \$500 grant toward trail improvement at Hipp Brook Preserve . . . **Don and Donna Traver** for leading the bird hike at Amy's Ponds and Woodsmith . . . **Janet and Bob Smith** for preparing the trails, welcoming the group and leading us through the woods . . . **Braddock Bay Bird Observatory volunteer and student banders** who shared their program and research projects with us . . . **Ginny DiRisio** for helping with public information . . . **Bob Avery** for walking the boundaries at Ganargua Creek Meadows Preserve . . . **Rick Marx, Dave Armanini,** and **Elaine Enfonde** of Nixon, Peabody LLP for walking properties . . . **Tim Fitzgerald** of Harris, Beach, Wilcox, LLP and **Peter Woods** of ESL Federal Credit Union for helping with legal issues . . . **Bob Green** and **Mary Bonnacio** of Verdi Group for the landowner mailing . . . **Connie Ehindero** for help with membership . . . **Nancy Bolger** for writing articles . . . **Windsor Street Design Associates** for newsletter production . . . Eagle Scout **Teal Schlegel** for new boardwalks at ICW!

Thanks also to these ICW and Hipp Brook work party volunteers: **Maureen Carver, Kelly Smith, Paula and Marshall Henry, Rachel Edwards, Pat Kocinski, Bill Powell, John Lehr, Bob Haggett, Jay Greenberg, the McIlvrde family, Gary Chapin, Brian Burgeson, Ann Baker, Jamie Spiller, Bill Morrison, Warren Elvin, Grant Fish, Jean Bruns, George and Elinor Osborn, the Summers family, Justin Reeder, Bob Haggett, Tom Frey, Kyle Kindle, Margo DiLella**

Genesee Land Trust

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Gay Mills, Executive Director
Cindy Kindle, Assistant Director

IN HONOR OF . . .

What better way to honor someone than by making a gift in their name to support the permanent protection of natural lands in the Greater Rochester area?

We are grateful for the gift from James and Nancy MacWhinney honoring Dr. Neal McNabb, who with his wife has donated an important conservation easement to GLT (see story in this issue).

YOUR CAR'S BEST PAY-OFF

Finally a chance for your old car to contribute to a better environment! Donate your used car (or boat, RV, or truck) to Genesee Land Trust and it will support our land preservation activities and you may qualify for an IRS tax deduction. Call Cindy Kindle at 381-7310 for information.

RACF GRANT SUPPORTS VISION FOR URBAN TRAIL

With the abandonment of a rail line that once carried coal from downtown Rochester to an electrical generating plant on Lake Ontario, a new environmental vision has arisen. Why can't that corridor—which stretches from Clifford Avenue to Seneca Park— become the latest addition to the region's growing network of recreational trails?

A \$10,000 grant from the Rochester Area Community Foundation's Civic Engagement Program is enabling the Genesee Land Trust to play a key role in bringing together a diverse coalition to examine the possibility of creating a 2.5-mile trail on the unused CSX railbed.

Coordinating the planning effort for the proposed Butterhole-Seneca Park Trail is GLT Board of Directors member Tom Frey. "We're working with representatives of several organizations headquartered in the area, as well as long-time residents who know the place well," says Frey. "We'd like to see the 40-foot right-of-way become a two-lane trail, one for pedestrians, and one for bikers and in-line skaters.

"Two important service groups already occupy land adjacent to the proposed trail," Frey points out. "One is the Ibero-American Action League, which is building senior housing on Clifford Avenue and which already has facilities in place for the developmentally disabled. The other is the newly-refurbished Avenue D Recreation Center."

Neighborhood Group 14621 also is involved in planning efforts, as are representatives of Schools 8, 20, 22, and 50, all within a few blocks of the proposed trail.

The proposed trail would traverse land known 125 years ago as "The Butterhole" for its many dairy farms. The now-unused rail corridor parallels Conkey Avenue and Hollenbeck Street and crosses two bridges, one over the Genesee River, another over the Rt. 104 expressway.

"We're grateful for this support from the Rochester Area Community Foundation," says GLT Executive Director Gay Mills. "Not only does it help advance the cause of land preservation, but it enables us to expand our collaborative network, this time within the inner city."

The Civic Engagement program is part of the Foundation's work to increase trust, tolerance, and involvement in communities throughout the region. "Our program is intended to build 'social capital' in our communities," said Jennifer Leonard, Executive Director of the Rochester Area Community Foundation. "Civic Engagement grants focus on bringing people together across lines of age, race, ethnicity, income, religious background, and geography. Here, we support the Genesee Land Trust in bringing its good work to a city neighborhood." ■



Gay Mills



Joan Hantz, left, and Wendy Kelly of Windsor Street Design, the firm named GLT's "Volunteer of the Year"

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Members,

Two open-space referenda grabbed the headlines recently—with very different conclusions.

In Penfield, voters passed a \$10 million greenprint plan to save farmland. Supporters of the plan noted that it would be crucial to the town's environment that farmland be preserved before it was too late; in addition, they said, it would keep down the tax rate in future years by reducing the need for expanded schools, roads, and other services. Moreover, it's a boon to local farmers who find great satisfaction in their work and hope that farming on the land continues for future generations.

It was a markedly different story in Webster. There, in one of the largest turnout in years, voters rejected a \$22.5 million plan to preserve 3,000 acres of land. Despite serious opposition, the town's planning consultant told a reporter he believes that even some of those who voted "no" may want to do something about saving open space—but perhaps not at that price.

With opposite outcomes, these two town initiatives tell a common story: the preservation of open space has become an important issue for the Greater Rochester area.

Growth and development certainly has a rightful place in the Rochester economy. But land preservation has an increasingly important role in preserving the quality of life in the Rochester area. As we know, once land is lost to development it does not return to "open space," and we must make strides to protect land as we can. Issuing bonds, of course, is not the only way. Genesee Land Trust works with individuals who are motivated to donate, rather than sell, their development rights and in public-private partnerships that can make the critical difference in preserving land.

Penfield, Webster, Pittsford, Macedon . . . in many of our local communities, open space preservation is no longer an ethereal concept. It's an urgent need that results in concrete plans. And one we're committed to supporting along with those who share our concerns.

Gay Mills

WINDSOR STREET TOP 'VOLUNTEER'

GLT is lucky enough to find a variety of friends who believe in the importance of preserving open space throughout the Rochester region. One firm which has long supported the work of the Trust—Windsor Street Design Associates—was honored at the June 14 annual meeting with the Volunteer of the Year Award.

For a number of years, the firm has contributed its services for newsletter layout. A few issues ago, Windsor Street contributed its services for the entire redesign of the GLT newsletter. "The donated services of Windsor Street have been very considerable over time, and have helped us to have a 'professional look' as an organization," said Executive Director Gay Mills. "We really can't thank them enough for that."

Special tribute, Mills said, goes to Windsor Street principal Joan Harkness Hantz, along with the staff—including designers Wendy Kelly and Ray Claxton—who work on each issue as it comes along. Windsor Street is a collaborative design studio in downtown Rochester that integrates graphic design with strategic planning, writing, and interactive technologies.

Two new board members were elected at this year's annual meeting. Andy Wheatcraft, a former board member who has continued as an active volunteer, has served as co-chair of GLT's "Save the Glen . . . and Beyond!" campaign. Wheatcraft is facilities planner for the Rochester City School District. John Morelli, the other new board member, is a faculty in environmental management and safety at RIT.

Officers for the 2002-03 year are Robert Kraus, president; Tom Frey, vice president; Tom Tette, treasurer; and Bill McIlvride, secretary. The board's Steering Committee will include the four officers as well as Suzanne Wheatcraft and Anna Sears as at-large members.

"We've had a very fruitful year in terms of pursuing land protection projects and improving our organizational staffing—the latter through the hiring of a new and able assistant director, Cindy Kindle," said outgoing President Frey. "And our executive director, Gay Mills, continues to be a wise and wonderful guiding force for all of us on the Board of Directors." ■

PHOTOGRAPHY WITHIN NATURE

Are you a keen observer of nature with a good photographic eye? Genesee Land Trust is sponsoring a regional photography contest, Within Nature. Held in collaboration with the Spectrum Gallery, the contest will culminate with a juried exhibit Dec. 6 to Jan. 3 at the Gallery located at 439 Monroe Ave. in Rochester's downtown art district. Requirements are as follows:

- All photos must have been taken in the Genesee region.
- The theme of the photo should address the balance of life—human or otherwise, *Within Nature*.
- Photographs may be black and white, color, digital or alternative processes.
- Participants may submit up to three pieces.
- Work must be matted, framed and labeled (on back) with the following information: name, address, phone number, title, location of photograph, and price (if it is for sale).
- An entry fee of \$10 per piece (payable to Genesee Land Trust) is required for submission.
- Eligibility: non-professional adult photographers, college and high school students.
- All work must be submitted to: The Spectrum Gallery, 439 Monroe Ave. Rochester, NY 14607 by 5 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 22.
- Exhibit opens Friday, Dec. 6 from 5-8 p.m. at the Spectrum Gallery. Awards will be given at that time. ■



Teal Schlegel (left) and his Scout helpers

BOARDWALKS AT ISLAND COTTAGE WOODS

At last, some reprieve from the mud at Island Cottage Woods! Thanks to Eagle Scout Teal Schlegel, and his numerous helpers, three boardwalks were installed May 19 at the Genesee Land Trust-owned parcel of Island Cottage Woods.

Rochester Birding Association very generously made a grant of \$550 to cover the cost of materials.

Congratulations to Teal for attaining his Eagle Scout status and making such a wonderful contribution to improved access at this very important bird preserve. Great partnerships make things happen!

IN MEMORY OF . . .

A memorial gift is truly a lasting tribute that honors individuals who shared our vision of protected natural lands in the greater Rochester area. For this support, we are deeply grateful.

Mr. Douglas Kraai

Philip and Suzanne Earl, Scott and Donna Blondell, Stanley and Shirley May, Fredrick and Trudy Hicks, Sandra Marcano, Pam Stiles and Paul Tankel, Catherine Herrmann, Charles and Mildred Harris, Robert Barnes, Barbara Lee, Anne Eliot Hiatt, Sonny and Mona Sage, Marianne Simmons and Harry Murray, Everett Fisher, Ellen Moodie, John and Janet Geil, Daniel and Susan Wyner, Mary Fay, Paul and Ann Marie Milazzo, Michael and Annie O'Reilly, Hume and Jeanne Johnson, William Springett, Judith Clarke and Alan Dozoretz, Glenn and Joan Wallis, Barbara Mitchell, Andrea Mickles-Tadich and Milisav Tadich, Betty Kohlsaas, Elmer and Esther Woods, Jo Eaton and Richard Babin, Destaffen and Saracino PC, Steve Martin, Art Schumacher, Sue Barry, Matt Kane, Linda Kane, Dan and Hannah Rothermel

Mrs. Jean Dingerson

Robert and Pat Place

Miss Rose Beisman

Gerald and Lois Jenkins

GLT CO-HOSTS CONSERVATION BALLOT INITIATIVE SEMINAR

In March, Genesee Land Trust and The Nature Conservancy teamed up to host a seminar in Penfield on Conservation Ballot Initiatives. Stuart Lowrie, Director of Conservation Programs and Government Relations for The Nature Conservancy, led the day-long seminar for a group of 23 from various towns across our region. At a time when many local municipalities are actively pursuing "open space" bond acts, Stuart gave some valuable insight on how citizens can support these initiatives to ensure success at the polls.

Genesee Land Trust plans to continue its support of local open space initiatives by offering expertise whenever possible to the various citizens' groups and towns involved. Our thanks to Stuart Lowrie and Jim Howe of The Nature Conservancy and to the Town of Penfield for an inspiring and informative day! ■

HARD WORK, PROMISING RESULTS

Two years ago, the Land Trust Alliance of New York undertook a new effort in the New York State legislature to promote tax incentives and funding for land trusts, an effort that could dramatically increase the nearly 220,000 acres of land that the state's 80 land trusts have already protected. With the delayed and then bare bones budget of last year, and the tragedy of Sept. 11, the future of environmental protection funding in New York became unclear.

With the passing of the New York State budget at the end of May, the LTA New York program office was pleased to see results from its hard work lobbying for environmental funding. Working with The Nature Conservancy, concerned legislators, and the governor's office, LTA promoted full funding of the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) for both last year and this year, as well as the creation of a Conservation Partnership Program.

In the approved budget, the EPF funding for farmland protection is \$16 million (\$8 million for each year), open space protection is \$76 million (\$38 million for each year) and the Conservation Partnership Program, a re-granting program that LTA will administer to build the capacity of private land trusts to protect open space, is funded at \$250,000. ■

The May 19 open house at Braddock Bay Bird Observatory attracted many visitors—both human and avian.



COMING EVENTS

Butterfly Hike: Saturday, Aug. 10, 2002, 10 a.m., Ganargua Creek Meadow Preserve, Macedon. Leader: Elinor Osborn, Rochester Butterfly Club. Come explore the fascinating world of butterflies and the plants they inhabit. We will search for butterflies, and learn the tricks to identifying them. This preserve is a wet, floodplain meadow with upland forested edges. It represents excellent butterfly habitat. Wear clothing appropriate for heavy brush and possible wet conditions. We will go rain or shine (but not a thunderstorm). Please bring binoculars instead of butterfly nets.

Meet at 9:45 a.m. at Egypt Park, at the southwest corner of Route 31 and Victor Road in Perinton (just north of Lollypop Farm). We will caravan from there at 10 a.m. If you prefer to meet us at the preserve please call 381-7310 for directions.

Photography Contest & Exhibit - 'Within Nature': Photography submissions accepted through Nov. 22. Exhibit opening Dec. 6 at Spectrum Gallery, 439 Monroe Ave. Please see story for details.

Earth & Art Auction: 7 p.m. Nov. 2, 2002; save the date! Our seventh annual Earth & Art Auction at the Historic Lower Mill in Honeoye Falls. Plan to join us for a fun evening of live music, gourmet food, an art exhibit, and the live and silent auction of artwork, goods, and services!

Please call Cindy Kindle at 381-7310 for further information on any of these events.

BIRD HIKE AT AMY'S PONDS AND WOODSMITH



On May 25, Genesee Land Trust and the Rochester Birding Association hosted a very well-attended bird hike at Amy's Ponds and Woodsmith (properties protected by GLT conservation easements). As always, Janet and Bob Smith's property was wonderful!

Over 40 species of birds were observed, including excellent looks at local nesters such as the Pileated Woodpecker, Baltimore Oriole, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Scarlet Tanager, and American Redstart.

We can not thank the Smiths enough for their generous invitation allowing us to hold this event and for their unending commitment to protect such top-notch habitat for our feathered friends. ■

BECOME A MEMBER!

YES, I'd like to preserve wildlife habitat, farmland, and scenic vistas in the Greater Rochester area!

- \$1,000+
- \$500 - 999
- \$250 - 499
- \$100 - 249
- \$50 - 99
- \$25 - 49

Your gift is deductible to the full extent of the law. Member benefits include our quarterly newsletter, invitations to special events, and a GLT decal.

Phone _____

- I've enclosed a check made out to Genesee Land Trust
- Please charge my Visa/Mastercard (circle one) \$ _____

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Please send me:

- Information on volunteer opportunities.
- Information on how to protect my land.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ zip _____

E-mail _____

Mail to: GLT, P.O. Box 18405, Rochester, NY 14618. THANK YOU!



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NATIVE PLANT SALE

GLT held its first Native Plant Sale May 18 at the Brighton Town Hall, sponsored by the Genesee-Finger Lakes Landscape and Nursery Association.

Although the day started ominously with cold, pouring rain the gardeners came out in spite of it! A wonderful selection of native and unusual perennials were offered and within an hour GLT staff and volunteers had sold more than half of their 700+ plants.

As GLT's dedication to preserving land continues, there is a recognition among many in the conservation world that if we can't save our plants, we probably can't save our wildlife.

Sincere thanks to:

Sponsor:

Genesee-Finger Lakes Nursery and Landscape Association, Inc.

Donors:

Amanda's Garden, Springwater
Sanderling Evergreen Nursery, Walworth
Jane's Herb Farm, Webster
Bruce Zaretsky Landscaping, Macedon
Chase Greenhouses & Florist, Rush
Target Stores, Penfield
DeVisser's Nursery & Garden Center, Rochester
Michael Kopicki Apiaries, Webster
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Volunteers:

Bill McIlvride, Rachel Edwards, Georgia Nelson, Denise Heischman, Annie O'Reilly, Elthea King, Jennifer Wagner, Suzanne Wheatcraft, Maureen Carver, Pat Buehlman, Tom Tette, Connie Ehindero, Donna DeMocker, Ann Baker, Jean Bruns, Mark Mitchell, and Kyle Kindle.