

GLT

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GENESEE LAND TRUST

Board of Directors

Ann Baker
Diane Cass
Roger Cass
Rachel Edwards
Tom Frey
Elthea King
Robert Kraus
Rick Marx
Bill McIlvride
John Morelli
Anna Sears
Jamie Spiller
Leslie Stevenson
Tom Tette
Andy Wheatcraft
Suzanne Wheatcraft

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.

Advisory Board

Robert Avery
Nancy Bolger
Betsy Brooks
Bill Buckett
Nancy W. Dean
Richard Dollinger
Tim Fitzgerald
Sandra Frankel
Margaret Freeman
Paul S. Goldberg
Mark Greene
Denise Heischman
Carol Hinkelman
Jim Howe
William C. Larsen
Jeff McCann
Jan Miller
Elinor Osborn
Pat Pavelsky
Ned Roman
Maria Rudzinski
Lynn Slowik
Andy Smith
James Smith
Michael Smith
Kathy Spencer
John Witmeyer
Peter Woods

THE STEPS TO A CONSERVATION EASEMENT

When Floyd and Ann Welker moved to the Rochester area in 1972, they knew they wanted to live in the country not too far from Floyd's new job as an engineer at Xerox.

"We sat down with a map and drew a 10-mile circle around the Webster plant," Floyd recalls. Thirty years ago that circle encompassed vast stretches of open land—much of it succession forest, orchards, cornfields and wetlands—within a few miles of Lake Ontario.

By 1979, the Welkers were ready to build their dream house on Boston Road in Ontario: a log home and barn on 45 acres where they would raise three children. Building the house became a family project, Ann Welker recalls. "When we went out for walks, we'd wear backpacks so we could bring back stones from the land for the masons to use in building our fireplace."

The family developed trails through their woodland, created a pond and—in the early days—kept a milk cow and chickens. Sharing the pasture with the cow for over 15 years were two horses. Visiting birdwatchers have helped identify a rich variety of avian residents and transients, among them hooded warblers, ovenbirds, wood thrush, rose-breasted grosbeaks and grouse.

As neighboring open lands succumbed to development in the years after their children left home, the Welkers began to wonder about the future of their little paradise.

In 1994, they were attentive visitors at an open house held by the Genesee Land Trust at the home of one of their neighbors, Janet Smith. The event celebrated the gift to the Trust of a conservation easement on 87 acres of wetlands and woodlot.

The Welkers thought a gift to the Trust seemed like a smart way to protect their beautiful woods. They started talking with Gay Mills, Trust executive director, and land protection committee members Roger and Diane Cass. Site visits followed, as well as discussions of the steps necessary to donate a conservation easement. "And then, the time flew by," Ann recalls. "We were always too busy to think about it."

When a second conservation easement connecting the Welkers' land to the original easement was announced, the idea once again floated to the fore. After a review of the necessary steps and a critical look at the expected expenses and tax advantages, Floyd, Ann and Gay got back to work. The Welkers studied a preliminary draft for a conservation easement on 30 acres of their land, recently working

(Continued on inside page)



Ann and Floyd Welker meet with Gay Mills about a conservation easement.

Genesee Land Trust
P.O. Box 18405
Rochester, NY 14618
(585) 381-7310
glt@frontiernet.net
www.geneseeandtrust.org

Gay Mills, Executive Director
Cindy Kindle, Assistant Director
Windsor Street Design Associates,
newsletter design/production

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

Laurie Broccolo and **Jody Mills** from **Broccolo Tree and Lawn Care Inc.** for sponsoring the upcoming Backyard Habitat Tour...**Lee Caine** for her beautiful artwork...**Donna Mummery** for office assistance...**Bill Tyra** for donating bird boxes...**Laurie Maynard** for chairing the Public Information Committee...**Silandara Bartlett** for helping us redesign our web site...**John Morelli** for his outstanding job organizing the Land Management Committee and new members to that committee: **Tom Witt**, **Dawn Wendt**, **Scott and Teresa Wolcott**, **Marshall Henry**, and **Dave Mundie**... **Sally Parker** for volunteering to be newsletter editor... and **Windsor Street Design Associates** for its design and production... **Ann Baker** for coordinating details of our booth at **GardenScape**, and **Genesee Finger Lakes Nursery and Landscape Association** for donating space for us there...**Tim Fitzgerald** of **Harris Beach LLP** for legal assistance...**The Verdi Group**, **Eric Mower Associates** and the **Ad Council of Rochester** for ongoing marketing assistance...**Bob Avery** and **Bill Steimer** for helping with the Reed Road boundary... **Nancy Bolger** and **John Morelli** for newsletter articles... **Suzanne Wheatcraft** for planning the annual meeting.

IN HONOR OF...

What better way to honor someone than by making a gift in his or her name to support the permanent protection of natural lands in the Greater Rochester area? We are grateful for Christmas gifts from **Nicholson Baker** and **Margaret Brentano**, and from **Rachel August** to **Ann Baker**.

IN MEMORY OF...

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

Mr. Douglas Kraai
Kathiann Willis
Mary and F. Douglas Kelley

Ms. Elsie Yahn
Barbara Case

Mr. Allan Klonick
Roger and Diane Cass

(Continued from front page)

out minor modifications over lunch at their comfortable dining room table. Transaction costs—legal and surveying—associated with establishing the easement will be shared by the Welkers and the Trust’s Land Protection Fund.

“We try to make donating a conservation easement as easy as we can, but it is a major decision, one that raises many issues for landowners,” Mills says. “The tax advantages are a benefit, but there are upfront expenses during the process that are not always anticipated by the landowner.”

When the process is complete, the Welkers’ gift will increase the area of contiguous wooded land in Ontario protected by the Genesee Land Trust to 217 acres.

Tax advantages for the Welkers will accompany their donation. In addition to a deductible “charitable gift donation” benefit on their income tax return, the Town of Ontario has a reduced assessment for acreage under a permanent conservation easement.

The family will continue to maintain the woodland trails and harvest firewood for their own use, and the use of their garden tractor on the trails will be exempt from the “no motorized vehicles” clause. The agreement also allows the Trust to bring members for up to two visits a year, giving reasonable notice. But most importantly, the Welkers say, they know that their beautiful woods will be wildlife habitat forever.

A nearby sign announcing “estate-size lots for sale” is evidence of the real value of the Welkers’ proposed gift. Thanks to their foresight, generosity and hard work, a growing parcel of woods and wetlands in western Wayne County will remain truly forever green. ■

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS: FAQ

What are they?

Conservation easements are voluntary and perpetual legal agreements between a private property owner and a land trust that permanently restricts the uses of the land in order to protect its conservation values.

Who owns the land?

The land stays in private ownership and use, and the land trust is responsible for seeing that the restrictions are honored over time and through all subsequent property ownership.

What would I need to do to donate a conservation easement?

The experienced staff at the Genesee Land Trust will help you through the steps of protecting your land with a conservation easement.

Who drafts the easement?

After you have talked with Land Trust staff and the Land Protection Committee about your goals for your land, they will draft the terms

(Continued on next page)



Gay Mills



Trillium flowers carpet Island Cottage Woods.
©Elinor Osborn

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In this newsletter, we are happy to report on a \$4,000 grant the Genesee Land Trust received from the state's Conservation Partnership Program, a newly established part of the Environmental Protection Fund. One upstate New York newspaper asked the very pertinent question: "How can New York State hand out grants to private groups when it's facing an \$11.5 billion budget gap?" It went on to describe the efforts in the region to protect open space similar to our own. As the Trust strives to protect forever the migratory bird habitat at Island Cottage Woods, we rely on the generosity of our volunteers for their time, our supporting members and donors for their financial support, and Monroe County and New York State for the grants they have awarded to the Trust during these lean times. Together we can make a difference.

As we all know, open space that is not preserved right now will be gone forever; and, conversely, the preservation we accomplish will have far- and long-reaching effects. The small grants from the Conservation Partnership Program are awarded to land trusts across the state to help them accomplish their mission to preserve significant natural areas. This is a mission shared with New York State, as expressed by Governor Pataki's goal to protect 1 million acres.

I can only endorse what those editorial pages concluded: "The state's budget woes, one hopes, are temporary. Natural spaces, once preserved, benefit New Yorkers forever."

(Continued from previous page)

of a conservation easement for you and your attorney to review. Working with the Land Trust staff, you will determine the boundaries of the conservation easement and if any surveying needs to be done. The Land Trust attorney will review with your attorney the title to the property.

What else will I need to do?

The Land Trust staff will arrange for an environmental assessment and a baseline documentation report of the conservation easement area to be done. In addition, you and the Land Trust staff will discuss the plans for the stewardship of the conservation easement, and you will be asked to consider a gift toward the Trust's Stewardship Fund.

TRUST RECEIVES CONSERVATION GRANT

Genesee Land Trust has received a \$4,000 grant from the New York State Conservation Partnership Program to acquire 23 acres at Island Cottage Woods in the town of Greece.

The program, an effort initiated last year to enhance local open space conservation initiatives, is funded through the Environmental Protection Fund and is administered by the Land Trust Alliance in conjunction with the Department of Environmental Conservation. Genesee Land Trust is one of 24 land trusts around the state to receive a total of \$250,000 in grants or technical assistance.

Erin Crotty, commissioner of the state Department of Environmental Conservation, said, "The protection of open space is an important investment in our environment and our future, ensuring that our natural resources are preserved and people have an opportunity to enjoy our state's magnificent lands and waters."

The 2002 EPF designated \$250,000 to the Land Trust Alliance to administer the competitive matching grants program for local land trusts. The aim is to improve efforts to identify, acquire and protect open space resources.

Gov. George Pataki's 2003-04 executive budget proposes allocating \$200,000 in EPF funding to continue the Conservation Partnership Program.

"Pulling together energy and resources from the private and public sectors is how many land protection projects like Island Cottage Woods will be accomplished," said Trust Executive Director Gay Mills. ■

WHAT'S THE SCORE?

1,054 ACRES PROTECTED

Eight preserves owned and managed by Genesee Land Trust. For maps/directions, contact the Land Trust at 381-7310.

293 acres protected by conservation easements granted to Genesee Land Trust. (These do not have public access.)

Preservation Partnerships with the Town of Brighton (Corbett's Glen Nature Park) and the Town of Victor (Lehigh Crossing Park).



Prof. Bruce Gilman will talk about our area's old-growth forests at the GLT annual meeting.



Land Management Committee members at Caledonia Wetlands Preserve: Roger Cass, Diane Cass, John Morelli and Dawn Wendt.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS...

Jonathan and Laura Arney, Judy Babinski, Mary Berk, Jerry and Irene Brixner, Francis and Jean Browning, Sharon Celentano, Douglas and Barbara Clemons, Dawn DeRoo, Gail Ellsworth, Kirstin Flass, John Funt, Stephen Gonzalez, Christopher and Joanna Hodgman, Laurie Houseman, Larry and Kathy Hursh, Ann Ketter, Julie Lewis, Judy Murray, Donald and Renate Powers, Karen Schneider, Joan Schumaker, Elizabeth Sieber-Ford, Phil Troutman, Joe and Ann Watson, Dawn Wendt, Paul and Caroline Williamson, Jim Yockel.

SPREADING THE WORD

The Ad Council of Rochester invited the Genesee Land Trust and The Verdi Group to present an update of their efforts in marketing and direct mail to the Council's Board of Directors. The Trust is in the third year of an Ad Council Community Impact grant. The Verdi Group principals Bob Greene and Mary Bonnaccio, volunteers for the Ad Council, shared how they have been working on a direct mail outreach and advertising campaign targeted to land-owners in the region. In the meantime, the radio and television PSAs created with the help of Minetor and Associates continue to be aired by Ad Council donors.

IN THE FIELD: YOUR CHANCE TO GET INVOLVED

The Genesee Land Trust's Land Management Committee has identified four priority preserves as focal points for this year's land management efforts. Trail maintenance, preservation, improvement and/or development will take place at the Brookdale, Ganargua Creek Meadows, Hipp Brook and Island Cottage Woods preserves.

At the Brookdale Preserve, we will work to curtail and repair trail damage caused by trespassing all-terrain vehicles. We will meet with the owners of easements and adjacent properties to develop effective ways to limit vehicular access. Scott Wolcott, the Brookdale Preserve steward, is coordinating this repair and improvement effort. Andy Smith will work with Scott on the trails project.

RIT's environmental management students will coordinate the design and construction of a trail and bridge to provide easier access to the lowland meadow at the Ganargua Creek Meadow Preserve. This is a term project for their project management course. Stan Walker, the course instructor, will guide the class, and Tom Witt will help with trail design. Trust board member John Morelli serves as the interim preserve steward and will be coordinating the activities of RIT students, GLT volunteers and the town of Macedon.

Elinor Osborn, the preserve steward at the Hipp Brook Preserve, and Executive Director Gay Mills have met with the town of Penfield to give the town improved access to a sewer line that passes under the preserve, with minimal disruption to the natural setting. Penfield has been sensitive to this concern and is planning to build boardwalks through a few of the wetter portions of the preserve connecting to the existing Wild Iris Path.

GLT board members Roger and Diane Cass, the Island Cottage Woods preserve stewards, are working with Jamie Spiller and Marshall Henry as a subcommittee of the management committee to develop a land management plan for the preserve. Trail maintenance work and possibly improvements are planned for this spring. Related projects may include bench and sign building, sign posting and trail mapping. Beyond this, the Land Management Committee is hoping to establish a team to help develop and implement a sensible approach to the management of invasive plant species.

See "Coming Events" for trail work parties scheduled for this spring.

Please let us know if you would like to participate in trail maintenance or construction, blockade building, sign making, sign posting, bench making, trail mapping or invasive species control. Call or e-mail John Morelli, chair of the Land Management Committee: 533-2364; johnmorelli@cast-fc.rit.edu. ■

OLD-GROWTH FORESTS EXPERT TO TALK AT ANNUAL MEETING

Curious about what Northeastern forests must have looked like when the first European settlers arrived in North America? Dr. Bruce Gilman, a professor at Finger Lakes Community College, will give a talk on the topic at the Genesee Land Trust's annual meeting Thursday, June 5.

Gilman, who teaches in the Department of Environmental Conservation at FLCC, will explain how scientists recognize old growth forest communities in our landscape today. Highlights of his talk, "All About Old Growth Forests," will include photographic images and research data collected in Western New York.

The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. at Rochester Civic Garden Center, 5 Castle Park (corner of Mt. Hope and Reservoir Avenues across from the cemetery). Gilman's presentation will be followed by a brief review of the Trust's year, plus refreshments. Hope to see you there! ■



Allan Klonick
on a hike at Reed
Road Sanctuary.



COMING EVENTS

For all trail work parties: Please wear long sleeves, long pants and boots to prepare for possible poison ivy and wet conditions. Bring work gloves, clippers, small hand shovels or weeding tools.

Hipp Brook Trail Work Party: Saturday, April 26, 2003, 9 to 11 a.m. Come out to the Hipp Brook Preserve in Penfield and help us with our spring cleaning! Meet at the end of Brougham Drive, which runs west off Jackson Road just south of Atlantic Avenue. Leader: Elinor Osborn.

Ganargua Creek Meadow Trail Work Party: Friday and Saturday, April 25 and 26, 2003, 9 a.m. RIT project management students will coordinate trail construction. Meet at the end of Bunker Hill Drive, which runs off Wilkinson Road in Macedon. If you are interested in helping out, please call the office at 381-7310 for information. Leader: John Morelli.

Birding Field Trip at Amy's Ponds: Sunday, May 11, 2003, 7:30 a.m. Join us with the Rochester Birding Association at the private property of Janet Smith for spring migrants, early nesters and waterfowl. Meet at 484 Lake Road, Ontario, N.Y. Take Rt. 104 East to County Line Road. Go north until it ends, and turn right at Lake Road. Park in her driveway, which is on the south side of Lake Road. Bring binoculars, and wear boots and long pants.

Native Plant Sale: Saturday, May 17, 2003, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Brighton Town Hall, 2300 Elmwood Ave. (between Monroe and South Clinton Avenues). We are back for our second year with an even greater selection of native perennials, small native trees and shrubs, and water plants. Excellent choices for sunny or shady gardens, butterfly or bird gardens, or for the gardener looking for something unusual.

Open House at Braddock Bay Bird Observatory: Sunday, May 18, 2003, 8 to 11 a.m. Join us at the BBBO station at Kaiser-Manitou Beach Bird Banding Station for a fun morning of bird banding demonstrations. Learn about our beautiful migratory songbirds and see birds up close! Take the Ontario State Parkway, exit at Manitou Beach Road, and go north. Follow Manitou Beach Road to where it bears left and becomes Braddocks Avenue. Continue following to the end.

Backyard Habitat Tour: Saturday, June 21, 2003, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Rochester area's first garden habitat tour. See back cover story for details. Tickets are \$12 (\$10 for GLT members) and go on sale in late May. Sponsored by: Broccolo Tree and Lawn Care Inc.

For more information on any of these events, or to volunteer, please call 381-7310.

BECOME A MEMBER!

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

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 _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

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

- \$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.

IN MEMORY OF ALLAN KLONICK, DEDICATED VOLUNTEER

Allan Klonick, a good friend of Genesee Land Trust, died in late February. He was an avid birder and naturalist who acted on his love for birds by working to protect key parcels of land. Together with other bird enthusiasts, Allan formed Bird Refuges Inc., as part of the Genesee Ornithological Society, and acquired two wonderful properties. One is on Reed Road in the town of Chili, and the other is on Island Cottage Road in the town of Greece. Over the last five years, those two properties have been transferred by Genesee Ornithological Society to Genesee Land Trust for their ongoing stewardship as bird sanctuaries. Allan also hoped to see the privately held portion of Island Cottage Woods protected, and worked on that project right up until his last illness. Knowledgeable, friendly and hardworking, Allan will be greatly missed here at Genesee Land Trust.

SHARE THE BEAUTY OF YOUR GARDEN

If you have garden divisions or seedlings that you could donate to the Genesee Land Trust Plant Sale, please call Cindy Kindle at 381-7310.



GENESEE LAND TRUST

P.O. Box 18405
Rochester, NY 14618

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ROCHESTER, NY
PERMIT NO. 558



Jennifer Wagner's backyard habitat.



TOUR LUSH BACKYARD HABITATS WITH GLT JUNE 21

By Cindy Kindle, Assistant Director

While visiting Genesee Land Trust volunteer Jennifer Wagner one day last summer, I noticed a wonderful garden in her yard and asked for a tour. Jennifer generously obliged, leading the way through her back garden gate. It was like coming upon another world.

There, in the confines of a relatively small urban lot, was a cattail-lined pond (complete with croaking bull frog), thick billowing groups of flowering perennials, fern-lined walkways, singing birds and butterflies galore. Instead of sprouting house sparrows, her bird box had even fledged a family of black-capped chickadees!

We had entered a backyard habitat garden—in this case, planted and managed specifically to attract and shelter native birds, frogs and butterflies.

This was the moment the idea for the Backyard Habitat Tour came to life: a “garden tour” highlighting gardens that not only are beautiful in traditional ways but also provide food, water, cover and a place to raise young for wildlife.

Partnering with Broccolo Tree and Lawn Care Inc., a committee began the process of identifying and choosing yards in earnest. The tour is coming together with tremendous support from GLT volunteers and gardeners dedicated to improving a little of their own landscape for wildlife.

The Genesee Land Trust Backyard Habitat Tour will be held Saturday, June 21, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., featuring yards in the city's southeast quadrant, Brighton and Pittsford. Because a variety of yards and gardens have been chosen, tour-goers will no doubt see something that will inspire them in their own endeavors.

Tickets for the tour go on sale for \$12 in late May at all area Wegmans stores. Additionally, Genesee Land Trust members will be able to buy their tickets through the office for \$10 (watch mail for information). If you would like to buy a quantity of tickets for a group or your workplace, or if you would like to volunteer to help out that day, please call us at 381-7310. Hope to see you and your friends there! ■