



Volunteer Silandara Bartlett (left) created the new web site for the GLT. Eric Pawlak (right, top left of photo) and friends at Island Cottage Woods Preserves.



## COMING EVENTS

**Butterfly Hike at Ganargua Creek Meadow Preserve:** Saturday, July 12, 9:30 a.m. to noon. Join Elinor Osborn of the Rochester Butterfly Club to search for butterflies and learn how to identify them at this wonderful floodplain meadow and upland forest preserve. Bring binoculars instead of butterfly nets. Poison ivy grows in the preserve, so wear long pants, socks and appropriate foot gear.

Directions: New meeting place this year! Meet at the water tower at the end of Bunker Hill Drive in Macedon. From Route 31 in Macedon, turn south on Route 306 (Wayneport Road). Turn east onto Wilkinson Road. At the crest of the hill, turn south onto Bunker Hill Drive. Follow it to the end and park in the gravel area adjacent to the water tower. The trail into the preserve starts at that point. A map is available at [www.geneseelandtrust.org](http://www.geneseelandtrust.org).

**Volunteer Picnic:** Friday, September 12, 2003, Our “thank you party” for all our dedicated and generous volunteers! Watch for your invitation.

**Woody Plants & Associated Fungi:** Saturday, September 13, 9 to 11 a.m. Join the Rochester Area Mycological Association for a walk through the Island Cottage Woods Preserve on a hunt for “Flowers of Decay.” A great chance to learn more about the flora of this unique area. Richard Cook, RAMA president, will lead the hike. Wear sturdy footgear and long pants; there could be poison ivy. Directions: Preserve is on Island Cottage Road. Take 390 to the Latta Road exit and head east. Turn north onto Island Cottage Road and proceed about two miles. Park in the driveway of the Lake Plains Waterfowl club house, which is a right hand turn just north of where Island Cottage Road crosses the Ontario State Parkway.

**Grand Opening of Ganargua Creek Meadow Trail:** Saturday, October 18, 10 a.m. to noon. Join us for the grand opening of our new trail at Ganargua Creek Meadow! Constructed by RIT students (see related story), this trail is a must-see. Bring the kids: We’ll have a fall scavenger hunt, along with cider and donuts. Wear sturdy footgear and long pants to guard against poison ivy. Directions: See Butterfly hike above.

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!

- \$1,000+  
 \$500 - 999  
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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.

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

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Please send me:

- Information on volunteer opportunities.  
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Mail to: GLT, P.O. Box 18405, Rochester, NY 14618. THANK YOU!



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## GLT ONLINE!

Want to find out about upcoming events and volunteer activities? Take a virtual tour of GLT protected lands? Browse a gallery of volunteer photos?

Visit the newly redesigned Genesee Land Trust web site at [www.geneseelandtrust.org](http://www.geneseelandtrust.org). The site features pictures and profiles of our properties, upcoming events, volunteer activities, newsletters, sightings of Genesee Land Trust in the news and lots of photos of events.

Soon you'll also be able to learn how to protect your own land, find out other ways to donate to Genesee Land Trust and join our membership online.

GLT volunteer Silandara Bartlett created the new site. Silandara manages RIT's University News web site and writes for the public relations office. A singer/songwriter, she plays chick folk rock and is on the board of the Rochester Music Coalition. ■

## DRIER FEET AT ISLAND COTTAGE WOODS

Have you noticed the ever-expanding boardwalks at the Island Cottage Woods Preserve? In April, the boardwalk nearly doubled with the addition of new sections built by Eagle Scout candidate Eric Pawlak. He is in Boy Scout Troop #197 at John Knox Presbyterian Church in Greece.

The land trust also appreciates the work of Eric's helpers: David Leven, Cory and Dan Drexel, Jacob Regruit, Daniel Acito, David Myers, Bryan Houle, Daniel Wilcox, Charles Pettibone, Donna and Jim Leven, JoAnn Acito, Davin Houle, Kevin Goodwin, and David, Cynthia and Amy Pawlak.

We are grateful to Rochester Birding Association for providing us with a grant that funded this project.

While the mud problem at the preserve is not yet completely solved, we are working to create a pleasant, relatively dry trail for birders and other nature lovers to enjoy this scenic place. ■



## BIRDERS COME AWAY HAPPY (AND WET) AFTER AMY'S PONDS TREK

By Bob Spahn (RBA hike leader)

Mother's Day arrived with thunderstorm predictions, but it was clear that it would be a good morning for birding at Amy's Pond: We were surrounded by birdsong, and there was continuous movement of migrants overhead. More than 30 people participated in the hike May 11 on land owned by Janet and Bob Smith. The Smiths led the way, along with Cindy Kindle, Gay Mills, Don and Donna Traver, and Sue and I.

Yellow warblers were everywhere as we began. There was a singing field sparrow, gray catbirds occupying the hedges, a bobolink calling, and other warblers singing. We also saw a black-and-white warbler, indigo bunting, and a scarlet tanager. We added good looks at magnolia, black-throated blue, black-throated green, blackburnian, palm and Nashville warblers, and one of the many calling least flycatchers. As we passed the first pond, we saw several pairs of Canada geese, two escorting flotillas of recently hatched bundles of fluff.

Crossing a small bridge, we started along the second pond. Here we saw a black-crowned night-heron. Walking along, we added good looks at one of the many Baltimore orioles. We saw a common yellowthroat and heard chestnut-sided and Tennessee warblers. We also saw several ruby-throated hummingbirds, a belted kingfisher, a sharp-shinned hawk and eastern kingbirds.

Leaving the ponds, we entered the forest, where we saw several American redstarts. Here, the trees were alive with birds, including a chestnut-sided warbler, a singing northern parula, more magnolia warblers and a Cape May.

Soon it began to rain, and the thunder grew more intense. Bird song diminished, but we heard ovenbirds and wood thrush. We saw a golden-crowned kinglet, and someone flushed a veery. When it started pouring, we dashed for our cars. On our way out, we spotted perched turkey vultures.

We saw 76 species at Amy's Ponds that morning. The wide variety of habitats, that made this possible, are permanently protected by a conservation easement held by GLT. ■

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## TRAIL MARKS TRUST'S FIRST FORAY INTO URBAN LAND PRESERVATION



An abandoned rail bed in the city of Rochester has caught the eye of Genesee Land Trust, neighborhood community groups, the city and Eastman Kodak Co.

Genesee Land Trust is leading efforts to convert an unused CSX rail corridor into a recreation trail in a city neighborhood. The project is a collaboration among the land trust, a trails committee, Northeast Neighborhood Association, Ibero-American Action League and Group 14621 Community Association.

Thanks to a \$10,000 civic engagement grant from Rochester Area Community Foundation and a \$10,000 planning grant from the City of Rochester, the land trust has brought together neighborhood community groups and local residents to plan the trail. Recently, The Nature Conservancy and Eastman Kodak Co. announced a \$150,000 Kodak commitment toward trail construction costs—"a stunning gift that will help make this project a great success," said GLT Executive Director Gay Mills.

(Continued on inside page)



Making a difference: (L-r) Eugenio Cotto, director of neighborhood planning for Group 14621; Tom Frey, GLT; and Hannah Abbey, Americorps volunteer



Photo At Hipp Brook Preserve L to R: Warren Elvin, Judy Bielicki, Phil Schaefer, George Osborn, Elinor Osborn, Alan Rubinson, Steve Malley.

Rachel Edwards



RIT students pose during their lunch break.



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

**The following members recognized the importance of protecting land in perpetuity by donating to the 2003 Friends of Genesee Land Trust Stewardship Fund:**

Ann Baker, Robert and Kathryn Barrett, Robert and Pat Blackmun, Lea Buzby, Diane Cass, Roger Cass, Albert and Sybil Craig, Gail Doran, Dorothy Dow, Michael and Elaine Fonfode, Ruth M. Estes, Elizabeth Frey, Harry and Marion Fulbright, Larry and Robyn Gage, Michael and Suellen Graney, Robert and Susan Presberg Greene, Thomas Hampson, John and Janice Kaufman, Leo and Cynthia Kesselring, Elthea King, Robert Kraus, Janice A. Larson, John and Teresa Lehr, David and Dorothy Leidig, Robert and Hedy Marcotte, William McIlvrde, Neal and Ann McNabb, Madeira Meader, Gay Mills, John and Hildegard Mitchell, John and Jeanne Morelli, Stephen and Theo Munson, Georgia Nelson, Mike and Annie O'Reilly, Kimberly P. Pier, Donald and Robin Pulver, Ursula Reiners and Ann Weintraub, Elisabeth Riedman, Alan and Suzanne Robinson, Sherry Romanczyk, William T. Rudman, Allen and Carol Schacht, Susan Schilling, Joan Schumaker, Judy Schwartz, George and Kathryn Shaw, Gary and Diane Shirley, Robert and Ruth Shone, Lynn Slowik, Michael Smith, Janet Buchanan Smith, Susan Soper, Tim and Kathy Spencer, Nancy Swett, Thomas Tette, Don and Donna Traver, Peter and Elizabeth Webster, Andrew and Suzanne Wheatcraft, Jessie P. Woodward.

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

**Dave Pawlak** for making us a sandwich board sign...**John Morelli** for, among many other things, clearing ice storm damage off trails with his chainsaw...new Land Management Committee Members **Scott** and **Teresa Wolcott**, **Tom Witt**, **Marshall Henry** and **Dawn Wendt**...**Henry McCartney** for help with our membership mailing...**Bob** and **Janet Smith** for hosting the May Bird Hike at Amy's Pond and Woodsmith and **Robert Spahn** and **Don** and **Donna Traver** for leading it...**Connie Ehindero** for all her help with special events and the membership mailing...**Jennifer Wagner** for her graphic art skills...**Lee Caine** for her original artwork used in promotional pieces...**Elinor Osborn** and **Roger** and **Diane Cass** for heading up trail work parties...**Braddock Bay Bird Observatory** for hosting the May 18 Open House...**Tim Fitzgerald** of Harris Beach LLP for his hard work and time working on agricultural conservation easements...**Peter Woods** at ESL Federal Credit Union for his legal assistance...**Bob Avery** for his surveying assistance...**Tom Frey**, **Hannah Abbey** and **Ann Baker** for their help with the urban trail project...**Scott Copey** for his mapping and guidance...**David Bonter**, **Carolyn Hunt** and **Ed McCrea** for helping with grants.

(Continued from front page)

The proposed Butterhole-Seneca Park Trail stretches from the Genesee River at St. Paul Street just south of Scramont Street on the south end to Seneca Park on the north. "This trail project is a crucial piece of open space connections in the city that the trust is excited to be involved in," Mills said. Monroe County is negotiating to purchase the now abandoned rail bed to provide off-road alternatives to pedestrians, bicyclists, in-line skaters and commuters.

Once surrounded by dairy farms, the Clifford Avenue area earned its Butterhole nickname in the 1870s. As the region developed, a railroad was built from downtown Rochester to the Hojock Line in Irondequoit, an east-west railroad along the south shore of Lake Ontario. Coordinating the planning effort for the proposed trail is GLT board 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," Frey said. "We'd like to see the 40-foot-wide rail right-of-way become green space with a two-lane trail, one for pedestrians and one for bikers and in-line skaters." ■

## 'DAY OF CARING' ON THE TRAIL

What? GLT at work in the city? Absolutely!

Case in point: Anyone driving past the corner of Clifford and Conkey Avenues the last Friday in April would have noticed two dozen men and women wielding rakes and shovels, filling wheelbarrows with weeds, leaves, rocks and trash, and toting the debris away.

As the bright, sunny morning progressed, this stretch of abandoned railroad track and an adjacent vacant urban lot took on a new look—clean, neat and green. Hot dogs sizzled on a grill in front of Ibero-American Action League's headquarters as the work team participating in the United Way's Day of Caring cleaned up the neglected vacant lot and former CSX railroad right-of-way. Working alongside area residents were 10 employees of Xerox Capital Services sector, who had left their desks to take up work of a very different kind.

Tom Frey, one of the Butterhole Trail project's leaders, took time out to talk about the collective vision for the project: a trail offering strollers, bikers and hikers a verdant path stretching 2 1/4 miles, from the heart of the city straight out to Seneca Park.

"Within this urban area, there are a lot of people, young and old, who are missing the chance to enjoy clean, attractive green space," Frey said. "We have four schools in the neighborhood, as well as a youth recreation center and a senior center, and Ibero is developing senior housing nearby. We plan to develop a pocket park and parallel paths—both hard- and soft-surfaced—leading out to Seneca Park. This is the first step in a project that makes creative use of a long stretch of rail line no longer used by CSX."

Eugenio Cotto, director of neighborhood planning for Group 14621, is enthusiastic about the Butterhole-Seneca Park Trail project and its benefit for area residents.

"We support the project 110 percent, and we appreciate the help we're getting from the Genesee Land Trust and other members of the coalition," he said. ■

## RIDDING OUR PRESERVES OF STORM DEBRIS . . . AND AN OLD SOFA

It was a busy spring at GLT, with several volunteer work parties clearing trails on the preserves from ice storm damage, posting signs and picking up litter.

Island Cottage Woods was the site of the first work party on April 12. Clearing brush and ice storm damage were volunteers Roger and Diane Cass, John Lehr, Sheryl Gracewski, Tom Witt, John Morelli, Jay Greenberg, Bill Powell, Tom Lathrop, June Summers, Judy Gurley and Scott Copey. John and Roger worked hard chainsawing a clearing in the trail on the Schallers' portion of the property. We also want to thank Tom Flaherty and Peter Verroca from the Lake Plains Waterfowl Club for making coffee and sharing their clubhouse!

A hearty group of volunteers worked to prevent ATV trespassing at Brookdale Preserve in Chili April 19. Thanks to John and Justin Morelli, Scott and Theresa Wolcott, Mike Bodine, Tom Witt, and Pat and Jim Tindale for blocking the trails that these vehicles use and posting signs.

Elinor Osborn, steward for the Hipp Brook Preserve in Penfield, organized a group of hard-working volunteers to clean up the Wild Iris Trail April 26. After narrowly missing a downpour, they chain-sawed and cleared away ice storm debris, carried out an old sofa that had been dumped in the preserve and picked up trash. Many thanks to Elinor, Warren Elvin, Judy Bielicki, Phil and Elsa Schaefer, George Osborn, Alan Rubinson, Steve Malley, Fran McCarthy, Tom Nash, Sheryl Gracewski, and Sean Carroll for lending us a hand! We also want to thank Brad Brizendine, a neighbor of Hipp Brook, for chain saw work.

If you are interested in helping out with future work parties, please call us at (585) 381-7310. ■

## IN MEMORY OF...

**Mr. Allan Klonick**, from Thomas Klonick

A memorial gift is a lasting tribute. For this support, we are deeply grateful.

## A SALUTE TO RACHEL EDWARDS, OUR STELLAR 'FOUNDING MEMBER'

Some people are hand wringers. Others see a problem and set out to help fix it. Count among the latter GLT's founding member, first president and perennial energizer, Rachel Edwards.

A sterling example of a problem-solver, Rachel is retiring from the GLT board, "but certainly not from this organization that I love," she said. (Rachel has joined her husband, Bill, in a new venture, marketing high-resolution, archival reproductions of photographs and other works of art from museum collections.)

Although Rachel learned to love nature growing up in western Pennsylvania—"picking sassafras and wild leeks" (the Allegheny Forest was a frequent playground), her involvement with land conservation issues came about almost by chance.

Almost 15 years ago when she was a young reporter for the Mendon Sentinel, Rachel learned of a developer's plan to suburbanize land on Honeoye Creek where the Seneca village of Totiakton once flourished. That threat eventually disappeared, in part because of public pressure. But Rachel, alarmed and appalled, had become sensitized to the growing pressures on rural landscapes.

Rachel learned that others were concerned, among them local legislator Rick Dollinger and Jan Miller, a resident of Brighton. Hearing of their interest in founding a land trust, she asked to join their effort.

The result: the establishment of the Genesee Land Trust in 1989, the first local land trust in the Rochester area and one for which Rachel served as president during its first five years.

Those fledgling years were a challenge, she recalls. "Because we wanted to make this a broad-based organization, I felt at times like an orchestra leader," she said with a smile. "I knew that to succeed we needed to build alliances with other like-minded groups—and that's still very much GLT's philosophy.

"We started as a small group, but we always tried to broaden the scope through partnerships with municipalities, landowners, bird-lovers, all those who treasure the natural landscape," she said.

A lover of music, Rachel turns to a musical analogy to strengthen the point: "We need to remember that pianists play on both the black keys and the white keys to achieve beautiful music." In other words, a diversity of efforts and techniques is both needed and valued.

"The Land Trust Alliance was a great help to us in those early days establishing procedures that assured GLT would become a responsible steward of the land. After all, 'in perpetuity' is a long time!"

To help build GLT's visibility, the group held garden parties, gave slide shows to groups and sponsored seminars.

"When we signed our first conservation easement—with Doris and Schuyler Baldwin at Lincoln Mills in Penfield—it was a really great day!" she said. "I have always been aware that land doesn't stop at political boundaries, a fact that means to preserve it we have to work together, wherever we live. As a result, I'm drawn to mediation efforts to solve our land-use issues in which land preservation can be a win/win situation—rather than confrontations, which divide a community," she said.

A resident of Mendon, where she lives with Bill, daughter Emily and son Colin, Rachel's life has always been busy—both at home and in the several communities where she has made a difference. "My involvement with the startup of GLT is one of the things that give me the greatest satisfaction of anything I have done. Quite frankly, I can't think of any better legacy to leave for the children of the world." ■



Planning the bridge.



Hard at work.



A trail takes shape.

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS...

Ed Baranowycz, Joan Fox Barnes, Russell and Jane Chapman, Terry Costich, Janet Leone, Kathy Lindsley, Stephan Maley, Edward McCrea, Susanne Quarterman, Linda Riordan, Anne C. Ross, Cynthia Whited, Christine and Raymond Young, and to our new Business Partner, Eastman Kodak Co.

## THANKS TO RIT STUDENTS, THERE'S A NEW TRAIL AT GANARGUA CREEK

RIT students recently undertook the challenge of building a 1,200-foot trail on 56 acres in Ganargua Creek Meadow Preserve in Macedon, Wayne County. Members of a project management class, the students also solicited the assistance of RIT's Student Environmental Action League along with RIT steel-bridge team members, and other volunteers from GLT, the Macedon Trails group and a 4-H club.

The class worked out the logistics of building the trail down a 100-foot wooded slope and bridging a seasonally wet area. They then donated their time and physical labor, rising early Friday and Saturday mornings to dedicate the weekend to the trail construction. Using shovels, wheelbarrows and carts, they cut the trail into the hillside, transplanted wildflowers out of the trail and moved a ton of mulch to secure the trail.

"I was so excited to work with such dedicated, organized and enthusiastic volunteers," said Cindy Kindle, GLT assistant director. "These students made a wonderful contribution to the Trust and to the public."

Stan Walker, the course instructor and the project's faculty organizer, said the project was a valuable learning experience for his class. "The Trust's 'real-time' logistical support was obvious to the student team. It let them see what it can be like to work for an enthusiastic and appreciative client/sponsor."

GLT board member John Morelli is an associate professor of environmental management at RIT and acted as liaison between GLT and the class. "The project came in under budget and ahead of schedule. That's the way we like them," he said. "It shows how well our students and this team can put their learning to work."

"A wonderful trail is open to the public, thanks to the students, to Stan and John, to the many volunteers and neighbors of the preserve, as well as to the town and village of Macedon, who provided and delivered all the mulch," Kindle said.

The preserve is accessible from Bunker Hill Road off Wilkinson Road in Macedon. ■

## The Genesee Land Trust extends a heartfelt thanks for work on the RIT trail project at Ganargua Creek Meadow Preserve to:

Rich Camarda, Richard Cook, Matthew Duffy, John Feustel, Brian Gotham, Peter Henry, Brian Hoffmire, Kate Kuholski, Robert, Pat and Jonathan Kraus, Frank LoBello, Brian Marcelli, Laurie Maynard, Kaitlin McGuire. Evan Moores, Melissa Lamphron, John Morelli, Erik Noworatzky, Philip Piedmont, Joshua Ramos, Bill Rider, Jake Smith, Laura Smith, John Stanitz, Stan Walker, Brian Wallace, Tom Witt and John Zaffino.

## WHAT'S THE SCORE?

### 622 MEMBERS

Genesee Land Trust has been working hard to raise our visibility in the community and we have results to show for it! Members support the trust with their dues, donated goods or services, and by volunteering their time. This represents 13 percent growth over July 2002.

### 166 VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are key to the trust's success and are active in many ways. If you would like to volunteer, call 381-7310 or check our web site at www.geneseelandtrust.org for opportunities.

### 1,054 ACRES PROTECTED

Thank you to our members, volunteers and landowner/donors!