

# GLT

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GENESSEE LAND TRUST

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**GLT MISSION STATEMENT** THE GENESSEE 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 GENESSEE LAND TRUST ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE.

PHOTOGRAPH BY JERRY KRAL

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## NATURE, ART, & COMMUNITY

### THE URBAN TRAIL PROJECT

Plant oils, flowers, earth, water, tree bark, tree twigs, solar heat...these are some of the elements used to make art supplies, and thus to make art. That's the first thing Shawn Dunwoody will tell you when you ask why nature is important. He says, "...without nature, there would be no art...and that has been the case for thousands of years."

Dunwoody is a local sculptor who creates public art, and he possesses a particular gift for engaging community members of all ages in the projects he creates—with them and for them. For the last several months, with funding from Genesee Land Trust through a Kodak American Greenways Grant, and from the Arts and Cultural Council of Greater Rochester, this energetic young man has led workshops with residents along the corridor of the proposed urban trail. The goal: Involve the community in the creation of public art and in the planning of the trail that will cross their neighborhood from Collingwood Drive in Irondequoit to Scrantom and St. Paul Streets, just south of Clifford Avenue in Rochester.

Using the charisma of a great performer, Dunwoody can draw out participants, seeking their impressions, likes and dislikes, looking for messages and meaning to what will be their art. At a recent workshop, he explained his project to the class: to create a mosaic relief of what they hope the trail will mean to all who live along it. Everyone held a bit of clay, looked at samples of tiles, telling what colors each liked best. Next, he asked what they liked best about their neighborhood.



Local artist Shawn Dunwoody is working with community members to create public art for the planned urban trail.

(Continued on inside page)



Left: Participants brave chilly spring weather to enjoy wildflowers at Ganargua Creek Meadow Preserve on Earth Day 2006.



Right: Elizabeth von Bacho, Michael Parker and Betty Fetter volunteer at International Migratory Bird Day.

**Genesee Land Trust**  
500 East Ave, Suite 200  
Rochester, NY 14607  
(585) 256-2130  
www.geneseeandtrust.org

**Gay Mills**, Executive Director  
gmills@geneseeandtrust.org  
**Margaret Potter**, Assistant Director  
info@geneseeandtrust.org  
**Windsor Street Design Associates**,  
newsletter design/production

## PLEASE PLAN TO HELP

Genesee Land Trust is honored to receive gifts as bequests in the wills of members and friends who make planned gifts to the Trust. For more information about how you can make a planned gift, call Gay Mills at 585-256-2130.

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

**Lorna Wright** for ongoing preserves work, events preparation and administrative help; Mailing Parties participants: **Barbara Marino, Jonathan Dubner, Debbie Stein, Elthea King, Rick Marx, Elaine Enfonde, Mary Moss, Tom Frey and Lorna Wright**; Winter Lectures and Habitat Garden Organizers: **Sara Rubin, Carol Southby, Bob Marcotte; Brighton and Penfield Libraries staff; Elaine Morris, Ann Baker and other club members** who came early and stayed late to help set up and clean up. Sierra Club Forum: **Merri-Lou McKeever, Dick Frietas**; Migratory Bird Day at Braddock Bay: **Michael Parker, Elizabeth vonBacho, Betty Fetter, Elaine Enfonde and Rick Marx**; Financial Assistance: **Tricia Carey**; Photography: **Gloria Weyerts, Michael Parker, Jay Greenberg & Nigel Kent**. Web management: **Art Scissum**; Newsletter Neighborhood Distributors: **Gail Doran, Tom Witt, Joan Schumaker, Chris Young, Heather Foti, Peter Henry, Beth Keigher, Beth Allen, Pat Buehlman, Connie Ehindero**; Membership Committee: **Connie Ehindero, Jen Wagner, Mary Bonnacio, Deb Allen**; Development, and other misc. assistance: **Casia Moffatt**; Newsletter editor: **Randi Minetor; Windsor Street Design**; **All members who continue to send in photos and clippings.** **Nancy Torpey** for organizing preserve stewards; **Martha Zettel & Bill O'Neill** for the wonderful frog evening; **Carol Southby, Jim Engel & Gloria Weyerts** for helping with wildflowers; **Dave Strong, John Dombroski and Bob Mauceli** for leading RBA bird hikes at Corbett's Glen and Amy's Ponds; **Andy Wheatcraft** for the Landmark Society Presentation; Legal assistance: **Peter Woods of ESL Federal Credit Union, Tim Fitzgerald of Harris, Beach LLP & Rick Leszyk; Jen Wagner, Connie Ehindero & Cindy Kindle** for the poster; **Rachel Edwards** for the walks brochure; **Don & Donna Traver** for their passion for birds; **David Ferriter & Fran McCarthy** for their help at Hipp Brook; **Dave Bruinix** for mowing trails; **Brian Allen, Ana & Nancy Bellush, David Biles, Trudy Farrell, Chuck Fox, Kyle Holloway, Doug McAvoy, Marie & Russ McGonegal, Jeff & Matt Vogt, Quinn Wright, Warren Elvin, Spenser McAvoy, Mark & Lynn Eder, Al & Evan Baxter, Kirk & Trevor Wendt, Bill Youngman, Rick Perry, Nick Falanga, Steve Mylacrane** for helping the Eagle Scouts – **Patrick Farrell and Dan Eder**; Special thanks to **Tom Ryther**, a new GLT member who has signed up for all volunteer opportunities, purchased a tee shirt and donated to all appeals even though he doesn't move to Rochester until Memorial Day...there is the spirit of a Genesee Land Trust member!

## IN HONOR OF . . .

Judy and Steve Love from Bill Sanders  
Ann McNabb from Jim and Nancy MacWhinney  
Lois Dannenberg from Nature Craft Garden Club

## IN MEMORY OF . . .

Dianne Silvernail from the Birding Group of the Retired Teachers Association of Rochester and Monroe County  
Agnes and Kenneth Williams from Priscilla Astifan

## GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

To Linda and Greg Kunde, and Amy and Gary Levine from Suzanne and Andy Wheatcraft

(Continued from front page)



**Dunwoody shares life experiences with his audience to help stimulate creativity.**

lives. It was stunning when the group reached this conclusion.

Dunwoody believes that community art acts as connective tissue, evokes community pride and should be a lasting representation of the community's vision of their environment. By all accounts, Shawn Dunwoody has what it takes to create a lasting sculptural piece that represents the neighbors' relationships with one another and with the urban trail—that stretch of nature being restored, kept forever for their benefit. We all will have the opportunity to view the result of his efforts when Dunwoody's public art is installed along the urban trail this summer.

Dunwoody worked at easing timidity by talking about his own life experiences and his feelings about his surroundings.

Responses referenced the violence and poverty in the neighborhood, but overwhelmingly the opinion was that their neighborhood was a beautiful place because of the families who live there and the great love that exists among family members. Further, the participants talked of neighbors who are selfless and charitable, and all agreed that they deserve beauty in their



Gay Mills,  
Genesee Land  
Trust Executive  
Director



Volunteers clear debris from  
the CSX right-of-way on the  
United Way Day of Caring.

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Spring is always a busy season and this one has been no different. Over the winter we plan, and then suddenly every day is full of activity until summer.

The magic of each spring is magnified by the power of volunteers. Hundreds of hours given to the Trust make all of our activities possible.

If you are on the receiving end of Assistant Director Margaret Potter's email notes about volunteer opportunities, you may have a sense of the powerful engine of our members who volunteer everyday.

Members volunteer to stuff and label letters, deliver tents and tools, wheel wheelbarrows, man booths, make copies, plant trees and flowers, sell tickets, take photographs, design brochures, lead walks, prepare leases, mark boundaries, and most importantly spread the word about Genesee Land Trust's mission to preserve and protect natural lands in our region.

Word of mouth is the most effective outreach—so today I invite you, a member of Genesee Land Trust, to volunteer to share with a friend your interest in preserving land in your community forever. Share this newsletter with someone you know who cares about natural places, invite a friend to one of our activities or ask them to join you in supporting land conservation by becoming a member.

Next spring could be busier than ever!

*Gay Mills*

## PRESERVING NATURE. FOREVER.



Preserving Nature, Forever supporters make the difference for the Trust's key land projects that improve the quality of life in the Greater Rochester area.

Rochester Birding Association (RBA) continues its tremendous support of the preservation and enhancement of bird habitat with two gifts to Genesee Land Trust. RBA, a partner in preservation of the Manitou Beach Road property—with the Trust and the Braddock Bay Bird Observatory—funded the initial stewardship effort to improve the habitat and control invasive shrubs in the area, underwriting the purchase of native trees and shrubs, their protective wire cages, and efforts to control the invasive honeysuckle and other non-native shrubs on the property and on the adjacent DEC woods. Secondly, RBA fulfilled its \$3500 pledge to help with the recent acquisition of the Baist property, adjacent to the Salmon Creek wetlands preserve. "The Trust greatly appreciates all of the different kinds of support RBA so generously gives," stated Executive Director Gay Mills, "From their expert and willing walk leaders who share their love for birds to their financial and volunteer commitment to the community and specifically the Trust, the RBA is an important partner in the effort to preserve and enhance bird habitat."

Additional thanks also go to the Trust's close partner, Braddock Bay Bird Observatory (BBBO), for their \$5,000 gift toward the purchase of the remaining eight acres of open meadows between the banding research station and Manitou Beach Road. A number of BBBO's research banding nets are located in this open field and edge habitat, historically by permission of the landowner, William Kaiser. BBBO and the Trust plan to continue to have BBBO manage the land for the research program, while they work together to enhance the native habitat buffer along Manitou Road.

## DAY OF CARING SWEEPS THE URBAN TRAIL CLEAN



This year's United Way's Day of Caring fell on May 3, in the midst of Mayor Duffy's Clean Sweep of Rochester initiative. The volunteers from Excellus and Xerox brought their enthusiasm and muscle to helping Genesee Land Trust by clearing and cleaning up the CSX Right of Way, which is planned for conversion into a hiking and biking trail. Their efforts resulted in bags of trash, dumpsters full of debris and piles of cleared brush. Thank you to Eugenio Cotto of Group 14621, Tom Frey, Genesee Land Trust board member, and Alan Oberst, trail committee member, for coordinating the work on the Trail, and to the City of Rochester Environmental Services Department for taking care of the piles at the end of the day. And a special thank you to Kerwan Johnson, Joe D'Acquisto and Albert Marapesi of the City...and to Ray at Salvatore's Pizza for helping with lunch for the hungry workers. Thank you to all who took the time out to make a difference in the neighborhood.

Many thanks to willing volunteers from Excellus and Xerox for their work on the Urban Trail.

Left: Volunteers spread wood chips on trails at Island Cottage Woods.

Right: Mike Beikrich, Tom Wells, Bob Mahoney, Tom Witt, Rick Marx and Jason Zwetsch with new boardwalks.



## EARTH DAY COMES EARLY TO ISLAND COTTAGE

For the third year in a row, Paradigm Environmental, H & A of New York, and Nixon Peabody, LLP, donated their Earth Day collaborative energy toward improving the trails at the birding hot spot of Island Cottage Woods. Building twenty new sections of boardwalk, clearing out fallen trees blocking the trails, and adding a new layer of mulch over many of the trails, members of the three firms enjoyed the perfect spring day on Friday, April 21, the day before Earth Day. Coordinated by Trust Board member Rick Marx of Nixon Peabody, LLP, and Tom Wells of H & A, with commemorative T-Shirts designed by Paradigm's Jane Deloia, hospitality provided at the Lake Plains Waterfowl Clubhouse by Bill Morrison, big piles of wood chips delivered by the Town of Greece and lumber from Matthews and Fields, the extraordinary one-day team effort made this migratory bird habitat ready for the birds who flock here every spring. Island Cottage Woods has never looked so welcoming!

**Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped with our spring work parties:**  
**EARTH DAY:** Rick Marx, Peter Henry, Diane Cass, Tom Witt, Mike Beikirch, Ed Hynes, Bob Mahoney, Lisa Turturro, Tom Wells, Matt Cole, Ernie Ierardi, Jean McCreary, Judy O'Brien, Jason Zwetsch, Fernanda Childs, Jane Daloia, Mary Dohr, Charsie Mack, & Barry Steinberg.

**CORBETT'S GLEN:** Gary Lazenby, Bill Burke, Nancy and Peter Torpey, Mira & Linda Phillips, Mike Parker, Paul Tipton & Mary Daly & Martin & Lilly, Dennis Adams, JP O'Brien, Rob, Ben & Bob Parker, Justin Bader and more!

**GANARGUA CREEK MEADOW PRESERVE:** Peter Henry, Tom Witt, Chuck Jefferson, Jem Johnston, John Hamblin, Narile Waterstraat, Bill Lawton, Brad Armstrong, Robert & Jonathon Kraus, Andrew Harner, John, Amy, Lou and Phil LaGambino and Charles Holvey of Transitions Landscape, Macedon - for donating the 12 (4x4) posts.

## GARDENSCAPE 2006 SHOWED LAND TRUST VOLUNTEER SPIRIT

The Greater Rochester Flower Show (Gardenscape) is a popular event that takes place at the Dome Arena every March. Its increasing popularity means limited free booth space for non-profits. This year, Genesee Land Trust was not given space, initially. At the 11th hour, Gardenscape found a spot for us!

Tolerant Land Trust volunteers were bombarded by emails from Margaret Potter, and within two days, 17 had come forward to volunteer at Gardenscape. By the time the show started a total of 26 Genesee Land Trust members, volunteers and board members had signed on to do a shift at the Dome. Sandy Carbone, Lorna Wright, Tom Witt and Merri-Lou McKeever even did double shifts. Maureen Lynch, previously committed to another charity, gave up her supper break to help out. This response speaks volumes to the spirit and commitment of the Genesee Land Trust. Event organizer Bob Kretzer (Genesee Finger Lakes Nursery and Landscapers Association) sent kudos to all on the great turnout.

Grateful thanks go to: Laurie Broccolo and her staff, who had been planning to distribute Trust materials from their commercial booth.; Lorna Wright, for hours of Xeroxing and to the roster: Sandy Carbone, Elthea King, Steve Maley, Lorna Wright, Merri-Lou McKeever, Maureen Lynch, Tom Witt, Connie Ehindero, Margot McCauley, Cherrie Harder, Eileen Morris, Andy and Suzanne Wheatcraft, Colleen Roof, Debbie Stein, Kathryn Franz, Casie and Arlene Moffatt, Tricia and Ed Carey, Barbara Marino, Michael Parker, Bill Schwappacher, Robert, Pat and Jonathan Kraus.

## COMING EVENTS

**Salmon Creek Paddle: Sunday, June 25 at 5PM.** 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 advance arrangements to rent from Braddock Bay Paddlesports at 585-392-2628 or [www.paddlingny.com](http://www.paddlingny.com). Going West on the Ontario State Parkway, take the Manitou Beach Rd. exit. Turn left, follow to the end. Turn left. Meet at #416 Manitou Rd. on your left.

**Butterfly Walk at Ganargua Creek Meadow Preserve: Sunday, July 9 at 2PM.** Enjoy this hotspot for butterflies! Led by naturalists and butterfly experts Carol and David Southby, this expedition through woodlands and into the meadow will take place rain or shine. Long pants and appropriate footgear are required as there is poison ivy. Directions: From Route 31 in Macedon, turn south onto Rt. 306 (Wayneport Rd.) Turn east onto Wilkinson Rd. At the crest of the hill, turn south onto Bunker Hill Drive and proceed to the end. Park at the end of the road; the preserve trail begins up near the water tower. Rain or shine!

**Annual Auction at ArtisanWorks: Saturday, October 28 beginning at 6:30PM.** This gala event is the Trust's primary fundraiser! Join us for fine food, music, eclectic silent auction and rousing live auction. ArtisanWorks is located at 565 Blossom Road in Rochester. Ticket information will be available soon. Call 256-2130 or visit [www.geneseelandtrust.org](http://www.geneseelandtrust.org) for more information.



Left caption: Leona Lauster leads a wildflower walk through the woods at Peacework Farm.

Right: GLT Board members and Peacework farmers.



## MAY DAY CELEBRATION AT PEACEWORK FARM

More than 100 members of Genesee Land Trust, the Genesee Valley Organic Community Supported Agriculture (GVOCSA), neighbors and friends of the Peacework Farm gathered to celebrate the successful Preserving Peacework Project on a fine Sunday afternoon. The project creates the new Kraai Preserve of woodlands and wetlands and ensures that the agricultural lands will continue to be farmed in a healthy and sustainable manner.

After opening celebratory remarks, many of the crowd took hold of colorful ribbons and danced around the May Pole to the music played by Jack Spula. Then came walks across the hay fields into the wildflower-filled woods with expert Leona Lauster, strolls along Ganargua Creek, or explorations of the pond and wetlands looking for frogs. Tours of the Peacework Farm operations were followed by a bountiful potluck dinner.

## EAGLE SCOUTS HELP OUT



Top: Pat Farrell relaxes along the Wild Iris Trail.

Bottom: Building a nest box for the Hipp Brook Preserve.

Eagle Scouts are making a difference on Genesee Land Trust preserves. Dan Eder of Macedon, Pat Farrell of Penfield and Alex Tomkiewicz of Pittsford have each taken on projects for the Trust. Thanks to them and to the volunteers who have worked with them on the Trust's behalf—Peter Henry, Warren Elvin and Dave Pawlak.

Eder pulled together his family, friends and fellow scouts to construct and erect an entrance kiosk at Ganargua Creek Meadow Preserve, with holders for a map and welcoming sign as well as bins for informational materials for preserve visitors. Farrell, a neighbor of the Hipp Brook Preserve, led a work crew to build a variety of nest boxes for the cavity nesting birds of the Preserve—from chickadees to wood ducks. In addition, Farrell assembled two benches for placement along the Wild Iris Path.

Tomkiewicz is in the process of organizing his fellow scouts to build and install a series of boardwalks over the wetter trail sections at Island Cottage Woods. Visitors will enjoy these improvements!

## PUBLISHERS' CORNER

### SHOWCASING LOCAL WETLANDS

Christine Sevilla's new guide, *Wetlands In and Near Monroe County*, explores in stunning photographs local protected wetlands that are accessible to the public. Following a two-year project of identifying, locating and photographing wetlands in the area, Sevilla held two exhibits of her photographs. Genesee Valley Audubon Society sponsored her project. Learn more about Sevilla's book at [www.luminguild.com/water](http://www.luminguild.com/water).



### SPECIAL THANKS

... to member and author of *Birds of the Genesee*, Bob Marcotte, for donating proceeds from his beautiful book to Genesee Land Trust. His thoughtfulness and generosity are greatly appreciated. For information on how you can purchase a copy, contact Mr. Marcotte at the Democrat & Chronicle.

### WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS . . .

Aileen Andrews, Barbara and Robert Berns, Deborah Brown, James Carbone, Marilyn Clary, James Coleman, Lois Dannenberg, Ann Derue, Terrence and Marilyn Footer, Mary Ann Fox, Jean Groff, Genesee Valley Pond & Koi Club, Patricia Hogenmiller & Michael Pallischeck, Karen Huey, John Knapik, Carol and William Lebbon, Kathleen McGowan, Wes Morningstar, Janice Olyslager, Carol Panepinto, Mark Pierce, Christine Rutter



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## **BACKYARD HABITAT TOUR 2006: MORE NEW SPONSORS, MORE GREAT GARDENS**

This year's Backyard Habitat Tour takes place on Saturday, June 24 from 9 A.M. to 4 P.M. Sponsors include Broccolo Tree and Lawn Care and Wegmans Food Markets. New sponsors this year are ESL Federal Credit Union, Heluva Good Cheese and Brighton Securities. Through the talent and generosity of Jennifer Wagner and Connie Ehindero with underwriting by DPI Commercial Printing, we have a great tour booklet with descriptions of every stop.

On the tour you can discover the wilds of Chili at two west side gardens, and maybe see the Great Blue Heron. In the heart of the city, see a paradise with an alpine stream, waterfalls, ponds and bogs, then visit a once barren, now splendid habitat just a few blocks away. There is a secret garden in Penfield replete with mature woods and a white garden. Then take a quick trip to the Wild Iris Path at Hipp Brook Preserve! The tour ends with two stunning side-by-side Pittsford gardens.

Tickets are on sale at the Genesee Land Trust office, \$12 for Genesee Land Trust members and \$15 for non-members, and at all Wegmans at the non-member price. Call Margaret at 256-2130 for more information. ■