

COMING EVENTS

All events are open to the public. Visit www.geneseeandtrust.org for directions to these events.

Corbett's Glen History Celebration: Sunday, September 12, 12-5 p.m. This is a joint event with the Allen's Creek/Corbett's Glen Preservation Group and Historic Brighton at Corbett's Glen Nature Park. Park at Linden Oaks Medical Campus Surgery Center, 10 Hagen Avenue, off Rte 441.

Playground Community Build: Saturday, September 18, 9 a.m. -4 p.m. Join neighbors in building a new playground for Conkey Corner Park. Bring work gloves and dress for the weather if you would like to help out during part of the day. Otherwise just stop by. Go to www.geneseeandtrust.org/ConkeyCornerPark.htm for updates.

Invasive Plants Walk: Sunday, September 26, 10 a.m.-noon, Corbett's Glen Nature Park, Brighton. In honor of the outreach begun by Christine Sevilla; botanist Carol Southby and June Summers of Genesee West Audubon will lead an educational exploration of the non-native invasive plants that are spreading throughout our region. Meet at the Linden Oaks Medical Campus Surgery Center, 10 Hagen Avenue, off of Rte 441 to gather and carpool over to the Glen.

Play Date and Ribbon Cutting at Conkey Corner Park, Friday, October 8. MORE DETAILS TBA; visit www.geneseeandtrust.org for updates or call 256-2130. Join the City of Rochester, Project Hope, Ibero-American Development Corporation, Group 14621 and the neighborhood in a Play Date and celebration of the new playground. Go to www.geneseeandtrust.org/ConkeyCornerPark.htm for updates.

Christine Sevilla Art Exhibition at High Falls Art Gallery, 60 Browns Race, Rochester, November 17-January 4, concurrent with the art show "Our Parks." Opening reception on December 5. Please visit centerathighfalls.org/art.htm for complete information.

FOREVER GREEN AUCTION

SAVING LAND SAVING WATER SAVING GREEN



Photo © Jeffrey Hand

Mark your calendar for **November 13th**, when Genesee Land Trust proudly holds its Annual Silent and Live Auction at ArtisanWorks. Enjoy great live music, tasty grazing stations and plenty of good cheer, and shop for holiday gifts among our amazing auction items: guided nature walks, books, baskets of sustainably grown local vegetables, and fabulous natural getaways. Most importantly, your presence and participation support the vitally important work of the Trust.

For more information and tickets, please visit www.geneseeandtrust.org/events.html. Tickets will be available in early October.

Saturday, November 13th • 6:30-9:30 p.m.

RECORD TURNOUT BOOSTS BACKYARD HABITAT TOUR



The 2010 Backyard Habitat Tour, which featured gardens near and on Lake Ontario, attracted a record crowd of more than 400 people—raising more than \$11,000. Great thanks go to our talented and generous gardeners: Bobbi and Bob Berns, Bonnie Hawk and Robin Hamm, The Wahl family, Gretchen Voss, Karen Huey, Colleen and Kevin Griffith and Kathy and Dave Tetlow. Thanks also to our wonderful sponsors: Xerox Corporation, Lori's Natural Foods, Broccoli Tree & Lawn Care, Wegmans, HSBC, and the Rochester Birding Association. This event could not have happened without our volunteers. A complete list of their names appears in the Heartfelt Thanks. ■

HSBC BANK AWARDS GENESEE LAND TRUST \$15,000 FOR NEW WEBSITE

HSBC, the largest corporate supporter in the history of Genesee Land Trust, has selected the Trust for another timely gift! The bank has awarded the Trust \$15,000 in grant funding to design and build a new website. Since 2002 and including this recent gift, HSBC has given \$190,000 to support the work of the Trust. We are very grateful to HSBC for its fidelity to our land preservation work!



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KATHY BLACHOWSKI: Connecting With The Land

by Randi Minetor

It's a great day when the papers are signed, the transactions are completed, and a parcel of land comes under the jurisdiction of the Genesee Land Trust.

Then the question becomes, "Now what?"

The responsibility for the next phase in the land's stewardship belongs to Kathy Blachowski, the Trust's Land Preservation Coordinator. It's up to Kathy to determine the right balance of monitoring, trail maintenance, invasive species eradication, and other activities to keep the land healthy and pristine.

"This is really rewarding to me," she said. "Some weeks it can get a little crazy, but it's still fun. I'm outside, and I can maintain a connection with the land we're protecting."

Kathy brings to this job a wealth of employment experience, both in agriculture environmental conservation and in soil and water quality monitoring. She also earned a bachelor's degree in environmental science from Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

The job of supervising more than 3,000 acres of preserved land begins early, while the Trust is researching specific properties for preservation. Kathy becomes involved in this research, working on GIS maps and determining the issues each parcel may face.

"I go out to each easement at least every year," she said. "Usually, I don't find a lot of issues, and when we do it's much more a sequential landowner issue; the new landowner may not have the same interpretation of why the easement is in place. Sometimes we find neighbors dumping on the property, because they don't know there's an easement on it. Even with our preserves, we find people coming to dump their debris."

To spot these problems as they happen, Kathy relies on a dedicated corps of volunteer stewards who alert her to issues on the Trust's properties.

Many of these properties are in residential areas, so exotic plant species may have crept over from neighboring gardens. When Kathy spots the inevitable invasive species (purple loosestrife, garlic mustard, bush honeysuckle and the like), she weighs many factors before leaping to eradicate it. "Some invasive species are too well established," she said. "If a new invasive species arrives and it's just starting to spread, we'll get volunteers out there to deal with it."

Kathy directs much of her time toward making the preserves more accessible to hikers and nature lovers, organizing efforts to build bridges and boardwalks and keep trails clear. "In spring and fall, we do trail maintenance and clean-up work," she explained. "A lot of brush may grow over the trails, so we do work parties."

The result of Kathy's work: Carefully managed preserves and easements that maintain fragile habitats for birds and wildlife, encourage endangered plant species to flourish, and provide lovely natural spaces for adults and children to enjoy. ■

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The Preserve

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GENESEE LAND TRUST

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.

Photo © Nigel P. Kent

WETLAND RENAMED TO HONOR CHRISTINE SEVILLA

By Steven Daniel



Photo © Nigel P. Kent

More than 20 years ago, Caledonia Wetland became the first preserve of the budding Genesee Land Trust. Over the years, other Trust properties have become better known—but this is about to change.

For the past nine months, Genesee Land Trust has been working with community members to create a lasting memorial to honor our friend, Christine Sevilla—an environmentalist, artist, and activist who was killed in December 2009. In conjunction with Christine's family, the group of us decided that a high quality wetland, preserved in perpetuity, would be a fitting tribute to Christine's life and work.

Thus Gay Mills and I began the process of selecting the place. We considered a variety of properties throughout the region, trying to find a place that best met the criteria the group set out: a quality natural area that included significant wetlands comprised mainly of native species; a place accessible to the public that would continue Christine's work of public outreach; a property not isolated but part of a larger ecological system—and a place to which Christine herself would be drawn.

Genesee Land Trust's Caledonia Wetland Preserve was the last

(Continued on inside page)

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WETLAND RENAMED TO HONOR CHRISTINE SEVILLA

(Continued from front page)



Executive Director
Gay Mills



Photo © Nigel P. Kent

site we visited, and it was the only one already owned by the Trust. It instantly began to resonate with us.

I was surprised by the variety of wetland habitats on this 23-acre parcel. The preserve includes a wet meadow with uncommon plants and limestone at the surface, a diverse swamp forest, a marsh, and a shaded woodland stream. Much of the area is underlain by marl, a limy deposit that can be the indicator of unusual plant diversity. The preserve is contiguous with nearly 1000 acres of undeveloped wetlands. Gay and I invited the rest of the planning group to visit, and all the members agreed that this property was the lasting memorial we were hoping to find—a place to honor the memory of our dear friend.

Christine would have loved this place! The wetlands are unusually diverse – the swamp forest includes uncommon trees, ferns and an excellent variety of native plants. In just a few visits this summer we recorded nearly 30 species of butterflies, including the giant swallowtail and a population of meadow fritillary, a locally rare species. A red-headed woodpecker, a rare-

nesting bird in our area, was observed with its fledgling. The variety of dragonflies at the pond overlook can be mesmerizing. There is excellent potential for an interesting interpretive trail and boardwalk. Although it is only 20 miles from downtown, the preserve feels remote. It is a sanctuary.

In July, the Genesee Land Trust Board of Directors officially renamed this sanctuary the Christine Sevilla Wetlands Preserve. The goal of our group is to raise additional funds to build an interpretive trail and kiosk on the Preserve and to hopefully expand the preserve in the future by acquiring additional properties. We are planning an exhibit of Christine's art work at High Falls Art Gallery Nov 17 – Dec 4.

Sometime this fall we will have a work party at this very special place. You can check on our progress by visiting www.geneseeandtrust.org or www.christinesevilla.com. And when you can, come to Caledonia and experience for yourself the unique beauty of the Christine Sevilla Wetlands Preserve. ■



NEW PARTNERSHIP = NEW TRAIL AT GANARGUA CREEK MEADOW

Morgan Horton, Facilities Manager at Wayne ARC; Peter Henry, Preserve Steward and Macedon Trails Committee; and Kathy Blachowski, Genesee Land Trust Land Preservation Coordinator cut the ribbon to celebrate the opening of a new trail at Ganargua Creek Meadow Preserve. With parking along Wilkinson Road, close to Victor Road, the new trail crosses Wayne ARC property through a meadow and then the woods

that line Ganargua Creek. The trail connects to the Preserve's Meadow Loop. In contrast to the preserve's steep Bunker Hill route, the new trail follows the floodplain on fairly level ground. ■

Dear Members and Friends,

Genesee Land Trust makes long-term commitments to preserve and protect unique and special places in our region. So I often think about what the future will bring. How will that future look? One thing that is reassuring to me is the dedication and capability of the young people who search out the land trust to do an internship or "just" volunteer.

Our interns soon discover that part of what they learn in our small office is how the varied activities of each of the staff members support the overall mission and success of the Land Trust. Interns have located survey markers in the field, and coordinated bridge-making at Island Cottage Woods. They've collected and planted seeds from native plants, catalogued and organized policies and developed training materials. They have created and produced flyers and helped with the set up and clean up of a variety of meetings. They have manned the booth at Gardenscape and volunteered at the Native Plant Sale and Habitat Tour. Simply put – they have and are helping the Trust in so many ways!

Former Genesee Land Trust interns are now working with the Nature Conservancy and the Blue Man Group. One is a Fulbright Scholar in Australia, another is a postdoctoral fellow in atmospheric chemistry and a third is enjoying studies in the Bahamas. They are studying environmental science and engineering, and one will soon receive her degree as a physician's assistant.

These talented young adults bring their energy, brainpower and commitment to us—every year! We gain so much from them while they are learning from us—and from working with them I can only conclude that the future looks bright for land conservation. ■

gay mills



OUR HEARTFELT THANKS GO TO . . .

Photographers: Nigel P. Kent, Gloria M. Weyerts, Lisa Wright. Interns: Julia Duffy, Kevin Farrell. Brighton Green Fair: Erin Grant, Cenie Cafarelli, Roger Cass, Diane Cass. The Backyard Habitat Tour Booklet: Jennifer Wagner, designer; Printers: Connie Thornton and Sharon Woodruff, Xerox Corporation; Preliminary Help: Julia Duffy, Kevin Farrell, Tom Witt, Kathryn Franz, Elaine Enfonde. Gardeners Gathering: Merri-Lou McKeever, Elthea King-Spiegel, Sabrina Siebert, Lee Caine. Greeters and Parking Help: Karen Evans, Margo Vanas, Sabrina Siebert, Julia Duffy, Emily Handelman, Kevin Farrell, Erin Grant, Merri-Lou McKeever, Cenie Cafarelli, Roger and Diane Cass, Howard Potter, Terry Schmitz, Laurie Broccoli, Dan and Lura Deveau, Elthea King-Spiegel and Paul Spiegel, Cherie Harder, Barb Marino, Elizabeth von Bacho, Sandy Carbone, Robert Kraus, Cathy Rice, Rachel Edwards. Backyard Habitat Tour Committee: Lee Caine, Mary Coupe, Laurie Gunther-Fellows, Karen Kremer, Georgia Nelson, Cathy Senecal-Rice, Judy Bigelow, Cenie Cafarelli. Advisor: Teddy Carr. Conkey Park Music: Howard Potter, Chris Potter. Island Cottage Woods Bridge Construction: Hal Harris, Randy Powers, Larry Yost, Kevin Farrell, Emily Handelman, Maya Shermer, leaders; Cenie Cafarelli, Tom Witt, Bob Stevenson, Donald Flynn, Krista VanBeuren, Cherie Harder, Mike Riley, Marie Riley, Warren Sauer, John Funt, Merri-Lou McKeever. Gosnell Big Woods Invasive Species Work: Norma Platt, John Boettcher, Dave Lentz, Warren Sauer, Nancy Poeth, Tom Poeth, Sharon Galbraith, John Bok, Ron Happ. Legal Assistance: Peter Woods of ESL Federal Credit Union, Timothy Fitzgerald of Bond, Schoeneck & King, LLC, George Parker. Annual Meeting: Tom Riley, Rebecca Kraai. Weeding at Conkey Corner Park: Rachel Edwards, Emily Edwards, Ken Love, Cenie Cafarelli, Tom Frey, Gene Hyrohenko, Ron Kwasman, and CONEA's Youth Crew. Music at Conkey Corner Park: Howard Potter, Christopher Potter, Nat Turner Drum Circle, Pat Canty. Engineering review: Tom Palumbo, Tom Low. Property walks and other expertise: David Strong, Steven Daniel, George Parker, Roger Cass, Tom Low, Carol and Dave Southby. Checks: Debby Kornfield. Ganargua Creek Preserve new trail: Pete Henry and Macedon Trails, Morgan Horton, David Calhoun, Charlie Holvey and his two sons, George Decker, Phil Klingler. Martin Farm: Dan Bryson. Project Planning: Sharon Lilla, Ora Rothfuss, Zack O'Dell, Mary Fisher. Corbett's Glen Event Coordination: Renee Wilson. Powerpoints and presentations: Merri-Lou McKeever, Nancy Torpey. Spring Walk Leader: Mona Rynearson; 85 Day of Caring/El Camino Volunteers: Merri-Lou McKeever, Mike Kehoe, Rachel Edward, George Parker, Peter Henry, Tom Witt, Bill Jessmer, Mark Shalvoy, Jennifer Wilson of J&J, Citibank, ARC of Monroe County. See complete list of names at www.geneseeandtrust.org/DayofCaringVolunteers.html ■

A Promise to Protect Our Beautiful Landscapes Forever

Name Genesee Land Trust in your will and you will create a legacy for generations to come. Planned gifts provide Genesee Land Trust with the financial stability necessary to grow, plan for the future and protect our community's beautiful landscapes.

Contact us to learn about charitable gift annuities and other ways you can take a charitable tax deduction while supporting The Genesee Land Trust.

Reach us directly: (585) 256-2130

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Photo: © Elinor Osborn

BUILDING A BOARDWALK FOR ISLAND COTTAGE WOODS

by Kevin Farrell

My time as an intern for Genesee Land Trust has been a great experience. Learning how a land trust operates internally and externally has been very interesting as well as rewarding. This experience will no doubt help me finish my undergraduate years as well as into my future with graduate school and beyond.

One of these projects has been the construction of a new raised boardwalk at Island Cottage Woods Preserve. I was part of many projects in the office, but this project gave me the opportunity to see the land trust out of the office, the hard work required to maintain a preserve or easement, and the many people willing to lend a hand and help enhance the natural beauty of our local lands.

On Tuesday, July 13, a group of volunteers gathered, along with three members of the Friends of Webster Trails group, at Island Cottage Woods Preserve to work on installing new raised boardwalks in a swampy section of the preserve trail.

The day began with volunteers hauling large 10 x 3.5-foot boardwalk frames that had been constructed by a work party on Earth Day 2009 through the twists and turns of the trail

to the swamp crossing. Trip after trip, using wheelbarrows and carts, volunteers carried these frames, tools and decking for the top of the boardwalk frames, to the specified area. Other volunteers helped by clearing overhanging vegetation and moving branches and logs out of the trail, making sure the path was clear.

After all the boardwalk frames, decking and tools were brought to the swampy section of the trail, volunteers cleared vegetation around the old boardwalks to make room for a more direct path for the new boardwalks. After lunch, the metal piping arrived, which consisted of 20 individual pipes from 6 feet to 12 feet in length. These pipes were all transported to the site, just as dark clouds began to move in. The Friends of Webster Trails group led the way in drilling holes, attaching brackets and making sure everything was level and



lined up correctly. As the torrential downpour rolled in, the committed volunteers drove down the metal pipes, nailed down the decking and learned the art of raised boardwalk construction. Even though there were mosquitoes, rain and thunder, a great day was had by all!

A big thank-you to Hal Harris, Randy Powers and Larry Yost from Friends of Webster Trails, and all the Genesee Land Trust volunteers!

Kevin Farrell is from Mendon and will be a senior at the University of New Hampshire in the fall. He is studying Environmental Conservation with a specialization in

International Environmental and Natural Resource Policy and Sustainable Development. As an intern this summer, he helped the Trust prepare for the accreditation process with the Land Trust Alliance. ■



ANNUAL MEETING WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

About 50 members attended our annual meeting, which was held on June 3rd at the historic Charlotte-Genesee Lighthouse. The view from this unique place, where the river once met Lake Ontario, reinforced for us the importance of our commitment to protect our north coast.

The business portion of the meeting included the Year in Review report, given by Trust Executive Director Gay Mills. Outgoing president Connie Ehindero reflected on the great progress the Trust has made over the years and noted that she is just as committed to the Trust now as she was two decades ago, when she first became a member.

Margaret Potter, on behalf of all staff, awarded the Volunteer of the Year Award to Jennifer Wagner, who designed the Backyard Habitat Tour Booklet—a 60-page book—in addition to her other volunteer assignments.

Robert Kraus gave the business of the day, which included the election of new officers: Rachel Edwards, president and Tom Frey, vice president. Returning officers

included: Merri-Lou McKeever, secretary and Mike Kehoe, treasurer. Newly elected board members included Veronica Lee, former executive director of Gilda's Club; Udo Fehn, professor emeritus of geological studies at the University of Rochester; and Bill Schwappacher, vice president at Morgan Stanley and a mini-farmer.

New to the Advisory Board this year is Mary Hadley, senior director of global marketing strategy at Bausch & Lomb. Retiring from the board are Mike Privitera and Randi Minetor, both of whom brought their marketing and communications expertise and time to the Trust; they will both continue to guide us as members of our Advisory Board. Finally, we are happy to announce that Randi Minetor is staying on as Editor in Chief of The Preserve newsletter.

Many thanks to Fred Amato, Charlotte-Genesee Lighthouse trustee and historian, and all at the lighthouse for being such gracious hosts and tour guides. ■

