W
ith winter finally(!) behind us, help
usher in the official start of summer by
taking a leisurely stroll through one of
Central New York’s most stunning gardens in
late June—and know that you are simulta-
neously taking steps to preserve
important natural areas throughout the region.

The CNY Land Trust presents its annual
Summer Solstice Garden Tour on Saturday,
June 18th. The Land Trust will again mark the
Summer Solstice with its annual fundraiser—a
Garden Tour and Plant Sale at Sycamore Hill
Gardens (11 a.m. - 4 p.m.) at the Hanford
Family’s private gardens at 2130 Old Seneca
Turnpike in Marcellus. These extraordinary
gardens, spanning over 30 acres of landscaped
gardens, paths and ponds, were established,
expanded and maintained through a labor of
love by owners Karen and George Hanford and
are not usually open to the public. However, a
few times each year the Hanfords generously
share with the public the natural beauty that
surrounds them.

Key features of the gardens include
several large ponds with fountains and colorful
koi (large Japanese goldfish) which the children
can feed, statuary from all around the world, an
exotic bell garden, evergreen maze, thousands
of flowering bulbs and perennials, and hundreds
of flowering trees and shrubs. A network of
paths enables visitors to explore these treasures
at their own pace. The setting is truly
spectacular, beautiful and very whimsical.

In addition to the tour and plant sale,
visitors can enjoy live bluegrass, folk, and traditional music
performed by Geneseo Ted and Willard Pratt
throughout the afternoon on the grounds.
Visitors are encouraged to bring their own
picnic lunch to enjoy on the grounds either
before or after (or as a respite in the middle of)
their exploration of the extensive gardens at
Sycamore Hill. Food items will also be available
for purchase—Chicken Bandit Food Truck &
Eatery returns this year bringing their delicious
fare.

Several talented, local artisans will also
be available this year featuring nature-inspired
crafts and items pertaining to the garden or the
outdoors. This is a good chance to purchase
hand-made products, for everyday use or gifts.

A new addition this year will be yoga
instruction. CNY Land Trust’s board member,
Kathy Bennett, will lead two yoga classes, at
11:30am and 1:30pm, near the Koi Ponds on
the garden grounds. There could not be a more
beautiful or serene setting for yoga than
Sycamore Hill Gardens, so take advantage of all
that this day has to offer and get your tickets
eyear.

In conjunction with the garden tour, CNY
Land Trust will also hold a plant sale. The
plants available for sale do not come from
Sycamore Hill Gardens but instead come from
area gardeners who have made donations from
their own local gardens. The items for sale
consist primarily of perennials and native
plants, trees and shrubs. The plant sale will be
held across the street from the garden tour
(continued on page 2........)

By Steve Kulick, CNY Land Trust Board Member

Protecting Nature’s Gems - One Acre at a Time
http://cnylandtrust.org
Stewardship Volunteering...Swim Optional!

Does warm weather have you thinking about getting outdoors a bit more? Maybe get some exercise, meet new people, or simply get out and enjoy the natural beauty of Central New York? CNY Land Trust has plenty to do, you can even go for an accidental swim! For a sense of volunteer opportunities, in April, Stewardship Committee members helped pick up over 15 bags of garbage - and a discarded vacuum cleaner - from Heron Marsh Preserve in Clay, as participants in OCRRA’s Annual Earth Day Cleanup. Volunteers returned to Woodchuck Hill Preserve in Manlius for maintenance work, including marking trails to correspond to the new trail maps produced by students at Syracuse University’s Community Geography Program. You can download the new trail maps from CNY Land Trust’s website, under “Nature Preserves”:
http://cnylandtrust.org/portfolio-items/woodchuck-hill-field-and-forest-preserve/.

In May, Jack Gramlich, Stewardship Chair, led volunteers in maintenance work at Old Fly Marsh in Pompey, where CNY Land Trust manages the water level of the marsh, and occasionally needs to undo some of the ecological engineering work by a family of beavers near the culvert. Jack found himself damper than expected at one point, see photo. Actually, you don’t have to go “swimming” at all, volunteers would love to simply have your help. Join the Stewardship Committee - the next meeting will be Wednesday, June 22, 2016 at 5:30pm at the CNY Philanthropy Center. Check the cnylandtrust.org homepage calendar and announcements.

Garden Tour...From Page 1

and there is no admission fee for the plant sale. The sale will also include a limited number of gardening books. If you would like to donate items from your garden to the sale, please use the contact information below to notify CNY Land Trust.

This event is held rain or shine. Tickets are $6 in advance (last day for advance sale tickets is June 8) or $12 at the door (no charge for children 12 and under, and group rates are available). Parking is free. All proceeds support the work of the CNY Land Trust. Your participation in the garden tour and plant sale will help support the year-round work of the land trust to protect important natural areas and to steward them properly.

For more information, including locations to buy tickets in advance, or to buy tickets online, go to cnylandtrust.org or call (315) 575-8839. Crafts, music, food, beautiful gardens—all we need is you!

Board of Directors News

The CNYLT Board of Directors recognizes Kate Jwaskiewicz for her service to the board. Kate stepped down in May 2016 after ten years of dedicated service, including the essential roles of board secretary and Membership Chair. Over her board tenure, Kate contributed her time and expertise to help the Land Trust with donor and foundation relationships, communications, and sponsorships. She will be missed - the board wishes her all the best with her growing family and new wellness career.

In turn, CNYLT welcomes new board member, Andrew Obernesser. Andy is a Project Manager at Environmental Design & Research (EDR), an award-winning landscape architecture, engineering, and environmental services firm with offices in Syracuse and Rochester. Andy is a certified planner with over 15 years’ experience specializing in environmental planning. Andy will serve on the Acquisitions Committee, contributing much value with his experience in land use change and development, comprehensive planning, farmland protection, public outreach, and his knowledge of CNY landscapes.
A special thank you to CNY Land Trust’s 2016 Garden Tour & Plant Sales sponsors! Your local land trust appreciates the investment in conservation by these companies and organizations. You’ll find these sponsors (and their logos) on this page and the following page.
A special thank you to CNY Land Trust’s 2016 fundraiser sponsors! Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency (OCRRA) and Comfort Windows support CNY Land Trust through generous sponsorships for the upcoming Summer Solstice Garden Tour, Plant Sale, and Nature-inspired Crafts Sale, on June 18, 2016, 11am-4pm, at Sycamore Hill Gardens in Marcellus, New York. Join the fun! Tickets available in advance & at the event—see inside...