The Central New York Community Foundation has awarded a grant of $60,000 to the CNY Land Trust to create an outdoor watershed education center at its 92-acre High Hickory Preserve in the Town of Spafford. The center, designed to promote watershed best practices through demonstration and educational projects in the Skaneateles watershed, will include invasive species treatment, installation of a corduroy bridge to prevent stream damage, planting native vegetation to reduce erosion, excavation of vernal pools and stream stabilization, an educational kiosk, outdoor seating for educational programs, a driveway and parking. The project will also monitor for harmful algal blooms (HABs).

The site improvements created through this project will become part of ongoing educational efforts to highlight a variety of practical and achievable measures to promote watershed protection. The emergence of HABs over the last two years, including at neighboring Lourdes Camp on Skaneateles Lake, has underscored the need for better land and water management practices that reduce the nutrient runoff that contributes to HABs.

The Land Trust is working with U.S. Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Soil & Water Conservation, Skaneateles Lake Association, and the Nature Conservancy to plan the project. Work is expected to be completed in 2020.
Tribute to Richard “Dick” Brickwedde, Esq.
By Richard “Rick” Smardon, Board Chair

Dick Brickwedde passed on August 27, 2019 following an extended period of failing health. He called me a week before he passed and he started the conversation with, “I am dying.” I forget what I said, but after the shock wore off a bit, we talked about future investment strategy for the CNY Land Trust and the need to find another person to take his place on the finance committee. That was the way Dick was—always thinking about the future and what needed to be done.

Dick served on our board for many years before moving to Virginia with his wife, June. He was a long time steward of the Woodchuck Hill Forest and Field Preserve and was instrumental in setting up CNYLT’s investment portfolio and fiscal management policy. He served on both our Finance and Acquisition Committees and he continued to advise us from Virginia about investment decisions.

Before becoming a CNYLT board member Dick had already achieved an incredible legal career that included:
- NY Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) Public Citizenship Award for litigation for students' right to vote nationally;
- NY State legislative work on mail registration and plain language law;
- NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Region 7 work on environmental cleanup including the Onondaga Lake consent order;
- US Supreme Court real estate and business environmental due diligence requirements;
- A private law practice for more than a decade.

We will certainly miss Dick, both personally as well as his many contributions to CNYLT. I remember walking with him to a meeting to set up our investment account in downtown Syracuse. He asked me if I could walk a bit faster to keep up with him. Our world would be a much better place if we could all keep up with Dick, not so much in terms of his walking pace but rather his commitment to the environment and his unending willingness to serve our community.

Fabius Pompey Visits the Old Fly Marsh

The fifth grade students from Fabius Elementary School visit the Old Fly Marsh every year, and so do hundreds of geese. We plan the trip for the last Friday in September. The weather is usually warm and dry and the geese are always there--ideal conditions for a field trip.

The teachers want the students to learn three reasons why wetlands are important so they take the annual trip to the Old Fly Marsh. Wetlands provide wildlife habitat, reduce flooding, and filter the water. Students can see all of this at the Old Fly.

This year the students also assisted in moving part of the boardwalk to a new location. Our resident beaver friends are up to their usual practice of raising the water level and flooding a trail. We needed a new boardwalk to cross about 60 feet of flooded trail, and we had 50 students who had a lot of energy...a perfect match.
New faces at the Land Trust Office

Earlier this fall, the CNY Land Trust welcomed two seasoned professionals to its team that continues to grow in its commitment to our mission to preserve and protect natural areas in order to provide communities clean water, clean, wildlife habitat and a chance to connect with the land.

When the Land Trust’s office administrator stepped down during the summer to prepare for graduate school, the Land Trust assessed the areas in which it was most in need of staff support. It concluded that its two greatest needs involved programs and administration. After a successful search, the Land Trust hired Laurie Walker and Betsy Foote to fill these critical roles for the organization. Together, they bring more than 60 years of financial management, development, marketing, and public relations experience in the non-profit sector. The next time you call or stop by the office please be sure to say hello to Betsy and Laurie and welcome them to the CNY Land Trust family.

Many Hands Make Many Management Plans

With the help of board, staff, land stewards, and three highly dedicated, and enthusiastic student interns from the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, the Land Trust was able to compile information needed to update management plans for 46 of its nature preserves this summer. Management plans serve as important tools in guiding the use of financial, staff, volunteer and other resources in a way that ensures the long-term protection of the land involved. Management plans require periodic updates in light of new circumstances, threats or opportunities but the initial management plan serves as a critical road map for the long-term preservation of the natural area for which it was created. The 2019 team of interns rendered a considerable service to the Land Trust through their work in developing these key resources.

On behalf of its members and its board of directors, the CNY Land Trust wishes to express its deep gratitude to our amazing interns for their extraordinary work in support of land protection. The greater Central New York community will continue to benefit from this work for decades to come.

Many thanks to Elena, Muxia, and Clara!!

Laurie, Betsy and Albert pose with the new signage at our office on Fennell Street in Skaneateles.
Take part in a once-in-a-lifetime experience.
Visit the central Platte River in Nebraska to see 400,000-600,000 sandhill cranes on their annual migration. March 10-14, 2020. $5,000/pp or $8,000/couple. Please contact Albert Joerger for more information at 607/882-5456 prior to 12/31/19.
Please Come to Our Summer Solstice Garden Tour – June 22nd

Spend the first full day of summer in one of the most beautiful and stunning gardens in upstate New York as the CNY Land Trust presents its annual Summer Solstice Garden Tour and Craft Sale on Saturday, June 22nd from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The event will take place at Sycamore Hill Gardens, a private residence with expansive gardens covering approximately 40 acres. These extraordinary gardens, located at 2130 Old Seneca Turnpike in Marcellus, NY, are maintained under the loving care of owners George and Karen Hanford who created the gardens and, over a period of many years, expanded them into the extensive and exquisite gardens that will be open to the public for one day on June 22, 2019.

Through a self-guided tour, visitors can explore the 40 acres of gardens at their own pace during the hours of 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Food will be available for purchase on site from the Chicken Bandit Food Truck. Alternatively, visitors are encouraged to bring a blanket and pack their own picnic lunch.

Sycamore Hill Gardens is unsurpassed in upstate New York for the variety of its flowers, trees and shrubs, and its overall scale. It includes thousands of flowers, hundreds of beautiful tree cultivars, several ponds, a network of walking paths, an adventurous koi pond, and an extensive display of outdoor art beautifully integrated into the living landscape.

The event will also feature a number of local artisans offering beautiful nature-inspired crafts and items for sale. Parking for the garden tour is free and the day will include crafts, face painting, music and yoga.

Advance sale tickets are $6 per person through June 13; thereafter, the ticket price will be $12 per person (including the day of the event). Children (ages 8 and under) are free.

Advance sale tickets can be purchased on the website (www.cnylandtrust.org) or by cash or check at these locations: Baltimore Woods Nature Center in Marcellus, Dental Arts Group (1638 W. Genesee Street, Syracuse), Maldonado Nursery (Main Street, Elbridge), or the CNYLT office (7 Fennell Street, Skaneateles, M-F 9 a.m. to noon). Proceeds from tickets purchased from the CNY Land Trust will benefit the land trust’s conservation work as it seeks to conserve important natural areas throughout CNY.

This year the Land Trust is collaborating with Women Transcending Boundaries (a non-profit organization based in greater Syracuse) to present this event. For more information, please call 315-575-8839.

Protecting Nature’s Gems - One Acre at a Time
http://cnylandtrust.org
Calling All Craft Vendors (of the Natural Kind)

If you are a crafter whose work is inspired by or reflects the beauty of nature, we might have just the opportunity for you. Our garden tour and craft sale at Sycamore Hill Gardens in Marcellus on June 22nd features crafters whose work includes nature-inspired crafts. We still have a few openings for crafters for this event. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Gail Calcagnino at 315-685-5381 or via email at gandrsk@gmail.com

Earth Day Service Heroes

Earth Day is the perfect time to slow down and enjoy the wonderful natural areas found throughout our community. It is also the perfect time to be proactive in taking steps to protect these areas and that is just what several dozen young adults did on Earth Day this year. Nearly two dozen volunteers from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly known as the Soil Conservation Service) joined forces with nearly a dozen Central New York Land Trust volunteers to make improvements two of the land trust preserves in Onondaga County.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture that provides farmers, foresters, and other private working landowners the tools they need to restore and protect the productivity of their lands. Together with their partners, NRCS works to protect the nation’s soil, water, animals, plants, and air.

On Earth Day 2019, more than 30 NRCS volunteers converged on two important Land Trust preserves. Just over half of the NRCS representatives spent nearly half a day working at Woodchuck Hill Field and Forest Preserve while the remainder of the NRCS volunteers spent their time at a new preserve in the Town of Manlius--Three Falls Woods. The first contingent spread woodchips on the trails at Woodchuck Hill and spread gravel on the driveway, while the second group concentrated on cutting buckthorn (an invasive species), clearing the area near the pond and picking up trash.

Thanks to the enthusiasm—and hard work—of our NRCS friends, these two preserves are now in much better condition today than they had been and offer a wonderful outdoor experience for all visitors. If you have an interest in participating in similar service projects on any of our preserves, please contact the Land Trust office to let us know. We will be happy to notify you the next time we have a service opportunity on one of our preserves.

Mark Your Calendar for our Wednesday Walks

Our Stewardship Committee is planning several nature walks, each with an assigned theme, for this spring and summer.

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>June 26th</td>
<td>5:30pm</td>
<td>Pleasant Valley, Cedarvale</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 24th</td>
<td>5:30pm</td>
<td>Mason Hill (TBD)</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 14th</td>
<td>5:30pm</td>
<td>Three Falls, Sweet Road</td>
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A New Face at the Land Trust

Earlier this year CNYLT had the opportunity to welcome Jeanette La France to the land trust family. Jeanette serves as the new part-time Office Administrator for the Land Trust. In this capacity, she plays a key role in keeping our small office running smoothly and efficiently as she helps us manage the records, reports and other operations needed for the land trust to steward its 48 nature preserves located in 21 towns across Onondaga and Oswego Counties.

Jeanette earned a B.S. in Environmental Biology from Stony Brook University and worked previously with the American Conservation Experience in Utah where her responsibilities included trail maintenance, floodgate construction, cave restoration and wildlife conservation. She is a great addition to the land trust family. The next time you call the office, be sure to extend a warm welcome to the friendly voice at the other end of the line because it will probably be Jeanette.

New office, same mission

The CNY Land Trust recently relocated to a new office in the village of Skaneateles. While we are still unpacking boxes and getting our new space at 7 Fennell Street organized, we plan to hold an open house for our members, friends, supporters and the general public once we have emptied the boxes and recycled them. Stay tuned to our website or watch the newsletter over the next few months for details concerning the open house. We would love to see you there!

Happy Birthday to our Youngest Supporter!

The CNY Land Trust is pleased to extend its sincere congratulations and best wishes to our youngest supporter who has not yet entered kindergarten! Adriana Colavita celebrated her fourth birthday in April and, in lieu of receiving the traditional assortment of birthday presents, she decided to donate part of her birthday money to the Central New York Land Trust and, because she loves the outdoors so much, several of her friends and family members made donations to the Land Trust in her honor.

Adriana’s family expressed gratitude to the Land Trust for its work in protecting so many nature preserves throughout CNY so that Adriana and her young friends can enjoy and benefit from these natural areas. Now that the warmer weather is here, you can expect to see Adriana and her family exploring and enjoying several of these natural areas. She is certainly setting an example for all of us to follow. If you run into Adriana at one of our nature preserves this summer, please be sure to wish her a (belated) happy birthday!
Stay in touch—sign up for CNY Land Trust email updates
You can sign up to get timely email updates on events, stewardship activities, newly protected lands and more. On the CNY Land Trust website, cnylandtrust.org, add your email next to "Join Our E-Newsletter List" on the homepage, or email info@cnylandtrust.org.

Follow us on Facebook! www.facebook.com/CNYLandTrust

Have you renewed your membership in 2019?

Name:____________________________________
Address:____________________________________
City:____________________________________
State:_____ Zip:__________________________
Email:____________________________________

Mail to:

CNY Land Trust
P.O. Box 9417
Syracuse, NY 13290

☐ $35.00* Individual
☐ $50.00 Family
☐ $100.00 Sponsor
☐ $250.00 Sustaining
☐ $500.00 Benefactor
☐ $1,000.00 Life Member

☐ Save the trees! Email my CNYLT newsletter and renewal notice!

*Membership minimum

Please make checks payable to Central New York Land Trust, Inc. Thank you for your gift!

Your membership gift, protects the landscape of Central New York year-after-year! There’s no place like home, and your membership makes the difference in CNY Land Trust’s mission to provide our communities clean water, clean air, wildlife habitat, and a chance to connect with the land. A copy of Central New York Land Trust, Inc.’s latest annual report may be obtained, upon request, from the Office of the Attorney General, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271 or at www.charitiesnys.com

Spring 2019

Garden Tour June 22, Sycamore Hill Gardens

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