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UPCOMING EVENTS

**November 10 at 10AM –
Rum Hill Biodiversity Hike**

**December 11 at 6PM –
Fly Tie with Craig Buckbee**

**January 24 at 10AM –
Greenwoods Ski/Snowshoe**

**February 14 at 9AM –
GBBC & Birdhouse Building**

Visit OtsegoLandTrust.org
for more information.



Credit: Susan Rowland Photography.

OUR NATURAL COMMUNITY

Northern Long-eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*)

There's nothing quite like watching a summer day fade into dusk. As the heavy August air cooled, you may have noticed you were not alone in watching the sun slip away—silently swooping through the sky was a winged mammal, a bat.

Some of these furry winged beings are in serious danger, like the Northern Long Eared Bat.

The Northern Long Eared Bat is medium in size at 3 inches with a wingspan of 9 inches. As its name denotes, it owns an abnormally large set of ears and preys on mosquitoes and other small insects. It is being extinguished by White Nose Syndrome.

White Nose Syndrome is a fungal disease that affects bats and has currently wiped out nearly 99% of Long Eared Bats in our region. However, conservation efforts are underway and will hopefully encourage this furry flying creature to return to thriving levels in our area. ■



Credit: N. Heaslip.

field, forest & fen



Connecting People with the Healthy Lands and Clean Waters that Sustain Us

CONSERVATION SPIRIT

Conservation Connections: Landowners Link and Protect Land



CAT GARETH smiles with satisfaction at having protected her special land.



Cooperstown resident, Cat Gareth, first approached Otsego Land Trust about protecting her treasured property in Delaware County after attending a hike on Barbara Pope's protected lands overlooking the Fly Creek valley. Cat's 15-acres, a hilly woodland fronting Oleout Creek, is a special place where she finds both solace and the excitement of discovery in its natural life and ecosystems.

The protection of Cat's property is not just important to Cat. Her wooded hillside along Oleout Creek provides erosion control for the creek which eventually empties in the Susquehanna. Keeping the Oleout healthy helps keep the Susquehanna healthy and contributes to ensuring clean drinking water for central New Yorkers and for millions of people downstream.

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CONSERVATION SPOTLIGHT

Bioblitzing the Blueway: Intern Education and Lots of Fun!

Talk about a great way to spend a summer: Biological Field Station (BFS) and OLT interns spent June, July, and August learning about the flora and fauna of OLT Blueway sites and helping to care for them.

With generous donations from two dedicated OLT donors, BFS and OLT were able to hire four interns, two to do research work for BFS at our Blueway properties and two to assist OLT in summer easement monitoring and stewardship responsibilities.

BFS interns, Kate Berdan and Emily Davidson organized bioblitzes—a series of interactive biological surveys, studied the effect of microplastics on algae,

and delineated a wetland parcel at Parslow Road Conservation Area. Deanna Oliveri and Sandy Alles became part of our land trust staff and provided invaluable assistance with meeting the land protection responsibilities of OLT's busy summer season.

Emily, an environmental sciences and biology major, coordinated the bioblitzes all hosted on our Blueway properties. Emily brought together professors, the Clark Sports Center Adventure Camp team, and interested members of the community to seek and identify as many living organisms as possible within a six hour period.

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INTERNS KATE AND EMILY find a moment to relax after Bioblitzing Compton Bridge.



Otsego Land Trust conserves our natural heritage of woodlands, farmlands, and waters that sustain rural communities, promote public health, support wildlife diversity and inspire the human spirit.

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Otsego Land Trust is partially funded by the New York Conservation Partnership Program administered by the Land Trust Alliance Northeast Program with support from the State of New York. A copy of Otsego Land Trust's annual financial report may be obtained upon request from our office or from the New York State Attorney General's Charities Bureau. ATTN: FOIL Officer, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271.

MAKING CONNECTIONS

For Now and the Next 7 Generations

Last month, I gave the kickoff lecture for SUNY Cobleskill's 7th Generation lecture series. My talk was titled "Reciprocity, Responsibility, and Saving the Planet: Will Conservation Protect Land for the Next Seven Generations?" I spoke about OLT's conservation work and the history of conservation in America.

Any study of American history, including conservation history, is intimately tied to indigenous peoples, in this region, the Haudenosaunee or Iroquois. The term "seventh generation" and the philosophy of looking forward seven generations comes from the Constitution or "Great Law" of the Iroquois, which reads: "Look and listen for the welfare of the whole people and have always in view not only the present but also the coming generations, even those whose faces are yet beneath the surface of the ground—the unborn of the future Nation."

That eloquent statement means every choice we make now impacts our children—and theirs. We are responsible for thinking about what our current choices will mean seven generations into the future. There is no greater responsibility than ensuring that our kids have healthy land and clean water from which to live. We need to educate kids now about our vital connection to land and water. We need to encourage a love for the outdoors that will lead them to conserve healthy land and water for themselves and for their children and grandchildren.



LOCAL CHILDREN complete nature scavenger hunt.

Study after study demonstrates that when kids connect to nature at young ages, they grow up respecting it and wanting to care for it because they understand that the earth cares for them. Ironically, as we face our greatest environmental challenges, kids are spending less time outside and more time immersed in phones and computers.

At OLT, we try through our education programs, our intern programs, and free public access to outdoor recreation and education at our Blueway sites to encourage budding conservationists to learn to enjoy and care about the land that sustains all of us. Please bring the family and join us for a program or spend a day fishing, hiking, paddling or exploring the flora and fauna of the Blueway. Enjoy being outside with your kids, they—and their kids—will be grateful for it.

Virginia Kennedy
Executive Director

WAYS TO DONATE

Your support makes our conservation work possible. Your generosity makes the difference.

Here are some great ways to donate and contribute to sustaining the lands and waters that sustain us:

- Hit the "donate" button on our website; donating online is safe and easy.
- Become a monthly donor; for less than a cup of coffee a day, you can donate \$15 or \$20 a month and support OLT all year long.
- Watch for OLT's fall appeal letter in the mail; reply with a generous donation.
- Become a legacy leader; remember OLT in your estate planning. Call us for more information.



A Simple Way to Support OLT Like us on Facebook!

We want to see 1,000 Facebook followers by the New Year!

Conservation Connections — continued from page 1

"Cat's easement is all about connections," explains OLT Executive Director, Virginia Kennedy, "Cat connected to OLT through one of our hikes on Barbara Pope's protected property. Inspired by Barbara and dedicated to her own conservation ethic, Cat worked with OLT to protect her special place. Through Cat, OLT is working

with two additional landowners along Oleout and Carr's Creeks to protect their lands. Protecting creek frontage means protecting the Susquehanna, which is important to everyone who depends on the river for clean water. Like ripples in a pond, Barbara to Cat to the landowners with whom Cat has connected OLT, their conservation

ethics and their actions to protect their properties matter to us all."

OLT is currently working on nine active land protection projects in Otsego, Delaware, Herkimer, and Schoharie Counties totaling more than 1,000 acres. We hope to pass the prestigious 10,000 acres protected landmark by early in 2015.

In Cat's own words:

"This small piece of land taught me to examine and cherish our local environment's often over-looked details. In that sense you could say that it was the architect of its own conservation because, by learning what it taught me, I came to value it enough to preserve it and allow it to evolve undisturbed and educate others. These 14 acres are an intimate landscape on a scale that a person can truly come to know, yet varied and surprising enough to dole out its discoveries over years of getting to know it. From its steeply wooded hillside to its cobble-bottomed creek it harbors an array of unexpected — or comfortingly familiar — small wonders that invite one to slow down, look closely, listen. In my knowing of it, it has been a haven crowded with wild lives from trillium to beaver, heron to hemlock, ghostly indian pipe to a rumor of a passing bear. I am too close to it to speak more formally about what this conservation easement will mean to this land's ecology, its water, its wildlife, the sustainability of this fragment of the natural world but, I do hope that it survives as what I have known it to be — a habitat for the human spirit." ■



OLEOUT CREEK where it borders Cat's property.

Bioblitzing the Blueway — continued from page 1

How does an event like this benefit the community?

Emily explains: "A bioblitz is an excellent way for scientists to communicate with the public and help the public understand the type of work they do, why they do it, and how it is relevant to everyone living here." BFS intern Matthew Best, SUNY Fisheries and Aquaculture major, adds: "A bioblitz is a great hands on experience. We get to learn about what is right in our backyard, what we share the air, water and land with."

OLT interns, Sandy Alles, a graduate in chemistry from Vassar College, Deanna Oliveri, an environmental studies graduate of SUNY Oneonta, and Spencer O'Bryan, a Milford Highschool graduate and geology major, helped with the bioblitzes. They also assisted OLT staff in maintaining Brookwood Gardens, facilitating events, and conducting monitoring

visits of conservation easements. They received education and training to become Lake Stewards.

"I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to work as an intern this summer with OLT. It was not only an excellent opportunity to learn first-hand what goes into land conservation, but to work with some excellent people whose enthusiasm and passion for their work is contagious," states Deanna.

We are pleased to report that Kate is continuing her studies at SUNY Geneseo, Emily has graduated from SUNY Oneonta with a Bachelors in Environmental Sciences and Biology, and both Deanna and Sandy have successfully found employment with other non-profit organizations. We thank them for all their hard work this past season and wish them all the best with their future endeavors! ■



DEANNA & SANDY get Brookwood gardens ready to shine for the season.



BFS INTERNS take aquatic survey of local creeks.



CLARK SPORTS CENTER Adventure Camp kids explore Brookwood Point.

BAREFOOT AT BROOKWOOD

Summer of Blossoming Minds

Over the past 100 years, Brookwood has fostered many pitter-pattering petite feet and young minds. From the seven Townsend children in the early 1900's to the slews of SUNY interns and Clark Sports Center Adventure Camp kids of this past season, Brookwood is a place to roam and explore nature in all her glory.

Brookwood is unique in that it hosts a diversified ecosystem meadows and fields, woods, wetlands, shorefront, lake, creek and cultivated gardens. Each component of the 22 acre property creates a different habitat, making Brookwood a melting pot of wildlife!

Brookwood is an outdoor classroom, brimming with opportunity and natural experiences. Grab someone young, old or in between, and enjoy all Brookwood Point has to offer. ■

Scenic Byways Update

OLT has been hard at work preparing the Brookwood site for its exciting improvements. As per permitting requirements, we have done archeological and ecological assessments. We are now waiting for final permits to begin construction on the entrance and road way and to create and install the entrance, way-finding, and educational signage. Permitting should be complete by this fall, and depending on the moods of late winter/early spring weather, we plan on completing construction by early spring of 2015.

OLT has also applied for a grant to enhance safe canoe/kayak access and create universal accessibility so that folks of all abilities can enjoy Brookwood. Stay tuned for news about that next possible phase of Brookwood enhancement. ■

OLT Welcomes New Land Protection Staff Member

We hope the whole OLT community will join us in welcoming Ethan Rubenstein, our new Land Protection Project Manager, to the OLT team. Ethan, a graduate of Ithaca College, has been working through AmeriCorps, as Land Stewardship Coordinator for the Buzzards Bay Coalition in Massachusetts. He has also worked with the New England Forestry Foundation and in Canada with Alberta Sustainable Resource Development.



ETHAN RUBENSTEIN at Greenwoods Conservancy.

With the generous support of a Professional Development Grant from the New York State Conservation Partnership Program (NYSCPP) as well as matching support from its board members and the Scriven Foundation,

OLT began the extensive search and hire process to fill the position in June. Ethan was selected from over 50 applicants and arrived at OLT to begin work on August 25th.

"I am excited to be back in the New York State region where I grew up and went to school," Ethan tells us, "I feel fortunate to contribute to the conservation of working lands—farms and forests and clean waters—that make our region so special. I admire the success that OLT has had, and I'm looking forward to being part of enhancing the organization's land protection capacity."

The staff and board members of OLT welcome Ethan and look forward to his long and productive tenure with the organization. "We are doing really exciting things here," adds Marcie Foster, OLT Stewardship Manager with whom Ethan will be working closely, "Ethan is joining a great team." ■

Turning to the Sun

Eight years ago, OLT board member, John Carnahan, and his wife, Florence, attended SolarFest in Tinmouth, Vermont. They were instantly intrigued by the sustainable and environmentally friendly practices of using solar power to fuel individual electricity consumption.

Fast forward to this past September. The Carnahans including their black lab, Ruby, stand under their personal tracking solar panel and windmill, to discuss the many benefits of renewable wind and solar energies, why they felt compelled to make the investment, and how it all relates to the serious challenge of climate change.

"With the impacts of climate change threatening many aspects of our lives, it seems to me to be the height of foolishness to ignore the issue, especially within the conservation community. So, to try to address the issue in a personal manner, we decided to explore the impact (to our lives and to the planet) of reducing our use of fossil fuels," John explains.

John and Florence's first step to being fossil fuel free in their home was having an energy audit. Energy audits are usually free under a program with New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). Following the audit, done by Equity Energy of Fly Creek, conservation measures and updating of their home's heating system was undertaken to change from propane to electricity.

The Carnahan's had a windmill installed at their home in 2010 but found it didn't provide the power generation they needed to go fossil fuel free. To enhance their sustainable energy use, they continued to research solar power.

After another visit to the VT Solarfest in 2013 they decided to add the All Earth solar tracker system installed by Revolution Solar of Milford, NY. The crew, with assistance of Van Weiren Bros. contracting of West Winfield, fabricators of the panel's tracker base, arrived on July 1st and by the end of the day a 5.6 KW system was in place and generating power.



JOHN AND FLORENCE CARNAHAN, and their dog Ruby, stand proudly with their solar panels.

"What began as a serious investment has also become a source of interest and amusement on a day to day basis," John affirms, "as we check the accumulation of kilowatt hours on sunny as well as cloudy and rainy days. The whole thing is an adventure and an exciting one." ■

For more information resources on climate change and sustainable fossil fuel free energy, visit OLT's climate change page at <http://www.otsegoLandTrust.org/exciting-initiatives/climate-change>



EMILY'S NIECE reaches for a wild apple.

BACKYARD INCREDIBLE EDIBLES

EMILY MONAHAN – *Administrative Assistant*

This Thanksgiving Celebrate Fall Harvests with Apple-Butternut Squash Soup

Butternut squash is a prolific, reliable and long lasting vegetable. But nothing delights me more about the fall season than NY apples. Our region is ideal for apple scouting. Last fall, I hiked to the edge of our field near Red Creek to an overgrown patch of old lichen covered apple trees, perhaps remains from Johnny

Chapman's travels. Foraged apples are free, organic, and offer a variety of unexplored flavors, including round copper colored apples that taste like

pears. Keep your eyes open for wild apples in seasons to come!

INGREDIENTS

- 1 bulb garlic, chopped
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 1 butternut squash (about 2 lbs) peeled, seeded and chopped
- 4 apples peeled, cored and chopped
- 1 1/2 tsp cumin
- 1/2 tsp coriander
- 1 teaspoon ginger
- 1 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- salt to taste
- 2 cups vegetable or chicken stock
- 2 1/2 cups water

DIRECTIONS

1. Melt butter in saucepan. Add onion and garlic; cook. After a few minutes add squash, cook until soft, about 10 minutes.
2. Add apples, salt, coriander, cumin, ginger, cayenne, pepper, stock, and the water. Bring to a boil. Reduce to a simmer, and cook until vegetables are soft, about 30 minutes.
3. Puree in a blender until smooth, and return to saucepan. Heat over low, thinning with more water if necessary.

FROM THE FIELD

Oaks Creek Property Added to Blueway

MARCIE FOSTER – Stewardship Manager

What a year it has been! I really enjoyed my first year as Stewardship Manager. I am grateful to have met and worked with so many conservation-minded landowners that have taken the initiative to protect and steward their lands. I have also had the opportunity to work with volunteers, interns, and students to keep our Blueway public access sites open for outdoor recreational and educational activities.

Thanks to contributions by volunteers and donors, our Blueway Trail has really taken off. Hawk Circle Wilderness Education designed and installed beautiful post and beam kiosks at each site. Visitors can now enjoy interpretive information and updates in a kiosk built by students from mostly local materials.

Under a Fish and Wildlife Management Act (FWMA) cooperative agreement, we also welcome the opening of our newest Blueway public access site on Oaks Creek in the Town of Otsego. The

Parslow Road Conservation Area, an 86 acre parcel, with its lush wetland and abundant wildlife, is biodiverse and beautiful. Parslow offers over 2700 feet of frontage along Oaks Creek for anglers.

“The stream is slow and calm in the Parslow Cooperative Fishing Area (CFA) where anglers can catch just about anything that may swim or wash down from Canadarago Lake like bass, sunfish, and bullhead,” comments Scott Wells, DEC Fisheries. DEC Fisheries plans to survey the stream in 2015 to study the fish community.

Parslow is well suited to provide free recreational and educational opportunities and contributes to large scale land and water protection in the Susquehanna watershed. There is currently one walking trail down to the Creek, but OLT plans to create more hiking trails in the future.

Stay tuned for an opening ceremony at Parslow Road in the spring of 2015.



TAYLOR & DENNIS of Hawk Circle, show off the product of their hard work.

In the meantime, please get out and enjoy the fishing, hiking, birding, and paddling opportunities on the Blueway sites. These sites were created and are stewarded by OLT to protect the diverse habitats and health of lands along the Susquehanna and its tributaries, like Oaks Creek, while also providing free public access along water to all members of the community.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer to help care for our Blueway sites, please contact Sara at sara@otsegolandtrust.org or call (607) 547-2366 ■

STAFF RECOMMENDED READING

Girls Who Looked Under Rocks by Jeannine Atkins

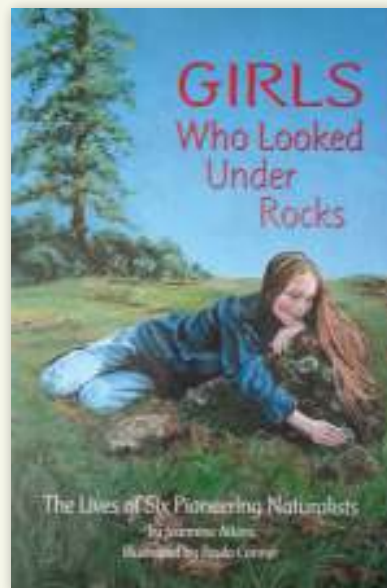
SARA SCHEEREN – Outreach Coordinator

I am a girl who grew up considering nature one of my best friends, so this compilation of stories about six pioneering naturalists resonated with me.

Now having a daughter of my own, I want to instill in her an appreciation for the natural world and a sense of pride in being a girl and eventually a woman. I believe to accomplish this goal, I need to start with where we have come from and the history of people who have gotten us where we are today.

This book relays a short history, in child friendly terms, of six very influential women naturalists, including Rachel Carson, Jane Goodall, and Miriam Rothschild.

All started out as the girls who didn't run from snakes and spiders. Instead, they leaned in for a closer look and became the women who collected insects, hiked through woods and jungles, and hung out with chimpanzees. They are women who became award winning scientists and writers. And they are great role models for the girls of today and tomorrow, like my daughter. ■



What is a Fen by Any Other Name?

It has been brought to our attention on more than one occasion that the name of OLT's newsletter, "Field, Forest, and Fen" is—unique. While the alliteration in the title is pleasing as it rolls off the tongue, it seems people stumble on the last word. They ask, while wrinkling their noses, "What the heck is a FEN?"

Well, ladies and gentlemen, a fen is a very important part of an ecosystem, especially in our local environment. A fen is one of the four main types of wetland; the others are grassy marshes, forested swamps and peaty bogs. Along with bogs, fens are a type of mire usually created by surface and ground water or from the change in water levels along large lakes and rivers. However, fens differ from bogs in that their water chemistry is usually pH neutral or alkaline, while bogs are acidic.

Fens are mineral rich but lack many major plant nutrients. So they have less diverse flora, and present a more mono-botanical habitat that usually includes grasses, sedges, and mosses. Two indicator plants are Carex flava and Cladium mariscoides, also called Yellow Sedge and Smooth Sawgrass. If you look about and spot these plants, you are probably ankle deep (maybe even knee deep) in a fen! ■



CAREX FLAVA



Credit: A. L. Gibson.

CLADIUM MARISCOIDES

Photo Contest Reminder

Now that autumn is upon us, it is time to take out the camera and capture images of kids jumping in leaves, people hiking through the woods during peak foliage, fishermen casting into a salmon run, or farmers harvesting corn, among the many other fall outdoor activities!

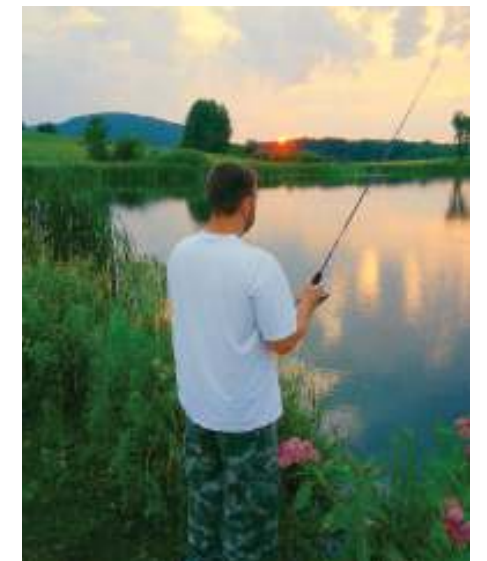
In partnership with the Canadarago Lake Improvement Association, OLT is conducting our 5th Annual Photo Contest. This year's theme is "For the Love of Land and Water." We are

focused on photographs of people engaged with the lands and waters of the Upper Susquehanna region.

Entries could capture images of people relaxing, recreating, or reflecting in nature. Or they could depict people who work from the land, make a living from the land or water, or tend to it in loving ways.

The three categories are Professional, Amateur, and Youth. ■

For guidelines and submission forms, please visit our website, OtsegoLandTrust.org, email Sara at sara@otsegolandtrust.org or call her at 607-547-2366.



A FISHERMAN enjoys a small pond and a beautiful sunset.