

field, forest & fen



Connecting People with the Land



M. Foster

Reflections on Brookwood

Brookwood Point's Future Takes Shape

The past year was a momentous one for Brookwood Point. It began in August 2010 with a joint announcement from The Cook Foundation and Otsego Land Trust that the two organizations intended to merge, with Otsego Land Trust as the surviving entity. Soon thereafter, a Brookwood Citizens Advisory Committee was appointed to work with the community and develop recommendations for the future use of Brookwood Point. The Committee convened a meeting in January to solicit input from the community and worked many long hours discussing, analyzing and synthesizing the many possibilities. What uses for the site make sense? What uses are financially feasible and sustainable?

Widespread Support Emerges

Over the winter, financial support began emerging and the project started to come together. Alex & Ika's featured the project in their "Well Spent Wednesdays" initiative in February. In March, Otsego Land Trust announced a planning grant from the Land Trust Alliance and the generous gift of land from Jim and Eileen Dean to support the project. The proceeds of its sale will support Brookwood Point. By June,

continued on page 6

CONSERVATION SPOTLIGHT New Panther Mountain Preserve Will Honor Parents

For several years, a sister and brother had considered donating a forested tract on Panther Mountain to Otsego Land Trust with the dream of establishing a working forest preserve in memory of their parents. Judy and

Dan Fetterley imagined that their 106-acre parcel would make an excellent working forest preserve with its panoramic vistas of Canadarago Lake and productive soils that support both a productive hardwood forest and woodland wildflowers. Their vision for the property will now become a reality with the recent transfer of the property to Otsego Land Trust.

continued on page 3

IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 Brookwood Point's Future Takes Shape
Conservation Spotlight
- 2 Field Notes
- 3 Panther Mountain (continued)
Forever Green, In Deed
- 4 Out and About
- 6 Board and Staff News
Brookwood Point (continued)
- 7 Where Things Go Bump in the Night
- 8 Upcoming Events
Golden Eagle



American Winterberry



Otsego Land Trust protects the distinctive rural character of the Otsego County area by securing lands and waters of significant scenic, historic, and ecological value, including forests and farmlands.

Board of Directors

Harry Levine
CHAIRMAN

Carla Hall Friedman
VICE CHAIRMAN

Frank Kolbert
TREASURER

John W. Carnahan
SECRETARY

Kent L. Barwick
David T. Bliss
Richard J. Blabey
Henry S.F. Cooper, Jr.
J. Joseph Homburger
Jennifer Huntington
C.R. Jones
Paul Kidder
Francis J. Nolan, M.D.
Don Raddatz
Bob Schneider
Gilbert T. Vincent, PhD
Julia C. Wertenbaker

Legal Counsel

Robert Besanceney

Directors Emeriti

John I. Howell
J. Michael Moffat
Earle N. Peterson
George B. Snell

Staff

Peter Hujik
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Connie Tedesco
FIELD REPRESENTATIVE

Marcie Foster
OUTREACH COORDINATOR

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.



Autumn along the Susquehanna River. M. Foster

FIELD NOTES

Coming Together as Community

Several months ago, I was sitting along the Susquehanna River with two recent college graduates. One of my companions shared her excitement about the Land Trust owning land and making it available to the community. She said that as recent college graduates, she and her friends didn't own land or have much money, so building trails was a meaningful way for them to contribute to local conservation efforts.

"A shared commitment to the land offers the prospect of strengthening and renewing community."

Fortunately, this conservation-minded and community-minded person recently joined our professional team, thanks to your generous support. Her name is Marcie Foster, our new Outreach Coordinator.

One of the greatest things about working for the Land Trust is the diver-

sity of people with whom we have the opportunity to interact—foresters, farmers, second home owners, volunteers, realtors, lawyers, accountants, financial contributors, children, recent college graduates, young professionals, retired professionals This diversity generally represents that of the community. What unites us all is a shared commitment to the land.

For conservation to be sustainable the community needs to stand behind local efforts. Fortunately, more and more people are getting involved. In fact, the number of people who support our work has grown by over 65% over the past two years. And there are more and more ways to get involved, especially as we have opportunity to purchase land for the community.

At a time when many issues seek to divide us, a shared commitment to the land offers the prospect of strengthening and renewing community. Conserving the places we treasure restores connections that are so vital.

Peter Hujik
Executive Director

Panther Mountain continued from page 1

This special place—located at the high point of Panther Mountain, the extensive ridgeline that runs along the eastern shore of Canadarago Lake from Oakville up to Richfield Springs—has long been cherished by Judy and Dan, who inherited it from their parents. They have fond memories of exploring the forested ridge with their parents when they were growing up. In fact, this special place has been cherished by their family for generations; distant relatives first purchased the property in 1867.

“Dan and I are closing in on a proposed date for the official opening of the Memorial Forest...”

— JUDY FETTERLEY
ALBANY COUNTY

Now, Judy and Dan have entrusted this special place to Otsego Land Trust and the community in memory of their parents Ray and Mary Fetterley. Together, we will continue the conservation legacy



Toothwort, *Cardamine diphylla*

of the Fetterleys by using the property as a working forest preserve as they did. Over the winter, our staff team will develop a management plan for the property that delineates hiking trails

and details a sustainable harvest plan for the forest. In the spring, we plan to work with volunteers to develop the trails and open up the Ray & Mary Fetterley Memorial Forest to the community.

Thanks to Judy and Dan’s generosity and vision, you will be able to get to know this forest as intimately as they have. No doubt, you will learn to cherish it as they do. ■

Forever Green, In Deed

Nestled along the hillside of Murphy Hill is a 64-acre property assembled by Bob and Shirley Banta called Forever Green. Surrounded by conservation properties on three sides and connecting over 1,000 acres of protected land, the Banta property is the newest addition to the massive block of conserved property along the eastern gateway of Cooperstown.

Bob and Shirley Banta purchased the first 9.1 acres of the property in 1956. Their property grew by 11 acres that was willed to them by a neighbor, and they carefully assembled the remainder of their acreage through purchases over the years. Bob and Shirley raised their four children there in the house they built together.

Bob worked many years for the Grange League Federation in Cooperstown and

then worked for New York State Electric as a farm representative until his retirement in 1986. Bob played an active role in local conservation as a member of the Soil and Water Conservation District for over 40 years. Shirley worked as a French and Spanish teacher for Cherry Valley and Springfield school districts for over 20 years and privately tutored many aspiring language students.

Shirley and Bob were active in accommodating and touring with foreign exchange students from all over the world who were staying in the area. The Banta’s made lifelong connections with many of these foreign exchange students and have spent much of their retired life traveling throughout the hemisphere visiting them and their families. Their travels have included trips to Mexico, Bolivia, Venezuela, Germany and England.

The Banta property fits perfectly in the conservation landscape, filling in the few remaining unprotected parcels along the eastern gateway of Cooperstown. We congratulate Bob and Shirley on the 65 years of marriage and their commitment to conserving their property for generations to come. With this conservation easement, we can all rest assured that the Banta property will remain Forever Green, indeed. ■



Bob and Shirley Banta



Bruce Johnson Photography, Cooperstown



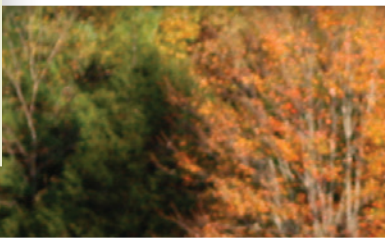
Bruce Johnson Photography, Cooperstown

"I liked carrying water in the bucket game."

—MAYA THOMAS
AGE 4

"Handing out trees is a great tradition!"

— SPRINGFIELD BYSTANDER
TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD



Bruce Johnson Photography, Cooperstown



Bruce Johnson Photography, Cooperstown



Bruce Johnson Photography, Cooperstown



Bruce Johnson Photography, Cooperstown

Kids Earn Another Blue Ribbon!

Thanks to the efforts of 16 kids who handed out 1,000 spruce seedlings and sang *America, The Beautiful*, Otsego Land Trust took the win in the float division for a second year in a row at the annual Fourth of July Day Parade in Springfield. Despite tough competition, over 30 volunteers put together another award-winning entry entitled "Keeping our Corner of America Beautiful" for one of the longest running parades in the country. Go team!

Community Envisions Brookwood Point's Future

Forty some people gathered for a second public forum for envisioning the future of Brookwood Point on August 2. Participants provided feedback on specific reuse scenarios developed by the Brookwood Citizens Committee and Crawford & Stearns consultants based on community input over the past several months. Many thanks to Lucy Townsend, a member of the Brookwood Citizens Committee, for hosting this special event at Templeton Hall.

Old Fashioned Fun

Over 150 people enjoyed live music, hikes, garden house tours, a delightful picnic, conservation awards and updates, and outdoor games at Brookwood Point on Labor Day weekend. Many simply enjoyed catching up with friends and connecting with conservation-minded colleagues while exploring Brookwood Point and enjoying spectacular lake views. Cold watermelon, fresh pies and local ice cream hit the spot on one of the last days of summer.



M. Foster



M. Foster

*"Thanks for a great day!
ADKers loved it!"*

**— MARY DUNKLE
TOWN OF OTSEGO**



M. Foster



C. Tedesco



C. Tedesco

*"Let me know when you need
some help cleaning the trail."*

**— JOHN ROBINSON
TOWN OF MIDDLEFIELD**

Greenwoods Conservancy Hosts Bucknell Students

On October 2, Greenwoods Conservancy hosted approximately 40 students from Bucknell University who are involved in a unique domestic study abroad called "Semester on the Susquehanna." They came to Greenwoods, a site protected by the Peterson family in partnership with the Land Trust to learn about the Upper Susquehanna River Basin by exploring the property's diverse ecosystems, including wetlands and forests. The tour also included learning about lake ecology by touring Otsego Lake by boat with Matt Albright from the Biological Field Station (who also happens to hold two conservation easements). Additional guides for these aspiring conservationists were botanist Jeanne Bennett O'Dea, Joe Homburger, and three generations of Petersons—Earle, Jim and Joe.

Red Creek Farm Hosts Adirondack Mountain Club

On October 4, Otsego Land Trust partnered with the Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) for a fall foliage hike at Red Creek Farm. Marcie Foster, Outreach Coordinator, led the hike, which included a tour of the stone remnants of the Fynmere mansion and scenic vistas of the landscape in its fall splendor. Special honors go to 92-year-old Mary Austin, who joined her son James of Oneonta and 20 others on the trek! Many thanks to Mary Dunkle of the ADK for making this hike possible.

Purging the Point

On September 17, Land Trust staff members hauled out over 150 paint cans from the house at Brookwood Point. Taking advantage of Otsego County's 14th Annual Household Hazardous Waste Day, the paint was transported to a special temporary disposal facility set up at the Meadows Office Complex. If you are interested in helping clean up Brookwood Point or working at other Land Trust sites, please contact us.

BOARD AND STAFF NEWS**Fall Migrations**

After many years of service, **Henry Weil** stepped off the board in September. The Land Trust honors Henry for strengthening our organization and helping us grow.

As part of the recent merger between the Cook Foundation and Otsego Land Trust, three members of the Cook Foundation Board will be joining the Land Trust Board. We are pleased to have **C.R. Jones**, **Don Raddatz**, and **Robert Schneider** join forces with the Land Trust to continue protecting additional land around Otsego Lake and throughout the Otsego region. As the Cook Foundation's point person for Brookwood Point for many years, C.R. will help bring our team up to speed on managing this spectacular site. ■

Land Conservation & Stewardship

Connie Tedesco was recently promoted as a Field Representative. After getting her foot in the door as Operations Coordinator with the Land Trust, Connie is migrating into a position where she can pursue her passion for field work and hands on conservation. In this capacity, Connie will be in charge of monitoring conservation easements, managing nature preserves, and helping protect additional land. We are very proud to have Connie take on additional responsibility, where her botanical expertise will no doubt shine. With a bachelor's degree in Plant Science from Cornell and a Master's degree in Biology from State University of New York at Oneonta, Connie compiled the first comprehensive flora for Otsego County. Her plant list continues to grow as she discovers additional plants previously undocu-

mented for our area, often on lands you are helping us conserve. ■



Marcie Foster, Outreach Coordinator

Connecting People with the Land

In early October, we were delighted to have **Marcie Foster** joined our staff team as Outreach Coordinator. Marcie will be coordinating hikes and outdoor programming on the lands you have helped us conserve, especially on the recently acquired lands where we will be developing public access. A 2008 graduate of State University of New York—New Paltz with a bachelor's degree in geography, Marcie has naturally migrated to jobs that include outdoor activities, such as archeology, mapping and conservation. Marcie brings a wealth of outdoors experience to this recently created position through seasonal work with the Land Trust and work as an outdoor educator and rock climbing instructor with the Clark Sports Center. ■



Fall Fun at Brookwood

Brookwood Point continued from page 1

The Cook Foundation-Land Trust merger received preliminary approval from the New York State Attorney General. The Brookwood Citizens Advisory Committee developed and presented reuse scenarios to the community in July for input.

Future Takes Shape

By the end of the summer, Brookwood Point's future began to take shape. In mid August, Otsego Land Trust learned that it had received a coveted Scenic Byway Grant to improve the site for public access. A week later, the merger was finalized by New York State Supreme Court with Kevin Dowd presiding. The merger consolidated almost 1,200 acres of conservation lands around Otsego Lake, bringing important properties under unified stewardship and management. On Labor Day weekend, 170 some community members turned out at our annual picnic at Brookwood Point to celebrate!

Next Steps

In late September, the Brookwood Citizens Advisory Committee presented its recommendations for the site to the Otsego Land Trust. The Board of Directors is expected to discuss them and adopt a plan for conserving this spectacular site by the end of October and soon thereafter announce the game plan for Brookwood Point. Many thanks to all of you who have taken part in mapping out the future of Brookwood Point. Now the real work begins! ■



Pratt Family Cemetery, Burlington

STEWARDSHIP SPOTLIGHT Where Things Go Bump in the Night

Sometimes as we monitor conservation lands, we encounter burials sites tucked away in fallow fields or hidden in emerging forests. While many of these once treasured places have been forgotten and are now being reclaimed by nature, Otsego Land Trust has begun to document and track these important cultural sites. To date, we have documented four properties that encompass a cemetery or family plot.

The Brown-Young plot, located on one conservation property in the Town of Richfield, serves as the resting ground for approximately 24 people. The oldest gravestone in this family plot marks the resting place of Asa Young, who died on January 1, 1808.

“When the leaves fall, the whole earth is a cemetery pleasant to walk in.”

— HENRY DAVID THOREAU

Another unique cemetery is located on Bowe Hill south of Arnold Lake. The Bowe Hill Cemetery was active for roughly 44 years from July 18, 1814, when Calvin Ackley was buried there, until 1858, when the last person laid to rest there, Romanzo D. Gorham, died at the young age of two. The namesake of Arnold Lake, Captain Josiah Arnold, also has a gravestone at Bowe Hill. Once the site of twelve dwellings, the Greenwood Conservancy is still the home of two small family plots. Jedadiah Pratt, who died at age 99 in 1868, is buried next to his wife Jannet Pratt and his son Daniel Pratt. Catity Sill and her sister rest close by the Pratt family near an old stone foundation. Another captivating burial place is located on the protected lands of Rum Hill overlooking Otsego Lake.

Considering the names and the dates recorded on area gravestones, one can't help but wonder about the frontier lives lived by these people. They interacted and struggled with the natural environment to an extent that is difficult for us today to imagine. Some of their stories shape local legend, but most of them will never be told. May these pioneering souls rest in peace. ■



C. Tedesco

There is Still Time!

On the Farm, In the Garden photography contest continues through December 31, 2011, so get outside and capture that special moment on the farms or gardens in garden. Photographs from Otsego County and neighboring counties within a 50 mile radius of Cooperstown are eligible. To receive contest guidelines and entry forms, check out our website www.otsegolandtrust.org or call (607) 547-2366. ■

The Search Goes on . . .



C. Tedesco

Otsego Land Trust continues to track the largest trees in the Otsego region. Send in a report for the large tree in your neighborhood,

because it may just be a winner! The deadline for reports is December 31, 2011, so grab your measuring tape and document these magnificent beauties! The 2011 champions will be listed at year's end and all participants will be recognized. Help us recognize the grandest trees in the Upper Susquehanna Basin! Contest rules can be found on our website www.otsegolandtrust.org. Feel free to call (607) 547-2366 for further information. ■



Post Office Box 173
Cooperstown, New York 13326

UPCOMING EVENTS

- November 11 Brookwood Work Day
- November 24 Thanksgiving Day
- December 21 Winter Begins
- December 31 2011 Photo Contest and Champion Tree Search Ends



Golden Eagle



View of Canadarago Lake

THE NATURE OF CONSERVATION

Golden Eagle

Looking up across the fall sky, you may be lucky to spot the majestic Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) soaring across the horizon. An endangered species in New York State, Golden Eagles migrate across the eastern United States in the fall and spring. The golden eagle can live for as long as 30 years, and follows similar migratory routes year after year.

Many observations of golden eagles in

Otsego County are a hopeful sign that Golden Eagles have made this region part of their migratory path. Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society has identified Franklin Mountain near Oneonta as a raptor migratory corridor, and frequently observes Golden Eagles flying along this ridgeline in the fall. We hope to explore whether Panther Mountain serves as another raptor migratory route by using the Land Trust's recently acquired Ray & Mary Fetterley Memorial Forest for field observations. ■