

field, forest & fen



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



Brookwood Point Conservation Area, Cooperstown, NY

Calling all Artists

"Paint the Point" Plein Air Event · August 6-7

Artists and art lovers are invited to join Otsego Land Trust for the First Annual "Paint the Point" Plein Air Event at the Brookwood Point Conservation Area in Cooperstown.

As part of Otsego Land Trust's mission to connect people with the land, this is an opportunity for artists to draw inspiration from the natural landscape, scenic lake views, and historic formal gardens.

Visitors are welcome to stop by to enjoy the site and observe the artists at work.

Brookwood Point is a publicly accessible 22-acre site on the

west shore of Otsego Lake, just two miles north of the village of Cooperstown.

Otsego Land Trust acquired the property from the Cook Foundation in 2011 and has been restoring the stream corridor and the formal Italian-style gardens. The site was replanted this spring with a mix of native plants and cultivars including bee balm, cleome, clematis and columbine.

In early August, the landscape will be at its peak with views across the lake to the hills beyond. Artists will be free to choose their own vantage point and their own focus on elements large or small.

To register as a participant or for more information on the event, visit www.otsegoLandTrust.org



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
P.O. Box 173
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tel: 607-547-2366
www.otsego-land-trust.org

Front cover: Brookwood Point by
Otsego Land Trust.

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.



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we prepare this issue of the Otsego Land Trust newsletter, the last remnants of the April snowstorm are melting away. The daffodils are in bloom, the streams run high, and the birds fill the morning air with their song.

I started here as the new Executive Director last November. While I have been a frequent visitor to the area for many years, this is my first warm season as a full-time resident.

I am delighted to be working with our talented staff and knowledgeable board of directors to protect the character of the Otsego Region and ensure the health of our farmlands, forests, and waterways in perpetuity.

After two years of pandemic constraints, we are pleased to be sponsoring public programs once

again at our dozen spectacular public-access properties.

Check out the improved trail at Lordsland Preserve, the new bog bridges at the Parslow Road conservation area, and the return of canoe and kayak rentals at Brookwood Point.

The Summer Octet Challenge is in full swing and there's no better time to get outside and enjoy. Let nature take you by surprise!

Gregory Farmer
Executive Director

The Barn Tax Credit Returns!

Old barns have been given a lifeline with the new Historic Barn Tax Credit, signed into law by Governor Kathy Hochul. The state tax credit program has been revised to make it more responsive and more directly beneficial to the owners of historic agricultural buildings.

Barns built prior to 1946 are eligible and do not need to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The tax credit is equal to 25% of the cost to repair the barn or adapt it for a nonresidential use that involves no change to the historic appearance. The minimum project cost is \$5,000 and the tax credit can be applied to expenses incurred within the five years prior to filing for the credit.

For more information, contact the Division for Historic Preservation of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, 518-237-8643.





Compton Bridge Conservation Area, Middlefield, NY

2021-2022 Annual Report

The changing seasons are a prime delight in our region. No two days are quite the same, in nature or in life. Here at Otsego Land Trust we've learned to welcome change and find joy in nature's small revelations.

At the request of the Board of Directors, David M. Diaz, Director of Land Protection, stepped up to the role of Interim Executive Director in April 2021. He kept everything humming along while the Board of Directors worked with Eos Transitions to conduct a broad search for a new chief executive.

Gregory Farmer joined us as Executive Director in November 2021. Together he and David effected a smooth transition that has made Otsego Land Trust a regional leader in the long-term conservation of farmland, forests, and waterways.

Our Board of Directors has evolved as well. Eugene Berman retired from the board after many years of service. We are pleased to welcome Alison Lord and Allen Ruffles as new board members, bringing their considerable talents in support of our mission.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the generous support of our donors and partners, particularly the Scriven Foundation and the Tianaderrah Foundation. New York State continues to be a leader in funding environmental initiatives with public funds more than matched by private donations.

We are grateful to all our supporters for helping to preserve our landscape and natural resources in perpetuity. See you outside!

Marjorie B. Kellogg, Board Chair
Otsego Land Trust

facts & figures

**11,147 Acres protected
in perpetuity**

**108 Easements
on private land**

28 Communities

4 Counties
Otsego, Delaware,
Herkimer, Schoharie

**3 Easements donated
this year protecting
244 acres**

**710 Additional acres under
direct ownership**

12 Public-access sites

8 Communities

263 Donors & Supporters

25 Volunteers

The mission of Otsego Land Trust is to conserve in perpetuity the natural and cultural legacy of farmlands, woodlands, and waters in the Otsego Region. Through the generosity of our partners, we strive to sustain rural communities, promote public health, support wildlife diversity, and inspire the human spirit.

Foundations

The Scriven Foundation
The Tianaderrah Foundation
Community Foundation of Otsego County
Spaulding Family Foundation
Willies Family Foundation

Nonprofit Partners

Canadarago Lake Recreation Committee
Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society
Land Trust Alliance
New York Council of Nonprofits
New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Tioga County Soil & Water Coalition – Upper Susquehanna Coalition
The Wetland Trust

Business Sponsors

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Marcia Membrino

Year at-a-glance

Otsego Land Trust relies primarily on private support to ensure the long-term conservation of natural resources. The majority of funding is dedicated directly to securing easements on private properties and maintaining public access to our conservation areas.



Operating Income \$480,552

■ **Unrestricted Support** (72.5%) \$348,546
■ **Restricted Support** (27.5%) \$132,006



Operating Expenses \$490,369

■ **Stewardship** (25.6%) \$125,685
■ **Land Protection** (25.3%) \$123,695
■ **Outreach** (6.6%) \$32,601
■ **General Operations** (42.5%) \$208,388

Susanna & John Membrino
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Helmut Michelitsch
Mike & Linda Fund
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Robert Morey
Maureen Murray
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Nancy Nelson
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Lucy Townsend
Chris Weiss
Becky Wright

Wheeler Conservation Easement, Morris, NY

Butkereiit Conservation Easement, Roseboom, NY

A FAMILY AFFAIR

The Butkereiit Conservation Easement

Siblings Peg and Tom Butkereiit, along with three other family members, recently protected their family lands in Roseboom, NY, by donating a perpetual conservation easement to Otsego Land Trust. The Butkereiit family has been enjoying and improving their property since 1928.

David Diaz, Director of Land Protection, interviewed Peg and Tom to learn more about their family's ties to the land.

Q: When did your family first come to Roseboom?

A: Our grandparents, Paul and Sophie Butkereiit, came to the area in 1927, and were looking to settle down. They got lost on a road and went up to the first house they came upon. By the time they left that house, my grandfather had purchased his first piece of land! The land we recently protected with Otsego Land Trust was purchased by our grandparents in 1928.

Q: How did you decide to protect your family lands with a conservation easement?

A: Love of land and forests has been passed down from generation to generation: from our grandparents, to our father, to us and then to our children, nieces, nephews. By protecting this land, we are honoring our grandparents, parents, and the land we love.

Q: Can you share a memorable story about life on the property?

A: Our grandfather grew up in Poland, and he visited Germany sometime after coming to America. He was impressed by how the German people managed their forests and planted trees, and he brought that idea back to Roseboom.



As kids, we helped our grandfather and father plant thousands of trees all across the property. Some of those trees are well over 60 years old now. The earliest plantings are approaching 100 years.

We also walked the property boundaries every year with our grandfather and father. They taught us a lot about reading the land. We have some great, if tiring, memories of those hardworking days!

Q: Would you encourage other landowners to consider protecting their land?

A: Absolutely! There is only so much land and we can't get it back once we've messed it up. We need to think more about where we build, and protect the spots that are good for growing food and forests.

Q: How would like our region to look in a decade?

A: We all need to stop developing everything. We hope that landowners, land trusts, and agencies will work together to "hold the line" and create more balance between development and open land.

Through the commitment and vision of people like the Butkereiit family, our region has a bright future.

BY DAVID DIAZ

REACHING NEW HEIGHTS

Forest Path Opens at Lordsland Preserve

On Saturday, April 24th, Otsego Land Trust welcomed partners from Otsego County Conservation Association and Otsego 2000, as well as the public, to a trail opening and guided hike at Lordsland Preserve in Roseboom. The event kicked off at the Doc Ahlers Trailhead, followed by a 0.75-mile hike on the newly restored forest trail.

The restoration was made possible by former Cooperstown high schooler Henry Horvath, who in June 2021, set out to climb Denali in Alaska with his father Tim Horvath. Denali is the highest peak in North America, with a summit elevation of 20,310 feet above sea level.

An avid hiker, Henry used this personal challenge to raise funds from sponsors in support of outdoor and trail initiatives in his home region. By summiting Denali, Henry raised more than \$3,700 for Otsego Outdoors.

A perfect fit for Lordsland Preserve! Funds from Henry's Denali climb have revived this favorite local hiking spot with fresh trail markers, a roadside sign, and two new trailhead kiosks built by SUNY Delhi's Construction Technology & Management class.

"I'm really happy that I've been able to help fund this exciting trail at the Lordsland Preserve," Henry said. "Can't wait to try it out!"

Lordsland Preserve has provided public hiking trails in the Town of Roseboom since 1971. Initially protected by The Nature Conservancy, the preserve's ownership was transferred to Otsego Land Trust in 2019.



First-day hikers at the Lordsland Preserve, Roseboom, NY

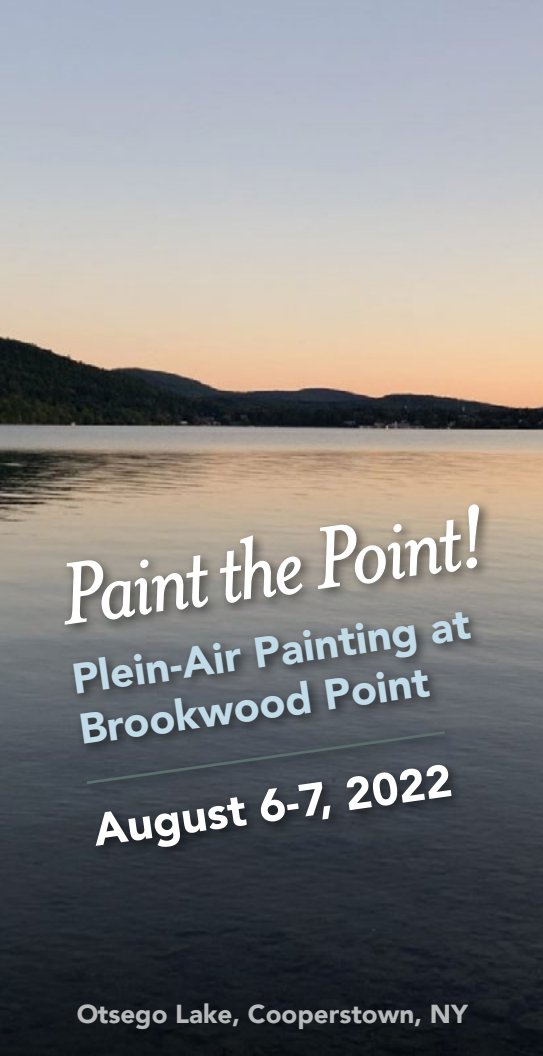
"Lordsland Preserve offers almost 80 acres of woodland habitat to explore," said Greg Farmer, Executive Director. "Thanks to our partners, the trail from Doc Ahlers Road offers a whole new perspective."

The Doc Ahlers Trail is part of the Otsego Outdoor Spring Octet Challenge. Otsego Outdoors has energized the local community and visitors with their seasonal challenges, encouraging people to get out and enjoy all the recreational opportunities the region has to offer.

BY MARCIE FOSTER



Lordsland Preserve, Roseboom, NY



P.O. Box 173
Cooperstown, NY 13326

Call us at 607-547-2366.

Paint the Point!

Plein-Air Painting at Brookwood Point

August 6-7, 2022

Otsego Lake, Cooperstown, NY

 A simple way to show support...Like us on Facebook!

WILDLIFE INSPIRATION

River Otter Ripples

The river otter featured on the cover of our Fall 2021 newsletter sent ripples far beyond his home in Cherry Valley Creek.

River otters are most active at night and occasionally can be seen diving for an early morning meal. Wildlife photographer Mike Reynolds was in the right place at the right time to capture his compelling otter portrait.

"Otters are now one of my favorite mammals to photograph," said Reynolds. "It seems every encounter I have with them, they are doing something interesting, which typically makes for great photos and gives a good idea of their behavior." A long-time supporter of our conservation work, Reynolds kindly gave Otsego Land Trust permission to use his photo on the cover of our Fall 2021 newsletter.

Inspired by the photograph, local artist May-Britt Joyce reinterpreted the otter portrait in a painting and printed her version on notecards. She is generously donating 20% of the sales proceeds to Otsego Land Trust. Prints of the original Reynolds photo and the Joyce notecards are available through the Cooperstown Art Association.



Otsego Land Trust works to ensure that farmlands, forests, and waterways in our region are preserved in perpetuity. This is essential for maintaining the well-being of local ecosystems and wildlife populations, and particularly important for river otters, whose health and fertility are highly susceptible to toxins in the food chain and to habitat destruction. The Otsego Region is fortunate to have healthy natural habitats that support these amazing creatures.