

field, forest & fen



Connecting People with the Land that Sustains Us

Dedication Opens Deowongo Island to the Public



Susan Rowland Photography

On Saturday, June 22, Otsego Land Trust, the Canadarago Lake Improvement Association (CLIA), and members of the Mohawk Nation dedicated Deowongo Island to the community for public enjoyment.

The Deowongo dedication, attended by over 100 people who were ferried to the island by volunteer lake residents Bob Fagan and Dave Tillapaugh, marked the opening of the island to the public. All are now welcome to use of the island's trails and enjoy its natural beauty.

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"Getting Outside:" Exploring the Blueway

Along with protecting private lands through conservation easements, Otsego Land Trust, through the generosity of private donors and grants, acquires lands to open for public access.

OLT's philosophy of owning land to provide public access is based on a simple truth: when people feel connected to land and water, they care for it and are more dedicated to making sure that healthy lands and clean waters are protected now and for future generations.

The lands OLT currently owns and protects form the Blueway. Blueway lands provide public access for fishing, hiking, paddling, bird watching, and educational

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Susan Rowland Photography

Popular fishing spot under the 11C bridge south of Cooperstown now has fishing access at OLT's Compton Bridge Conservation Area.



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.

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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.

What Does "Perpetuity" Mean?

Recently, I attended the Land Trust Alliance Rally, a national conference. At Rally, two subjects came up often: Climate change and kids. What do they have in common? The future.

When OLT protects land through easements or acquisitions, that land is legally protected into perpetuity—forever. And forever is a long time.

OLT supporters know that protecting healthy lands and clean water is essential to good health and a good life. They know protecting natural places mitigates the effects of climate change; climate change negatively impacts all habitats and species and will get worse if we don't act.

How can we be sure the land and water we work so hard to protect today is properly cared for into perpetuity? We can ensure that our kids understand the importance of healthy lands and clean water as much as we do, that they know the connection between healthy lands and healthy lives, and that they will pass this knowledge to their children.

Studies show children today spend half as much time outdoors as chil-



Ricardo Sierra, Hawk Circle Wilderness Education, teaches kids how to make cordage of the plant, dog bane, at OLT's picnic.

dren 30 years ago and an average 44 hours each week in front of an electronic screen contributing to health problems like obesity and ADHD.

The same research connects outdoor experiences with improved grades in school, healthier life choices, and alleviation of stress. Studies show that connecting kids to nature at a young age means they are more likely to protect nature as adults.

OLT provides free weekend programs for kids and families and wonderful public access sites like the lands along our Blueway. So gather your family, go outside, and be sure your kids make the connection between healthy lands and clean water and healthy lives!

OLT Welcomes New Board Members & Staff

Attorney Bonnie McGuire Jones, who specializes in Trust and Estate Planning and retired geologist for the USGS, Bruce Johnson, will serve on OLT's development and conservation committees respectively. Caleb Wertenbaker, a tenth-generation Cherry Valley landowner, follows his mother, Judy, as a board member. Special thanks to Judy and Jennifer Huntington for their many years of service on the OLT board.

Sara Scheeren, OLT's Brookwood summer intern, has taken on new responsibilities as administrative assistant. Sara holds B.S. in Plant Science with a concentration in Ornamental Horticulture from SUNY Cobleskill. She was instrumental in maintaining Brookwood Garden and will be helping OLT through the accreditation process this winter.



Over 20 acres of wetlands natural areas on the LaDine/Monnelly easement acts as an important natural filter for Oaks Creek.

Sisters Protect Land in Honor of Father

Sisters Mary Clare LaDine and Dorothy Kerper Monnelly partnered with Otsego Land Trust to protect their 33.3-acre property in honor of their father, Dr. Edmund Kerper.

Dr. Edmund Kerper was remembered in a Oneonta Daily Star tribute as “the ‘diagnostic backbone’ of the excellent staff of physicians which made Homer Folks Hospital perhaps the best sanatorium for the treatment of tuberculosis in the United States” in the years during and after WWII.

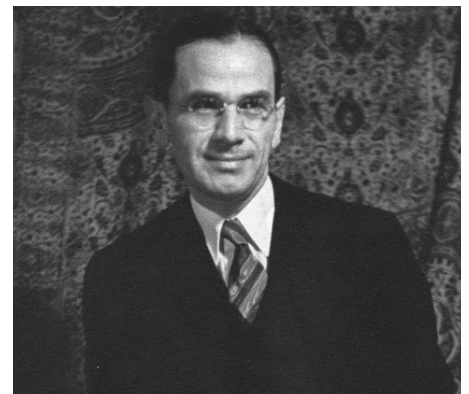
“One of the reasons we thought to preserve the land in his memory,” Ms. Monnelly explains, “is because there are wildflowers there that he loved to see and photograph. He also enjoyed the many birds that came to his feeder and were visible over the fields. They were good company for him.” Ms. Monnelly is acclaimed in her own right as a nature photographer.

Her photographs are currently being

shown in an exhibit titled “Fragile Waters” along with those of Ansel Adams and Ernest H. Brooks II.

Recently, Ms. Monnelly and Ms. LaDine published a book of their mother’s poetry partnered with Ms. Monnelly’s arresting photographic images of the natural world titled “For My Daughters.” In the introduction, Ms. Monnelly explains that the book, dedicated to their mother who died of breast cancer in 1945, had its “origin in a small book of my mother’s poetry, which was published by my father.”

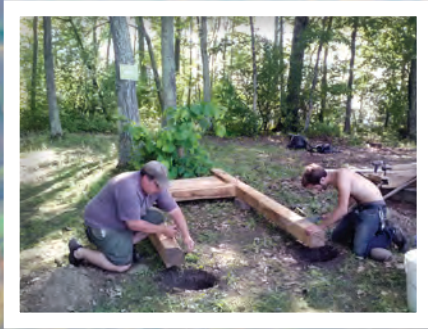
“Dorothy and Mary have remembered their father, a beloved father and doctor, in a way that profoundly honors him and assures that the whole community can benefit. Not only have they created the perfect legacy, but they have assured that the forests and important wetlands of this beautiful parcel will continue to be home to abundant bird and wildlife, to contrib-



Dr. Kerper is described as a “quiet, gentle hero who was always there to listen and not be judgmental.” Assuring the protection of a landscape he loved seemed the perfect act to honor his memory and his inspirational life.

ute to the health of Oaks, and to maintain the scenic, rural character of the whole area.”

The Monnelly-LaDine easement is part of almost six hundred acres of forests, farmlands, and important historical structures, from the ridgeline of Bedbug Hill to Oaks Creek that have been protected by Otsego Land Trust.



“Public access at Deowongo Island has reconnected locals with the spirit of the lake and our community”

— RYAN FAGAN, C.L.I.A BOARD MEMBER AND LAKE RESIDENT



Susan Rowland Photography

DEOWONGO ISLAND CONTINUED

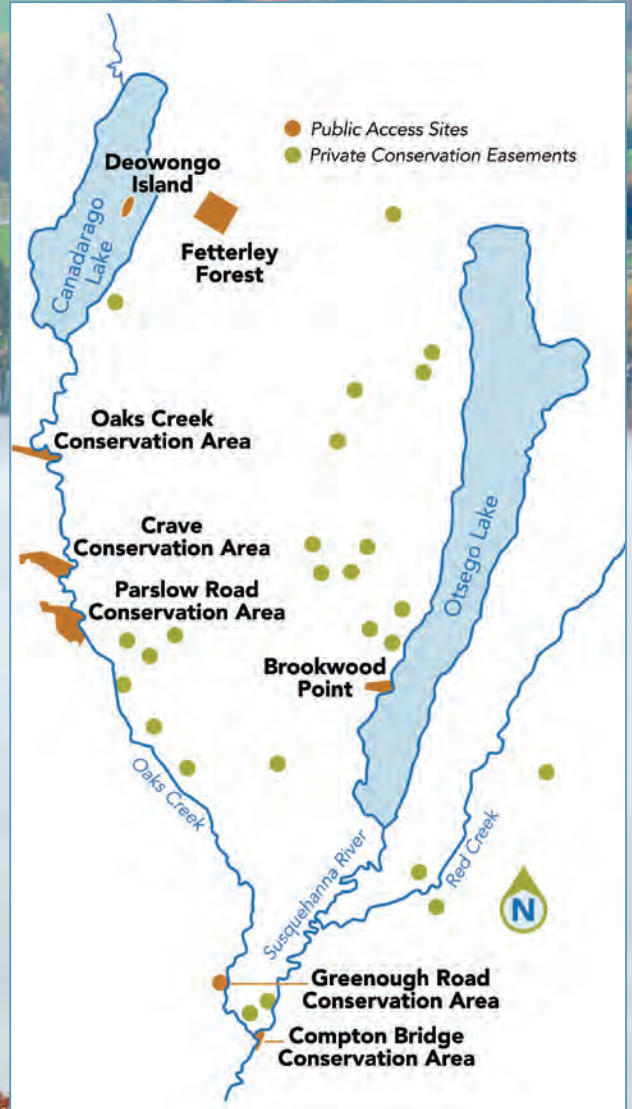
OLT acquired Deowongo Island through a generous donation by the Schoenlein family, along with funding through grants and private contributions. OLT, with the assistance of CLIA and Canadarago Lake residents, conducted a major clean-up. Volunteers and OLT staff cleared trails and the open area at the north end to make Deowongo Island safe and accessible.

Mohawk Chief Tom Porter opened the dedication with the Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Address. The Thanksgiving Address, Chief Porter explained, asks people to have “respect for the land, the water, and all living beings that share Mother Earth.”

Ryan Fagan, board member of CLIA, emphasized the importance of the partnership between OLT and the lake community. He highlighted the young people at the dedication. “I look at all these young kids in front of me,” Fagan noted, “and none of them is looking at their phone. They’re out here seeing this beautiful island and lake, and understanding that to have them here to use and enjoy, you have to take care of them.”

The dedication ended with the words of David Arquette, Executive Director of the Hadenosaunee Environmental Task Force, a member of the Mohawk Nation at Akwesasne. Arquette emphasized his positive feelings upon “coming home to traditional Mohawk homelands”; he connected caring for home with OLT’s focus on protecting the local lands where we live, work, and play. Arquette ended the ceremony with a traditional Mohawk closing prayer given in the Mohawk language.

In addition to the generosity of the Schoenlein family and another private donor, OLT’s acquisition of Deowongo Island was made possible by grants from the Land Trust Alliance, Chesapeake Conservancy, Upper Susquehanna Coalition, Royal Bank of Canada-Blue Water Project, and the Canadarago Lake Improvement Association.



BLUEWAY TRAIL CONTINUED

opportunities.

The Blueway begins at Deowongo Island in the middle of Canadarago Lake. Above the east shore of the lake, the 106-acre Fetterley Forest provides gorgeous hiking trails and an exquisite view of the lake and Deowongo Island.

Canadarago Lake is the source for Oaks Creek, along which OLT owns and stewards the Oaks Creek Preserve, the Crave and Parslow Road Conservation Areas, as well as, Greenough Road Conservation Area, a privately owned but public access site protected with a conservation easement. Oaks Creek runs into the Susquehanna River two miles south of Cooperstown at Compton Bridge, another OLT paddling and fishing access site.

At Otsego Lake, the source of the Susquehanna, OLT owns and stewards Brookwood Point with its historic gardens and architecture and a rich natural and cultural history. Brookwood Point is the starting point for the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, a waterway from Otsego Lake all the way to the Chesapeake Bay.

OLT invites everyone to “get outside” and enjoy these special places.

Updates at Brookwood



Several members of the Women's Club posed with Sara Schereen and the "Help us Grow" flower pot!

Garden Discussion Group Helped Brookwood Make its Match!

Passing the pink flowerpot became common practice at the Women's Club Garden Discussion Group meetings this past summer. Group members helped to raise money for the Scenic Byway Grant match.

"Our members love Brookwood Garden and remain hopeful that it will be here for future generations to enjoy as well," commented Group member, Dianne Eldridge. "When OLT met with our club, along with Michele Palmer and Tom Breiten from Templeton Landscape, we were impressed with the history of Brookwood and the prospect that the Matching Fund campaign could help Brookwood stay open to the public. We had our own 'Help us Grow' flower pot matching fund campaign to help keep Brookwood open!"

BAREFOOT AT BROOKWOOD

Tales from the Garden Beds

by Sara Scheeren, Brookwood Gardener

As I walked through Brookwood this October, many signs indicated that fall is upon us.

The leaves are falling from their homes in the trees, and the woolly bear caterpillars are everywhere; their brown middle sections encompass almost their whole length indicating the cold weather coming.

The flowers have passed their days of glory and are ebbing and fading to the ground. The fish swim lethargically in the crisp water of their pools, awaiting a warmer aquarium.



Brookwood Gardener emeritus, Pat Thorpe and summer intern Sara Scheeren.

The garden house creaks in the cold weather and begs for a fire in the hearth. The windows frost over at night and glint in the bright autumn morning sun.

With each falling and twirling maple seed helicopter, we count the days closer to laying the garden to sleep for the long winter ahead.



Susan Rowland Photography

Money from the Scenic Byway Grant will repair this bridge at Brookwood Point.

Capital Campaign Success!

On October 7, Otsego Land Trust announced the successful close of its capital campaign to raise matching funds for a National Scenic Byways grant for renovations to Brookwood Point.

OLT can now embark upon the first phase of safety and access improvements that will allow greater opportunities for OLT and the whole community to use Brookwood for educational and recreational programs.

Brookwood Committee Chair, Joe Homburger, stated that "OLT is a small organization doing big work. With community buy-in and support we will accomplish wonderful things at Brookwood. But OLT needs the continued generous help of grants, foundations, and community members."

Brookwood Point is the first point on the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, a series of water routes extending from Brookwood Point on Otsego Lake, the source of the Susquehanna, to the Chesapeake Bay. From Brookwood to the Chesapeake, the waterways of the Trail provide clean drinking water to millions of people.

OLT thanks the Scriven Foundation, the Tianaderrah Foundation, and the Royal Bank of Canada along with community members and board members for their valuable contributions to this success.

OLT Community Updates



Devin, Daphnie, and son, Finn, get up close and personal to view a live snapping turtle at the OLT Labor Day Picnic at Brookwood Point.



All Things Small in Nature

2013 Photo Contest

Have you ever thought about how the healthy land and waters that sustain all of us also sustain little plants and critters?

OLT in partnership with the Butternut Valley Alliance is pleased to recognize the small things in nature by dedicating the theme of this year's photo contest to "All Things Small in Nature."

Up to three photos will be accepted in youth, amateur, and professional categories.

All photos must be submitted in .jpeg format with a completed submission form to OLT by December 31, 2013. Visit www.otsegolandtrust.org for more information and to download the submission form.

Snake, Turtle, & Frog...Oh My! OLT Celebrates 25 Years!

The thunderstorms in the forecast did not deter friends, families, and supporters from venturing out to Brookwood Point for OLT's 25th anniversary picnic and silent auction. Fun was had by all thanks to great music, a NYS live animal show by the Utica Zoomobile, and Hawk Circle Wilderness Education.

Thanks to community members and businesses that donated auction items and everyone who purchased a ticket, OLT raised over \$4,000 to contribute to protecting healthy lands and clean waters in our region!

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Susan Rowland

OLT proudly recognizes Susan Rowland, OLT volunteer of the year.

When Susan is not coordinating the YMCA gymnastics program, she might be visiting National Parks, or out on one of OLT's public access sites capturing pictures of wildlife or flowers.

"Volunteering for OLT is extremely rewarding and validating. The photography I do for OLT communicates the



You may have seen Susan snapping shots at an OLT program, hike, or at Brookwood Garden.

beauty in our own backyard and highlights the importance of conserving it for the future."

IN LOVING MEMORY

Best thoughts and wishes to the families of:

Susan Lee Peterson

Susan F.C. Weil

Katherine F.C. Cary

Shirley Banta

Robert Scramlin



Post Office Box 173
Cooperstown, New York 13326



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UPCOMING EVENTS



October 22 at 10 AM: Hike through Historic Morris Manor Properties in Butternutt Valley, 1823 State Hwy 51, Morris.

November 2 from 10 AM to 2 PM: Brookwood Cleanup Day! 6000 State Hwy 80, Cooperstown.

November 10 at 3 PM: "Chasing Ice" screening at Fenimore Art Museum. Glimmerglass Film Days.

November 11 at 10 AM: Climate Change and Migration; A Bird Hike at 187 Johnston Road, Cooperstown.

Visit www.otsegolandtrust.org for more information.



Adult monarch butterflies will drink nectar from flowers and fruit. This one seen here doing just that at Brookwood Point.

OUR NATURAL COMMUNITY

Monarch Butterfly

This time of year, Monarch butterflies make the long journey south to Mexico.

However, declining Mexican forest habitats, climate change, and a decrease in the growth of milkweed have led to falling monarch popula-

tions. Other migratory creatures, like many species of birds, are facing similar challenges.

Join OLT and Pat Szarpa for Climate Change and Migration; A Birding Hike, November 11, 10AM at 187 Johnston Road in Cooperstown to learn more about this topic.