

field, forest & fen



Connecting People with the Land

Protecting Land From Schoharie County to the Butternut Valley



C. Tedesco

MCCOY FARM Wetlands, Forest and Farmland Protected Forever

At the McCoy Farm, stone walls weave through active and lapsed farm fields, lush wetlands, along former roads, and through the forest. These spectacular stone walls, along with wetlands that protect community water quality, are now conserved.



BARBARA MCEWAN POPE Views, Family, and Very Loud Spring Peepers

Barbara McEwan Pope and her daughter, Ellen, have years of memories from time spent at their hill-top family property. The Pope property contributes to the beautiful views we all enjoy along Route 28 on the way to Fly Creek.



C. Tedesco

LEWIS AND GEMMA HALL Historic Morris Farm Protected for Generations

Lewis Hall's property, owned for over 200 years by the Morris family, includes over 4,500 feet of frontage along Butternut Creek, a tributary of the Unadilla River and an important habitat for freshwater clams.

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Brookwood Point is Big on Birds

Local bird watcher, Rebecca Gretton, heard the Brown Creeper before she saw it scurry up the bark of a tree.

Birds flocked to Brookwood Point this February. Twelve birders took advantage when they met at Brookwood to take an inventory for the Great Backyard Bird Count. 2013 is the first year that Otsego Land Trust participated in this annual four-day event and submitted one of 134,935 inventories worldwide.

Scientists use this data to get a better understanding of bird populations and help explain how changes in weather and climate influence birds, and how the timing of bird migrations varies from year to year.

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Susan Rowland Photography

The weather was cold but the birding was good at Brookwood Point this February.



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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"Virginia brings passion for our mission, leadership, and vision. We welcome her and look forward to working together to connect people to the landscapes we are protecting," commented board member Carla Hall-Friedman.

FIELD NOTES

New Beginning & Celebrating 25 Years of Land Protection

What a pleasure to join the Otsego Land Trust community in this silver anniversary year! Thanks to all of you—board, staff, supporters, and community members—who have given me such a warm welcome.

It has taken no time at all for me to understand what a special region this is. From lake shores to riverbeds, through forests, farms, and small towns, the people and places of the Upper Susquehanna River Basin region are clearly unique and beautiful.

For 25 years Otsego Land Trust has been dedicated to protecting healthy lands and clean waters and to making sure that everyone in the community, from youngest to oldest, have opportunities to connect to the land. Whether it's providing public access sites for hiking, fishing, paddling, and bird watching, or conducting events that put people in touch with the lands and waters that sustain us all, OLT has been right in the middle of assuring this region is cared for now—and

for our children and grandchildren.

I'm proud to be part of a community of people like all of you, who take this conservation mission so seriously, and have fun doing it.

Please stop by, give me a call, or drop me a line. I'd love to hear your conservation ideas and share some of ours. From this silver anniversary into the future, I look forward to working with you to assure this region—the place I join you in calling 'home'—remains a beautiful and healthy place to live, work, play, and enjoy. ■

Virginia Kennedy
Executive Director



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From the ridgeline to Butternut Creek, 360 acres connecting fields, forests, wetland, and creek will be protected forever.

C. Tedesco

Schoharie County to the Butternut Valley

Thanks to three conservation-minded families and your support, we closed out 2012 with 915 acres of farmland, forests, wetlands and historic structures protected in Otsego and Schoharie Counties.

Barbara McEwan Pope, Lewis Hall, and David and Millie McCoy recognized the importance of protecting the lands and watersheds for future generations.

From "Round Top" on Barbara McEwan Pope's property one can see over rolling hills and forests down to Oaks Creek Valley and Fly Creek Valley. "It was a wonderful place to picnic in the summer," Barbara recalls.

Barbara and her family have many treasured memories from their property. Spruce trees that were planted as saplings now tower over the farm house, a relic of time on a property that will remain protected forever.

The historical attributes of Morris Manor, was a driving force to pro-

tect this unique property and its special history in the region. The property is part of a land grant obtained by the Morris family in 1769.

The Hall property is still in the hands of descendants of General Jacob Morris, one of the sons of Lewis Morris, a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

The McCoy Farm in Schoharie County, consists of 434 acres of which over 300 acres is managed forest and several ecologically diverse wetlands.

"It is astounding to me to think of the work that initially went into clearing the forest to clear hundreds of acres of land for pasture, agriculture, and roads. The property's stone walls still remain, many fully intact. Our wish is that they remain that way," commented Millie McCoy.

These properties are geographically diverse. Together their protection is a wonderful contribution to the healthy lands, clean waters, and beauty of our region. ■



C. Tedesco

Barbara McEwan Pope's home was originally occupied by tenant farmers of the family farm across the street. The three-hole outhouse from early farm days still stands.



"The Land Trust will help us assure that the essential character of this beautiful land and those stone walls remain intact for posterity," commented David and Millie McCoy.

Susan Rowland Photography



Cedar waxings are common visitors at Brookwood Point.

Birds, continued from page 1

Rebecca, with the help of another local bird expert, Dave Kiehm, identified ten species of birds in a one hour hike around Brookwood.

“We hope this is the first of many bird inventories taken at Brookwood and all OLT preserves, and we hope more and more people get involved” said Marcie Foster, Outreach Coordinator at Otsego Land Trust. In August, OLT will host a bioblitz at Fetterley Forest Conservation Area on Panther Mountain, which will involve a plant and bird survey. ■

BIRDS AT BROOKWOOD

- 1 Downy Woodpecker
- 4 Hairy Woodpeckers
- 3 American Crows
- 1 Common Raven
- 6 Black-capped Chickadees
- 1 White-breasted Nuthatch
- 2 Brown Creepers
- 4 European Starlings
- 2 Northern Cardinals
- 10 American Goldfinches

Bruce Johnson Photography



For generations people of all ages have explored the beauty of Brookwood Point.

A Community Asset at Brookwood

Birders, gardeners, and historians are among the many supporters that believe Brookwood has enormous potential as a public asset for the whole community. For years people have enjoyed walking in the beautiful gardens, relaxing by Otsego Lake, and having picnics with their families, parties, or weddings.

Since OLT took over ownership of the property in 2011, new and exciting prospects for public enjoyment, including many different educational and recreational programs are possible.

But not without your support.

In order to receive a \$188,000 grant from the Scenic Byway Foundation to fund much needed safety and access improvements, as a community, we need to raise \$62,000 in matching funds.

Community members have already

contributed \$30,000 to this effort. With your help, Brookwood can be a place for the whole community to enjoy, now and for future generations.

To make a contribution visit www.otsegoLandTrust.org or send a check to Otsego Land Trust, P.O. Box 173, Cooperstown NY with a note referencing Brookwood Capital Campaign. ■



Frederick de Peyster Townsend with his wife Catherine Townsend Chapman and their five children on the porch of the Brookwood House in the early 1900s.

A Community Treasure Renovated for All to Enjoy

ROBERT B. WOODRUFF OUTDOOR LEARNING CENTER

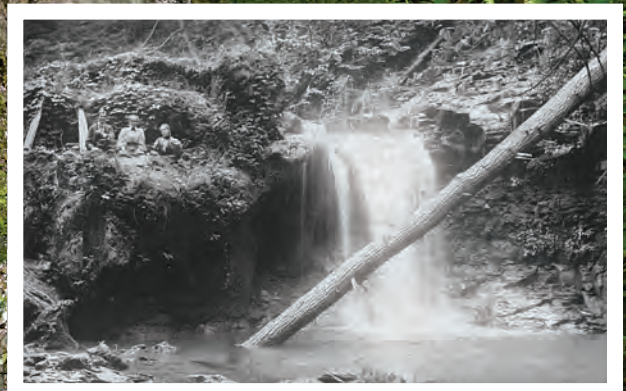
A visit to the Outdoor Learning Center is an experience that you will always remember. Waterfalls, caves, and unique hiking trails have connected people to Robert B. Woodruff Outdoor Learning Center for generations.

Many improvements have been made to the trail thanks to the coordination of Neil "Butch" Woodruff son of Robert Woodruff, the former principal of Owen D. Young School, to whom the trail is dedicated. Students and faculty of the Owen D. Young Central School, Otsego Land Trust, the Van Hornesville Community Corporation, and more than a dozen community volunteers have also contributed. Herkimer County Health Net generously provided funds to improve the safety and access of the trail, update the school vegetable garden, and create interpretive material and signage on the trail that will be completed this year.

Community members and students of Owen D. Young School will continue to use this trail as an outdoor classroom, a place to hike and fish, and to learn about the extraordinary geology, ecology and history.



Bruce Johnson Photography



Woodruff Collections



Bruce Johnson Photography

JUNE 8 COMMUNITY DAY

Show your support for this amazing community trail. Join us for an opening dedication and community day on June 8. Volunteers are needed to help with trail maintenance and general stewardship. For more information, contact Owen D. Young School.

Bruce Johnson Photography

MAKING CONNECTIONS ON THE LAND

Thanks to the help of volunteers, local experts, and landowners, OLT hosted several interesting hikes and workshops in the last year. Learn more about upcoming programs and events on our website, www.otsegoLandtrust.org, and join us outside!

WILD EDIBLE HIKE AT MT. OTSEGO



Susan Rowland Photography

Susan Burdsall led a hike that explored the wild edible plants on her protected property, locally known as Mt. Otsego. Following the hike Susan treated hikers to delicious sumac tea and stuffed milkweed pods.

FLY FISHING & TYING WORKSHOPS



Susan Rowland Photography

Craig Buckbee, NYS certified guide and a Federation of Fly Fishers Master Certified Instructor, has led free fly fishing workshops on conserved land and a fly tying workshop this past year.

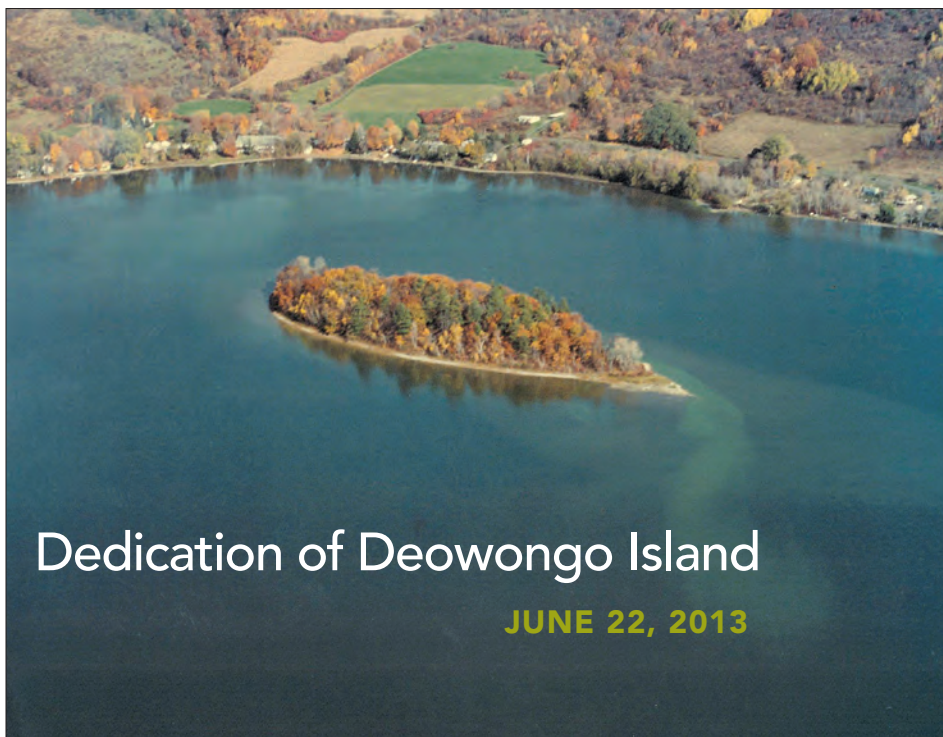
FRIENDLY FERN HIKE AT FETTERLEY FOREST



Bruce Johnson Photography

Eleven species of ferns were identified at Fetterley Forest Conservation Area on Panther Mountain. OLT Field Representative and botanist, Connie Tedesco, led hikers along this new 1 mile trail identifying many plant species along the way.

Join OLT on Aug. 17 for a Bioblitz at Fetterley Forest. We'd love your help identifying plant and bird species. It's fun and a great learning experience for all ages.



Dedication of Deowongo Island

JUNE 22, 2013

W. Curry

Loved Island Protected for Community

Through the generosity of the Schoenlein family, OLT is honored to be the owner and steward of Deowongo Island, which has been a special place for the Iroquois people and for Canadarago Lake residents and visitors for generations.

On June 22, 2013 at 11:00 am, we invite you to participate in the community dedication of Deowongo Island as a shared public space. Come and celebrate the rich history, culture, and natural heritage of this special place.

To mark this occasion and highlight the connections of people with this island, OLT is thrilled to announce guest speakers, Tom Porter, founder, spokesperson and spiritual leader of the Mohawk Community of Kanatsiohareke and David Arquette, Director of the Haudenosaunee Environmental Task Force (HETF) and a citizen of the Mohawk Nation of Akwesasne.

Also speaking will be a representative from the Canadarago Lake Improvement Association (CLIA) and Virginia Kennedy, Executive Director, of Otsego Land Trust.



D. Urtz

Families have been visiting and picnicing on the island for generations. This picture of two Urtz siblings was taken on the island in 1946.

OLT is looking forward to kicking off a great summer on Canadarago Lake with the Deowongo Island Dedication.

Visit www.otsegolandtrust.org for more information about the island, including use regulations. ■



C. Tedesco

All Things Small in Nature 2013 Photo Contest

Have you ever thought about how healthy lands and waters that sustain 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. So get outside with the whole family and connect with the small things in nature.

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. ■

LITTLE SPRING POEM BY ANGELIKA RASHKOW

Here in my Fairy-woods
so cherished and beloved
ringed with rose-petaled bossoms
all around
tall ferns and lime-green cabbages
glittering water gushing by the river
how it soothes
hear the Kingfisher call!



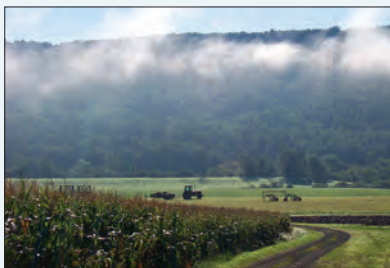
Post Office Box 173
Cooperstown, New York 13326



UPCOMING EVENTS



May 11: Brookwood Garden Clean up
Day from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Lunch provided!



May 21 Farming, Wetlands, and Wildlife
Along Cherry Valley Creek: A Hike on
Conserved Land. 10:00 a.m. start,
follow signs along St. Hwy 166.



Vernal pools are very important spring habitats.

THE NATURE OF CONSERVATION Vernal Pools

Bursting with spring life, vernal pools are unique seasonal features. Formed from snowmelt and spring rains that often collect in forest depressions, vernal pools are a unique, fish-free habitat for a variety of plants and animals.

Species of toads, frogs, turtles, and

salamanders may spend most of their lives in nearby wetlands, but migrate to feed or breed in vernal pools. Spring peepers, spotted salamanders, and fairy shrimp are typical dwellers of New York's vernal pools.

Keep your eyes (and ears!) open this spring as you walk through protected lands. You may stumble across a vernal pool. ■