

field, forest & fen



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



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Hello and welcome to fall
and the latest from the
Otsego Land Trust!

Certainly much has happened here at OLT since our spring edition. As OLT's new Executive Director, I am privileged to be a part of this amazing and resourceful conservation organization and working with such a dedicated staff and board as we approach our 30th anniversary year in 2018!

Whether you are a long time supporter or you are hearing about us for the very first time, I want to welcome you to this issue where you will learn a little bit about our newest staff members who have joined the organization in the last 6 months. Besides me, you will also meet David Diaz, our new Land Protection Manager. David comes to us with experience in working in land protection for other land trusts in central and eastern New York State.

This issue also highlights one of our long time Board of Directors members and a dedicated volunteer, Joe Homburger.

The work of the Otsego Land Trust is about community coming together in a dialogue and understanding of both private and public land conservation, healthy, vibrant landscapes and of course, clean water. It's about today, but more importantly, it's about the future and the vision we want to leave for our children, grandchildren and all future generations.

Take some time this fall to visit one of our Otsego Land Trust Blueway properties that are open to the public for your enjoyment. Bring the family out for a picnic or hike.

We hope to see you out on the trails!

Board Member Spotlight

When the front door of the office opens and we hear a familiar gait making its way down the hallway, we all smile to ourselves. The gait is slow, thoughtful, calculated. The drawl that comes with it is similar. The gait and drawl belong to **Joe Homburger**.

As one of our volunteer board members, Joe, and his wife Jane and her scrumptious cranberry bread, have been an essential part of Otsego Land Trust since the very beginning, nearly 30 years ago.

When the OLT phone rings and we see J. HOMBURGER scroll across the screen, we never know which J. Homburger we will get, but we all know an entertaining, yet purposeful, conversation is about to ensue. It usually begins with us asking how Joe is, with which he quickly replies, "Well, I woke up looking at the right side of the sod today" or "I'm doing alright for an old guy." And for that we are happy.

Joe attends most, if not all, land trust events and often brings a posse along with him. If we ask Joe to help with something, he does with enthusiasm, and if he can't then he finds someone who can.



He is always quick to offer, "With volunteers you get what you pay for" — Well, Joe, if that's the case then you are worth much more than your weight in gold and we are in serious debt.

We have found great value in Joe's wealth of knowledge in all things nature and are so grateful for him sharing it all with us.

Furthermore, Joe has been a guiding post and a moral compass for the younger staff members as we grow and develop in our roles here at the land trust.



Staff Spotlight

In usual fashion, the wheels are turning at an incredible rate here at Otsego Land Trust. In the midst of all that goes on during the year, two new team members were brought on board over the past six months. Now armed with a well-rounded full time staff, we are looking to continue full steam ahead.

Brought on in May, **Patricia Szarpa** has been a volunteer with the organization for many years. An avid birder and kayaker, Szarpa runs a small B&B in Cooperstown with her husband Darryl.

What is your role at OLT?

Executive Director

What does your typical day look like at OLT?

No typical day yet! I guide the staff in a cohesive direction, raise funds, guide board members through their roles, work closely with the board on a broad range of organizational, development related and land conservation issues, work with other environmental organizations to further the land trust mission and forge community relationships.

What are your hopes for our industry?

My hopes for land conservation/land trusts and the communities they serve is that love and appreciation of the healthy land and clean water become just as much a part of the conversation and planning in a community as does infrastructure, industry and economic growth. Outdoor learning and enjoyment are a part of everyday school life beyond the school playground or parking lot. It's all a balance. We need to nurture the body, mind and spirit.



There is nothing like a walk in the woods to do all three things. We need to leave the land and water better than where we found it for next generations.

A native of Syracuse, **David Diaz** has made his way downstate and back again in the world of land conservation. Joining the staff in August, David brings a wealth of knowledge ranging from land conservation to birding with keen interests in viticulture and beer tasting.

What is your role at OLT?

Land Protection Manager

What does your typical day look like at OLT?

Talking and meeting with land-owners regarding land protection possibilities for their land. Working with non-profit and governmental

agencies on land conservation projects and regional goals.

What are your hopes for the future of our industry?

That we'll eventually be able to meet the demand for open spaces, healthy forests, clean streams and places for people to experience all three.



HOME: *a place of warmth, comfort a place where our heart resides.*

Otsego Land Trust is proud to participate once again this year with Glimmerglass Film Days. Taking place November 9th through November 13th, Glimmerglass Film Days goal is to attract others to the Otsego region by raising the profile of our distinctive natural and historical environment and offering thought-provoking films and opportunities to explore our history and the outdoors.

The theme for 2017 is "Home." Take a journey throughout the weekend by attending films that explore what home and community mean to those around the globe.

We are proud to sponsor the film "Look and See: A Portrait of Wendell Berry" this year. The film, produced by Robert Redford and Nick Offerman takes a look at the changing landscapes and shifting values of rural America, as seen through the mind's eye of writer, farmer, and activist, Wendell Berry.

Partnering with *Look & See* was an obvious choice as it revolves around the stories of several residents of Henry County, Kentucky. It is the difficult choices each character faces that dramatically reshape their



relationship with the land and community. It is through Berry's commitment to simple living, good stewardship and value of nature that we draw our parallel. The world we call home is in dire need of reshaping and we work diligently every day to stand up for and by what Berry has written and lived throughout the years.

The film is scheduled for 1pm on Saturday, November 11th at the Fenimore Art Museum.

Taking with us what we learn in the film, we will go out on the land and explore a property that has been protected forever in conservation easement. The hike will take place on Marion Karl's protected property atop Cornish Hill, just outside Cooperstown.



and affection...

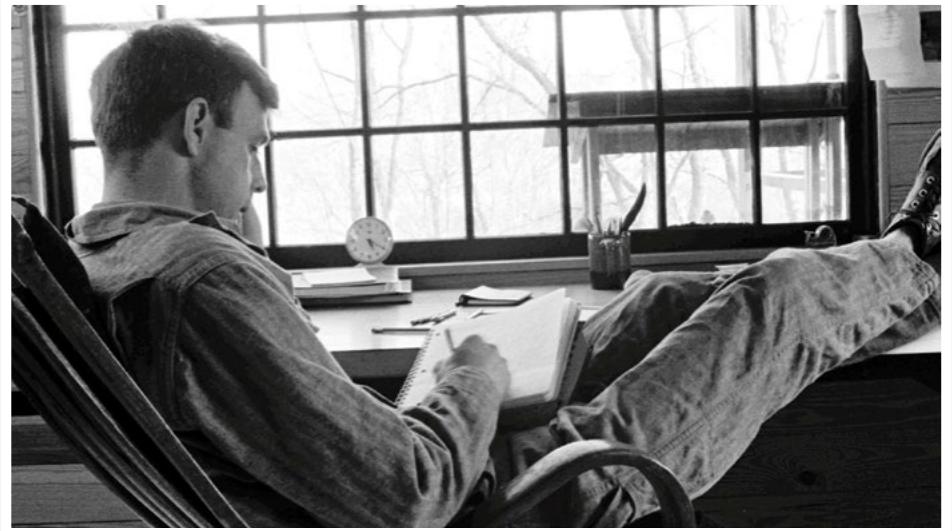
join us for...

**Look & See: A Portrait
of Wendell Berry**

Sat., November 11

1:00-2:45pm

Fenimore Art Museum
5798 State Route 80
Cooperstown



**Protecting Home
Forever Hike**

Mon., November 13

10:00am

Karl Easement
Sibley Gulf Rd.
Middlefield

*“To cherish what remains
of the earth and to foster its
renewal is our only legitimate
hope of survival.”*



TALES FROM THE TRAILS

Brookwood Points Lake Access Provides Opportunities for a Variety of Paddling Adventures

Since the re-opening of Brookwood Point this past spring, many visitors have taken advantage of the new ADA accessible car top boat launch to access Otsego Lake and the Susquehanna River.



Kicking off the season, Denis Carmody began a 444-mile journey down the Susquehanna River. He set out on this paddle in honor of a friend who has Parkinson's disease. This endeavour was to raise money and awareness for Parkinson's disease.

For the first time (and despite the heavy rain!), the 55th annual General Clinton Canoe Regatta started its 70 mile paddling race from the shores of Brookwood Point this spring. In a matter of a few hours, hundreds of paddlers passed through Brookwood to start this classic race.

Thanks to Canoe and Kayak Rentals and Sales (CKRS) from Portlandville, paddlers of all ages, from near and far, could rent kayaks, canoes, and standup paddleboards (SUP) at Brookwood Point to access Otsego Lake. Their SUP Yoga class gained popularity and was a unique way for people to enjoy the beauty of the lake while also getting some exercise.

Taking advantage of the smooth waters of Otsego Lake, several water sports enthusiasts also used Brookwood Point to launch their rowing shells and their personal canoes or kayaks.

OLT could not be more proud to provide free access to Otsego Lake and the Susquehanna River at Brookwood Point. From the canoe racer to the casual paddler, there is an opportunity for everyone to enjoy the uniqueness and beauty of Otsego Lake.

If you didn't make it out to Brookwood to access the lake this year, please come next year. We need your enthusiasm and support to ensure Brookwood remains open to the public for all to enjoy.





Yellow-throated Warbler



Gray Catbird



Bluebird

Meet the Birds of Fetterley Forest

When our staff, interns, or volunteers visit one of our Blueway Conservation Areas, the first thing we do is check the registration box. We check to see how many of you have visited, where you are from, and whether you have left a note about your experience.

This information is vital to the management of the property as we can track the use and learn how to improve the properties based on your experience. It's also great to learn what you saw along the trail, like an eagle or a river otter track.



Black-capped Chickadee

Fetterley Forest

302 Roses Hill Road, Richfield

Fetterley Forest Conservation Area is a 106-acre working forest. Currently, with over 1-mile of trails, Fetterley Forest is a great place for friends and family to explore Panther Mountain, the scenic ridgeline overlooking Canadarago Lake.

In 2011, siblings Judy and Daniel Fetterley have entrusted Fetterley Forest to Otsego Land Trust and the community in memory of their parents, Ray and Mary Fetterley. Otsego Land Trust will continue the conservation legacy of the Fetterleys by using the property as a working forest preserve as they did. Thanks to Judy and Dan's generosity and vision, you will be able to get to know this forested ridgeline as they did.

Special Considerations: Fetterley Forest is located along a seasonal road and does not have winter access.

The Birds of Fetterley Forest

- American Crow
- American Redstart
- American Robin
- American Tree Sparrow
- Black-capped Chickadee
- Bluebird
- Blue headed Vireo
- Blue Jay
- Brown creeper
- Chestnut-sided warbler
- Chipper Junco
- Common Grackle
- Common Yellow Throat
- Downy Woodpecker
- Eastern Wood Pewee
- Gray Catbird
- Great Blue Heron
- House Wren
- North American Cardinal
- Ovenbird
- Pileated Woodpecker
- Ruby-throated hummingbird
- Scarlett Tanager
- Song Sparrow
- White-Breasted Nuthatch
- Turkey

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER: VERN WILKINS.
GRAY CATBIRD: JOHNNY N. DELL.
BLUEBIRD: JAMES HOLLAND.
BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE: ELMER VERHASSELT.
GREAT BLUE HERON: MARTHA QUACKENBUSH.



Great Blue Heron



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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Front cover photograph ©Adiya Vargha

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.

Post Office Box 173
Cooperstown, New York 13326

join us...

SUN., NOVEMBER 5

Brookwood Garden Fall Clean Up

Brookwood Point
6000 State Route 80
Cooperstown • 1-4pm

SAT., NOVEMBER 11

"Look and See: Portrait of Wendell Berry" Screening for Glimmerglass Film Days

Fenimore Art Museum
5798 State Route 80
Cooperstown • 1pm

MON., NOVEMBER 13

Protecting Home Forever Hike

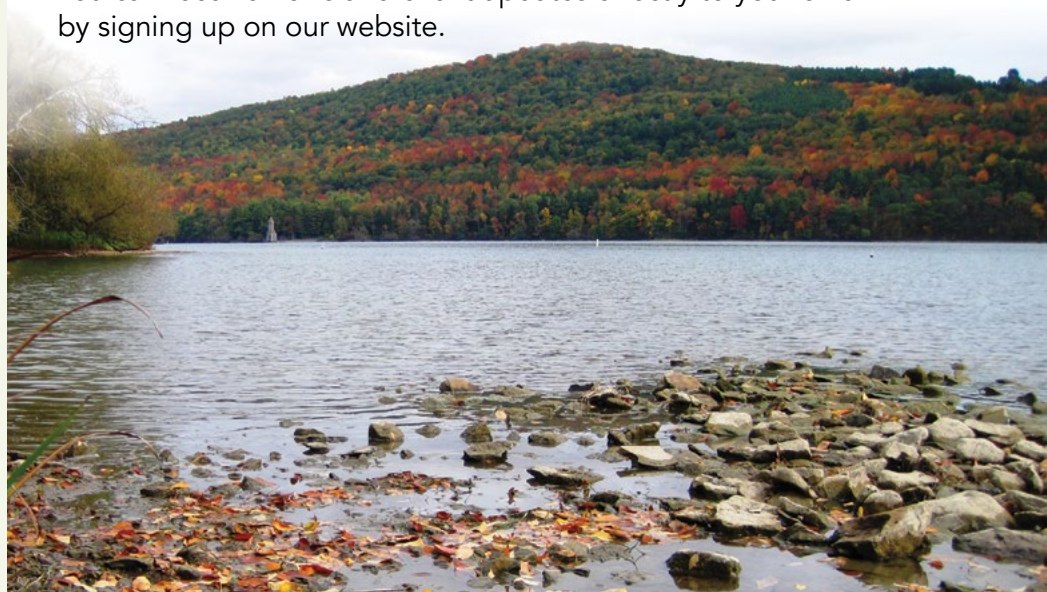
Karl Easement
Sibley Gulf Road
Middlefield • 10am



Have an idea for an event?

Share your suggestions by phone at 607-547-2366 or by email to communityengagement@otsegolandtrust.org

You can receive news and event updates directly to your email by signing up on our website.



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