

field, forest & fen



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



Passing the Torch

At this year's annual meeting, the Otsego Land Trust Board of Directors appointed its newest chairman, Caleb Wertenbaker, while lauding the many accomplishments of past Board Chair, Harry Levine.

During his 12 years as chairman, his leadership paved the way for the organization's growth. His commitment to land protection launched OLT into conceptualizing and implementing the Blueway Trail, a series of OLT-owned properties open for public access.

Caleb is currently director of creative services for production-glue, a NYC-based events company. With an MBA from Yale focusing on the relationship between environmental sustainability and business, he also carries a unique perspective on land conservation. Closer to home, Caleb is a ninth-generation family member of Glensfoot Farm in Cherry Valley. The property produces certified organic hay, and is partly under a conservation easement with OLT.

The transition was an amiable one, though one that sparks change. As OLT ramps up to celebrate its 30th anniversary in 2018, board governance is as critical as ever. So much has been achieved in three decades, yet the future holds promise in conserving more land and inspiring more people. Caleb knows this, and has risen to meet the challenge. He says, "My vision for the Land Trust is a group of people working together for a common goal."

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Hello! As we begin our 30th year of land conservation, we have much to share!

We recently secured a grant from the Land Trust Alliance Conservation Partnership Program, enabling OLT to share our story of land protection through drone imagery; videography of our lands; and interviews with OLT community members. A professional video as well as short snippets and images will be developed for us to share, emphasizing public access lands on the Blueway Trail.

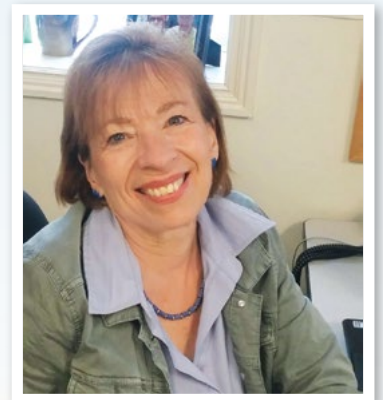
We also received funding to conduct stream bank restoration and bridge design at Brookwood Point, with the goal of eventually opening the property's North Side for public use and enjoyment. Once completed, it will feature a hiking trail that will highlight the beauty of this wooded upland forest along Brookwood Creek. We will keep you updated!

Our 30th year is also a year of transitions—the land trust recently said goodbye to longtime Board Chair, Harry Levine, and welcomed Caleb Wertenbaker into this role. We also welcomed Rebekah (Becky) Talbot to OLT in April as our communications and outreach manager. Becky jumped in quickly and has been involved in several programs and cleanup days.

Thank you for playing a large role in our first 30 years of conservation success. We sincerely hope you will continue to follow us into the next 30 years, helping us to face new conservation challenges and share our story.

Patricia

Patricia Szarpa
Executive Director



Warm Welcome

There's a friendly new face at OLT. Her laugh bubbles up and down the hallway in our office, her passion for all things local and sustainable is infectious, and her love of nature shows in everything she creates. Her name is Becky Talbot and she is our new communications and outreach manager.

Becky grew up in Sherrill, NY where she discovered the wonders of being outdoors. From a young age she was actively involved in the planting, harvesting, and preservation of her family's food, therefore, learned how the land sustained them.

She graduated from Hartwick College's Three-Year Bachelor's Degree Program with a BA in English, concentrating in creative writing.

She became involved with the Cooperstown Farmers' Market, not only as a regular customer, but as a dedicated volunteer, which has taught her the importance of investing in our local, family farms.

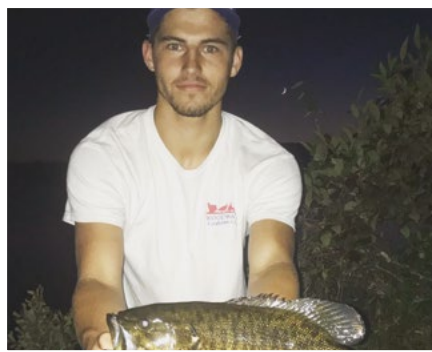
Here at OLT, Becky is responsible for spreading our good news and organizing free environmental education events. She looks forward to meeting all of you and



providing opportunities for you to connect with and become inspired by the natural world around you.

With Becky by our side, chock full of energy and vibrancy, we are excited to launch into the busy summer season.

2018 Summer Interns



Kyle King
Blueway Intern

Hometown: Burlington Flats, NY

College: Paul Smiths

Degree Track:
Fisheries & Wildlife Science

Favorite Quote:

"The world's big and I want to have a good look at it before it gets dark." – JOHN MUIR



Ethan Gardner
Conservation Easement Intern

Hometown: Long Eddy, NY

College: SUNY Cobleskill

Degree Track:
Wildlife Management B.T.

Favorite Quote:

"We abuse land because we see it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect." – ALDO LEOPOLD



Nicole Nawort
Conservation Easement Intern

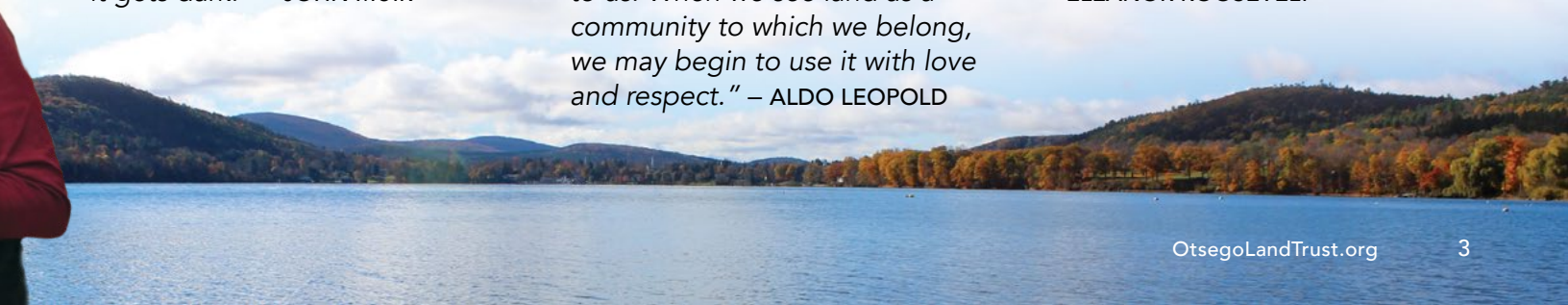
Hometown: Saratoga Springs, NY

College: SUNY Cobleskill

Degree Track:
Wildlife Management

Favorite Quote:

"You must do the things you think you cannot do." – ELEANOR ROOSEVELT





This Summer

PADDLE *on the* BLUEWAY



Not only is OLT's Blueway Trail a beautiful series of sites to visit, but it's also a prime location for paddling activities! From Deowongo Island, you can paddle down Oaks Creek all the way to Compton Bridge. Another site is Brookwood Point, which has a public canoe and kayak launch on Otsego Lake in Cooperstown. This summer, OLT welcomes back Canoe and Kayak Rentals and Sales (CKRS), and happily announces our newest partner, Otsego Area Rowers (OAR).

OAR will be offering rowing opportunities and coaching for people of all ages, in individual and team boats, for both pleasure and competition at Brookwood. Their mission is to promote the many benefits of rowing to everyone, regardless of age, experience, and ability.

Family owned and operated CKRS began in June 2009 as a little shop in Portlandville. Now, they are prepared for their 10th season, and their second summer of operating at Brookwood in offering canoe, kayak, and stand-up paddleboard (SUP) rentals from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

HOW YOU CAN PROTECT OUR WATERS

Many of OLT's Blueway Trail sites offer access for paddling and fishing. We own and maintain these lands and are committed to protecting their valuable water resources while promoting recreational opportunities for the public to freely enjoy.

However, the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) is a serious threat to our region's rivers and lakes. Please help us maintain clean waters by ensuring your non-motorized boats and fishing equipment are CLEANED, DRAINED, and TREATED before entering ANY body of water.

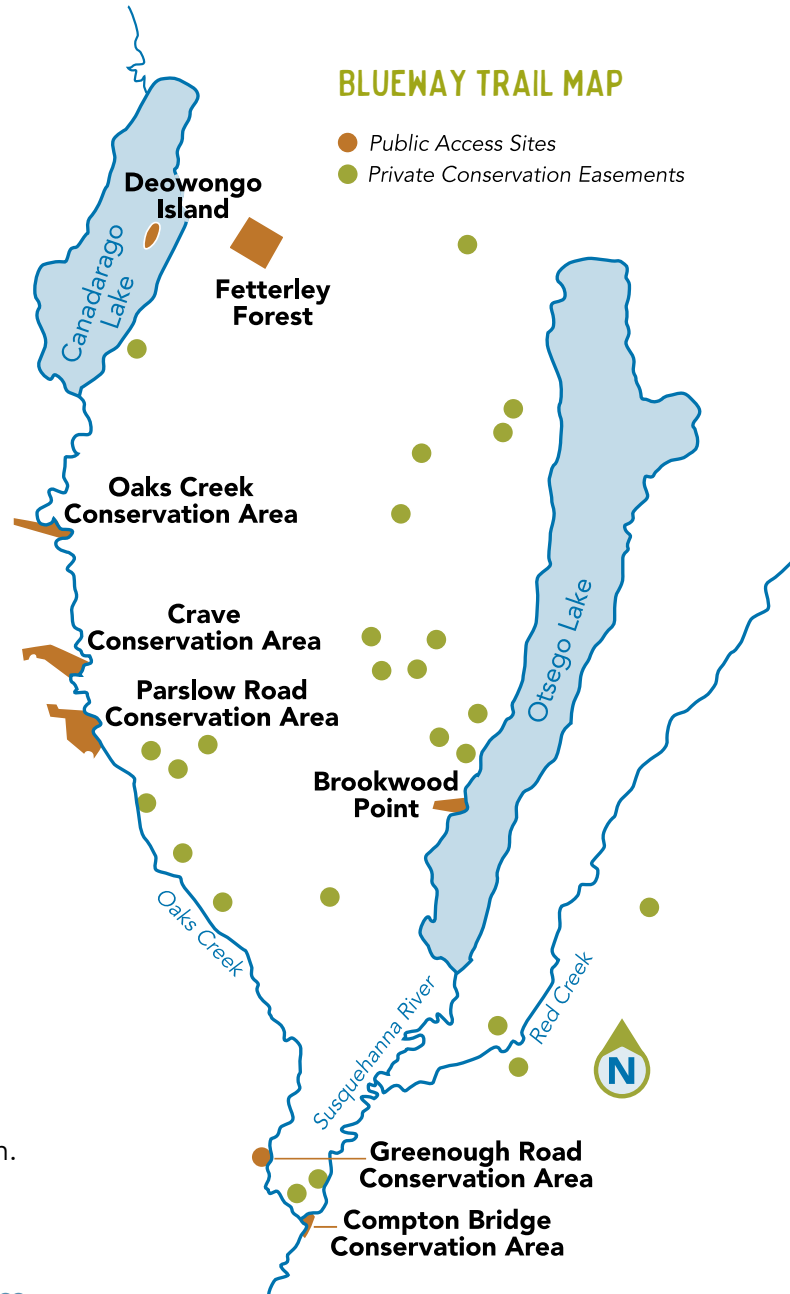
All Blueway Trail sites with water access have information on how to stop the spread of AIS. Please do your part to ensure that our wonderful water resources can be enjoyed for generations to come. To learn more about AIS, visit catskillinvasives.com.

BECAUSE OF YOU...

Keeping OLT's Blueway Trail open for free public access is only possible with help from our volunteers and generous supporters.

Whether you're interested in birding, hiking, or gardening, there's something on our Blueway Trail for you! If you would like to make an impact on these important lands and the future of our region, please consider a donation or volunteering your time. To do so or to learn more, visit otsegolandtrust.org or call 607-547-2366.

Photo top right: Brookwood Point Partners BBQ with OLT, OAR, CKRS, and Otsego Sailing Club (OSC).



CONSERVATION EASEMENT

Local Veterinarian Protects 79 Acres

Pam Lea donated a conservation easement, last December, on her 79 acre property of beautiful forests, hills, farmland, creeks, and wetlands located in the Town of Exeter.

Pam was a veterinarian for the past 40 years and provided care for everything from cows to cats. She has shown equal care for her land over these many decades and further displayed this by forever conserving its natural and agricultural resources.



When asked why she chose to donate a conservation easement, Pam shared, "I bought my property in 1998 and have grown quite attached to it, with its creek, wetlands, open fields, and trails. The peace and quiet there is indescribable. I figured the best way to ensure it stays that way was to put it in the land trust. We mustn't take our area's natural beauty, clean air, and water for granted. They are true blessings to be nurtured."

Conservation easements allow landowners to continue enjoyment of their properties with limited development, while restricting inappropriate building or activities.

"Pam is a wonderful woman that cares deeply about her community and her land, she was a joy to work with!" said David Diaz, land protection manager for the Land Trust. Patricia Szarpa, executive director, heralded the project, "Because of Pam's generosity, generations to come will benefit from the protection of nearly 1.5 miles of streams including 1,700 feet of Herkimer Creek, one of only four Canadarago Lake tributaries. Pam has also protected carbon sequestering trees, prime and important farm soils, pollution absorbing wetlands, and critical critter habitat. We salute her decision to make this commitment to all of us!"

If you would like to learn more about conservation easements, please contact David Diaz at david@otsegolandtrust.org or 607-220-3046 x109.

Thank you...

\$5,000+

Ms. Carla Hall
Mrs. Erika Hall
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Levine
Mr. & Mrs. David Russell

\$1,000-\$4,000

Mr. Louis W. Allstadt & Mrs. Melinda Hardin
Mr. Peter Bakal
Dr. Eric N. Bravin & Dr. Marina Bravin
Dr. & Mrs. Edward F. Daniels, Jr.
Mrs. Mary Godley
Mrs. Gemma Hall
Mr. & Mrs. Gates Helms Hawn
Dr. & Mrs. Marc E. Heller
Mr. & Mrs. Bruno Hofmann
Mr. Gunleif Jacobsen & Mr. Thomas Simpson
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. Langhorne Keith
Mr. Frank L. Kolbert & Mr. Frank Farmer
Ms. Barbara Mulhern
Dr. & Mrs. Earle N. Peterson
Mr. Ed Rowley
Mr. Dietrich Snell & Ms. Nina Dastur
Mr. & Mrs. Rick A. Spaulding
Mr. & Mrs. Dan Sullivan
Mr. & Mrs. Albert K. Weiss
Mr. Caleb Wertenbaker
Ms. Martha Yager
Mrs. Constance Young & Mr. Kenneth Richards
Ms. Marianne Younkheere

\$500-\$999

Ms. Kathryn C. Allen
Mr. Andrew Baugnet & Mrs. Martha Frey
Ms. Susan Burdsall
Mr. Stephen H. Burrington & Ms. Abigail A. Swaine
Mr. & Mrs. James T. Curtis
Mr. & Mrs. Theodore P. Feury
Ms. Liz Harvey
Dr. & Mrs. Emery C. Herman, Jr.
Mrs. Marjorie Kellogg
Mr. Peter Regan & Mrs. Aviva Schneider
Mrs. Alice Richardson
Ms. Lee Stockwell
Dr. & Mrs. Gilbert T. Vincent
Mr. W. Keyes & Mrs. Allison Hill-Edgar
Mr. Steven Zerby & Mrs. Joanne Tobey

\$250-\$499

Anonymous
Mr. & Mrs. Kent L. Barwick
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Batista
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Blatchford
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew M. Blum
Mr. & Mrs. John Carnahan
Mr. & Mrs. H. Barton Clapsaddle
Mr. & Mrs. H. G. Dillingham
Ms. Paula DiPerna
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Ms. Jane Adsit
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Ms. Louise Allen
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Bader
Ms. Patricia Barlow
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph F. Barone
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Ms. Carol Beechy & Ms. Katie Boardman
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Bennett
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Mr. & Mrs. Richard J. Blabey
Mr. Russell Bland, C.P.A.
Mr. & Mrs. David T. Bliss
Mr. Peter Bowers
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley H. Brooks, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Clifford P. Brunner
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Buckingham
Mr. K. W. Bunn
Butternut Valley Garden Club
Ms. Barbara Byington

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Mr. William Carbine
Ms. Gerianne Carillo & Ms. Marion Mossman
Dr. & Mrs. Rodman D. Carter
Mr. & Mrs. Bradley Child
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Coleman
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Conklin
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Consigli
Ms. Yvonne M. Cornell
Ms. Jane Couch
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Rev. & Mrs. James Crouthamel
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Crowell
Ms. Joanne Darcy Crum
Dr. Nicholas Cunningham
Ms. Barbara J. Curran
Mr. & Mrs. Niles Curtis
Dr. & Mrs. James T. Dalton
Mr. & Mrs. Philip E. Davis
Dr. John S. Davis
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Dean
Ms. Winola Denny-Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Johannes DeWaal
Dr. & Mrs. Robert M. Dewell
Dr. & Mrs. Patrick A. Dietz
Mr. Noel H. Dries
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Foundations

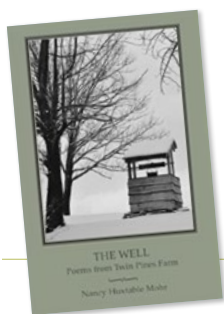
C.J. Heilig Foundation, Inc.
Nicklas Family Foundation
Robert & Esther Black Family Foundation Fund
Scriven Foundation
Tianaderrah Foundation

Grantors

Anonymous
Land Trust Alliance
New York Council of Non-Profits
United States Fish and Wildlife Service
Peterson Family Charitable Trust

Green Lodging Partnership Program

Inn at Cooperstown
Landmark Inn
Owl's Landing Bed & Breakfast
Rose and Thistle Bed & Breakfast



Author Nancy Huxtable Mohr is donating all proceeds of her book, *The Well, Poems from Twin Pines Farm*, to OLT! Mohr draws inspiration from her own childhood experiences on the 200-year old farm in Upstate NY, and from ancestral documents and correspondence found in a pine trunk. Purchase your copy on Amazon today!!



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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MANAGER

Front cover photograph ©Patricia Jessup

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, NY 13326



join us...

THURS., JUNE 21

Summer Solstice Sunset Stroll

Fetterley Forest
302 Roses Hill Road
Richfield Springs • 7-9pm

SAT., JUNE 30

Fireworks Over Otsego Lake

Brookwood Point
6000 State Route 80
Cooperstown • 7pm-Dusk

MON. & TUES., JULY 2-3

Volunteer Tree Wrapping

Brookwood Point
6000 State Route 80
Cooperstown • 9am-5pm

WED., JULY 4

4th of July Parade

Smith Road
Springfield Center • 10am

Have an idea for an event?

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

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



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