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YOU'RE INVITED TO THESE UPCOMING EVENTS!

GENESEE RIVER MILE-A-MONTH WALK

Saturday, September 11, 2021

10am, Genesee Gateway Park, Rochester. Walk the Genesee River one mile at a time with the Genesee River Alliance. Check our website for monthly walk schedule.

PAINTING THE OPEN LAND

Saturday, September 25, 2021

All day, Cornwall Preserve, Williamson. Sign up as an artist to paint the beauty of Cornwall Preserve or stop by between 7am-7pm to enjoy the property and admire the art.

We invite you to sign up for our Enews on geneseelandtrust.org to receive event updates as well as conservation news and stories.



Don't forget to follow us on social media for more news!



THE PRESERVE

A PUBLICATION OF GENESEE LAND TRUST



SUMMER 2021

WELKER WOODS: NEIGHBORS COMMITTED TO CONSERVATION

TOMORROW'S CONSERVATION LEADERS

GETTING TO KNOW THE MIGHTY GENESEE



WELKER WOODS: NEIGHBORS COMMITTED TO CONSERVATION

ORIGIN OF WELKER WOODS

Ann and Floyd shared a love for the outdoors and wished for a simpler life. So with their three children under age ten and a Jersey cow, they moved one mile south from Lake Road to set up an organic farmstead on Boston Road in Ontario. There they could enjoy their garden and animals (a dozen chickens and thoroughbred mare along with the cow) and have the freedom to explore the woods behind the house.

“When we learned how Genesee Land Trust worked with our neighbor Janet Smith to create a conservation easement protecting valuable woodland habitat, Ann and I were very interested,” said Floyd Welker.

For many years their children Jamie, MeiMei, and Christina helped with chores and roamed the countryside. Ann co-led campouts in the woods with Girl Scout Brownie troops. The woods provided a quiet respite from the outside noise and a chance to learn about and appreciate the beauty and uniqueness of the area. Beyond family picnics and campouts were calling owls, turkey, fox, and singing birds as well as stone walls built years ago that serve as reminders of historic farms.

In the 40 years Ann and Floyd have lived on Boston Road, the number of houses has grown tremendously, making it difficult – or impossible – to create habitats large and varied enough to provide safe homes for wildlife. Disconnecting habitats with yards and roads makes it challenging for wildlife to feel safe and adapt to new conditions like a changing climate.

Welker Woods have been under the long and loving care of Ann and Floyd. Their generous gift of a conservation easement helps to protect their woods as wildlife habitat and a place of quiet meditation for future generations.



GETTING TO KNOW THE MIGHTY GENESEE

Looking back to before I became the Genesee River Alliance Coordinator at Genesee Land Trust, I realize how little thought I had given to the Genesee River other than how to cross to the other side. This was a bit of a reckoning for me since I had grown up in Elmira near the Chemung River, which was an important part of my childhood – a place to swim, fish, canoe, and enjoy nature all along its edge.

LIKE AN OLD FRIEND NOW

The river beckons to me now from every quadrant of the city – with scenic views, majestic waterfalls, easy bike rides, and challenging walks. Along the river, there is significant history, including long-forgotten Underground Railroad stops and exciting opportunities to create a new vision for the river’s future.

Challenges persist, and the Genesee River Alliance is focusing on promoting and advocating to meet them. The Alliance imagines a Genesee Riverway Trail as a world-class trail system:

- Bridging the gap in the Trail between El Camino neighborhood and High Falls over an awe-inspiring trestle
- Developing an off-road trail along the east side of the river to Lake Ontario
- Improving connections to the Empire Trail and the Genesee Valley Greenway Trail

Helen



We are interested in your thoughts regarding the river. You can help by taking the survey at geneseeandtrust.org/genesee-river-alliance-survey or use your smartphone to follow the QR code via your camera app. Please share with anyone you know who lives near or cares about the Genesee River.

If you are interested in volunteering with the Alliance, please contact Helen Dumas at hdumas@geneseeandtrust.org.





IN THE WORDS OF A FARMER – MARILYN DEMEYER

Genesee Land Trust was recently awarded New York State Farmland Protection Grants to purchase the development rights of the DeMeyer Family Farms in Parma along with four other local farms: Field Craft Farm, Packard Cattle Farm, Mumford Dairy and Meat, and Gerlock Farm. In February, Marilyn shared her thoughts on her family, their farm, and farmland preservation at the Farmer Appreciation Virtual Breakfast hosted by the Alliance for New York's Farmland.



"I'm proud that both of my children inherited the love of farming, and I'm really honored that my son and I are now business partners."

"We plan to use the money from the sale of our own land's development rights to put toward the purchase of the (neighboring) Adams farm. Our operation will be more sustainable, and 300 more acres of prime land will be permanently protected."

- Marilyn DeMeyer



WELKER WOODS CONTINUED: AMY'S PONDS AND 100 ACRE WOOD

A LONG TIME COMING

After Janet Buchanan Smith conserved her land in 1993, forever keeping it home for wildlife, she invited neighbors to an open house for a celebration, walk of the land, and introduction to Genesee Land Trust. Among the guests that day were her backyard neighbors, Ann and Floyd Welker, who shared Janet's passion for their neighboring land.

"I felt so strongly that this special land is really for the animals, not for houses," says Janet. Now, she muses, "I am so excited and grateful that Ann and Floyd have protected their woods right next door."

On that day back in the early 1990s, Ann shared that she and Floyd were excited to hear that there was a way to protect their treasured woods with Genesee Land Trust.

Ann and Floyd have recently accomplished their dream. Adding Welker Woods to the wildlife habitat protected by Janet expands a vitally important habitat for spring and fall migrating birds and resident wildlife. If you're interested in conserving your land, we are happy to talk with you to explore options. Please reach out to Gay Mills at gmills@geneseeandtrust.org.

CREATURE FEATURE: BLACKBURNIAN WARBLERS

Most Blackburnian warblers seen in the spring are migrating north to Canadian forests, far from their wintering habitats, including coffee plantations, in Central and South American mountains. Migrating Blackburnian warblers are most often found high in the trees in wooded areas. They may also be discovered in the tall evergreen trees in cemeteries.

The flashy male Blackburnian warbler is easily recognized by its orange throat and striking markings if you can catch a glimpse high overhead.





A LEGACY CONTINUES

Peter Lyman may be known in the Rochester community for coaching winning teams of tennis at University of Rochester, but his legacy also includes a love of nature and support of land conservation.

In 2000, after Peter learned of the protection of Corbett's Glen, he reached out to Genesee Land Trust to conserve five acres of his land in Penfield. That may not seem like a lot, but every piece of habitat can make a difference for wildlife. The long wooded parcel of land makes a natural connection between Allen's Creek and the protected fields of Gentile's Farm and the woods of Ellison Park.

Before Peter passed away, he had explained, "I like to hear the birds sing. Nature is a great thing. The Earth belongs to wildlife too. Let the animals enjoy the place." Deer, turkey, fox, raccoons, and songbirds frequent the property, land that will stay protected forever.

A HOUSE FOR WILDLIFE

To ensure that Genesee Land Trust's promise to protect his special land and to conserve more like it would continue long after he was gone, Peter left his house to Genesee Land Trust in his will. This spring, the house that Peter lived in and from where he enjoyed his prized ginkgo tree and a backyard full of wildlife was sold.

Peter's special bequest of his house helps to carry forward his commitment to wildlife and is a gift greatly appreciated.

Leaving Genesee Land Trust your house or other property in your will is a wonderful way to support conservation long into the future.



TOMORROW'S CONSERVATION LEADERS

Like many plans during the pandemic, Rochester Institute of Technology's week-long spring break and Alternate Break environmental service trip were canceled. Instead, a team of students spent a weekend volunteering at Cornwall Preserve and the Thomas R. Frey Trail at El Camino. The group's enthusiasm and efforts made a big difference.

Spring spruce-up work included picking up debris around Cornwall Preserve's Meadow Trail and Lake Ontario shoreline and also along El Camino. The team also built temporary footbridges in extra-muddy spots.

BEYOND THE BREAK

The following weekend the team returned to haul out 40 tires that had been dumped in the old gravel pit at Cornwall Preserve. According to student Ryan Brown, "It was honestly an incredible experience getting to work with Genesee Land Trust on some of our personal time. We were happy to help."

"We are so thankful the students spent their spring break with us on Lake Ontario this year," said Land Stewardship Director Kevin Farrell. "Cornwall Preserve is off to a great season."

Looking for a group volunteer project? Reach out to Kevin at kfarrell@geneseeandtrust.org.

