



VOL. 21 NO. 1 SPRING 2021

The Thousand Islands Land Trust Reflections

PO Box 238 . 135 John Street . Clayton, New York 13624 (315) 686-5345 . www.tilandtrust.org

Land Trust Alliance Backs TILT *Supports Conservation Efforts within the Frontenac Arch*



For over two decades, the TILT has been focusing on land and water preservation in the Crooked Creek watershed between Alexandria Bay and Chippewa Bay; one of the Thousand Islands' most ecologically important landscapes. From the miles of scenic footpaths on the Macsherry Trail, to the rolling grasslands of TILT's Butterfield Marsh property, the Crooked Creek Preserve now exceeds 2,100 acres of connected

open space. This region is home to the wading herons, busy beavers, dabbling ducks and other wildlife that we commonly associate with the St. Lawrence, but it also provides shelter and food for wider-roaming animals such as bobcats and fisher.

In recent years, the organization has established a new focus on conserving lands along the Frontenac Arch wildway, also known as the Algonquin to Adirondack

(A2A) corridor. The narrowest point of this wildlife highway overlaps with TILT's Crooked Creek Preserve.

In an effort to safeguard diversity of the critters of the Crooked Creek Preserve and beyond, TILT recently acquired over 500± acres adjacent to the South Hammond State Forest, establishing the foundation for a bridge of protected

continued on page 3



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Joshua Truman Joins Board of Trustees

We welcome Josh Truman to TILT’s Board of Trustees. Josh brings over 14 years of experience in fundraising and development and currently serves as the Regional Advancement Director for Colgate University, where he is responsible for engaging a portfolio of Alumni and Parents in eight regions of the United States.

Prior to his current role, Josh served as the Director of Development of the United States Golf Association. He also served as the Director of Development, and then as the Executive Director of the Friends of Bassett Healthcare Network in Cooperstown. Before that, he served as the Major Gift Officer for Hartwick College in Oneonta, where he maintained relationships with over 100 alumni and oversaw a major gifts budget and event coordination.

Josh has lifelong ties to the River, and has a family cottage on Carleton where he spends his summer and autumn seasons. Like his Labrador retriever, one of Josh’s favorite passions is putting out decoys each duck season. Josh also enjoys fishing, photography, kayaking, and sailing on the River.



Josh Truman

“I am thrilled and honored to be joining the Thousand Islands Land Trust Board. It is inspiring to see the positive impact that TILT is having on the Thousand Islands region,” explains Josh. “I am excited to be a part of an organization that promotes the ability for anyone to protect, conserve, and enjoy the River.”

“Josh is a terrific addition to our Board,” states Greg McLean, TILT’s President. “His expertise and love of the River lend themselves very well to furthering TILT’s conservation mission. We very much look forward to working with Josh.”

THOUSAND ISLANDS LAND TRUST'S

2021 RAFFLE

Hand-carved by Glenn Sweet of
Thousand Islands Decoy Company
Walleye and Perch carving made from
butternut with a stained mahogany base

Tickets: \$5 each or Five for \$20

Funds raised will support the essential
stewardship and conservation of the
wetlands and tributaries in the Thousand Islands

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Drawing on August 27, 2021 **GOOD LUCK!**





Marten are shy and solitary animals, but their tracks can often be found crossing the Macsherry Trail on the Crooked Creek Preserve. photo by Erwin and Peggy Bauer

Land Trust Alliance

lands between the Crooked Creek Preserve and the remote forests and wetlands of the Indian River Lakes region and foothills of the Adirondacks. The goal: a fully-connected and protected corridor that will serve as a wildlife highway in perpetuity. With this landscape-scale conservation in place, the ruffed grouse from Redwood can migrate along the St. Lawrence, the grey fox will have somewhere to safely wander their six miles per day, and the black bear their ten.

Just before the Holiday Season, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation announced that the TILT would be awarded funding for land conservation projects within the Frontenac Arch wildway. The grant award will provide TILT approximately \$37,000 to assist with due-diligence expenses associated with these land acquisitions. These items include boundary marking, baseline documentation, appraisals, land surveys, geological assessments, and other related expenses associated with TILT's acquisitions. As an Accredited Land Trust, taking these important steps, ensures that TILT is abiding by the guidelines of legal, ethical and responsible

continued from page 1

land conservation as detailed by the Land Trust Alliance's Standards and Practices.

"The Crooked Creek and Indian River Lakes regions are tied together here," said Jake Tibbles, TILT's Executive Director, stating that there's currently a band of intact forest spanning these two wildlife strongholds. "We're working to protect this area between the Thousand Islands and Indian River Lakes to make sure that these natural areas remain permanently wild, preventing population isolation. We're letting nature take its course, and we are grateful for the Conservation Partnership Program's

support of this initiative.'

In addition to protecting the 500± acres adjacent to the South Hammond State Forest, this past summer, TILT was able to acquire 207 acres adjacent to TILT's Crooked Creek Preserve. Consisting of pristine forest, wetland, grassland and open-water habitats, the lands further expand the protection in the Frontenac Arch wildway.

These new conservation lands, which are identified as being climate change resilient, were listed on the open market. They include over 2 miles of creek frontage and over 2 miles of road frontage along Route 1, 111, and 37. With support from the Conservation Partnership Program and Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, TILT was able to act quickly to prevent the imminent risk of habitat fragmentation that would result from these properties being developed.

"We were able to be nimble and embrace this once-in-a-lifetime land protection opportunity in the heart of the Algonquin to Adirondack corridor," said Spencer Busler, TILT's Assistant Director. "If you are a wildlife enthusiast these natural areas will not disappoint, from herons to harriers to turtles to turkeys."



Members of TILT's Easement and Property Acquisitions Committee had the chance to tour the newly acquired Runkles and Wilton Properties in Fall 2020.

Tributes

September 25, 2020 - April 16, 2021

In memory of Randy Arnot

Bowie & Susan Arnot

In memory of Shaner Graham

Atkinson

John G. Foster

In memory of Barbara Babowicz

Rodney Babowicz

In memory of Stan Bach

Linda Bach

In memory of Nancy K. Breslin

Mary Hannah Arnot

Jake Tibbles

In memory of Wesley Bourcy

Keith Aubertine, Hill

High Excavation

In memory of Aunt Mary Bowman

Amy Loya

In memory of M. Patricia Campbell

Drs. John Campbell & Heidi Crow

In memory of Macdonald Clark

Judy Clark

In memory of Frank Cole

Karen & Bruce Harrison

Jake Tibbles

In memory of Walter Corbellini

The Mead Family

In memory of George & Mary Cox

George Cox

In memory of Sissy & Bill Danforth

Dick & Charlotte Brooks

John & Candace Marsellus

*In memory of Sissy Danforth for
the Rivergate Trestle Project*

Donna Dundon & Myrna Carter

Dana & David Haymes

Damon & Susan Kenyon

Ken & Judy Owen

Josh Truman

In memory of Terry Davenport

Amy & Todd Davenport

In memory of Ken Deedy

Steve & Vici Diehl

Dan Dolan

Joe & Millie Savarese

Emmy Sorth

Jake Tibbles

In memory of

Dr. Anne K. Del Borgo

Nancy Del Borgo

In memory of Maria Del Carmen

Vargas de Lizarazo

Sandra McMullen

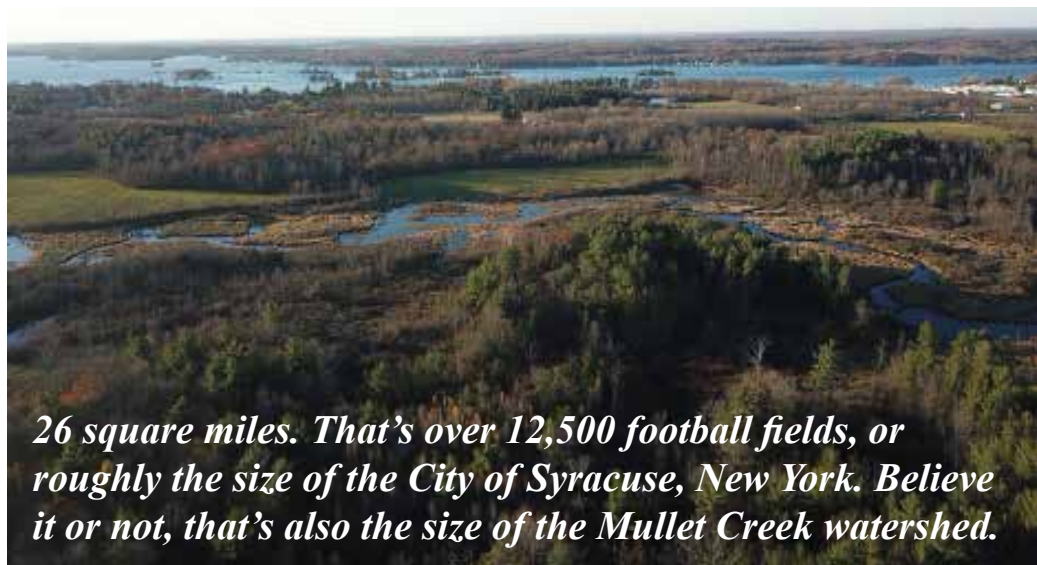
In memory of the

Dodenhoff Family

Susan & Howard Charbonneau

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Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Funds Watershed Conservation



26 square miles. That's over 12,500 football fields, or roughly the size of the City of Syracuse, New York. Believe it or not, that's also the size of the Mullet Creek watershed.

Mullet Creek, foreground, with the St. Lawrence in background and Fishers Landing at right.

Yes, it is that Mullet Creek in Fisher's Landing, that's only as wide as a school bus is long. Don't blink when driving over the Mullet Creek bridge on Route 12; you'll miss the meandering stream entirely!

With its watershed sprawling into the Towns of Clayton, Orleans and Alexandria, it's baffling to think that the rain, snow, ground and surface waters from this expansive area funnel down to a single creek channel that a long-jumper could clear.

Remarkably, the Mullet Creek watershed encompasses nearly the same surface area as the Crooked Creek and French Creek watersheds combined! And even more astounding is that 45% of Mullet's watershed remains forested with only about 6% having been developed. This means that the waters that currently feed the St. Lawrence from this small-but-mighty tributary remain relatively clean and safe for all to enjoy.

This also presents itself as an opportunity for timely

conservation; a chance to strategically protect the lands that keep our water and wildlife safe before they become degraded. And now that's precisely what TILT's conservation program endeavors to do.

In 2020, TILT was awarded a grant through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to kick off the Mullet Creek Conservation Initiative. The federal funding is to be used for the conservation of lands adjacent to Mullet Creek, ultimately providing a buffer between the creek and its adjoining upland uses.



Green Heron live and nest around small bodies of water and densely vegetated areas along the tributaries of the St. Lawrence River.

photo by Bill Munro



Mullet Creek, foreground, with the St. Lawrence in background and Fishers Landing at right.

This spring, TILT launched the initiative with the purchase of the 33-acre Weisberg property on Route 180 in Omar. With over 18-acres of federally designated wetlands and several hundred feet of creek frontage, the Weisberg property acts as sponge to clean and hold water. The property is primarily in early-successional shrubland, meaning it's rich with diverse biota from songbirds to salamanders.

TILT is hopeful that the Weisberg acquisition is the first of many in the Mullet Creek region.

Tributes - cont.

In memory of Ralph Downey
Charles & Orinda Heck

In memory of Ted Fitter
Tom & Robyn Davison
Lisa Dunn

Betsy Fitter & Roxane Pratten
Roxane Pratten
Jake Tibbles
Roy & Peggy White

In memory of Rett Foster
Judy Foster & John Glick

In memory of Leonard Fratello
John & Marlene Beyers

In memory of Dick Fulton
Michael Fulton

In memory of Jamie Gaffney
Kathleen Gaffney

In memory of Claire Gefell
Henry Nichols

In memory of Michael Geiss
Edward & Margaret Blackmer
Karen Blum
Benjamin & Anne Geiss

In memory of Marilyn & Larry Gould
Michael & Alison Carter

In memory of Lyle Green
Barbara Green
Donald Green

In memory of John Haley
Richard & Kathryn Gamble

In memory of Ed Hall
Nancy Garnsey

In memory of Mamie & Charlie Heath
Kristy & Peter Carey

In memory of Richard Heck
Charles & Orinda Heck

In memory of Matthew D. Heineman
Bay House Artisans
Chris Brennen

Jane Carver & Ron Cooper
Bob & Lydia Cassna
Tom & Robyn Davison
Dee Fuller

Jereme Holiman
Carol Kostik
John Levy

Mary & Ted Mascott
Carole McLemore
Carol & Dick Munro
Katherine Semelserger
Jake Tibbles
Marty Yenawine

In memory of Patti Hendler
Jim Hendler

In memory of Lee Hirschey
Claire Cox

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Salisbury Property



Delaney Bay Marsh

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding was also awarded to TILT last autumn for the purchase of two properties on the foot of Grindstone Island. TILT acquired the 13-acre Salisbury property and the 62-acre Moynihan property in October and December, respectively. Both properties contain pockets of emergent wetlands and majestic hardwood forests that are valuable breeding habitats neotropical migratory songbirds, waterfowl and shorebirds alike. These acquisitions mean that TILT now conserves over 2,500-acres on Grindstone, helping preserve the wild and remote character of this unique and cherished island.

Tributes - cont.

In memory of James Hungerford

David & Lynda Hungerford

In honor of Judy & Jim Kiernan

Kate Kiernan

*In memory of
Christopher M. Kline*

Anne & Chris Kline

*In memory of Lily
(best River Dog Ever!)*

Robin Lane

*In honor of Arthur Mack &
Mary Jo Champion*

Leslie Cobb

Tracie Tucci

*In honor of
Molly & Darden MacWade*

Stewart Macsherry & Beth Rumble

Jake Tibbles

*In memory of
Herb & Rosemary Mossien*

Carol & Dan Mossien

In memory of John Murray

Jean Murray

*In memory of
Donald & Joan Nickason*

Constance Peters

In memory of EP

Angela & Rick Corcimiglia

Lori Pacific

Linda Bach

In memory of Joan Perconti

Michael Cooke

In memory of Clarence Petty

Peter O'Shea

In memory of David Quarrier

Sidney Manes

Sid Quarrier & Eliza Bailey

Richard & Elizabeth Wright

In memory of Betsy Ravenel

Mary Hannah Arnot

In memory of Karen Inglese Rice

Lois & Sam Giamber

In memory of

Walter, Louise & Jane Ann Rice

Florence Lewis Rice & Leroy

Lewis

In memory of Mary Ellen Rogers

James Barden

In memory of

Madolyn & Leonard Root

Philip & Roxanne Pratt

In memory of

Frances & Peter Rossmassler

William & Wendy Rossmassler

In honor of Joan &

in memory of Fred Rueckert

Bill & Fleur Rueckert

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Become a Friend of the Thousand Islands Biological Station!

Did you know SUNY ESF has a field station on Governors Island, Clayton, bustling with activity dedicated to enhancing the River's fisheries? It's called the Thousand Islands Biological Station (TIBS) and is an important part of the River com-

munity with its long-term research, management, restoration, and education programs.

TILT and TIBS have a long-standing partnership. Each year, TILT and TIBS team up to deliver a suite of wetland restoration and monitoring projects, along with environmental education programming. Most recently, TILT worked with TIBS and Ducks Unlimited to restore the Blind Bay Wetlands Complex, supporting our local fisheries, waterfowl and a variety of other species. In the future, we hope to bring back one of our favorite KidsTreks, Ichthyologist For A Day. For this KidsTrek, TILT and TIBS



TIBS Director Dr. John Farrell and post-doctoral fellow Dr. John Paul Leblanc show local students about fish that live in the River as part of an outreach program in the wet lab.

provide a one-of-a-kind experience to local youngsters, who learn what it is like to be fish scientist.

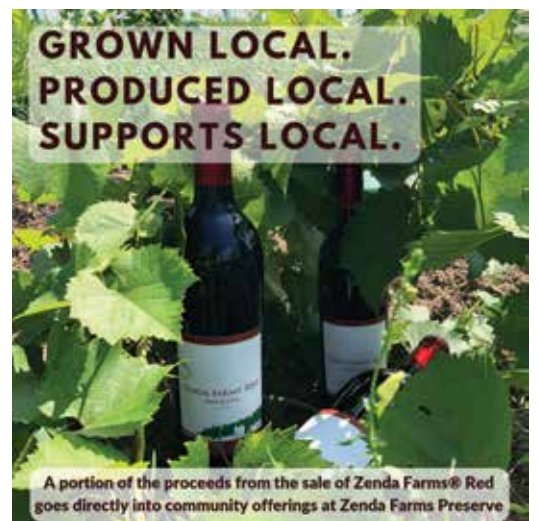
We are excited to share with our readers that the Thousand Islands Biological Station has announced the launch of a new outreach program, "Friends of TIBS," to better connect to the River community through regular communication about its science and the environmental problems TIBS and its conservation partners are working to solve.

Learn more about how to become a Friend of TIBS and get access to our first online newsletter: <https://www.esf.edu/tibs/support-tibs.htm>

Drink a Toast!

TILT has partnered with Coyote Moon Vineyards to establish a model vineyard at Zenda Farms Preserve and to produce two "Zenda Farms" wines that directly benefit programming and expansion at the Preserve.

This partnership is emblematic of Zenda's commitment to showcase responsible agricultural practices and land stewardship.



Happy Adventuring, Alaina!



TILT Staff (l.-r.): Brandon Hollis, Shannon Walter, Jake Tibbles, Kate Breheny, Spencer Busler, Terra Bach

It was at the end of April that we said our final goodbyes and farewells to our dear friend and colleague, Alaina Young. For the past three years Alaina held the position of Education & Outreach Coordinator at the Land Trust.

In 2018, Alaina first set her compass due north and we couldn't have been happier. It was her enthusiasm for adventure, her positive attitude and curiosity for learning that guided her

to the St. Lawrence River.

Now in 2021 she's on to her next grand adventure with her fiancé Aaron and Corgi puppy Frankie at her side, this time reorienting her compass due west, way west, to Seattle! And we have no doubt that Alaina will discover new friends amongst the tidepools, estuaries, mountain tops and rainforests of the Puget Sound.

So, goodbye for now, Alaina. While we are losing a wonderful member of our team, each and every one of us has gained an incredible friend and advocate for land conservation.

We wish you the best in this next exciting chapter.

Fondly,
*Jake, Spencer, Terra,
Brandon, Kate &
Shannon*



TILT Staff in 2019

Tributes - cont.

*In memory of
Gary & Vera Rushmer
Elizabeth Tolla*

*In memory of Patricia Schwarz
Ken Schwarz & Linda Watson*

*In honor of Jim Scott
Meredith Scott*

*In honor of Harry Slate
Camilla Smith & Martin Kenner*

*In memory of David K. Smith
Sue Smith*

*In memory of Riggs Smith
Nan Smith*

*In memory of Emmy Sorth
Sigrid Campbell
Cerow Agency
Tracey Childers
Frank & Kathi Downie
Rick & Janet Gregware
The Mead Family
Phyllis Schwartz
Jake Tibbles
Joan & Skip Tolette*

*In memory of Stephen Storie
Wayne & Lana Storie*

*In memory of Williams Streets
Marilyn Kime*

*In memory of Lois Swick
Laurie & Dave Fontaine*

*In memory of
Don & Phoebe Tritton
Bob & Brooke Runo*

*In honor of Josh Truman
Robin Lane*

*In memory of Lisa Van Zandt
Tom Isaia*

*Lori & Dean Neumann
Marjory Ball Williams*

*In memory of Aaron Vogel
Charlann Tranella*

*In memory of
Francis & Shirley Wagner
for the Rivergate Trail Project
Jane Wagner & Richard Lasky
Mabel Walker
Rande Richardson
Jake Tibbles*

*In memory of Ted Weisberg
James & Jacqualine Costello*

*In honor of Susie Wood
Mark & Louise Scarlett*

Restoring Blind Bay

A Project for our Local Fisheries & Wildlife

This past winter, Ducks Unlimited, the Chippewa Point Road Association and Thousand Islands Land Trust (TILT) partnered to deliver another wetland restoration project along the St. Lawrence River. The restoration efforts in the Blind Bay Wetlands mirrors the work TILT has completed in partnership with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service on the Barnett Marsh Property, Wellesley Island and the Crooked Creek Preserve, Goose Bay. The project was funded by a federal grant, North American Wetland Conservation Act Grant, and matching funds from over 20 local partners.

The Blind Bay Wetlands Complex is a coastal marsh, connecting Blind Bay and Sand Bay at the northern tip of Chippewa Bay; the largest coastal shallow water

ecosystem in St. Lawrence County and designated by the state as a significant coastal fish and wildlife habitat. In addition to being known for its highly productive fisheries, Chippewa Bay is used by high concentrations of waterfowl, including mallard, blue-winged teal, American black duck, gadwall, redhead, scaup and canvasback for feeding and resting during spring and fall migrations.

“Human disturbance, including construction of the Chippewa Point causeway, coupled with system-wide hydrologic regulation has dramatically altered the vegetation composition, open water and water flow throughout the wetlands,” explained John Farrell, Director of the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY-

ESF) Thousand Islands Biological Station (TIBS), Governors Island. “Like many coastal marshes along the St. Lawrence River, Blind Bay has been dominated by an invasive hybrid cattail, which exists as a dense monotypic stand, obstructing natural water flow, crowding out native vegetation species and providing poor habitat conditions for native fish and wildlife.”

Ed Farley, New York Regional Biologist for Ducks Unlimited stated “These cattails form thick mats that provide little benefit to wetland-dependent wildlife. In an effort to restore fish spawning and waterfowl nesting habitat, restoration crews are excavating channels and pools in the dense cattail mats. DU has implemented this type of work throughout the Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River coastline, and



The newly excavated channels and potholes improve the ecology and hydrology of the coastal wetland.



The causeway across the marsh prevented the historic water flow through the marsh, and allowed cattails to fill in.

after restoration we observe positive responses from a diversity of wetland birds, fish, and plants, as well as, new access for fishing, birding and kayaking.”

The restoration work enhanced over 25 acres of emergent marsh. The work included a series of excavated, interconnected potholes and channels in the dense cattail mat and culvert replacement to restore water flow. Open water interspersed throughout the

emergent vegetation is preferred by many wetland birds and required for brood rearing and foraging habitat. These methods have been successfully implemented elsewhere on the St. Lawrence River, including French Creek, Point Vivian, Cranberry Creek Goose Bay and Chippewa Creek. Preliminary results indicate improved ecological conditions that promote native fish reproduction. Farrell states, “based on samples from similar

projects, over 390,000 fish of 44 native species were produced including over 5,000 young northern pike in habitats that did not previously exist.” Pre- and post-restoration monitoring will be conducted by scientists at TIBS.

The Blind Bay Wetland Restoration Project and others carried out in the Thousand Islands have been identified through the Fish Habitat Conservation Strategy, a partnership developed by SUNY ESF and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to enhance fish populations. Contributing partners include New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service, Ducks Unlimited and TILT.



Culverts were installed under the causeway.

“The Blind Bay Wetlands Restoration Project is yet another example of TILT and its conservation partners working with private landowners and community and government leaders to conserve wildlife, water and air quality, and the region’s important environmental features,” said Jake Tibbles, TILT’s Executive Director. “TILT and its partners endeavor to strengthen private and public interests in land as a means to enhance the quality of life and to stimulate human appreciation, scientific research and education regarding the importance of natural ecosystems and environmental sustainability.”



Invasive hybrid cattails overwhelmed the marshes between Sand Bay and Blind Bay.

TILT Awarded Conservation Partnership Funding for McCarn Creek Trestle Bridge Renovations



McCarn Creek meanders under the historic trestle bridge eventually feeding the St. Lawrence in nearby French Creek.

The years of abandonment are all-too obvious. Decaying timbers, moss-covered concrete and rusty fasteners show the antiquity of the McCarn Creek trestle bridge in the Town of Clayton. Currently fenced off to the public, the 160-foot-long and 60-foot high railroad bridge on the Thousand Islands Land Trust's S. Gerald Ingerson Preserve (part of the Sissy Danforth Rivergate Trail) is unfit for crossing due to its waning condition. Though sturdy at the foundation, the bridge's wooden components haven't held up to the test of time. This means that outdoor recreationalists must walk under the bridge to cross the McCarn Creek in order to traverse the Rivergate Trail between Lafargeville and Clayton, carrying

onward with wet feet!

After a half-century of sitting idle, TILT endeavors to bring functionality and safety back to this impressive structure by creating an interconnected rail-trail leading from the Clayton Riverwalk to the bucolic grasslands of Lafargeville. Known to many within the community, the trestle bridge is the keystone and premier attraction of this section of the Rivergate rail-trail. In fact, TILT has initiated a community-based fundraising campaign to see these renovations to completion.

Recognizing the recreational importance of this historic structure, TILT submitted a grant application to the New York State Conservation Partnership Program

(NYSCPP) seeking funding for trestle bridge renovations. The application was submitted in December of 2019. The New York State Conservation Partnership Program is an innovative public-private partnership between the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the Land Trust Alliance's New York Program. The program offers competitive matching grants to qualified New York land trusts to advance land conservation, economic development, farmland protection, community conservation and recreation and tourism.

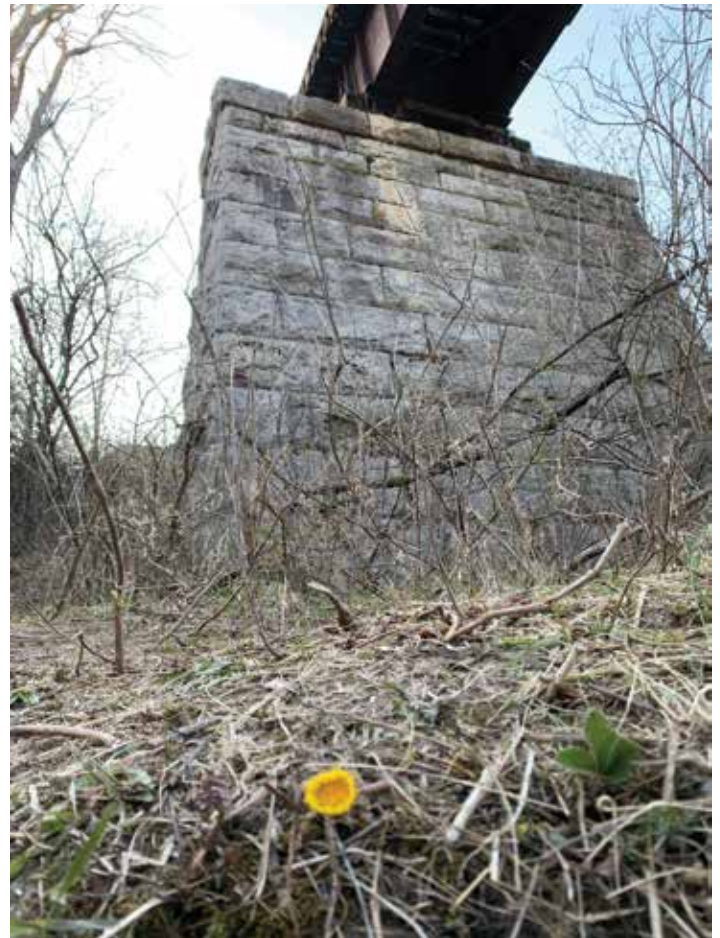
TILT's application was a success! Announced just before the Holiday Season, TILT has been awarded \$50,000 from the

NYSCPP for the proposed trestle bridge upgrades. These upgrades are to include new girder bearings, wood support beams, decking and safety rails.

“We’re incredibly fortunate to operate in a state that recognizes the real values that land trusts, public open spaces, and outdoor recreational opportunities offer to our communities. The Conservation Partnership Program’s funding toward the McCarn Creek trestle bridge is a prime example of this recognition,” said Spencer Busler, assistant director for TILT. “The COVID pandemic has made us all aware of just how important outdoor recreation is. We couldn’t be happier that the Conservation Partnership Program has decided to assist with this project.”

Though the grant application was successful, the NYSCPP funding will only cover about a third of the total renovation costs. TILT is still seeking financial commitments to help with the bridge and trail renovations, with a goal of reaching the fundraising finish-line by June 2021 in order for construction to be completed by the end of summer.

“We’ve had a tremendously positive response from the Thousand Islands community, but we still have a funding shortage and we need your help!” said project proponent and Clayton community member, Dan Throop. “Please consider contributing so that our children and our children’s children have this incredible amenity to enjoy.”



Looking up from McCarn Creek at the trestle bridge



Photo by Anne Fernald

In addition to funds being raised for the renovation of the trestle bridge, a portion of the fundraising goal is dedicated to the long-term maintenance and stewardship of the trail system. Assisting with this effort, the Northern New York Community Foundation has generously committed a \$100,000 matching grant to establish an endowment, ensuring the perpetual stewardship of the trail and trestle.

“The Community Foundation is excited to be working with TILT and the Clayton community to ensure the future for the Rivergate Trail and to help improve the region that we all care so much about,” explained Max Del-Signore, NNYCF Assistant Director.

To learn more about the project or about ways in which you can help, contact Terra Bach, TILT’s Development and Communications Director, at 315-686-5345 or tbach@tilandtrust.org.

Sissy Danforth Rivergate Trail Community Connection Project

Thank you to our Community Supporters!

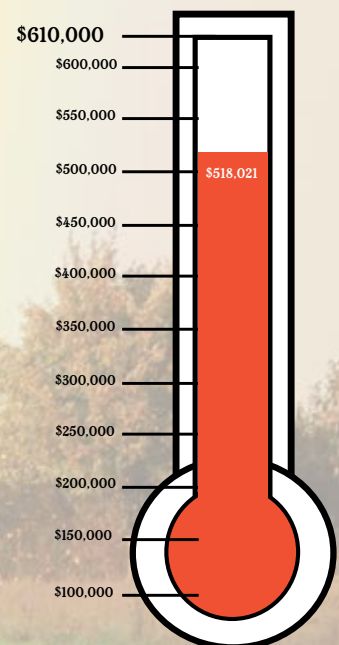
Dan and Luran Throop
Northern New York Community
Foundation
Larry and Diane Kingsley
Benjamin and Anne Geiss
Land Trust Alliance
NYS Parks, Recreation & Historic
Preservation
Eric and Judy Mower
Jeff Burt
Robin and David Lucas
Jim and Peggy Pontious
Sandy Geiss
MaryLou Lechler
Art Mack and Mary Jo Champion
Greg and Cindy McLean
Cyril & Dr. Marlene Hajal Mouaikel
Mike and Amy Phelps
Trey and Barbara Vars
Tom Walker
Chet and Ann Massari
Justin and Deb Taylor
John Tucker
Gaffney Foundation
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Bill Cosgrove
Mike and Gladly Fitzsimmons
Judy Foster and John Glick

Janice and Dan McPhail
Peter and Liz Remington
Elaine Tack
Jake Tibbles and Alicia Dewey
Ken and Judy Owen
John and Kim Farrell
Doug and Dianne Rogers
Twin Trees Foundation
Jane Wagner and Richard Lasky
Kevin and Jane Heffron
Damon and Susan Kenyon
Terra and Freddy Bach
Edward and Margaret Blackmer
Karen Blum
Jane Carver and Ron Cooper
Rick and Janet Gregware
Fred and Linda Jackson
Donna Dundon and Myrna Carter
Josh Truman
The Atkinson Family
Mark and Connie Holberg
Matt and Cindy Sherrill
Marsha Spiridigliozzi
Spencer and Laice Busler
Dana and David Haymes
Jean Kerr and Stewart Dutfield
Kathy Sommer

View from Sissy Danforth Rivergate Trail Clayton, NY
Photo by Sarah Ellen Smith

Together, we can meet ambitious goals to restore a piece of our region's heritage, the historic railroad trestle bridge. Help us meet our Northern New York Community Foundation (NNYCF) matching challenge! Thanks to our wonderful community, we have \$47,778 left to meet our \$100,000 matching challenge goal!

**TOGETHER
WE CAN REACH
OUR COMMUNITY
GOAL TODAY!**



Help to Cross the Trestle Bridge!

“We’ve had a tremendously positive response from the *Thousand Islands community*, but we still have a funding shortage and ***we need your help!***”
- Dan Throop; project ambassador and Clayton community member.

To find out how you can contribute, please contact Terra Bach at 315-686-5345 or tbach@tilandtrust.org today! THANK YOU.

Welcome Shannon!

TILT's New Education & Outreach Coordinator



Shannon Walter has been hired as TILT's new Education & Outreach Coordinator. Shannon is responsible for planning and organizing TILTreks & Events, managing the Kenneth Deedy Environmental Internship Program and the Watercraft Inspection Steward Program, and promoting TILT's critical land conservation mission through marketing and outreach.

Shannon holds a B.A. in Art History from the University of

Maryland and a Master's of Education from Purdue University. With a career in education and the nonprofit sector, Shannon comes to TILT with experience in youth programming and outreach development. Whether serving on local boards or volunteering, Shannon is passionate about balancing the growth of the region with sustainable solutions aimed at protecting our beautiful environment and inspiring a new generation of future stewards.

Originally from Maryland, Shannon has been in Northern New York for over six years. During this time, she advanced in several roles at the Watertown Family YMCA. In addition to building a strong background in education and youth programming, Shannon has gained invaluable experience in grant writing, graphic design, social media management and con-

tent development.

Outside of work, Shannon enjoys gardening, hiking, kayaking and camping. Through her passion for the outdoors, she quickly fell in love with the Thousand Islands and Adirondacks. When not on the River paddling her kayak, Shannon enjoys volunteering for the Black River Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club as one of the Club's trip leaders.

From our initial interactions with Shannon, it was clear that she shared our belief that all educational, recreational, and outreach experiences are beneficial to our community at large because the health and wellness of all River residents is interconnected with our stewardship of the land.

Please join us in welcoming Shannon to the TILT Team! Welcome Shannon! We are absolutely thrilled to have you on board!

#giveNNY 315Day

One Voice for 61 Non-Profits

Thank you to all who generously donated to this year's #giveNNY 315Day campaign. With the support of more than 300 individuals, families and businesses and a matching grant of \$10,000 from the Northern New York Community Foundation, over \$40,000 was raised to support this year's #giveNNY campaign and the 61 participating North Country non-profits. The Thousand Islands Land Trust was proud to be a part of this exciting and community driven campaign.

#give NNY 315Day was a unique event that is part of #giveNNY, the grassroots community-based movement spearheaded by the NNYCF that has united 61 non-profits throughout Jefferson St. Lawrence and Lewis Counties. It helps highlight

the important work accomplished in partnership with donors, and within our communities.

TILT celebrated 315Day on March 15, 2021 with 60 other area non-profits by spreading kindness and awareness around the tri-county region (Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence Counties) Together these non-profits worked in collaboration to celebrate this great community and raise awareness of the incredible work happening among the diverse non profits supporting this region.

Together over \$40,000 was raised thanks to creative and hard work of these non profits and a generous match of \$10,000 from the Northern New York Community Foundation.



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Sept. 25, 2020 - April 16, 2021

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TILT Blog:

Common Ground

Winding through the woods, I looked for a rock marker to let me know where to turn and find my cottage. I had no cell phone service, so this was a mission I had to complete on my own. Making plenty of u-turns and repeating the address to all of the people I passed on this back-roads drive, I finally came upon my new home and my first cliff-side view of the St. Lawrence River. I let out a breath of relief – I made it. Let my new adventure begin.

As a Jersey native, and after spending a couple of years on the NC coast, I knew beach life well. But let me tell you, River life is a totally different ballgame. I quickly came to know



Alaina Young, Education and Outreach Coordinator 2018-21

and love the life of the Thousand Islands, from summers hiking, kayaking, and doing outdoor yoga, to winters slipping around on ice and appreciating the comforting silence that filled the once bustling region. I learned quickly to always keep a shovel in my car, and that the best cure for a restless mind is a nice boat ride on the water.

But better than the natural beauty of this region are the people. Staff, board members, volunteers, partners, and program attendees welcomed me with open arms, eager to share the wonders of the Thousand Islands with me. I was inaugurated as a River Rat, walking across the frozen ice in Clayton and baptized by my first boat ride around the islands.

Before accepting this job, I never could have imagined the opportunities it would afford me. I shared TILT's mission through articles, social media posts, flyers, and e-blasts. I coordinated stewardship projects on the River, like helping to conserve the Common Tern annually on our shoals, readying the Rivergate Trail with cub scouts, and cleaning up Potters Beach.

I had the blessing of working with our cadre of volunteers, who led Treks, organized events, stuffed envelopes,





Alaina at A Day on the Farm KidsTrek



Alaina presents Mutt Strut proceeds to SPCA

took photos, and planted trees. I was able to teach kids about invasive species and migration through day camps and outreach events. I launched our inaugural Watercraft Inspection Stewardship Program, where I had the pleasure of working with our partners at SLELO PRISM to expand our education and initiative beyond our service area to protect water quality throughout the entire region.

I planned fundraisers and worked with the local businesses that make this small community so lively and strong. I was lucky enough to coordinate one of our annual Zenda Community Picnics, seeing kids' freshly painted faces light up as they rode a horse and the smiles of people reacquainting with their River friends and loved ones at the start of a busy summer. With lecture series, girl scout programs, moonlit kayaks, birding expeditions, and a host of creative KidsTreks, I had the pleasure of joining



the strong cohort of nonprofits in the region, banding together to share our mission and build programs that encompass the spirit of community in the Thousand Islands.

While my job required me to teach program attendees about the work TILT does to conserve this region, they all taught me so much in turn about what it means to truly live in the Thousand Islands. The rich history, family legacies, and all aspects of River life. I hope that people learned something from me, but in reality I think I learned far, far more.

And most of all, I was able to spend every day working with the incredible team at TILT, with an office view of the beautiful River I was so lucky to help conserve. I look forward to seeing the multitude of new, inspiring things to come, from projects that I was honored to take part in and ideas that grew from small conversations in the office.

Leaving this job is not something I take lightly, and I do so with a heavy heart and fond memories of my time with TILT. As I move across the country, I will always carry along our shared love of this incredible place. While it is the end of one adventure, it is the beginning of a new one for both myself and TILT. Thank you for giving this Jersey girl a chance – I hope I made you proud!

Alaina Young
Education & Outreach Coordinator

Alaina at Fall Foliage Trek

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 A photograph of two people walking away on a dirt path through a wooded area. The text 'Be a Trailblazer!' is overlaid in a stylized font at the top.

Be a
Trailblazer!

Join our new
Monthly Giving
Program
Information at
www.TILandTrust.org

TILT's Signature Preserves

A Signature Preserve embodies every element of our mission: TILT works to conserve the natural beauty, diverse wildlife habitats, water quality, and outdoor recreation opportunities of the 1000 Islands region, for present and future generations.

TILT has 10 Signature Preserves

1. Grindstone Island Preserves (begun in 1985)
2. Fort Haldimand (1986)
3. Rocks & Shoals (Elisha Camp quitclaim 1990)
4. Wellesley Island Preserve (1995)
5. Rivergate Trail (1996) & Ingerson Preserve (2011)
6. Zenda Farms Preserve (1997)
7. Crooked Creek Preserve (1998)
8. Foster-Blake Woods Preserve (2013)
9. Chippewa Preserve (2013)
10. Otter Creek Preserve (2015)

TILT's 10 Signature Preserves reflect the extraordinary diversity of habitat, wildlife and beauty that make the Thousand Islands region so special. TILT's Signature Preserves and trails are open to the public year-round, dawn to dusk. They provide countless opportunities for outdoor recreation, education and inspiration.

Get outside on one of TILT's Signature Preserves this season and share your photos with us! Tag TILT and use the hashtag #iamthe1000islands and we will feature our favorite photos on our social media pages.



Download our brand new interactive Signature Preserve Rack Card by scanning the QR code with your smartphone camera.



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Conserved in Chippewa Bay

TILT's accomplishments in land conservation and environmental education are made possible by the support of our generous donors. Together, we are conserving the wetlands, water, and wildlife that sustain us. This list represents contributions made between January 1, 2021 and April 16, 2021. We apologize for any errors or omissions and ask that you email corrections to us at kbreheny@TILandTrust.org.

Thank you for your generous and continuing support.

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 Ron & Carol MacDonald
 David & Rosalind MacLean
 Rocco & Roberta Mangano
 Prudence Matthews
 Bill & Carol May
 Bill & Jann McBride
 Tom & Linda McCausland
 John & Judy McCullough
 Gary & Lynn McElfresh
 Carole McLemore
 Carrie McNally & Rick Maechling
 Geoff & Marianne Mead
 Jonathan & Jennifer Mead
 Frank & Ada Menapace
 Lane Menkel & Mike Watt
 William Millar & Velda Hammerbacher
 Haynes Miller
 Mil's Motel
 Steven Mix
 Karen Monna & Joe Thibodeau

Alexandria Bay
 Fineview
 Thousand Island Park
 Clayton
 Princeton, NJ
 Indian Point
 Wellesley Island
 Thousand Island Park
 Round Island
 Carleton Island
 Wellesley Island
 Westminster Park
 Clayton
 Sarasota
 Fineview
 Kirkwood, NY
 New York, NY
 Brooktondale, NY
 Cape Vincent
 Wellesley Island
 Grindstone Island
 Grindstone Island
 Tennis Island
 Hopkins, MN
 Carleton Island
 Dillon Island
 Clinton, NY
 Clayton
 Alexandria Bay
 Grindstone Island
 Rock Ledge
 Blind Bay
 Fishers Landing
 Fort Pierce, FL
 Neenah, WI
 Clayton
 Cuba Bay
 Grenell Island
 Ridgefield, CT
 Wellesley Is.
 Grindstone Island
 Grindstone Island
 Chippewa Bay
 Cedarmere Island
 Carleton
 Murray Isle
 Clayton
 Great Bend, NY
 TI Park

David & Jayne Montrois
 John & Amanda Mrowka
 Jessica Murray & Rob Nassau
 Thomas & Leah Neely
 Deborah & David Neuroth
 John & Darlene Nielsen
 Ryan & Rebecca Northington
 Peter & Gloria O'Brien
 James O'Connor
 Jim & Jane O'Neill
 Dave & Linda Palmer
 Michael Parkes
 Penny Partlow
 Michael & Patti Peck
 LoLita Pfeiffer
 Peter & Laurie Pike
 Gary & Lesa Plantz
 Porch & Paddle*
 Philip & Roxanne Pratt
 Windsor & Kay Price
 Donald G. Price
 Deena Procopio
 Sid Quarrier & Eliza Bailey
 Tammy & John Quinn
 Ro Rabozzi
 Fatima & Everett Rea
 Reinman's Decorating Center
 Margot Rendall & George Gardner
 Doug & Betsy Rendall
 Chris & Joy Rhinebeck
 Robert & Sheila Rice
 Pat Rich
 River Day Spa*
 Riverbay Adventure Inn*
 Rob Rodormer
 Mike Rulison
 Bob & Brooke Runo
 Joe & Robin Russell
 Paul & Barb Sansoucy
 Evelyn Saphier
 Doug Saunders
 Joe & Millie Savarese
 Lisa & David Schenker
 Brian & Phyllis Schirano
 Scott & Lucy Schlueter
 Steven & Marilyn Schroeder
 Jim Scott & Phyllis Rawlins
 Tom & Jeanne Sebastian
 Basil & Rose Seggos
 Susan & Dean Shelato
 Pat & Dory Sheldon
 Larry & Diane Shephard
 Matt & Cindy Sherrill
 Sarah Ellen Smith
 Ken Smith
 Daniel Smith
 Jeanne Roy Snow
 Glenn Snyder
 Whitney Snyder
 Les & Sandra Squire
 Don & Kate Stevenson
 Jeff & Sarah Stopper
 Jack & Lora Stopper
 Wayne & Lana Storie
 Louise Strayer
 Robert & Paula Street
 Debra & Charles Sullivan
 Chelsea Sweetapple & Matt McGee
 Rafferty & Adam Taylor
 John Tenny & Teresa Burnap
 Cathy Teske
 Wendy Textor
 The Clipper Inn*
 Thomas Trash Service*
 Mike & Irene Tibbles
 Jerry & Anna Tidd

Clayton
 Cape Vincent
 Wellesley Island
 Redwood
 Clayton
 Swan Bay
 Haverford, PA
 Chippewa Bay
 Bronx, NY
 Chippewa Bay
 Indian Point
 Thousand Island Park
 Thousand Island Park
 Cape Vincent
 Grindstone Island
 Cape Vincent
 Alexandria Bay
 Clayton
 Redwood
 Thousand Island Park
 Wellesley Island
 Brewerton
 Scow Island
 Wellesley Island
 Oak Point
 Grenadier Island
 Clayton
 St. Helena I
 St. Helena Island
 Grindstone Island
 Deer Head Island
 Murray Isle
 Clayton
 Chippewa Bay
 Wellesley Island
 Kingston, ON
 Island 57c
 Alexandria Bay
 Oak Point
 Hammond
 Washington, DC
 Clayton
 St. Margaret's/Halfway
 Rose Bay
 Fabius, NY
 Fayetteville, NY
 Round Island
 New Hartford, NY
 Fishers Landing
 Ogdensburg
 Wellesley Island
 Lake of the Isles
 Alexandria Bay
 Clayton
 Swift Water Point, Grindstone
 Watertown
 Alexandria Bay
 Alexandria Bay
 Redwood
 Clayton
 Wellesley Island
 Vanderbilt Island
 Vanderbilt Island
 Chippewa Bay
 Clayton
 Bostwick Island
 Cape Vincent
 Grenell Is.
 Clayton
 Grindstone Island
 Fayetteville, NY
 Douglas Island
 Clayton
 Adams, NY
 Redwood
 Fishers Landing



Susan Timerman
 Elizabeth Tolla
 Bob & Dorothy Topping
 Charlann Tranelia
 Michael & Paula Trimble
 Deborah Ullrich
 Thomas & Mary Vary
 Merritt Vaughan
 John & Kathleen Walker
 Bruce & Reggie Watkins
 Stephen & Kim White
 Lloyd & Melissa Withers
 Susie Wood & David Duff
 Sandy Wood Forand & Bernie Forand
 Wood Boat Brewery*
 Richard & Elizabeth Wright
 Ben & Rebecca Wright
 Arthur & Barbara Yarah
 Maryann & Paul Young
 Jeff & Courtney Zoller

Adams, NY
 Westminster Park
 Maple Island
 Rochester, NY
 Clayton
 Liverpool, NY
 Cape Vincent
 Princess Charlotte Island
 Chippewa Bay
 Thousand Island Park
 Blackstone Bay
 Clayton
 Owatonna Island
 Owatonna
 Clayton
 Brush Island
 Brush Island
 Indian Point
 Jackson, NJ
 Clinton, NY

Family/Individual

1000 Islands Ready Mix*
 Stephen Achimore
 Carol Adler
 Amy Alexander
 David & Janet Amyot
 Bud & Beverley Andress
 Rhea Arnot & Helmut Jenkner
 John & Lori Arnot
 Rodney Babowicz
 Linda Bach
 Cathy & Steve Backus
 Coley & Susan Baker
 Bert Barr
 Anne Barros
 Eliza Bates
 Chuck Baum
 John & Marlene Beyers
 Kim & Martin Bigelow
 Ron Bildstein
 Mead Binhammer
 Sarah Bockus & Wes Martin
 Bonnie Bolus
 Bottom Line Books
 Paul Bousquet & Holly Powers
 Michael & Sandy Boyden
 Kelly & Brian Boyer
 Ken & Melody Brabant
 Mike & Lynn Bradley
 Jim & Beth Brasser
 Peggy & Terry Brennen
 Dick & Charlotte Brooks
 Kate Broudy
 Janice Brown

La Fargeville
 Syracuse
 Clayton
 Buffalo
 Chippewa Bay
 Hill Island
 Wellesley Island
 Clayton
 Dillon Point
 Cape Vincent
 Sixberry Lake
 Oak Point
 Wallace Island
 Dexter
 Uncle Ad's Island
 Grindstone Island
 Westminster Park
 Iwo Eden Island
 Syracuse
 Grindstone Island
 Three Ledges
 Iroquois Island
 LaFargeville
 Three Ledges
 Cape Vincent
 Clayton
 Clayton
 Astounder Island
 Thousand Island Park
 Chaumont
 Wellesley Island
 Indian Point
 Black Lake





Volunteers install the 2021 Tern Grid

Larry & Judy Brown Clayton
 Tom & Pat Brown Cape Vincent
 Janet & Jon Burrows Clayton
 Ben Butler Methuen, MA
 Marcia Calabrese Pullman Island
 Tom & Beverly Company Clayton
 Richard Company Alexandria Bay
 Kristy & Peter Carey Wellesley Island
 Michael & Alison Carter Maple Island
 Calvin & Pat Carter Washington Island
 Connie Cavallario Alexandria Bay
 Carman & Mary Lou Cerio Fishers Landing
 Carol Cerow Dexter, NY
 Elaine & Stephan Chase Grossman Point
 Robert & Lila Chatfield Wolcott, NY
 Howard Cheney & Lynn Rancourt Clayton
 Barbara Chini & Paul Janavicius Ohio
 Martha Cline Hammond
 Leslie Cobb Clayton
 Glen Colby Ogdensburg
 John & Melinda Comstock Alexandria Bay
 Anne & Brian Connors Alexandria Bay
 Gregory & Martha Coon Redwood
 Angela & Rick Corcimiglia Fremont, IN
 Robert & Tori Cosselman Alexandria Bay
 Maria Cotraccia Clayton
 Art & Jeri Couch Grindstone Island
 Coughlin Printing* Watertown
 Claire Cox Florida
 Jeff Cox Brownville, NY
 Marcia & Donald Crist Chippewa Bay
 Kathryn & Jerry Crosby Burton WA
 Lynn Crow Round Island
 Mike & Wendy Cuda Wellesley Island
 Geoff Culkin Cape Vincent
 Annemarie & Joseph Dahl Cresskill, NJ
 Patricia & Frank Dahl Helmetta, NJ
 Rebecca Dahl Middletown, CT
 Steve Daub Galway, NY
 Bonnie Davenport Grindstone Island
 Barbara Deedy Grindstone Island
 Robb & Nancy Dehm Rabbit Island
 Lisa Dehm Liverpool, NY
 Nancy Del Borgo Cape Vincent
 Jane Demer Newark, NY
 Laura Desmond Ogdensburg
 Helen DeThomas Cape Vincent
 Bud & Barbara Dier Clayton
 DiPrinzio's Kitchen* Clayton
 Charlie DiSalvo & Kathleen Kennedy Morgantown, WV
 Jim & Donna Donegan Alexandria Bay
 Kevin & Theresa Donovan Long Island
 David Doubilet & Jen Hayes Clayton
 Frank & Kathi Downie Centre Hall, PA
 Katie & Lou DuBon Grenell Island
 Jennifer Durr & Family Clayton
 Juliana Eames Cape Vincent
 Matthew & Sara Elliott Number Nine Island
 Tim Favry Dexter, NY
 Tom Favry Dexter, NY

Richard Ferro Clayton
 Diane & Mike Ferrucci Clayton
 Tom & Dorothy Fitzgerald Clayton
 Anna & Jim Forbes LaFargeville
 George Forbes Clayton
 Scott & Christa Foster Rylstone Island
 Chuck & Arlene Franklin Doylestown, PA
 Richard Fratta Thousand Island Park
 Don & Christine Fredericks Chippewa Point
 Frontenac Crystal Springs Clayton
 Vicky & Jerry Froome Clear Lake
 Art Gamble Clayton
 Bud & Ann Garlock Alexandria Bay
 Nancy Garnsey Cape Vincent
 Emery Gasperek Chippewa Bay
 Carter & Chandra Goodnough Blind Bay
 Rob & Judy Goodyear Thousand Island Park
 Peter Gower Kingston, ON
 Karen & Ken Green Manlius, NY
 Charlene Greene & Ron Colin Clayton
 Martha Grimes Alexandria Bay
 Kathy Halsey Birch Island
 Alan Handschuh Plessis
 Marv Hart & Bari Bryant Clayton
 Bob Hedden Wellesley Island
 Sandy Heerkens Shady Shores
 John & Amy Herbert Indian Point
 Joel & TC Hollis Alexandria Bay
 Tom & Barbara Hollister Chippewa Bay
 Emily Holt Grindstone Island
 Betty Howe Murray Isle
 Adam & Katie Hungerford Clayton
 Pete Hungerford Clayton
 Hunner's Market* Clayton
 William Ilmanen & Ethel Larrabee Linda Island
 Fred & Barbara Inderlied Dingman Point
 Barry & Mary Ingalsbe Chippewa Bay
 Valentino & Sherry Insalaco Iroquois Island
 Bill & Todd Jackson Long Schooner Island
 Donald & Barbara James Chippewa Bay
 Mary Lou Jeffery Clayton
 Penny Joel Grindstone Island
 Remmington Johnson Copenhagen
 John & Susan Johnson Cape Vincent
 Pamela & Jim Judson Fishers Landing
 Cheryl & Tom Kaminski Clear Lake
 Cathy Karas Wellesley Island
 William Kauffman Garnet Valley, PA
 John & Debra Kellogg Murray Isle
 Jonathan & Mary Kendall Thousand Island Park
 Edward & Catherine Kernan Carleton Island
 Jean Kerr & Stewart Dutfield Delmar, NY
 Elizabeth Kincaid-Ehlers Stave Island
 Anne & Chris Kline Endwell, NY
 Robert Kling Laurel, MD
 Eric Kling Monrovia, MD
 Karin Kling Bright Phoenix, MD
 Laura Kopczak Saugerties, NY
 Ken Kozin Clayton
 Melanie K. Flack Lisbon, NY
 Tom & Janine LaClair Clayton
 LaFargeville Agway* LaFargeville
 Jerry & Judy Laffer Board Island
 Betty Lamb Murray Isle
 Robin Lane Dunwoody, GA
 Larry & Linda Law Chippewa Bay
 Russ & Patricia Leach Redwood
 Rich & Monica LeClerc Alexandria Bay
 Dan Leone Alexandria Bay
 Claire & Larry Leonhardt Alexandria Bay
 Joe & Kathy Leskoske Wellesley Island
 Ann Levy Cape Vincent
 Giff & Sue Lewis Grandview Park
 Florence Lewis Rice & Leroy Lewis Clayton
 Eugene & Arlene Long Clayton
 Amy Loya Albany, NY

Eileen Lynn Philadelphia, PA
 Sue & Jim Mahoney Chaumont
 Fran & John Mallery Grindstone Island
 Sidney Manes Ojibway Island
 Bonnie & Charles Mark Fineview
 David & Gretchen Starks Martin Lake of Woods
 Ann Mazur LaFargeville
 Nancy & George McBride Carthage, NY
 Mark & Susan McConn Wellesley Island
 Ryan & Sarah McKinley Murray Isle
 Sandra McMullen Clayton
 Robert McNamara Cleveland, NY
 Larry Meikle Brockville
 Anne Mellon Clayton
 Cathy Messenger Clayton
 Patrick Metcalf Shippensburg, PA
 Charles Millar Carleton Island
 Brandt & Lucy Miller Cape Vincent
 James & Sherla Millis Tully, NY
 Francie Rendall Minder St. Helena Island
 Bob & Patty Mondore Jamesville, NY
 Roberta & John Morrison Hammond
 Bill & Amy Munro Murray Isle
 Don & Marie Murphy Alexandria Bay
 Paul & Elaine Nemecek Rocky River, OH
 John Neuffer Clayton
 Lori & Dean Neumann Clayton
 Holly Nichols Watertown
 Henry Nichols Brunswick, ME
 David Nickason Indian Point
 Neil Nicol & Leslie Mitchell Chippewa Bay
 Maria Nowling Wellesley Island
 Michele Nunziata Cape Vincent
 Elizabeth O'Brian Clayton
 David & Eileen Oliveira Murray Isle
 Peter O'Shea Fine, NY
 Kerry Palmer Watertown
 Margaret Parkes Thousand Island Park
 Kiera Pergram Alexandria Bay
 Constance Peters Penfield, NY
 Dan Phillips Chippewa Bay
 James Picunas Clayton
 Francoise Piron Redwood
 Laurie Pitts Philadelphia, NY
 David Poulin Henderson Harbor, NY
 Art & Lorna Pundt Cape Vincent
 Larry & Karin Rappaport Indian Point
 Walter & Georgina Ratcliffe Ivy Lea
 Carol Reed & Bill Moth Clayton
 Eugene & Mariana Reinhart Cape Vincent
 Harold & Sue Remington Clayton
 Bill & Jeanne Reynolds Morristown
 Rande Richardson Watertown
 Bruce & Sandra Rippetau Cape Vincent
 Camilla & Silos Roberts Watch Island
 Ed & Sandra Rosecrans Liverpool
 Ross & Karen Rowland Sackets Harbor
 Leon & Dawn Rusho Grindstone Island
 Jack & Janet Russell Russell Tract
 Court Rutherford Blossvale, NY



Planting the Zenda Community Garden

Elissa Sampson Ithaca, NY
 Frank Sapere Clayton
 Stephen & Lisa Sarfaty Oak Point
 Don & Cici Sauda Grenell Island
 Mike & Tammi Scales Johnson City
 Sepp & Amy Scanlin Sackets Harbor
 Tim Schlachter Morristown
 Eric Schulein West Babylon, NY
 Phyllis Schwartz Grindstone Island
 Jim & Bev Schwartz Clayton
 Ken Schwarz & Linda Watson Sackets Harbor
 Meredith Scott Round Island
 Ron Seeley Crow's Nest Island
 Richard & Deena Sehlin Murray Isle
 Katherine Semelsberger Clayton
 Dan & Julie Shaver Clayton
 Daniel Sherman Clayton
 Nonna Shtipelman & Doug Potter Clayton
 Anne Sibley Alpine, NY
 Jay & Betsy Siegel Lansdowne ON
 Jerry Smith Millsite Lake
 Dawn & Warren Smith Cape Vincent
 Scott & Janel Smith Fishers Landing
 Kathy Sommer Redwood
 Sue St. Louis & Peter Bleau Chippewa Bay
 Albert Stickney Grindstone Island
 Tom & Sue Storino Watertown
 Daniel & Lisa Swainbank Swanton, VT
 Steve & Debz Sweet Grenell Island



Jim Tague & Lori Thistle Chippewa Bay
 Robert & Jean Tague Linden Cove
 Steve & Nellie Taylor Thousand Island Park
 Pat Taylor Clayton
 Jeremy & Mary Taylor Grindstone Island
 Gene & Joan Terenzetti Wellesley Island
 Michael & Temple Touchette Indian Point
 Tracie Tucci North Syracuse, NY
 Jo Anne Tuck Cape Vincent

Two Friends on a River Clayton
 Dale & Susan Van Liew Grenell Island
 Marie Vayo-Greenbaum Thousand Island Park
 Christie Vliss & Carl Bickford Henderson Harbor
 Kim Volz & Vincent Sneary Carleton Island
 Ronnie & Bob Wadsworth Fishers Landing
 Assemblyman Mark Walczyk Watertown
 Patti & Tom Walker Chippewa Bay
 Edward & Mary Ellen Wallace Clayton
 Buzz Ward Dingman Point
 Greg Washburn Hammond
 Inez Wehrli Grindstone Island
 Tessa Wegert* St. Helena Island
 Chandler Welton Thousand Island Park
 Jim & Ruth Westbrook Clayton
 Jonathan & Heather White Thousand Island Park
 Tom Williams Clayton
 Marjory Ball Williams Mason City, IA
 Deltra Willis Cape Vincent
 Uta Wister Lake Clear, NY
 Richard Withington Round Island
 Betsy Wolverton Grindstone Island
 Chris & Linda Wood Rob Roy Island
 Kevin & Emily Wood Goose Bay
 Beverly Wood Owatonna Island
 Marilyn Yeager Clayton
 Marty Yenawine Clayton
 Carolyn Youngs Clayton
 Elizabeth Youngs Clayton

Are you ready to become a Trailblazer Member?



Winter...



Spring...



Summer...



Fall...

...We all love the Thousand Islands, year-round.

Help TILT steward and sustain the waters and lands all year by coming a Trailblazer monthly donor. When you join the community that supports TILT's work every season of the year, you help sustain our commitment to protect the Thousand Islands you love in perpetuity. Monthly donations provide a consistent, reliable source of support to help sustain TILT's mission year-round. This small act shows great love.

Become a Trailblazer Member and know your monthly donation is the greenest and most cost-effective way to contribute to TILT. Your donation is put to work immediately, you determine the amount of your monthly gift which can be changed or canceled at any time, and an annual giving receipt is provided for tax purposes.

Are you ready to become a Trailblazer Member? Visit www.tilandtrust.org/donate to learn more, or connect with Kate Breheny, Membership Coordinator by calling (315) 686-5345 or sending an email to kbreheny@tilantrust.org.

In Memoriam

Mabel Walker



Mabel Walker at the Summer Gathering

Mabel and her husband T. Uring (Tom) Walker became members of TILT in 2008. As well-known North Country philanthropists, they played an integral role in the development of TILT's Otter Creek Nature Trail in Alexandria Bay. Walking distance from Alexandria Bay Central School and the center of the Village, the Otter Creek Nature Trail has become a

favorite for hikers, bird watchers, outdoor enthusiasts, and countless parents looking to get their kids out in nature.

In 2016, the Walker Suspension Bridge at the Otter Creek Northern Loop or Bridge Trail was dedicated in honor of Mabel and Tom. This unique feature provides picturesque views of Lynch Creek. Without their support and generosity, this project would not have been possible. In addition, Mabel and Tom generously supported the many outdoor educational activities hosted at Zenda Farms Preserve.

Mabel's immeasurable dedication to our beloved Northern New York communities and Thousand Islands region will be forever celebrated. The TILT Staff and Board extends their sincerest sympathy to the Walker Family.

Donations in Mabel's memory may be made to the Hospice of Jefferson County, 1398 Gotham St, Watertown, NY 13601, or to the Walker Family Community Fund at the Northern New York Community Foundation, 131 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601.

Mary Emma "Emmy" Kearns Sorth

Emmy Sorth had an unconditional love for the Thousand Islands and was a true River Rat. She spent much of her professional career in teaching and speech pathology at the Ridgewood Public Schools. But outside of the classroom, her interests were photography, gardening, exploring nature and travel. She and her husband, Robert, spent 20 years exploring the southern and western US by RV. After Bob's death, Emmy traveled to many parts of the world, but always her "heart's home" was the cottage that she and Bob built with hand tools on the north shore of Grindstone.

"Emmy was such an amazing person," described Skip Tolette, past TILT Trustee and summer resident of Grindstone Island. "Her love for the Island and the people was unwavering. It was truly amazing to watch Emmy put together her annual scavenger hunt for the grandchildren. Nothing gave her greater joy than discovering nature with the kids."

"While I didn't have the chance to spend too much time with Emmy, I recall joining her and Ken Deedy on several Mule Tours around the Island," said Jake Tibbles, TILT's Executive Director. "Both Ken and Emmy shared such a great fondness for each other. It was always a treat to ride along with them

and see the Island through their eyes."

TILT has been so fortunate to have such passionate supporters like Emmy. For over 30 years, she graced us with her love, dedication and generosity. And we are forever grateful.

Emmy and Bob first became members of the Land Trust in 1990. And in 2008, they became loyal Islanders. Over the years, they helped make projects like the Grindstone Island Nature Trail, Picnic Point Gazebo and Mid River Barn Restoration possible.

While TILT and the entire Grindstone community have lost a wonderful friend, Emmy's kindness and generosity are sure to live on. Included below is a link to Emmy's obituary. The family has asked that in lieu of flowers, memorial contributions be made to TILT.

Emmy Sorth's Obituary - <https://www.tributearchive.com/obituaries/19882243/Mary-Emma-Sorth/Erie/Pennsylvania/Dusckas---Martin-Funeral-Home>



Emmy Sorth, and her incomparable grin, during the Grindstone Mule Tour

A Lasting Legacy – Matthew Heineman

This past November, we lost a dear friend, Matthew Heineman.

A true and spirited River Rat, Matt's love of the Thousand Islands ran deep and was adored by many. His support of TILT first began in 1996 and continued throughout the years. Most recently, Matt helped expand TILT's Treks & KidsTreks programming.

Matt was committed to ensuring that TILT had the financial resources needed to provide our education programs to youngsters. Matt never let us forget the importance of getting the next generation involved in environmental conservation and the outdoors.

For those who did not have the opportunity to get to know Matt, he was a friend and a neighbor. Above all, he was a man of enormous generosity and compassion. Like four generations of Heinemans, he had a passionate concern for the environment. Most importantly, Matt realized that he had the capacity to make a difference and he had the will to do so. Alongside his sister Deborah Heineman, Matt played an integral role in making the conservation of Picton Island possible.

The Heineman's conservation legacy began with Matt and Debbie's grandparents, Bernard and Lucy Heineman. Bernard and Lucy were early environmentalists who, early on in life, developed an incredible affinity for the Thousand Islands. During their lifetime, Bernard and Lucy pieced together many parcels on Picton, later forming what would become the largest unsubdivided island on the US side of the Thousand Islands.

In 1995, their sons, Jack, Bill and Andy, honored Bernard and Lucy by helping TILT establish the 230-acre Heneman Family Songbird Forest & Nature Preserve on Grindstone Island. The Preserve is a haven for neotropical songbirds, like the Cerulean Warbler, whose natural habitat has been lost to overdevelopment and fragmentation. The Preserve is also home to a variety of other wildlife.

The Family's conservation legacy was further ignited in 2014, when Matt and Debbie, working closely with their cousins, partnered with TILT to advance the Picton Island Conservation Initiative. By the end of 2018, Matt and Debbie had guided TILT through the protection of 200 acres of mature mixed forest and over 20,000 linear feet of undeveloped shoreline.



Matt Heineman made his career in advertising and video production and produced a film about the Thousand Islands called "Rolling on the River".

There is no question that Matt's love and passion for nature and the outdoors was forged at an early age, born from the Heineman Family's unwavering appreciation, awareness, and understanding of our region's natural resources and their selfless efforts to restore and protect them. One of Matt's last acts of kindness and generosity was a financial bequest to TILT. Considering Matt's love for getting kids out on the land and introducing them to nature, TILT's Board of Trustees has designated the gift as part of its permanent Environmental Education Fund.

Land conservation is an investment in our future. And leaving a legacy is one of the most valuable, enduring gifts one can ever give. As a member of TILT's *Thousand Islands Forever* Legacy Program, Matt planned a bequest gift to TILT to honor his legacy and his family's impact on the region. Members of *Thousand Islands Forever* represent a group of passionate individuals who have made a perpetual commitment to the conservation of the Thousand Islands and St. Lawrence River Valley regions.

While we mourn the loss of a member of our River family, we celebrate the meaningful and lasting impacts that Matt made possible. We are forever grateful.

Matt Heineman's Obituary – <https://www.cummingsfuneral.com/memorials/item/893-matthew-d-heineman.html>

The TILT Office is Open and Ready to Serve You!



Photo by Feather in Flight Productions.

Located at 135 John Street in Clayton, TILT's office is conveniently located at the intersection of the Village Docks, Veterans Memorial and the Clayton Riverwalk.

So please stop in and say hi. While you're here be sure to pick up a few trail guides and information on upcoming Treks and Programs from our reception desk or even a new TILT hat and canvas tote bag from the storefront. We look forward to seeing you soon!



THOUSAND ISLANDS FOREVER

CREATE YOUR LEGACY

Please consider joining the Thousand Islands Forever Legacy Program to make a difference in the place you love, and protect the Thousand Islands, Forever.

To add the Thousand Islands Land Trust to your estate plan today, please visit www.TILandTrust.org for more information or contact us at 315-686-5345.

The tax identification number of the Thousand Islands Land Trust is 22-2629183.

Have a positive impact on future generations.



Create and strengthen your family legacy.



Take care of the land.



Forever.

2021 Calendar of Treks, Events and Volunteer Opportunities

For more information, contact Shannon Walter, Education & Outreach Coordinator, swalter@tilandtrust.org, or phone the office at 315-686-5345.

Thursday May 13th, 5:30 -7:30 pm

Virtual eBird Training with Dan Miller

A virtual training to learn how to use the eBird app on your smartphone and computer.

Saturday, May 15th, 7am - 10am

“Warbler Walk” Trek with Dan Miller Otter Creek Preserve

Birders of all skill levels are welcome to practice identification skills. You'll have the opportunity to see many bird species and log valuable citizen science data.

Saturday, June 5th, 10am

Spring Stewardship Day Sissy Danforth Rivergate Trail

Wear work clothes and be sure to bring gloves. Personal hand-tools are recommended, but not required. TILT will provide water and lunch.

Monday, June 7th, 6-7 pm

iNaturalist & Seek Training with Dan Miller

A virtual training to learn how to use the iNaturalist and Seek apps on your smartphone and computer.

Sunday June 13th - Saturday June 19th

Seek and Find Nature TILT's Week-long Bioblitz Various Locations

Download both the iNaturalist and Seek app and take your tech outside. Learn to utilize your smartphone as a tool for nature while collecting valuable citizen-science data.

Monday, June 21st, 9am

Summer Solstice Walking Meditation with BJ Mosher Chippewa Bay Preserve

De-Stress in Nature” with a walking meditation session focused on mindfulness and contemplation.

Saturday, June 26th, 9am – 10:30am

4th Annual Mutt Strut in partnership with the JSPCA

Zenda Farms Preserve

\$10 pre-registration /

\$15 day of registration per person

Please ensure your dog is in proper physical condition to participate and has proof of rabies vaccination, tag or license available.

Thursday, July 1st, 10am

Summer Yoga with River Yoga Foster-Blake Woods Preserve

All ability levels welcomed and a limited number of mats and props are available if needed.

Saturday, July 17th, 8-9am

Annual Loon Census with Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation Various Locations (chosen by participants)

Help collect valuable data from throughout the 1000 Islands Region.

Tuesday, July 20th, 10am

Buzz On Bugs KidsTrek Zenda Farms Preserve

Get a closer look at the creepy, crawly and cute bugs that call the 1000 Islands home. Snacks will be provided. KidsTrek participants must be accompanied by an adult.

Saturday, July 24th 6-9pm

**Annual Summer Gathering Fundraiser
Coyote Moon Vineyards**

\$100 per person

Thursday, August 5th, 5pm-7pm

**Volunteer Recognition Day
Northern Flow Vineyards**

A casual reception and awards presentation to thank our volunteers for all of their hard work. If you are interested in becoming a TILT volunteer, you are welcome to attend this event.

Friday, August 6th, 10am – 12:30pm

**“Healthy Land = Healthy River”
TILTKids Day Camp at TI Park**

Kids will hike, run, play, and even wade through the water, while discovering the health of our River and its tributaries. Lunch provided. KidsTrek participants must be accompanied by an adult.

Tuesday, August 17th, 10am-1pm

**Chippewa Bay Kayak Adventure
Riverbay Adventure Inn**

All-levels are welcome to explore beautiful Chippewa Bay and Chippewa Creek. Lunch will be provided by Riverbay Adventure Inn. A limited number of single and double kayaks is available for a \$15 rental fee, in partnership with Riverbay Adventure Inn.

Thursday, August 19th, 5pm-7pm

**Major Donor Appreciation Event
at the home of
Molly and Darden MacWade,
Point Marguerite**

Watch for your invitation.

Tuesday, August 24th, 8:30am

**Common Tern Nesting Grid Removal
Eagle Wing Shoals & Tidd Island**

Work gloves are recommended and lunch will be provided. This event is weather dependent - we will call registered participants to confirm the date.

Thursday, August 26th, 5:30pm

**Birkhead Lecture
Zenda Farms Preserve**

Learn more about conservation, stewardship and science led by distinguished presenters.

Saturday, September 11th, 10am-12pm

Otter Creek 5K Family Fun Run

\$15 pre-registration, \$20 day of event

Saturday, September 18th, 10am

**Fall Stewardship Day
Potters Beach Preserve**

Wear work clothes and be sure to bring gloves. Personal hand-tools are recommended, but not required. TILT will provide water and lunch.

Wednesday, September 22nd, 10am

**Fall Equinox Walking Meditation
with BJ Mosher
Otter Creek Preserve**

“De-Stress in Nature” with a walking meditation session focused on mindfulness and contemplation.

Sunday, October 3rd, 1pm

**Fall Foliage Hike with HFY Inc.
Crooked Creek Preserve and Macsherry Trail**

Get unique views of the changing trees and learn how to identify trees by their falling leaves.

Saturday, October 23rd, 10am

**Fall Yoga with River Yoga
Otter Creek Preserve**

All ability levels welcomed and a limited number of mats and props are available if needed.



135 John Street
PO Box 238
Clayton, New York 13624
(315) 686-5345
www.tilandtrust.org

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July 17, 2021
Summer Gathering at
Coyote Moon Vineyards

August 5, 2021
Volunteer Recognition at
Northern Flow Vineyards

September 11, 2021
Otter Creek Fun Run
at Otter Creek Preserve

August 19, 2021
Major Donor Recognition
at Point Marguerite

Save The Dates

PLEASE STAY TUNED FOR TIMELY UPDATES CONCERNING OUR EVENTS IN 2021