



Running and Walking With a Purpose

Help Keep Farmland Around—We Need You!

You can help conserve dairy farms, deer farms, vegetable farms, organic farms and even the plan for a nature sanctuary when you *Race for Open Space*, with Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust on June 2nd.

The second annual event brings the community together to highlight the ten family farms protected over the past three years, and the importance and value of farmland protection in the North Country.

In total, over 1,900-acres of family farmland have been protected through a local conservation program, and once again, both sides of the race route will be bordered by these working farms.

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“This was my second 5K and I can’t wait for my next race! I’m going to keep practicing ... maybe I can do the 10K next year.”

*— Joshua Caldwell, Age Nine
2011/12 Race for Open Space Runner*

Josh and his family are signed up for this year’s race, and he plans to run the whole way!

The race will be held Saturday, June 2nd at the Philadelphia Town Park, with both 5K and 10K races beginning at 10am.

Saving Their Farm for the Future of Farming

Conservation Makes it Possible

Jim and Mindy Whitmore's farm has been a dairy farm for almost 65 years. The Whitmores, along with their three sons, could not imagine selling the farm for development, so when the opportunity came along to keep the farm in the family while re-investing back into it, the family couldn't have been happier.

"We grew up on this farm. I'm so glad my mom and dad decided to preserve it for the future," reflected Lucas Whitmore, the oldest son of conservation landowners, Jim and Mindy Whitmore.

Being so close to Fort Drum they continued to see the development all around them—and they didn't want that to be the case with their land.

The Army Compatible Use Buffer Program (ACUB) came along at just the right time, helping this family achieve their conservation wishes by passing the farm down to their three sons. The program pays landowners to conserve their land, while allowing for agriculture and forestry. The properties stay on the tax-roles and in private ownership.

The ACUB program is a conservation partnership program between Fort Drum, Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust and Ducks Unlimited. The goal of the program is to conserve lands bordering Fort Drum to minimize encroachment, enabling soldiers to train more realistically while protecting open space at the same time.



The Whitmore Family achieved their family's dream of passing the farm down to their three sons. The 219-acre dairy farm was protected through the Army Compatible Use Buffer Program (ACUB).

... continued from page 1 *Make a Difference—Walk for Farms*



Join us for this year's Race for Open Space 5K Fun Run/Walk and 10K Run to support local farmland protection.

The community event is Saturday, June 2nd with both races beginning at 10am from the Philadelphia Town Park on Route 29. To register visit www.active.com and search for activities in Watertown, NY.

You can make a difference this summer by strapping on your sneakers and grabbing your friends and family to either walk or run in this year's *Race for Open Space 5K Run/Walk and 10K Run*.

Not only will you receive a race t-shirt, prizes will also be awarded to the top runners. As an added bonus all participants are invited for a post-race breakfast burrito brunch hosted by race enthusiast, Brett Kessler.

This community event is made possible by our local business partners; these are Countryman's Garage, Community Bank N.A., Otter Creek Winery, Upstate National Bank, Price Chopper and Nirvana Spring Water.

For race questions contact Fawn Heins at tughilladmin@nnyemail.com or call (315) 779-2239. We hope you will join us in support of farmland conservation!

Every Creek and Wetland Matter



Thanks to a creative partnership between Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust and the Development Authority of the North Country (DANC) over 500-acres of streams, forest and wetlands will be managed the best way possible.

The property contains beautiful forests and streams, including a system of paths. Conservation is part of the management strategy for the land.

Conservation partnership breaks new ground ...

Over 554 acres of streams, greenways, and associated wetlands, at the Solid Waste Management Facility in Rodman, NY, just took one more step towards a healthy future with a new conservation partnership with the Development Authority of the North Country (DANC) and Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust.

We will be regularly monitoring the property to ensure the plan for improving and protecting the streams and wetlands is followed.

"We are committed to ensuring that we run the Facility to the highest conservation standards, and it's important that we have a strong partner, like the land trust ... Tug Hill Tomorrow is held in high regard regionally and is nationally accredited."

We look forward to a long and productive stewardship partnership."

— Jim Wright
Development Authority of the North Country
Executive Director

Farmland Conservation Opportunities

Would You Like to Conserve Your Farm?

The Army Compatible Use Buffer program (ACUB) is the "buzz" around the northern Jefferson County farms these days.

Recent ACUB landowner information sessions held at the LeRay Town Hall highlighted key facts about the program.

- ♦ The goal of the ACUB program is to establish a "buffer" area of farm and forest lands in special areas near Fort Drum to limit the affects concentrated development has on the soldiers' ability to train.
- ♦ As with all of Tug Hill Tomorrow's conservation agreements, landowners are not told how to farm or manage their land.
- ♦ When you conserve your land, you still own it—and can sell it, give it away, or transfer it to another person. The property remains on the tax roles, and public access is not a condition of the agreement, but continues to be up to the discretion of each landowner.

If you are interested in conserving your land with the ACUB program or just have questions please contact Linda, at (315) 779-8240 or thtomorr@northnet.org.



Historical Conservation at the “Gateway”



A Family Tradition Makes History

I'm sure you've seen it—everybody has. Not only has the Spring Brook Farm been around since 1924, but if you're driving into Rome, you can't miss it, as it's the last open land on the north side of Rome. It's very special.

Virginia Batchelder's grandfather bought the farm in 1924, and since then it has become a sort of “Gateway” to Rome. In its hay-day the farm supported five families with all the children working on the farm. Today, the farmhouse is the second oldest house in Rome (that is in its original location) and the farm fields are still actively managed.

“For me, this is more than my homestead, this is a wildlife preserve ... one of the last places of its kind and that's why it needs to be protected ... partnering with Tug Hill Tomorrow made this dream come true.”

— Virginia Batchelder

By partnering with us to protect her land, Virginia has made sure it will always be available as a farm and a home for birds and wildlife.

Virginia quietly remarks, “I can now sell my land or give it to my family, knowing that it will always be free from the surrounding development pressure. That is a huge relief.”

Making Conservation Last for Generations

You Can Make an Impact—Leave Your Legacy for the Future of Tug Hill

Conservation can last forever: in the hearts of kids, the streams and forests, and the farms we have conserved.

You can make sure that happens in more and more communities in the Tug Hill region, with a legacy gift in your estate plan to Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust. It's simple to do, and the impact will last for generations.

Your gift will help protect more farmland and wildlife habitat and establish new conservation areas with miles of trails. You can make a huge difference in our efforts to protect the lands we all treasure—lands important to our economy and way of life.

Should you decide to leave a legacy gift please use the following language: “I give to Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust, a New York non-profit corporation, having its principal offices at P.O. Box 6063 / 1 Thompson Park Watertown, NY 13601, the sum of \$_____ (or al-



Martha Deming has decided to place Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust in her will.

You can help conservation last forever, too. Please contact (315) 779-8240 to speak to Linda about a legacy gift.

“I want to know that not just a few years, but many generations down the road there will still be open land for farming, for animals, for birds, for the restoration and sustenance of the human spirit.”

— Martha Deming, Conservation Landowner

Make it Your Own—Help us Clear Trails



We need your help! A community-wide trail work day will be held Saturday, June 9th from 10am—3pm at the Joseph A. Blake, Jr. Wildlife Sanctuary property, located on County Rd. 160/Middle Rd. in Watertown. Bring your tools, your work gloves and your muscle to help us clear trails for this soon to be “outdoor classroom” and wildlife sanctuary open to the public.

The Community’s New Outdoor Classroom

There will be a new place where you can bring your family this summer; it’s beautiful, free of charge and might even be a short drive from your home. And, with your help, it’s going to have great hiking trails, too!

The North Country Bird Club recently donated the Joseph A. Blake, Jr. Wildlife Sanctuary property to Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust. This historical property located just a few miles outside Watertown is 130-acres of wild woods and wetlands.

But before we can hold hikes and educational programs at this special place, we need your help. A Trail Work-day will be held, Saturday, June 9th, from 10am—3pm. Contact Kalie to RSVP and for more info (315) 779-2239.

Igniting a Passion for Flight & Wings

Kids Learn Science, Nature & the Love of Birds

What started out as a simple program years ago geared toward adults is now an engaging and educational program just for kids. The Tug Hill Bird Quest Classroom Feeder Team program is creating the next generation of birders—all around the Tug Hill region.

This year the program was taken to a new level with graduate student and Tug Hill Tomorrow volunteer, Cheryl Nowicki, providing workshops on birds to the kids in each Jefferson County class.

Using photos and feathers, Cheryl brought the educational program to life so that the kids could relate directly to what they might see.

“The educational presentation got the students more excited about bird watching ... all the great facts kept the students interested and wanting to learn and see more, and they loved the feathers and couldn’t stop talking about them! This program is great—educational and motivating.”

— Tabatha Dobransky, 3rd Grade Teacher
Mannsville Manor Elementary



Kids learned first-hand about birds by participating in bird identification and learning what habitats and food different types of birds need.

Conservation starts right in the classroom.



You are conserving Tug Hill every day...

Your continued dedication and trust make it possible for us to assist landowners, communities and families to conserve the family lands of Tug Hill, and help create the next generation of conservation leaders. Farms, forests, wetlands and streams are waiting to be protected for generations to come. We can't do this work without you. Thank you!

Thank you for your donations from October 1, 2011 to April 1, 2012.

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Love & Dedication for the Land

Monthly Donors Make a Difference Every Month of the Year



“We fell in love with Tug Hill years ago. It was the beauty that surrounded us . . . the woodlands, the birds, the wild life, and the Tug Hill quiet—there is a deafening quiet that we can’t seem to find anywhere else.”

“We value our land and how special this area is—that’s why we wanted to become monthly donors, so we could make a difference all year long.”

— Chuck & Lynn Alleger,
Tug Hill Tomorrow Monthly Donors

It was almost 15 years ago when the Allegers visited Tug Hill and realized this is where they wanted to spend their time. They bought a small camp and came when they could, but the more time they spent hiking, birding and being outside, the more they didn’t want to leave.

“We have a great vegetable garden, a beautiful blueberry patch, several flower gardens and loads of apple trees,” explained Lynn Alleger, as she glowed about their Osceola vacation house. “Our grandkids visit and we teach them to respect and love nature . . . we hike, swim and fish during the day and gather around the campfire at night—being here brings our entire family closer together.”

As the Allegers continued spending their summer days and winter holidays at their Osceola vacation house, they began to value the area and how much it meant to their family—that’s when they decided they wanted to help keep it that way.

“Loving the area as we do, we decided to help keep it just the way it is, and in turn, donate monthly to the land trust. We know consistent support, not just once a year, makes a huge difference—it’s something the land trust can always count on.”

You can make conservation possible—year round—with your monthly gift of as little as \$10 per month. Monthly donors are the local heroes of conservation, ensuring that we can help conserve farms, forests and streams so important to the Tug Hill region.



Imagine the joy you bring to families and children who participate in our field trips and educational programs. You can help increase the number of families we reach through these programs. The process is easy and secure; just visit the website. It will take only a minute of your time and make a world of difference. You can also contact Executive Director Linda Garrett, if you have questions (315) 779-8240 or thtomorr@northnet.org.



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Our Mission:
 Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust protects Tug Hill's working farm and forest lands, its wildlands, and its natural and cultural heritage for the benefit of present and future generations.

Want to stay in touch and find out more?
 Come visit our website at www.TugHillTomorrowLandTrust.org for great places to hike, upcoming programs and events, and conservation



We hope to see you this Summer!

Picnic on the River—Please Join Us!
July 21st - Independence River Walk & Picnic

- ◆ Bring the kids or your friends, a towel and a picnic lunch.
- ◆ It's a great place to hang out and enjoy a summer day.
- ◆ I am to 2pm. Call the office to RSVP and check out Facebook for updates.



You Can Make a Difference!
 In the hearts and minds of Tug Hill kids and families, farmers and landowners.

Your donation today will help protect forests, streams, wetlands and farms for generations to come.

Visit our website www.TugHillTomorrowLandTrust.org and click "Donate Now" at the top of the page. And thank you for your support!



Be Part of the One & Only Tug Hill Calendar
 We need your best Tug Hill photos for the one and only, Tug Hill Calendar.

The Photo submission **deadline for the 2013 Tug Hill Calendar has been extended to July 2nd.** Please email your high-resolution photos to tughilloutreach@nnyemail.com.

For Calendar questions contact Kalie at (315) 779-2239.

