



A CLARKE FAMILY TRADITION

30 Years of Conservation

In 1984, descendants of Brian W. and Mary Baker Clarke made the life-changing decision of protecting their 95.2 acre property along the West Canada Creek in the Town of Russia. The land has been in the family since 1929, and it is part of an area along West Canada Creek which has remained remarkably unchanged since the 19th century. The Clarks were encouraged by their longtime neighbor, the late Nelson Adams, to join him in the effort to preserve the character of their surroundings.

In the subsequent 30 years the property has stayed pretty much the same. Cows roam in the pasture, West Canada Creek flows gently by, and the steep forested ridge stands sentinel. Partridge Hill Road, which divides the property, remains a

dirt road, which adds to the pastoral character. A third generation owner,

Liza Clarke says, "It's a wonderful road, two miles long, with ponds and brooks and meadows and woods. People come from far and wide to walk or bicycle it."

The matriarch of the family, 93 year old Ann Clarke, daughter-in-law of the original owners, adds "We love this place, it is where our family comes together every summer and knowing it is going to stay this way forever was what we all wanted." New generations of the Clarke family share her attitude. Living on the property

full-time, David Esterly and Marietta Von Bernuth have both a strong conservation ethic and a deep connection to the property. "We lived in England for many years," says Marietta, "and there the open countryside is protected by law. This is the reason the European landscape retains its ageless

"We love this place, it is where our family comes together every summer and knowing it is going to stay this way forever was what we all wanted."
- Ann Clarke



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OUR MISSION:

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

Welcome



Our New Board Members!

Natalie Bogdanowicz

Lives in Montague NY

Works at Transitional Living Services of Northern NY

Married (Jan) with one daughter

"I enjoy being a part of the efforts of the THT Land Trust which ensures the protection of valuable resources, wild life and the related history of our communities. I am happy for the opportunity to contribute where I can."



Dave Zembiec

Lives in Adams NY

Works at Jefferson County Industrial Development Agency

Married (Barb) with three daughters

"The land trust plays an essential role in preserving the character of Tug Hill's working lands and its way of life. Its approach demonstrates a sincere respect for the region and for its people, and I wanted to support that."



...continued from front page.

beauty. So it seemed the most natural thing in the world to support this kind of preservation locally here in upstate New York."

"The feeling you get is not restricting or confining, but liberating. You no longer have to worry that the pleasures of this landscape will be lost to our children or grandchildren, or to anyone else who will walk the road in years to come."

Over the years, with the leadership of Nelson Adams and the Clarke family, neighboring landowners joined in to protect their property. Nearly all of the land on both sides of the West Canada Creek, from the spillway bridge to the bridge over Rt. 28, has been

protected. Even though some of these parcels are relatively small acreages, combined they have a significant conservation impact.

Every year the land trust staff meets with the landowners and walks the property, confirming that the wishes of the Clarke family descendents are being followed.

If you have been thinking about protecting your land, we would love to talk to you about your goals. Give Linda Garrett or Dick Johnston a call at 315-779-8240 or email us at thtomorr@northnet.org to set up a time for us to come out and visit.

BE INSPIRED

by the beauty of
the Tug Hill Seasons
with our 2015 calendar!

Each year we hold a contest, asking folks to share their favorite Tug Hill photos and we get the most amazing selection of wildlife, landscapes, and Tug Hill people, this year was no exception. We hope you enjoy all of the amazing photos featured in the 2015 edition.

A special thanks to the many photographers that shared their photos and talents and our sponsors that make it all possible. Visit our website for more information on submitting your own Tug Hill photographs!

Supplies are limited order yours by contacting the land trust at 315-779-2239, visiting our website at www.tughilltomorrowlandtrust.org/store/ or visiting one of the following locations:

Carpenters Hardware, Camden * Country Connections, Boonville* Lewis County Chamber of Commerce, Lowville * THLT Office, located at Thompson Park, Watertown also available online

All Calendar proceeds benefit
TUG HILL TOMORROW LAND TRUST



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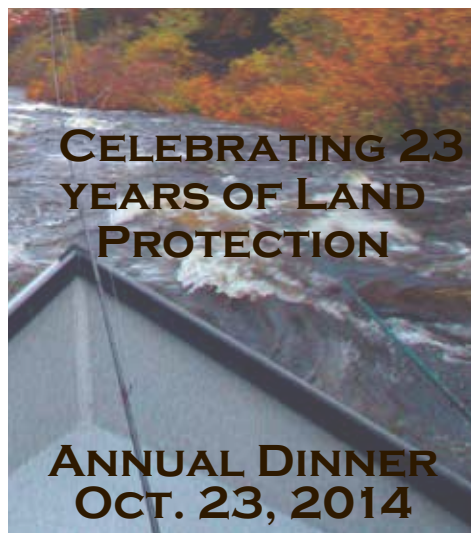
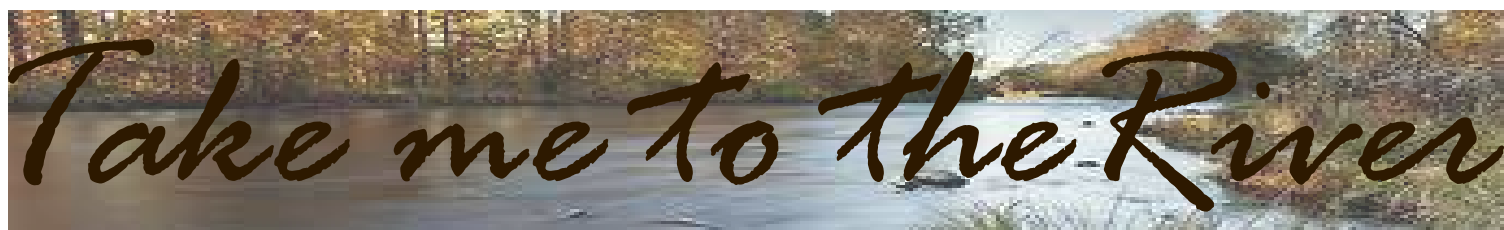
Joshua Eaves



Steve Diehl



Brenda Dann



**CELEBRATING 23
YEARS OF LAND
PROTECTION**

**ANNUAL DINNER
OCT. 23, 2014**

Friends and fellow land trust members celebrated 23 years of land protection at this year's Annual Dinner held October 23rd at the newly renovated Tailwater Lodge in Altmar.

Highlights of the evening included the presentation of the "Above and Beyond"

THANK YOU



awards, 2014 conservation highlights and the announcement of the Next Generation of Conservation initiative. The 2014 recipients were: Zachary Heins -Volunteer; David Esterly and Marietta Von Bernuth-Conservation Easement Landowner; Peggy O'Shea-Ambassador and Bob Quinn -Board Member.

What's new at the Wildlife Sanctuary?

If you haven't had the chance to check out the latest and greatest place to hike in the Watertown area, take some time and come out for a hike. Over the past year and a half THTLT has been diligently working with many volunteers from the community and two Eagle Scout candidates, to improve the access and trail network at the Wildlife Sanctuary. Thanks to a grant from the Land Trust Alliance Conservation Partnership Program, we were able to develop a parking area, put up new signs and expand the trail system. This past summer we held monthly programs for kids looking for critters in the pond, using all our senses to experience the forest, and having a fun adventure with a good book. They encounter endless opportunities to observe nature.



Staff and Volunteers work to install the new entrance sign and kiosk

Trail Dedication

At a special ceremony this summer at Laurie and Peter Pikes, THTLT honored Tom and Mabel Walker and Ben and Peggy Coe by naming a new trail for each couple. The Walkers have been strong supporters of the land trust for years, and Tom has a long history of snowshoeing on the Hill. Ben Coe was the Executive Director of the NYS Tug Hill Commission back in the late 80's when the idea for creating the land trust was first floated. Ben had the foresight to support this effort. Peggy Coe has been a member of the North Country Bird Club and was instrumental in helping transfer the Sanctuary to THTLT. Both knew the Blake's and Ben said "We are honored to have a trail named after us, and we know that Agnes and Joseph would be pleased by this as well."



Want to make a greater impact this year? Sign up for recurring donation and impact the lives of people across the Tug Hill Region year-round.

HOW IT WORKS

On the enclosed reply card, indicate your desire to make a recurring gift and your credit card automatically gets billed monthly or quarterly so you don't have to do any extra work. Minimum effort = Maximum impact.



Consider Giving a Monthly Gift

Takes seconds to set up, Can be cancelled at any time. Maximizes your giving potential, while being easy on your pocketbook. Allows THTLT to rely on this year-round revenue to pursue our mission, reduces expenses, ensuring your donation goes where it's needed most.

ANY AMOUNT

Even a small amount can make a big difference.

StoryWalk a new twist on story time



Flashlights in hand, kids and their parents excitedly followed the trail at the Wildlife Sanctuary late one evening, stopping along the way to read a page of the Emperor of the Night and do a fun activity. "My kiddos were talking about it all the

way home, well...until they fell asleep!" Jennifer Winchell Sands commented about the second Story Walk, Sept 20.

The unique hike started in the parking area with a live animal presentation by our partners at the NYS Zoo. Getting up close to a screech owl and a salamander gave ev-

everyone a chance to see animals they might find while out in the woods. Environmental Educator Kristy Sullivan lead the kids along the trail, searching for the next page in the story. S'more cookies were the perfect way to end the adventure.

Buggy fun was had by everyone who came to the library programs leading up to our first Story Walk in July - Lady Bug Girl and the Bug Squad. Donning newly made bug antennae and eating "lady bug" cheese for a snack, kids listened to the Lady bug Girl Story at several libraries and even the mall this summer. Everyone was then invited out to the Wildlife Sanctuary, dressed as their favorite bug, to follow the story along the trails.

"My kiddos were talking about it all the way home, well... until they fell asleep!"

Jennifer Winchell Sands commenting about Sept 20th Story Walk.



A lot of buggy fun-a story,a craft and a snack-was had at local libraries during our Story Walk kick off.



For over 20 years, the Tug Hill region exhibit at the Thompson Park Zoo has entertained and educated visitors. But over the years, the elements have taken their toll and the exhibit was in need of a little sprucing up. Thanks to a grant from the Northern New York Community Foundation and their David G. Gregor Community Fund, as well as support from land trust supporters Ben & Peggy Coe, Dave & Mary Stone and an anonymous donor, the exhibit will be better than new. A ribbon cutting to celebrate the completion will be held this Spring. Please stop by and check it out on your next visit to the Zoo, located right between the elk and the wolf exhibits.

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"Finding ways to help land-owners retain their working landscapes is key to the rural character and economy of the region. Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust is a great tool for landowners and helps them contribute to the region's quality of life."

John Bartow, NYS Tug Hill Commission

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 from Sue Wandover

In Honor of
 Steve Litwhiler
 from Friends at DEC

**Deceased **Monthly Donors*

BY THE NUMBERS
 THTLT Highlights

Conservation Easements: 86
 Easement Acres Protected: 14,989
 Joseph Blake Sanctuary: 144 acres
 Area served: 2,500 sq. mi.
 Donors in 2014: 244
 Donors have given for 10 years: 120



"Where we live it is close to gone forever but up on "the hill" there are so many opportunities to preserve land and we want to be a part of preserving this land".

- Dan and Lisa Sullivan



Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust
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2015 Snowshoes

- * Rutland, Jan. 17th, 10 a.,m.
- * Boonville, Jan. 31st, 10 a.m
- * West Turin, Feb. 15th, 1p.m



Next Generation of Conservation

Over the past 23 years with the support of donors like you, THTLT has had a remarkable impact on Tug Hill communities and families. Together, we have permanently protected over 15,000 acres of important farm and forest land dedicated to providing sustainable livelihoods and providing opportunities to experience the natural places. During the Next Generation, with your help, THTLT will work with more forest landowners, farmers, and communities to make the region even more vibrant.