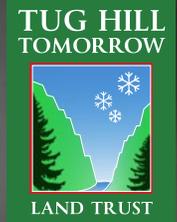


2023 FALL/WINTER HIGHLIGHTS
& 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



**"I believe in the power of
nature to ignite compassion
and a desire to learn."**

**- Julie Rubenstein
owner of Camp Woodlot**

Did you know?

Moose are excellent swimmers and can hold their breath underwater for 30 seconds.

They also are extremely fast, running at speeds of 35-40 mph. Yet they, like other wildlife in the Tug Hill, face challenges.

Moose are increasingly stressed by overheating, disease, and tick infestation—all tied to climate change and the related warming temperatures.

This is true across the United States, from New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine; to Minnesota and Michigan; and even Montana.

By conserving habitat, and slowing down climate change, we are all giving moose a chance to thrive.

The moose are back! Did you see them?

Some folks did and shared these special moments on social media.

That happened this fall when someone posted, “Hey, did you see that photo of the moose swimming across Alder Pond on Facebook?” A flurry of excited chatter followed: “Is it the same one spotted in Westernville/Lee?” “No, that was a younger one.”

It’s a joy for everyone to see a moose — always from a safe distance. What’s even more exhilarating is witnessing more animals like them making use of landscapes between Tug Hill and the Adirondacks during their annual fall migrations.

These open spaces create a haven between Tug Hill and the Adirondack Mountains, full of climate-resilient forests, farms, fields, and wetlands. Large mammals like moose, black bears, and martens find everything they need: space, food, and water.

The timing is more critical than ever when we consider that a moose needs a range of 5 to 50 square miles, and martens can journey 2.5 to 25 miles to find new territories. It emphasizes just how vital expansive landscapes are for their survival.

Thanks to the collective efforts of community members, local towns, conservation organizations, and state agencies, we’ve managed to conserve over 3,500 acres in the past decade.

Much of this land is owned by local families, who have protected their lands using voluntary conservation agreements (called conservation easements). They continue to pay local property taxes, manage the land, and can sell or bequeath the land subject to the conservation agreement.

These lands have created the foundation for what will become a critical corridor for wildlife, allowing wildlife to travel freely between Tug Hill and the Adirondack Mountains.

But our work is far from over.

The threat of haphazard development and road expansion continues to loom over these critical habitats, risking fragmentation and loss of connectivity that could reverse these hard-won successes.



Steve Lihner

Why prioritize landscape-scale conservation?

While it's crucial to protect specific sites with unique features, we must not lose sight of the bigger picture. The intricate web of habitats, waterways, and migration routes in Tug Hill demands a broader perspective.

Landscape-scale conservation ensures large, interconnected regions remain intact to better serve wildlife, water quality, and working lands.

Facing tomorrow's challenges

Isolated habitats pose risks. Fragmentation disrupts animal movements and diminishes biodiversity. Add climate change to the mix, which forces many species to migrate, and the stakes get even higher.

It's not just about the animals, either. These regions act as buffers against natural disasters, absorbing heavy rains and slowing down flooding.

Our goal for the upcoming year is clear: we need to strike a balance between thoughtful development and conservation. Together, with your unwavering support and assistance of the larger community, we can ensure Tug Hill's beauty and biodiversity endure for future generations.

Want to be famous? Share your wildlife photos.

Now's the time to start thinking about our photo contest in March. This winter collect your best shots or find some terrific winter images.

Photos will be selected based upon several categories with an emphasis on wildlife. Winners will be featured in the 2025 Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust Calendar as well as our newsletters, social media, and other outreach materials.

For more information, please refer to our website tughilltomorrowlandtrust.org.

Nature close to home

Your health and well-being and the future of conservation are linked

With today's hectic lives full of work, school, sports, and family happenings, we all need easy-to-access public outdoor spaces close to home where we can take a break.

Thanks to growing support from people like you, we are expanding the number of places where people from all walks of life can breathe some fresh air, listen to the sounds of nature, and escape their daily pressures while protecting quality wildlife habitat at the same time.

National research to better understand and connect Americans and nature revealed that time outside spent with friends and family surrounded by nature's healing power has become a necessity for maintaining perspective and finding joy.

The study also offered an important insight and a wake-up call for local land conservation groups like ours:

Participation in traditional nature-based recreation is stagnant or declining; Americans are spending more time indoors using electronic media more than ever before. At the same time, there is growing evidence that human health and well-being depend on beneficial contact with nature.

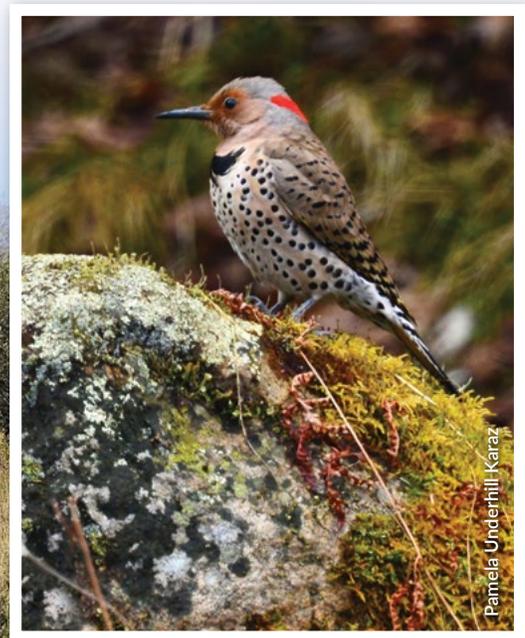
Our land trust has been working hard to increase access to nature close to home in partnerships with local families, community organizations, and municipalities.

Community conservation growing in the Tug Hill

The 121-acre French Settlement Road Public Conservation Area, located in the Town of Lorraine and donated to our land trust by Dr. Marvin Reimer, is one place to do just that.

This past summer, a parking area was installed thanks to a generous gift from Pure Water for Life. Public programs began this fall, featuring a morning Flow into Fall yoga series outdoors surrounded by the sounds of birds and flowing water.

This winter, we will be hosting snowshoe and cross-country ski outings. As funding becomes available, we will complete the trail system, including an accessible trail, signage, an information kiosk, and benches, in the coming year.



Pamela Underhill Karaz

Exploring on the eastern side of Tug Hill

If you'd like to explore another land trust project, the newly dedicated Keller Mohawk Hill Public Conservation Area in the Town of West Turin is a great place to go.

We are working with Ducks Unlimited, volunteers, and community members to make this a haven for wildlife and people. With restored waterfowl wetlands surrounded by open grassland and forested borders, it's a place of wide open sky and wildlife abundance.

Improvements for wildlife and visitors are planned for the coming year, including an accessible trail system, limited tree plantings, signage, and seating.

Bobolinks and other migratory and grassland birds challenged by habitat loss and climate change now have a safe place to rest and raise their young.

Other special places to explore

There are several other public conservation areas owned and managed by our land trust, including the Joseph



Blake Wildlife Sanctuary in the town of Rutland and the upcoming David S. Smith property in the town of Lery.

Each one offers important wildlife habitat and unique opportunities to connect to nature. As we face the need to connect more people to nature close to home to inspire a love of the land, wildlife, and community, these conservation areas are crucial for our overall health and well-being—and as a haven for wildlife.

That only happens because of people like you. Thank you.

AN UNWAVERING LOVE OF TUG HILL

Bob and Carol Keller honored for their conservation efforts

If you are looking for folks who walk the conservation walk, you have found them.

Bob and Carol Keller have stood by the land trust year after year, conserving their land, participating in forest conservation efforts, cheering on community programs and the establishment of new public conservation areas, and contributing quietly to strategic initiatives.

Their unwavering support and generosity were recently honored at our fall Annual Meeting with the dedication of Keller Mohawk Hill Public Conservation Area.

Bob and Carol want you to know that this is a team effort. They love working lands, like well-managed forests and farms and treasure unique places for birds and wildlife.

The Kellers also recognize that connecting kids to nature is the future of conservation and have embraced our efforts to connect to urban, suburban, and rural areas in and near Tug Hill.

To ensure that the land trust continues to thrive, they have also included Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust in their wills.

Throughout the past 15 years, the Kellers' steadfast efforts, combined with other land trust supporters, have been key to protecting, improving, and expanding the local places where people, like you, and nature, can thrive together.

Thank you, Bob and Carol, for all you have done and all you continue to do. You are an inspiration.



Farming with the future in mind

When conservation is the right thing to do

The Desormeaux's farm isn't just rolling meadows with cows, vast fields that turn golden in the fall, and picturesque barns. It's also a demonstration of the love of community built on tradition as a force for the future.

In 1953, Albert Desormeaux bought a farm in the town of Gouverneur from a neighbor who had no heirs, beginning his own life's venture. Together, he and his wife, Theresa, embarked on a path that would shape the land, their family, and their community.

Stepping into their kitchen you'll find more than memorabilia. Displayed is a tangible connection to a life fully lived, dedicated to the land and the legacy of farming.

"We are incredibly lucky to have purchased the farm when we did, as purchasing farmland becomes increasingly difficult. People now don't always get this opportunity that my family has," mused Albert.

That was a big reason why ten years ago, Albert and Theresa decided to conserve their farm.

"We wanted to make sure that our kids could inherit this farm and not have it be sold for development," explained Albert. "We are glad we did. The conservation agreement is farm-friendly. To evolve and thrive, we can do what we need to do as a farm business."

The farm is home to 200 cattle and grows corn, soybeans, and hay silage alongside pasturelands and woodlands. A small brook meandering through the property provides

habitat for migrating songbirds. The family has worked steadily to enhance soil health and water management as part of their long-term sustainability strategy.

Albert, together with his son, manages their woodlot carefully for sustained timber harvest. In 2009, to help reduce energy costs, they installed solar panels on their farm buildings, generating enough power to run the whole farm.

Conserving their farm is an extension of a long list of leadership roles the Desormeaux family has taken over the years.

As a community leader, Albert served as a director on the board of the Agri-Mark Coop, the farmer-run milk processing plant, and then Cabot Creamery Cooperative after the two merged in 1992.

During his time in the cooperative, Cabot featured Albert's portrait on its cheese packaging and trucks in recognition of his farm's production of quality milk and Albert's dedication to supporting family farms. A true honor for Albert and his family.

"We thought a lot about whether to conserve our farm. We decided it was the right thing to do as the

"We wanted to make sure that our kids could inherit this farm and not have it be sold for development. The conservation agreement is farm-friendly. We can do what we need to do as a farm business to evolve and thrive."

- Albert Desormeaux





Is conservation right for you, or someone you know?

Would you like to protect your land? Do you know someone who might be interested in protecting their farm, woodlands, or wetlands?

People protect their land for a variety of reasons. For many, it's a way to ensure their love of the land will remain intact after they leave.

For others, it's a way to honor their parents and grandparents.

Sometimes it helps with estate planning or financial management plans.

If you would like to explore if conservation is right for you and your family, contact Emily Antonacci, Land Stewardship and Conservation Manager, 315-779-8240, x12 or email eantonacci@tughilltomorrowlandtrust.org.

All conversations are confidential to provide your family the privacy it needs to make a decision that is right for you.

conservation agreement will help ensure that our farm's legacy can continue on," explained Albert.

Farmland protection projects like the Desormeaux's often take years to accomplish. Sometimes it's through the Army Compatible Use Program (ACUB) in partnership with our land trust and Ducks Unlimited.

Other times farmers apply to the NYS Farmland Protection Program with the assistance of the land trust. After a competitive review process by the Department of Agriculture and Markets, those farms that are selected then work in partnership with our land trust to conserve their farm.

Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust is now working with ten additional farm families to achieve their conservation goals. We are working to identify ways to expedite the farmland protection process. With farmland increasingly at risk, these farm families are not only cultivating crops and raising cattle; they're protecting the region's farming future.





Welcome to the big woods

Students experience the Traverse Trail for a day

Imagine you grew up in New York City and are leaving home on your own for the very first time to start your college experience in northern New York State. A little unsure of your major, you apply and are accepted to attend a two-week summer program before classes start that allows you to meet fellow students, build research skills, and connect with potential faculty.

And the first time you are inside a true forest is on Tug Hill.

Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust volunteers made magic happen this summer for a group of 20 incoming SUNY College of Environmental Science students during a day of trail work and conversation along the Tug Hill Traverse Trail in the East Branch of Fish Creek headwaters.

For some, it was their first time being entirely surrounded by large trees on a woods trail.

“Immersive field experiences and conversations with staff and volunteers deeply affect a student's passion and

determination to pursue an environmental career. One student is already pursuing more trail work experiences after our day in the woods,” reflected Gabriela Wemple, Graduate Student Assistant.

As the region's first trail of its kind, the Traverse Trail, located between Montague and Osceola, will extend over 20 miles, passing wetlands, overlooking streams, and zig-zagging through deep hemlock groves.

“We know that getting out in nature is more important than ever,” explained Jan Bogdanowicz, one of the key volunteers on the project. “This is one way to inspire the love of this place so that others will care about Tug Hill generations from now.”

In the coming year, as volunteers continue to extend and care for the trail, there will be more opportunities for both students and community members alike to experience the magic of deep, quiet Tug Hill forests. It's an experience we can't wait to share.

Volunteers make amazing things happen

Would you like to make a difference? Depending on your interest and availability, you can spend a couple of hours or all day—whatever works for you. Often, there's a way to include friends and family.

Some folks like to help with trail maintenance or installation. Others prefer to send photographs, assist with mailings, or help with events. No matter your age or experience, there's a place for you. Call Lin Gibbs or email her at lgibbs@tughilltomorrowlandtrust.org to explore what feels right.

Making outdoor learning fun and easy

With so many challenges facing families these days, getting outside for fun and learning shouldn't be one of them. The custom-designed Tug Hill Explorer Backpacks make it easier for kids, teachers, mentors, and parents alike to head outside for adventure.

The initial backpack concept and content design were created with generous support from the Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida Counties, Stewart's Holiday Match Fund, and community supporters last year.

There are currently two versions: one focusing on birds and another on animal tracking. Each backpack contains books, tools (like binoculars and magnifiers), and activities. A list of suggested locations open to the public for adventures is also included.

To date, eight libraries in the Tug Hill region have received backpacks for community use to borrow and return: Carthage, Lowville, Parish, Poland, Remsen, Turin, Westernville, and Williamstown.

They're a big hit!

Now we're working to provide additional backpacks to more libraries in the region. Want to help? Contact [Lin Gibbs](#), Community Programs Manager. Donations toward the backpack program will make more backpacks available in more places.



Inspiring the love of the land

Welcoming experiences in nature last a lifetime

Thanks to partnerships with Verona Beach State Park, Delta Lake State Park, private landowners, Midtown Utica Community Center, and Young Scholars LLP in Utica, more young people than ever are finding joy in the outdoors in the southern part of Tug Hill.

Youth who never knew the scent of fresh forest air have returned to their families and communities with new energy. They've started sharing their excitement, pride in newfound abilities and knowledge with their friends and family members.

Research has documented that time spent outside with others can help reduce feelings of isolation, build self-esteem, relieve stress and create treasured memories. Whether learning to use a map and compass, paddle a canoe, set up

a campsite, or hike safely, these youth are connecting with nature, experiencing a sense of peace and belonging, and feeling accomplished.

Julie Rubenstein, who owns Camp Woodlot in the Town of Forestport, where a lot of the trail work has been happening, explained her passion for kids and nature.

“Too many young people today—especially in urban areas—have

little opportunity to experience what the outdoors has to offer. Team building, self-esteem, respect, serenity, science, spirituality, and physical exercise, can all be found in nature,” explained Julie.

As they move forward as future decision makers for conservation, their connections and knowledge gained now will serve them all well in the years ahead.

“Too many young people today—especially in urban areas—have little opportunity to experience what the outdoors has to offer. Team building, self-esteem, respect, serenity, science, spirituality, and physical exercise, can all be found in nature.”

– Julie Rubenstein, owner of Camp Woodlot



Jeff Brady

Tax-savvy ways to give

When Margaret Mead said, “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has,” she was thinking about people like you. There are so many ways you can help.

Become a monthly donor

Make a monthly gift that keeps conservation going all year long. Become one of our sustaining donors whose generosity makes an ongoing difference throughout the year. It’s your monthly gift that allows us to seize opportunities and respond to unexpected challenges. Monthly gifts range in size from \$5 to \$1,000. **All contributions of any size are greatly appreciated.**

Gifts of stock

A gift of stock is a great way to help avoid capital gains taxes, receive an income tax deduction, and support local land conservation. If you itemize your deductions, you may be able to take a charitable deduction for the entire donation amount. Your support will make a big difference and help conserve the region’s farms, clean waters, and woodlands while creating new trails and community programs.

Give from your IRA

If you are 70.5 years or older and have a traditional IRA, you can make a donation from your IRA account to support conservation. IRA gifts are generally not recognized as taxable income and may count toward meeting your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). If you must take an RMD this year, giving from your IRA is a strategic way to fulfill it.

Other ways to give

Many people find that they want to include the land trust in their will. Some donate property to create public conservation areas or to resell, once conserved, to boost programs. **For other ways to give go to our website: tughilltomorrowlandtrust.org/ways-to-give**

“It gives me peace of mind, and a sense of hope, to contribute towards saving land and preserving our region’s sense of place. I know I’m making a difference.”

**–Jonas Kelly
Barneveld, NY**

As always, please consult your tax advisor/attorney for advice on your specific situation.

Thanks to you...

We wanted to share some of the highlights from 2022 that you made happen. As a community-supported conservation organization, you, our donors, partners, landowners, and volunteers are what makes it all possible.

Here are some highlights



Farms

- Worked with eight farm families on state farmland grants to conserve 2,791 acres in Jefferson and Oneida Counties.
- Farmers reinvest to improve or sustain their operations while conserving the land.
- 14 farmland protection projects underway.



Wildlife

- As of 2022, a total of 22,008 acres are conserved, including farms, woodlands, wetlands, and waterways. The majority are managed and owned by local families.
- Several projects underway in Herkimer County, including one to conserve 700 acres in partnership with a rod and hunt club.



Conservation Areas and Trails

- Finished clearing and marking the initial 10 miles of the Tug Hill Traverse Trail. Began trail improvements at the French Settlement Road Public Conservation Area.
- Two public conservation areas were initiated in 2022, bringing the total to four.



Education

- Expanded educational programs in the southern part of the Tug Hill region to include partnerships with local schools, community organizations, New American farming programs, youth development, and 4-H.
- 35 of the 52 birding teams registered for the 2022 Tug Hill Bird Quest were new to the event; 41 species of birds were observed at feeders during the Tug Hill Bird Quest.



Volunteers

- Volunteers ranging in age from 6 to 87 donated 234 hours of time and talent. Thanks to them, new trails, new friends, and new memories were made.



Community Programs

- Hosted programs for the general public ranging from walks, hikes, bird watching, and canoeing.
- Expanded programs to include urban areas, youth and elders.

2022 Financials

As a nationally accredited land trust, we believe in building an organization that is here to stay.

Your gifts are investments in the future of all who visit Tug Hill—as well as the wildlife and community members who call it home.

Our success is your success.

For a more detailed financial report call Mark Pacilio to request our 990s. Together, we are leveraging thousands of dollars of state and federal funding to conserve the lands that matter most.



2022 Income

■ Conservation Easement Grants*	\$ 1,604,554
■ Grants & Contributions	\$ 242,489
■ Programs Services	\$ 139,300
■ Other Income	\$ 22,775
■ Special Events	\$ 17,248
Total*	\$2,026,366



2022 Expenses

■ Program Services	\$ 802,943
■ Administration	\$ 110,637
■ Fundraising	\$ 81,458
Total	\$ 995,038

*Based on Audited 2022 Financial Statement. Conservation Easement Grants reflect state and federal government grants received for the purchase of the easements.

Let's celebrate...

Thanks to you, more of Tug Hill's farms, woodlands, waters, and wildlife

Thank you to all who donated to the land trust from January 2022 to December 2022. Clean water doesn't happen by accident. Nor does remembering our local heritage. Your compassion, generosity, and enthusiasm are what makes our community a better place to live, work, and play for today, tomorrow, and generations to come.

Together, we are conserving the extraordinary places of Tug Hill and providing places for people from all walks of life to enjoy, close to home.

We sincerely apologize for any errors or omissions. Please give us a call at 315-779-8240 if you have a correction to make.

(M) Monthly Donors

✦ Donors giving more than 10 years

✦ Donors giving more than 20 years

Friends up to \$49

Anonymous ✦ Scott Adams ✦
Marianne Alexander
Janelle Blakely
Liz Bonisteel
Kelley Campbell
Matthew D. Carney
Greg & Kate Couch ✦
Kimberly Couch
Mike & Phyllis Crisafulli
Linda M. Garrett ✦

Rick & Michelle Gefell
Rita Gefell
Bob & Patricia Gorman
Betty Gould
Katrina Hanna ✦
Mark Holberg
Harold & Susan Johnson
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Jeri Kaskoun ✦
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Dacia Vaneenenaam
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Nancy Wheeler
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Ellen Woodworth

Patron \$50-\$99

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William & Mabry Benson ✦
John Boyce ✦
Jane Bradbury & Ernest Norris
James Bramley
Phillip Branche ✦
Melinda Broman ✦
Keith & Joyce Butters
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Leona Cheresnoski ✦
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Bryan Kennedy & Marilyn Cole ✦
John & Nancy Cootware ✦
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Stanley & Barbara Eldridge ✦
Becky Ferris ✦
Charles Gleisner
Jim & Sue Gwise
Sandy Halbritter
Richard Halpin ✦
Kimberly Hanna
Harold Heintz, Jr.
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Gary & Kristy Sullivan ✦
Karin Toepfer ✦
Darlene Trytek ✦
Vanessa & Scott Gilbert
Tug Hill Artisan Roasters
Thomas & Audrey Voss ✦

What better way to say you care?

When you provide a gift in honor of someone, it says a lot about them — and you.

We will send the person you have honored, or in the case of a memorial gift the family, a card letting them know of your thoughtful contribution.

It's a lovely way to note how special they are and how much they cared about the lands, waters, and community we all cherish.

In Memory of

Dick & Jeanne Dupre
Sandy Halbritter

Dick Hill
Carolyn Hoera & Peter Tittler

Tanya Yerdon
Tom & Jane Jones

habitat are conserved

Supporters \$100-\$249

Anonymous ✨
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 Zachary Wakeman ✨
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 Barry Worczak ♡
 William & Mary Wormuth ✨
 Patricia Wujcik
 Mary & David Young
 Tom Yousey ♡

Continues on page 14



Want to meet some terrific people?

It's time to thank our volunteers

The letter goes out. The trail marker goes up. The photo is shared. An invasive plant is removed...and the smiles keep coming.

As a community-supported land trust, our volunteers make conservation and connecting people to nature a reality. We appreciate, and count on, the hundreds of hours of time and talent they collectively contribute each year. Thank you!

January 2022 - December 2022

Mailings & Publications

Anne Ashley
 Mike & Dawn McGrath
 Heidi Jones

Programs

Dani Baker
 Max Holguin
 Mike & Dawn McGrath
 Bob McNamara
 Megan Pistoiese Shaw
 Kylie Schell
 Zach Wakeman

Soggy Sneaker 5K

Anne Ashley
 CJ Jackson
 Meredith Leonard
 Kylie Schell
 Beth Steria
 Sayre Stevens
 Cindy Stewart

Trail Cleanups

Kerry Palmer & Nate
 Mike & Dawn McGrath

Traverse Trail

Jan Bogdanowicz
 Sandy Bonanno
 Diane Covell
 Sue Fassler
 Carrie Fleming
 Karen Greene
 Nancy Grisham
 Marty Jo Henry
 Bob Keller
 Fran Lawlor
 Meredith Leonard
 Bob McNamara
 Ian McNamara
 Ashley McNamara
 Peggy Morgia
 Diane Olivo
 Ray Spahn
 Arthur Smolinski
 Zach Wakeman
 Maddie Wakeman
 Kate Woodle



(M) Monthly Donors

✧ **Donors giving more than 10 years**

✦ **Donors giving more than 20 years**

Stewards \$250-\$499

- Kate Adams & Randy Baranak ✧
- Adirondack Mountain Club – Onondaga Chapter ✦
- Chuck and Lynn Allegre ✧
- David Bagley ✧
- Frederic Baldwin
- Sheldon & Kathryn Brown ✦
- Louis Calabrese, DVM ✦
- Patricia Castellano
- Liza Clarke
- Joe Wessner Coughlin Printing
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- Marta Dippel
- Lee Ellsworth
- Phyllis Fisher
- Wayne Franz ✧
- Mel & Dave Geurtsen ✧
- Rebecca & Terry Heagle
- Carolyn Hoera & Peter Tittler
- Vige Barrie & Jim Frederick, M.D.
- Terrence & Deborah Jones

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- Stan & Chris Riveles ✧
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Join others as a part of the...

Heart of Tug Hill Legacy Society

Have you considered how you might leave a lasting impact for generations to come? A gift through your will, of any size, is a terrific way to make a legacy gift. It's easy to do and will show how much you care.

Your generosity and compassion will ensure that kids and families can develop a love of Tug Hill like you do. Because of you, cherished lands and waters will be conserved and cared for. Let us know if you've included us in your will so we can thank you.

- Carol Beck
- Harold Boyce
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert Fort
- John & Marcia Gosier ✧
- Gordon Hayes, Jr. ✧
- Steve & Madeline Hunter ✦
- Bob & Carol Keller ✦
- Russ & Rebecca Myer ✦



Cross Island Farms continues to show up for conservation

We are fortunate to know many amazing people whose support significantly impacts our region. Dani Baker is one of them.

With a soft-spoken, contagious love of organic gardening and conservation, Dani leaves a lasting and inspiring impression everywhere she goes. In the past, she has been the lead sponsor of trail improvements. Now Dani and her partner, David, of Cross Island Farms in Wellesley Island, NY, are partially underwriting the newsletter.

Local business sponsorships, volunteering, and contributions are critical if we are going to increase the pace—and scope—of future conservation work. Thank you to Cross Island Farms and all of our business sponsors.



Businesses invest locally and it shows

Part of what makes Tug Hill a special place to live, work, and play is the commitment that local businesses have to help out and make our area shine.

It's that community ethic that we really value, and it's their support—both with in-kind and monetary donations that leverage the financial support of people from all walks of life.

Whether it's sponsoring educational programs, special events, or a new public conservation area, these local businesses know what it means to invest in our community. We hope you will join us in thanking them for their commitment to conservation.

If you would like to explore how to become a business sponsor and join our Corporate Eagles program, please contact Emily Males at 315-779-8240 or email her at emales@tughilltomorrowlandtrust.org.

In-Kind Gifts

- Aimee Bibbins
- Art Baird Pottery
- Brian Ashley & Anne Richter
- Christine Bibbins
- Coughlin Printing
- Cynde Baird
- Deborah Kahkejian
- Handmaiden's Garden
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- State Street Hardware
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- Symeons
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- Tractor Supply
- Tug Hill Artisan Roasters
- Tug Hill Estate
- Walmart Supercenter
- Walmart
- Watertown Daily Times
- Woody's Guide Services
- Zach Wakeman

2022 Corporate Eagles



Bob & Carol Keller



R.W. Sauer Forestry

Rudd's Town & Country



Tug Hill Outfitters

We're here for you...

Want to find out about new projects, family-friendly programs and hikes, conservation tips, and community events?

Sign up for our updates

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Looking for all the Tug Hill early birds!

We're rolling out early bird signups for the 2024 Tug Hill Bird Quest!

This program is an annual bird feeder watching event, with classroom, homeschool, family and individual teams in the Tug Hill region reporting bird feeder sightings during the third week of May.

Early Bird teams sign up before December 31st and get extra learning resources starting in January. Weekly emails from January through April include fun facts and activities to help improve bird identification and observation skills. Virtual or in-person visits with Lin Gibbs are also available.

Regular team signups are due no later than March 31st. All Tug Hill Bird Quest teams receive daily Bird of the Day emails in April and May prior to the official observation week, when everyone tallies their observations. All teams receive a full event report in early June.

Let's get those feeders clean and ready for next spring. Sign up today.

2nd Annual Winter Fun Challenge Underway

Don't let winter get you down. Submit a list of eight or more outdoor experiences you've enjoyed with related photos using the Winter Fun Challenge form and we'll send your choice of a patch or decal to celebrate your accomplishment.

For dates visit tughilltomorrowlandtrust.org/events

