

CONSERVING LAND,

CONNECTING PEOPLE,

CELEBRATING NATURE

2014 ANNUAL REPORT



Ensuring THE WEIBEL FAMILY LEGACY Peace of Mind

Everyone has their own story for why they want to protect their land. In 2013 and 2014 we completed a record number of projects, changing the story for 15 families. These are stories of farm families being able to re-invest in their farms, securing their future; transferring their farms to the next generation; keeping their forests undeveloped and managed sustainably; and having the peace of mind to know it will stay undeveloped — forever.

Panoramic views of the Mohawk Valley from the Weibel farm in Town of Lee, Oneida County.

For two generations the Weibel family has taken care of the land and the land has taken care of them. Eugene Weibel has lived his whole life on his 200-acre farm in Lee Center. He loves to share memories of the farm where he grew up and later where he and his wife Rita worked the farm together. It is who they are. But concern for what would happen to the farm when they were not there to take care of it had been weighing heavily on them.

Over the years, they watched the slow progression of development eating away at the neighbors farm fields and forests. They didn't want the same thing for their farm, but were not sure how they were going to prevent it from happening. Not until the spring of 2013, when they saw a story in the local paper about the protection of Spring Brook Farm in Rome, a farm family they knew.

This was the answer they were looking for. Encouraged, the Weibel's reached out to Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust and made the decision to move forward with protecting their farm. "We have wanted to do this for a long time," Rita said "and now we have the peace of mind of knowing the land will be taken care of the way we want." In February of 2014 the project was completed, bringing the total number of acres protected by the land trust to just over 15,000.

A crisp fall morning, sunshine and a bright blue sky, the smell of leaves and an anxious group anticipating what they will discover on their hike into the big woods with naturalist Bob McNamara. That was the scene for what has become an annual event every fall for the land trust — exploring the “old growth” forest that is part of a detached forest preserve parcel in Osceola.

Getting folks out on the land, experiencing new places and different activities like snowshoeing, kayaking and Mt. biking is a priority for the land trust. We believe helping people, especially kids, create connections with nature, is the best way for the future of conservation to survive. In 2014 THTLT hosted dozens of outings, educational programs and special events offering opportunities to get out on Tug Hill and learn why it is so special and should be cared for and protected.

Being out on the Land



THTLT ANNUAL
OLD GROWTH HIKE





WORKING FOR THE Next Generation OF CONSERVATION

25 Years: 1991-2016



The Next Generation has more than one meaning for us. In 2016, THTLT will be celebrating its 25th Anniversary, and by many standards completing our first generation of conservation work; many of our conservation easement landowners are transferring their land to the next generation; and our priority is still engaging the next generation of conservationist.

Despite the success of our first generation, there is still a lot of work to do. The special places on Tug Hill are still getting subdivided and developed, diminishing the wellbeing of our communities. We need to find innovative ways to engage our next generation so they care about the land and conservation. With your help we can expand our impact and protect tomorrow, today!





2014 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

December 31, 2014 with Comparative Totals for 2013

	2014	2013 Restated
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 268,969	\$ 31,560
Accounts Receivable	200	19,725
Grants Receivable	-	12,674
Pledges Receivable	17,000	42,000
Inventory	1,048	1,097
Total Current Assets	287,217	107,056
Non-Current Assets		
Pledges Receivable, Net	13,927	9,652
Restricted Funds		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	23,351	189,807
Investments	514,344	294,635
Accounts Receivable	-	35,000
Total Restricted Funds	537,695	519,442
Property and Equipment	30,998	27,372
Less - Accumulated Depreciation	(14,182)	(9,965)
	16,816	17,407
Other Assets		
Conservation Easements	-	-
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 855,655	\$ 653,557
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$ 3,092	\$ 3,098
Deferred Grant Revenue	250,000	-
Total Current Liabilities/Total Liabilities	253,092	3,098
Net Assets		
Unrestricted		
Board Designated	52,197	47,860
Undesignated	25,940	121,365
Total Unrestricted	78,137	169,225
Temporarily Restricted	524,426	481,234
Total Net Assets	602,563	650,459
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 855,655	\$ 653,557

As many not-for-profits, THTLT derives most of its income from individual contributions, grants, special events, earned income and investments.

In 2014, we secured grant funding from the NYS Empire Development Corporation of \$500,000 to help purchase conservation easements through the Army Compatible Use Buffer Program. Also note that there was \$1,701,121 in donated conservation easement value which is expensed under program services. Donated conservation easements have no monetary value to the land trust. Easements are not marketable interests in real estate, and have no economic value. The easements impose a perpetual obligation to Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust to monitor and steward the properties, and defend the easement if there is a violation, the costs of which are an on-going expense.

The Internal Revenue Service and the Land Trust Accreditation Commission both require that THTLT maintain a Stewardship Fund, which is a pooled fund. A portion of the interest is used to offset the costs of yearly monitoring and stewardship of our conservation easements. If necessary, the principal may be used to defend the violation of a conservation easement. At the end of 2014, THTLT had \$ 537,695 in its Stewardship Fund.

INCOME \$699,844



EXPENSES \$747,740



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JANUARY-DECEMBER 2014



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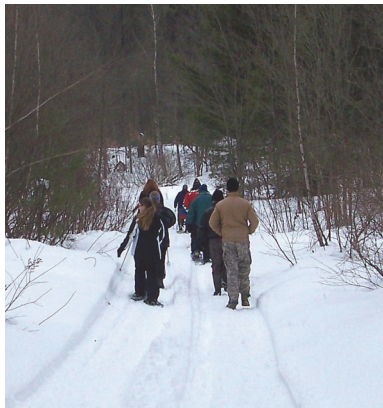
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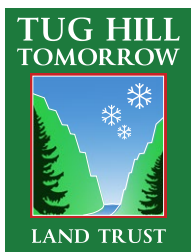
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*Join **THTLT's** monthly giving program, Conservation Heroes, to make a greater impact on the places you love. Your automatic monthly gift saves time, paper & postage, and you can cancel anytime. Contact Fawn Heins @ 315.779.2239 or tughilladmin@nynmail.org or join today at www.tughilltomorrowlandtrust.org



Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust

PO Box 6063

Watertown, NY 13601

Phone: (315) 779-8240

Fax: (315) 782-6192

Email: thtomorr@northnet.org

TugHillTomorrowLandTrust.org



Photo Credits

Front Cover: Reflections by Kathy Hanchek
Westdale Kayak by Janet Thompson, and
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Tug Hill Tomorrow Outing and Event Successes

- Expanded day care program to two local centers in Watertown and Lowville, connecting kids to their natural environment.
- Developed monthly educational programming at the Wildlife Sanctuary in Rutland.
- Partnered with three area libraries as part of their summer reading program.
- Hosted 4th Annual Race for Open Space to celebrate local land conservation.
- Sponsored a diverse variety of field trips and events throughout the region.
- Classrooms from around the region participated in the Tug Hill Bird Quest.
- Old Growth and Independence River Hikes.

Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Protection Successes

- **Weibel Farm, 200 acres** — Lee Center, Oneida County
 - **Marks Farms LLC, 3219 acres** — Martinsburg, Lewis County
- 3,419 acres Total Acres Protected in 2014**

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