

Greenings

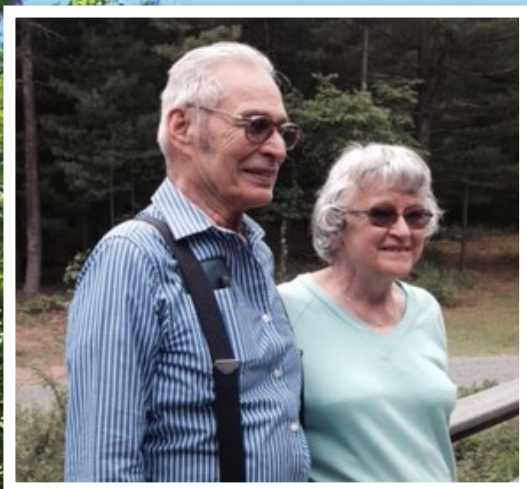
Celebrating Conservation & People

**“The song of the river ends not
at her banks but in the hearts of
those who have loved her.”**

– Buffalo Joe



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A sacred trust, a love together

**"It's more than land, trees and the water, and even wildlife.
It's the very soul of who we are."**



It seems like it is always cold here in the north country. The frosty nights of the fall, the blustery, bitter cold of winter and the chilly rains of spring make it challenging to stay warm. And the snow? You know about the snow. Mounds of it. Sometimes never ending, or so it seems.

But that never deterred George and Terry Cataldo. Married for 42 years, they've always been together helping out at their local church, attending a concert or community event, or volunteering at Constable Hall.

A little cold weather didn't slow them down much

That's partly is because, like many in the north country, they're hard workers and take pride in living in harmony with nature, managing their forest for wildlife and the water of the Independence River, as well as personal use.

Terry cherishes the memories of sitting by the crackling fire in the winter knowing she and George worked hard to cut the trees and split it up into firewood.

"It wasn't always easy, but we've found such beauty in this place" explains Terry softly, continuing, "living in our house, the one we designed and had built with the trees God planted right here, on this land, is something we have treasured."



Honoring God's creation

Now in their 80's, the Cataldo's recently conserved their land in Grieg, ensuring that the wildlife and woodlands along the river's edge will provide future owners the same inspiration and haven that it did for them.

Terry pauses for a moment, and remarks, "Protecting this land was so important to us. We have been committed

to protecting it for many years. It's more than land, trees and the water, and even wildlife. It's the very soul of who we are. We are so happy to have the peace of mind knowing it will not be developed, and future generations will be able to enjoy it like we have."

Dave Evans, Terry's son, smiles when

he hears this and nods his head. "My mom and step-dad have cared for this land together for over 40 years.

It is almost like a sacred trust that they were blessed to receive and share with others," reflects Dave. "Their love for each other, and their faith, is manifested in this land and the days and years they spent honoring their special piece of God's creation."

Helping to do the extraordinary...

As a community supported land trust, your donations are what makes it possible to conserve the special places of Tug Hill.

Your generosity allows us to assist families throughout the region, who want to do something extraordinary: conserve their land, protect the clean waters of local rivers and streams, and invest in the farms and woodlands that make Tug Hill what it is today. Thank you.



It's an Ecological Trap

Climate change can turn Monarch Butterflies' favorite food into poison

New research is documenting the impact of increased CO₂ in our atmosphere on the plants, wildlife, farms and waterways we are all working to conserve. With CO₂ levels recently, as of May, the highest they have been in 2 million years (based upon ice-core research and atmospheric testing), we are now facing increasingly serious challenges to the lands, waters and places we love.

Scientists at Louisiana State University (LSU) are investigating the relationship between climate change and species responses.

The Monarch Butterfly, already stressed because of habitat damage and pesticides, is now caught in the cross-hairs of how plants are responding to increased CO₂.

LSU clarifies that there are several different species of milkweed, but they all share a common trait. They produce toxic chemicals in their leaf tissue called cardenolides that deter most vertebrate predators.

Climate Change and Toxins

These chemicals are in the class of cardiac glycosides that interfere with sodium potassium-pumps in the heart and other tissues and can even affect humans if ingested in large quantities.

They note that Monarchs, however, have evolved to become cardenolide-tolerant up to a certain point.

By laying their eggs on milkweed plants that contain levels of cardenolides that are toxic for their predators, Monarchs protect their caterpillar offspring from being eaten.



Planting milkweed won't be enough to ensure that Monarchs survive climate change.

After hatching and chowing down on milkweed leaves, the caterpillars are full of cardenolides that make them taste nasty to most predators, such as birds. Monarch Butterflies also sequester this compound in their wings. Their contrasting bright orange and black wings signal "do not eat me" to birds such as blue jays.

But if a milkweed plant produces too much of this toxic chemical, caterpillars that feed on the plant's leaf tissue may inadvertently poison themselves.¹ It's a situation they are now watching, with growing concern.

Together, we can make a difference

You can help reduce the pace of climate change, and help save the wildlife, plants, and community landscapes you love.

We, here at the land trust, are working on this as well. Check out our website for ideas on how you can help.

Together, we can address the need to slow down climate change and conserve our region's farms, wildlife, woodlands and our waterways.

The science is increasingly clear. Now is the time to make a difference. And we are pleased to be able to work with you, to help.

"But if a milkweed plant produces too much of this toxic chemical, caterpillars that feed on the plant's leaf tissue may inadvertently poison themselves."

¹ http://www.lsu.edu/mediacenter/news/2018/04/03bio_faldyn_monarchs.php



Kids & Birds

Igniting a passion strengthens conservation

The excitement in the classroom is palpable as 30 sets of feet run to the window and 30 sets of eyes focus on the birdfeeder hanging on the tree in the school yard. “I see one!” “Is that a cardinal?”

Every spring, thanks to your support, Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust works with classrooms and homeschool families around the region to learn all about birds.

As part of the Tug Hill Bird Quest, kids ranging in age from 5-13 learn to identify birds, observe their particular

habits, and become more aware of how they are part of our communities.

For many kids who might otherwise not be as actively engaged, it's a great way to bring their studies to life. Teachers love it as it brings the classroom to life with the sounds of joyful learning.

But it goes farther than that. Research has shown that the love of birds, and birding, is often a pathway for a deeper connection to the land.

This means when kids get jazzed about birds, and grow up to be engaged in the out-of-doors, conservation gets a giant shot in the arm. *That's a long-term win for sure.*

TOP OF THE HILL AWARD

Tom, Tug Hill, and a lifetime spent in the out-of-doors

It seems that Tom Walker has always been passionate about Tug Hill. As part of the Tug Hill Trekers outdoor group Tom will tell you stories of his adventures skiing or snow shoeing in the middle of “nowhere” in all that glorious snow that Tug Hill is famous for.

He's one of those people whose enthusiasm is contagious, with a commitment for land conservation that is ingrained in his personality.

It's that kind of life-long love of Tug Hill, and unwavering support year after year, that made Tom the obvious recipient of the “Top of the Hill Award” at the 2017 Annual Dinner held at the Tug Hill Vineyard.

“I was a bit stunned, but I guess it's true: I love this area, and I love helping others

conserve their lands by my support of the land trust” exclaimed Tom, “because once this land is gone, it's gone for good and we can't let that happen.”

This is the second time we have presented the Top of the Hill award. It was first awarded to board member Dick Hill, on his 90th birthday. The award now to recognizes a donor of a certain age who embodies Dick's dedication to nature and Tug Hill, honoring Dick's legacy.





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Your compassion and vision will be remembered

Would you like to help slow down time and provide opportunities for people from all walks of life to experience what makes Tug Hill special?

Perhaps you'd like to ensure that the farms, woodlands, wetlands and streams are conserved rather than be at the mercy of haphazard development. You can do just that, protecting the stunning beauty, the quiet mornings, the mist rising off the river with the sounds of birds... for generations to come.

No gift is too small to include in your will, and conservation will be all the better for it. For many there's tremendous satisfaction knowing that what you care about will benefit because of you. There may also be estate or financial benefits.

If you'd like to talk about what feels right to you, give Linda Garrett, executive director, a call at (315) 779-8240 or email her at thtomorr@northnet.org for a confidential discussion. If you have included us in your will we'd love to know so we can thank you.

"Carol and I are including Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust in our will. It's a simple thing to do and it feels good to us to know that we are going to make a difference well into the future..."

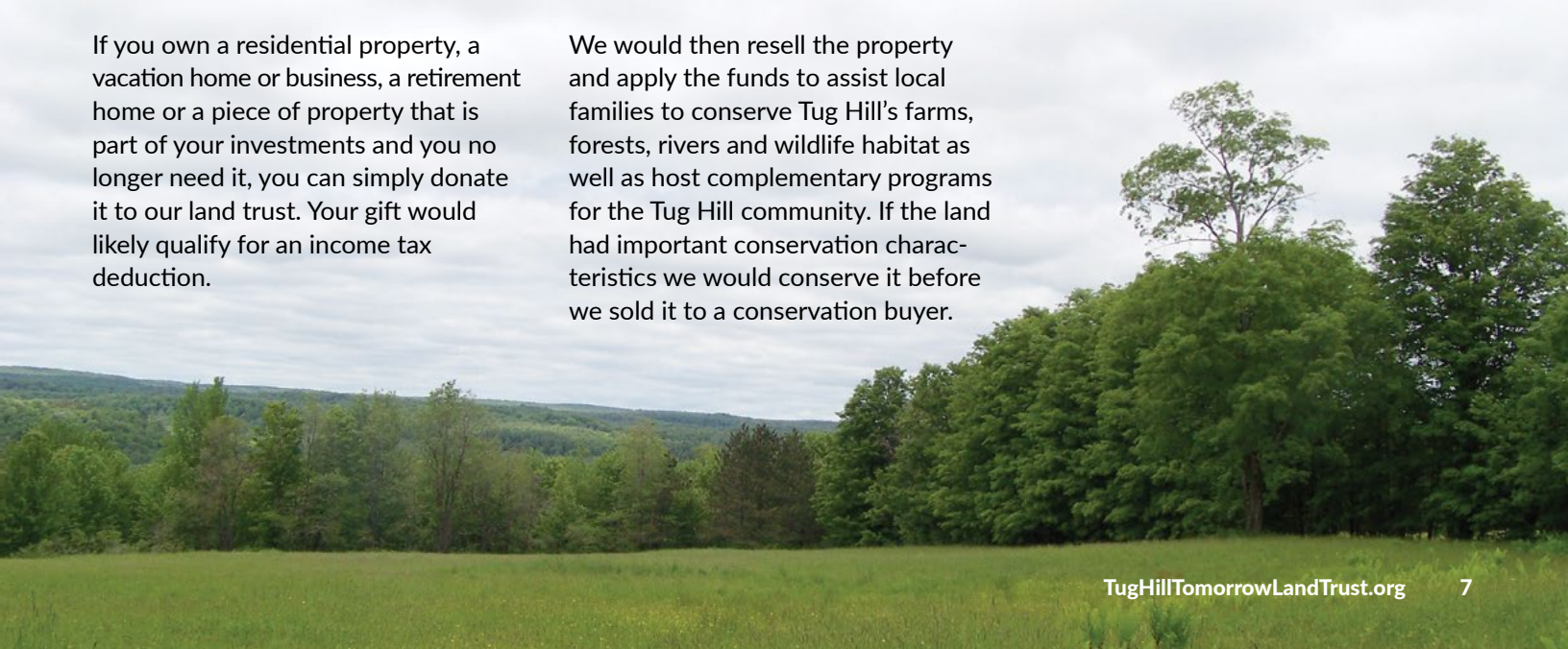
-Bob Keller

Gifts of property can make a big difference

You might be surprised at how easy it is to ramp up the pace of conservation in Tug Hill.

If you own a residential property, a vacation home or business, a retirement home or a piece of property that is part of your investments and you no longer need it, you can simply donate it to our land trust. Your gift would likely qualify for an income tax deduction.

We would then resell the property and apply the funds to assist local families to conserve Tug Hill's farms, forests, rivers and wildlife habitat as well as host complementary programs for the Tug Hill community. If the land had important conservation characteristics we would conserve it before we sold it to a conservation buyer.





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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 electronic updates and Facebook.

TugHillTomorrowLandTrust.org

Facebook.com/Tug-Hill-Tomorrow-Land-Trust

We don't share our mailing lists, so your privacy is protected.



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Front Cover: Independence River by © Vici Zaremba.

Greenings : Spring • Summer 2018

We'd love to see you...

Summertime supporter thank you hike and picnic

Have we told you lately how much we appreciate you? We do, and we're so excited to thank you for your support, and for making land protection possible in our beloved Tug Hill.

On Saturday, August 25 we're inviting you to the Independence River for a relaxing summertime hike and picnic. We'll provide a picnic lunch—you just need to bring a swim suit and towel. Bring your family—the more the merrier.

To RSVP please give us a call at 315-779-2239 or email tughilloutreach@nnymail.com. Not a donor yet? No problem. Feel free to join our efforts with a contribution, we'd love to have you on our team.

Additional outings

SATURDAY, JUNE 9TH • 10AM – 12PM

Camden Photography Workshop for Kids – Forest Park, Camden

SATURDAY, JUNE 23RD • 8AM – 10AM

Morning Bird Hike – Forest Park, Camden

SATURDAY, JUNE 23RD • 1PM – 3PM

Kids Photography Art Opening – Full Moon Reflections Art Gallery, Camden

For additional information and other scheduled outings check out our website or Facebook page. Please RSVP at (315)779-2239 or email tughilloutreach@nnymail.com



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