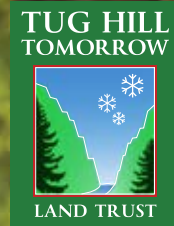


2020 HIGHLIGHTS &  
2019 ANNUAL REPORT



*"For kids, the natural world can be a place of peace, health and inspiration—and can launch a lifetime passion for conservation."*

*– Richard Louv, "Last Child in the Woods"*





## An Amazing Gift

*The healing power of nature*

What a year it has been. The ups and downs, the uncertainty, the need to continually adapt. Here at the land trust, we too have been transitioning and finding new ways to connect with each other, our friends and families, and people like you.

In our region, there's a growing recognition of the importance of neighborhood conservation areas, and how they are central to our health and quality of life. For so many of us they have become places where families and friends can connect after work or church, listen to owls, watch frogs with their kids or grandkids, or simply relax after a busy day.



Yet, even in Tug Hill and the surrounding region, there aren't many places that provide easy, accessible, close-to-home, nature experiences.

It's one of the reasons why we, as a land trust, are working to establish new neighborhood conservation areas as part of our strategic conservation efforts.

## Providing nature close to home

That's why I'm particularly honored to announce an extraordinarily generous gift of land by Dr. Marvin Reimer and his family. Dr. Reimer knows how important nature is to the health of our community. A retired pediatrician, he has spent much of his career caring for children in Jefferson County.

"We were very happy when Tug Hill Tomorrow agreed to accept the donation of our land on French Settlement Road, in the Town of Lorraine. We purchased the land in 1988, mainly to have a place where we could go and walk, and enjoy the woods, and the wildlife there. That is how we mostly used it. We did take out some firewood, and picked blackberries, but not much else," explained Dr. Reimer.

The beautiful 121-acre property, with its gently rolling paths through the woodlands, is interspersed with wetlands and ponds. It will now become our newest public conservation area and will serve as a haven for the community and wildlife alike.

Dr. Reimer smiled as he shared his family's vision for the land. "We are delighted it will be used as a place for people to enjoy nature."

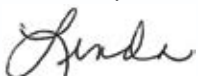
Once we secure funding to create a conservation plan, and related parking area and trail improvements, we will open the land to the public.

At a time when good news, compassion, and generosity of heart and spirit matters more than ever, Dr. Reimer and his family have provided a gift that will inspire the next generation of conservationists. Sharing the love of nature is a gift that will last for generations to come.

We can't thank the Reimer family enough for recognizing how the health of our community is inextricably linked with experiencing the wonders of nature. As Dr. Reimer explains, "We enjoyed the land, and look forward to other people enjoying it while it's preserved as a natural area."

I hope to greet you out there in the coming years so that you, too, will experience the magic of this very special place.

Sincerely,



Linda M. Garrett  
Executive Director

*"We enjoyed the land,  
and look forward to  
other people enjoying  
it also, while it is  
preserved as a  
natural area."*

*- Marvin Reimer*



# Staying Connected

## *Multi-state wildlife conservation project makes headway*

**T**his was a good year for wildlife conservation, as the *Staying Connected Initiative* took several strides forward in its work to conserve lands and waters critical for wildlife.

The initiative works to safeguard wide-ranging and forest-dwelling wildlife such as bear, moose, lynx, marten, and bobcat from the impacts of habitat fragmentation and climate change by maintaining and restoring landscape connections.

The project focuses on seven priority areas across the Northern Appalachians from Tug Hill to Maine, where landscape connections for wildlife movement are at risk due to barriers like development and highways.

*Staying Connected* is a joint project of The Nature Conservancy and Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust, along with 18 other state and local conservation organizations in New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine.

Our part of the project focuses on assisting landowners and communities in the area between Tug Hill and the Adirondacks. While each property is unique, landowners can take actions that will sustain wildlife and local community values such as hunting, fishing, forestry, agriculture, and outdoor recreation in a rapidly changing world.

### **That's good news for wildlife.**

Many species need to move around to meet their basic life needs, such as finding food and breeding areas, moving between winter and summer habitats, or dispersing from an overcrowded territory.

Large mammals like black bears can range up to 10 miles a day, and up to 40 square miles over the course of a season. Smaller animals like fishers can cover three to five miles a day.

*"We are so grateful to the sporting clubs, farm families, and landowners who understand the critical nature of this effort. Without them, it wouldn't be possible."*

That's one of the reasons why we must maintain large areas of core habitat to sustain healthy populations of wide-ranging mammals and other wildlife.

The conservation strategy therefore needs to include farmland, woodlands, wetlands, and river and stream systems that together comprise an integrated landscape.

**This year, we are working to complete four projects which will conserve over 1,300 acres.**

These lands build upon the 800 acres already conserved in partnership with a local sporting club in Herkimer County and The Nature Conservancy.

Over the next year we will be working on conservation agreements with three additional landowners to strengthen habitat linkages between Tug Hill and the Adirondacks.

Linda Garrett, Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust's Executive Director, stresses that this voluntary conservation effort is dependent on local landowners. "We are so grateful to the sporting clubs, farm families, and landowners who understand the critical nature of this effort. Without them, it wouldn't be possible."

**Would you like to learn more?** Feel free to reach out to Linda Garrett if you'd like to explore if land conservation is right for you or someone you know.











© Karen Burton Pickering

## National Security and Wildlife Get a Boost

**B**arbara Kane looks out the door of her farmhouse and she sees more than the lovely view. With barns and paddocks and the splashes of red in the fall from oaks, maples, and wetlands, she's connected deeply to the place so many wildlife call home. When asked about this place she reflects on her family's connection to St. Lawrence County.

"My dad purchased this land after my brother took over our family farm, just down the road," Barbara said. "I was able to continue the family legacy here in Rossie by purchasing the land after my dad passed away."

Jane Scott also owns family land near Fort Drum. Her 110-acres property, like Barbara's, is part of a larger ecological system in the area.

This year both Barbara and Jane conserved their land in partnership with the Army Compatible Use Buffer program (ACUB). Funded by the Department of Defense, and then matched with other grants when available, the ACUB program conserves important wildlife lands that buffer Fort Drum from incompatible development.

Landowners are compensated for retiring their development rights as outlined in a conservation plan at a price that reflects the appraised value.

They continue to own, manage, and pay taxes on their land but can never convert their land to development beyond what has been agreed upon in the conservation agreement.

"The Army's mission is ever-evolving. As weapons systems and training tactics change, the Army's use of the land changes," explained Jason Wagner, Fort Drum Natural Resources Chief. "The Army is committed to the sustainable management of its lands to ensure high quality training environments are maintained while also conserving the environment through habitat management.

"Protecting the land around the installation from incompatible development is critical for the long-term sustainability of the installations mission to train our Soldiers," Wagner said.

**Timing is important, as development is chipping away at the woods, wetlands, and farms in the region.**

"It's a very strategic investment for our nation, and our region, to conserve these properties. We appreciate the opportunity to work with Ducks Unlimited, Fort Drum, and area landowners," said JJ Schell, Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust's Associate Director.

Over the past 11 years Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust has facilitated the protection of 8,451 acres of farms, woodlands and wetlands around Fort Drum as part of the ACUB program.



**Twenty-five additional landowners in the region have expressed interest in conserving their land.**

With the support of the community and people like you, we will be able to explore how to make this a reality.



# Perfect Timing

*Trails connect people to each other and the land*

You would have thought that social distancing, and wearing masks, would bring our land trust's trail work to a halt. Not so. Tug Hill folks are Tug Hill tough. People came together and the results speak for themselves—and next year we will be ramping up, even more.



## The first trail of its kind

That's one of the reasons we are so appreciative of people like Cindy Stewart, from the Black River Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club, who volunteered to help create what will be the 20-mile **Tug Hill Traverse Trail**.

Thanks to her hard work, along with other fun and hardworking folks, seven miles are now completed. Cindy laughs as she considered what it was like, including the long trek in to initiate new trail work. "It's perfect timing to be out there in the woods given what we have all be going through this year. I'm excited that this trail will be the first non-motorized, long-distance trail on Tug Hill."

Views of the East Branch of Fish Creek, wetlands teeming with birds, and craggy rock outcroppings are just a few of the trail's highlights. The trail design and implementation are overseen by Bob McNamara, our tireless volunteer extraordinaire. It's an amazing vision and community effort unfolding before our eyes.



## Kids love it here

Our **Joseph A. Blake Wildlife Sanctuary**, located 10 miles from Watertown, saw a record number of visitors this year.

The three miles of trails are specifically designed for kids and families to provide interesting, and easy, access to various woodland habitats and experiences.

Over the course of the summer and fall, land trust staff were out every week checking the trails to ensure that the Sanctuary continues to be a welcoming place for our community.

"The Sanctuary is a great outdoor classroom, especially this year," explained Lin Gibbs, Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust's Community Programs Director. "We've seen a lot of people tapping into this public conservation area because their kids love it."







© Lydia Kibiuk

## Special Places Come in Small Packages, Too

When Andrea, Lydia, and Cynthia grew up in the hamlet of Barneveld, not far from the West Canada Creek, in the town of Trenton, they used to love listening to the birds with their dad, Theodore Kibiuk. “We’d spend hours out there. The birds were amazing—even though we really didn’t appreciate them as kids,” reflected Lydia. “I remember the Monarch butterflies, too. It was really magical.”

“Our parents loved this land, as did our grandparents,” explained Andrea, a veterinarian now living in Watertown, NY. “When our dad passed away, we wanted to honor our family’s connection to this land. We knew our parents and grandparents wanted this land to remain undeveloped for future generations.”

Now the sisters have conserved the 21-acre family land. They continue to own the property and can sell, or gift, the property subject to the conservation agreement.

Parcels like the Kibiuk’s, tucked into communities and along waterways, have often been overlooked as an important part of a regional conservation and ecological strategy.

But that’s changing. Research has documented that “small-parcel” conservation of local patches of habitat could be playing a much bigger role in conserving biodiversity than we might think.

A global study published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science* assessed the conservation values of vegetation patches in 27 countries on four continents including their size and distance to other habitats.

“Compared to large and well-connected habitat areas, small and isolated patches of habitat have generally been treated as not very important to conservation,” said Professor Wintle, lead researcher, in the article. “What we have found, however, is that small and isolated habitat areas are very important to the survival of many rare and endangered species.”

“This is how you conserve the lands that matter most,” explained Peggy O’Shea, a neighbor who has also protected her land. “Over time, amazing things happen.”

In this case, it’s a neighborhood conservation effort that includes the nearby Trenton Greenbelt and other protected lands along the West Canada Creek. The Kibiuk family has protected another piece of the puzzle, and the wildlife and community are all the better for it.



© Laurie Frykholm



# Conserving Farms Under Threat

Imagine what it's like to have worked on your family farm, one that your family has cared for and owned for generations, only to see it lost to development.

That's a challenge New York State is grappling with. Collectively we lost 2,100 dairy farms, a 20% decline, between 2012-2017 (the largest decline in two decades). Then the NY dairy industry, already challenged with narrow price margins, took a significant hit with the Covid-19 shut down of schools and restaurants.

**There is some good news, however.** Over the past 18 months, thanks to NYS farmland protection grants and community support, we have been fortunate to assist four farm families to conserve their land.

A total of 2,000 acres have been conserved ranging in size from 236 acres to almost 750 acres of productive fields, woodlands, and wetlands in St. Lawrence, Lewis, Oneida, and Jefferson counties.

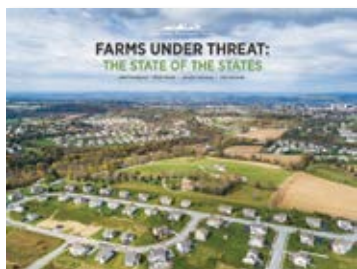
The conservation agreements allow farmers to diversify their operations, including establishing home-based businesses and limited-scale renewable energy projects that are compatible with the land and water.

Two additional farmland projects are expected to be completed in the coming year.

Once protected, the farm families are free to sell their properties subject to the conservation agreements. As a result, the land will be more affordable for the next farmer.

"Sometimes folks forget how important farmland is to our local food system, wildlife habitat, our rural economy, and much of our way of life," reflects Bill Paddock of the Groeslon Farm, which is owned by the Paddock family. Bill is part of a 4th generation family farm in Remsen, NY, and is exploring how to conserve their land.

Bill adds another thought, noting that we have more work to do. "It's a great beginning. We need to invest in farmland conservation as part of our climate solution, too. Good soil health, regenerative farming, and keeping land from being chopped up needs to be part of our communities' economic strategy. We are grateful for the chance to conserve our land. Other families need to be able to do that too."



**Check out the state of our nation's farmland.** Between 2001 and 2016, approximately 2,000 acres a day across the nation were paved over, built up, and converted to uses that threaten the future of agriculture. Eleven million acres in total. We encourage you to read the full report: [farmland.org/project/farms-under-threat](https://farmland.org/project/farms-under-threat)

Here in the Tug Hill region, we realize that farmland is a precious resource. That's why we are working so hard with local farm families to protect it.





# You Love the Land. They Will Too.

Spending time in nature became even more important this year as so many of us sought joy and peace of mind during unsettling times. Whether a daily walk in the woods, or a chance to meet a friend, for many, getting outside has been a way to feel almost “normal” again.

For kids, this is particularly true. More than 50 studies point to nature-based play and experiences as key to developing longer attention spans, reducing stress and anxiety, improving self-esteem, becoming more excited about school or home studies, and establishing a positive relationship with the outdoors.

That’s why so many teachers, parents, and community organizations have asked for our assistance and partnership. And thanks to you, we have been able to do just that. With increased community support we will be able to do even more in the coming year at a time when many kids need it more than ever.



## Outdoor Activities

Covid-19 put a damper on our community programs this year. In 2021, we'll be hosting free in-person community programs as soon as possible (pursuant to the state Covid-19 guidelines) to explore the special places in our region.

We'll also be boosting our online programs and presentations so they'll be accessible to more people, regardless of when we can gather together.

Whether it's creating fairy houses, prowling for owls, reading nature-based stories, or exploring conservation issues, these outings and programs offer ways you can share the wonder of Tug Hill with your family, friends, and neighbors.

## Teaching & Engagement

Tricia Pierce, mom of two and a local teacher, contacted our land trust for help incorporating bird watching and outdoor activities with her students this fall.

She's not the only one.

Teachers and home-schooling parents have asked us to provide suggestions on ways to engage students using both indoor and outdoor projects and curriculum.

Providing time outside to play and engage with nature is also a critical part of learning.

## Website Resources

Have you checked out our website's educational and activities section?

This past summer and fall we developed new resources for educational programs and activities in response to parents and teachers looking for ideas to help with remote learning.

You'll find examples of how to use birds as a gateway to science, and fun projects you can do to heighten children's observation skills.

This coming year we plan on adding additional Tug Hill specific curriculum.

**If you're interested in ways to engage students or kids with nature, explore our website for ideas ([tughilltomorrow.org](https://tughilltomorrow.org)).** Feel free to call Lin Gibbs, Community Programs Director, at the land trust or email her at [lgibbs@tughilltomorrow.org](mailto:lgibbs@tughilltomorrow.org).



# Tug Hill Bird Quest Goes Viral

When Covid-19 hit abruptly in March, the Tug Hill Bird Quest was just getting ready to kick-off. With schools closed down, and in-person gatherings prohibited, it looked like we were going to have to cancel.

## But that didn't happen

Thanks to some quick thinking, and the support of key donors, we were able to reframe our annual school-based Bird Quest into a program that families and teachers could use at home and as part of remote teaching.

Parents and teachers downloaded worksheets and activities specifically for backyard birding from a new interactive website page while land trust staff posted ideas and activities on Facebook. We simultaneously worked with community volunteers to deliver bird seed donated generously by Rudd's Farm and Country, Ace Noble Hardware, Lowe's, Home Depot, and Walmart.

## And then it went "viral"

Within hours of posting about how to participate in the Tug Hill Bird Quest on Facebook, people from all over Tug Hill began contacting us. The excitement was palatable, as parents and teachers shared the information on their own Facebook feeds.

And it got better.

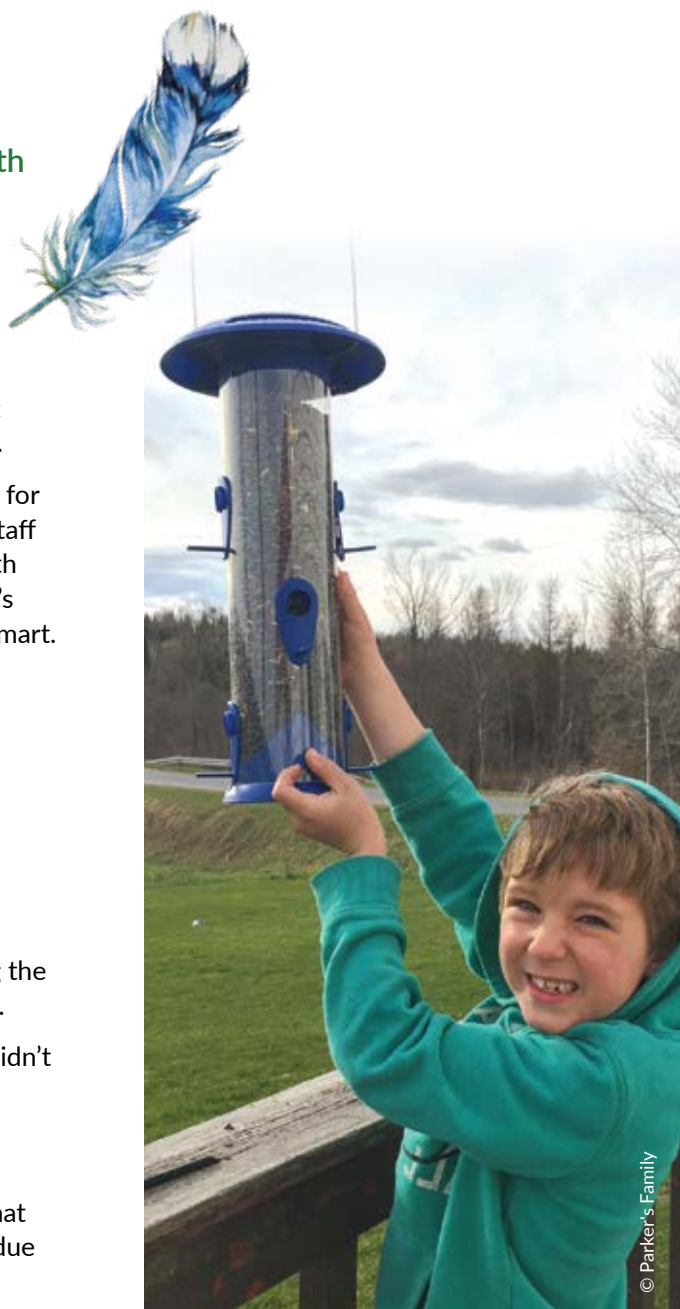
Momentum picked up, with all kinds of folks who loved birds embracing the idea of doing something positive, fun, and interactive in their backyards.

Jen Harvill, first year participant, said, "I did have feeders, but perhaps didn't pay this much attention to them before."

People like Jen matter. North America's birds are feeling the stress of changing weather, decreasing habitat, and a shortage of seasonally dependable food sources. National Audubon's research has predicted that as many of two-thirds of North American birds are at risk of extinction due to global temperature rise.

But it doesn't have to be that way. By igniting the love of birds, and supporting a desire to see them thrive, we'll be able to find creative solutions to slow down climate change and conserve the habitat they need. That's the power of Bird Quest.

*The Bird Quest program was funded by community donations as well as grants from the Casimir S. Butnoris Fund, Edward J. Dator Family Fund and the Margaret M. Purcell Fund through the Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida Counties, Inc.; the David G. Gregor Fund and Alex C. Velto Community Fund through the Northern New York Community Foundation; Northern New York Community Foundation's Youth Philanthropy Council; and the Richard S. Shineman Foundation.*



Parker was one of many kids who had a great time participating in Bird Quest.

**Our goal in the coming year is to expand Bird Quest to meet the larger community demand** and build upon our community educational programming with schools and libraries, and at local conservation areas. That effort will be possible thanks to the generosity of people like you who contribute to the newly launched **Tug Hill FOR Tomorrow Campaign**.







The Northern New York Community Foundation will provide an additional \$25,000 grant when we reach our half-way campaign goal of \$300,000. We're almost there!

Just imagine what difference that will make, for generations to come





# You Make the Magic Happen

*Conserving the very essence of Tug Hill, starts with you.*

There are so many ways you can conserve the special places of Tug Hill. You know how amazing this place is—and you know we can't take it for granted. Each decade that goes by, a bit of Tug Hill gets chipped away...

That's why we launched **Tug Hill FOR Tomorrow, a Campaign to Save What Matters Most**. It's a wakeup call.

Given what's at stake, we hope you'll consider a special gift this holiday season that will last for years to come. You can make a one-time gift, contribute (or increase) as a monthly donor, or make a multi-year pledge.

Your gift's impact will be leveraged—changing more lives and conserving more treasured places.

**Here are a few ways you can help now and into the coming year:**

- **Donate a cash gift.** Any gift, no matter how big or small, can make a huge difference today and in 2021.
- **Donate a non-cash gift.** There are many other ways to support our land trust's work that can benefit you as well. If you have an IRA, you can donate directly to the land trust. Transferring stocks, or giving from a Donor Advised Fund, could result in up to 70% in tax savings. And gifts of real estate, including residences, businesses, and open land, can also save you capital gains.
- **Advocate for Tug Hill conservation.** Spread the word. We need you. Our work can't stop, and you can help make a difference by sharing our posts on social media or calling a friend to tell them some good news about our conservation efforts.
- **Create a conservation legacy.** We know that cash donations might not be right for everyone at this time. Giving a gift in your will to create a legacy with Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust is a powerful commitment to the land, water, and community you love, for generations to come. If you let us know, we can include you in the Heart of Tug Hill Legacy Society and provide you with special updates.



© The Huntley Family



**To find out more about the Tug Hill FOR Tomorrow campaign**, and how you can donate, please go to our website: [tughilltomorrowlandtrust.org](http://tughilltomorrowlandtrust.org). Together, we can make a difference for generations to come. Feel free to call Linda Garrett, Executive Director at (315) 779-8240.





## Celebrating “Local”

### *The Tug Hill 10 Challenge*

**Fun alert!** People from all walks of life have joined the Tug Hill 10 Challenge. That means they’ve documented their trips in our region while exploring the diverse landscapes and wildlife habitats in Tug Hill—working towards a goal of exploring 10 places from the recently updated Tug Hill Recreation Guide.

The fun continues through the winter months.

As a participant in the Challenge you can include walking, biking, snowshoeing and x-country skiing. Document (with photos) or just list the ten trails you visit that are featured in the Tug Hill Recreation Guide. You can find ideas of where to go on our website, too.

To complete the Challenge fill out our Challenge form on our website ([tughilltomorrowlandtrust.org/tughill10challenge](http://tughilltomorrowlandtrust.org/tughill10challenge)). When we receive your information, we’ll send you a Challenge Patch or Decal (your choice) to congratulate you on meeting the achievement.

We’d love to feature you on our Facebook and Instagram pages so email or Facebook Message us your nature shots, photos of you out on your adventure, and fun times on the trails with your friends, family members, or pets.

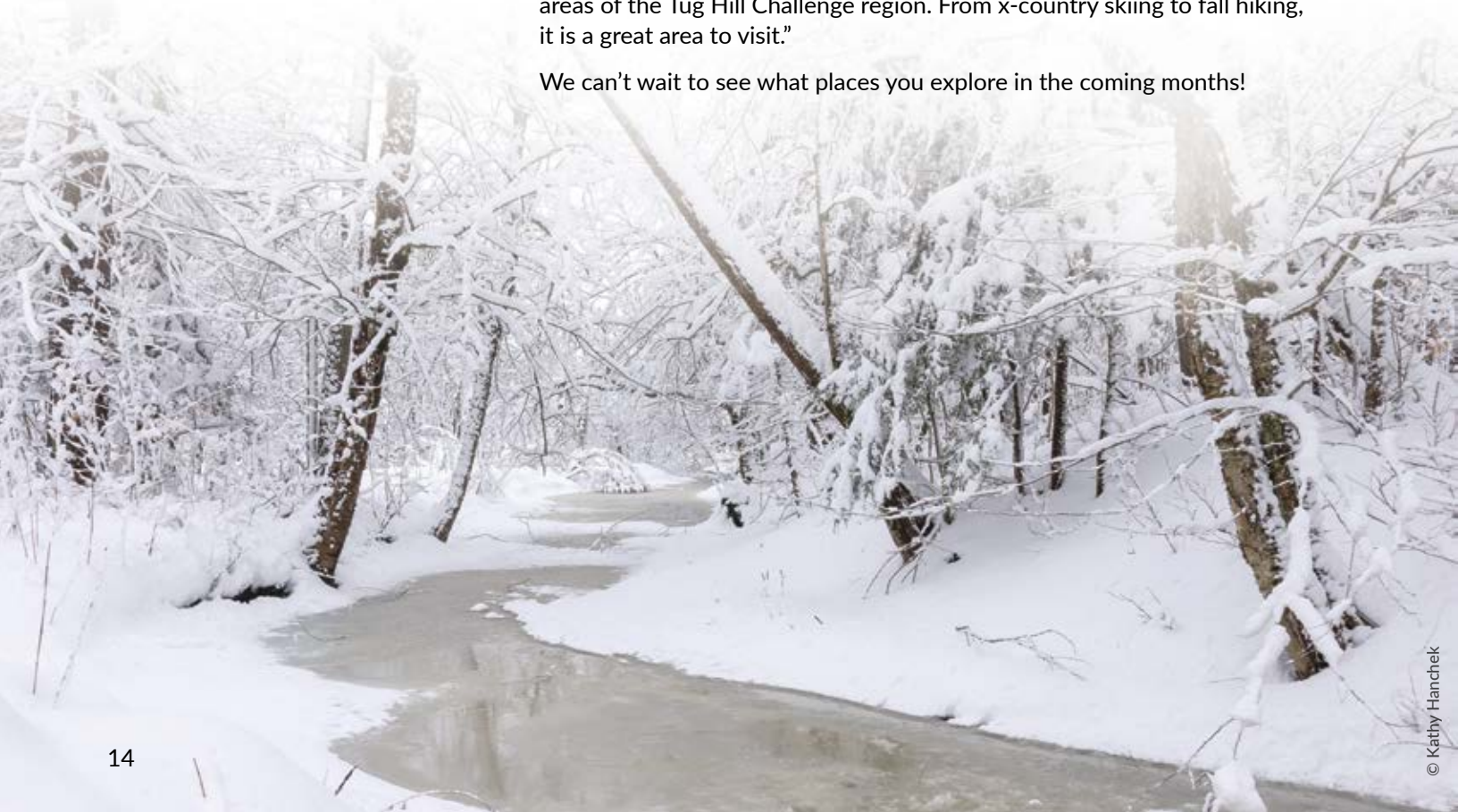
That’s what Jenny Spencer did, when she shared, “This challenge was so much fun! I’ve loved reconnecting with the natural beauty of the region.”

Robert Williams III explored ten fabulous places in Tug Hill and received the Tug Hill 10 Challenge patch in recognition of his efforts. “This challenge has sent me to a new area that has family friendly adventures for all seasons and abilities. Although the challenge calls for ten visits, we plan on visiting all the areas of the Tug Hill Challenge region. From x-country skiing to fall hiking, it is a great area to visit.”

We can’t wait to see what places you explore in the coming months!

*“This challenge was so much fun! I’ve loved reconnecting with the natural beauty of the region.”*

*– Jenny Spencer*





# 2019 Annual Report Highlights

*Check out the difference you made.*

*Thanks to you, this coming year will be even more inspiring.*

While it may seem like a lifetime ago, 2019 was yet another remarkable year. We wanted to take a moment to reflect on the difference you made—and that we are making—together. And 2020 and 2021 look like they are going to be even better as we ramp up our collective efforts to engage more kids, support our communities, and conserve critical habitat and locally important farms.

As Sigurd F. Olson, acclaimed author and conservationist, once said, “Joys come from simple and natural things: mists over meadows, sunlight on leaves, the path of the moon over the water.” You make that happen, and more. Thank you.

## 2019, highlights include...

**36** Family & community programs

**40** Library programs hosted

**309** Acres of farmland conserved  
20,216 acres to-date

**350** Volunteer hours

**10** Projects in the works;  
3,000 acres waiting to be conserved

## 2019 Financials

**A**s 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 Linda Garrett to request our 990s. Together, we are leveraging thousands of dollars of state and federal funding to conserve the lands that matter most.

\*2019 income does not include a \$500,000 grant award from NYS for our conservation work. These expenses were incurred but have not yet been reimbursed and therefore are not reflected in these numbers.



### 2019 Revenue

■ Individual & Businesses	\$252,416
■ Other Income	\$158,984
■ Foundations & Grants	\$110,058
■ Special Events	\$ 15,574
<b>Total*</b>	<b>\$537,032</b>



### 2019 Expenses

■ Program Services	\$585,414
■ Fundraising	\$ 90,214
■ Administration	\$ 64,551
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$740,179</b>



# Let's Celebrate...

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

**T**hank you to all who donated to the land trust from January 2019 to November 2020. 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 Linda 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 (2)  
 Scott Adams ✧  
 William Baldygo ✦  
 John & Dona Blakely  
 Joan Celia ✧  
 Leona Cheresnoski ✦  
 Stephen Eisel ✦  
 Ron Geiskopf  
 David Gildersleeve  
 Betty Gould  
 Paul Hatzinger ✧  
 Gary & Jeanne Hitchcock ✧  
 Stephen Jett ✦  
 Richard & Pamela Jones ✦  
 J.D. King  
 Michael & Kate Kramer ✧  
 Katrina Looby  
 Ann M. McConnell  
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 Beverly Pellegrino ✧  
 Carol Reese ✧  
 Stephen Register ✧  
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 Rosemary Smith  
 Andrew Stanier  
 Deborah Stevens ✧  
 Marilyn Valvo  
 Randy Young

### Patron \$50-\$99

Anonymous (2)  
 Anonymous ✧  
 Anonymous ✦  
 Judy Anderson ✧  
 William & Mabry Benson ✦  
 Kelly Blazosky Oneida County Tourism  
 Tom & Maryann Boxberger  
 John Boyce ✧  
 Bryant Buchanan & Sharon Wise  
 Joseph & Sandi Butler, Jr.  
 Keith & Joyce Butters  
 Matthew D. Carney  
 John & Nancy Cootware  
 Kathy & Peter Crofoot ✧  
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 Sharon Galbraith ✦  
 John & Marcia Gosier ✧  
 Mary Gydesen  
 Dr. Richard Halpin ✧  
 Martina J. Henry  
 Chris Jage  
 Tom & Jane Jones ✧  
 Barbara Kabrisky ✦  
 Jeri Kaskoun ✦  
 John Keach  
 James Kirkpatrick ✧  
 Randall LaLonde & Patricia Homer ✦  
 Howard & Jean Leitner ✦  
 Nancy & Dave Martel

Linda Mc Namara  
 Cliff McCullough  
 Wendy McDonald  
 Robert Michiel  
 Peggy Morgia ✧  
 Paul Nagy ✧  
 Jay & Bette O'Hern ✦  
 Robert & Susan Ohmann ✧  
 Peter Ostrum & Loretta Lepkowski ✧  
 Ethel Palmer  
 James & Ruth Perrin  
 Vickie Price  
 David Prosser ✦  
 Gerry & Larry Ritter  
 Stan & Chris Riveles (M) ✧  
 Linda Rivette  
 Edwin Russell ✦ (Deceased)  
 Mary Ryan  
 Donald Stone Sade ✦  
 Robin Salsbury ✧  
 Teresa Sammis & Rick Thoman  
 Richard Schoeck ✦  
 Thomas & Winnie Sears ✧  
 David & Eleanor Sheldon ✦  
 Jenny Spencer  
 Thomas & Violetta Sternberg ✦  
 John Stone ✧  
 Ed & Marie Sykes  
 Karin Toepfer  
 John & Sarah Treadwell  
 Eric Virkler  
 Thomas & Audrey Voss ✧  
 Zachary Wakeman ✧  
 Nancy Wheeler  
 Chuck Whitfield  
 Lorna Wright & Lap Chung

### Supporters \$100-\$249

Anonymous  
 Anonymous (2) ✧  
 Everett Aldridge ✦  
 Chuck & Lynn Alleger (M) ✧  
 Chub Bailly  
 Roy & Sylvia Barnes ✦  
 Gary & Marion Bartell  
 Christine Bates  
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Continues on page 18



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## When You Look Upon a Star...

*We are honored to pay tribute to  
 those you care about*

Sometimes, it's the soft touch of snow upon our cheeks. Other times, it's a walk under the stars, the joyous laughter of kids sledding down a hill, or the distant call of an owl. Times like these bring us together as we slow down and remember the love and connection we feel for each other and Tug Hill.

It's a privilege to share this love of community, family, and friends with you.

### In Honor of

Allyson Butler  
 Joseph Butler, Jr.  
 Ben & Peggy Coe  
 Allison Gorham  
 Julie Reed DuFlo  
 Mary Lou Reed  
 Linda Garrett  
 James & Maryann Garrett  
 Nagy Family  
 Paul Nagy  
 Mary Lou Reed  
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### In Memory of

Julia & Vincent Dombrowski—  
 First settlers on Maple Ridge  
 & Graves Road  
 Phyllis Dombroski Healey  
 Joseph Dombroski  
 Marjorie Trudeau

David Esterly  
 Liza Clarke  
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 Erma, Monica, Maureen &  
 Shirley Nevits  
 Vickie Price  
 Co-workers from Utica Life  
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 Joel Hastings  
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 Mary Lou Reed  
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 Patricia Service  
 Barbara Suprenant  
 Alix Krueger & Robert Spoon



*"I've lived here for over 55 years. Protecting these precious places, and getting kids outside, is something we will all be remembered for." –Beth Steria*

Continued from page 17

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✧ **Donors giving more than 10 years**

✧ **Donors giving more than 20 years**

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# Hey, Thanks!

## Local businesses and community members are making amazing things happen

Businesses, both large and small, as well as community members who care about Tug Hill, continue to play a pivotal role in helping to ensure that we can offer free educational programs and conserve the lands you love.

There are so many ways to make a difference, and non-cash donations, services, and products really add up.

The following people and businesses have played a pivotal role in helping to ensure we can continue to offer free educational programs, assist families to conserve their land, conserve farms and wildlife habitat, and create and maintain trails.

Thank you, again, for making a difference.

### In-Kind Gifts/Giving

Brian Ashley & Anne Richter  
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## Does your employer match charitable gifts?

Many employers sponsor matching gift programs and will match charitable contributions made by their employees.

This year, your gift can be matched even more because of the Northern New York Community Foundation challenge. You'll help unlock an additional \$25,000 and accelerate land conservation in the coming year. It's a great way to leverage their community spirit and yours!

**Thank you** Exelon, IBM, and Xerox for matching your employees' donations. It makes a big difference.



## 2019-2020 Corporate Eagles

Please join us in offering a special thank you to our Corporate Eagles. The Corporate Eagle program recognizes businesses who provide charitable gifts to our land trust—often making the difference in our ability to assist local families to conserve their land. This year, despite many challenges, these businesses have stood by our side. We greatly appreciate their leadership.

If you know a business that would like to participate, and make a difference in Tug Hill, check out our website or have them call or email Meredith Davison, Communications and Marketing Director at [mdavison@tughilltomorrow.org](mailto:mdavison@tughilltomorrow.org).



We'd like to give a special shout-out to **Millennium Development, LLC** and **Countryside Veterinary Clinic** who have supported us for over 20 years, and **Christmas & Associates** for supporting us for over 10 years. That's showing their care!

**Bob & Carol  
Keller**



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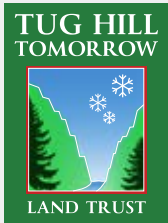
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## Join Us for Some Fun, Outside in Nature

*Are you looking for some relaxing and  
fun ways to enjoy nature this winter?*

Come join us for free outdoor community programs that follow the Covid-19 health guidelines.

Over the next several months, weather permitting, we're planning to offer a variety of walks/snowshoe hikes in the woods, including a First Day hike and an Owl Prowl.

**If you're interested in learning to snowshoe, or don't have your own equipment**, you'll want to join us when we partner with the Black River Environmental Improvement Association (BREIA) in Boonville. They're going to be offering use of their equipment free of charge.



For more updates check out our website, sign up for our eNewsletters, and follow us on Facebook.



### A Special Thank You

Hats off to **GYMO Architecture, Engineering & Land Surveying, DPC**, a Corporate Eagle partner, for partially sponsoring this 2020 Highlights & 2019 Annual Report.

