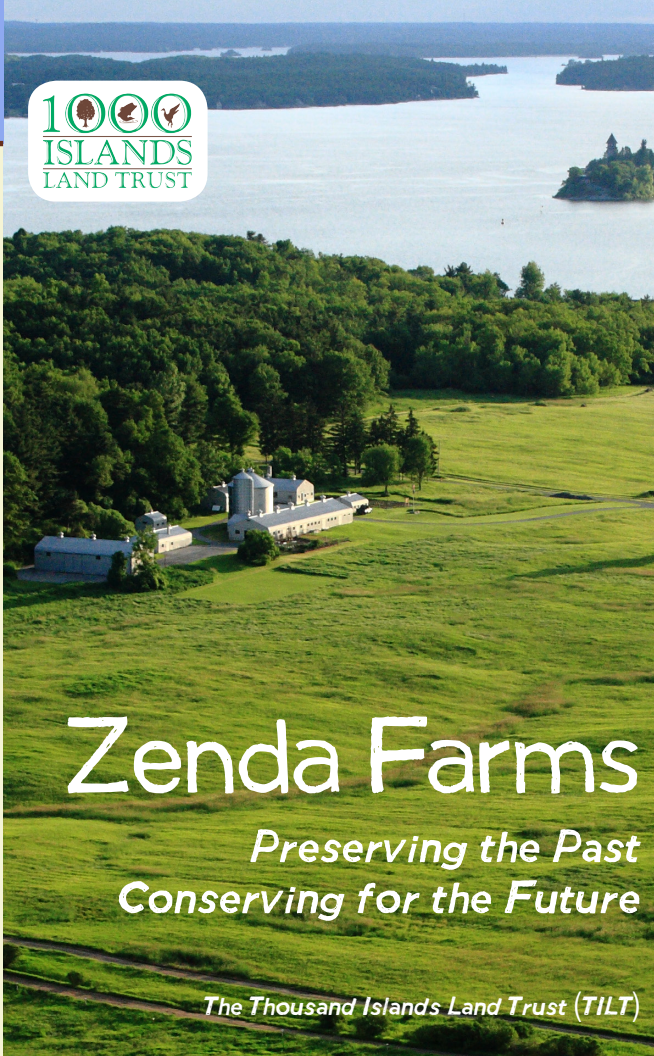


Zenda Farms Preserve is a... Celebration of Open Space, Sustainable Education Center & Local Walking Trail



Zenda Farms

*Preserving the Past
Conserving for the Future*

The Thousand Islands Land Trust (TILT)

The Importance of Open Space

Open space is essential to water flow and air quality, to the scenic character of an area, and to the quality of life for the wildlife, and people that inhabit the Thousand Islands region.

Zenda Farms Community Picnic

Annually hosted in mid-June by TILT, the Community Picnic is a festive celebration of open space and a great way to start the summer season along the river. All are welcome to attend this fun community gathering.



The picnic always includes:

- Classic bbq fare
- Raffle items donated by local businesses
- Music to keep your toes tapping
- Children's activities
- Fascinating exhibits from TILT's local partners, including conservation, cultural and environmental organizations



KidsTreks and Zenda as an Education Center

Every year, TILT offers a variety of exciting Thousand Islands-based outings and activities called TIL Treks & Talks, KidsTreks and TILTKids Camp. The purpose is to "encourage living, learning and conserving" among seasonal and year-round, residents and visitors of the river communities.

KidsTreks and TILTKids Camp participants form an especially strong connection with Zenda. To foster learning opportunities related to agriculture, history, ecology and the environment,



TILT continues to expand on the educational potential of Zenda. Future ideas include a children's garden, demonstrative rain barrels and green

houses, bird habitat observation areas and historically accurate farm tools displays.

Local school budgets have reduced or eliminated many environmental programs and field trips. Therefore TILT is exploring the idea of bringing conservation lessons to the classroom, using Zenda Farms as our showcase preserve.

Zenda Community Garden

TILT and Thousand Islands Young Leaders Organization (TIYLO) started the Zenda Community Garden in 2009 to help provide all community members with the opportunity to grow their own fresh vegetables. The garden offers over 8,000 square feet of planting space, access to experts, and the support of fellow gardeners. Applications for garden space are accepted in early spring of every year along with a \$25/family fee.

Gardeners are responsible for:

- Planting starter seeds and watering on a daily basis
- Attending group planning meetings
- Spending a minimum of one hour per week, planting, watering, or weeding in the garden (during growing season)

In 2013, a "Kids Korner" section was added to the garden, with the help of local scout troops. Each year, scout troops from the Thousand Islands region return to help plant this section. An adjacent "Natural Play Area" was also created, so children of gardeners can play nearby, while still remaining safely within sight of their families.



LoisJean and John MacFarlane Trail

Opened in 2011, this 1.5 mile trail was made possible by the generosity of LoisJean and John MacFarlane, a grant from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, and supporters like you!

This trail is open daily from dawn to dusk and visitors are welcome to enjoy this and the many other Land Trust trail systems in the region. In 2012, TILT started an Arbor Day tradition by planting a new row of trees along the trail,

including a large oak in memory of TILT co-founder Michael Mead.



The MacFarlane trail also sports beautiful and informative signage, created by Bob McNamara of The Art of Wilderness, who provided illustrations for this brochure. These signs help explain the significance of the Zenda Farms Preserve, its habitats, wildlife and plant life. Now walkers have the opportunity to learn more about this property, as well as the ecology along the St. Lawrence River.



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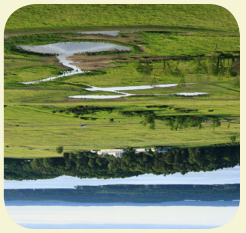
TILT Summer Land Steward Program
 Made possible by the Fresh Sound Foundation and Northern NY Community Foundation, high school and college students are seasonally employed to help manage TILT's trails and preserves.

Zenda's agricultural health, quality and character. essential in maintaining partnerships will be Continued practices and local proper land management. history by implementing respect Zenda's agricultural It will also be important to



TILT's management plan for Zenda Farms Preserve is to establish the preserve as a model for land conservation through diverse and culturally historic farm setting.

In 2002, TILT partnered with SUNY ESF and began leasing the Creamery building to the Thousand Islands Biological Station (TIBS), at a low rate in support of their research. In 2009, the wetlands were restored with Ducks Unlimited and in 2011, Traditional Arts in Upstate New York (TAUNY) officially added Zenda Farms Preserve to TAUNY's Register of Very Special Places.



In 1999, the ten Jamesway buildings at Zenda Farms Preserve were renovated and painted back to their original patina by TILT. 2014 marked the 75th Anniversary of the buildings construction. TILT celebrated this milestone by dedicating the buildings in honor and memory of Merle Youngs. Today, each building is marked with a sign explaining its original use; useful for visitors stopping by as they follow the 1000 Islands Agricultural Tour, found at www.agvisit.com.



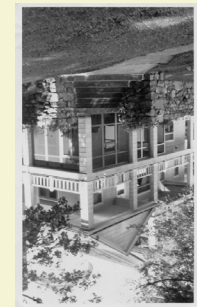
Adjacent woodlands. Overall, TILT has acquired over 400 acres, including the original farmlands, grasslands and wood lands. The fields are hayed by a local farmer, but not until late summer, after grassland nesting birds have safely raised their young.

By 2007, an additional 212 acres had been acquired, in part by a generous donation from Louise and Guthrie Birkhead and in part by funds from the St. Lawrence chapter of Ducks Unlimited. Additionally, in 2009, the MacFarlanes donated 15 acres of adjacent woodlands.



Photo by Ted Mascott

LoisJean and John MacFarlane donated the 107 acres that remained of the original farm to TILT in 1997. In 2001, TILT acquired the 70 acre Kehoe parcel on the south side of Route 12E that was slated for housing development. This was made possible by Mary and Ted Mascott, who helped TILT initiate a seven-year program to acquire all of the original Zenda Farms that was still in agricultural use.



In 1915, James Hackett, a celebrated Shakespearean actor, purchased the waterfront property just west of the village of Clayton. Hackett named his new home after the 1913 move. *The Prisoner of Zenda*, in which he played a starring role. In 1939, New York industrialist Merle Youngs purchased the home. He soon acquired the adjacent farm and additional parcels, eventually totaling 734 acres. Youngs built the steel Jamesway barn that still stand, and established an active dairy farm that later became one of the most innovative beef operations in the state. Merle and Olive Youngs lived in the single style home located on the shores of the St. Lawrence, which was lost to a fire in 1991, leaving only the historic skiff house. In 1958, Mr. Youngs died and left his friend and business associate, John MacFarlane, the greatest portion of the property.



Conservation Partnerships & Management

TILT Acquires Zenda

Origin of Zenda Farms

Back cover photo by Ted Mascott

Zenda Farms brochure © 2015 Thousand Islands Land Trust

All Illustrations by Robert McNamara of The Art of Wilderness

The Thousand Islands Land Trust (TILT) is...

Working to conserve the natural beauty, diverse wildlife habitats, water quality and outdoor recreation opportunities of the 1000 Islands region, for present and future generations!

Driving Directions to Zenda Farms Preserve
(38973 Zenda Rd Clayton, NY 13624)

From downtown Clayton, turn right onto Rt 12E S, towards Cape Vincent. Follow for about 1.3 miles. Turn right onto Zenda Rd (entrance is marked by two brick columns) and follow the driveway to the gravel parking area across from the walking trail.



Live. Learn. Conserve.

www.TILandTrust.org

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The Thousand Islands Land Trust (TILT) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization established in 1985 to conserve the natural beauty, diverse wildlife habitats, water quality and outdoor recreation opportunities of the 1000 Islands region, for present and future generations!

TILT is supported by donations from people who care about the Thousand Islands region of the St. Lawrence River. Our conservation work is only possible through the generosity of our supporters.

Donations of land, conservation easements, and financial resources to TILT are tax deductible under provisions of the Internal Revenue code. To find out more about donating land, creating a conservation easement, or including TILT in your will, please call us at 315-686-5345.

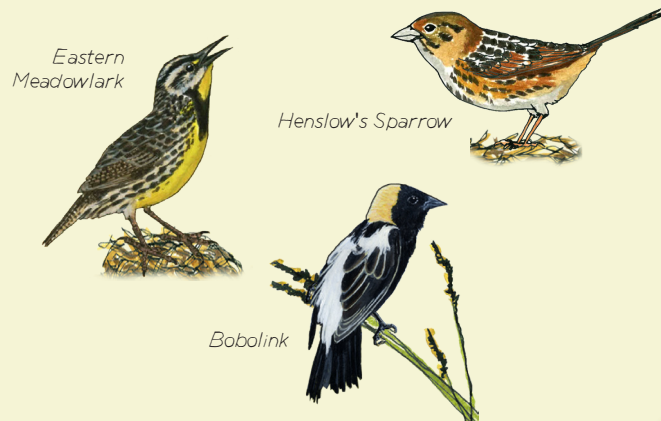
Please detach below & mail with payment to the address above.

Managing for Diversity

The Zenda Farms Preserve features several different types of wildlife habitat, including grassland, wetland, old field and forest. The preserve is adjacent to New York State's French Creek Wildlife Management Area, also an important wetland habitat and fishery. The variety of habitats attracts a diverse group of birds, both resident and migrant, mammals, insects, reptiles and amphibians.

Grasslands

Grasslands and open meadow are an essential habitat for many species of birds, including declining species like Eastern Meadowlarks, Bobolinks and Henslow's Sparrows.



Pasture

A local farmer uses this section of fields as pasture for beef cattle. About 100 head of cattle graze the field in a program that is compatible with conservation practices.

Restored Wetland

This area, known as a glacial pothole, was restored as a wetland habitat in 2009 by TILT and Ducks Unlimited. The restoration included a water control structure that allows TILT to raise and lower water levels to achieve an optimum habitat for waterfowl and shore birds.

- COVER TYPES**
- GRASSLAND
 - PASTURE
 - OLD FIELD
 - FRESHWATER EMERGENT
 - OPEN WATER
 - FOREST
 - POT HOLE PONDS
 - PRESERVE BOUNDARY
 - TRAIL
 - TRAILHEADS
 - STORYTELLER SIGNS



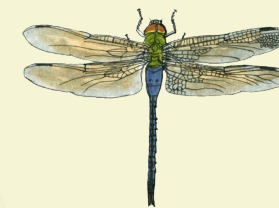
LoisJean and John MacFarlane Trail

Zenda Farms Jamesway Building Complex and Gravel Parking Area

Pothole Ponds

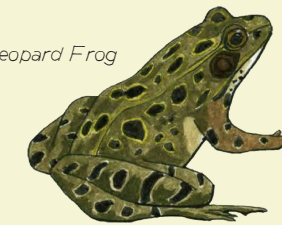
These small emergent wetlands provide vital habitat for abundant insect life, which in turn provides a food source for birds and amphibians.

Giant Green Darner



Eastern Tiger Swallowtail

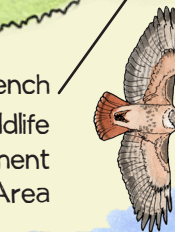
Northern Leopard Frog



Forest

Zenda Woods has a variety of maple, oak and pine trees. These trees provide important edge habitat and food for a variety of species, including owls. Owl species seen at Zenda include Great Horned Owls, Screech Owls and the endangered, arctic Short-Eared Owl which is more abundant in years when the meadow vole population is high.

French Creek Wildlife Management Area



All Illustrations by Robert McNamara of The Art of Wilderness

Preserve Rules: Please stay on trail • Trail is for walking, biking & skiing • No motorized vehicles
• No hunting • No camping, dumping, fires, or collecting flora & fauna • Dogs must be leashed May 1 - Aug 1



Yes! I would like to support TILT and help conserve Zenda Farms Preserve:

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

St/Prov/Zip/Postal _____

Phone _____

Email _____

We accept Visa & MasterCard:

Card No. _____

Exp. Date _____ 3-Digit Code _____

- Friend of the Land \$5,000
- Guardian \$2,500
- Islander \$1,000
- Steward \$500
- Partner \$250
- Contributor \$100
- Family/Individual \$40
- TILT Kids (Includes kid-related news & activities) \$40
- Corporate/Business \$

Business Name: _____

My gift is in honor OR in memory of: