



VOL. 18 NO. 2 FALL 2018



The Thousand Islands Land Trust works to conserve the natural beauty, diverse wildlife habitats, water quality & outdoor recreational opportunities of the Thousand Islands region, now and for future generations.

SAVE THE DATES

March 1, 2019
*Winter Gathering
in Florida*

June 14, 2019
*Zenda
Community Picnic*

July 20, 2019
Summer Gathering

August 1, 2019
Volunteer Recognition

August 15, 2019
*Major Donor
Recognition*

September 21, 2019
*Otter Creek Fun Run
& Celebration*

The Thousand Islands Land Trust

Reflections

PO Box 238 . 135 John Street . Clayton, New York 13624 (315) 686-5345 . www.tilandtrust.org

Leaving a Legacy...

Ken Deedy



Ken Deedy and friends on one of his famous tours of Grindstone Island

With heavy hearts, we celebrate the life of a great friend, environmental champion, and a member of our River community. Ken Deedy, founder of the Thousand Islands Land Trust (TILT) and life-time supporter of environmental stewardship and education in the Thousand Islands, died on August 8, 2018 at the Hospice Home of Jefferson County in Watertown. He was 81 years old.

Ken was one of several people involved in the creation of TILT, but it was his energy and passion that led the organization through the early years and firmly established it as the successful conservation organization it is today. In 1984, when several Grindstone Island residents became concerned about development pressure on sensitive habitat on the Island, they recruited Ken to help explore conservation options. Very quickly,

Ken made contact with Rose Harvey and the Trust for Public Land and began to learn about land trusts and how they could be utilized as a tool for striking a balance between the built environment and the natural world.

It became clear to Ken and his co-founders that a land trust in the Thousand Islands was the best option to help protect wetlands, rocks and shoals, songbird habitat, and clean water – the very character that we have all come to love. TILT was established as a non-profit organization in 1985 and the board began to spread the word about land conservation, with Ken working tirelessly to encourage his friends and neighbors and fellow River residents to learn about land trusts and become involved in protecting some of our region's most cherished places.

continued on page 4



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Tom Tinney, 1996-2008
Skip Tolette, 2009-2015
John Tucker, 1994-2013
Patti Wood, 2005-2012
Susie Wood, 2001-2007
* - deceased

Looking Forward, Feeling Grateful

by Jake Tibbles, Executive Director

Land trusts are radically hopeful. They look far into the future and see a world in which natural areas and working lands surround us with beauty and nurture us. And they work tirelessly to make that vision a reality by protecting the places that our communities cherish and love.

The process of conserving land is a delicate balance between protecting the natural resources that exist today and anticipating what the future might bring.

For TILT, there is also the challenge of ensuring that there will be financial resources for a strong organization to keep the promises of forever. Located in one of the most beautiful places in the world, TILT must plan for forever in the face of a growing population, demand for new infrastructure, changing land ownership patterns and the particular challenges posed by climate change.

Perhaps the biggest challenge to perpetuity will come from a growing population increasingly disconnected from the land. Many fail to connect land conservation to the water they drink, the food on their table – the quality of their daily lives.

Yet, we remain optimistic. At TILT, we have good reason to look forward with hope. That reason is you – the over 1,000 members, volunteers, ambassadors and partners who believe in TILT's mission.

Look at all we have achieved together, and you will agree that there is every reason to be hopeful about what we will continue to do. This is especially true as we announce that TILT's *Conserving the Place We Love* Campaign has reached more than 95% of its fundraising goal.

We are incredibly grateful to the members of the River communities



who have supported us over the years and given so generously toward this important campaign.

Laying the foundation for the future, the campaign has also been a catalyst for the development of TILT's 2019-2021 Strategic Plan.

Adopted in September, TILT envisions the St. Lawrence River shorelines, wetlands, and tributaries conserved to maintain the unique ecology of the Thousand Island region. Water quality, and fish, birds, and our diverse wildlife habitats are protected. Community vitality is enhanced through year-round public access to outdoor recreation. And the scenic beauty which is critical to the region's tourism-based economy is maintained.

TILT also envisions conserved lands that have a global significance by providing connectivity between the ecologically critical Canadian Algonquins and the American Adirondacks, an area with the highest biological diversity and the greatest climate change resiliency in North America.

This vision can only be achieved if we successfully influence and encourage governments, land owners, people living alongside open lands, organizations and the wider public to accept its merits and realize its goals.

All of us at TILT are grateful for your commitment to conservation and your confidence in us to protect what we know and love in our communities – today and for future generations.

Promotions & Appointments

The TILT staff continues to do an outstanding job of furthering our mission. Several members of the staff have received promotions, and new staff have been appointed to complement our programs and administration.



Spencer Busler has been appointed Assistant Director for the organization. He will assist the Executive Director in certain administrative duties, and will continue to oversee TILT's Land Conservation activities. Spencer joined the TILT staff in 2016 as Director of Land Conservation.

Since then he has helped TILT conserve over 1000 acres through conservation easement and fee acquisition. He has continued to expand TILT's use of GIS technology for mapping and documenting conservation lands, and has secured over \$1,070,000 in grant funding for TILT's conservation and outdoor recreation programs.

Terra Bach has been promoted to fill the new position of Director of Development and Communications. Terra served as Education and Outreach Coordinator since 2015 where she improved and expanded TILT's education programming and more than doubled underwriting support. In her new role, she will use her communications skills and local knowledge to work with the Board of Trustees' Development Committee, building a comprehensive fundraising and development program and directing communications for the Land Trust.



Rebecca Dahl has been named Zenda Farms Program Director and will play a larger role in defining the future of Zenda Farms Preserve. On staff since 2015, she has been involved with the initial planning for Zenda Farms, bringing originality and vision to the discus-

sions around the potential of the Preserve. She will continue to oversee activities there, building partnerships with local agricultural businesses, and developing new programs that showcase the Preserve's unique character.

Alaina Young has been hired as TILT's Education and Outreach Coordinator. Alaina is a graduate of Lafayette College, and has just completed a Masters Program in Environmental Management at Duke University. She has a passion for environmental education and is experienced in marketing and coordinating events. As Education and Outreach Coordinator, Alaina is responsible for planning and implementing TILT's environmental education program of TILTreks & Talks. She will also serve as marketing liaison, under the direction of Terra Bach, to spread the word about TILT's activities and conservation work throughout the Thousand Islands region. "Alaina brings wonderful enthusiasm and great ideas to TILT," said Terra Bach. "I am excited to have her joining the communications staff."

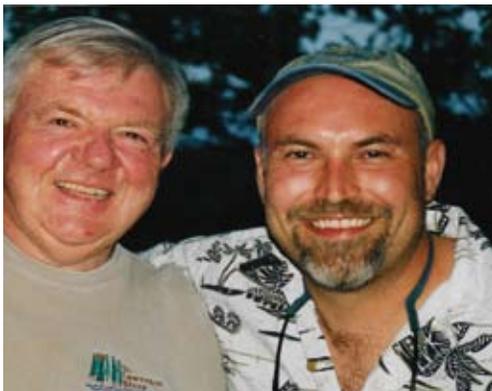


Ken Deedy - continued from page 1

Early conservation projects included conservation easements on islets in the Lake of the Isles and protection of historic agricultural land on Grindstone. Carleton Island, recently purchased by the Patten Corporation of Vermont for development purposes, had conservation easements on parts of the Island, that were transferred to TILT at this time. Ken was instrumental in negotiating the gift of the historic ruins at Fort Haldimand as part of the transfer, forever preserving this fascinating pre-Revolutionary War era relic.

In his unwavering drive to protect his beloved St. Lawrence River, he helped to conserve Oak Island, the largest island in Chipewewa Bay; grasslands on the edge of Clayton; forest on Grindstone; rocks and shoals throughout the Thousand Islands; Zenda Farms; the list goes on...

With the support of TILT's late Executive Director, Sissy Danforth, Ken negotiated the acquisition of Potters Beach in order to keep it forever available to the public for recreational use. As the larg-



Ken with Aaron Vogel, TILT's late director

est naturally occurring sand beach on the US side of the 1000 Islands, Potters is a one of the most popular summer destinations for both tourists and local residents alike.

Ken was born in Queens and lived much of his life on Long Island, working as a junior high school science teacher. He was also deeply committed to organized labor and served as president of his local, the Farmingdale Federation of Teachers, for thirteen successive terms. He then worked full time as First Vice President of the New York State United Teachers until 1985 when he joined the City University of New York as Director of Employee Benefits. He retired in 1993.

Ken first visited the 1000 Islands as a youngster when his parents came to fish. He and his brother purchased property on Grindstone and built a cottage there in 1969.

With his history as a labor organizer and advocate, it stands to reason that Ken was always dogged in his pursuit of whatever goal benefited the River region. A fierce negotiator, a passionate proponent, he rarely took "No" for an answer. And his generosity was unbounded. He offered hundreds of rides on Grindstone to introduce newcomers to the region and to TILT. He opened his home to scientists, students, and good causes. He gave gifts with abandon: homemade jam (made from wild Grindstone fruit), fascinating historic books and artifacts, delicious chocolate. He shared the things he loved – good food, quality workmanship, congenial company, comprehensive knowledge, and most of all, the St. Lawrence River – with everyone he met.

Ken was famous for his unabashed fundraising exploits as auctioneer at TILT events. Donning themed costumes that conjured



Some of Ken's friends helped him visit his Grindstone home on a beautiful day in May.



Ken and his good friend, Ted Mascott

French chefs, World War I aviators, giant lobsters and a spectacular River Rat, he cajoled, teased, wooed, and inspired donors to contribute to the cause of land conservation in the Thousand Islands. He knew everybody and always had a story to share about the river and its denizens.

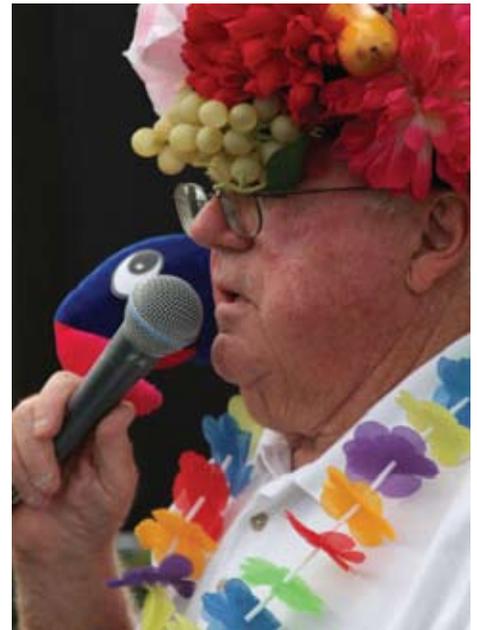
In the last weeks of his life, Ken and his family, along with his neighbor, donated conservation easements on their adjoining properties, fulfilling a goal established 33 years ago when TILT first began. This remarkable gift is important because of its proximity to Wellesley Island State Park, Picton Island, and other conserved lands on Grindstone, all of which form a corridor of wild forest and open space that is essential for wildlife whose survival depends on the ability to

move through our landscape.

The donation of these conservation easements is also significant, because it increases the amount of land that TILT conserves to more than 10,000 acres. That's a powerful legacy for a man who devoted so much of his life to the care and protection of our Thousand Islands community.

In honor of Ken, TILT, along with Save The River and Minna Anthony Common Nature Center, have established the **Kenneth Deedy Environmental Internship Fund**. As a true endowment, the fund will be used to hire a high school/college student for a summer long internship. Each year, the selected student will have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to work for all three organizations, immersing them in the fields of land conservation and stewardship, environmental education, and environmental advocacy.

Before his passing, Ken made the initial gift to establish the Environmental Internship Fund, continuing to build upon his legacy as a life-long environmentalist, who passionately supported the conservation of natural resources and the



Ken in one of his more colorful auctioneer costumes

education of our next generation of stewards.

“The Kenneth Deedy Environmental Internship is an environmentally focused program like no other,” said Terra Bach, Director of Development and Communications. “We believe it will have a positive impact on our region and future environmental stewards of this place we all so deeply love.”

Ken will forever be remembered as he enriched the lives of so many.



TILT's Presidents from its founding to 2014: in chronological order right to left: Ken Deedy (1985-2001), Bud Ames (2001-2003), Ted Mascott (2003-2006), Rick Tague (2006-2008), Susie Smith (2008-2011), Carl Lueck (2011-2014)

*Memorial gifts in Ken's name
will be dedicated to the
**Kenneth Deedy Environmental
Internship Fund***

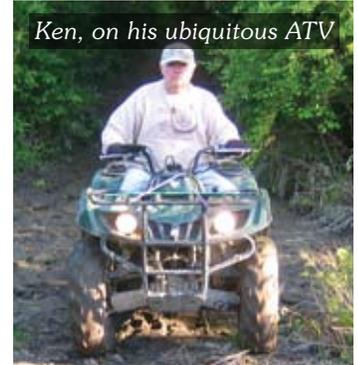
Gifts through October 15, 2018:

Paige Benigno
Louise Birkhead
Jim & Cindy Bower
Barb Brontman
Jeff Burt
Jane Carver & Ron Cooper
Cerow Agency
Beverly Davison
Tom & Robyn Davison
Andrea Dick & Edward Moore
Leigh & Chris Dillenback
Veronica & James Dolan
Matthew & Sara Elliott
Arthur & Trude Fitelson
Joan Flint
Bob & Julia Galusha
Mike & Sandy Geiss
Rick & Janet Gregware
Kevin & Jane Heffron
Glenn Hoagland
Fran & David Ivey
Fred & Linda Jackson
Manny & Victoria Jerome
Amelia Jonides
Myrna Kaplan
Alfred & Nicki Kettell
Molly & Darden MacWade
Mary & Ted Mascott
Chet & Ann Massari
Dan & Lynn Miller
Diane & Bob Miron
Carol & Dick Munro
John & Pat Peach
Art & Judy Pearson
Bob & Janet Quinn
Joan Rueckert
Terry & Ed Scott
Jeremy Smith
Linn Stouffer
Bob & Paula Street
Carter & Nan Strickland
Elaine Tack
Jake Tibbles & Alicia Dewey
Joan & Skip Tolette
Bob & Dorothy Topping
Michael & Temple Touchette
John Tucker
Merritt Scott Vaughan
Anna & Stephan von Muehlen
Tom & Mabel Walker
Ann Ward
Roy & Peggy White
Patti Wood & Jim Schnauber

Kenneth Deedy Environmental Internship Fund

It was Ken Deedy's vision to create a position that would serve three environmental organizations in the Thousand Islands region. From the earliest days of TILT and Save The River's activities, Ken thought that sharing resources would provide useful staffing help to the organizations as well as offer a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for a young person interested in a career in environmental science.

Ken made his vision a reality when he made the initial gift that created the **Kenneth Deedy Environmental Internship Fund** which will fund an internship shared equally by TILT, Save The River, and the Minna Anthony Common Nature Center. A high school or college student will be hired to work with each of the three organizations through the summer.



"TILT's conservation work is advanced significantly every year through the employment of summer land stewards," said Jake Tibbles. "These stewards are high school and college students who will soon be making very important life and career decisions. The Kenneth Deedy Environmental Internship Fund will ensure this opportunity for additional young people."

In early October, the Northern New York Community Foundation (NNYCF) announced that it has approved a \$50,000 grant to support this effort. The NNYCF will give \$25,000 in direct support of the Fund. An additional \$25,000 has been given as a challenge matching grant to match all new gifts up to \$25,000.

"To be able to partner with TILT and two other organizations that do so much to benefit our region makes the investment in this initiative especially meaningful," said Rande Richardson, Executive Director of the NNYCF. "We also strive to honor the legacy of someone whose life embodied what this fund will serve to forever perpetuate. This new fund will create a collaboration of resources that will encourage, across the generations, an ongoing belief in the importance of thoughtful stewardship."

TILT is directing all gifts it receives in Ken's memory to the Internship Fund, which will be held by the NNYCF and will be administered by TILT.

Please help us meet the challenge and pay tribute to Ken Deedy and his environmental vision by making a gift to the Fund. You can do so on TILT's website by clicking on the Donate button, choosing the "Other" gift amount and noting in the comment box that the gift is for the Ken Deedy Internship Fund. You may also send a check, made out to TILT, and noted for the Ken Deedy Internship Fund, to PO Box 238, Clayton, NY 13624. *Thank you!*

Will you meet the challenge?

A Conservation Legacy

Deedy Family Donates Easement on Grindstone



Deedy Conservation Easement on Grindstone

by Spencer Busler, Assistant Director

On the foot of Grindstone, a stand of mature white oaks and towering sugar maples creates a dense canopy that shades the forest floor below. Grey squirrels and chipmunks chatter as the leaves rustle and the warblers

whistle melodies with the summer breeze. Situated between TILT's Heineman Songbird Forest Preserve, a prolific emergent wetland, and the Picton Channel, this undeveloped landscape teems with wildlife no matter the season. And

because of the generosity and conservation ethic of the Deedy family, this scene will remain unaltered in perpetuity.

Ken Deedy, one of TILT's founders, along with his nephew, Matthew M. Deedy, donated a conservation easement on their Grindstone property in June. The easement, which protects nearly 26 of their 31-acre property, was implemented to limit subdivision, development, mining and other major disturbances to the land's sensitive ecological and aesthetic qualities. The easement-protected forests, granitic outcrops and undeveloped shorelines provide habitat for countless species of native flora and fauna, and contribute to the region's unparalleled scenic beauty.

Even after Ken's passing, his legacy lives with the land and his family. To this day, his impact continues to take effect. The donation of the Deedy Conservation Easement has spurred conversations of easement projects with other nearby landowners, helping to build upon TILT's landscape-scale conservation corridor and to strengthen the overall resiliency of the Thousand Islands region.

Notably, the value of the Deedy easement will also be used as match toward TILT's current water quality grant application, meaning that the donation of this single conservation easement will domino into a series of land protection projects along the shores of the St. Lawrence.

Tributes

April 24, 2018 to October 15, 2018

In memory of Richard Calabrese Sr.
Marcia Calabrese

In memory of Walter Corbellini
Ken Deedy
Carol & Dick Munro

In memory of Sissy Danforth
Bill Danforth
John & Candace Marsellus

In memory of Mabel Eddy
Gerry & Deb Eddy

In memory of Joseph & Patricia Ficano
Jeff Ficano

In memory of Maud Fluchere
Sharon Harris-Ewing
James & Betty Magaro
Catherine Merwin

In memory of Claude Harden
Chuck & Arlene Franklin

In memory of Helen Hungerford
David & Lynda Hungerford

In memory of Richard Macsherry
Molly & Darden MacWade
Jim & Martha O'Donnell

In honor of Molly & Darden MacWade
Joan Flint

In honor of Elaina Marra & David Clapper
Elissa Orlando

In memory of Michael Mead
Geoff & Marianne Mead
Jake Tibbles & Alicia Dewey

In memory of Herb & Rosemary Mossien
Carol & Dan Mossien

In honor of Art & Katie Pundt
Art & Lorna Pundt

She Rests In Peace
Lynda Van Alstyne & Dean Hurley

In memory of David Smith
Tom & Robyn Davison
Charles Hudak
Paul & Linda Kavanagh
Gail & Carl Marlett
Carter & Nan Strickland
Jake Tibbles & Alicia Dewey
Joan & Skip Tolette
Roy & Peggy White

In honor of Susie Smith
Stephen & Nancy Friot

In memory of William C. Taylor
Gwen Stockwell Taylor

In honor of Conrad Kenneth Larson von Muehlen
Anna & Stephan von Muehlen

New Trustee

David Lucas has been named to the TILT Board of Trustees. Born and raised on a 5th generation 700 acre dairy farm, and owner of a 90 year old farm equipment dealership, Dave brings unique experience to the organization.

His career has focused on the animal health (pharmaceutical) industry, and he is currently owner and President of H.W. Naylor Co., Inc, maker of the farming staple, *Blu-Kote*.

Dave has also served on the board of the Cazenovia Preservation Foun-



ation, addressing land conservation issues in the Cazenovia area, including farmland conservation and efforts to preserve the beauty and landscape of the greater Cazenovia area.

In addition, he has helped to develop a comprehensive plan in that area, and has served as president of the Cazenovia

Area Community Development Association.

Dave and his wife Robin have three grown children and live on Bluff Island (Clayton) in the summer.

Managing TILT Preserves New Community Involvement

TILT's preserves span the reach of the Thousand Islands from Cape Vincent to Chippewa Bay and beyond. With an eye toward efficient management, and recognizing the value of local knowledge, TILT has developed several advisory committees to aid in preserve management and help with planning decisions for each preserve.

Zenda Farms Preserve Advisory Committee (Z-PAC) was formed in 2012 and has helped to guide the plans and programs of the preserve.

Grindstone Island Preserves Advisory Committee (G-PAC) and the Wellesley Island Advisory Committee were established this summer to ensure that TILT's conserved lands on each of these islands remain open, safe and accessible to the public while continuing to protect the island's environmental resources through best management practices.

Among the advisory committees' goals are open communication between TILT and residents near the preserves, increased stewardship capacity through active volunteers, effective fundraising for preserve-specific projects, recommendations for future projects and stewardship that better enhance protection of TILT's conserved lands, etc.

The committees' advisory roles will inform decisions made by TILT's board and stewardship staff in the management of each of these important places.



Sissy Danforth Gazebo at Picnic Point on Grindstone Island

Thousand Islands Forever

— Create Your Legacy —

What will your legacy be? Would you like to support the Land Trust, but feel you don't have the resources to make a lasting impact?

Join *Thousand Islands Forever*, TILT's legacy program!

You can support programs that matter to you — like land conservation and environmental education — in a meaningful way that meets your financial goals. And it is a wonderful way to create a family legacy that lasts forever.

There is a wide variety of ways to leave a legacy, which your financial planner or attorney can help you with. From a simple bequest in your will, to a charitable remainder trust, you can choose the best option for your family and your vision.

One TILT donor has indicated a specific cash gift in his will. Another donor intends to donate his property to TILT after his death, because his family isn't interested in owning it in the future. These types of gifts can have an incredible impact on TILT's future conservation efforts.

Planning for the future can be complicated. Do my heirs want to inherit my property? Do I have enough to support an organization that matters to me and still take care of my family? While these are questions that each of us has to answer for ourselves, there are options that may make it easier than you realize to leave a legacy that makes a difference to this community we all love so much.

Members of *Thousand Islands Forever* represent a group of individuals who have made a lasting commitment to the conservation of the land in the Thousand Islands region. You can join them and ensure that our most cherished open spaces are protected for present and future generations.

For more information, please contact Terra Bach at the TILT office.

How will you be remembered?



It is up to us to live up to the legacy that was left for us, and to leave a legacy that is worthy of our children and of future generations.

- Christine Gregoire

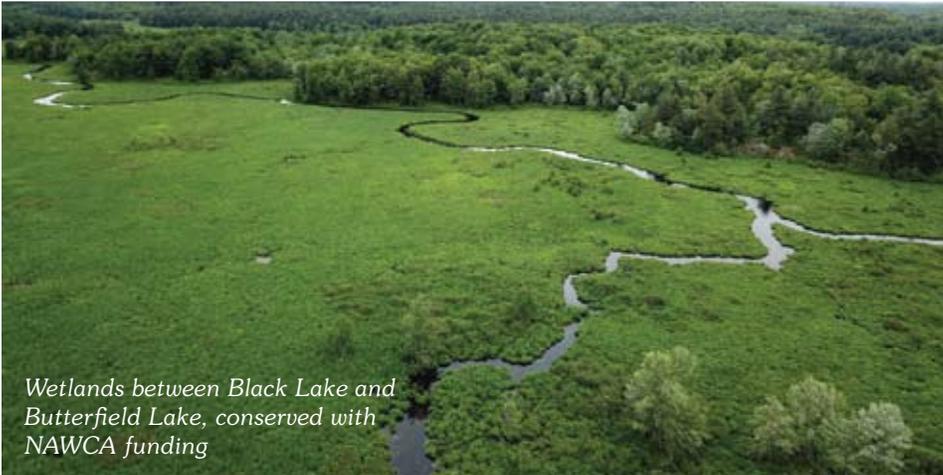
New members Apr 24, 2018 - Oct 15, 2018 (since our last newsletter)

William Atkinson
S. Graham Atkinson
Nicole Berry
Mike Brandemuehl & Lee Bentz
Kathy Bristol
Shannon & Kevin Burke
Calvin & Pat Carter
Betty Crupi
Claudia & Patrick DiJoseph
Megan & Matt Dubofsky
Gerry & Deb Eddy
Tim Favry
Tom Favry
Karen Gallo
Richard Gamble
Thomas & Debra Graff
Sharon Harris-Ewing
Thermon Hazelton
William Imanen & Ethel Larrabee
Paul & Linda Kavanagh
Kassandra Kittle & Colby Mallette
Kate Lavanway
Marshall & Patti Linder
Dale & Kathy Lueck
The Makoski Trust
James & Betty Magaro
Joe Maul
Nancy & George McBride
Jim & Ursula McCarthy
Alex & Maggie Mehran
Catherine Merwin
Tyler Mitchell & Michelle O'Brien
John Petrone & Maria Harden
Paul Roe
James Russell
Ron Seeley
Erika & Michael Sherman
Bob & Arlene Staples
Jason & Cristina Buitron-Stock
Laura Tessieri
Natasha Wagoner
Jennifer Wardell
Averil Werner
Melissa & Ted Wiggins
Tom Williams



The view from Bluff Island, photo by Terra Bach

Local Conservation Partners Secure \$1M for Wetlands Conservation



Wetlands between Black Lake and Butterfield Lake, conserved with NAWCA funding

by Spencer Busler, Assistant Director

In July, TILT, along with several local conservation partner organizations, received a grant contract with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for wetland conservation, restoration and enhancement in the St. Lawrence River Valley. With Ducks Unlimited, Inc. (DU) as the lead grant applicant, another \$1,000,000 will be allocated to TILT, DU, the Indian River Lakes Conservancy, and the St. Lawrence Land Trust. The proposal seeks to protect or improve a total of 2,698 acres of critical waterfowl, shorebird and upland bird habitat within the region.

The grant funding will be delivered from the USFWS North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) program. NAWCA grants are very competitive, being judged against proposals from across the country. This grant program also requires a two-to-one match, which means that for every federal grant dollar received, the matching conservation partners provide two dollars toward the proposal. In total, the St. Law-

rence River Valley grant proposal is matching the \$1M federal share with over \$2.3M in match value. “We are very grateful to have such a strong and dedicated group of conservation partners in the region. Without their participation and support, this opportunity wouldn’t have been possible,” said Jake Tibbles, TILT’s Executive Director.

TILT’s share of the grant contract exceeds \$573,000 for the permanent protection of 1,125 acres within its service area. TILT’s projects slated in the proposal include the Picton Island Conservation Easement Phases III and IV, a conservation easement on

Grindstone Island, and the protection of over 900 acres within the bottleneck of the Algonquin to Adirondacks (A2A) wildlife corridor. This includes the acquisition of a 500 acre wetland parcel adjacent to Payne Lake and the Pulpit Rock State Forest, and enhancement of 25 acres of emergent wetlands on TILT’s Blind Bay parcel in the Town of Hammond. DU’s enhancement project will restore water flow through this wetland, reduce invasive cattail cover and increase habitat heterogeneity for wetland birds including Mallard, American Black Duck and American Bittern.

“We’re excited to be putting these grant dollars to work, and protecting some of the most important landscapes in the 1000 Islands,” said Spencer Busler, TILT’s Assistant Director. “Wetlands are undervalued. They lessen the impacts of flooding, provide us with clean water, and rear the fish and game that we pursue. By protecting the wetlands, we are protecting so much more.”

This is the second Standard NAWCA grant that TILT and its partners have been awarded since 2015.



Payne Lake wetlands on the Jefferson-St. Lawrence County line

TILT Receives Gift in Memory of Richard Macsherry and Ken Deedy

Molly Macsherry MacWade and her husband Darden MacWade have made a wonderful gift to the Land Trust in memory of Molly's father, Richard Macsherry, and in Thanksgiving for Ken Deedy.

Their gift of \$100,000 establishes the Macsherry Family Stewardship Fund. Income from this dedicated fund will be used to support a major stewardship project each year.

The Macsherry family members have long been a towering example of service to their communities. All along the River and in Watertown there is evidence of their commitment to the region and their genuine caring for the people who live here.

With this gift, Molly and Darden MacWade honor two people whose dedication to the North Country was without bounds.

This donation was made through a donor-advised fund, stewarded by the Northern New York Community Foundation.



Molly and Darden receive a thank you gift from Terra Bach, Director of Development & Communications.



With great sadness, we share news of the passing of Dave Smith, from Grindstone Island. Dave was a friend of TILT since its founding days and was quick to volunteer for any events, activities, trail maintenance, and especially, the Grindstone Island Mule Tour. He will be missed!

Does Your
Employer
Match
Charitable
Gifts?

Increase the impact of
your donation and help
Conserve the Place
We Love!



Zenda Hilltop Conserved Forever

by Rebecca Dahl, Zenda Farms Program Director

As one of TILT’s Signature Preserves, Zenda Farms Preserve has become well-known and well-loved in the Clayton community. Zenda is a great place for people to connect with the land and TILT, serving as the home for our annual Community Picnic, the Community Garden, and numerous TILTreks throughout the warmer months. Zenda is most commonly visited for the 1.35 mile walking trail and its surrounding views.

Just outside of Clayton, Zenda provides bucolic viewscapes and a place for respite, as the trail winds through rolling hay fields with a beautiful forested backdrop. This

special place summons people from high school students training for their athletic teams to those taking a stroll with a four-legged friend. Since the trail was established in 2011 it has quickly become a feature enjoyed by all.

One of the remarkable things about walking on this trail is the feeling of being immersed in a wild space, despite being near many residential homes. On the north end of the Trail, the forested backdrop is a key component in maintaining this connection with nature.

Over the last year, TILT learned that these woodlands were slated for subdivision and residential development, including five housing lots, with a great

Over the last year, TILT learned that these woodlands were slated for subdivision and residential development, including five housing lots, with a great potential to fragment or entirely remove this backdrop.

potential to fragment or entirely remove this backdrop. The contiguous forest that continues from behind the silver barns, along the north perimeter, to the eastern end of Zenda Farms, provides important habitat. In addition to giving the Preserve its signature vista, this is some of the largest contiguous forest land along the shoreline of mainland Clayton, providing invaluable

habitat for many woodland creatures and migrating birds. The threat to this important habitat for wildlife and public enjoyment of the community propelled TILT to take action.

TILT connected with Bruce “Mac” MacFarlane and family (MSJP Realty,

Inc.), the owners of this property, to come up with a solution for this foreseeable problem. Ultimately, TILT was able to work with MSJP to ensure that this backdrop to Zenda would be protected, if TILT could secure the funds to purchase a portion of the property.

With the generous support of a few of Zenda’s closest neighbors including Jim and Peggy Pontious, Ann Sweeten and Randy Yoder, and Mary and Ted Mascott the property was purchased, adding 2.61 acres to Zenda Farms Preserve.

TILT is grateful for the generous support of these individuals to ensure that the vistas and experiences many have enjoyed along the Trail for years, will remain so, in perpetuity. Thank you!

Partnerships at Zenda Farms

by Rebecca Dahl, Zenda Farms Program Director

Over the last few years, TILT has been studying potential opportunities for new activity at Zenda and developing two business partnerships with Coyote Moon Vineyards and Homestead Heritage Cheese, to usher in an era of renewed life at Zenda Farms.

Each of these partnerships is designed to reinvigorate the property with agricultural activity, provide new opportunities for farm-based educational opportunities, and generate new funds for this programming through the sales of Zenda Farms® Wine and Zenda Farms® Organic Cheese.

The TILT staff has worked with our partners at Coyote Moon and Homestead Heritage Cheese to ensure that these partnerships exemplify best agricultural management practices that showcase sustainable methods.



Grapevines planted this spring at Zenda have leafed out.

Through our partnership with Coyote Moon Vineyards, two acres of grapes were recently planted, including one acre of Marquette grapes and one acre of a new varietal called Itasca. Once mature, these grapes will produce Zenda Farms® Red and Zenda Farms® White wines, respectively. These grapes are “cold-hardy” varietals, designed to thrive in our North Country climate and survive the chilly winters, with minimal inputs. Though the vines themselves will not mature for a few years, a blend for our Zenda Farms® Red Wine has already been developed (using some of Coyote Moon’s other Marquette grapes) and is on the shelves at all Coyote Moon locations!

Working with Homestead Heritage Cheese, we’ve since renovated the Creamery at Zenda Farms to develop a new aging space for Zenda Farms® Organic Cheese. After producing and shaping the cheese



Zenda Farms Red is on the shelves at all Coyote Moon locations.

at Homestead Fields Farm, an organic dairy farm, the cheese is brought over to Zenda to mature for a minimum of six months. This partnership supports the organic land management that takes place at Homestead Fields Farm and provides a unique way to connect with Zenda’s past as a state-of-the-art dairy farm. In a few months, we will have the first product to come directly from Zenda’s Creamery in nearly 70 years.

TILT is proud to partner with these two agricultural producers because of their shared commitment to conservation, sustainable agricultural practices, and the betterment of the Thousand Islands community.

We look forward to incorporating these new elements at Zenda Farms into our educational programming and expanding new opportunities for everyone to interact with the land (and their food!)



Cheesemaker Dave Van Pelt and his daughter, Matilda, inspecting a Zenda wheel



Homestead Heritage Cheese, aging in the Creamery at Zenda



Visit our website, or contact the office for more information.

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You can begin your Trailblazers membership right now

Visit our website - www.TILandTrust.org - and clicking on the **Donate** button. Choose "**Recurring Donation**" on the giving form, and fill out how much and how often you'd like to give. Enter your credit card information, and we will take care of the rest. If you prefer, please call the office at (315) 686-5345 to set up your monthly giving plan.

A person who makes a new track through wild country; a pioneer; an innovator.

You are a TILT Trailblazer!

A graphic with a teal background. On the left is a large black silhouette of a palm frond. In the center, the word "NAPLES" is written in a stylized white font where the 'A's and 'P's are replaced by palm trees. Below this, the text "PLEASE JOIN THE THOUSAND ISLANDS LAND TRUST AT OUR ANNUAL WINTER GATHERING FRIDAY, MARCH 1ST, 2019 6-9 PM" is written in white. In the bottom left corner is a yellow square logo for the "1000 ISLANDS LAND TRUST" with the tagline "Live. Learn. Conserve." and icons of a tree, a bird, and a recycling symbol.

NAPLES
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1000 ISLANDS LAND TRUST
Live. Learn. Conserve.

Reviewing and Renewing

TILT Applies for Renewal of Accreditation

TILT will be applying for renewal of accreditation by the Land Trust Alliance Accreditation Commission in 2019.

Accreditation indicates that your land trust meets the highest national standards for land trust practices and procedures, and assures the land trust's ability to meet its obligations to protect land in perpetuity. The process requires re-accreditation every five years.

TILT was first accredited in 2009, in the second class of land trusts to achieve this distinction, and in 2015, it earned "Renewed Accreditation" status. This cycle represents the second time TILT will apply for renewal.



TILT Staff Attend Annual Convention

The Land Trust Alliance's annual convention, *Rally*, is underway at this time each fall.

Three of TILT's staff have ventured off for the 2018 session, held this year in Pittsburgh. *Rally* moves around the country each year, so that it is really a nationwide gathering of land trust professionals and interested parties.

Spencer Busler, Assistant Director, Brandon Hollis, Stewardship Director, and Rebecca Dahl, Zenda Farms Program Director will attend workshops and seminars on topics including "Using Land Conservation to Capture Carbon," and "Restoring Indigenous Landscape Management Practices."

The best thing about *Rally* is the wonderful networking opportunities that develop spontaneously when hundreds of conservationists and land trust professionals gather for several days. "You learn as much or more from your conversations between sessions as the sessions themselves," says Jake Tibbles.

TILT is especially pleased that Rebecca Dahl will be a presenter this year on the topic "Developing the Millennial Leaders that Land Trusts Need." It is a timely topic as TILT is one of a number of established land trusts that are beginning to address the "next generation" of conservation challenges and opportunities.

Rebecca's presentation will be an interactive session, led by millennial land trust staffers, and designed for board members, executive directors, supervisors, and other millennials. Rebecca and her



l.-r.: Spencer Busler, Rebecca Dahl, and Brandon Hollis at the Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh

co-leaders received over 500 responses to a survey of LTA professionals, and discussion will focus on what young staff members need and can offer, as well as mentorship programs and other conservation based initiatives to benefit the development of these staff members.

"After receiving over 500 responses on our survey, I'm looking forward to sharing our data with the greater land trust community and creating an opportunity for the next generation of conservation leaders to be heard," said Rebecca.

Summer Land Stewards and Interns



l.-r. Nika Ficano, Brown University; Sean Heagerty, Clarkson University; Sean Deedy, Paul Smiths College; Katie Beeles, SUNY ESF; Nicole Gokey, SUNY Potsdam at TILT's Major Donor Recognition Event.

In 2018, TILT hired four Summer Land Stewards and one Intern to help the staff accomplish the work of the Land Trust. Below, each of them gives a brief perspective on their experiences and what working at TILT meant to them.

Nika Ficano

Working this summer for TILT has been a wonderful experience for a variety of reasons. I have been coming to the region for short vacations in the summer since childhood, but in that time I never fully explored the vast and diverse landscapes that the region has to offer. Through TILT I have learned to appreciate the familiar Thousand Islands through a new lens.

Each day asked something new of me and I used a different skill set, which kept everything interesting. From learning how to operate a chainsaw and build a foot bridge to having the opportunity to drive TILT boats on the St. Lawrence, I learned more practical skills this summer than I have at any other job. Perhaps more significant to me, each day I was sent to

a different place, nearly all of which were outdoors and breathtakingly beautiful. The opportunity to work outside was invaluable to me; it affirmed my interest in pursuing a major in environmental science and a career that allows me to work outside while conserving the land around me.

I would like to thank TILT and all its staff for affording me the opportunity to work with them. I enjoyed what I did every day and appreciated that I was doing it for an organization whose mission I respect so much. That combination is difficult to find.

Sean Heagerty

Being a Land Steward this summer has been an opportunity that I am incredibly grateful for. For the past three months, I have been able to go out and do work that is crucial to the ecosystem of the Thousand Islands, which is something that I take great pride in. Furthermore, the tasks that I was assigned were fulfilling, since they were all jobs that are done mostly by hand.

This rich environment is incredibly important to both the people who reside here year round, and also its seasonal inhabitants. Working this job, I have seen this first hand during all of our TILT events, and especially during my time working in the field. I have been personally thanked for my work by many members of the community on the trails, which really shows how much people care about the work I was doing.

Overall, there is no other way I would have liked to spend my summer. I would like to thank TILT for this great opportunity, and Stewardship Director Brandon Hollis for his leadership and guidance during this summer.



Nika, Sean H, & Katie

Sean Deedy

I had the great honor and privilege of becoming a Land Steward for the second year in a row. This year I got to learn more about living on the River and all the ways TILT is helping to conserve it. Throughout the summer, I got to meet a lot of great people that

are also helping the cause of protecting the Thousand Islands.

When working for TILT there was never a dull day, we were always doing something new and exciting. Whether we were cleaning the trails, going to different islands, setting up for events and even working the treks. No matter what we were doing there was something new to learn and experience.

One of the most influential people that got me interested in TILT for many years was my great uncle, Ken Deedy. He started a legacy that I hope to follow and continue to help preserve the land that is precious to me and my family. I take great pleasure in working for TILT and watching everyone come together for the same cause of protecting the Thousand Islands.



Sean D

Katie Beeles

This summer provided me new and exciting experiences. Working for TILT has been valuable to me because I truly felt like I was making an impact in the community. Through outreach and trail maintenance, I have gotten the opportunity to help others safely enjoy the beauty of the Thousand Islands. I also feel like I made a difference and made good use of my summer. While in the office, I became more knowledgeable about how land trusts function, especially during a time of growth and change. This exciting dynamic has inspired me to look into working for a land trust as a career after graduation.

I have also been exposed to opportunities to expand my communication and environmental education skills. A notable experience using these skills this summer was working at the Antique Boat Museum's Family Day. I enjoyed talking to a range of people and speaking to families about conservation in the Thousand Islands. It was rewarding to inform visitors and locals about who we are and what our mission is. I hope these families were able to enjoy our preserves and attend our treks.

I have truly enjoyed the past two summers working to keep the place we love beautiful, and I am

thankful for the education and experiences that TILT has provided.

Nicole Gokey

I am so humbled to be fortunate enough to spend another year at TILT. Through the years I have been an intern, I have had the incredible opportunity to watch the organization grow, and have been able to meet incredible people who all share the same passion that I do. Being mentored by individuals who see the value and importance of conserving and protecting the 1000 Islands has helped me solidify my passion for the environment and for marketing. Learning that I have the ability to reach people through social media, flyers, and other forms of communication has left a rewarding and gratifying impression.



Nicole

These skills are some that I know I will be able to take with me throughout my career. I have become a better communicator, and know that I can happily assist anyone who walks into the office and wants to learn about TILT. Engaging with others and talking about the organization has been such an enriching experience for me.

Over the years, I have also been able to see the expansion of TILT's Treks and Events, with the Zenda Community Picnic this year reaching almost 500 attendees. Our Treks have also gained popularity, with

most of our KidsTreks filling up weeks in advance. KidsTreks like Dairy Farm Day, Pollinators at Zenda, and Ichthyologist for a Day are fun and exciting ways to educate kids on the necessity of environmental sustainability and to have fun while outside. Seeing children's eyes light up when

learning about a bee hive or getting excited to meet all the animals at a working dairy farm is a huge part of what makes this internship so fulfilling.

I have been filled with gratitude for having the opportunity to work at TILT. I see the value in having an internship here not only for career purposes and learning experiences, but to have a new sense of appreciation for the place we all love.

I learned more practical skills this summer than I have at any other job.

Nika Ficano

Seen in the 1000 Islands in 2018

Dairy Farm Day KidsTrek



Moonlight KayakTrek on Butterfield Lake with Indian River Lakes Conservancy



TILTreks & Talks this year featured some great new programs and some old favorites. From bug explorations to yoga in winter, there was a huge variety from which to choose.

Participants thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to get out on the land with TILT!



Bug Walk at Otter Creek

Moonlight Snowshoe Trek at Otter Creek Preserve



2nd Annual Mutt Strut at Zenda Farms Preserve



(Three of) Four Seasons of Yoga with TILT & River Yoga



Winter at 1000 Islands Harbor Hotel



Meet a Kookaburra at the Zenda Picnic



Zenda Community Garden



Spring at Zenda Farms Preserve



Heron chicks on the Rookery Hike



Summer at Foster-Blake Preserve



Otter Creek Fun Run & Walk



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and a myriad of local businesses who donated silent auction items and other inkind donations.
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