

Genesee
Valley
Conservancy
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Vol. 1: No. 1

THE GENESSEE VALLEY CONSERVANCY NEWSLETTER

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The Genesee Valley Conservancy Publishes First Bi-Annual Newsletter

It may seem like an odd time to receive a letter from GVC; however, we are making some changes.

Since 1990, the Conservancy has been quietly conserving land throughout Western New York. A dedicated Board of Directors, generous donations of land, and the financial contributions from members who enjoy the natural beauty of the region have made GVC one of the most successful in the state. For this the Conservancy is extremely grateful. It could not have happened without *YOUR* strong support.

As often happens to a good thing, we have seen a "snowball effect." The Conservancy is no longer able to operate on a volunteer basis, there is simply too much to do; there are too many conservation opportunities.

As you may know, it was decided by the Board to hire a permanent staff member to oversee the day-to-day operations of the organization (see related story). Additionally, we established an office in Geneseo, located below the Law Offices of Robert "Chip" Presutti, 32 Main Street.

We also want to increase outreach to our members, as a way of thanking you for the years of support. To do this, we need to open the lines of communication, and the newsletter is one way to accomplish this. We want to keep you up-to-date on GVC activities, as well as conservation on a regional and national level. We hope you find these newsletters insightful, entertaining and useful.

Calling all Artists and Doodlers: Your Chance to Win Free Stuff

You may have noticed that the logo box has no logo. This is because we do not have one. We debated hiring some accomplished advertising firm to create a striking symbol that might (or might not) guarantee us success. But after thinking about it, we realized that it is the members who know and appreciate the value of the Conservancy and what it stands for. So, instead, we thought it would be fun to sponsor a contest. We are looking for you to submit a logo by your own creation. Our panel of distinguished judges will choose the one they feel best represents GVC. In return, the winner will receive the fabulous prize of a dinner prepared for two, by the new Executive Director, Eric Grace (a highly recommended culinary artisté). GVC will provide the food and you provide the beverage. Two runners-up will receive a guided walk or horseback ride through the beautiful Wheeler Gully.

To enter, submit a drawing or graphic by September 7th (we need it soon) to GVC, Box 73, Geneseo NY 14454. If you would like yours returned, enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

GVC Hires Eric Grace As First Executive Director

Starting July 1st, GVC has a permanent employee, based in the new GVC offices in Geneseo. The decision to hire a full-time staff person was not a difficult one, according to Steve Ashley, President of the Board of Directors.

"We needed help running the organization," Steve said. "There was too much to do...our consultant, Andy Johnson, was spending most of his time doing administrative duties."

"Hiring Eric was a logical choice," Steve continued. "He has been living in the Valley for two years now, and has spent considerable time volunteering for the Conservancy."

Eric is finishing his Masters' Degree in Land Use Planning from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse. His intent has always been to work in the field of Open Space Conservation.

"Although I grew up elsewhere," Eric says, "I spent many summers here enjoying the outdoors in a variety of ways. I see this as an opportunity to give back to this remarkable place."

Eric moved to the area from Ithaca, NY two years ago, where he had been attending college for Natural Sciences. He has a BA in Political Science from Colorado College. He and his wife, Equine Veterinarian Celeste Boatwright Grace, currently live in Geneseo.

Did You Know?

- ≡ There are over 1,100 Land Trusts in the U.S.
- ≡ Every state and Canada have Land Trusts working to preserve open space
- ≡ Land Trusts have preserved over 4 million acres nationwide
- ≡ GVC now protects over 4,700 acres
- ≡ Over 1 million acres of farmland are lost to suburban development every year
- ≡ The Western New York/Finger Lakes Region is listed as the Nations' 11th most threatened agricultural area

Sources: The Land Trust Alliance & The American Farmland Trust

WE COULD USE YOUR HELP!

Genesee Valley Conservancy projects are labor intensive. As the saying goes: Many hands make light work. If you want to join in the fun, meet new people, do your good deed for the day, etc, let us know by checking the activities you would like to participate in:

- Staffing an information table
- Write articles for the Newsletter
- Type/format newsletter
- Office help (labeling, stuffing, closing envelopes)
- Grant writing
- Easement monitoring
- Trail maintenance
- Help organize volunteers

A skill I can offer is _____

Name _____
Address _____

Phone _____
Email _____

(Knowledgeable computer persons are always in demand)

Please return to:
GVC
P.O. Box 73
Geneseo, NY 14454



A word or thanks to those who sent in their contributions this year, we can't do it without you!

A friendly reminder to those who have not; we rely on you donations to continue the high quality conservation programs at GVC.

**Genesee Valley Hunt Cup Race Meet
Set For Saturday, October 10**

Here's a reminder: Mark Saturday, October 10 on your calendar for a day of fun and excitement at the annual Genesee Valley Hunt Cup Race Meet. Of course, the event, held at Nations Farm, in the heart of the Genesee Valley, is run on land already in the Conservancy.

As a member of GVC, you may routinely attend the race, but have you considered it as a way to entertain? It's a great way to celebrate a family event and it also provides a unique setting for your friends or business associates who might not ordinarily attend. For reserved parking and other special rates call the Conservancy office and we'll get the information to you.

You can also help just by encouraging people you know to attend. "We're constantly surprised to find out how many people, even from Geneseo, have never attended the event," said Pat Richardson, Race Committee Administrator. "It's a great family event and a real value with general admission at \$7.00 for adults (\$5 for advance purchase tickets) and kids 12 and under free.

The Genesee Valley Conservancy is the major beneficiary of proceeds from the Race Meet, which is organized and run by the Genesee Valley Hunt. Last year, for example, the Race Committee donated \$6,000 to the Conservancy.

The format of the day will be similar to last year with plenty of activities both on the course (11 races) and off (stick horse races, free pony and hayrides, terrier races and boutique shopping.) Fleet Private Clients Group is once again sponsoring the \$25,000 Fleet Genesee Valley Hunt Cup Race and area Ford Dealers will sponsor the \$10,000 Martha S. Wadsworth Memorial Race. Please let them know you appreciate their support.

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