



Conservation Easement Oxbow III

**Genesee Valley Conservancy** 2012 Annual Report

# 2012 Year In Review



Dear Friends,

As we begin another year, I'm tremendously proud of the work we have accomplished together and with 14,400 acres in our region permanently protected, I think we have a lot to be proud of.

Between the 2012 Nature Series, with over 500 participants getting out to explore protected land on GVC led hikes, and working with student groups to provide access to the land for research and hands on learning, GVC has spent much of this year engaging the community.

One of our greatest assets in doing so has been our newest GVC owned property, the Indian Fort Nature Preserve. Several events have been held to showcase the gorgeous property, including a walk led by Anthropologist Dr. Paul Pacheco on which visitors had an opportunity to learn about the historical and archeological

significance of the property. Many groups have taken advantage of touring the trails with Stewardship Director Benjamin Gajewski and even more have visited on their own. I'm thrilled to report that there seem to be cars in the parking lot nearly every time I drive by!

GVC continued to make great strides with conservation work as well, closing on two easements before year's end: 700 acres owned by Steve and Jan Ashley and 25 acres owned by Sally Wood. Both properties have tremendous conservation value and provide numerous benefits to the community as a whole.


In 2012, GVC also said goodbye to Executive Director Sally Walker. Sally accepted a position with the Paso Fino Horse Association in Lexington, Kentucky. Her many talks at a variety of events and her

bi-monthly articles in The Livingston County News proved valuable in keeping the public informed of GVC's mission and she will be missed. We thank her for her service and wish her the best!

With exciting projects on the horizon, GVC continues moving forward, led by a diverse and engaged Board of Directors, and staff: Stewardship Director Benjamin Gajewski, Land Conservationist Dave Bojanowski, Development & Communications Coordinator Katy Festa, and bookkeeper Marcia Koch.

Thank you for supporting us through your membership and best wishes for a happy, productive year ahead.

Sincerely,

  
Myrtle A. Merritt,  
President



**The mission of the Genesee Valley Conservancy is to protect the habitat, open space and farmland of the Genesee Valley region.**

# Always About the Land

For the past 3 years, GVC Land Conservationist Dave Bojanowski has worked with several community partners to organize a day long tour of agricultural businesses in Livingston County for town and county planning and zoning board members. The goal of the annual tour is to educate these decision-makers and leaders in Livingston County as to the community benefits and challenges of the local agricultural industry and enhance the community connections with our farming neighbors.

This year's theme, "Always About the Land," was borrowed from the newest exhibit at The Livingston County Historical Museum, which served as one of the



*Jeff and Clara Mulligan shared their reasons for protecting the families 1246 acre farm.*

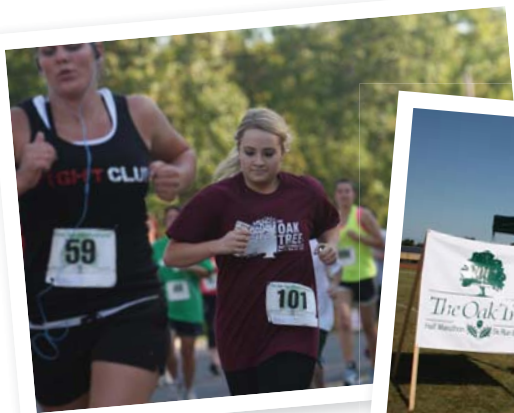


*The panel featured (from left to right) Cathy Gardner, Town of Lima Planning Board; Louise Wadsworth, Livingston County Downtown Coordinator; Greg O'Connell, developer in Mt. Morris' revitalization initiative; Rick Hauser, Architect and community organizer; and David LeFeber, Town of Avon Supervisor and County Ag. and Farmland Protection Board member.*

stops on the tour. Participants also visited two working dairy farms, the Lawnel Farm in York and the Mulligan Farm (protected by GVC) in Avon. Both farms shared innovative ideas for maximizing the efficiency of production while being good stewards of the land. The tour also stopped in Lima at Seven Bridges Farm, a livestock operation raising beef, pork and chicken for sale at local restaurants, farmers markets, and direct retail sales.

One of the highlights of this year's tour was a "Livingston Grown Lunch" consisting of locally sourced produce at the Avon Inn and a lively panel discussion that followed which focused on Smart Growth in Rural Communities. The discussion highlighted the importance of how planning for change, rather than reacting to change, is important for growth and sustainability. Participants discussed the various interests of the community, such as development and land protection, preserving our rural character while enhancing growth in our urban areas, and how public responsibility and individual opportunity are interrelated and mutually beneficial. **GVC**

# The Oak Tree Continues to Grow



Early Sunday morning of this past Labor Day weekend, dozens of GVC volunteers descended upon Geneseo in preparation for the 8th annual Oak Tree Half Marathon & 5K. Streets were closed to their typical traffic and in its place, a record 656 individuals from eleven states, Australia, and Canada passed through Geneseo in support of GVC.

The Oak Tree Half Marathon and 5k is a fitting event for the Genesee Valley Conservancy, showcasing the extraordinary landscapes GVC works to protect. Both the half marathon and 5k courses pass the John W. Chanler Island Preserve, a GVC owned property featuring

public access trails and grassland habitat, as well as properties protected by private landowners through permanent legal agreements.

Participants step to the starting line with several different goals in mind: to win, to have a personal best time, or for some, to finish. No matter each individual's purpose, the event has proven to be a great success for GVC. The Oak Tree raises significant funds for the organization, increases the awareness of our work, and most importantly, increases appreciation for the beautiful Genesee Valley and its natural resources.

The success of this event is due in large part to GVC's many dedicated volunteers and supporters. To view a list of the local businesses that participated in the 8th annual Oak Tree Half Marathon & 5k as sponsors, see page 7. **GVC**

# Exploring the Genesee Valley

*Scenes from the 2012 Nature Series*

*GVC hosted over 400 participants in this year's series of nature walks and events held on protected property. Of the ten events, half were led by experts in their field, encouraging hands-on learning experiences for all in attendance.*

*The events are free and open to the public, and provide a great opportunity to explore the flora and fauna that set this area apart.*

*Special thanks to Steuben Trust Company for sponsoring the series! GVC*



Keep your eye out for the 2013 schedule of events!

In the mean time, explore GVC's three **public** preserves:

John W. Chanler Island Preserve, the Railroad Bed Trail and the Indian Fort Nature Preserve.



For locations, trail maps & more information, visit [geneseevalleyconservancy.org](http://geneseevalleyconservancy.org)

# Linking Conservation



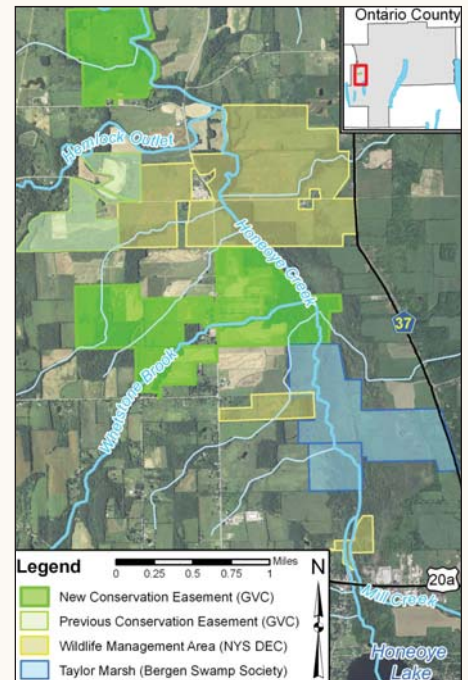
Flora and fauna do not live based upon property lines, they mix and mingle within larger ecological areas. Similarly, successful farming and forestry need more than a single parcel to maintain an economy. It is for these reasons that GVC works to expand existing conservation areas. Protecting an individual parcel is a great start, but conservation must occur on a larger scale to truly be effective.

In 2012, GVC completed two conservation projects protecting more than the individual parcels; these two projects each adjoin and connect several thousand acres of conserved land. Building on the past success of both GVC and other organization's efforts, GVC expanded two important conservation areas.

In Livingston County, GVC accepted a donated easement in the town of Geneseo. This 25 acre parcel adjoins two conserved properties along its entire western and northern borders. Further, this parcel is part of the larger 5,000 acres of conservation GVC has completed along Nations Road. This area is of special interest to GVC: it is the location

of GVC's first conservation project and a place GVC has been working to protect for over 20 years. The Nations Road area is home to the Genesee Valley Hunt and an entire community of outdoor enthusiasts who appreciate the importance that open space plays in pursuit of their equestrian interests. Further, Nations Road is also identified as an Important Bird Area by the National Audubon Society and maintains a mix of rare and threatened species such as Bobolink, Henslow's Sparrow, and Grasshopper Sparrow. The gullies, streams, forests, and grassland fields create a unique mix of habitat to suit a wide range of avian and other species. GVC is pleased to continue the important conservation work in this region and thanks landowner Sally Wood for contributing to the conservation of this area.

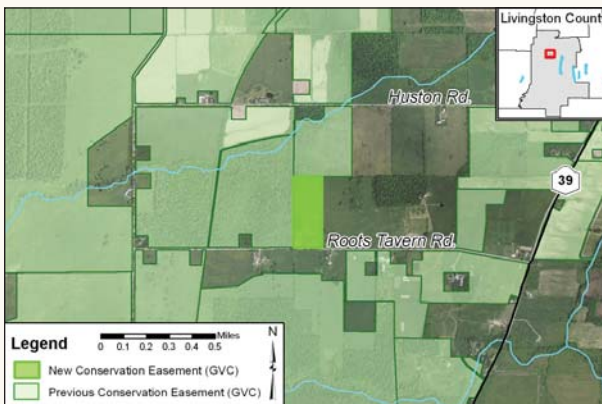
Further east, a donated easement in Ontario County was accepted on two areas within the Honeoye Creek watershed just north of Honeoye Lake. This 688 acre project adjoins the conservation work of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the Bergen Swamp Society. Together, over 1,900 acres are now protected here. The State owns a wildlife management area adjacent to this project, which is itself adjacent to an existing GVC easement accepted in 1997. The Bergen Swamp Society, a non-profit dedicated to conserving the flora and fauna of lands



*Stephen and Janice Ashley project, Richmond, Ontario County.*

for observation and study, owns a preserve adjacent to this easement project. Between the three organizations, 6.8 miles of the Honeoye Creek are protected. GVC is pleased to complement the work of these organizations and thanks landowners Steve and Janice Ashley for their commitment to conservation.

Completing 713 acres of important conservation is something to be satisfied with, and knowing these acres are increasing existing conservation areas is even more satisfying. The time and effort put into these projects will not only protect resources on those individual parcels, it will help continue the protection and effectiveness of past conservation efforts. **GVC**



*Sally Wood project, Geneseo, Livingston County.*

# 2012 Giving

**GVC's membership year runs from November to the following October. The following list consists of contributions to GVC's annual fund, as well as other donations.**

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## **CONSERVATION CHAMPION (\$10,000+)**

Anonymous  
Kenton & Amy Gibbs Brown  
Elizabeth Chatwin

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## **BENEFACTOR (\$5,000-9,999)**

Neil and Angela Bliss  
Oliver Chanler  
Bill & Meg Lloyd  
Myrtle Merritt  
Michael A. Seager

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## **OAK (\$2,500-4,999)**

John Lockhart, III &  
Lynne Mazadoorian  
Craig Phelps  
Clara Mulligan & Peter Watson

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## **DOGWOOD (\$1,250-2,499)**

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Merrimac Farms  
Phillip Mulligan  
Jon & Bee Perkins  
Joyce Wechsler  
Sally Wood

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## **SASSAFRAS (\$600-1,249)**

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Greg & Elizabeth O'Connell  
Sharon & Chip Presutti  
Barbara Lee Scott  
Martha D. Wadsworth  
Martha Pierce & Jack Walsh  
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## **BLUEBELL (\$300-599)**

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Dennis & Marilyn Moore  
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Call Lands Partnership  
Shel Pitney & Ilonka Tumelaire  
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Peter Stwertka  
Jim & Barb Walker  
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## **TWIN LEAF (\$75-149)**

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John Youngers  
Bill O'Neill & Martha Zettel

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## **ACORN (UP TO \$74)**

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D. Michael & Susan W. Arney  
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Peter & Donna Bondi  
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 Chris & Laurie Ambrose

**Erica Hutten**  
 Genesee Valley Equine Clinic

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 Lois H. Allen

**Tom & Betty Buckley, Betsy Frederic, and Louise Mayer**  
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 Tompkins Insurance Agencies  
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 The Genesee Sun  
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 Lattimore Physical Therapy  
 Livingston County Chamber of Commerce  
 Genesee Chiropractic  
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**Oak Tree Half Marathon and 5k Gifts-in-kind**  
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 Palmiters Garden Nursery  
 Big Tree Inn  
 Abbey of the Genesee  
 Barilla  
 Royal Tees  
 Cycle Craze  
 Worm Power  
 Wegmans  
 Hog Shed Studio Pottery

**Genesee Trio**  
 GioVanna's Pizza & Pasta

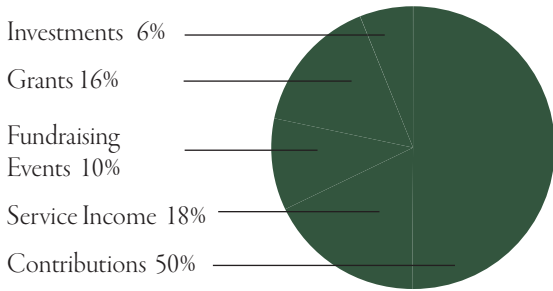
**Nature Walk Series**  
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**GIFTS-IN-KIND**  
 Rob Bescanceny, Esq.  
 Dairylea  
 Once Again Nut Butter

**GRANT AWARDS**  
 Rochester Area Community Foundation  
 New York State Conservation Partnership Program

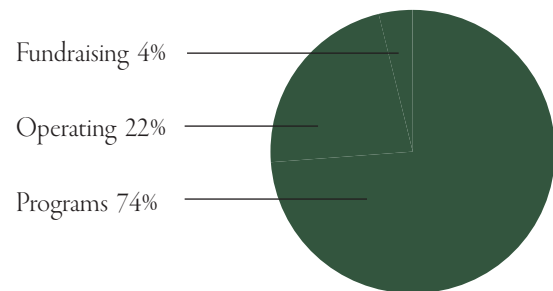
**EASEMENT DONORS**  
 Stephen & Janice Ashley  
 Sally Wood

*We sincerely apologize for any errors or omissions. For correction, please contact the GVC office.*



**2011 OPERATING REVENUE**

	2011 Income	2010 Income
Contributions	\$131,012.00	\$155,962.00
Service Income	\$46,446.00	\$32,090.00
Fundraising Events	\$27,381.00	\$23,899.00
Grants	\$40,741.00	\$22,232.00
Investments	\$15,979.00	\$12,318.00
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$261,560.00</b>	<b>\$246,502.00</b>



**2011 OPERATING EXPENSES**

	2011 Expense	2010 Expense
Programs	\$223,978.00	\$165,433.00
Operating	\$67,714.00	\$58,397.00
Fundraising	\$11,741.00	\$9,518.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$228,839.16</b>	<b>\$233,348.00</b>



PO Box 73  
Geneseo, NY 14454  
(585) 243-2190  
geneseevalleyconservancy.org

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Benjamin Gajewski, *Stewardship Director*  
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*Join us in protecting  
the places we love.*

**Online giving is available.**

*Please give today.*

**geneseevalleyconservancy.org**

