



Enjoying the land we protect helps energize our mission of preserving open space and valuable ecosystems in Northern New York

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Help us Celebrate Downybrook!

Your contribution today will support OBI Land Trust's effort to enhance access to Downybrook East and the construction of a nature viewing deck for all to connect to the great outdoors

Dear Friends of OBI,

The 2021 fundraising appeal reflects your growing interest in "getting outdoors" and enjoying nature. Visits to Downybrook East and West have increased dramatically and we want to continue to make those visits as enjoyable as possible!

As an all-volunteer land trust, we consider and prioritize projects according to their benefits to our service area. This year OBI wants to increase access to Downybrook East by creating a **dedicated entrance, stone drive and parking area**.

The grassland bird area on Downybrook West is alive with activity each spring and throughout the summer. Bluebirds, Cedar Wax Wings, Bobolinks and more nest and thrive. OBI plans to construct a **nature viewing deck accessible to all** close to parking but away from distractions... a space to relax and view the grassland activity, as well as a gathering spot useful for educational programs and events.

The New York State Land Trust Alliance and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation have announced grant funding to be awarded in spring of 2022. OBI will be applying for these funds to construct these improvements, but will also be obligated to provide funds amounting to 25% of the grant.

We need you to help in meeting the 25% match!

Your contribution will **Celebrate Downybrook**, a gift enhancing access to the trails on the East side of Downybrook and a viewing deck on the West side accessible to all. Your gift will truly make a difference!

As we enter the year and holiday season, OBI thanks each and every one of you for your support and recognition of the importance of our natural surroundings that bring us peace and joy each and every day!

OBI Land Trust Board of Directors

Downybrook is located at 23453 Perch Lake Road, Brownville and is open to visitors from dawn until dusk all year round.



Winter Birding Trip • Saturday January 8, 2022

Join us for our annual winter birding trip along the shores and in the field of Point Peninsula, in the Town of Lyme. Winter on Point Peninsula is a prime birding destination. We will watch for raptors such as the ever popular Snowy Owl and others including Bald Eagle, Red-tailed and Rough-legged Hawk, Northern Harrier, Northern Shrike, and American Kestrel. Snow Buntings, and several species of waterfowl will be about.

We will meet at 10:00AM and ride along the route in your own cars. A field guide will be on hand to answer questions and direct the route. Several stops will allow for photographs and discussion.

Priority for reservations will be given to Friends of OBI Land Trust, email info@obilandtrust.org to reserve your space on this ever popular trip.



Help us celebrate Downybrook!



A new bridge and walkover have recently been completed at Downybrook Nature Reserve in Brownville as part of an Eagle Scout project by 14-year-old Jeremy Shimel. Jeremy was joined by several other members of Troop 2 of the Seaway Trails District to complete the work, which also included clearing a wide swath of the west side trail. The new wooden bridge is 14 feet long and 4 feet wide and has ramped ends for easy access. The nearby 14-foot wooden walkover nearby will make it easier and safer for visitors to cross an area that is often muddy and swampy.

"The project required a lot of planning to make sure it was done right," said Jeremy, a 9th grade student at LaFargeville Central School. "Now seeing the difference it will make for the visitors of the trail makes me very proud of the work I've completed with the help of my troop." Jeremy joined the Boy Scout program 8 years ago. He spent 25 hours working on the project at Downybrook and completed it in mid-November as he works toward earning the highest rank of Eagle Scout. The bridges were made mostly with leftover lumber at Downybrook and is a welcomed addition to the trail system, which is located on both sides of Perch Lake Road. There are a combined 3.5 miles of trails at Downybrook, where there are several different habitats, footbridges and man-made ponds.

"Jeremy is a fine young man. He and his scout troop did an excellent job and the bridge is a great enhancement for visitors walking the trail," said Lee Ellsworth, Land Steward for OBI Land Trust.

Jeremy is the son of Jay and Tammi Shimel of LaFargeville, NY.

We appreciate your support of OBI!

The theme of this year's annual fundraiser, "Just Like the Good Old Days" really captured the nostalgia and meaning of good old-fashioned get-togethers that we hardly can take for granted anymore. After more than a year of no events due to the pandemic, it was wonderful for more than 100 OBI supporters to share terrific food and drink and the scenic views of Sawmill Bay from the patio at Wise Guys Ristorante, Chaumont.

The evening was highlighted by inspiring words from guest speaker Spencer Busler, Director of Land Conservation at Thousand Islands Land Trust as well as special

recognition and limited-edition nature artwork presented to Amanda Miller, owner of Lake Ontario Realty, for her many years of loyal support to our all-volunteer land trust. It is people like Amanda and others like her who help OBI succeed in our mission of land conservation.



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