



# The Hemlock Herald

Central New York Land Trust

Trail Maintenance | New Addition to the Team | A Steward for Every Preserve

## Spring Projects

Now that spring has come? (Hopefully the snow is gone for good). We are planning for at least two volunteer work days per week (one mid-week, one on the weekend) based on priorities, available funding, monitoring, and volunteer land steward feedback.

Coming up:

### **May 8th: South Meadow Work Day (Tully)**

10am -2pm: We will be clearing and widening some existing trails to dry out wet patches.

### **May 14th: High Hickory Work Day**

10am-3pm: We will be removing invasive species (see Japanese Barberry pg. 2) from meadow habitat, as well as undertaking trail and boundary marking on site.

**Due to COVID-19 we have to limit the number of volunteers on site** so please contact us ahead of time to confirm your participation! (315) 575-8839



Land Steward Paul Porter installs new trail markers along the trail at Three Falls Woods Preserve in Manlius.

## Trail Maintenance

*Marie's Woods & Three Falls Woods get some much needed attention*

As spring has finally decided to come to Central New York, we have jumped on the opportunity to do some much needed trail maintenance at some of our busiest sites. Our first stop was to Marie's Woods Preserve in Cicero to clear a large tree that had fallen along the trail just beyond the entrance.



Paul clears a tree that had fallen over the trail at Marie's Woods Preserve.

At Three Falls Woods Preserve in Manlius, we are eagerly awaiting the completion of our new signage to finalize our Kiosk which was built earlier this spring by volunteers under the guidance of Edwin Woods. In preparation for the printing of the signage, Paul and Rex spent an afternoon marking and organizing the Entry Trail,



## Invasive Species Spotlight: Japanese Barberry

**Scientific Name:** *Berberis thunbergii* DC.

**Origin:** Native to Japan. Introduced to the US as an ornamental shrub which escaped captivity.

**Habitat:** Deep woods as well as woodland edges.

**Identification:** Small, oval, alternate leaves. Foliage is green to a dark reddish purple. The stems have single spines along their length. Small, yellow flowers are produced during the spring, red fruit develops and can persist into winter. Birds and other animals feed on the fruit and then deposit seeds as they move.

**Threat:** Forms dense stands that compete with native trees and herbaceous plants. Research has shown that the presence of the black-legged tick (which transmits Lyme disease) increases in areas with dense barberry.

**Management:** Barberry can also be pulled out or dug out, but follow up treatments may be necessary if runners start new plants.

<https://extension.psu.edu/the-invasive-japanese->

Falls Trail, and Loop Trail which bring you through the astonishing karst topography that is found on site. These trails will need further marking, and in some places, we will likely need to widen some portions of the trail.

## New Addition to the Team

*Rex Ramsgard Joins The CNYLT as a Stewardship Intern*

As a Skaneateles native, Rex grew up roaming the woods and waterfalls of the area. He continued to foster this appreciation of the outdoors through his time in Boy Scout Troop 61 where he earned the rank of Eagle Scout. Upon graduating Skaneateles High School in 2016, Rex wasted no time in earning his RYA Yachtmaster Ocean captain's license to pilot sailing yachts across the globe. During the 3 years



Intern Rex Ramsgard removes garbage dumped on site at Marie's Woods.

he worked in the yachting industry, Rex completed 3 transatlantic voyages, 1 pacific crossing and logged over 20,000 offshore miles, sailing in the Mediterranean, Caribbean, South Africa, and Southeast Asia.

Rex has recently completed his Associate's Degree at Onondaga Community College. During his time back in CNY, he has worked for Eastern Farm Workers Association (EFWA) in Syracuse. Working with EFWA, a grassroots all volunteer run, non-government-funded organization, also founded in 1972, Rex has a thorough understanding of the advantages and challenges that such organizations face, the need and desire for such organizations to exude professionalism in their organizational work, but also the necessity of maintaining their grassroots tradition as volunteers are the lifeblood of organizations like ours.

Rex will be working closely with our Land Steward, Paul Porter, to coordinate the activities of our volunteers across our 48 Preserves in Central New York. Rex is looking forward to working with each and every one of you, both in the office and





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CNY LAND TRUST



out on the sites, as we have a busy summer planned for us out on our preserves.

## A Steward for Every Preserve

*The staff at CNYLT looks to reaffirm its commitment to its Volunteer Preserve Stewards in the field*



Vernal pool at Ripley Hill Preserve.

In celebration of our recent accreditation by the Land Trust Alliance (LTA), we have made it a goal to have a Volunteer Preserve Steward responsible for each of our 48 sites. These Preserve Stewards, in coordination with our staff, will be responsible for the management of our preserves in accordance with the LTA's Standards and Practices.

We know this past year of COVID-19 has brought many challenges to our current volunteers and new volunteer outreach, but Paul and Rex are excited to be spearheading the effort to get out to our sites and give them the attention they deserve. Over the course of the next few weeks, Paul and Rex will be reaching out to our existing Preserve Stewards to touch base regarding site visits, management plans, and potential issues on our preserves. If you are a current Preserve Steward and have not submitted a site inspection form yet this year, there is a fillable form available via email, if you have not received this yet please contact us. We would like these submitted by as soon as possible to be able to appropriately plan our work this summer.

We are also looking for volunteers interested in becoming a Preserve Steward as we have some sites that are currently are lacking one. If you are interested, please contact Paul at (315) 575-8839 to set up an orientation at our office.

