



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

September 6, 2017

CONTACT:

Nancy Smith
(716) 687-1225
nancyr@wnylc.org

Coming up on September 26: Western New York Land Conservancy Annual Gala

From 6 PM to 9 PM on Tuesday, September 26, the Western New York Land Conservancy will host its annual gala in the Golden Ballroom at Statler City. For more than 26 years, the regional land trust and its thousands of supporters have saved more than 6,000 acres of forests, wetlands, meadows, and farms in the eight counties of Western New York. These places include, among many others, the Stella Niagara Preserve in Lewiston, the Owens Falls Sanctuary in Aurora, and farmland throughout the region. These places are protected forever because of the Land Conservancy and the efforts of its members.

The entire Western New York community is invited to attend this memorable event and to celebrate the past year's remarkable accomplishments. The gala will be led by celebrity emcee and long-time Land Conservancy member, Steve Tasker, and will feature live gypsy jazz music by The Hot Club of Buffalo, as well as an exciting live auction led by Kelly Schultz.

The live auction will feature sensational prizes including getaways to Cayuga Lake; the Chautauqua Institution; and New Zealand; a guided fly-fishing trip with Alberto Rey; artwork by local painter Thomas Kegler; a Buffalo Bills prize package; and much more!

"The Land Conservancy's work would not be possible without the support of many remarkable people in the community," said Nancy Smith, Executive Director of the Land Conservancy. "This year's gala will give us the chance to honor Sally Cunningham, Darrel Morrison, and Barbara and Don Owens for their incredible contributions."

The chairs of the 2017 Gala are Grace Meibohm, owner of Meibohm Fine Arts in East Aurora, and Bob Giannetti, Lewiston poet, author, and lecturer. The honorary co-chairs of this year's gala include New York State Senator Chris Jacobs, Senator Tim Kennedy, and SUNY Fredonia President and Regional Economic Development Council Co-Chair Virginia Horvath.

Tickets to attend the gala are \$160 or \$220 for patrons. Contact the Land Conservancy at (716) 687-1225 or info@wnylc.org to make reservations. Please RSVP by September 13. All proceeds will support the Land Conservancy's work to save transformative places in our region.

The 2017 Gala is made possible by the support of numerous sponsors. Our main sponsor is the West Herr Automotive Group Inc. Our platinum sponsors are Charles F. Kreiner, Jr.; Delaware North; and Hodgson Russ LLP. Our gold sponsors include Buffalo Southern Railroad, Inc.; Ciminelli Real Estate Corp.; Complete Health & Wellness Center of WNY; Donald Spoth Farm; Ecology and Environment, Inc.; Kreher's Farm Fresh Eggs; Margy & Tom Montante; Montante Group; Rigidized Metals Corp.; Signity Financial; and Westview Farms & Greenhouses. Our silver sponsors include CC Environment & Planning; C&S Companies; Darrel Morrison and Nancy Aten; Di Camillo Bakery; Eastern Monarch Butterfly Farm; Evans Bank, Inc.; Goldfarb Financial; Greenman-Pedersen, Inc.; Holly and David Hahn-Baker; Lippes Mathias Wexler Friedman LLP; Lytle Associates; Mark J. Peszko, Esq.; Meibohm Fine Arts, Inc.; Odyssey Visual Media; Otis Eastern Service, LLC; Phillips Lytle LLP; PRP Financial Solutions, LLC; Richard Pohlman, Atty; Rupp Baase Pfalzgraf Cunningham, LLC; Solar Liberty; and Statler City. Our bronze sponsors include Above & Beyond Tree Expert Co.; Astronics Corp.; Buffalo Niagara Association of Realtors; Dailys Catering; Gomez and Sullivan Engineers, DPC; Kasey & Byron DeLuke; Make Communities; McIntosh & McIntosh Land Surveyors, PC; Root Down Farm; Seve and Associates; Tahawus Trails LLC; and Wayne, Betsy, Maya, and Jenna Keller. The Land Conservancy is grateful to all of these sponsors!

The **Western New York Land Conservancy** is a regional, not-for-profit land trust that permanently protects land with significant conservation value in Western New York for future generations. The Land Conservancy envisions a future in which open spaces, working lands, wildlife habitat and scenic beauty are cherished and protected as part of the landscape and character of Western New York. The Land Conservancy is accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission and is one of 1,700 land trusts nationwide, including 90 in New York State. Land trusts have protected 40 million acres over the last 20 years. For more information on upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, or the mission of the Western New York Land Conservancy, please call (716) 687-1225 or visit www.wnylc.org.

###