



Champlain Area Trails



2020 Annual Report







## Mission

Champlain Area Trails saves land, makes trails, connects people with nature, and promotes economic vitality in New York's Champlain Valley.

## Vision

Through our trails, lands, hikes and outdoor education outings, the Champlain Valley is a place where its communities, people, and businesses thrive, and everyone enjoys the benefits from outdoor recreation and tourism.

**Bobcats are beautiful, enigmatic creatures that only some of us are lucky enough to spot when exploring CATS trails and conservation lands. We proudly sport their paw print on our logo and we are honored to share the forests and meadows with them.**

## Dear Friends of Champlain Area Trails,

Fifteen years ago, a small group of people with big dreams came together in Steven Kellogg's yellow barn to discuss the need for more hiking trails in the Champlain Valley. Hiking opportunities in the Valley were sparse then because there was little public land and few trails. Thankfully, those meetings led to creating Champlain Area Trails (CATS) as a non-profit corporation in 2009 and we've become the solution.

As I reflect on this history, I think about all the supporters and partners who helped make CATS a reality. And now, after approximately 60 miles of new trails and nearly 1000 acres of new conservation lands, the Champlain Valley contains some of the most popular and accessible places to hike in the Adirondack Park. Together, we have made monumental progress toward the grand vision of trails connecting our communities and enhancing the valley's quality of life.

Fifteen years ago, I never would have imagined that CATS trails and lands would be so critical to relieving the physical and mental stresses associated with a global pandemic. But thanks to the foresight of CATS founders, our growing donor base, and passionate community supporters, we were in the position to provide for local communities when they needed it most.

Right now, the mission and vision of CATS are more important than ever. And looking ahead, the demand for our work will continue to grow as human actions and climate change threaten the valley's ecologically significant lands and as outdoor recreation gains in popularity. We have so much to do, and with your continued, steadfast support, we will save more land and make more trails that link communities, connect people with nature, and promote economic vitality. These trails are for you, our communities, and all the visitors to enjoy, forever.

As you'll read in this report, 2020 was another memorable year for CATS and the Champlain Valley. Please take great pride in knowing that your support has made a tremendously positive impact for people and for nature, now and for generations to come.



Happy Trails,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Chris Maron". The script is fluid and cursive.

Chris Maron

Executive Director



# CATS Saves Land

## Long Pond Preserve

Tucked away in the northern section of the Adirondack's West Champlain Hills between Willsboro and Keeseville is a magnificent 273-acre lake known as Long Pond. It is surrounded by an intact, biologically rich forest that protects the lake and is the backdrop for homes on the Pond's east side and Camp Poke-O-MacCready to the south. A potential development in 2011 threatened the west shore of this beautiful and much-loved lake and inspired people to work with Champlain Area Trails to create a program called Long Pond Conservancy (LPC) that focuses on saving the lands around Long Pond. This will keep the water clean, preserve the amazing views, and connect people to nature in the Long Pond Watershed.

Starting ten years ago, CATS and its LPC program took on the challenging task of raising over \$300,000 to cover the cost of purchasing and managing the threatened

48.5 acres. Buying this land would protect most of the lake's western shore because the adjoining 167 acres of shoreline is already protected. With that as the goal, LPC and its committed supporters launched a multi-year fundraising effort and reached success in May 2020 when those private funds and combined grants from the Kelsey Trust and Cloudsplitter Foundation enabled CATS to buy and now own the property.

"This is a unique property," said legendary ADK conservationist Peter Paine. "These West Champlain Hills represent one of the most diverse natural communities in the Adirondack Park. Protecting biological diversity and water quality are integral for people and nature. That's why this land at Long Pond was worth saving now and for future generations."

Like all CATS land conservation projects, this remarkable property will host a trail so that everyone can experience the wild and scenic beauty of Long Pond, forever.

SAVING  
LAND



A rainbow extends above Long Pond's west shoreline.





# CATS Makes Trails

The west slope of the North Boquet Summit Trail features several stunning overlooks of Lake Champlain.

## North Boquet Summit Trail

Rising to approximately 1007 feet, and just west of the Village of Essex lies North Boquet Mountain. Part of the botanically rich West Champlain Hills, this Adirondack Low Peak is high in biodiversity and unlike any other place on the planet.

Following years of study, ecologist and author of the *Northern Forest Atlas*, Jerry Jenkins, discovered that the West Champlain Hills contain some of the richest plant communities in the entire Northern Forest. The dry calcareous oak-hickory forest community on North Boquet Mountain is unique and hosts several rare plant species.

“We live and work in the most biologically diverse region of the Adirondack Park,” said Chris Maron, CATS Executive Director. “North Boquet Mountain provided a great opportunity to expand the collaboration we have with private landowner Shirley Forest, a family-held corporation, which allows CATS trails on their properties. With their okay, we created a trail so everyone can enjoy this

magnificent mountain. This will be a great example of how people connect with nature on our trails and then become ambassadors for protecting the valley’s natural areas and scenic vistas.”

The North Boquet Summit Trail is accessed from Leaning Road in Essex. As people hike one mile to the summit, they’ll enjoy a series of switchbacks and several magnificent views of Lake Champlain to the east. On the summit, they’ll continue hiking through grassy oak-hickory glades to a spur trail to the west side of the mountain that yields picturesque views of the High Peaks. They can return on the same trail or loop back via the Rocky Ledges Trail. Hikers can also get there from the Boquet Mountain Trail.

“This was my favorite and most challenging sustainable trail to build,” said CATS Stewardship Coordinator, Bill Amadon. “It was hard work but extremely gratifying knowing that many people will enjoy hiking here.”





# CATS Connects People With Nature

**Early in 2020**, as CATS was beginning to plan its annual Grand Hike, nobody expected that a global pandemic would force us to cancel this popular event and fundraiser. 2020 was the year of flexibility and creativity, so we decided to launch the first ever CATS Grand Challenge.

The Challenge encouraged people to get outside, connect with nature, and explore the Champlain Valley through hiking one of three designated CATS trails and earning a commemorative patch.

The three-month event inspired 210 people from throughout the Champlain Valley and beyond to take on the Challenge and show their support for CATS. We missed seeing everyone in person, but truly enjoyed the fun photos that they shared highlighting happy people, friends and families out

in nature. This is exactly what CATS is all about.

Thank you and stay tuned as we plan for future CATS challenges!

CONNECTING  
PEOPLE WITH  
NATURE



*We recently had some family visiting and they joined the Grand Challenge. It was their first CATS hike and they loved it. The weather was beautiful, the trail was in great shape and well-marked. The view of Lake Champlain as we walked down to Westport was spectacular. Thanks for organizing this and what a great job considering the problem with COVID-19.*

—Tom and Kathy Bebee



A hiker strolls through a goldenrod meadow at CATS Art Farm Trail.





CATS trails attract people to the region and in turn, they support local businesses.

## CATS Promotes Economic Vitality

*We took our first trip to Willsboro this summer and fell in love. I noticed all the CATS trail signs and decided to explore the website. I then learned how huge the trail network was and that there were plans to expand! Seeing this became a significant motivator for us to buy a camp. Not only can we be near the water and in the Adirondacks, but there are all these shorter trails for smaller forays into nature. We are just getting started discovering the CATS trail system and we're already impressed and eager to see more.*

—Tanja Eise, CATS supporter

**Champlain Area Trails** makes the Champlain Valley a desirable destination to live and visit and inspires long term support of the overall economy in its communities. Our trails and nature preserves offer outdoor recreation opportunities which draw people to our region. They seek accommodations, discover great local eateries and ultimately support local businesses. And in some cases, CATS trails even inspire people to relocate here.

PROMOTING  
ECONOMIC  
VITALITY



# Contributors

**It takes a valley, and beyond!** CATS is grateful to recognize all of the individuals who helped advance our important community work and mission. You've enhanced the quality of life for people and nature in New York's Champlain Valley and you inspire us, every day. The following giving categories represent total donations for Annual Fund gifts as well as contributions to projects and CATS Special Funds.

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\* = Project and Special Fund contributions, including Essex Quarry Nature Preserve, Long Pond Conservancy, Viall's Crossing Trail and Conservation Project, Stewardship Fund and Endowment contributions

Common Redpoll posing in the meadow at CATS Art Farm Trail.



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## Donor Spotlight

**Evelyn Rinella** spent summers in the Adirondacks when she was growing up. She hiked thirty of the High Peaks with her father in his quest to hike the Forty-Six. Evelyn and her family would travel from her grandparents' house in Wilmington to visit her aunt and uncle who owned Northern Orchard in Peru, New York. After sharing her late husband Joe's career serving overseas with the US Foreign Service, Evelyn and her husband Joe came full circle and retired in Peru.

"My home at the edge of town has a backyard view through the trees of a family dairy farm, yet I can walk out the front door to the library, post office and the walking trail through the park. I feel that this mirrors what CATS is about; where people live, work and play yet we're connected to our natural surroundings. Whatever the reason: to reach the steps goal on the Fitbit; to catch a glimpse of that elusive bird in song. Whatever the season: to paint a bucolic scene in springtime or to hike a well-maintained trail in autumn splendor."

This shared vision is why Evelyn is a passionate supporter of Champlain Area Trails. Providing equitable access to nature throughout the Champlain Valley promotes healthy communities. "I love that CATS trails are accessible to all ages and abilities. Opportunities are provided to volunteer and to



learn about various aspects of the environment. One of my most memorable moments was finding a twig covered with fungus while helping Bill Amadon and Chris Maron with a trail maintenance project. It piqued my curiosity enough to enlist the help of my retired science teacher friend to identify it as a wood ear mushroom."

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## Donor Spotlight

**Steven Kellogg** grew up in Connecticut and he vividly recalls his annual summer highlight which was to vacation along the shores of Lake Champlain with his family.

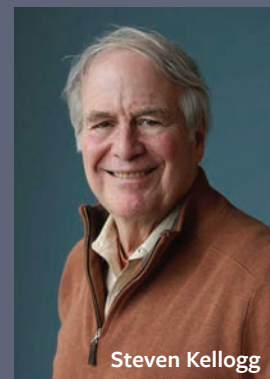
“Each summer our family rented a lakeside camp north of the Crater Club. I spent my days exploring the lakeshore and the surrounding woods, and, during the night, I listened with fascination from my bed on the screened porch to the waves on the lake, and to the haunting calls of a Whip-poor-will. When I lost myself in the Adirondack woods, I felt that I had entered the intriguing and mysterious depths of a forest primeval! My three sisters shared my enthusiasm for the time we spent in the Champlain valley and we vowed that someday we would all return and find places to live along the shores of the beautiful lake. That vow was fulfilled in our late middle age.”

Steven, a famed children’s book author and illustrator, is also responsible for the origins of CATS. It all started when Steven was reading Bill McKibben’s book *Wandering Home*, which features him hiking through the Champlain Valley on a trek from Ripton, Vermont to the southern Adirondacks. Steven discovered that the book was also being enjoyed by his neighbor and friend, Bruce Klink. They agreed that it would be wonderful to establish a system of walking paths that linked the communities throughout the area, supported the small businesses, preserved the wildness of the surrounding land, and opened the beauty and serenity of the vast Adirondack fields and forests

for residents and visitors to experience and enjoy.

Steven and Bruce organized a meeting of potential supporters of the plan, and, among the attendees was Chris Maron, whose background is in land conservation. Kellogg recalls, “He was the perfect director for the new undertaking, and, during the years that followed, his leadership, and the support of his dedicated staff, have helped CATS to sensitively and effectively expand, and ultimately to make an important, ongoing contribution to the recreational life of the Champlain valley.”

Steven trusts that CATS’ mission will continue to benefit people and Champlain Valley communities, forever. “An important part of our stewardship must be devoted to preserving these lands so that they are available to those who pass this way after we have moved on. We must emulate the far-sighted leaders who decreed long ago that the magnificent forests that comprise the Adirondack Park shall remain ‘forever wild.’ They wanted nature to flourish here without disturbance so that successive generations could continue forever to wonder at, and be nurtured by, its grandeur and serenity. It is deeply satisfying to see that the inspired work of CATS advances us significantly toward a realization of that goal, and this is just one of the many reasons that I choose to support CATS.”





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 Ingrida & Juris Miemis  
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 Kelly & Miles Moody  
 Jean Mosher ✱  
 Hunter Mowery  
 Donna & Kenneth Mudie  
 Megan Murphy & Eric Teed  
 Kathy & Ben Nadire  
 Lynn & John Neagley  
 Felicia Neahr  
 Steve Neidig  
 Sandra & Christopher Neuzil  
 Dan Nielsen  
 Carol & Michael O'Callaghan  
 Kathy O'Kane  
 Marty & Patrice O'Connor  
 Kurt Oswald  
 Judith & Charles Pack  
 Timothy Pastrick  
 Wendy Patunoff  
 Diane Patyjewicz  
 Barbara & Bradley Paye  
 Doris & William Perkett  
 Phyllis Perna & Richard Arndt  
 Jeanne Phillion-Nichols  
 Larry Pittis  
 David Ploof  
 Port Henry/Moriah Chamber of Commerce  
 Kristine Portal  
 Zack Porter & Kassia Randzio  
 Nancy Pribble  
 Marta Quilliam  
 Anthony Quinn  
 Amy Quinn  
 Amy Quonce  
 Anne & Sherman Randall  
 Monica & Jeffrey Ravreby  
 Lynne & Peter Reale  
 Vivian & Alvin Reiner  
 Cheryl Remillard  
 Katherine & Steven Resnick ✱  
 Mona Richardson & Rich Wickman  
 Monica & Wayne Richter  
 Maria & Vincent Rinella  
 Stacy & Mark Robinson  
 Deborah Rogers  
 Judi & Tim Root ✱  
 Marsha Russell & Harry Hutson  
 Steve Samuel  
 Sita Sanders & Gerrit Shaw Gibbs  
 Terry & Mark Saulsgiver  
 Sara & Richard Scheinin  
 Betty & Ernst Schoen-Rene  
 Laura Sells-Doyle & John Doyle  
 Karen Seward  
 Leslie & Lawrence Shipp  
 Tom Shragg & Ceclia Martinez  
 Nancy Sinkoff & Gary Dreiblatt  
 Susan Sliva  
 Susie Smith & Ken Hughes  
 Annie & Red Smith  
 Kimberly Smith  
 Sarah & Charles Smithson  
 Ellen Somers & David Dillman ✱  
 Gael & Thomas Sopchak  
 Jenni Sowizdrzal  
 Cathy & Chris Spaulding  
 Jane & Thomas Spierito

## Up to \$100 (cont.)

Hillary Sponable  
Sandra Sprague  
Henry Sprague  
David Stebbios  
Kathy Steeves  
Beth & John Stewart  
Peter & Carol Stone  
Richard Strean  
Thomas Sullivan  
Joan Sullivan-Owomoyela  
Ann & Lincoln Sunderland  
Nancy Swete  
Jane & Jan Terlouw  
Betsey & David Thomas-Train ★  
Susannah & Mike Thompson  
Eve Ticknor  
Kimberley Tiller & Phil McFadden  
George Topka  
Marilyn & Kip Trienens  
Linda Twigfire & Lesley Steele  
Karen Valenta  
Helene & Larry Vanderburgh  
Lynn & Greg Vennell  
Laura Volk & Joe Roscoe  
Philip Von Bargaen  
Paul Wang  
Ellen & John Wanzung  
Thomas Weiskotten  
Sally & David Weiskotten  
Catherine Weiskotten  
Alison Weld & Charles Russell  
Angeline Whisher  
Janet & Robert Whitaker  
Eleanor & Willis White  
Grace Whitney  
Kathleen Wiley  
Patricia & Roger Williams  
Augusta Wilson & Timothy Singer  
Kim Wilson  
Lois & Ron Wilson  
Edward Wojcik  
Jackie Wrenn  
David Wright  
George Young ★  
Anne Zilch

## CATS Trail Hosts

Jeffrey Allott  
Sarah Aunchman  
Jenny & Reginald Bedell  
Caroline & Jim Carlisle  
Audrey & Alex Caskey  
Jesse & Tommy Conley  
Ted Cornell  
Lloyd Currey  
Susan Bacot-Davis & George Davis  
Leanna & Dick DeNeale  
Tom Duca  
Eddy Foundation  
Steve Feinbloom  
Matt Foley  
Sara Kurak & James Graves  
(Full & By Farm)  
Darcey & Bruce Hale  
Irene Harbison  
Marsha & Bill Harbison  
Cynthia & David Johnston  
(DaCy Meadow Farm)  
Sheila & Fred Kapper  
Theresa & James Kapper  
Kristen & Mark Kimball (Essex Farm)  
Marit & Lars Kulleseid  
Lakeside School  
The Lee Trust  
Jan & Jane Ter Louw  
Edgar Marvin  
Carol & James Meaker  
Sally & Roland Morris  
Northeast Wilderness Trust  
Penfield Homestead Museum  
Elizabeth Rapalee  
Lindsay Willemain & Nick Rowe  
Don Rusch  
Kimmy & Dan Rivera  
(Triple Green Jade Farm)  
Shirley Forest, Inc.  
Audie Sparre  
Three Creek Farms LLC  
Dorothy Voorhis  
Mary & Frank Walls  
Kathy & Steven Winckler

## Business Sponsors

Adirondack Flag, LLC  
Covered Bridge Realty  
Fox and Fern ~ Adirondack Mercantiles  
Hall Design Group, LLC  
Heritage Properties of the Adirondacks  
Juniper Hill Farm  
Law Offices of Reginald Bedell  
MacMan  
Namaste Inn Bed & Breakfast  
SeaComm  
The Wind-Chill Factory

## FY20 Tribute Gifts

### IN MEMORY OF

Jamie Clark  
Carol Conheady (Sister Elizabeth)  
COVID-19 Victims  
Herrick & Vera Cross  
Danny Boy  
Hamilton & Eva Eaton  
John Paul Fitzmaurice  
Helen & William Gibson  
Elaine Diane Hall  
Clara Herr  
Sarah L. Holland  
David Hollister, who loved hiking in  
the outdoors  
Malcolm M. Hopper  
Nina Leichter  
Gracelyn Murphy  
Otto  
Lillian & Aaron Raphael  
Frances & Irvin Reid  
Joe Rinella  
Joseph & Margaret Scheinin  
Lila L. Touhey  
Stan Tuller  
Al Ulmer  
Sid Ward  
Bruce Ware  
Andrew Wilson

### IN HONOR OF

Bill "Trailmaster" Amadon  
Vincent Dupont  
Jack & Fiona Elliot  
Robert Fischer  
The FitzMaurice Family  
Health Care Workers  
Tilly Jane  
Janet Mallon  
Chris Maron  
Maureen McLane  
Jim & Nicky Murphy  
Nayeli & Nick  
Sharp Swan & Pok-O-Maccready Camps  
Zachary Teitelbaum  
Heather Mosher Weissmann  
Paul Woodbury Weld  
CATS Staff for their great work



# Financial Statement

## Statement of Financial Position

	Dec. 31, 2020	Dec. 31, 2019
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash	\$307,529	\$198,259
Pledges	\$18,000	\$32,000
Stewardship Fund	\$79,370	\$0
Conservation Project Funds	\$69,120	\$249,490
Conservation Land Holdings	\$546,586	\$376,085
Fixed Assets	\$372	\$372
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$1,020,976</b>	<b>\$856,206</b>
Liabilities	\$30,604	\$127,411
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>\$990,372</b>	<b>\$728,795</b>

## Sources and Uses of Funds, 2020

### Revenue

Unrestricted Gifts	\$376,975	56%
Grants & Restricted Gifts	\$261,231	39%
Gifts to Stewardship Reserve	\$27,500	4%
Investment and Other Income	\$4,087	1%
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$669,793</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Expenses

Conservation & Trail Operations	\$277,156	80%
Fundraising	\$40,559	12%
Management & Administration	\$20,280	6%
Outreach & Communication	\$10,225	3%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$348,221</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Net Surplus** **\$321,573**

# The Team Behind the Work

## Board Of Directors

John Davis  
Mike Derrick  
Vincent DuPont  
Dan Keegan, *Chair*  
Janet Mallon  
Annie McKinley, *Vice Chair*  
David McNamara  
Rob Powell  
Martha Smiles, *Secretary*  
Steven Shepstone, *Treasurer*

## Staff

Chris Maron  
*Executive Director*  
Bill Amadon  
*Stewardship Coordinator*  
Derek Rogers  
*Development Director*  
Emily Segada  
*Operations & Communications Manager*  
Logan Van Buren  
*Summer Land Steward*

## Champlain Area Trails

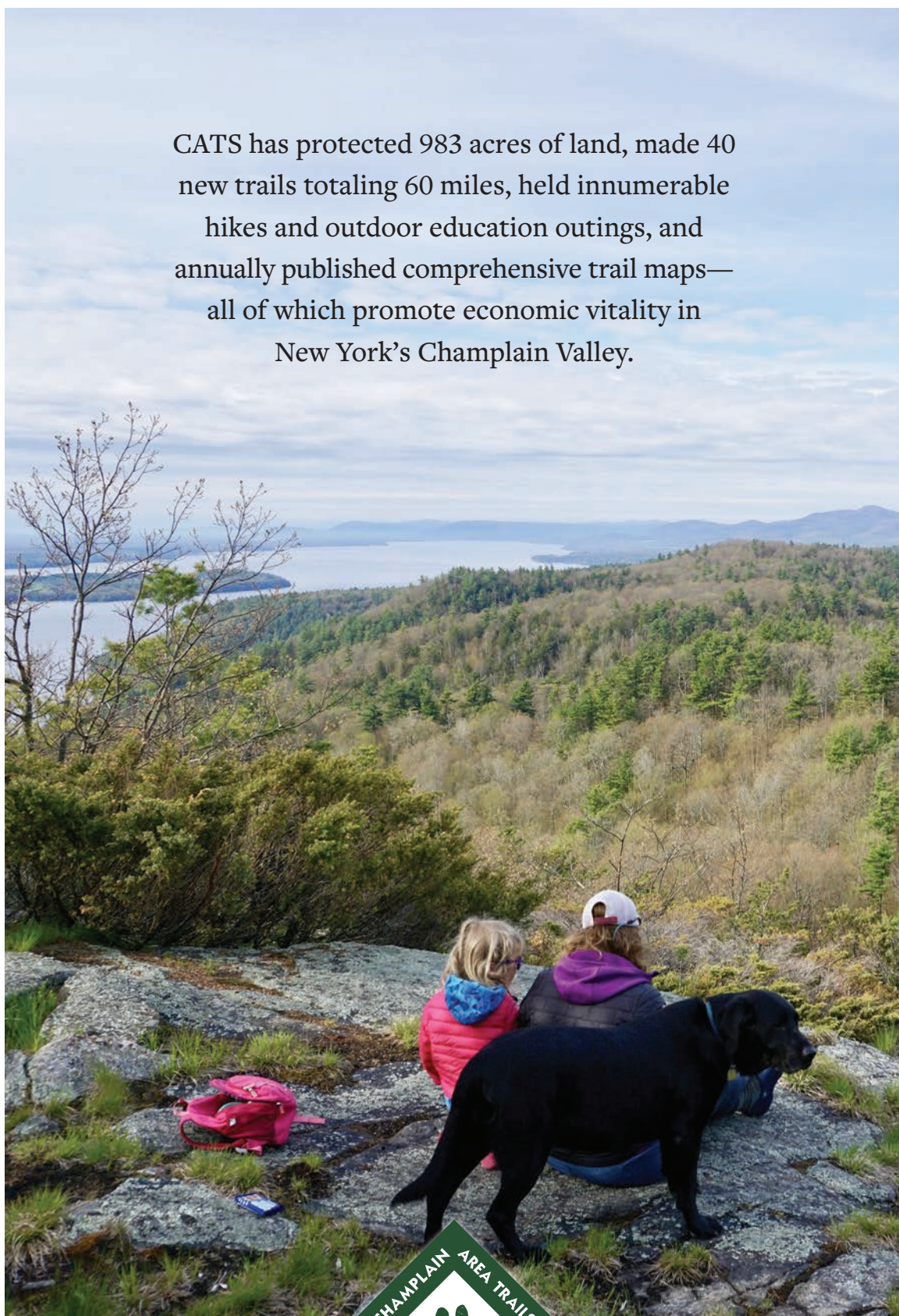
PO Box 193  
6482 Main Street  
Westport, NY 12993  
(518) 962-2287  
info@champlainareatrails.com  
champlainareatrails.com



Champlain Area Trails (CATS)  
is proud to be an accredited  
land trust, a distinction  
showing we follow the highest  
standards and practices as we make trails  
and save land, all in the public interest.



CATS has protected 983 acres of land, made 40 new trails totaling 60 miles, held innumerable hikes and outdoor education outings, and annually published comprehensive trail maps—all of which promote economic vitality in New York's Champlain Valley.



[champlainareatrails.com](http://champlainareatrails.com)