

Zenda Farms Preserve: Open Grasslands, Agricultural Legacy and Community Hub

Zenda produce 100% local honey. Be sure to get your Zenda Farms maple syrup and honey today!



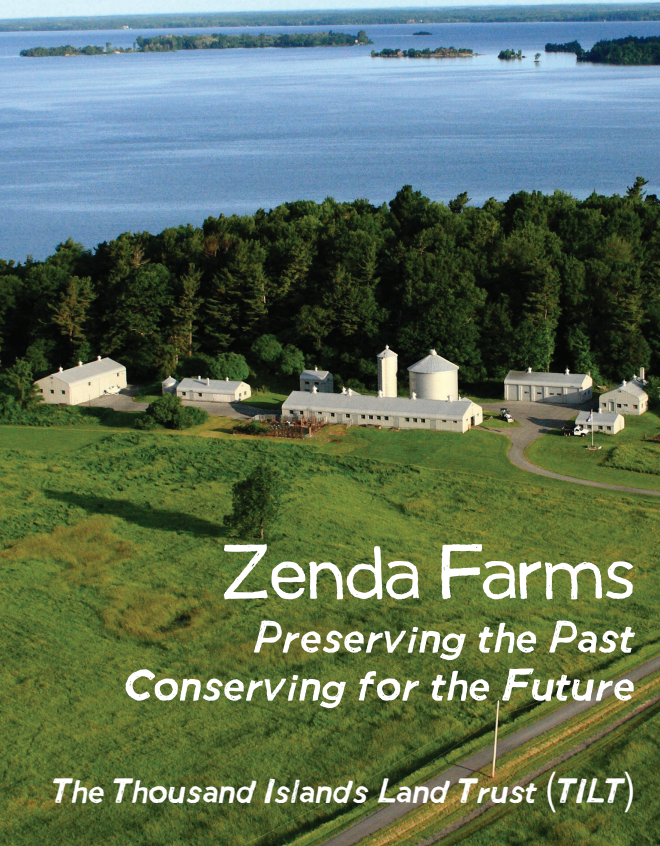
The Zenda Community Garden opened in 2009, and has given numerous families the opportunity to grow their own fresh food and enjoy gardening with their neighbors. Applications for garden memberships are accepted in early spring of every year. A true community effort, participants tend the entire garden rather than their own individual plots. Everything is shared.



Zenda Farm's Rich History
Merle Youngs turned Zenda into an innovative dairy and beef farm, building the unique Jamesway barns, and using the latest technology to keep his animals in top condition. In the summers, he grazed his beef cattle on Carleton Island in Cape Vincent. The Farm thrived into the 1960's. TILT continues the farming legacy, developing practices that are compatible with a busy village like Clayton. A new maple sugarbush and grape vines have been planted. Bee hives on the south side of

Zenda Farms Preserving the Past Conserving for the Future

The Thousand Islands Land Trust (TILT)



ZENDA FARMS PRESERVE

TRAIL GUIDE

Why is it called Zenda?
In 1915, James Hackett, a celebrated Shakespearean actor, purchased the waterfront property just west of the Village of Clayton. Hackett named his new home after the 1913 movie, *The Prisoner of Zenda*, in which he played a starring role. The property featured a large shingle-style home on the waterfront with a skiff house.

In 1939, New York industrialist Merle Youngs purchased the home. He soon acquired adjacent parcels, eventually totaling 734 acres, and developed the extensive farming enterprise. At his death in 1958, he left the farm to his friend and business associate, John MacFarlane, who continued to run it until the late 1980's. In 1968 the waterfront house and boathouse were sold as a corporate retreat. The house was

lost to a fire in 1991, leaving only the historic skiff house, which is now privately owned.

Lois Jean and John MacFarlane donated 107 acres of the farm to TILT in 1997, to ensure that Zenda's rich agricultural history and pastoral landscape would forever be part of Clayton. The 405 acres that now make up Zenda Farms serve as a symbol of Clayton's heritage.

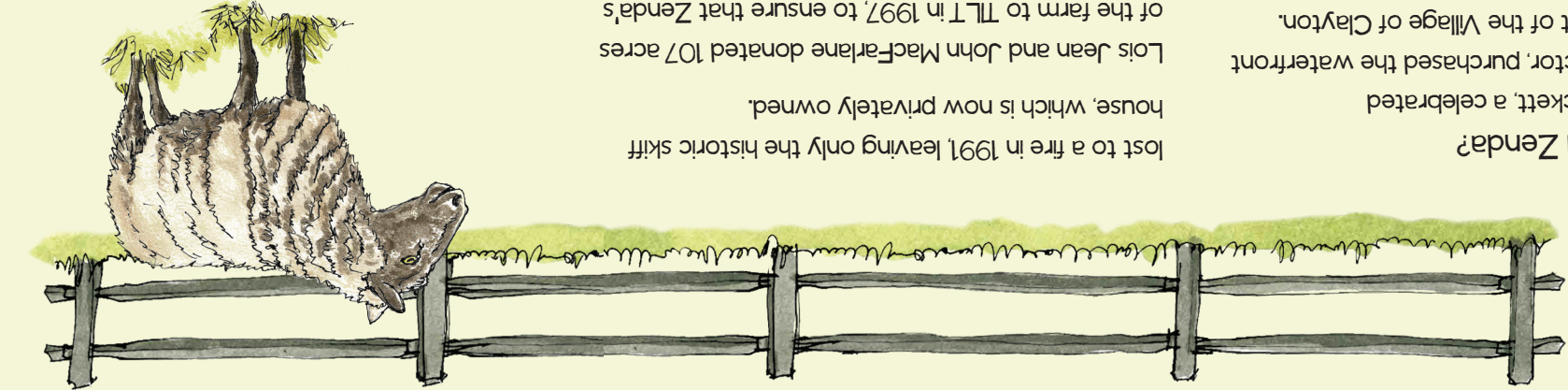


More recently, sheep and a variety of small farm animals have roamed the land during the peak season. Zenda truly comes alive in the summer, stop by for a visit June through September!

Grasslands are Important!
Open grasslands, like those at Zenda, are essential to a healthy environment. They maintain biodiversity by providing habitat for numerous birds and wildlife species, resist climate change, protect waterways, and offer recreational and aesthetic opportunities. Simply put, they enhance our overall quality of life.

Many species of birds raise their young in the tall grasses of prairies and meadows. Foxes, woodchucks, mice and voles live in burrows or dens, while deer and even the occasional grassland coyote forage or hunt here.

Fragmentation from agriculture, renewable energy, and overdevelopment threatens grassland habitats. TILT is working to protect these grasslands in a variety of ways. Haying is delayed until August, allowing young birds time to fledge. Trees have been planted to restore and enhance surrounding forests, helping to soften hard edges between habitats. Maintaining plant diversity also protects the St. Lawrence River and its tributaries through filtering water and reducing soil erosion.



The Importance of Open Space
Open space is not just big fields without trees. Forests are open space too. Undeveloped land is essential to water and air quality. It contributes to the scenic character of an area, and the quality of life for the wildlife and people that inhabit that area.



Hit the Trails!
Lois Jean and John MacFarlane Trail
This 1.35 mile trail on a gravel surface is ideal for an early morning run or walking your dog.

Zenda Trail Spur circumnavigates the vineyard and winds into the meadows, while the **Zenda Woods Trail** escapes into the forest behind the farm. The trails are open daily from dawn to dusk and visitors are welcome year-round.



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The Thousand Islands Land Trust (TILT) is...
Working to conserve the natural beauty, diverse wildlife habitats, water quality and outdoor recreation opportunities of the Thousand Islands region, for present and future generations!



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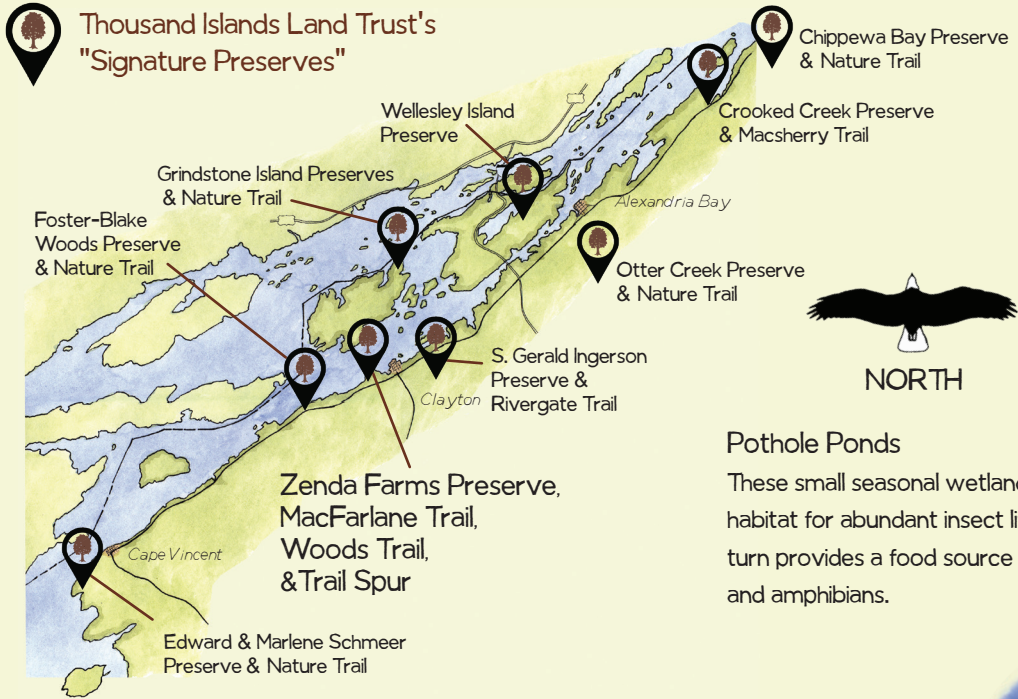
The Thousand Islands Land Trust (TILT) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization founded in 1985 to conserve the natural beauty, diverse wildlife habitats, water quality and outdoor recreation opportunities of the Thousand Islands region for present and future generations!

TILT is supported by donations from people who care about the Thousand Islands region of the St. Lawrence River. Our conservation work is only possible through the generosity of our supporters.

Donations of land, conservation easements, and financial resources to TILT are tax deductible under provisions of the Internal Revenue code. To find out more about donating land, creating a conservation easement, or including TILT in your will, please call us at 315-686-5345.



Donate today!



Managing for Diversity

Zenda Farms Preserve includes different types of wildlife habitat: grasslands, wetlands, old fields and forest. The Preserve is adjacent to New York State's French Creek Wildlife Management Area, an important wetland habitat and fisheries resource. The variety of habitats here attracts a diverse group of both resident and migrant birds, mammals, insects, reptiles and amphibians.

Zenda Farms Jamesway Building Complex



American Kestrel

Zenda Woods Trail

Lois Jean and John MacFarlane Trail



Giant Green Darner



Eastern Tiger Swallowtail

Northern Leopard Frog



Pothole Ponds

These small seasonal wetlands provide vital habitat for abundant insect life, which in turn provides a food source for birds and amphibians.

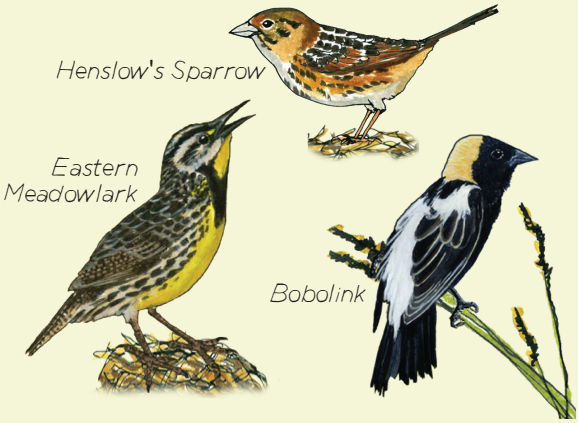
Learn more online at
tilandtrust.org

Restored Wetland

This area, known as a glacial pothole, was restored as a wetland habitat in 2009 by TILT and Ducks Unlimited. The restoration included a water control structure that allows TILT to raise and lower water levels to achieve an optimal habitat for a variety of waterfowl and shorebirds.

Grasslands

Grasslands and open meadow are essential habitat for many species of birds, including declining species like Eastern Meadowlarks, Bobolinks and Henslow's Sparrows.



Preserve Rules: Please stay on trails • Trails are for walking, biking & skiing • No motorized vehicles
• No hunting • No camping, dumping, fires, or collecting flora & fauna • Dogs must be leashed May 1 - Aug 1



Restored Grasslands

Once used by a local farmer as a pasture to graze beef cattle, TILT has restored these fields for grassland nesting habitat.

Cover Types

- GRASSLAND
- PASTURE
- OLD FIELD
- FRESHWATER EMERGENT
- OPEN WATER
- FOREST
- POT HOLE PONDS
- PRESERVE BOUNDARY
- TRAIL
- TRAILHEADS
- STORYTELLER SIGNS

Forest

Zenda Woods has a variety of maple, oak and pine trees. These trees provide important edge habitat and food for a variety of species, including owls. Owl species seen at Zenda include Great Horned Owls, Screech Owls and the endangered arctic Short-eared Owls, which are more abundant in years when the meadow vole population is high.



All Illustrations by Robert McNamara of The Art of Wilderness