

Southern Madison Heritage Trust



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Greetings,

SMHT has been very active the past year and we appreciate all of your interest and support. We are especially excited about two current projects and hope you will continue to support us. We expect to finalize the transactions this year, protecting an additional approximately 30 acres of special lands in the nearby Town of Madison.

The Gateway Reserve is a four acre parcel located at the junction of Johnny Cake Hill and West Lake Roads that will provide public access to the Madison Feeder of the Chenango Canal and a “gateway” to a larger protected wetland. We are currently working with students from both Colgate University and Morrisville College to design trail features that will improve access and interpret the site’s natural and cultural history. The Gateway Reserve has just been purchased with funds from lead donors, but more funds are needed for stewardship and improvements to make the land easily accessible to the public.

The second property is a 25 acre mature forest with a steep-cut stream channel that’s also located along the Madison Feeder. A conservation easement on this property will protect valuable forest and water resources while at the same time provide additional opportunities to access the Feeder trail.

SMHT is also in discussion with landowners in Brookfield who manage 240 acres of mature forest, wetlands and prime farmland. A conservation easement on these parcels will ensure protection of a diversity of natural resources.

Together these three projects represent an exceptional opportunity for SMHT to conserve additional lands in southern Madison County. But we need your support to move forward with our conservation mission. Perpetual stewardship requires SMHT to fund an endowment for each property. Funds are also needed for transaction costs, property management, and educational programs. In 2011 we received two substantial grants, one for wetlands education at the Leland Reserve and the other to qualify for national land trust accreditation. We will continue to seek grant funding for the current projects but we need your support now.

Please consider a tax deductible donation to SMHT.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Harvey L. Kliman".

Harvey L. Kliman

Finally, we sincerely hope you will join us for a **picnic** at the village pavilion on Eaton Street in Hamilton from **6-8 PM** on **Thursday August 15**. Salads and beef will come from local farms.