



## Celebrating 50 Years of Success

In 2017, we celebrate a huge milestone: our 50th anniversary. Lyndon Johnson was president, the US was rocked by anti-war protests, and the moon landing was still a year away when an active volunteer Citizen's Advisory Group that had worked for a decade to integrate current development issues with a long-range community vision incorporated as the nonprofit Cazenovia Preservation Foundation (CPF).

Today, 50 years later, we are still a small nonprofit true to the original purpose of protecting the special character of our rural, historic community. Early successes protected historic Village character through storefront renovation and burying electric lines. Over the years the scope grew and today CPF easements and owned properties assure that over 3,000 acres of historic buildings, open space, views and public recreation are here to stay. Below are a few of the stories from the decades along the way.

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### The Earliest Years



In June 1962, a Citizen's Advisory Committee formed in Cazenovia "in recognition of the need for orderly and controlled development and growth of our community". The group of over 100 interested citizens worked to extend communication between the Planning Boards and the community, and to provide research, resources and consultants to address specific planning issues. Early results included a revision to the Village zoning ordinance, a Township zoning ordinance and the creation of both Village and Town Planning Boards. The Committee supported the protection of the historic "sense of place" of the village through the renovation of storefronts on Albany Street, including significant changes in signage and lighting. In 1967, the group incorporated as the Cazenovia Preservation Foundation. In the 1970s, over 200 CPF members successfully worked with National Grid to place utility wires underground in the village, restored Carpenter's Barn and the Gothic Cottage, and worked with Albany Street merchants on signage and façade improvements.

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### 1980s Rose Farm and Ravine

In the 1980s Cazenovia was selected by the National Trust for Historic Preservation as a demonstration project to develop new approaches to rural landscape preservation. Members of CPF, in collaboration with the Village and Town Planning Boards, and the SUNY ESF Landscape Architecture Department developed a comprehensive approach for protecting natural, historic, scenic and agricultural resources. This method was featured in the landmark book, *Saving America's Countryside: a Guide to Rural Conservation* (Stokes, Watson & Mastran, 1989). CPF worked with Rose Farm in New Woodstock to develop a model plan that balanced development pressures and the farmer's financial needs with conservation values. Faculty from the SUNY ESF Landscape Architecture Department worked closely with CPF to analyze the suitability of the soils, slopes, vegetation, and hydrology for development. This included analysis of views to determine locations for houses to minimize their visual impact. Instead of strip development along the roads, houses were clustered to preserve larger areas of open space, including a ravine with waterfalls and diverse stands of forest. The most visible ridgeline is protected with an agricultural easement held by CPF that ensures it will remain forever as farmland.



## 1990s



CPF continued its emphasis on historic, agricultural and natural resource preservation during the 1990s. We expanded our trail network, adding some of the established carriage trails off Burlingame Road. We oversaw conservation easements, managed 500+ acres, and launched programs that encouraged outdoor recreation. Educational forums focused on local history and open space preservation, CPF sponsored garden tours, and collaborated with the North Country Trail Association to connect the Link Trail with local trails. Haphazard development trends sparked an interest in community-based planning. As a result, CPF partnered with the Chamber of Commerce to develop the Cazenovia Area Planning Project. Members took a leading role in opposing a Walmart Superstore while defending the small-town charm of Cazenovia. We purchased more of the Lehigh Valley Railroad path, spearheaded the restoration of Carpenters Pond, and built a bridge at Fairchild Hill. CPF also worked on streetscape improvement projects by installing benches and planting trees along Albany Street.

## 2000s

CPF's impact on the preservation of Cazenovia's unique resources was enhanced by the addition of several significant properties and projects. The 'WalMart' property at the eastern entrance to our community was sold by CPF with an easement that restricts its use to limited residential/agricultural purposes, preserving this greenspace for the future. Willow Patch, an environmentally sensitive area of wetlands off Mill Street, was renovated with the help of CPF's community partners. "Filtration gardens" were created to manage village storm water run-off and access to public spaces were improved. A 118 acre bequest to trails and woodlands on Burlingame Road made official the public recreational use of 200 acres of the original Hubbard family farm. CPF also received a conservation easement on the lands of the Stone Quarry Hill Art Park, which combines art and nature for public enjoyment. Improvements to earlier acquisitions also continued, with additional development to the Fairchild Hill trail system, the Gorge and South trails and the creation of an official CPF trails map.



## The Last Decade



Protecting Cazenovia's agricultural resources is core to CPF's mission—we've been doing it for decades. In the last decade, though, our farmland protection activities really picked up as we began to take part in New York State's Farmland Protection Implementation Grant program. Under the FPIG program, farms throughout the State are chosen through a competitive process to receive a payment in exchange for permanently relinquishing their development rights. The farms are then permanently protected from non-agricultural development through comprehensive conservation easements. CPF holds 3 FPIG easements: Critz Farms (2009); Greyrock Farm (2010) and the Reed Farm (2013). We're also working with the owners of the Pushlar Farm on Fenner Road to finalize an FPIG easement there. Once that easement is completed, CPF will protect 1500 acres of farmland through FPIG easements for a total of 2,450 forever-agricultural acres. Our involvement in the FPIG program starting 9-years ago has been key in CPF's efforts to protect Cazenovia farmland.

### Looking Ahead

In 1962, our founders dedicated themselves to support the "orderly and controlled development and growth of our community." This remains CPF's charge. In the coming year our focus will be on the following:

**Improve Collaboration** Preserving Cazenovia is a job bigger than CPF. A collaboration of municipalities, private citizens, and community organizations must work together to maintain this Upland Idyll. CPF will work to strengthen this network and improve town-wide communication on issues related to land use and conservation.

**Tell a Story** CPF is expanding its efforts to understand and portray the history of the natural and built features in the area with improved signage on trails and our Historic Building Signage Initiative. We are also working to conserve iconic features of

### Burlingame Gateway

Through the years, almost 300 acres of land between Route 20 and Burlingame Road have been protected as permanent open space through both conservation easements and CPF ownership. Some of this land was donated to CPF by the Hubbard, Knapp and Auchincloss families; some was bought by CPF with the help of other generous neighbors; all was a tribute to community land conservation.

In this 50th year of CPF, community members once again are helping to purchase 23 acres of field and woodland that is adjacent to land already protected for the community and used for the Burlingame and Fairchild Hill trail system. This Burlingame Gateway will protect from development a farm field and woods along Burlingame Road, provide permanent, year-round parking area and trail access, and enable CPF to

# President's Column

Like other members of CPF, I would rather be outside. And this is especially true in the spring, when things hidden for months are revealed and wild places come alive with animal sounds. Please accept our invitation to visit the more-than 13-miles of trails that we maintain for public use. While walking, you can listen to the creek from the Gorge Trail, search for fossils in Sherman's Gulch, or watch nesting bluebirds on Fairchild Hill.

If you are more city mouse than country mouse, you might enjoy walking through the Village of Cazenovia and its historic streetscapes. CPF works with municipalities and private individuals to preserve the village's historic character using façade easements and other instruments.

This has been an active year for the CPF. We have been working our way through the Land Trust Alliance accreditation process, which has allowed us to refine our organizational practices. We are in the process of acquiring, with generous support from donors, an important property to serve as a gateway to the Burlingame Trail System. And, we developed a new logo and more functional website (<http://www.cazpreservation.org/>). This work, and all that we do, depends on the generous donations of time and money by CPF members like you.

Thanks sincerely, and see you on the trails!



Tim McCay

# Thank You to:

• **Bob Ridler and Gene Gissin** for their energy and time helping with local history tours for fourth grade students.

• **Sandy Patrizio, Joan and Randy Light, and the Cazenovia Rotary Club** for their work improving and maintaining the Pollinator Garden on Willow Place.

• **Over 30 volunteers** for our annual Walk Among the Spirits, especially Jeff Hughes, Elisha Davies and Carolyn Holmes.

• Our trail stewards: **Becky Walters, Anne Saltman and Gwen Edkins.**

• **The Cazenovia Library** for their continued hosting and promoting of our educational events.

• **Cynthia and Paul Curtin** for hosting our annual fall Barn Dance.

• **Chuck and Gyata Stormon, the Edkins and John Henry Light** for keeping our properties mowed.

• **Caz College Environmental Club** for cheerful and energetic help with stewardship.

• **Stone Quarry Hill Art Park** for hosting our Habitat Gardening Discussion course.

• **Federico Meira, Marie Knapp and Tim McCay** for their work on our Historic House Sign program.

• **The Cazenovia Mountain Bike Club** for their dedication to maintaining the Fairchild Hill Trail.

• **Zane Anthony** for trail maintenance and working on new trail maps.

• **Carolyn Sterritt** for her organization of CPF's 50-years of minutes and board reports.

• And to the dozens of others who post signs, replace maps, clip branches, pick up garbage, plow parking areas or show in other ways that they care for Cazenovia's landscape and quality of life.



Caption TK

## Upcoming CPF Events

- April 29**    **The Fungus Among Us** - 10 am - This guided woodland walk will be led by Tom Horton, mycologist at SUNY-ESF. Learn about local species of fungi and their roles in our forest ecosystem. Burlingame Road Trailhead.
- May 6**        **Morning Out with the Birds** - 7:30 am - John Pumilio of Colgate University will return to lead a walk for novice and seasoned birders alike. Fairchild Hill.
- May 23**      **CPF Annual Meeting** - 7 pm. - St. Peter's Church Parish Hall.
- June 17**     **Native Flora** - 10 am - Donald Leopold of SUNY-ESF will lead a native flora walk in Nelson Swamp. Join us in the search for the rare striped coral root orchid and other interesting species. Ballina Road.
- June 21**     **Summer Solstice Yoga** - 7 am - Gyata Stormon will lead us in greeting the longest day of the year by performing a gentle yoga flow amidst the sweeping views provided by Fairchild Hill.
- August 7**    **Full Moon Bonfire** - 7:30 pm - Celebrate the last full moon of summer by toasting marshmallows and swapping stories with friends and family atop Fairchild Hill.
- PLUS:**        CPF will be repeating our fall line-up of larger group events including a September Barn Dance, October's Walk Among the Spirits and November's Turkey Trot.

*Use our website [www.cazpreservation.org](http://www.cazpreservation.org) to check for information on each these events as they near.  
Also, make sure you receive the latest details by signing up for CPF's E-News.*

# The Upland Journal

Cazenovia Preservation Foundation

P.O. Box 627

Cazenovia, NY 13035

## **Board of Directors:**

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**Annual Meeting 7:00 p.m.  
May 23, St. Peter's Church  
10 Mill Street, Cazenovia**

## **CPF Members and the public are cordially invited to the CPF Annual Meeting:**

### **Presentation of Awards:**

***Robert C. Webster Award:***

Barbara Bartlett

***Community Award:***

Cazenovia Garden Club

***Life of Service Award:***

Eddie Green

***Architectural Award:***

St. Peter's Church

***Residential Restoration:***

Eryn and Shane Ossont, 6 South St. ; Brian Coughlin, 8 Hurd St.

### **Election of Directors and Officers:**

Directors for a first three-year term: Craig Buckhout, Cynthia Curtin, and Jim Steinberg

Directors for a second three-year term: John Bowser, Anne Saltman

Officers for one-year terms:

President: Tim McCay

Vice President: David Burch

Treasurer: John Bowser

Executive Secretary: Nicki Donlin

### **Program: The Story of Malloryville Bog**

Bob Beck, Chair of the Dryden Conservation Board and the Rail-Trail Task Force .....