



## Celebrating CPF's Volunteer Network

As Alexis de Tocqueville noted in *Democracy in America*, "Americans of all ages, all conditions, and all dispositions constantly form associations ... If it is proposed to inculcate some truth or foster some feeling by the encouragement of a great example ..." Since 1967 when a shared mission to protect the historic, agricultural and natural resources in and around Cazenovia for the benefit of the community was established, the Cazenovia Preservation Foundation (CPF) remains an organization led and supported by dedicated volunteers who lead by example.

CPF's volunteer network centers around the board of directors, approximately a dozen individuals with varying backgrounds who dedicate up to six years (two three-year terms) of service to the organization. There are also several committees made up of board members and community volunteers that help CPF achieve its mission. The Land Use Committee keeps abreast of land sales, developments and zoning issues in the community. Members of the Stewardship and Trails Committee construct bridges, mow trails, monitor Carpenter's Pond, clear brush and many other activities necessary to maintain 13 miles of public trails and 415 acres of CPF-owned land. There is even a cadre of 'good neighbors' on adjacent properties who help with mowing, gravel paving and other trail maintenance.

In addition, there are volunteers who assist Conservation Manager Judy Gianforte with the annual inspections of all 25 properties for which CPF holds conservation easements. This is a significant undertaking encompassing almost 2,700 acres.

Volunteers are also vital each year to assist with CPF's educational and outreach programs like "Walk Among the Spirits," the Walks 'N Talks lecture series, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Local History Tours, the Thanksgiving Turkey Trot, and activities like #HashtagThroughHistory:Cazenovia and "Poetry on the Trail."

## A note from our Executive Director

Perhaps you are like me and for a long time took little time in appreciating the natural wonder that is Cazenovia. I always enjoyed sitting on the Fairchild Hill bench overlooking the lake once I got there, but often, I did not get there.

With the arrival of the coronavirus pandemic, our lives have changed irrevocably. By necessity, we have become more inward. And for me, walking along the CPF trails is now a welcomed respite outside. I hope it is an equally pleasurable break for you and your family.

When you walk the trails, please abide by the Covid-19 rules specified at each trailhead.

And most of all remember that these trails and open spaces are for all of us. Enjoy them and take care of them.



Credit: A. Saltman

And thank you for your continued support of CPF. I look forward to seeing you out there.

CPF had the pleasure of hosting Isabella Bresett, a Cazenovia College junior and photography major, in an internship role this spring semester. A collection of some of her favorite photos, including “A Walk around Cazenovia” can be found on her blog page <https://www.flickr.com/people/187970891@N03/>.

**For the Kids:** Isabella prepared some tips for taking great landscape photographs. Check out her presentation on CPF’s website, then grab your camera and head outside! Make sure you or your parents tag #CazPreservation so that we can see all your great shots! *(Best suited for ages 8-14)*



CPF Board member Anne Saltman (Credit: E. Sasser)

## Celebrating CPF’s Volunteer Network (cont’d.)

A more formalized committee structure is anticipated in the future to coordinate fundraising events and a signature project capital campaign via a development committee and its associated communications and outreach working group.

Many CPF initiatives are collaborative efforts with other nonprofit organizations. For example, Trout Unlimited reached out to facilitate the NYS Department of Conservation’s improvements for fishing access in the King’s Field area of Chittenango Creek. The Cazenovia Public Library staff provide extensive historical research for the “Walk Among the Spirits” programming, the North Country Trail Association collaborates with CPF on trail connectivity and numerous organizations such as the Limestone Creek Hunt and the Snow Valley Riders snowmobile club enjoy the land. Educational institutions including SUNY ESF, Cazenovia College and the Cazenovia Central School District use CPF properties as labs, offer volunteer hours cleaning up venues such as the Willow Patch and place interns such as a recent photography student. Longtime partners also include the Stone Quarry Hill Art Park, Lorenzo State Historic Site and the Cazenovia Arts and Heritage Alliance.

With CPF staff numbering four part-time individuals, CPF’s 80+ volunteers are essential to the organization meeting its mission each year. If you are reading this article, chances are that you are one of CPF’s amazing volunteers or partner organizations. Thank you! If you are considering joining our efforts, please email [lsasser@cazpreservation.org](mailto:lsasser@cazpreservation.org) for more information.



## Planned Giving

Over the years, many Cazenovia residents have made legacy gifts of land to CPF, ensuring that our trails, history and farmland are forever protected. Many of us are revisiting our estate plans and we want you to know that including CPF in yours will help to ensure the future of Cazenovia ... and it is not so difficult to do.

Bequests of real estate have been the most commonly made gift to CPF in the past. Depending on their conservation value and the landowner's intent, these properties have either been added to the organization's portfolio to be forever protected, or held as "trade land" to be sold or exchanged for real estate with higher conservation value.

The most common way people leave either real estate or cash to CPF in a will or living trust is through a charitable bequest. There is no need to rewrite your current estate documents as you may simply add an amendment, called a codicil, to your will or living trust. Sample language, for review by your attorney, can be found at <https://www.cazpreservation.org/support/planned-giving/>.

Information about naming Cazenovia Preservation Foundation as the beneficiary of a retirement plan, life insurance policy, stocks or bonds, savings/checking accounts, or donor-advised funds can also be found by visiting our planned giving page online.

Regardless of the route you select, **consulting with a certified financial planner and trusted attorney is essential**, and will ensure your estate plan is best suited to your charitable goals and financial requirements.

If you have made a gift to CPF in your estate plans, please let us know so that we may thank you during your lifetime. Please contact Lisa Sasser, executive director, at 315.663.6574 or [lsasser@cazpreservation.org](mailto:lsasser@cazpreservation.org). Be assured we always honor requests for anonymity.



The Willow Patch (Credit: I. Bresett, February 2020)

## The Year Ahead:

CPF continues its work to steward properties and plan for future conservation opportunities in our community.

### Strategic Implementation Planning & Signature Project Development:

CPF has successfully completed several of the organization-building tasks outlined in its 2019 Strategic Organizational Plan and is preparing to move forward with the identification and planning for a Signature Project in 2020.

### Database and Marketing Upgrades:

CPF has recently initiated work on a project to upgrade its constituent data management system and improve communications and outreach to members and the general public in accordance with the organization's strategic objectives.



### Survey & Boundary Delineation of CPF-Owned Properties:

In the summer and fall of 2020, CPF will be conducting survey work on certain boundaries on its 415 acres of owned properties. Upon completion of the survey work, property boundaries, some of which are currently difficult to identify in the field, will be marked to aid CPF and neighboring landowners in making future land management decisions.

# Upcoming Opportunities

In a typical month of May, CPF's popular Walk 'N Talk series of events would be in full swing. While we miss seeing you at those in-person events this spring, we have planned some alternative opportunities for you and your families to interact with Cazenovia's land and history, all while social distancing.

## Trees

*Sarah Coleridge*

The Oak is called the king of trees,  
The Aspen quivers in the breeze,  
The Poplar grows up straight and tall,  
The Peach tree spreads along the wall,  
The Sycamore gives pleasant shade,  
The Willow droops in watery glade,  
The Fir tree useful in timber gives,  
The Beech amid the forest lives.



Photo Credit: Isabella Bressi

Many of the trees that you see here are beech trees. What are some kinds of trees that you know?

What words can you use to describe the bark of the trees that you see? *Examples: smooth, grey, scaly*

Do you know what kind of tree is in this photo? (*Hint: It is not mentioned in the poem.*)



## Poetry on the Trail

CPF has collaborated with the Cazenovia Public Library and local poet E.J. Evans to design a one-mile poetry trail along CPF's Gorge Trail (begin at Clark Street). Starting in late May, walkers will encounter eight signs, each with a nature-inspired poem, artwork, and one or more "prompts" to help engage children with the language of the poem or their natural surroundings. Perhaps you will feel inspired to write your own poetry and share it with us for publication on our website and/or social media platforms. Signs will be in place through August.

## #Hashtag Through History: Cazenovia

For this project, CPF worked with Lorenzo State Historic Site, the Cazenovia Public Library and Stone Quarry Hill Art Park to find a new way to showcase local history. Interpretive signs depicting historic photos of locations around Cazenovia will be juxtaposed with the modern-day views that visitors see in real life when they visit the various sign locations. Visitors can submit their selfies with the signs to @HTHCaz on Instagram. Can you find all nine?



## Family Trail Work Days

In lieu of the group trail projects originally scheduled for this summer, CPF's Conservation Manager, Judy Gianforte, has prepared a list of projects that individual family groups can complete independently. Interested families can contact Judy at [jgianforte@cazpreservation.org](mailto:jgianforte@cazpreservation.org) to get matched up with a project that is appropriate to their family's ages and skill levels. Families will be provided with a description of the task, map and/or digital photos showing specific work to be completed, a list of tools required and an estimate of the required time to complete. Volunteer hours are available for high-school students. We would love for participating families to send us pictures of themselves at their work site!

We will work with speakers to reschedule previously cancelled in-person events when it is safe to do so. In the meantime, we have some other ideas about how to keep you engaged with the beautiful natural environment around Cazenovia and the history of our community, even when we can't be together. To learn more about these opportunities, visit us at: [www.cazpreservation.org](http://www.cazpreservation.org), sign up for email newsletters or follow us on social media. Search for "Cazenovia Preservation Foundation" on Facebook, or follow @CazPreservation on Twitter and Instagram.





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*Every effort has been made to present donor information accurately. If you note an error, please contact the CPF offices at [lsasser@cazpreservation.org](mailto:lsasser@cazpreservation.org). Thank you.*

# The Upland Journal

Cazenovia Preservation Foundation  
P.O. Box 627  
Cazenovia, NY 13035

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[info@cazpreservation.org](mailto:info@cazpreservation.org)  
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## **Annual Meeting** **May 27, 2020 7:00 p.m.** **Virtual via Zoom**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88922936569>**  
**Meeting ID: 889 2293 6569**  
**(Dial by phone; no video) 1-929-205-6099**

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

### **Presentation of Awards:**

Lifetime of Service: Don Ferlow  
Robert C. Webster Award: Gene Gissin  
Community Award: Geoffrey Navias and the UCAN Earth Day Committee  
Restoration Award: Residential – Brian Coughlin (*3573 West Lake Road*)  
Restoration Award: Commercial – The Cazenovia Public Library (*historic building façade and Book Barn*)

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

New Directors for a three-year term: David Beam, Maggie Feldmeier, Jennifer Marotto Lutter, Scott Shannon, Jack Stevens

Directors for a second three-year term: Craig Buckhout, Cynthia Maxwell Curtin, Jim Steinberg

Officers for one-year terms:

President: Jim Steinberg  
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Vice President: Cynthia Maxwell Curtin  
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