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THE FRANK AND JEANETTE LEVIN
LIVING LABORATORY

DEDICATED OCTOBER 23, 2019



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LIVING LABORATORY

We want to see that the water is preserved. We want to see that the trees and wildlife are maintained, and not just for a season or two, but forever.

-Frank Levin







I believe that the legacy of the Levin land donation is already beginning, as we have a number of students using the site for investigations on their independent study research projects. After one site visit, we observed two very large Great Blue Herons flying away from an area of willows by the waters edge. Immediately, as a biologist, one may wonder, are they permanent residents? Do they nest on this site? Will they be here next year? Inspired by what he saw, one of our biology students, Jay Bortel decided to investigate the heron species, and will be coming back to the site to research their behavior and answer some of these questions. Two other students, Katarina Ewing and Kara Mincik, are investigating the impacts of invasive species on forest dynamics.

The donation of this property to Medaille affords us many opportunities, including the ability to apply for large federally-funded grants, the continuation of field research projects for our biology students, and possibly working with the town on the creation of public outreach programs promoting environmental awareness. These are just a few ideas that the land donation offers to Medaille. These things are all possible because the Levins are passing down part of their own legacy and passion for conservation.

Thank you again to Robert Strell for connecting the Levins to our biology program at Medaille, and the Levins for their generous support of our college and biology students.

-Dr. Bernadette Clabeaux







It's really cool to see wildlife thrive without really much human interaction. And there's the vernal ponds (a kind of temporary wetland) there, which you don't see a lot anymore...it's pretty cool to see stuff like that in the wild, with your own eyes, versus like, I can read it out of page 64 in this textbook.

-Jay Bortel





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Thank you for listening and observing and learning together with us.

This event is special because it represents the future, as we so demonstrate by the students. We are proud to dedicate this site to Medaille College to prepare for the preservation of the water, trees, and all of nature.

We hope Medaille will use the experience they have gained and prepare for the future of many, many years to come. We look forward to many useful opportunities that this site represents and hope Medaille will profit and grow for many generations to come.

-Frank and Jeanette Levin



The generosity of Frank and Jeanette Levin will go a long way in providing our biology students with a hands-on experience in learning about our environment.

Exploration and observation are key components of the educational experience, and the donation of this property will allow our students the opportunity to learn beyond the traditional classroom.

-Dr. Kenneth M. Macur





We both believe we have an obligation to help make a better world through the education of our youth and in protecting the environment. Happily, this donation allows us to do both.
-Frank Levin





Thank you so much for your generous contribution to Medaille College.
Your support will help our students so much in furthering our studies in biology.
- Jenna Daniel



As a young student, I never knew that one person could have an impact on someone else's view or perception of the world around them. I also assumed that everyone cared about the environment. I now know that isn't true, and I realized just how important education can be.

-Dr. Bernadette Clabeaux



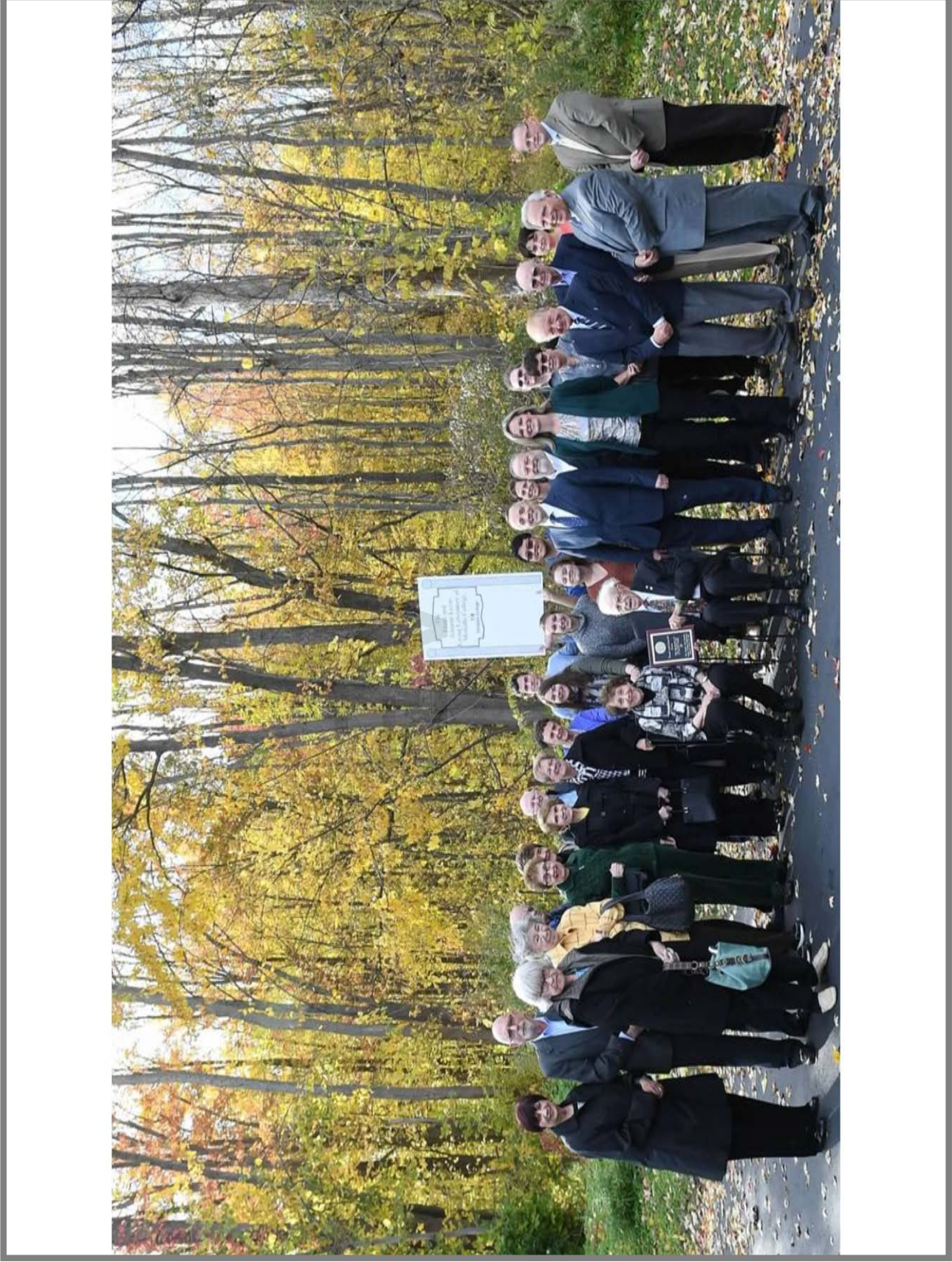


Thank you so much for contributing to our biology department! It is greatly appreciated,
and we will be able to utilize it in many labs and research projects!

-Hannah Wentland







AMHERST COUPLE DONATES 10 ACRES TO MEDAILLE COLLEGE FOR LIVING LABORATORY

BY KYLE S. MACKIE, WBFO, OCT 24, 2019

Medaille College celebrated the donation of 10 acres of wetlands property for use by its biology department Wednesday.

Frank and Jeanette Levin said they had no prior connection to the small private college, but that they were pleased Medaille had the interest and the foresight to preserve land they consider a sanctuary.

The donated property is located at 3725 Millersport Highway in Amherst.

"We want to see that the waters preserved. We want to see that the trees and wildlife are maintained, not just for a season or two, but forever," Mr. Levin told WBFO at a luncheon in the couple's honor at Sean Patrick's Restaurant on Millersport Highway in Amherst, near the donated property.

Medaille College President Dr. Kenneth Macur said the acreage, designated as wetlands by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, will give students and faculty the opportunity to study aquatic life, invasive species and more.

"We're excited because our professor, Bernie Clabeaux, is a specialist in ecological restoration, and so we know that this living laboratory, as it will be named in honor of the Levins, will be an outside classroom for biology students at Medaille College. We'll be inviting other schools and other groups to take advantage of this opportunity as well," Macur said.

Several Medaille biology students had the opportunity to thank the Levins in person Wednesday. Jay Bortel, a sophomore, is one of the first students to explore the land with Dr. Clabeaux.

"It's really cool to see wildlife thrive without really much human interaction," Bortel said. "And there's the vernal pools [a kind of temporary wetland] there, which you don't see a lot anymore. It's pretty cool to see stuff like that in the wild, with your own eyes, versus like, I can read it out of page 64 of this textbook."

Mr. Levin said he considers the donation just the tip of the iceberg in terms of the contributions to science and medicine he hopes will be generated by study of the land he and Mrs. Levin have owned and left mostly untouched for decades.

"More and more will be done in the future," he said. "Far beyond our years."

MEDAILLE COLLEGE RECEIVES LAND DONATION IN AMHERST

BY ANNA DEROSA, AMHERST BEE NOVEMBER 6, 2019

Science students at Medaille College will benefit from having a "living laboratory" in Amherst thanks to a 10-acre land donation to the college. The donation was made by Frank and Jeanette Levin, residents of Snyder.

The 10-acre parcel, located at 3725 Millersport Highway, will be a place where students can learn about the ecosystem and study various factors affecting both flora and fauna on the site.

Bernadette Clabeaux, assistant professor of biology at Medaille College, has a deep concern for the environment and has seen the positive impacts of education.

"I believe that the legacy of the Levin's donation is already beginning, as we have a number of students using the site for investigations on their independent study research project," she said. "After one visit to the site, students were able to witness two great blue herons flying away from the waters edge. The great blue heron is the largest heron in North America. Immediately, as a biologist, one may wonder: are these permanent residents, do they nest and will they be here next year?" Clabeaux said.

Inspired by what he saw, Jay Bortel decided to investigate the great blue heron and has been coming back to the site to research the wading birds' behavior. Bortel is a biology student and sophomore at Medaille College.

"This land donation--it's one way for the school to be able to have more kids have opportunities and gain experience so they can get internships," Bortel said, adding that the site offers more of a hands-on experience than reading out of a textbook.

Since Bortel is completing his independent study on the great blue heron, he's been studying how they nest, reproduce and the gestation period.

"They're a native species so it is important to keep them around," he added of the great blue heron.

Medaille senior Sean Law, also a biology student, believes the experience of being out of the classroom will be beneficial for students.

"It's definitely going to be nice to have this one designated area that we can do all kinds of labs at," Law said.

According to Clabeaux, the donation also affords opportunities for the college, including the ability to apply for large federally-funded grants, continuation of field projects for biology students, and the possibility of working with the town on public outreach projects.

"The land is designated by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and United States Army Corps of Engineers as a wetland," said John Crawford, vice president for college relations at Medaille.

The college has been working with the Levins for awhile on the donation, as they wanted to take the correct steps due to the site being a designated wetland. The college will be preserving the site and there won't be any development on the land. A sign will be installed at the site in the near future.

"It gives them a place outside of the bricks and mortar laboratory where [students] can make the observations they need to make," Crawford said, adding that students will be going to take what they learn in the classroom and apply it in a real world outdoor setting.

"The generosity of Frank and Jeanette Levin will go a long way in providing our biology students with a hands-on experience in learning about our environment," said Medaille College president Ken Macur. "Exploration and observation are key components of the educational experience and this will allow our students the opportunity to learn beyond the traditional classroom."

Frank Levin says he and his wife, Jeanette, are pleased to present these 10 acres to the college.

"We both believe we have an obligation to help make a better world through the education of our youth and in protecting the environment. Happily, this donation allows us to do both."



*Frank and Jeanette
Levin*

*With Appreciation for
Your Generous Gift
to Medaille College*



**The Frank and Jeanette
Levin Living Laboratory**
Dedicated October 23, 2019

PREVIEW

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