



The Canton Land Conservation Trust, Inc.

Summer 2013

Newsletter

Edited by Gail Deutsch

President's Message

It's time to reminisce. The CLCT's working year extends from the end of August, with our year's first board meeting, to the end of June with our final board meeting. This last 10 month period for the CLCT was amazing. Here is a retrospective of some of the highlights.

The year started with the CLCT participation in the annual Sam Collins Day event. The CLCT's exhibit was devoted to building the community's awareness of the CLCT's 40th anniversary year celebration to be held on September 29th. Hopefully you will fondly recall the out-door activities and exhibits held during the day at the Mary Conklin Sanctuary and the evening dinner-dance at the Ski Sundown Lodge attended by a sell out crowd of almost 275 guests.

In January our moonlight hike was attended by over 200 guests, who braved frigid cold temperatures, to enjoy the beauty of nature on a winter's night. Then in March the CLCT hosted its Annual Dinner and Silent Auction at the La Trattoria restaurant. 100 guests, a record attendance, listened to an enjoyable and informative presentation by Dr. Ken Feder about the Barkhamsted Lighthouse. We also had our most financially successful Silent Auction.

The year's final major event was our Annual Meeting held on June 2nd. The Meeting was held at our newest property, Pratt's Place, 21 acres of mostly woodlands, located on either side of the Cherry Brook. The guest of honor at the meeting was Winnie Pratt. Winnie and her late husband Leon (Bush) Pratt, donated the property to the CLCT at the end of last September. Members of the CLCT had been working since then to remove debris caused by Super Storm Sandy. The Meeting was the 1st time the general public was invited onto the property. Winnie expressed her thanks to the CLCT for its dedicated stewardship efforts on the property since its donation.

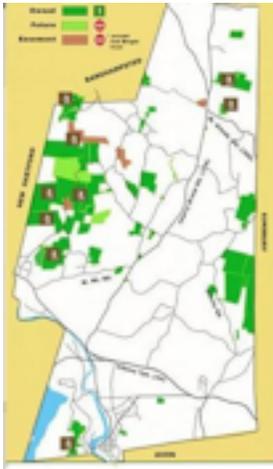
During the year, the CLCT hosted several nature hikes which were open to all. The Trailblazers enjoyed many activities on nearly a monthly basis. None of these activities and events would have taken place without the efforts of a dedicated group of Board members and volunteers from the CLCT membership. We as members of the CLCT owe these volunteers a resounding THANKS!!

Barry Deutsch



Malissa's Sentimental Memories

One of the best responsibilities of the president's position is corresponding with someone you've never met but who loves the Canton Land Trust. Last December I had an exchange of correspondence with a former resident of Canton, Malissa Groome nee Washburn, who now resides on the other side of the earth in Perth, Australia. Malissa desired to make a contribution to the CLCT in honor of her father and two Canton high school friends. In working out the logistics of her remitting the contribution, Malissa sent me an email which explained why she was sending her contribution to the CLCT. I have deleted certain portions of her letter but the remainder is reprinted below with Malissa's permission. Malissa's words express the importance of the Mission of the CLCT. I hope you react to her "waxing sentimental" in a positive way.



"Just as a point of interest, My dad built the house at 147 Indian Hill and lived there for about 30 years - he bought the land from Mary Conklin, and she remained quite a good friend of the family until she passed. She used to scold me as a child for climbing in the flowering crabapple trees that lined her

long driveway, and the dogwood that stood beside her garage. She used to feed the raccoons oatmeal cookies and marshmallows and laugh as the sweets would get stuck to their paws when they tried to wash the food in her bird bath (it was always a treat to see a mother raccoon parading a new litter of pups up the well-trodden path to her door). Sometimes my dad would cook her dinner,

and I'd sit in her parlour and watch the birds visiting her twenty-some-odd feeders from her window (the woodpeckers at her suet cages were my favourite, the blue jays were all bullies, the clever squirrels always found a way to get to the seed). One summer, my dad and I brought over a ladder and picked the wild grapes growing in a stand of white birches in her front meadow to make jam. And in the spring, I would track the progress of tadpoles in her back pond. I spent countless hours of my childhood just wandering through the fields and forests of her property, imaging things. So, yes, I am familiar with that particular property.

Since moving away in 1998, I have returned a few times to the Mary Conklin Sanctuary, and have always felt a deep sense of gratitude to the Canton Land Trust for maintaining the wild spaces there, where I can revisit the greatest schoolroom of my childhood, which shaped the person I am today. So on behalf of three of the people who shared my formative years, who grew with me and cared for me, I would like to honour the place I am from.

Apologies for waxing sentimental - it's the time of year for a touch of homesickness, I suppose. And geographically speaking, I can't get much further from Canton without starting to come back, but it is comforting to know that even though we've all moved away and moved on, there is some place to come back to.



Thanks again,
Cheers
Malissa Groome

Arthur Sweeton Turns 100!!!



April 16, 2013, marked the 100th birthday of our Honorary Director, Arthur W. Sweeton, III. He is a man of many talents, knowledgeable and interested in a wide variety of fields. Arthur came to Canton Center in 1919 when his father bought West Road

Farm on the corner of West and **Meadow** Roads. He attended the near by grammar school on West Road, South Central School, and Canton High School where he graduated as class valedictorian. Four years later, in 1935, he graduated from Yale University with a Civil Engineering degree. His long interest in railroads and canals caused him to apply for a job with the Pennsylvania Railroad, but they were not hiring anyone at that time. It was our good fortune that Hartford's Water and Sewer District, which ultimately became the MDC, was in need of a civil engineer. Arthur was hired on the spot and started work immediately. When he was hired, he was told by the Chief Engineer "Now that you have an education you can start here at the bottom of the ladder and learn the practical end of it." Starting off as an engineer draftsman in the office, Arthur retired in 1978 as District Manager of the MDC.

Arthur married Eunice Barton Minor in 1940. They lived in Newington to be near Arthur's job. Three children, a son, and two daughters, kept everyone busy. Eunice taught school, and when she gave that up she helped with the book mobile, even driving it on occasion. When Arthur retired they moved to Canton Center to the house that used to be his Mother's. His family ties to Canton go back quite a ways. His Grandmother, Nellie Case, married Arthur Sweeton I in 1880. You can see her blue wedding dress in the Canton Historical Museum.

Upon retirement the Sweetons became active in the community. Both volunteered at the Museum. Arthur was head of the Building

Committee, involved with updating the heating system, and attempting to modernize the building's mechanics. Together they made deliveries for Meals on Wheels. Eunice helped at the food bank, and Arthur joined the Land Trust where he soon became a Director and then for ten years was the treasurer. When it was possible they traveled abroad with Northwest Community College and as a result Arthur was asked to be a director of the Northwest Community Foundation which he did for many years. Among other things Arthur is also a railroad buff. When the opportunity presented itself he would always opt for a train ride. For their 59th wedding anniversary they planned a trip through the chunnel on a high speed train. The Glacier Express in Switzerland is one of Arthur's favorite rail excursions.

Arthur's activities with the Land Trust went far beyond his Treasurer's position. He was one of the original Christmas Tree Farm crew which planted, pruned and maintained the trees. At the tree sale he was always present and Eunice always donated delicious cookies to go along with the cocoa. If it was necessary to find the pins marking a property's boundaries, Arthur could be counted on to help. When the Ray Smith trail at the Mary Conklin Preserve was being created, he was found on more than one occasion on his hands and knees trying to find the best way through the laurel. Beyond all these contributions, Arthur has given the Land Trust property at the twin bridges on West Road; property in North Canton bordering the Barkhamsted Land Trust; and with his brother, Humfrey, and his sister, Barbara Tuller, donated with help from a Connecticut Open Space Grant the Sweeton Pasture Lot on Bunker Hill Road which had been part of the West Road Farm.

We are thankful for the privilege of knowing Eunice and Arthur and having been able to share some good times with them both. For the generosity they have shown to Canton and the Canton Land Trust, we are all extremely grateful. Arthur is truly one of a kind.

by **Betty Stanley**

Trailblazers

The 2012-2013 Trailblazers hiking group had a particularly exciting hiking season this year! We kicked off our season with a welcome (or welcome back!) hike in



October. After the hike, everyone enjoyed catching up with old friends, making new friends, roasting hot dogs around a fire and sampling delicious cookies! After the

summer break, it is always great to see our old Trailblazer friends again and to welcome new friends to the hiking group. Some of the other highlights from the trail this year include an afternoon of letterboxing, a late winter sledding adventure and a springtime scavenger hunt. One of the favorite hikes of the year is always the Full Moon Hike, and this year was no exception! Despite chilly temperatures outside, after following the majestic trail illuminated by votives to the barn, hikers were rewarded with warm chili, hot chocolate and treats! There was also plenty of laughing and storytelling around a warm fire before the hike back through the woods.

This year, in addition to the regularly scheduled monthly hikes, the Trailblazers were fortunate to enjoy some other very special activities. Many Trailblazers attended the 40th anniversary of the Canton Land Conservation Trust family day events at Mary Conklin Preserve. Some of the activities enjoyed at Mary Conklin were building blue bird houses, watching an amazing reptile show, viewing an incredible raptor show, creating fanciful fairy houses in the woods and eating fresh baked Flatbread Pizza.

We look forward to another wonderful hiking season next year! Have a great summer and we hope to see you on the trail!

Happy trails! Any questions- contact your trusty trail guides:

Gretchen, Mary and Jen
gsonju@gmail.com, hotmary@mail.com, jmason242@comcast.net

by Jen Mason

Connecticut Black Bear Research



In the latter part of April, the CLCT was contacted by a doctoral candidate at UCONN who, in cooperation with the DEEP, was undertaking a study of the black bear population in Conn. After some negotiations with the DEEP the CLCT permitted its land

to be included in the study. Attached is a description of the study. The researcher has already garnered bear hair samples in one or more of the corrals. Wayne Jekot of the CLCT is acting as point person.

The University of Connecticut and Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) have initiated a statewide research project on Black Bears (*Ursus americanus*), and we are currently seeking landowners willing to volunteer their property as locations for study sites. The primary goals of this research are to obtain a robust estimate of the number of bears in Connecticut and to quantify bears' space use in exurban landscapes common to CT. This research will provide critical foundational information about Connecticut's bear population, and help inform a comprehensive black bear management plan for the state.

Our study uses cutting edge genetic methods to identify bears from hair samples. Hair snare corrals, constructed at pre-determined survey sites, will be used to collect bear hair – providing the genetic material for our analyses. In 2012, we established a systematic grid of 50 survey sites throughout northwest Connecticut at which hair corrals were deployed, and are hoping to

establish two additional grids in other areas of the state. Proper spacing and density of survey sites is critical for obtaining information that is representative of the black bear population as a whole and for providing insight into the movements of these animals. It is for this reason that survey sites will need to be located on both public and private property, in order to effectively gather useful data.

Hair corrals consist of a single strand of barbed wire wrapped around 4-6 trees to form a perimeter around an area of ~40m². Wire will be secured to trees using two 1 ¼" fencing staples per tree, at a height of 40cm off the ground. Corrals are located >100m off of roads/trails, and are marked with blaze orange signs. These signs detail the purpose of the corral and identify UConn as the responsible party for their construction and maintenance. We will visit corrals weekly from June through August in 2013 and 2014 to collect hair left on the barbed wire. During the summer survey periods, scent lures will be deployed at all hair corrals. Scented oil will be applied to cloth suspended above corrals and to debris piles placed in the center of the enclosed area, encouraging bears to cross the barbed wire and deposit hair. This method will attract bears already present in the vicinity, and the lack of food reward will discourage bears from returning to or remaining near the corral. Outside of the summer months sites will not be actively surveyed and no lure will be applied. Corrals may remain set-up or deconstructed in the interim periods depending on your preference.

If you have any questions regarding the goals, methods, or purpose of this research please feel free to contact me. I am always happy to discuss the project, and greatly appreciative of the support of local land trusts. Thank you in advance for your help.

Sincerely,
Michael Evans
Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Natural Resources and the Environment
University of Connecticut,
Michael.evans@uconn.edu, 860-486-BEAR

Nature Walk at Uplands Preserve- May 5th, 2013



You missed out. What else can I say? If you didn't show up on Sunday, May 5th at the Uplands Preserve for the Nature Walk with Tom Noonan, you really missed out. The ten CLCT members and guests that were in attendance were in

for a treat. That Sunday turned out to be one of those great spring days we get in Connecticut all too rarely.

As we gathered at the trailhead off the Westwood Drive cul-de-sac to begin our walk, temps were in the mid 40's with bright sunshine and low humidity. The early May day and a slight breeze conspired to keep the bugs away from us. It was simply delightful in the woods.

Tom Noonan, a naturalist and instructor at the Talcott Mountain Science Center came well equipped to lead our walk. In addition to Tom's extensive knowledge and experience, he brought along a pair of waders, two nets, a metal bowl, and several pairs of binoculars.

Why the waders, nets, and bowl? Uplands is home to at least two vernal pools. A Connecticut DEEP task force came up with this definition : "Vernal pool means a seasonal watercourse in a defined depression or basin, that lacks a fish population and supports or is capable of supporting breeding and development of amphibian or invertebrate species recognized as obligate to such watercourses. These species include spotted salamander, Jefferson salamander complex, marbled salamander, wood frog, and fairy shrimp".

With some help from our walk attendees, Tom was able to get several samples of the teeming life forms that occupy these vernal pools during this time of year. The metal bowl allowed us to look at the samples close up and see how many life forms were in evidence. The bowl samples

proved that it was rush hour at the vernal pools at Uplandsa Grand Central Terminal for amphibians and invertebrates!



It's great to think that the land we are protecting through the mission of the land trust is serving as a such a gracious host to that much life.

After our close inspection of the vernal pools, we took a short hike on the yellow loop trail, returning to where we had started. If you've visited CLCT properties lately, you will notice that many of them now have new kiosks at the trailheads with detailed trail maps posted.

We hope you'll visit soon and not miss out.

Mike Ignatowicz

Dr Feder is the highlight of a record breaking Annual Dinner



Despite another round of snow on March 19, 2013 we held our most successful CLCT Annual Dinner ever. The Canton High School Jazz Combo, fresh from another award winning performance at the Berklee High School Jazz Festival in Boston, provided sweet and mellow music before dinner. The musicians were Ted Engvall, Lucas Rich, Sam Byus, Chris Villano and our own Jake Tilton.

As Fred Feibel introduced Dr. Ken Feder before his talk on An "Ever Widening Circle": The Archaeology of the Lighthouse Community,

Barkhamsted, he noted that the evening attendance reached his long desired goal of 100 guests. The applause was both a welcome for our esteemed guest and a recognition of Fred's dedication to the land trust.

Dr. Feder used historical accounts and his archeological digs to weave together the compelling story of the people who lived at the Barkhamsted Lighthouse and their descendants. His photos brought us to the encampment and his humor guided us through the ups and downs of the multi year dig. The published account of the community and the dig Barkhamsted Lighthouse is available from Dr. Feder at feder@ccsu.edu .

The Silent Auction, offering a record with 48 items, raised over \$2500 not including a generous anonymous gift of \$500.

Thank you to Fred Feibel, Betty Stanley, Mike Nardello, Barry Deutsch and all who solicited donations, purchased items and enjoyed a wonderful evening for the benefit of CLCT.

Karen Berger

Pratt Cleanup



On Saturday May 18, 2013, the Stewardship Committee had its last trail crew for the year. The trail crew finished removing downed limbs, invasive species, and rocks from a meadow to be

used as a parking area on the Pratt Place property. The Property was given its final cleaning in preparation for the CLCT's Annual Meeting to be held there on June 2, 2013.



Ted Cowles led the trail crew. Crew members included Barry, Buddy and Gail Deutsch, Alan Duncan, Fred Feibel, Mike Gotaski, Tom Kissko, Rachel McKeenam, John McKeenam, Bunny Terry,

and Chris Winkler. As the weather was too dry to take advantage of a burn permit, crew members Ted Cowles, Barry Deutsch, Alan Duncan, Fred Feibel and Bunny Terry returned the following Monday to burn debris as the weather cooperated.



Gail Deutsch, Treasurer of the CLCT provided an overview of the financial statement for the organization. The following persons were elected to the Board of Directors starting July 1, 2013:

- Karen Berger
- James Davis
- Fred Feibel
- Jane Latus
- Jennifer Mason
- Michael Nardello
- Betty Stanley
- Chris Winkler

Annual Meeting



On June 2, 2013 the CLCT conducted its Annual Meeting and hosted a barbecue for all attendees. The Meeting was held at our new Pratt Place property located at 84 Cherry Brook. Pratt Place comprises 21 acres on both

sides of the Cherry Brook and a cabin located on the east side of the Brook. Winnie Pratt and her late husband Leon donated the property to the CLCT at the end of last September. Winnie was a guest of honor of the CLCT at the Meeting.



James, Jane and Chris are new members of the Board. Retiring from the Board were Tom Kissko and Scott McAlindin, both of whom had resigned earlier in the year. Thank you Tom and Scott for your service to the Land Trust.

Board of Trustees

Co-Presidents

Barry Deutsch
Jay Kaplan

Vice President

Jay Weintraub

Secretary

Sarah Faulkner

Treasurer

Gail Deutsch

Board of Directors

Karen Berger
Ted Cowles
Jim Davis
Charlie DeWeese
Bill Duncan
Fred Feibel
Mike Gotaski
Wayne Jekot
Jan Latus
Jen Mason
Mike Nardello
John Pech
John Rohlfing
Rob Sigman
Elenor Smith
Betty Stanley
Chris Winkler



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CLCT Assets

by Gail Deutsch, Treasurer

Current Assets

Total Checking/Savings	-	\$297,468
Endowment Investment	-	\$252,958
Fixed assets (land, buildings, equipment)		
	-	\$6,550,641
Total Assets:	-	\$7,101,068

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