



The Canton Land Conservation Trust, Inc.

Spring/Summer 2014

Newsletter

Edited by Gail Deutsch

Co-Presidents' Message

During the past year the CLCT was able to continue to grow as an organization and work towards fulfilling its mission through the efforts of an extraordinary group of volunteers.

The CLCT acquired about 5 acres of property on Onion Mountain with the assistance of an open space grant from the DEEP. The Humphrey family donated 16.7 acres of property along the Cherry Brook adjacent the Goedecke property on West Street.

The CLCT manned a booth at the Sam Collins Day event in September and then hosted a fun night at the Flatbread Pizza restaurant resulting in the CLCT raising about \$400. The Full Moon Hike in February led by the Trailblazers had over 200 attendees and as usual was the highlight of Canton's winter social events.

In March, the Annual Dinner was attended by 97 people who heard a delightful presentation by Peter Marteka of the Hartford Courant. Also in March the CLCT received a generous donation from ShopRite of Canton.

Volunteers worked on 2 trail crews in May to accomplish specific tasks on 3 properties. The Stewardship Committee worked throughout the year to maintain the 2000 acres of CLCT property. All of these activities on behalf of the community and the CLCT would not occur without people power. Please add your name to the role of volunteers who perform the various tasks needed to enable the CLCT to continue to fulfill its mission. To become an active volunteer, please contact any officer or director or email to: presidingofficer@cantonlandtrust.org.

A personal note from Barry. I wish to gratefully thank my fellow officers, directors and volunteers for the support they have given me during the last 4 years while I had the honor to serve as president or co-president of the CLCT.

**Land Trust Co-Presidents
Jay Kaplan & Barry Deutsch**



NEWS

Trail Crews - by Barry Deutsch

On Saturday, May 10, 2014, Drew Stone led a Trail Crew working on the Goedecke property located on West Street. The Crew performed trail marking and clean-up. After working at the Goedecke property the Crew attended to the Swan property on Case Street where they performed general maintenance work, including mowing the parking lot.

The Crew included Karen Berger, Ted Cowles, Mary and Don Ducor, Steve (Phil) Philbrick and Baldwin (Bunny) Terry. A picture of the Crew is seen below.



On Saturday, May 31, 2014, Drew led a second Trail Crew; this crew devoted its efforts to the Sweetheart Mountain property. The Crew included Gary Antigiovanni, Nick Chekas, Steve Mitchell, Kristin Oswald and Christian Winkler. A picture of the Crew at the trail-head is shown below.



KUDOs to the intrepid Trail Crew leader Drew Stone for his efforts on the CLCT's behalf.

Work crews are planned in the fall for October 4th and 25th. Mark your calendars now.

Grant Application

During the spring, the CLCT filed an application for a DEEP Open Space grant. Last year, the CLCT successfully filed a DEEP Open Space grant application resulting in the purchase of 5 acres of property on Onion Mountain.

If the CLCT is successful in obtaining the new grant, the money will be ear-marked to purchase about 13 acres of land in the Ratlum Mountain area of Canton.

The CLCT should be advised during next fall if it has received the grant.

Stewardship

In addition to the Trail Crews led by Drew Stone, the Stewardship Committee led by Mike Gotaski and John Pech has been active in maintaining the various CLCT properties. The primary focus of the work continues to be removal of invasive species from the Mary Conklin and Sun, Wind and Woodland properties to meet the requirements of the CLCT's WHIP Grant. They also directed repair of the windows in the garage on the Mary Conklin property.

Thanks to the efforts of Ted Cowles, the cabin located on the Pratt Place property has been rewired. Also thanks to Ted and Bunny Terry for their work on behalf of the CLCT in cleanup efforts on the Town's property recently obtained from the Grange.

ShopRite of Canton and Joseph Family Markets Gift - by Barry Deutsch

In April, the CLCT was honored and proud to be a recipient of a \$2500 donation from the ShopRite of Canton and the Joseph Family Markets. The CLCT wishes to give a big Thank You to the ShopRite of Canton for its recognition that the environment of

Canton is one of the facets that makes our Town a wonderful place in which to live!!



Alden Warner's Photographs

by Barry Deutsch



Alden Warner and his wife Ann are residents of Farmington. The Warners and their dog Barney are avid hikers of the trails on the CLCT properties and have been supporters of the CLCT even though they do not reside in Canton.

Alden has a wonderful photographic eye and a marvelous camera to match his eye. He has taken many pictures of the CLCT properties on his various hikes. He has kindly shared his pictures with the CLCT and we have over 100 photographs which form a slideshow. Look for the slideshow at CLCT events such our booth at Sam Collins Day. Two samples of Mr. Warner's photographs are shown.



Bird Watch Winners!

By Jay Kaplan

On a delightful Sunday morning in early May, holders of the winning bid from the Canton Land Conservation Trust's Annual Dinner Auction met several friends at Roaring Brook Nature Center for a bird walk led by Nature Center Director and Land Trust Co-President, Jay Kaplan. The first few days of May had been cool and breezy, and not ideal for the spring bird migration expected at this season. Nevertheless, nine stalwart birders headed out along the Nature Center trail enjoying sunshine and the sounds of numerous resident birds including Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren and Cardinal. Recent arrivals like Great-crested Flycatcher,



Blue-headed Vireo, Louisiana Waterthrush and Ovenbird chimed in and many of these birds were found as the leaves were not yet fully out on the trees. Entering one of the large fields of the state-owned Werner's Woods, the trails of which are maintained by the Nature Center, we were treated to long looks at new arrivals like gray catbird and chestnut-sided warbler, two species that migrate to the tropics for the winter season, but return in early May to begin their breeding season here in southern New England. The field is also a reliable spot to find Eastern Bluebird and Tree Swallow that nest in several of the houses that have been erected in the fields. Returning to the woods, the group spotted the first Veery of the season. This small thrush has one of the most beautiful of birdsong. Its descending crescendo can often be heard in Canton on warm summer evenings. A large Pileated Woodpecker was heard in the distance, coming ever closer, but not quite into our view. This is our largest woodpecker. It nests on the property and can

often be seen from the Nature Center parking lot.



By 9:30 AM, the birdsong had subsided as birds began going about their business for the day; looking for insects, gathering nesting materials and, in some cases like a high-flying sharp-shinned hawk, continuing their northward migration. And so we, too, retired for a sumptuous breakfast at the home of the winning bidders. A total of 32 bird species were seen or heard on our 90 minute walk and, as an added bonus, we started our day with some nice exercise in the great outdoors.

INFORMATION

Recycled Paper

Past newsletters have been printed on 15% recycled paper. This newsletter is printed on 100% recycled paper. With improvements in paper recycling technology, it is believed that 100% recycled paper can be used without sacrificing the quality of the newsletter. Comments from the membership on this change would be appreciated—either pro or con. Please email your comments to: presidingofficer@cantonlandtrust.org.

Thank you

Smart Hiking: Avoiding and Dealing with Poison Ivy

by Sarah Faulkner

Poison ivy is a vine native to North America. It is found throughout Connecticut including many of the Canton Land Trust properties. While it can be hated by humans, its berries provide important

nutrition to wildlife. If you know how to recognize and deal with it, poison ivy should not impact your enjoyment of nature.

Recognizing the plant: Poison ivy takes many forms: as a short ground cover, a vine that can climb trees, or even a shrub-like form. The leaves vary widely in size, with smooth or toothed edges, a range of color (from light green to a dark purple-green), and different levels of shininess. Some people say that the leaves are always reddish and shiny – that is not true. What never changes, however, is that their leaves always in clusters of 3 – “leaves of three, let them be”. Its vines are easily identified on trees – they are our only “hairy” vines in Connecticut. Poison ivy often hides among other vines, such as Virginia creeper and Oriental bittersweet ; look carefully before stepping off a trail! Poison ivy thrives in partial-sun areas, disturbed soils near roads, and particularly along the shoreline.

What causes the reaction: Many people are allergic to the oil “urushiol” found in all parts of the plant, year-round. Urushiol can cause an itchy, blistering rash that lasts 7-10 days. Around 75% of the population is allergic to the oil, and even if you’ve never reacted, there is always a first time. The oil is invisible and odorless, and can be transferred from clothes and skin elsewhere unless it is washed off with a detergent soap. The rash itself is NOT contagious, assuming that all the oil has been washed off. Many people are exposed to the oil by their pets, clothes from other people who’ve been in poison ivy patches, or spreading the oil on themselves by accident. For example, if you step in poison ivy in hiking boots, then re-lace your boots, then scratch your face, you may have transferred the oil to your face and in a day or two may have a rash there.

Prevention: The best prevention is to avoid poison ivy in the first place – stay on marked trails, and watch the vegetation along the path. However, if you’ve been hiking where there is poison ivy, as soon as you get home it is smart to immediately and carefully wash your clothes and shoes with hot soapy water. Then, take a soapy shower in cool water (not hot), cleaning areas well that might have been exposed to poison ivy, such as legs and arms. If removed within a few hours, depending on your level of allergic response, you’ll avoid the rash.



Don't let poison ivy keep you out of the woods this year. Know how to identify it and deal with it, and have fun on the trails!

Remove This Alien!!

The garlic mustard plant, an extremely invasive species, has been found in the parking lot and adjoining area of the Sun, Wind and Woodland property. Attached is a link to an article describing and showing this invasive Alien. If you are hiking on CLCT property and see the Alien, please pull the plant out at its roots and then safely destroy it. Thanks for your help!



<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialplants/herbaceous/garlicmustard.html>

ACTIVITIES

Traiblazers

by Jen Mason

The Canton Trailblazers, an outdoor adventure hiking program for children of Canton aged 5 through 13, recently wrapped up their 2013-2014 season. The Trailblazers scheduled a variety of outdoor activities from October- June. The outings are focused on getting families outdoors together, exploring CLCT Trails and learning about or trying new things. Trailblazer's events always end with a shared snack, social time and the popular hika stick game.

The highlight of the Trailblazer's season is undoubtedly the annual CLCT Moonlight Hike. After a dry early winter, we were fortunate to have plenty of snow on the trails for the Moonlight hike. Winter adventurers followed the luminary lined trails through the woods to a barn full of chili, deserts, drinks and friends. The evening is truly magical!

The Trailblazers 2013-2014 season included some old favorite hiking trails and events. Here is a snapshot of the season at a glance:

The first hike of the season this year was held in late October 2013 at Sun, Wind and Woodlands. Participants were encouraged to come dressed in their Halloween costume for a Halloween themed scavenger hunt and hike. There were no tricks, just treats as everyone enjoyed searching for and finding Halloween items along the trail. Giant cobwebs, floating ghosts and cauldrons of decorative spider rings were just a few of the items found.

Later in the fall, we visited the Swan Preserve where the Trailblazer's learned about and practiced leaf identification. Children and adults collected leaves as they hiked and mounted them into personal leaf journals. At the end of the hike, everyone worked together to identify the collected leaves.

The winter hikes this year included a December hike at Mary Conklin Preserve. The hikers were joined by a special visitor from the North Pole. You never know who you will meet on the trails! The January hike was a hike with a sledding purpose. The group met at the Breezy Hill Farm Trail with sleds. Trailblazers hiked to the top of a nearby sledding hill, and then enjoyed sledding down the hill. Many of the children did this over and over again. This hike was followed by hot cocoa and cookies.

The Spring hikes this year included a March hike at Arthur and Eunice Sweeton Trail. During this hike, Trailblazer's followed clues as they searched for letter boxes hidden on the trail. Some participants had letter boxed in the past and brought their own record book and stamp; while everyone else attending the hike received a small recording book and personal stamp. To add to the excitement along the trail, one of the letter boxes led the Trailblazer's along a stream, past a grumpy troll and over a small bridge where we were rewarded with finding the hidden letter box. It was clear why letter boxing is gaining popularity!

In May, Trailblazer's met at Sweetheart Mountain. Hikers were afforded with the opportunity to hike and learn about the history of the area. There are some interesting relics of the past located along the Sweetheart mountain trails.

Our final hike of the year was planned during the Connecticut Trails Day Weekend. Hikers met at the Sun, Wind, and Woodlands where we first hiked through the woods together and then continued to the Capen Cabin where we enjoyed cookies and conversation about another successful Trailblazer's season!

We hope to see you on the trail! Information about the 2014-2015 Trailblazer's season will be available next fall on the CLCT website.

Annual Dinner - by Barry Deutsch

On March 25, 2014 the CLCT held its Annual Dinner at the La

Trattoria Restaurant in Canton. The evening's festivities started with a cocktail hour highlighted by music from the Canton High School Jazz Band

comprising Jake Tilton, Ben Kelley, Chris Villano, Ted Engvall, Lucas Rich and Ben Sullivan.



After dinner our guest speaker, Peter Marteka, provided a wonderful talk and slideshow entitled "Exploring Hidden Connecticut." Peter is the Hartford Courant's Glastonbury reporter and author of Nature and Way to Go columns. For the past 12 years Peter has authored the Nature column which runs in the Sunday edition of the paper. The column includes photo packages of the places Peter hikes. He shared with ninety-seven attendees of the CLCT's dinner, his 50 favorite places to hike in the Nutmeg State.

The Dinner also included a silent auction. Thanks to the generous bidding of the attendees and a successful challenge grant, the auction raised over \$2900. A list of our gift donors is provided immediately after this article. Please help the CLCT say thanks by patronizing these businesses.

Thanks to the efforts of Dr. Fred Feibel, Karen Berger, and Dr. Gail Deutsch the evening was enjoyed by all.

We thank the following individuals and businesses for contributing to CLCT's Annual Dinner:

Avon Prime Meat, Avon Veterinary Clinic, Benidorm Bikes, Bikram Yoga, Bill Duncan, Boston Red Sox, Buon Appetito, Canton Clayworks, Canton Indoor Golf Center, Canton Village Gulf Service, Cherry Brook Pizzeria, Collinsville Canoe & Kayak, Collinsville Savings Society, David Kubas, Dynamic Auto Works, Flatbread Company, Francesca's Restaurant, Frank & Betty Stanley, Harvey & Lewis, Jane Latus, Jay Kaplan, John Rohlfing and Peggy Steinway, Judi Friedman, La Trattoria, Long Automotive, Midas Automotive, Mikado Restaurant, Mitchell Auto Group, Moto Photo, New Britain Rock Cats, Petals & Paws, Portobello's Restaurant, Roaring Brook Nature Center, Sarah Faulkner, Saybrook Fish House, Shop Rite, Ski Sundown, Spirited Hand, Super Cellar Liquors, Ted Cowles, Trader Joe's, Trailblazers, Wayne Jekot, Wilson's Pub

Annual Meeting - by Barry Deutsch

On June 8, 2014, the CLCT held its Annual Meeting. The Meeting took place at the Capen Cabin property adjacent the Ted Wright Trail on Breezy Hill Road. More than 40 persons attended the Meeting.



A slate of officers was elected for the 2014-2015 fiscal year starting July 1st. The officers include Jay Kaplan and Christian Winkler Co-Presidents, Jay Weintraub Vice-President,

S a r a h

Faulkner Secretary and Gail Deutsch Treasurer.



A group of 8 Directors was also elected for 3 year terms. The group includes: Charlie DeWeese, Mike Gotaski, Wayne Jekot, Jay Kaplan, John Pech, Steve (Phil) Philbrick, John Rohlfing and Rob Sigman.





After the Meeting a barbecue was enjoyed by all the attendees.

CT Trails Weekend by Sarah Faulkner

Once again the Canton Land Trust participated in Connecticut Trails Day Weekend, June 7 & 8th, which was organized by the Connecticut Forest and Park Association and was part of the American Hiking Society's National Trails Day. The Land Trust offered two hikes on that Sunday. In the morning, Board member Sarah Faulkner led a bird and nature walk at the Mary Conklin Sanctuary. The group of hikers took a leisurely trip along 1.5 miles of trail, observing bluebirds, tree swallows, signs of wildlife, and varied habitats. In the afternoon, Board member Jennifer Mason led a 2-mile hike sponsored by the CLCT's Trailblazers group on the Sun, Wind, and Woodlands property. Their group ended at the Capen Cabin in time for the CLCT's annual meeting and barbecue. Both hikes were well attended thoroughly enjoyable with wonderful late-spring weather cooperating.

New CLCT Board Members by Karen Berger

We have two exceptional people, Anne Duncan and Stephen "Phil" Philbrick, joining CLCT Board of Directors.

You probably know Anne from her diverse activities in the community including a year of work on the 40th Anniversary and work parties at the Mary Conklin Sanctuary to prepare for the celebration. Phil's neighbors know him as the man with a chainsaw who frees driveways from ice storm limbs. Please welcome them and enjoy meeting two engaging people.

Anne

A New Yorker by birth. Moved to Canton in 1972. Had two daughters, now grown, two grandchildren, and married to Alan, who was a Land Trust president a long time ago. Ann was

recruited by Charlotte Craig. She supports the idea of volunteerism. Anne has been involved through the years at Hartford Hospital, the League of Women Voters, Canton Creative Arts Council, Trinity Nursery School, Cherry Brook Garden Club and the Renbrook School. She received a master's degree in counseling in her 40's and wound up counseling people living with HIV. Anne says that It is a real privilege to hear their stories and humbling for me. She loves gardening, photography, and reading and especially friends, old and new.

Anne says she is honored at this late date in my life to be asked to fill a two year slot for the Land Trust and looks forward to helping any way she can.

Anne is replacing Mike Nardello who resigned from the Board due to work commitments. The CLCT thanks Mike for his hard work as a Director and hopes that when time permits, he will consider rejoining the Board.

Phil

Stephen Philbrick, also known as Phil, lives in Canton, currently at 17 Noja trail, and previously at 31 Crown Point. He grew up in Maine and New Hampshire, then lived in Connecticut where he met his wife Polly. Phil moved to Chicago for six years, then to Avon CT for 14 years. He moved to Baltimore for six years, then to Canton in 2004. He has one daughter, Lindays, who lives in New York City and is getting married in September.

Phil works as an actuary for Swiss Re in Armonk, New York.

His active interests include hiking, women's basketball and Wikipedia.

A New Way to DONATE to CLCT - use your credit card!



Canton Land Conservation Trust continues to encourage and accept donations by cash or by check. As of December 2013, CLCT began accepting donations and payments over \$20 by major credit cards (Master Card, Visa, Discover and American Express).

Please go to our website:

www.cantonlandtrust.org or our Facebook page: Canton Land Trust to find the DONATE NOW button.

or go to CLCT's

Secure Payment Link:

<http://payments.lawpay.com/bpl/lp25259>

CLCT COMING EVENTS

Sam Collins Day - September 20th
Flatbread Pizza - October 7th
Trail Crew - October 25th

CLCT Assets as of 05/30/14

by Gail Deutsch, Treasurer

Current Assets

Total Checking/Savings	-	\$261,344
Endowment Investment	-	\$292,084
Fixed assets (land, buildings, equipment)	-	\$6,646,424
Total Assets:	-	\$7,199,852

Board of Trustees

Co-Presidents

*Jay Kaplan
Christian Winkler

Vice President

Jay Weintraub

Secretary

Sarah Faulkner

Treasurer

Gail Deutsch

Board of Directors

Karen Berger, Ted Cowles, Jim Davis, Barry Deutsch, *Charlie DeWeese, Anne Duncan, Bill Duncan, Fred Feibel, *Mike Gotaski, Mike Ignatowicz, *Wayne Jekot, Jane Latus, Jen Mason, *John Pech, Stephen "Phil" Philbrick, *John Rohlfing, *Rob Sigman, Elenor Smith, Betty Stanley

* Re-elected for three-year terms at 6/14 annual meeting.



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www.cantonlandtrust.org

For more info please check our web- site: www.cantonlandtrust.org.
or search Facebook for

Canton Land Conservation Trust
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