



The Canton Land Conservation Trust, Inc.

Fall/Winter 2015

Newsletter

Edited by Gail Deutsch

Presidents' Message

Imagine a forest with only one kind of tree. Not very interesting, and not very resilient either. What would happen in the case of a blight like the one that nearly wiped out the American chestnut, or an insect like the wooly adelgid, which is currently destroying so many of our eastern hemlocks? Having a diversity of tree species helps keep the forests safe from catastrophic threats, and also supports a wide variety of insects, birds, amphibians, reptiles, and mammals.

A healthy, mature forest provides a home for many kinds of wildlife, but only those that can survive in a woodland environment. Some species can only live in meadows, swamps or bogs, while others require thickets of protective brush to make their homes. For example, the New England Cottontail, our native rabbit, thrives only in "young forests" that are dominated by thick undergrowth and lacking large trees. Many species of birds, including ruffed grouse, eastern towhee, and American woodcock, also require brush lands rather than woodlands.

This presents us with a challenge. In northern Connecticut, land left alone will become a mixed-hardwood forest. That is as it should be and we are proud of our beautiful, mature forests. That, however, cannot be the end of the story. If we want a diversity of ecosystems (and we do!), then we must sometimes take proactive steps to open up other ecological niches.

One step that we already take is regular mowing of our meadows along with occasional and more intensive meadow-clearing actions like that

recently undertaken at the Mary Conklin Preserve. Another step, currently under consideration, would involve cutting down a section of forest, allowing it to grow back as the kind of young forest that is home to so many local species. See the article by co-president Jay Kaplan about the New England Cottontail initiative for additional information on that option.

As stewards of the forest, this may seem counter-intuitive, but given how much mature forest and how little young forest we currently manage, it is worthy of consideration. Just as we hope for a diversity of species in our forests, we must also strive for a diversity of habitats for our local wildlife.

We hope you will join us, as members and as volunteers, as we strive to be good stewards of the land for generations to come. The Canton Land Conservation Trust is an all-volunteer organization and we are only as strong as the support we receive from the community. We hope we may count on your support in the year to come
Christian Winkler and Jay Kaplan, Co-Presidents
Canton Land Conservation Trust

P.S. Please visit our website at cantonlandtrust.org. In addition to providing information about upcoming events and maps of our properties, you may now renew your membership



online via credit
card for added
convenience.

Moonlight Hike by Jane Latus

Mark Your Calendar for the Event of the Season

A hike under peaceful moonlight.

Candle-lined, snow-covered trails through the forest.

A warm barn with a roaring fire, warm chili, hot cocoa and desert – no wonder the Land Trust’s Moonlight Hike is a perennial hit!



Save the date now for this event of the season: Sat. January 23rd, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Hikers will begin at the Breezy Hill Farm Preserve and follow a luminaria-lined trail leading the way to a horse barn for a festive gathering, chili dinner and other refreshments.

All ages are welcome. The Land Trust requests that you leave your dog at home this time.

There is no charge, although donations to the Land Trust are greatly appreciated. The Land Trust will provide chili and hot cocoa, and hikers are invited to bring side dishes or desserts to share.

The trail will be packed down, but winter footwear is suggested (and if the snow is anywhere as deep as it was last winter, bring snowshoes if you have them!)



Carpooling is encouraged in order to make parking easier.

Directions: drive up Indian Hill Road to its end and turn right to ascend a few hundred feet up Breezy Hill Road past the trail

head. Please park only on the west side of the road (left side as you go uphill) and watch carefully for pedestrians, as the road will be dark. In case of bad weather, before heading out see www.cantonlandtrust.org or [the Land Trust on Facebook](#) to learn of any rescheduling or cancellation.

Flatbread Pizza by Christian Winkler

On Tuesday, November 10th, CLCT was the featured Tuesday Benefit Night organization at the Flatbread Company of Canton. For every flatbread sold that evening, take-out or in-restaurant, a donation was made to CLCT, raising approximately \$300. Many thanks to the Flatbread Company for its weekly fundraisers, which support so many local non-profit organizations, and to the CLCT members and supporters who attended our event. It is always a pleasure to see so many friendly and familiar faces, and we hope to see you all again next year!

Sam Collins Day by Christian Winkler

On September 19th, CLCT participated in the 21st annual Sam Collins Day. As in previous years, our booth was located next to the Roaring Brook Nature Center booth, which always draws a crowd with its live reptiles. Pleasant weather brought out many friends and supporters, and gave us the opportunity to introduce ourselves to a number of families including some that have recently moved to Canton.

The theme of our booth was to present information about the New England Cottontail Initiative and the benefits of young forest habitat. CLCT is currently considering cutting some mature forest on one of our properties, and we wanted to educate the public about why we might do this and what to expect if we do. This year’s event also featured the sale of some vintage CLCT t-shirts and sweatshirts, from a recently discovered stash that had been forgotten for years.

Thanks to CLCT board members Betty Stanley, Anne Duncan, John Rohlfing, John Pech, Karen Berger, Sarah Faulkner, Gail Deutsch, and Barry

Deutsch for their help setting up and manning the

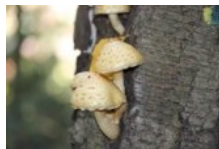
booth!
boundary with Burlington.

Fall Foliage Walk on Sweetheart Mountain by Anne Duncan



It was a chilly day featuring the first “snowflakes” of the season, and yet, a dozen hearty hikers met on a Sunday afternoon in mid-October to experience

nature’s palette firsthand at the Land Trust’s Sweetheart Mountain Preserve in Collinsville. Leader Jay Kaplan kept a brisk pace, while explaining why leaves turn various colors and why the season can be of such short duration.



A wide range of tree species as well as understory plants were seen along with



a few migrant warblers feeding on the berries of some of the extensive invasive plant species found on the property. The highlight of the walk was a

spectacular view of Collinsville and the Farmington River in sunlight and full fall foliage. After close to two hours, the group returned to the parking lot on Dunne Avenue to partake of fresh apple cider and munchkins provided by the Community Relations Committee.

This was a gorgeous year for fall foliage and all agreed that the walk provided good exercise and a scenic tour of this almost 30 acre parcel located on Canton’s southern

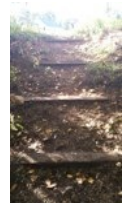


Bog Bridges by Phil Philbrick

Drew Stone led two trail crew events in October, both of which worked at our Uplands property. On Sunday, October 4, Tom Swartwood, Don and Mary Ducor and Phil Philbrick helped Drew install steps on the steep section of the entrance near Westwood drive, using recycled railroad ties. The group also built some bog bridges near the Westwood end of the trail.



Two weeks later, the group returned, along with Christian Winkler, and built some bog bridges at closer to the Uplands end of the trail. The area is mostly dry in the fall, but is quite wet in the spring, so the bridges will help hikers navigate that area without getting wet.



Trailblazers by Michelle Winkler, Co-Leader

The second hike of the 2015-2016 Trailblazers season was a challenging climb up Sweetheart Mountain on November 22nd. The reward was a beautiful view of Collinsville as well as many delicious baked goods after the hike. The kids enjoyed finding parts of the old rope tow hidden in the woods that reveal the history of Sweetheart Mountain as a ski area.

We have many new and returning families this year and we had a great turnout of over 50 hikers at the first hike of the season on October 25th. Most kids and some adults came in costume and hiked the Tom Perry trail in search of hidden Halloween themed tricks and treats. We enjoyed cider and donuts after the hike. We are continuing the tradition of the hika stick ceremony.

A game is played after each hike to determine which child brings home the walking stick to add a personal decoration and then brings it back to the next hike. There are so many trinkets attached to the hika stick that we no longer hike with it!

It's not too late to join the Trailblazers. Our hikes are geared towards elementary school aged children, but all are welcomed. We love to

introduce people to the natural beauty of the Land Trust properties. Information can be found on the Trailblazers page of the Land Trust website under the "Activities" tab. We have six more hikes scheduled including a hike on the Winter Solstice, December 20th, at the Arthur and Eunice Sweeton trail. Trailblazers are also encouraged to attend the much loved Moonlight hike on January 23rd.

Upcoming Trailblazer events

- Dec 20 Trailblazers winter solstice hike
- Jan 23 Moonlight Hike
- Mar 20 Trailblazers outdoor skills hike



New England Cottontail Initiative

by Jay Kaplan

The New England Cottontail, a creature of thickets and young forests, was southern New England's original rabbit. The more common Eastern Cottontail was brought into Connecticut later for hunting purposes and is now the dominant species.

A candidate for listing under the endangered species act, it has recently been determined that the New England Cottontail does not meet the stringent criteria necessary for listing by the United States Department of the Interior. In spite of this ruling, it is more than apparent that the

New England Cottontail has undergone a serious reduction in numbers throughout its range and efforts are now underway to create habitat for this and other "young forest"



species. The Canton Land Conservation Trust has had preliminary discussion with staff from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection concerning the possibility of creating a 10+ acre parcel that would be suitable for New England Cottontails. The area in question, a portion of the Trust's Sun, Wind and Woodland property is within what is considered to be the core area for the

cottontail. Habitat enhancement would essentially include clearcutting an area and creating brushpiles and thickets that could harbor New England Cottontails. Currently, the species has been confirmed in nearby New Hartford. It should be noted that creating this kind of habitat is beneficial for a number of other declining species including several songbird species, woodcock, ruffed grouse and more. The Trust is currently reviewing the application process for a grant that is issued through the Natural Resources Conservation Service. A future walk with DEEP personnel will mark off the parcel in question. If an application is completed, submitted and accepted, the full Board of Directors will vote on whether to sign an agreement to go forward with this project. Questions may be directed to Presiding Officer@cantonlandtrust.org Another New England Cottontail project is currently being implemented on private land in Canton. The ultimate goal is to create a patchwork of suitable habitat areas for this and other young forest species.

For additional information, go to <http://newenglandcottontail.org>

Christmas Tree Sale by Sarah Faulkner

A Canton holiday tradition returned! By the time you read this article, the Land Trust will have held its traditional Christmas tree cutting event at the Smith Tree Farm on Doyle Road.

We haven't offered this happy celebration for a number of years due to the lack of trees and deer damage. This fall, though, an inspection of the fields revealed that we had over 50 trees ready for sale, so we advertised the cutting date of December 6th for members and the public. As in years past, our volunteers provided the chainsaws and muscles to cut the trees selected by families, and trees were tied onto roofs and driven away to bring the joy of our woods into homes for the holidays. We also invited visitors into the house at the tree farm to enjoy hot chocolate, home-baked cookies, and the friendly cheer of our Land Trust community.

We did find one surprise when inspecting the tree farm this fall: our Board members discovered a perfect, 40' spruce standing



in one of our fields. The Board decided that this tree would not be cut, and that, when it is ready, we'll offer it to Rockefeller Center to be the tree for New York City. It is THAT perfect. Now, to keep the pesky deer from sharing that opinion...

Please remember that the CLCT's first hiking trail, the Charlotte Craig Trail, originates at the tree farm and proceeds north through the fields and up onto the ridge. It is a beautiful hike in all seasons, and especially enjoyable for birding, viewing wildlife, and snowshoeing. Even if you missed the tree cutting, we hope you'll come up and enjoy this very special preserve.

Canton's Poet Laureate, Joan Hofmann
snow shoeing



we choose the reservoir's south side to walk around with the roadbed marked by thin threads of tracks-- signs that others have been here before us-- where the snow covered reservoir blooms round about and shorelines near and far roll into the white flat of the frozen water now bedded under waist-high snowfall. Across, a band of brown and green marks the short distance between the ever-white of above and below, only inches convey the height of tall firs and birches. No sightings, no footprints or tracks, no birds-- all know the snow put distance and changed it all. Some tufts of raccoon hair found, nothing more, yet everything whole and right

Upcoming Events of Note:

Full Moon Hike - January 23rd
Annual Dinner - March 22nd

CLCT Assets as of 09/30/15

by Gail Deutsch, Treasurer
Current Assets

Total Checking/Savings	-	\$284,335
Endowment Investment	-	\$293906
Fixed assets		
(land, buildings, equipment)		
	-	\$6,595,868
Total Assets:	-	\$7,174109

DONATE to CLCT - use your credit card!

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



Please go to our website:

www.cantonlandtrust.org: Canton Land Trust to find the DONATE NOW button, or go to CLCT's Secure Payment Link:

<http://payments.lawpay.com/bpl/lp2525952>



December, 2015 Tree Sale



CLCT 2015 Membership by Wayne Jekot

(We are using a new membership data base. Please let us know if your name is missing or misspelled. Send that information to wayne.jekot@att.net.)

Richard & Judy Abraham Mahmoud & Rawya Agha Gloria & Roger Ahlstron Peter & Laverne Aivano Sally & Rich Albrecht Richard /Cherilyn Albrycht Skip & Nancy Alford Bob & Jane Allen Mr/Mrs Richard Anderson Gary Antigiovanni Laurana & Russell Asklof Michael & Julie Ausere Barbara Backman Kathleen/Paul Balavender Kevin & Melanie Baldwin Frank & Hedy Barton David Owen/A. Batterson John H. Bazzoni Joseph & Karen Bechard Stephen/Elizabeth Bemis John & Joan Benham J. Tanner/Benidorm Bikes Janice Bennett Robert & Joyce Berger Marshall & Karen Berger Jan & David Bernard James Black Rick & Anne Black Peter & Ruth Black Greg & Trish Blair Dr. Gerard E. Bogucki Leslie Bok Dean Bolt Daniel & Jennifer Bonnett William/M. Borchert Sandro/Elizabeth Bortolon	Lisa Bosman Gregory & Harriet Boyko Robert P. & Maria Bradley Robert H. Bradley - c/o Bradley, Foster & Sargent Beverly & Chris Brandon Jon Paul & Charity Brower Gregory Brown William/Lois Lee Brown Robert & Cynthia Brown Corrin & Janie Burke Tim & Sara Campbell Canton Advocates for Responsible Expansion Canton Village Gulf c/o Daniel Carcio Nathan & Judith Cantwell Sharon Capezza Jim & Kathy Carpenter Kathleen Cavanaugh Thomas & Dianne Chauvin Cherry Brook Garden Club c/o Carol York Dennis & Kate Ciccarillo Alastair Clark Marjorie Clarke Collinsville Savings Society Robert & Theresa Corkum Kathy & Don Corkum John & Corri Cottingham Frederic/Janet Cowles Bill & Susan Crowe Paul & Joan Czaplicki Beth & Peter Dal Negro Robert & Juliana Dalton Lou & Amy Daniels Bill & Esther Danielson	Jim & Lorraine Davis Scott & Tiffany Davis Michelle/Angelo DeFazio Mark/M. Dendinger Barry & Gail Deutsch Mark & Chanisa Deutsch Charles/Rhonda DeWeese Jeff Dill Michael/Nancy Donoghue Robert/Lorraine Donovan Frederick T. Downs William & Penelope Doyle Larry & Doris Drawec David M. Drumm William/Susan R. Duncan Alan & Anne Duncan David J. Dzenutis Susan Eccleston Donald & Joan Eckberg Richard/J. Eickenhorst David Elliot Jerry R. & Jane Ellis John & Diane Emmerson March Enders Elaine Terry Eno Linea Erickson Harold & Eleanor Erickson Katherine Pearson, Executrix/William Godfrey Michele Evans Jill & Robert Evenski George & Patricia Fehr Frederick Feibel Brian & Kris First Carole Fisher John & Betsy FitzGerald Brian Bienvenue - c/o Flatbread Company, Inc. Fred & Mary Fletcher	Peter & Irene Fortier Sara Foster Philip/C. Freedenberg Kathryn French Joel Fried Judith & Louis Friedman Stanley Fullwood Geoffrey Furtney K. Sweeney/R. Galligan Janice Galusza Stephen & Susan Gass Jim & Cynthia Gavin Win Gentile Jennifer Gillen Richard Gleason L. Karl Goedecke Lawrence Golder Dr. Arnie Goldman Family Tom & Sherry Goodwin James /Becky Gorman Deborah Koval/M. Gotaski Coralie Granfield E. Cotterman/G. Green Phillip Griggs George & Nancy Groft Melissa Guyette J. Casioppo/H. Hambleton G. Douglas/B. Hamilton Wini Hanson Dawn & Thomas Harris Charles/Barbara Hartigan Tim & Chris Healy Norman & Sofy Henschke Peter & Mary Hess Victor/Michie Hesselbrock Jane D. Hoben Herman & Ethel Hoffman Joan Hofmann Leesa Lawson & Joe Hoke Cynthia Root/John Hooker
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