



The Canton Land Conservation Trust, Inc.

Spring/Summer 2015

Newsletter

Edited by Gail Deutsch

Presidents' Message

We have been enjoying a beautiful start to summer. We hope that you will be able to visit one of our properties this summer for a hike on one of our trails.

The past year The CantonLand Conservation Trust acquired several new properties. The Griggs family donated approximately 10 acres on Indian Hill Road, extending the Mary Conklin preserve to the south, while CLCT director Elenor Smith and her family donated property on Breezy Hill road that extends the Mary Conklin preserve to the north. An open space grant from the DEEP helped the Trust to acquire additional acreage on Ratlum Mountain from the Humphrey family, enlarging a large block of contiguous holdings in that location.

The new trail on the Goedecke/Humphrey Woods property on West Road is now complete. The trail follows Cherry Brook and was the site of the final Trailblazers hike of the season, capping a strong year that saw many new families participating for the first time. Many thanks to the volunteers who contributed to the construction of the trail, including CLCT director Betty Stanley and her family, trail crew leader Drew Stone, and trail crews from Joseph Family Markets (Shop-Rite Canton) and from the Connecticut Hiking Alliance.

In February, the Moonlight Hike was a huge success, with a large turnout, lots of great food and hot cocoa. The beautiful, deep snow tested the resolve of those without snowshoes, but everyone went home with a smile on their face. Mark your calendars for Feb 6, 2016 for the next edition – not to be missed!

The Trust's annual dinner meeting took place in March at La Trattoria, and the annual meeting

took place in June at the Trust's Pratt Place property on Cherry Brook Road.

In addition to our regularly scheduled annual events, CLCT organizes other events for members and for the public. For example, the past year included a cross-country skiing event at Sun, Wind and Woodlands, a Mother's Day bird and wildflower hike at the Swan Preserve, a bird hike at the Mary Conklin Preserve, and an off-trail hike on Onion Mountain. Check our website for upcoming events, sign up on our email list if you have not already done so, and check us out on Facebook as well.

We want to give a huge THANK YOU to everyone who helped accomplish the work (and the fun!) of our Land Trust over the past year. To all who volunteered, organized, and participated in our events, and to our financial supporters and land donors, nothing would have been possible without your help.

Happy Summer!

Jay Kaplan and Christian Winkler
Land Trust Co-Presidents

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.



Land Trust Receives Generous Donation

The Canton Land Conservation Trust is most appreciative for a generous donation received from Joseph Family Markets, the owners of Canton ShopRite, in the amount of \$2500.00. This is the second installment of a \$10,000 pledge made to the Trust over a five year period. This gift will be used to assist the Trust in maintaining its programs and activities. ShopRite employees have also assisted with trail work at the Trust's work parties. The Land Trust would not be nearly as successful without the support of our Canton community. We look forward to working with Joseph Family Markets and Canton ShopRite employees in the future.

Jay Kaplan

Trailblazers

The 2014-2015 Canton Trailblazers season was a great year full of outdoor hikes, adventures and new friends. The Trailblazers group is comprised of children and their families who enjoy engaging in outdoor activities throughout the year. Led by trusty trail guides, Jen Mason, Michelle Winkler and Gretchen Sonju, monthly hikes are planned from October-May. This year, we explored new Land Trust trails and visited and hiked some old favorites. Here are the highlights from this season:

The Halloween Scavenger Hunt at Sun, Wind and Woodland was a spook-tacular way to kick off the year! Many hikers arrived in costume and the trail was full of treats! Next, we hiked the Swan Preserve and learned about how animals prepare for the winter. We all learned something new! The December holiday themed hike at the Mary Conklin Sanctuary included a surprise visitor from the North Pole.

The Annual CLCT Moonlight Hike is undoubtedly our most popular event of the year, and this year was no



exception.



to a festive party in a nearby barn where chili, hot cocoa, other beverages and countless sweet treats were waiting. New

Hikers of all ages are welcome to attend and this year we had a record number of attendees. The snowy trails were aglow with light from luminaries which guided hikers through the woods



and old friends alike enjoyed the warmth of a giant outdoor bon-fire.



We visited the Uplands Trail in early spring to hike and to learn about vernal pools. We were all amazed by what we found in the vernal pools! The site of our last hike of the season was the Goedecke trail. The children enjoyed collecting natural items along the way to build Fairy Houses. There were frequent breaks to splash and cool off in the nearby stream during construction.

We hope to see you on the trail! We encourage outdoor enthusiasts to join Trailblazers and new members are always welcome! Information about the 2015-2016 Trailblazers season will be available on the CLCT website in September.

Jen Mason

Cross-Country Ski Event

On Saturday, February 21st, roughly a dozen hardy souls gathered for the annual CLCT x-c ski event at the Sun, Wind, Woodland preserve. It took until February but Mother Nature had finally blessed us with an adequate natural snow cover. Conditions were excellent, powder snow, cold temperatures with lightly falling snow. All trails within the SWW Preserve were skiable

and an enjoyable mid winter afternoon was had by all. The CLCT wishes to make this an annual event, however the inability to predict snow conditions means it will be scheduled with a short lead time based on weather conditions. Look for this event again next year (Think Snow!) for a weekend in February.

Mike Gotaski

Annual Dinner

On March 24, 2015 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, Ethan Porter, Nico Tuccillo and Ben Sullivan.

After dinner our guest speaker, Julie Victoria delivered a wonderful talk and power point presentation relating to Connecticut's Wildlife and the new Wildlife Action Plan. Ms. Victoria is a retired wildlife biologist consultant and is assisting the DEEP with Connecticut's Wildlife Action Plan.

The Dinner also included a silent auction. Thanks to the generous bidding of the attendees, the auction raised over \$2650. A list of our gift donors and program underwriters 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, Anne Duncan, Joan Hoffmann and Dr. Gail Deutsch, the evening was enjoyed by all the attendees.

We thank the following individuals and businesses for contributing to CLCT's Annual Dinner: Atlantic Sporting Group, Avon Prime Meat, Avon Veterinary Clinic, Benidorm Bikes, Blumen Laden, Bill Duncan, Boston Red Sox, Buon Appetito, Cake Gypsy Boutique Bakery, Canton Village Gulf Service, , Cherry Brook Pizzeria, Collinsville Canoe & Kayak, Collinsville Savings Society, Cook & Kozlak Flooring Center, Ted Cowles,

Crown & Hammer Restaurant, Dynamic Auto Works, Eastern Mountain Sports, Sarah Faulkner, Flatbread Company, Judi Friedman, Gresczyk Farms, Harvey & Lewis Opticians, Hickory Ledges Farm, Jay Kaplan, Larson Ace Hardware, Jane Latus Personal Trainer, La Trattoria Restaurant, Long's Automotive, Mainstream Canoe and Kayak, Marandino's Supermarket, Matterhorn Mini Golf, Midas Automotive, Mikado Restaurant, Mitchell Auto Group, Moto Photo, Petals & Paws, Polly Philbrick, Portobello's Restaurant, Andrea Rand, Roaring Brook Nature Center, Rootz Salon, Saybrook Fish House, Shop Rite, David P. Sinish, Ski Sundown, Spirited Hand, Super Cellar Wines, Dick & Gretchen Swibold, Trader Joe's, Trailblazers, Village Café & Bistro, Warner's Nursery, and Wild Birds Unlimited.

Barry Deutsch

Wildflowers and Birds...A hike in the woods on Mother's Day.

There were thirty-one of us who appeared on a warm Sunday morning up on the Swan property in North



Canton for an adventure in birdwatching and wildflower identification. Betty Stanley, Land Trust Director, was profuse in her knowledge of wildflowers of which

we saw many, although having announced a quest for the elusive Lady Slipper, she managed to elude us. Perhaps next year? If you know of a fine patch, do let a Director know so that we can plan next year's hike



around such a wonderful find. The late spring and then sudden hot temperatures gave us a challenge in planning our adventure this year. Thanks to Betty for her research and fond interest.

Jay Kaplan, Co President, was very much a pied piper as he led us on a loop along the brook and then up the hillside, stopping to listen and to look and to identify a wonderful variety of birds.



We managed to hear and to see the black throated blue warbler, the red eyed vireo, a scarlet tanager, and we learned how to discern

the rat a tat tat of the yellow bellied sapsucker.

Many of us came armed with binoculars and cameras and lots of questions for both Betty and Jay. We appreciate all the time given to



us by the Directors on these outings and look forward to more as the year progresses. If you have a particular request for such a hike, do let us know as we're interested in providing our members and the public in general with answers to questions about our surrounding properties. The



Anne Duncan

Canton Land Conservation Trust is proud to have numerous hiking trails and anticipates adventures with you in the future on these trails.

Work Party

On 16 May 2015, Drew Stone led a work party to do work at Swan and Uplands. Steve Mitchell, myself, Allen Duncan and Matt joined us.

The brush in the parking lot was cleared, timbers were used to create steps in the steep section from the parking lot to the beginning of the trail, and several trees across the trail were removed.

There is an old trail leaving the new bridge, which was intended to be temporary and not to be used anymore. We piled brush in front of it to discourage continued use.

Trail markers were added to the yellow trail at the Swan Preserve.

Loppers were used to remove branches intruding onto the yellow and blue trails.

A large tree precariously perched across the trail at Uplands was removed.

The hard work improved the trails for all hikers. Check it out!

Phil Philbrick

New Trail

Are you looking for a beautiful hiking trail here in the Town of Canton? A trail that you have never hiked before? How about a loop along Cherry Brook, through mountain laurel, hemlock, and hardwood forest? Then you might want to check out our newly extended Goedecke/Humphrey Woods trail on West Rd.

The trail begins in the Jane Goedecke preserve, on the western side of West Rd., about a quarter mile south of Cherry Brook Rd. The main loop, blazed in orange, is about



1.2 miles long, includes a few moderately steep sections, and provides stunning views of Cherry Brook from a variety of perspectives.

For several years a small network of trails has been maintained on the Goedecke property. In 2014 the Humphrey family donated the Humphrey Woods parcel, abutting the Goedecke property and extending north along the brook. Last summer, CLCT board member Betty Stanley and her family marked out and cleared a new extension of the existing trail onto the new Humphrey Woods property.

Final trail construction, including installation of side-hill bars and water bars, was completed over the course of three work parties led by Drew Stone. Two of the work parties were manned by employees of Joseph Family Markets, the owners of the ShopRite in Canton, who are also financial supporters of the Land Trust. Another of the work parties was manned by members of the Connecticut Hiking Alliance, a large and active meet-up group that organizes many hikes in our area and throughout New England.

Many thanks to all who participated in the construction, and we hope to see you out on the trail. Happy Hiking!

Christian Winkler

Senator Chris Murphy Visits With CLCT

On a beautiful spring afternoon in May, U.S. Senator Christopher Murphy visited with several Land Trust directors and members to discuss the value of open space. Speaking



in the Roaring Brook Nature Center auditorium, the Senator commented upon Senate Bill #330, a bill that would provide tax deductions for charitable contributions by individuals and corporations of real property interests for conservation purposes. The group then journeyed across Gracey Road to the Trust's Onion Mountain kiosk. The Land Trust owns several hundred acres along the Onion Mountain, a trap rock ridge. Land Trust board members explained the value of Onion Mountain as a critical habitat and a refuge for threatened species. Onion Mountain also serves as a corridor for wildlife as it stretches from Avon through Canton and into Simsbury and beyond with much of the ridge now protected as open space.

Jay Kaplan

CT Trails Day Birdwalk

The Mary Conklin Preserve was filled with birdsong for a CT Trails Weekend hike on Saturday, June 6th. Led by Board member Sarah Faulkner, the group of five enjoyed a leisurely hike around the shorter loop trail, taking a detour to visit the vernal pool. There was still water in the pool but it had shrunken from its former larger size, as is the habit of these ephemeral water bodies. Although the water was too dark to see any tadpoles or emerging frogs or salamanders, there was abundant bug life. A number of birds were seen as well as heard as the group walked along the trails. Several of the birdhouses in the meadows were occupied, with the group seeing a house wren, tree swallows, and a bluebird entering the houses, as well as a flock of cedar waxwings that flew over the larger meadow. Other birds were heard but not seen, and included two pileated woodpeckers and an ovenbird. The group appreciated the freshly mown meadow trail, and was pleased and surprised to see the huge progress made by volunteers last summer and fall who removed invasive species. The large meadow is much more open and sunny, and is already filling with wildflowers.

Sarah Faulkner

Trails Day Walk on Onion Mountain

On Sunday afternoon, June 7th, Co-President Jay Kaplan led fourteen sturdy hikers on an approximately two and one-half mile walk through a number of the Land Trust's properties on Onion Mountain. Meeting in the Roaring Brook Nature Center parking lot, we hiked up the Nature Center's Ridge (orange blazed) Trail through the Porritt-Yakemore Property, a four acre parcel acquired by the Trust in 1975. From there, we walked to the ridge line, located on the Brewster Property that was acquired in 2013 with the assistance of a Connecticut DEEP Open Space Grant. The Brewster



Property was an important acquisition, serving as a link to the other Trust properties on Onion Mountain. Onion Mountain is the westernmost of Connecticut's trap rock ridges. It is the only such ridge in the state that does not have a wide maintained trail traversing the ridgeline. Heading north, our group skirted the 60 acre Arnold Property, acquired with another DEEP Open Space Grant and with additional assistance from the Simsbury Land Trust in 2005. Entering the Corey Property, acquired by the Trust in 2012, we were able to look down onto the 90 acre Korder-Bredahl Property acquired in 2000. There is an access into this property from the cul-d-sac at the end of Red Fox Run. Along the way, numerous interior forest nesting bird species were heard and seen including pileated woodpecker, eastern wood pewee, yellow-throated vireo, black and white warbler and scarlet tanager. A highlight was the discovery of the nest of an ovenbird with tiny nestlings tucked inside. Additional wildlife seen on the hike included

wood frog and spring peeper, a large dragonfly of the "spiketail family," and several woodland butterflies including red-spotted purple and spicebush swallowtail. Eventually, the group accessed the Stich Property, acquired by the Trust in 1991. From there, we made our way to the summit passing by the scene of an airplane crash and a forest fire that occurred on the Joe D. Pratt Onion Mountain Preserve, an approximately 100 acre parcel given to the Trust by The Nature Conservancy in 1993. This property was protected because it is home to several state endangered plants, and this is reason enough for the Land Trust to not build any trails along this section of Onion Mountain. The elevation at this point was well over 800', and the hike down, skirting a woodland swamp that serves as a breeding ground for amphibians including the uncommon four-toed salamander was, thankfully, uneventful. A good time was had by all, and many in our party found the walk to be a good stimulant for their appetites at the annual meeting/picnic held later that afternoon.



Jay Kaplan

Annual Meeting Held at Pratt Property

On Sunday afternoon, June 7th, the Canton Land Trust held its annual meeting at the Pratt Property off Cherry Brook Road. A brief business meeting was called to order at 4:25 PM, and included minutes from last year's annual meeting provided by Secretary Sarah Faulkner; a Treasurer's report by Gail

Deutsch; and a summary of Land Trust events over the past year by Co-President, Jay Kaplan. Nominating Chair, Karen Berger, offered the following slate of officers for the 2015-2016 year: Co-Presidents Jay Kaplan and Christian Winkler; Vice-President Jay Weintraub, Secretary Sarah Faulkner and Treasurer Gail Deutsch. In addition, the following were nominated to serve three year terms ending in 2018: Karen Berger, Ted Cowles, Barry Deutsch, Gail Deutsch, Bill Duncan, Sarah Faulkner, Jane Latus, Elenor Smith and Jay Weintraub. There were no nominations from the floor and the slate of officers and directors was approved unanimously. After a round of thanks to the many who volunteered their time and talents to the Trust during the past year, the meeting was adjourned and followed by a delicious pot luck supper and excellent conversation. Over forty Directors and members attended the meeting, the weather was ideal and the meeting location was perfect.

Jay Kaplan

Connecticut Land Conservation Conference

The Connecticut Land Conservation Conference (CLCC) held its 2015 annual conference at Wesleyan University on March 21. Phil Philbrick attended on behalf of the Canton Land Conservation Trust. Over 400 attendees, a new record, showed up, despite the continuation of the 2015 winter.

One of the regular features of the conference is an awards ceremony for outstanding accomplishments by members. One of those awards went to our neighbor to the east, the Simsbury Land Trust, who received an *Excellence in Conservation* award for their innovative work in connection with the George Hall Farm.

The keynote speaker was Juan D. Martinez, who is the Director of Leadership Development and Natural Leaders Network

for the Children and Nature Network. He gave a presentation on *Building a Community that Cares About Conservation Over Generations*. He talked about his upbringing, which included adverse personal challenges, and how he overcame them. He talked about climbing with world-class climber Conrad Anker, and I spoke to him after his presentation, and learned we've both climbed with Dave Hahn and Eric Simonson, all three of whom were part of the expedition that found George Leigh Mallory.

There were a number of workshop sessions covering a broad variety of topics.

One session was run by CLEAR, the Center for Land Use Education and Research, which is part of UConn. They talked about the strengths and weakness of phone apps and dedicated GPS devices for mapping of trails and other uses. As a result of this session, I've been testing the Trimble Outdoors app:

<http://www.trimbleoutdoors.com/>

a free app which seems promising.

Another session, led by Michael Green of the Wyndham Land Trust, discussed specific applications of mapping technology. This was followed by a presentation given by Davis Bloniarz of the US Forest Service, who demonstrated i-Tree, a free tool developed by the Forest Service, which provides urban forestry analysis and benefits assessment. The free tool can be found at:

<http://www.itreetools.org/>

Another session, run by David Allen, focused on governance issues for board members, identifying tips for finance directors to help educate board members.

The official conference wrap-up site is:

<http://www.ctconservation.org/2015-ct-land-conservation-conference-post-conference-wrap>

Phil Philbrick

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

Jan Latus

Jen Mason

John Pech

Stephen (Phil) Philbrick

John Rohlfing

Rob Sigman

Elenor Smith

Betty Stanley

CLCT Assets as of 06/22/15

by Gail Deutsch, Treasurer

Current Assets

Total Checking/Savings - \$266,063

Endowment Investment - \$312,653

Fixed assets

(land, buildings, equipment)

- \$6,595,867

Total Assets: - \$7,174,584

DONATE to CLCT - use your credit card!

Canton Land Conservation Trust continues to encourage and accept donations by cash or by check. CLCT will be 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/lp2525952>



Canton Land Conservation Trust, Inc. PO Box 41

Canton Center, CT 06020

www.cantonlandtrust.org

For more info please check our web- site: www.cantonlandtrust.org.

or search Facebook for

Canton Land Conservation Trust

Become a member today!!!