



The Canton Land Conservation Trust, Inc.

Spring 2012

Newsletter

Edited by Gail Deutsch

President's Message

The year 2012 marks the 40th Anniversary of the founding of the CLCT. From an initial 2 acre grant of property from Charlotte Craig, the holdings of the CLCT have grown to almost 2000 acres including both properties held in fee simple and by conservation easement.

Many of the properties that were obtained since 1972 were donated as gifts or at substantially reduced prices. Unfortunately, with the downturn of the economy nationwide including Canton, the CLCT does not foresee any large donations of property in the near future. In all probability, the CLCT will only obtain large pieces of property by purchase at substantially market value.

Any one desiring to be generous and wanting to restrict a donation to the CLCT solely for land acquisition may contribute at any time of the year. Please send your donation to Canton Land Conservation Trust, Inc. PO Box 41, Canton Center, CT 06020 and kindly mark your donation for land acquisition only. Also if you want to donate land in fee simple or via a conservation easement please call me @860-693-8454 or call any other CLCT officer or director.

At any time, if any one has any questions or issues that you believe need to be addressed by the CLCT Board, please send me an email at b-gdeutsch@comcast.net and I'll try to answer you promptly.

Sincerely, **Barry Deutsch**

This Land is *Your* Land

We are celebrating 40 years and 2000 acres of preserved Canton land on September 29, 2012.

An early morning family version of "Capture the Flag" opens the day, followed by activities at Mary Conklin from 10 to 2:30 and an evening of dinner and dancing at Ski Sundown.

Families can take geology, mushroom and nature hikes, be amazed by the Flight of the Raptors programs and demonstrations, build bluebird houses or fairy houses, and participate in numerous children's games and activities. Lunch will be provided by Canton Flatbread.

Our celebration will continue into the evening at Ski Sundown with a seasonal barbecue on the deck and dancing music by the Hot Cat Jazz Band.

Watch for the July announcement of the winner of our Art Contest of a piece inspired by CLCT properties

Karen Berger, 40th Anniversary Chair

Stewardship Committee Needs Your Help

The Stewardship Committee under the leadership of **Mike Gotaski** and **John Pech** has continued its hard work. The highlights of its activities include the substantial completion of the project to place property and trail signs on most CLCT properties. Thanks to the tremendous efforts of **Wayne Jekot** each trail has been GPS mapped. A map for each trail may be found on the CLCT web site and also on a kiosk located at the head of each trail. Thanks **Wayne** for a job well done. Also thanks to **Bill Duncan** for uploading the maps to the web site.

On April 28, 2012 two Stewardship activities took place on the Smith tree farm. The first led by **Mike Gotaski** involved the planting of new trees on the Christmas tree farm and the second led by **Drew Stone** involved a trail crew that performed clean-up of the Charlotte Craig trail. **Christian Winkler** was one of the team planting Christmas trees. **Christian**, his wife **Michelle** and their 2 daughters moved to Canton last August and have become active in the CLCT including Trailblazer activities. Welcome **Winkler** family.

On May 19th **Drew Stone** led a very small work party that started clearing the trails on Sweetheart Mountain of downed trees and limbs. Unfortunately the work party only comprised **Drew** and **Wayne Jekot** so that additional work needs to be accomplished in the fall to completely clear the trails. Hopefully the fall trail crew will comprise more than 2 persons.



Membership

CLCT experienced an increase in members and membership donations from 2011 to 2012. From March 1, 2010 to February 28, 2011, we had 185 membership donations totaling \$17,135. For the same time period from 2011 to 2012, we had 202 membership donations totaling \$20,593. That represents a 9% increase in the count of memberships and a 20% increase in donation dollars. The time periods compared were chosen because the bulk of our donations occur between the months of December and February. Please continue to give generously and encourage others to do the same so that CLCT can continue to fulfill its mission of saving Canton's land.

Please help the Canton Land Conservation Trust continue to preserve open space for public access by renewing your membership for as little as \$25 per year. You'll get a tax deduction, continued access to increasingly rare open space, opportunities to participate in CLCT activities, and, best of all, the knowledge that you are maintaining wild areas for our children and children's children.

Best Regards, **Wayne**

Land Trust Annual Meeting

On June 3, 2012 the **Canton Land Conservation Trust** conducted its annual meeting. The meeting was held at the Roaring Brook Nature Center. Prior to the meeting reptiles and amphibians were exhibited by Riverside Reptiles. Young and old attendees were both amused and educated about the various exhibited representatives of the 2 species.

The meeting resulted in the election of officers: **Barry Deutsch - President, Jay Weintraub-Vice-President, Sarah Faulkner – Secretary and Gail Deutsch - Treasurer.** Kudos and a large thank-you to **Ted Cowles** who retired as Secretary after many years of devoted service. Fortunately **Ted** is remaining on the Board of Directors. **Mary Ellen Mullins** has retired from the Board and from the Trailblazers. Thank you for a job well done and we are looking forward to the year when you have more time available to enable you to rejoin the Board. **Jennifer Mason**, one of the new Trailblazer leaders, was elected to the Board of Directors for a 3 year term. Welcome **Jen**.

After the business portion of the meeting was concluded, all attendees enjoyed a barbecue. Thanks to **Jay Kaplan** for allowing the meeting to be held at the Nature Center and for making the arrangements with Riverside Reptiles.



March 20, 2012 Annual Dinner

On March 20, 2012, the Canton Land Conservation Trust held its annual Dinner at the La Trattoria Restaurant in Canton. Almost 100 persons enjoyed a pre-dinner jazz performance by **Ted Engvall, Jake Tilton and Chris Villano.**

Steve Grant, currently a freelance writer after a twenty-nine year career as a writer with the Hartford Courant, was the guest speaker. The subject of **Steve's** talk was "My Office is the Outdoors." While at the Courant, **Mr. Grant** wrote extensively on outdoor recreation, adventure travel and the natural sciences. His talk focused on his 410 mile Connecticut River canoe trip which went from the source of the River on the Canadian border to its terminus on the Long Island Sound. Thanks to **Steve** for an informative and delightful talk.

The Dinner also included a silent auction. About 40 prizes were auctioned and about \$1400 was raised. The prizes were donated by Canton merchants, restaurants and Land Trust members. The Land Trust gratefully thanks our donors for their gifts. Special thanks to Avon Veterinary Clinic, Collinsville Savings Society and Riverside Nursery for respectively table place cards, mailed invitations and table center pieces and to the CLCT's own **Bill Duncan** for the evening's brochure and graphics. Thanks also to **Dr. Fred Feibel, Betty Stanley and Karen Berger** for doing the heavy lifting of making the dinner reservations, mailing the dinner invitations and registering dinner guests upon receipt of a reservation.

The assembled members enjoyed themselves while supporting the Land Trust's mission.

Jane Goedecke Preserve

The Jane Goedecke Preserve is a 2.64 acre property located on West Road. It was acquired in 2004 as a gift. The property is rather narrow and runs north paralleling Cherry Brook. Recently a group of CLCT volunteers cleared a trail so that this beautiful piece of property may be hiked. The trail has been marked with tape but has not yet been blazed. The trail continues north from the Goedecke property along a right of way granted by Cherry Brook Farm LLC.

Many thanks to the CLCT volunteers that cleared the trail including **Karen Berger, Ted Cowles, Tom Kissko, Elenor Smith, Betty and Frank Stanley and Baldwin (Bunny) Terry**. The attached photo shows Messrs. **Cowles and Terry** after raising the new CLCT sign on the Preserve.

If you want to hike a new trail that is somewhat strenuous but will provide lovely vistas of the Cherry Brook, please take advantage of the work accomplished by the CLCT volunteers.



CLCT Trailblazers in Transition

After many years of trusty trail guidance from **Rhonda DeWeese, Mary Ellen Mullins** and **Jan Tanner**, the trailblazers are off and hiking in a new direction. With new trail guides **Mary Dean, Jen Mason** and the 2011-2012 was another fun and **Gretchen Sonju** successful season for this family friendly hiking group. We kicked off with fairy houses at the Mary Conklin property and had fun with Santa at the Smith Tree Farm in December. As usual, the highlight of the season was the full moon hike. The trails were aglow under clear skies and there was plenty of post-hike fun in the barn! Our winter hikes were not as wintry as many of us would like. Let's hope mother nature blesses us with more flakes in the coming winter so we can sled and snowshoe all winter long. We look forward to seeing friends old and new on the trails this October. Notices and schedules will be coming out at the start of the school year. Updates and current hike info is always available at www.cantonlandtrust.org.

Peace, love and hiking,
Gretchen, Jen and Mary

Sun Wind & Woodlands Hike

Sunday May 20th a small, but select group met with **Tom Noonan**, a biologist and teacher at Talcott Mountain Science Academy, for a hike originally planned to explore Sun, Wind and Woodlands' vernal pool. Due to the dry spring, the vernal pool was totally dried up. However, we did find water in a small pool by the red trail which must be fed by a spring or springs as it was well filled. No egg masses of either salamanders or frogs were found, but there were lots of

pollywogs and a variety of beetle larvae along with a colony of blue flag iris. (Iris versicolor) A small pool of water off the Tom Perry trail was home to some green frogs and the small pond by the side of Breezy Hill Road had some very active newts. Although it was disappointing that the vernal pool had dried up, we were

amply rewarded by the number of birds we either saw or heard. A pair of Indigo Buntings were active in the parking lot, Oven Birds, Red-eyed Vireos and hard to locate Warblers were busy singing as were the Scarlet Tanagers. Among the wild flowers we saw were Pink Lady Slippers



(Cypripedium acaule), Fringed Polygala (Polygala paucifolia) and Indian Cucumber Root (Medeola virginiana). Had we not been so busy listening to the birds we probably would have found more flowers and no doubt a few mushrooms due to the recent rains.

Betty Stanley

Making your own backyard water-feature

With some planning, modest outlay, and a bit of effort, one can easily make a water feature in the yard. In a couple of years you'd be surprised how natural it will look and the amount of critters that make it their breeding area. It is a good way to help the amphibian population build up. By using a small pump you can keep the water surface active and thereby

keep mosquitoes from breeding. The sound of moving water is great for your family to relax near. Precautions of course need be taken in cases where small children may visit.

One method of making a pond that gives very natural results uses Bentonite (well drilling mud/clay) to form an impervious pond floor.

The more common approach is to dig out a volume then line with thick plastic pond liner. Rivers and waterfalls can be added that make use of the topography of the site.

If you are interested in perhaps building your own water feature, you are welcome to contact me for some gratis advice and suggestions.

Tom Kissko
kissko@msn.com

JOIN A CLCT COMMITTEE!!!

Contact Barry: b-gdeutsch@comcast.net

STEWARDSHIP, FINANCE,
COMMUNITY RELATIONS,
DEVELOPMENT or MEMBERSHIP.

CLCT ASSETS AS OF 12/31/2011
By Gail Deutsch, Treasurer

Current Assets	
Total Checking/Savings	- \$234,153
Endowment Investment & deposit on land	- \$206,202
Fixed assets	
land, buildings, equipment)	- \$6,517,763
Total Assets:	- \$6,927,690



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!!!

Annual Moonlight Hike

Warm up with good food, drink
and conversation, after the
evening hike.



Ener-Chi - Did You Miss It?



Mary Ellen Mullins introduced us to Chi Gong, low impact, self-energizing exercises, in a class conducted at the Mary Conklin Preserve.

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