



The Canton Land Conservation Trust, Inc.

Spring/Summer 2018

Newsletter

Edited by Gail Deutsch

President's Message

Earlier this year, I was on a hike with a local hiking group. I happened to wear my CLCT hat, which prompted another hiker to mention that he had recently been a president of a land trust in southern Connecticut. We swapped stories about land trust management, and I was pleased to see that, with one exception, we were following the same practices that he found successful. The one exception was that he said that whenever he had a chance to address a group of people to talk about the land trust, he always made it a practice to urge people to remember the land trust when it came to their own financial planning, whether they happen to own land that might be a nice addition to our inventory of properties, or had financial resources which could help with the stewardship and acquisition of properties.

Frankly, it's a bit outside my comfort zone to ask for donations of land or property but he told me how successful his request had turned out so I promise to give it a try.

The Canton Land Conservation Trust has been incredibly fortunate over its history. We now have over 2000 acres, either owned outright or subject to a conservation easement. In some cases, the Trust has partially funded the purchase of properties, sometimes as a condition of a grant from an organization such as DEEP. At the time I am writing this, we are actively involved in five separate possible transactions, one involving a land swap, two of which may be outright gifts, one of which is a farmland easement involving multiple parties, and one of which could become an acquisition if a DEEP grant request is approved.

Many of you are aware that the state of Connecticut's finances are in less than ideal shape. While we don't yet know exactly what this means for the future, we have to consider the possibility that DEEP funding may be reduced or eliminated. While we will continue to monitor that situation and will look for other sources of funding in the case of potential acquisitions, it is highly likely that future acquisitions, other than gifts, may be more dependent on CLCT financial resources. I'm happy to report that while we believe the current financial resources are in good shape in terms of the ability to fund our day-to-day stewardship obligations, the funds available for acquisitions are modest relative to the market value of parcels of land in which we might have an interest.

As you work on your financial planning for the future, including tax planning and updating of wills, we hope you'll keep CLCT in mind, both in terms of financial contributions which could be used to fund acquisitions, or in terms of properties themselves which might be suitable additions to the land trust. If you have any questions about this, we will be happy to discuss this further.

Sincerely,
Stephen "Phil" Philbrick, President,
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 become a member or renew your membership online via credit card for added convenience.



EVENTS

Connecticut Trails Day Walk

The Canton Land Conservation Trust again participated in Connecticut Trails Day, offering a walk at the Sun, Wind and Woodland property. The walk focused on butterflies, dragonflies and other unusual insects. The walk was held at this property, in part, to measure how the young forest initiative begun eighteen months ago was coming along. Ten participants joined trip leader, Jay Kaplan, on a beautiful Sunday afternoon, and all were impressed with the growth of grasses and saplings of various tree species including maple, oak and white pine in what last summer was still an obvious logging operation. Of greater significance was the presence of a female indigo bunting, Connecticut's only all blue bird. A female bunting made herself quite obvious giving repeated alarm calls from a perch above thick brush. This behavior indicates nesting and in that the bunting is considered a "brush land" bird, its presence was well received. Making habitat for brush land birds was one of the leading objectives of the project.



The focus of the walk was insects and we were not disappointed. Butterflies observed included Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, American Copper, Pearl Crescent, Little Wood Satyr, Common Ringlet and Juvenal's Duskywing. Large stands of milkweed gave hope that monarch butterflies would soon be present in the area. Dragonflies noted included Common Green Darner, Stream Cruiser, Calico Pennant, Common Whitetail and Chalk-fronted Corporal. These insects serve as important environmental indicators and their continued presence is a sign of a healthy ecosystem. Dragonflies, in particular, require healthy aquatic systems in which to lay their eggs, as well as healthy uplands in which the adults feed. In this way, they are much like the amphibians that require both intact vernal pools and adjacent uplands free from pesticides, fertilizers and other pollutants. Connecticut Trails Day is sponsored by The Connecticut Forest and Park Association and the Land Trust is pleased to

participate in this worthy program designed to acquaint Connecticut residents with the outdoors.

Jay Kaplan

Annual Dinner

On Tuesday March 20, 2018, the CLCT held its Annual Dinner at the La Trattoria Restaurant in Canton. The guest speaker was Mr. Patrick Comins, the Executive Director of the Connecticut Audubon Society. Mr Comins is a graduate of Trinity College in Hartford and has worked in the bird conservation field for over 20 years. Among his leadership roles in bird conservation, Patrick is a member of the Connecticut Forest Practices Advisory Board, a position appointed by the Governor.

Patrick spoke to the attendees about the history of forestlands in Connecticut and how a better understanding of the birdlife in our forests can help forest stewards, such as the CLCT, to optimally manage forested lands for nesting birds and other associated wildlife. Several years ago, Patrick was part of a team that helped the CLCT assess the Sun, Wind and Woodland Preserve to enable the CLCT to improve its forested land management for this important CLCT property. Thank you Patrick for your presentation.

The CLCT is proud to report that there were 110 dinner attendees and for the first time, we had to stop taking dinner reservations for this event.

The evening's festivities commenced with a cocktail hour including a jazz combo from Canton H.S. providing music for every one's listening pleasure. Members of the combo comprised Tigger Kluessendorf, Julia Tarinelli, Olivia Scott, Rowan Cookman, Matt Fitts, and Liam Donahue.

The evening's events also included a silent auction. Thanks to the hard work of the CLCT's Board of Directors and the generous support of our underwriters and contributors, the CLCT was able to offer over 55 donated items for bidding. The auction earned \$2650; money that will be used by the CLCT to support its mission. Our evening's underwriters and contributors are separately listed. We are pleased to report that all donated items were purchased. Thank you one and all.

The evening would not have been as successful without the extra effort provided by Board Members Karen Berger, Gail and Barry Deutsch, Anne Duncan, Sarah Faulkner, Fred Feibel, Jay Kaplan, Thom Rice and Betty Stanley.

Barry Deutsch

We thank the following individuals and businesses for contributing to the evening's event:

Alan and Anne Duncan	Lisa's Crown and Hammer
Amici Italian Grill	Lisa's Luna Pizza
Avon Prime Meats	Mend More, Waste Less
Big Sky Fitness Center	Midas Automotive
Blumen Laden	Mikado Asian Bistro
Boston Red Sox	Mitchell Auto Group
Cake Gypsy	Moto Photo
Carol & Company	New Hartford Diner
Clayworks Pottery	Northeast Expos
Collinsville Canoe & Kayak	Onion Mountain Kitchen
Cook & Kozlak Flooring Center	Orvis Stores
David Kubas	Petals and Paws
David Sinish	Phil Philbrick
Dynamic Auto Works	Raimie H. Weber
Elenor and Larry Smith	Roaring Brook Nature Ctr.
Frank & Betty Stanley	Rootz Salon
Harvey & Lewis	Sarah Faulkner
Harold Mullins	Saybrook Fish House
Hickory Ledges	Shoprite
Infinity Music Hall	Simsmore Tennis Club
Jay Kaplan	Ted Cowles
Jeff Brewster	Trader Joe's
Jennifer Mason	Welden Hardware
John Chevalier	West Hill Beach Club
Larsen Ace Hardware	West Street Wines
LaTrotoria	

Many thanks to this evening's underwriters:
The Miller Craig Feibel Nature Endowment,
Collinsville Savings Society and the **Avon Veterinary Clinic**

Monthly Hikes

Beginning last fall, the CLCT started offering a "hike of the month" event, led by Board members to introduce the public to our many preserves and hiking trails. These hikes have been very well attended! Here is a brief summary of the hikes in 2018:

March 25: Barbour Woods historical farm hike, led by Nate Cantwell. On the hike, Nate explained the process of developing a subsistence farm from scratch and how it evolved from the mid-1700s forward through 1870. As they traversed the former farm fields, Nate described the original settlers' hardship in farming this area, giving

details about the Canton families who chose to stay. He relayed how our historical information is gleaned from old letters and town records, remains of old buildings, and evidence found in the woods.

April 22: Goedecke/Humphrey properties hike led by Jen Mason and Michelle Winkler. Serving a combined purpose as our April, Earth Day, and family/Trailblazers hike, the wonderful weather afforded a gorgeous early-spring walk along Cherry Brook on these two connected preserves. We were honored that Amy Goedecke Gevalis, daughter of donors Jane and Mark Goedecke, was able to attend and share some stories of their use of the land when she was growing up. Hikers were invited to stay for a post-hike social gathering during which many people enjoyed sweet treats and time to catch up with old friends and make new ones.

May 6: Sun, Wind & Woodlands bird walk, led by Jay Kaplan. Jay looked for spring warblers, woodpeckers, thrushes, and many other kinds of birds in the woods and "bunny cut" on this property. The group was pleased to see the variety of bird species who are inhabiting the recently cut wildlife management area designed to foster New England cottontails. They are eager to revisit the property over the next few years to see the changes in the bird species found there.

June 3: Sun, Wind & Woodlands insect net hike, led by Jay Kaplan. This hike culminated in our Annual Meeting held at the Capen Cabin. (See previous page).



June 16th: Cherry Brook Hike, led by Dr. Anne Hall (See "Alternative Power" on next page).

Future hikes will be listed on the CLCT website, announced through CLCT email blasts, and Town of Canton emails. If you're not on our email list, please send an email with your contact

information to any of our Board's officers. We hope more folks will join us soon for a monthly hike!

Sarah Faulkner

Luna & Lotus Earth Day Event benefits CLCT

We were quite fortunate to have Luna & Lotus Yoga Studio in the Axe Factory, Collinsville host an event benefitting CLCT. The event was held, most appropriately, on Earth Day, April 22nd.

Luna & Lotus Owner and Founder Anneliese Hurlock believes that community and connection help to make our lives more meaningful. She thought that this event would serve nicely to reinforce that belief.

The event featured live music with Krista Johnson, free yoga outside at Downright Music, local artists and even a book swap. Also included were chair massages by Alex and readings by Jennifer. 10% of the day's proceeds and 100% of the raffle ticket sales served to benefit CLCT.



(Luna & Lotus)

The event raised \$500 for CLCT. Anneliese kindly presented a check to CLCT following the event. We are grateful to have businesses like Luna & Lotus as a part of our community.

Mike Ignatowicz

PROJECTS

'Alternative power', 'green energy', 'renewable resources' (Part of a continuing series of articles on this topic).

These are all words we strongly associate with the 21st century. In fact, many of these types of power rely on principles known for centuries, though not necessarily suitable for commercial applications until the modern age. However, one that has been both widely known and used is hydro-power. In the 21st century, there are understandable concerns about the environmental impact of massive new hydro-electric plants and the trade-offs of their construction. But mega-dams are a 20th century innovation. Well into the nineteenth century, the

dams that proliferated in the thousands throughout New England were generally small due to engineering and financial constraints. This is clearly demonstrated in Canton, where every major stream had multiple dams powering small industries.

The uses of waterpower were myriad. Gristmills were usually the first mills built in a settlement, processing wheat, barley, rye, and corn. Almost contemporary with them would be sawmills. In Canton both saw and gristmills were present by the late 1700's, if not before the Revolution. But following quickly on those types of mills were innumerable other industries that needed a power source. In Canton, the Collins Company on the Farmington River is best known; but each of the major streams also had their dams and their shops. Rattlesnake Brook, nearly overlooked on Route 44 and just past East Mountain road, once powered a mill that had multiple uses: from making lead pipe to horn buttons, before becoming the Ned Brook Creamery, central to the Canton dairy industry. Jim Brook had what was known as a dish mill, which was a sawmill that specialized in turning wood rather than just sawing it. Nepaug River had a gristmill in the 1700's, the same mill site became the Hazard Powder Company, that specialized in gun powder. Gun powder was a popular product: Cherry Brook also hosted a gun powder factory, in addition to a gristmill, sawmill, shingle mill, and



(West Rd. – Remaining waterwheel base)

other factories in Canton Center. Farther north on Cherry Brook, two more saw mills were located, one more general in nature, the other supplying Milo Lee and Ruggles Case's Carriage and Blacksmith shops. And there were others, beyond this article's scope. Innovation was constant at these mill sites, anything that could be hooked up to waterpower probably was, but experimentation occurred on the farms as well. Way up Barbourtown Road, a bright light might be seen in the dark hours before dawn. This was not a kerosene lantern, but an electric light in the dairy barn on the Humphrey/Mills farm. Before the power lines came up the valley in the early 1930's, a small turbine generated enough electric power for a few lights, and perhaps an early milking machine,

from a dam on Barbourtown brook. It wasn't all work: Irwin Mills also put an electric light on the porch so he could read his newspaper. It is notable that electricity was put in the dairy barn before it was common in the house. Milking cows by lantern was difficult and always a fire hazard, even a single light would have been a godsend, and far easier for reading too.

The majority of the dams in Canton were, of course, used for agricultural purposes, such as the large one at Warner Woods on Jim Brook or the small one on an unnamed stream on Indian Hill. Most of these dams were very small, constructed of earth, wood, and stone, and many have vanished back into the land; though some survive as decorative ponds, which proliferated in the twentieth century. Farms used water for two primary purposes: watering livestock and crops or for cooling produce. Ice production was part of this. Cooling milk in particular was a challenge; a constant flow of spring water was ideal for the purpose, but hard to come by. Water was also used in the processing of certain crops: cider production, dairies, and tanneries all used significant amounts of water.



(Former commercial ice pond)

We usually associate water rights with the western states. However, the eastern states have their own versions. Every drop of water in the Farmington River is carefully accounted for in the riparian agreements. Through the nineteenth century, Connecticut landowners were equally carefully in noting water rights associated with much smaller streams. The early deeds in Canton are filled with notations about reserving the right to cross the land to a stream, or the right to one-sixth of a sawmill, or a right to draw a certain amount of water from a spring, and so forth. Water was utterly central to people's lives and fortunes. Even a small stream could be utilized.



On June 16th, the Land Trust hosted a tour of three sites on Cherry Brook looking at

how the stream was used in different ways.

In today's world, water is almost but not quite something we take for granted; the history of Canton's streams, though, reminds us of its centrality in our lives and the lives of all living creatures.

Dr. Anne Hall

From the Stewardship Committee: Current CLCT acquisition activity

Due to the generous support of the community the following properties are currently in the process of potential acquisition by the CLCT.

1. The donation of an approximate 12-acre parcel in North Canton. This parcel, accessible from Rt. 179, borders the west side of Cherry Brook and contains a year round tributary stream.
2. Parcels on Bunker Hill Rd. adjacent to the CLCT Sweeton Pasture Lot totaling approximately 20 acres. These parcels would be a "bolt on" addition to the existing CLCT Sweeton Pasture Lot Property. They would extend the eastern boundary of this property to Cherry Brook. This parcel also contains a year round tributary to Cherry Brook.

These properties will extend CLCT holdings along Cherry Brook including tributaries. These acquisitions, along with existing CLCT properties, will enhance the wildlife corridor along Cherry Brook. The addition of these parcels will advance the preservation of the Cherry Brook watershed to ensure this continues to remain an important native fishery.

Mike Gotaski
CLCT Stewardship Committee co-chair

Many hands make light work, as Canton Land Trust members and friends planted 100 Christmas trees at the Smith property on Saturday, May 26. The trees will reach saleable size in 8-12 years, according to member Rick Cowles, Red Oak Landscaping president and son of Ted Cowles, both long-time Christmas tree growers themselves. Rick also brought his excavator, digging up and removing large and troublesome rocks, the bane of any mower that hits them, and also removing unwanted trees and brush, in quick order. It was a job that would have

taken seemingly forever, using muscle power alone. Thanks to all who joined us on this work party. We had a great time, thoroughly enjoyed the camaraderie, and we all survived to tell the tale.



Tom Noonan

Canton Land Conservation Trust: *Write the Wild* Poetry Boxes

As you enjoy walking through the paths of the Mary Conklin Preserve, please note the two poetry boxes placed there this year. It is hoped that you will feel invited to add to the collection.

The two poems below were written during the winter of 2017-2018.

With warmth in our hearts and thanks to give,
We come to celebrate, rejoice and live.

Big laughs fill the air through the silent brush,
Even in the cold we feel no rush.

Red-nosed like Rudolph we continue our walk.
No better place to be than right in this spot.
-Sophi Saidi

Footfalls follow paw prints down a path less
traveled,
Heavy boots snap twigs littered across the
forest earth.

Right, then left, then left again. Little Fernando
knows the way.
On four little legs he carries nothing but his
body and a jingling collar through the cold.
-Nassor Saidi

(In the spirit of complete disclosure, these poems were written by two of my grandchildren. – Gail Deutsch).

ABOUT US – CLCT

Our Thanks and Gratitude to these Board Members

We want to thank several CLCT Directors for their years of leadership, service and energy as they step down from the Board of Directors.

Barry Deutsch, past president and enthusiastic trail hiker, who led the project to put signage on all our trails, improve the newsletter and also organize the silent auction portion of the CLCT Annual Dinner which is our biggest fund raiser. Barry plans to continue leading that project.

Bill Duncan, a long time Director who created and maintained the CLCT website, photographed CLCT events, contributed photos for CLCT publications, located and organized the deeds and transactions for all of the CLCT properties and honed in on salient points in meetings.

Gary Nedorostek, who enthusiastically joined the board last year, then started a new job that required travel. During his short term we were privileged to have him on the Board, as a professional arborist, he shared his considerable knowledge of trees and also created a management plan for the Christmas Tree Farm.

Welcome to our newest Board members

Let me introduce myself. Holly Hambleton. I grew up on a dairy farm in East Windsor, Connecticut and graduated from the University of Connecticut with a BFA in printmaking. With my husband, Joe Casioppo, I moved to Collinsville 37 years ago and over the years have raised two children, five cats and two dogs. Arriving In 1981, I swapped the waters of the muddy Scantic River of my childhood for those of the Farmington River. My Dyer Avenue home on the edge of the village was the perfect mix of being close to everything yet still within reach of the wooded hills and the river.

I worked in advertising in the pre-digital age and am now a semi-retired free-lance graphic designer. I'm a walker and an observer. I've been known to bushwhack and occasionally get lost. I do battle with the weeds at my community garden in the summer and in the winter plod through the snow on x-country skis and snowshoes. Spring through fall is dedicated to

mountain biking, kayaking, hiking and camping trips. I really just enjoy being outdoors in all seasons.

I am familiar with most of the Land Trust properties. Favorites include Sweetheart Mountain on which, with my family, I've enjoyed many a pre-Thanksgiving dinner warm-up. And Mary Conklin has become an all-season hike with the dogs. I am looking forward to lacing up my boots and lending a hand to keeping our woods wild.

Since moving to Canton in 1994, Theresa Sullivan Barger and her husband Glenn have raised three children who attended Canton Schools. Theresa discovered Canton Land Trust trails when chaperoning and then leading Earth Day hikes, formerly run through parent volunteers at Cherry Brook Primary School. Her appreciation for those who came before her who preserved land led her to serve on the town's Open Space Commission for several years. She's a co-founder of Canton Advocates for Responsible Expansion (CARE), served on the Economic Development Agency, the Plan of Conservation and Development Committee and in several volunteer roles with the schools. One of her interests as a freelance journalist



is environmental writing, a specialty she honed thanks to living in a town rich with natural beauty and knowledgeable experts and advocates.

(photo by Emily Sullivan Barger)

Website Infrastructure Upgrade

In 2004, the Canton Land Conservation Trust launched its first website at cantonlandtrust.org. The design was very simple, a single page of text and photos. Updating the website meant simply adding more paragraphs or photos to that one page, and the updates had to be done by a programmer capable of writing HTML, the markup language that drives all websites.

In 2006, board member Bill Duncan took over responsibility despite having no experience with website construction. He took on the challenge of learning through self-study several of the

technical tools, standards, and languages required to transform that initial site into the visually rich and highly functional website that we have today. His interest in photography is reflected in the use of full-screen photos of local forests and meadows as backgrounds. Many features were added over the years, such as the use of Google Maps for viewing CLCT parcel boundaries. In addition, he added interfaces that made it possible for other board members to edit key parts of the website without needing to write any code.

Last year, in preparation for stepping down from the board this summer, Bill began to search for someone who could take the website project in a new direction. The core technologies used to build the site were created before mobile phones played much of a role, and they did not anticipate the smaller screens and touch-based interfaces that have now become so dominant. Recently a milestone was passed as access via mobile phones crossed the 50% mark, meaning that more people now view our website on a phone than view it on a computer.

Fortunately, board member Mike Ignatowicz introduced the IT committee to Joe Lukacovic, a new volunteer whose day job involves cutting-edge web programming. Joe took on the task of rewriting the website using a new set of tools and languages that fully support phone-based browsers (primarily JavaScript) while keeping the look and the functionality largely unchanged.

Thanks to Joe's efforts, the new website went live on Feb. 27. Users who access the site only via computers may not have noticed, but for phone-based users it was a major step forward. Tiny menus that required lots of zooming and scrolling were gone, and navigation and ease of use were greatly improved. On behalf of the IT committee and the board of CLCT, I wish to thank both Bill Duncan and Joe Lukacovic for all their hard work. If you haven't visited recently, or haven't yet tried from a phone, check out cantonlandtrust.org and see for yourself!

Christian Winkler

Officers

President: Stephen (Phil) Philbrick
Vice President: Jay Weintraub
Secretary: Sarah Faulkner
Treasurer: Christian Winkler

Members of the Board of Directors

Karen Berger, Nate Cantwell, Ted Cowles, Barry Deutsch, Gail Deutsch, Anne Duncan, Bill Duncan, Fred Feibel, Mike Gotaski, Mike Ignatowicz, Jay Kaplan, Jen Mason, Gary Nedorostek, John Pech, Scott Persing, Thom Rice, Elenor Smith, Betty Stanley.

CLCT Assets as of 06/01/18

by Christian Winkler, Treasurer
Current Assets

Total Checking/Savings	-	\$380,035
Endowment Investment	-	\$410,866
Fixed assets (land, buildings, equipment)		
	-	\$7,160,158
Total Assets:	-	\$7,951,059

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>

For more info please check our web- site:

www.cantonlandtrust.org.

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