

CANTON LAND
CONSERVATION
TRUST, INC.

P.O. BOX 41
CANTON CENTER, CT 06020

NEWSLETTER

1990

THE PROCESS OF CONSERVATION

"The process of conservation, like the living resources we are attempting to protect, is dynamic and evolving. Our future success depends on how effectively we will work to preserve and manage the fragile elements of the landscape, as well as our ability to reach out to a broader constituency to help them understand how important these conservation needs are. Our greatest challenge is to plan for a world in which our economy grows and our natural heritage remains intact." *

GENEROUS GIFT EXPANDS CHRISTMAS TREE FARM

For a number of years the CLCT has operated a Christmas tree plantation on land donated by Wilson and Hannah Smith. We have been allowed to use the house and barn for events and for storage of equipment. This year Mrs. Smith has very generously donated to the CLCT the house and barn along with the remaining acreage. The Directors and Members of the CLCT are very appreciative of this gift, seeing it as the center of Land Trust operations.



This year's tree sale will take place on Saturday, December 15, from 9 A.M. to 4 P.M. Your patronage is appreciated and it provides a pleasant outing for the whole family. Please plan to join us for warmth and refreshments in the farmhouse before and after cutting your tree. Assistance in cutting will be available to those who need it, and greens will be available at no charge. All trees, regardless of size, will be priced at \$25.00. Please park at the Wright Road end of Doyle Road and walk into the farm. You and your tree will be provided a ride back to your car.



The tree farm requires extensive maintenance throughout the year. We are always looking for volunteers to help out. If you are interested in lending a hand, please contact Peter Lamb at 693-4891. There is plenty of work for all. We do need an appreciate assistance.

* Taken from The Nature Conservancy - Building A Legacy Of Wild Lands In Connecticut published by The Nature Conservancy, Connecticut Chapter.

DONATIONS BY WILL

The Canton Land Conservation Trust welcomes donations of land or other property by will. Donations of land and buildings made through a will are called "devises" and donations of personal property such as cash or securities are called "bequests".

It would be helpful to the Land Trust if a donor would discuss in advance his or her proposal of bequeathing something other than cash or securities to determine if the property is of a kind that the Land Trust could readily use. If the property is easily saleable and no limitations on sale are imposed, then most likely the Land Trust would accept the bequest. Certainly, bequests such as cash and securities are always welcome.

The donor who chooses to make a gift of real property through his or her will has the benefits and burdens of ownership of that land while alive. The donor controls the property but must pay property taxes and gets no income tax charitable deduction. Because the donation is not effective until death, the landowner has continued lifetime use and the ability to direct future use of the land.

The tax advantage of a devise of real property is described as follows. Any real property left in a will to a nonprofit organization such as the Land Trust is not subject to estate or inheritance taxes. The fair market value of a devise of any interest in land is deductible without limitation from the deceased's gross estate when determining the value of the taxable estate. Unlike the income tax charitable deduction, there are no percentage limitations in the amount of the estate tax deduction. Therefore, there is no tax on the value of the land. If a less than fee simple interest is devised, such as a conservation easement, the gift may reduce estate taxes so the heirs can more readily pay the taxes and keep the property subject to the easement.

The Land Trust readily acknowledges its appreciation for any devise of land, regardless of circumstances. Because of the many types of land and wills, the Land Trust encourages any person thinking about leaving land in his or her will to first discuss with the Land Trust directors the proposed donation. There may be reasons why the Land Trust may refuse a gift of land but, with advanced notice, the gift may be altered to make it more acceptable and beneficial. If at all possible, the Land Trust would also like to have its legal representative review that portion of the will that applies to the proposed gift before the donor's death. It is much easier to work with the donor than with the executor of the estate. The donor's confidentiality will always be maintained.

Certainly, before any person includes a bequest or devise of any property to the Land Trust, he or she should consult with their own attorney or accountant, as well as with the Land Trust.

* Portions of this were reprinted from the Connecticut Land Trust Handbook, Suzanne Wilkins, Et Al (1982).

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		Yellin, Robert, Mark et al*

*Honorary Life Members have given donations of property to the Land Trust.

CATHEDRAL PINES PRESERVE

The Canton Land Conservation Trust is a member of The Nature Conservancy, a national organization devoted to preservation of the environment. One of the holdings of TNC is Cathedral Pines Preserve in Cornwall, the 42 acre area hit by the tornado in June of 1989.

TNC is working with residents of Cornwall and with scientists from as far away as Colorado to determine the proper response to the devastation. Feeling that fire is a primary concern due to the amount of fallen timber, TNC has determined that its first step is to clear a narrow firebreak around the periphery of the preserve. The center of the preserve will remain untouched for scientific study.

This parcel of land is unique in that it was largely untouched by humans for the last 200 to 300 years. Researchers have expressed great interest in studying the site to learn more about the natural lifecycle of a forest.



Land Management Program

Over the years our Board of Directors has taken very seriously its charge of land management. Many Directors have attended conferences and we have periodically consulted with state forestry experts regarding specific issues. The Board feels it is now time to consult with forestry professionals to develop a comprehensive plan of land management.

A representative of the firm presently employed as consultants to the towns of Simsbury and Avon, as well as to several land trusts in our area, met with the Board at our November meeting. This spokesperson described their methods of operation and explained in detail the menu of services their firm can provide, ranging from general inventory of parcels to development of specific recommendations and even supervision of any work to be done on the land.

The Board was very impressed with this presentation. The representative evidenced great concern for ecology and environment and gave the board copies of plans his firm is presently carrying out in our neighboring towns. Directors have toured parcels managed by this firm and we will be in contact with organizations who are presently employing them.

Other firms may be researched as well. Once the Board has selected a firm it will be hired to conduct an inventory of each of our parcels. The Board will consider the data gathered in this initial stage, will study the recommendations and will then determine appropriate steps to develop a long range plan of how to best care for our land.



A general membership meeting will be held to present proposed plan before it is put into operation. Notification will be made through local papers. If you have comments, concerns or wish an update, call Alan Duncan at 693-6859.



DEER ROADKILLS

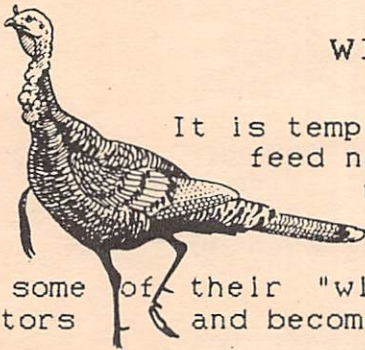
The white-tailed deer population has expanded dramatically in Canton. Approximately half of the nearly 12,000 roadkills in the state each year occur in the months of October, November and December. The State Department of Environmental Protection Wildlife Division recommends drivers take the following precautions:

1) be particularly alert during dawn, dusk and night, 2) heed deer-crossing signs, 3) slow down in woodland and farm areas, 4) watch for reflective eyes along the roadside, and 5) if one deer crosses the road anticipate others will follow.



Although there is some debate regarding the efficacy of deer whistles on cars Canton and Simsbury police vehicles have installed them on their vehicles.

WILD TURKEYS



It is tempting to try to attract turkeys to feed near one's home. However, the state urges us to refrain from doing so.

Birds who become accustomed to domestic feeding or in any way lose some of their "wildness" become more vulnerable to predators and become more susceptible to poaching.

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