



Canton Land Conservation Trust, Inc. NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 1992

Sweetheart Mountain

The Land Trust celebrated the opening of its hiking trails on Sweetheart Mountain on Sunday, November 15th. The trails lie on the Land Trust's property in Collinsville which were formerly owned by the Canton Ski Club. We are delighted to have a property that is so close to the village of Collinsville and we hope that Canton residents will use the trails and picnic facilities often. Some of the views from the upper slopes are truly beautiful.



The Ski Club property was transferred to the Land Trust in 1991. Formerly operated as a volunteer-run downhill ski slope, the land now offers some challenging and rewarding hiking. We have been constructing hiking trails on the land this past year. We are very grateful to the many volunteers who spent hours under Sarah Leff's direction, cutting brush, moving stones, and leveling the trails. Cutting these trails was hard work but worth all the effort.

Sarah is Vice President of the Land Trust and steward for the Sweetheart Mountain property. She has asked that the following volunteers be recognized for their special efforts preparing the area for everyone's enjoyment; Eric Sondergeld, Eric Jackson, Tom Noonan, Sheila Mossman, Lynn Carter, Norm Berg, Trish Schneider, Sally & Dick Alrecht and Brian Sellman.

The opening marks a milestone for the Land Trust: 1992 is the organization's 20th year and it is fitting to open up a new property with facilities for the public in celebration of this anniversary year.

■ TRAILS & BOUNDARIES

The Land Trust Board of Directors is formulating a long range plan of establishing a system of trails throughout Land Trust holdings and marking the boundaries of all parcels.

Over the next several years trails will be created through the various parcels on Ratlum Mountain, and on other parcels where appropriate, to provide for extensive hiking. These trails, as well as the borders of our parcels, will be marked with mylar tags. Thus, hikers can become familiar with Land Trust holdings and trespassing on neighbors' property will be avoided. Eventually the trail system, along with descriptions of each parcel, will be published in a handbook. Following the philosophy of passive land use and natural management practices, the Land Trust will consult with an array of experts to plan and complete this extensive project.

■ BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ramon Smith, *President*
Sarah Leff, *Vice President*
Sara Campbell, *Treasurer*
Alan Duncan, *Secretary*
Arthur Sweeton
Betty Stanley
Skip Alford
Fred Feibel
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Peter Lamb
Jay Weintraub
Gary Tomolonius
Steven Bristol
Mary Young

The Smith Christmas Tree Farm

Christmas Tree Sale on Dec. 12



The Smith Farm is located on Doyle Road, in the north west corner of Canton. About 40 acres of this parcel are located in Barkhamsted. In 1980 Mrs. Hannah Smith asked if the Land Trust would like to assume the management of the Christmas tree operation, a considerable task for us to undertake, but one

which the organization embraced with much enthusiasm. No one admitted to having any knowledge of Christmas tree horticulture, but the Board believed that it was in the best interest of the Canton Land Conservation Trust to assume this responsibility. It provided a financial boost to the organization, but most of all this decision has kept Dr. Smith's dreams alive.

Peter Lamb was chosen by the Board to manage this operation, probably due to his curious muteness on the subject when the call for volunteers was announced. Perhaps Mr. Lamb had hidden talents in this field but was too modest to boast. Well, that was not the case, and the undertaking of this endeavor has resulted in over ten years of on-the-job training for everyone involved. It has, overall, been a richly rewarding activity, but has had its share of frustrations; assembling work parties for plantation maintenance, dealing with temperamental mowing equipment, deciding how to handle insect pests without the use of chemicals.

With a dedicated group of individuals we managed to

open up a new field which we planted in May with about 300 seedlings. The young trees have weathered their first growing season well. This new growing area was designed in an effort to make maintenance much easier, and it is our goal to eventually replant all growing areas in a similar fashion.

This article is meant not only to inform you, our members and friends, of our activities at the tree farm. It also serves as a means to solicit volunteers who are willing to donate their time to a good cause. You will find a questionnaire included in the Newsletter where you can express your desire to help. When someone calls, please find the time to help out. We are also seeking the donation of riding type mowers, new or used, for use in the maintenance of the farm. As we redesign our fields we hope to be able to use riding mowers/tractors to a great extent, and to phase out the current equipment which has a high injury potential and has proven to be quite prone to failure at critical times. Riding mowers will also allow us to create a larger pool of volunteer help, as the equipment is easier and safer to use. If you are interested in donating such a piece of equipment please call Peter Lamb at 693-4891 or speak to any Board member.

Lastly, mark your calendars! The Christmas tree sale will take place on Saturday, December 12, from 9AM to 4PM. The selection is better this year, including Douglas, Fraser and Concolor firs, white and blue spruce, and white pine. Please come early for the best selection. The cost remains \$25.00. Help is available in tree cutting should you need it. Bundles of greens will be available at no charge. Please park at the top of the hill and walk in. A ride out will be provided for your tree and for you if desired. Please plan on

joining us on this festive occasion. If you need directions or have questions, please call Peter at the number above.

**Please renew your membership or join
the Canton Land Conservation Trust.
We are a public, town-wide organization
and we need your help!**

Canton Land Conservation Trust, Inc.

Questionnaire

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

For which of the following activities would you volunteer your time?

- _____ Annual tree planting in May
- _____ Christmas tree pruning
- _____ Weeding
- _____ Mowing
- _____ Land clearing (cutting trees, removing brush)
- _____ Trail blazing
- _____ Carpentry and other building activities requiring construction skills
- _____ Annual Christmas tree sale
- _____ Newsletter
- _____ Donation of equipment (pruning saws, chain saws, riding mowers, etc.)
- _____ Other (please specify) _____

Please return this questionnaire in the enclosed envelope.

We urgently need volunteers.

Please consider it. Thanks.

Membership 1992

LIFETIME MEMBERS

Alford, Nancy and Skip
Allen, Robert & Jane
Anderson, Mrs. Hale
Anderson, Richard & Janice
Backman, Barbara
Bagg, James E.
Baker, Noel G.
Barlow, Channing & Peg
Bissonnette, Jim
Bok, Douglas & Leslie
Bowman, Gordon & Mary
Bush, Mildred
Campbell, Tim & Sara
Cantwell, Nathan & Judith
Cavanaugh, William & Kathleen
Church, Fred & Aa
Coley, Nelson & Joan
Craig, Charlotte
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Darling, Doris R.
Dill, Fred & Lois
Drapeau, Marie A.
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Einstein, George & Ruth
Erickson, Harold & Eleanor
Evans, Elizabeth
Feibel, Fred & Miller
Ferguson, Natalie & Robert
Fletcher, Fred & Mary
Fried, Joel
Friedman, Louis & Judi
Gentile, George & Wyn
Goedecke, Mark & Jane
Golder, Ann & Lawrence
Green, Ray & Barbara
Hart, Owen S.
Hodgkin, Mary
Hoffman, Herman & Edith
Hole, Mr. & Mrs. Paul Jr.
Humphrey, Sam & Mary
Jurgin, William L., Jr.
Legeyt, Daniel & Pat
Loomis, Virginia & James
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Menasion, Mr. & Mrs. Robert
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Noble, Mr. & Mrs. Wendell
Partington, Philip
Perry, Margaret H.
Philbin, F. S.
Porterfield, Dean & Sally
Potter, Mrs. James
Prescott, Charles & Peggy
Prud'homme, Hector
Richardson, Mr. & Mrs. Russell
Riley, John & Carol
Rochford, Margaret & Scott
Sanger, Mr. & Mrs.
Scanlon, Ruth C.

Schultz, Mr. & Mrs. Henry
Sekellic, Ron & Sharon
Simeone, Richard
Slaymaker, Mr. & Mrs. William
Small, Ruth & Gilbert
Smith, Larry & Elinor
Smith, Ramon & Suzi
Smith, Mrs. Wilson
Solomon, Mr. & Mrs. John
Stanton, Mr. & Mrs. Vincent
Sulavik, Dr. & Mrs.
Svenson, Carl
Swan, Frederick R.
Swibold, Gretchen & Richard
Tilton, J. Garrett
Valentine, Anne R.
Widger, Elizabeth & Frank
Wilder, Ray & Minnie
Williams, Mrs. Katherine
Wilson, John & Penny
Winsor, Helen & Christopher
Yakemore, Mr. & Mrs. A.
Young, Mary A.
Zuryk, Ellen S.

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Adams, Mrs. William G.
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Barnhart, Alice C.
Baum, Bob & Jan
Benham, Jack & Joan
Berger, Marshall & Karen
Bonadies, Rick
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Brainard, Robert & Sharon
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Bristol, Steven & Karen
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Cizman, John
Closs, Dawn E.
Conley, J.S. & Patricia
Cooper, Paul & Audrey
Cosker, Bob & Sue
Cretney, George & Doris
Cromwell, Kent & Jill
D'Ambrosio, Mr. & Mrs. Richard
Dal Negro, Beth & Pete
Damez, Sherril B.
Daniels, Louis & Amy
Davidson, Michael
DeBlasis, Tom Bucior and Jean
Deutsch, Barry & Gail
Drayer, Steve & Gail

Ducor, Donald
Duncan, Ann & Alan
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Eschert, James & Sally
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Ferguson, LaVerne
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Gatting, Skip
Gillette, Walter & Heather
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Greff, George & Nancy
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Hage, M.L.
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Hiza, Diana & Peter
Hollender, Barbara & Michael
Hope, Joyce L.
Hunter, Lynn & Larry
Iken, Dietrich & Josephine
Jackson, Eric & Lynne
Jenkins, Richard H.
Jessen, Mildred M.
Johnson, Lennart J.
Jones, Viola
Juhl, James & Patricia
Jungk, G. Warren
Juros, Marjorie
Kaplan, Kate & Jay
Kempe, Judith
Kendra, Walter
Kenney, Joan T.
Kjellquist, Janis
Komer, Pat & Ed
Korzendorfer, David & Barbara
Krikskuin, Jean & Paul
Krzanowski, Stan & Diane
Larson, Angela & Everett
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Lawrence, John H.
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Legeyt, Timothy & Carolyn
Leonard, Michael
Lund, Alice
Lyons, Harry & Eileen
Madigan, David & Wendy
Madigan, Edward & Donna
Malentacchi, Margaret
Marchena, Eduardo & Jean Darlington
Marsted, Jeffrey & Marcia
Martin, Béla & Dorothy
Mauger, Art
McAteer, Barbara
McCabe, Beth
McCarthy, Robert & Barbara

McNeil, Ray & Dru
Meegan, Austin
Mills, Carmen L.S.
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Munroe, Dale & Kathleen
Myers, Helene
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Nelson, Janet L.
Norlund, Susan & Stephan
Olson, Lee & Joan
Parkov, Kenneth & Bonnie
Pech, John
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Volovski, Paul
Wall, Beverly & Charles Wall
Warren, Betsey & Bernie
Weintraub, Jay & Sandra
Weintraub, Leni
West, Richard & Virginia
Whitney, Marlene & Charles
Williams, Chris
Wilson, Carolyn & Don
Wingate, Frank & Anne
Winterson, Howard & Susan
Witkewicz, Robert
Zagorsky, Peter & Jane



Farm House Renovations enjoy a "house raising" experience

After making necessary repairs on the barn at the Smith Tree Farm, CLCT is now turning its attention to the farm house. Gary Tomolonius, CLCT Director and experienced builder, is planning and overseeing the operation.

The primary concern is to shore up the structure and eliminate water leakage. Last Fall the first stage of the project was accomplished when the flooring of the house was secured by a new system of joists and beams. Several weeks ago a work party consisting of Ray Smith, Peter Lamb, Jeff Miller and Alan Duncan, followed Gary's directions in shoring up the front porch, replacing several more beams, and re-nailing and replacing clapboards. A new bulk-head was also installed. Future stages of Gary's plan include replacing the main section of roof and repair or replacement of several windows.

Participating in these work parties is fun as well as educational. If you'd like to enjoy the community spirit of a "house raising" and learn something about home construction, join us by sending in the CLCT Questionnaire. We'll call you when the next phase is scheduled.

Arthur Sweeton's Gift: a favorite fishing spot

This Spring Arthur Sweeton, a long time CLCT member and director, deeded a beautiful little piece of land to the Trust. The property is approximately one half acre in size and is located along Cherry Brook on West Road. The western boundary; West Road the eastern and southern boundaries and on the north is the property of the James Smiths. Arthur believes that in 1919 his father bought the farm (of perhaps 140 acres) that was situated there. Much of the land was sold to the Unsworth family in the 1950's but a few small parcels were retained and later given to Arthur and other family members of his generation.



Safety Tips & Rules for Visitors to Land Trust Properties

RULES: No fires, camping or hunting. Hiking and cross-country skiing are encouraged. No motorized/non-motorized vehicles, including bicycles. Horseback riding is permitted in some locations, call Ray Smith at 693-6044 for details. Picnicking is permitted, but remember if you carry it in, you must carry it back out.

SAFETY TIPS: Wear adequate footwear and dress in layers. Protect yourself against deer ticks by wearing long pants, socks and insect repellent in all seasons. Stay on marked trails and when hiking alone, make sure someone knows where you are.

The property was a favorite fishing spot of Arthur's father and the remains of an old power house and canal (on the west side of the brook) are still visible. This piece of property constitutes a wonderful gift to the Trust and the town because of its rich history and beauty. We sincerely thank you, Arthur.

The recent acquisition of the Ski Club Property on Sweetheart Mountain will do more than offer challenging trails to hiking enthusiasts. A number of wildlife species will also benefit from the preservation of this splendid area. For those unfamiliar with Sweetheart Mountain, take a short drive down Maple Avenue towards the center of Collinsville. The Farmington River is on your right and directly before you looms a green ridgetop. That ridge is Sweetheart Mountain. I have often observed large birds of prey - Broad-winged and Red-tailed Hawks, Ospreys, and, yes, even an occasional Bald Eagle soaring over the ridge. These birds utilize thermals, the warm air currents that rise from ridgetops as a means of transportation. While soaring effortlessly overhead, their keen vision allows them to spot potential prey on the ground far below. The Broad-winged and Red-tailed Hawks both nest in the vicinity, building nests in tall deciduous trees. Lis-

Sweetheart Mountain Provides Wildlife Habitat

ten for their distinctive calls next spring while hiking in the preserve.

Smaller songbirds will also benefit from the protection of Sweetheart Mountain as the preserve provides forest habitat for nesting. As homes and/or roads are built through north-eastern forests, the nesting success of many species declines tremendously. Thus, it is important to preserve fairly large forested areas in which these birds can raise their young.

Another beneficiary of the Sweetheart Mountain Preserve is the White-tailed Deer. Collinsville residents do not have to journey far to see these beautiful animals. Deer signs can be seen throughout the Sweetheart Mountain area and the adjacent Nepaug Reservoir. I can remember the surprise of one group upon seeing a deer swimming across the Reservoir. Deer are strong swimmers and probably traverse the Reservoir on a regular basis.

4/Canton Land Conservation Trust, Inc. Newsletter 🌲 December 1992
Newsletter Design/Tomolonius Design

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CONSERVATION TRUST, Inc.**
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