



Canton Land Conservation Trust, Inc.

MEMBER NEWSLETTER
SPRING, 1998

PRESIDENT'S REPORT DESCRIBES ACTIVE YEAR

During the past year the Canton Land Conservation Trust's Mary Conklin Sanctuary has been a focal point of activity. The property was enrolled in Connecticut's Forest Stewardship Incentive Program, and a forester has completed a detailed inventory of the forest and ten-year forest management plan. Materials for bluebird houses have been obtained from the state, and as many as thirty bluebird houses will be made through the generosity and hard work of the Avon United Methodist Church Youth Group. Work has also been started on a trail system through the Sanctuary, and a large rock inscribed with Ray Smith's name has been placed on the trail bearing his name. This handsome rock serves not only to honor Ray but also to provide a perfect place to sit for a few minutes and enjoy the beauty of the woods, as he was wont to do. Also during the year necessary maintenance work was done to get the house ready for new tenants.

At the Smith Tree Farm, work continues to improve everything from the fields in which the trees are planted and the barn where our equipment is stored, to the farm house itself. Tom Noonan, our tenant-caretaker, painted the house last summer, and a new septic system was installed this fall. This spring the barn will be stabilized and made safe. Thanks to good weather, good publicity, and helpful volunteers the sale of Christmas trees amounted to \$1,276. Following the approach

for the Conklin property, we also hope to have the Smith farm accepted into the Connecticut Forest Stewardship Program; indeed, our goal is to enroll all of our eligible properties in this program. By developing and following forest management plans, we can be the best possible stewards of these properties.

At the base of Sweetheart Mountain, many wonderful changes have occurred thanks to the generosity of our new neighbor, Steven Stang, who owns the two apartment buildings to the north of our right of way. He has cleaned up and landscaped this area and has repaved the right of way so access to our property is now easy and pleasant. He has also put up new signs and has helped with maintenance of the lower field. Further, we are very fortunate to have Ron and Deb Parker, who live in one of the apartments, as active and informed stewards of this property. These improvements have contributed to Sweetheart Mountain's becoming one of our most frequently used properties.

The Land Trust accepted one new property during the year. James Gladstone donated three lots totaling four acres on Woodchuck Hill Road on the Simsbury line. These wooded lots have relatively steep slopes and include a brook that runs along near the road. Other activity during the year included work on revising the by-laws and preparing a director's handbook to be completed in 1998.

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Looking ahead, we have a number of work days and hikes scheduled for this spring which are described elsewhere. During past membership campaigns, we have asked members to indicate their willingness to volunteer. For the most part we have been very bad at follow up. It is our intent that this will no longer happen and that we will provide proper notification to each of you who has generously volunteered when the Land Trust needs help from its members. To those of you who have

helped, and continue to help, we say thank you. You are of vital importance to the Land Trust.

The hikes we have scheduled are wonderful opportunities not only to see and enjoy your Land Trust properties but also to have family fun and explore some of the special places of Canton. We look forward to having many people join our hikes this spring. Also, don't forget the Annual Meeting and Picnic at 4:00 PM Sunday, June 7, at the Smith Tree Farm.

Three New Directors Join Board

The Board of Directors is pleased to welcome three new directors elected to three-year terms on the Board. They bring a wealth of experience and ability as well as dedication to the goal of serving as stewards of the properties in the care of the trust.

Art Mauger (rhymes with major) is a lifelong Connecticut resident who has lived in Canton since 1985. An environmental engineer, Art has worked for the past eighteen years on the water pollution control program for the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection. He very much enjoys backpacking, canoeing, cross-country skiing, and family camping especially in the Adirondacks, the White Mountains and Maine. Relevant experience includes his volunteering as a trail maintainer for the Appalachian Mountain Club helping to maintain the Appalachian Trail in Connecticut. Recently Art, his wife, Jennifer, and their three children moved into what he calls "a wonderful old house" on Dyer Avenue.

Also from Dyer Avenue is Eric T. Sondergeld who has lived in Canton since 1989. Eric works as a research actuary for LIMRA International. Eric has been an active volunteer for several organizations including the Land Trust and is presently serving as a member of the Canton Conservation Commission. As a volunteer for the Farmington River Watershed Association he looks after a section of Rattlesnake Brook and assists with scoring of annual races at the Tariffville Gorge. An active outdoorsman, Eric's interests include hiking, running, mountain biking, cross-country skiing, organic gardening, and bird watching.

Our third new addition to the board is Chris Williams. She grew up in West Hartford, went to the Macduffie School and Skidmore College where she majored in art and minored in geology. An avid bicyclist, she commutes to work in Avon where she and her husband, Charlie Stohlberg, have run a picture frame shop for 22 years. She is a member of Transportation Alternatives, a N.Y.C. based group promoting bicycling. Currently Chris is planning to marshall the N.Y.C. Century tour this fall. Chris and Charlie have lived on Breezy Hill for twenty-two years where they share their property with a herd of two donkeys and a mule (the work crew) which has added a certain inspiration to their abundant vegetable and flower garden.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR WORK PARTIES

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 9:00 AM TO 2:00 PM—SWEETHEART MOUNTAIN, DUNNE AVENUE

TASKS: REMOVE POLES, WIRES, AND OTHER REMNANTS OF THE SKI-TOW OPERATION. BULKY WASTE MUST BE CARRIED DOWN THE HILL AND TRANSPORTED TO THE TRANSFER STATION. QUESTIONS: CALL BUNNY TERRY AT 693-8248 OR ART MAUGER AT 693-8819. RAIN DATE: APRIL 19, 12:00 NOON.

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 9:00 AM TO 2:00 PM—MARY CONKLIN SANCTUARY, 144 INDIAN HILL ROAD

TASKS: PRUNE APPLE TREES AND DOGWOODS. SET CEDAR POSTS FOR BLUEBIRD HOUSES AND MOUNT HOUSES. POSSIBLE TRAIL CONSTRUCTION, IF TIME ALLOWS. TOOLS TO BRING: GLOVES, PRUNING SAWS, SHEARS OR LOPPERS, POST HOLE DIGGERS, CROW BARS AND SHOVELS. QUESTIONS: CALL CHARLIE DEWEESE 693-3988. NO RAIN DATE; MAYBE IT WON'T SNOW THIS TIME.

SATURDAY, MAY 9, 9:00 AM TO 2:00 PM—SMITH TREE FARM, DOYLE ROAD—RAIN OR SHINE

TASKS: PLANT 200 SEEDLINGS. TOOLS: NARROW BLADED PLANTING SHOVELS AVAILABLE AT THE FARM OR BRING YOUR OWN. QUESTIONS: CALL TED COWLES AT 693-6340 OR JOHN PECH AT 693-2880.

SATURDAY, MAY 23, 9:00 TO 2:00 PM—MARY CONKLIN SANCTUARY—144 INDIAN HILL ROAD

TASKS: TRAIL BUILDING, BRUSH AND TREE CUTTING, MOWING. TOOLS: ALL KINDS OF CUTTING TOOLS. QUESTIONS: CALL CHARLIE DEWEESE AT 693-3988.

SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 9:00 AM TO 2:00 PM - SMITH TREE FARM, DOYLE ROAD

TASKS: TREE PRUNING, CULLING, AND TRANSPLANTING; CLEARING BRUSH AND SMALL TREES; MOWING. TOOLS: ALL KINDS OF CUTTING TOOLS, SHOVELS. QUESTIONS: CALL TED COWLES AT 693-6340 OR JOHN PECH AT 693-2880.

SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 9 AM TO 3 PM—MARY CONKLIN SANCTUARY, 144 INDIAN HILL ROAD
WORKSHOP ON TRAIL CONSTRUCTION LED BY PETER JENSEN.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 9:00 AM TO 2:00 PM - SMITH TREE FARM, DOYLE ROAD

TASKS: MOWING, WEED WACKING, BRUSH CUTTING. QUESTIONS: CALL TED COWLES AT 693-6340 OR JOHN PECH AT 693-2880.

DOG OWNERS, PLEASE LEASH YOUR DOG!

TO DOG OWNERS FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS: PLEASE KEEP YOUR DOG ON A LEASH WHEN VISITING LAND TRUST PROPERTIES. THIS IS FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY, AS WELL AS THE SAFETY OF YOUR DOG. RECENTLY THERE WAS A MOST UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT ON ONE OF OUR TRAILS. A DOG ON A LEASH WAS UPSET BY AN UNLEASHED DOG WHICH CAUSED THE LEASHED DOG TO DRAG HER OWNER, WHO SUFFERED SEVERE KNEE DAMAGE AS A RESULT. PLEASE HELP TO PREVENT THIS FROM HAPPENING AGAIN.

HIKES FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

THREE HIKES, OPEN TO ALL, ARE PLANNED FOR THIS SPRING. EACH WILL BE LED BY A KNOWLEDGEABLE MEMBER OF THE LAND TRUST.

NIGHT HIKE FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 7:30 PM

JOIN SHIRLEY SUTTON IN AN EXPLORATION OF THE NIGHT ENVIRONMENT! THIS EASY TO MODERATE, THREE-MILE HIKE WILL BEGIN AT THE TRAILHEAD OF THE BREEZY HILL FARM TRAIL ON BREEZY HILL ROAD. (FOLLOW RT. 44 TO INDIAN HILL ROAD. INDIAN HILL ROAD WILL END AT BREEZY HILL ROAD. THE TRAILHEAD IS .1 MILE ON THE LEFT.) WITHOUT FLASHLIGHTS, WE WILL FOCUS ON THE DIFFERENT SIGHTS, SOUNDS, AND SMELLS OF THE NIGHT THROUGH VARIOUS ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING DRAWING AND OPTICAL ILLUSION. THE HIKE IS APPROPRIATE FOR ALL AGES AND IS APPROXIMATELY 90 MINUTES IN LENGTH. FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT SHIRLEY SUTTON, 693-4067.

SATURDAY, APRIL 25 - 2:00 PM - MARY CONKLIN SANCTUARY.

COME ENJOY THIS WONDERFUL PROPERTY WITH CHARLIE DEWEESE AS YOUR GUIDE. MEET AT THE GARAGE 144 INDIAN HILL ROAD. QUESTIONS: CALL CHARLIE AT 693-3988.

SATURDAY, JUNE 6 - 2:00 PM - SMITH TREE FARM.

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN ALL ABOUT THE ABUNDANT FLORA AND FAUNA IN THE WOODS AND FIELDS OF THIS PROPERTY FROM OUR RESIDENT-NATURALIST, TOM NOONAN. MEET AT THE BARN ON DOYLE ROAD. QUESTIONS CALL TOM AT 693-2243.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Betty Stanley	President
Jay Weintraub	Vice President
Bunny Terry	Treasurer
Shirley Sutton	Secretary
Skip Alford	Laurie Oleasz
Ted Cowles	John Pech
Bill Danielson	Bob Porter
Charlie DeWeese	Elenor Smith
Fred Feibel	Eric Sondergeld
Jay Kaplan	Arthur Sweeton
Art Mauger	Chris Williams

...with a little help from our friends...

The Land Trust depends on and is grateful for the volunteer help provided by members and friends. Help comes in a variety of ways including selling of Christmas trees by Peter Lamb, calling volunteers for work parties by Martha Whitelegg, and preparing Newletters for print by Kathie Jenkins. There are also some less common forms of help. Rhonda DeWeese generously donated \$200 that she made from the sale of chrysanthemums that she grew. In Avon members of the Youth Group at the Avon Memorial United Methodist Church are building bluebird houses in the basement of Ted and Vicki Kuziaks' home. This project grew out of a discussion over cocoa that the Kuziaks, whose son Burke is in the Youth Group, had with Betty Stanley after buying a Christmas tree. The Kuziaks learned of our tree sale from the notice in the *Courant*.

Support Needed for Measures Funding State Open Space Acquisition

As we go to press, the Connecticut Legislature is taking up bills to provide authorization and funding by the State for the acquisition of Open Space. As proponents of open space, we should know about and show our support for these proposals to establish a land acquisition program in our state.

Last year the Legislature established a 10% target for state-owned Open Space over and above land owned by municipalities, Land Trusts, and others. In addition the Governor's Blue Ribbon Task Force on Open Space has recommended that \$20 million be allocated annually to acquire open space through lump sum disbursement to the Department of Environmental protection.

The Governor in his budget has proposed a five-year plan that includes \$107 million of bond fund money for acquisition of open space by the state, plus \$59 million of bond money for cost sharing of purchases with municipalities and private non-profits. The budget submitted by the Governor for next year includes bonding of \$22 million and \$10 million respectively for these programs.

Jesse Stratton, our representative, who, as co-chair of the Environmental Committee, is a leading supporter of these proposals, reports widespread bipartisan support for the program that includes Jim Fleming, our senator. According to Stratton, the bill setting up the overall program as proposed by the Task Force has been approved by her committee and the Finance Committee and will probably be passed. However, she also reports that funding for the program is much less certain. The Bond Package for the next fiscal year that has been approved by the Finance Committee includes \$19.5 for open space purchases by the state plus \$2.5 million for purchase of agriculture land development rights, but the package excludes the \$10 million for matching grants for purchases by others.

To help obtain full funding of the program, Stratton suggests that we send letters supporting the program to members of the Finance Committee, in particular to Representative Carl Schiessl, chair of the committee, and Representative Fred Gelsi, chair of the Bonding Sub-Committee. Letters should emphasize support for a bond package that includes \$10 million for cost sharing of purchases with municipalities and non-profits as well as \$22 million for purchase of open space by the state. Letters addressed to the representatives should be sent to Legislative Office Building, Hartford, CT 06106.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

WORK PARTIES

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(SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 12:00 NOON, RAIN DATE)
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SMITH TREE FARM, DOYLE ROAD - RAIN OR SHINE
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TRAIL CONSTRUCTION WORKSHOP
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HIKES

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 7:30 PM **BREEZY HILL FARM TRAIL**
SATURDAY, APRIL 25 - 2:00 PM **MARY CONKLIN SANCTUARY**
SATURDAY, JUNE 6 - 2:00 PM **SMITH TREE FARM**

ANNUAL MEETING AND PICNIC - SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 4:00 PM **SMITH TREE FARM**



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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