

**Canton Land Conservation
Trust, Inc.**

**Spring 2002
Newsletter**

Sun, Wind and Woodland

A generous contribution from a member enabled us to start work on this wonderful property. At least two dumpster loads of old farm equipment, abandoned vehicles, bits and pieces of metal, an old stove and even the proverbial kitchen sink were removed from the old barn foundation and the area surrounding it. Work around the foundation site will continue this spring. Trees growing in the foundation will be removed. The cleared areas will be fork raked and then seeded.

Thanks to hard work and a generous amount of time and energy from dedicated volunteer Jon Shadford, a new trail has been created which starts next to the foundation and winds its way through a variety of plant communities. The trail ends at the northeast corner of the property on Breezy Hill Road. More time and effort will be contributed by Shirley Sutton, when she marks the trail this spring. She will be joined by Philip Doyle mapping this and other CLCT trails. These maps should be a great help for our many hikers.

Another trail will also start by the old foundation. It will follow the southern boundary of the Preserve and head in a westerly direction toward the Canton/New Hartford line. There will be two connectors with the trail system of Breezy Hill Farm allowing you a variety of hiking options.

Capen Cabin - Update

In the Land Trust's spring newsletter last year it was mentioned that in order to bring this structure back to top notch condition, we needed to attend to a number of maintenance jobs.

Much has been accomplished since then, but, guess what, more work is required! The cabin was built in 1936 by George Capen and three close friends, so it has had sixty-six years to deteriorate. Here is what we discovered.

- 1. A section of the roof over the smaller room was leaking.**
- 2. The west wall appeared to contain considerable rot.**
- 3. The front door sill and the foundation sill had severe rot.**
- 4. The main building was re-roofed around 1977, so it has had 25 years and counting**
- 5. The main chimney, constructed of local stone, is literally a "work of art," but upon close inspection was found to be severely cracked and even had stones missing from both shoulders.**
- 6. Although the interior is very useable, it suffers from past water leaks and years of smoke pollution from the wood stove and fireplace. A new coat of paint would do wonders in improving its attractiveness.**
- 7. Exterior siding should be cleaned on parts of the north and east sides where there is a significant accumulation of mold.**
- 8. The entire cabin needs to be given a new coat of stain.**
- 9. The grounds have had some attention but there is plenty more that can be done by volunteers and by those using the cabin.**

Jobs Undertaken to Date

Last fall many hands attended a work party to spruce up the area around the cabin, clearing fallen branches, raking leaves, removing litter, etc. What an improvement.

After we wrapped the entire main chimney in a large tarpaulin for the winter, a contract was let to repair and repoint the whole structure. This was completed early in April.

Last fall a work party removed (with difficulty) the smaller kitchen chimney and partially pounded it into small pieces. There's more to be done. Has Peter Lamb recovered?

The west wall of the small kitchen room, including the header, studs and foundation sill, was removed (literally fell apart). It has almost been rebuilt. Thanks to volunteers Simon White, John Pech, and Fred Feibel. A great deal was accomplished April 6th by several directors and a number of volunteers, including Stephen Shadford, Ted Kolzak, Gene Douthit, Betty Crowe, and Thomas Stang.

**Canton Land Trust
Trailblazers**



The Canton Land Trust hiking trails are just waiting to be explored, protected and maintained. To help get our young naturalists involved, the Land Trust is currently formulating an exciting, interactive, all new, Kid's Adventure Club. The club will be geared to attract kids ages 5-12.

With the Land Trust celebrating it's 30th anniversary this October, the time is right to get the up and coming generation involved to help preserve our open spaces here in Canton.

For a contribution of \$5.00, kids can become active junior members of the Canton Land Trust. Junior membership will include a fun and informative activity booklet with plenty of ideas and fun activities to help explore the wonderful trails of the Land Trust. Learn to identify plants and trees, track animals and identify scat.

Junior members will also be included on guided fall hikes featuring scavenger and treasure hunts.



Special recognition will be given to the junior members at the Anniversary party this October.

Activity booklets should be available around the end of May. Look for more details to follow.

We're having a party

There will be a catered picnic and party to celebrate the Canton Land Conservation Trust Thirtieth Anniversary, October 5, 2002 at the Mary Conklin Preserve, 144 Indian Hill Road. We are currently in the planning stage for activities, but a number of possibilities have been suggested, including a mushroom walk, orienteering, wildlife walk with Jay Kaplan, a climbing wall, and a scarecrow decorating contest. There will also be special events for kids. If you would like to be involved as a volunteer for the party generally, call Chris Williams at 693-6142. To volunteer to help with kids' activities, call Mary Ellen Mullins at 693-2299.

REMINDER

YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS THE LIFE BLOOD OF OUR ORGANIZATION. WE ARE MOST GRATEFUL AND APPRECIATIVE OF ALL THOSE PEOPLE WHO HAVE RENEWED THEIR MEMBERSHIP. YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT IS NEEDED FOR OUR PLANNED PROJECTS: NEW TRAILS, MAINTENANCE OF OUR MANY PROPERTIES AND AN UPDATED TRAILS AND PROPERTY BOOK. FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE FORGOTTEN TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP, PLEASE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE ENVELOPE INCLUDED WITH THIS NEWSLETTER AND RENEW TODAY.

Board of Directors

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Ted Cowles	Tim Lord	Eric Sondergeld
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A walk in the woods should be a pleasurable occurrence. Now that spring has finally sprung, there are birds to see and hear, wild flowers to find and enjoy. It is not a pleasurable occasion, though, if someone's dog comes bounding up, startling you, jumping and perhaps upsetting your dog, who is under control. We must urge all hikers with dogs to have them under control at all times. Otherwise, you are not being fair to your fellow hikers. Thank you.

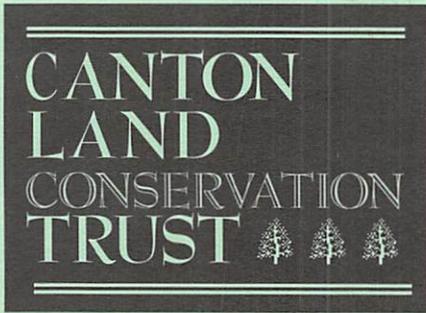


Smith Christmas Tree Farm

April 27th will be the Christmas tree planting day. The last two years have been very difficult on our newly planted trees. The survival rates have been very low. It is hoped that this year we will have lots of volunteers planting trees and that these volunteers will adopt the ten trees that they plant by watering, and weeding them through the summer. Children are invited to join their parents in planting trees.

Website

Be sure to check our web site: <http://cantonlandtrust.org>. It is up and running. Our webmaster, Jackie Shadford, keeps the site up to date. All our activities will be posted. Check often for volunteer opportunities, hikes and plans for our 30th anniversary party and fund raiser.



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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Fred Feibel
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Calendar

April 23 & 25	Sun, Wind and Woodland— Clear brush along road in preparation for seeding	4:30-6:30 pm
April 18 & 25	Fred Swan Preserve Boundary marking, trail marking and construction	9:00-11:00 am
April 30 & May 2	Fred Swan Preserve --Trail work	4:30-6:30 pm
April 27	Smith Christmas Tree Farm Plant Christmas Trees and trail maintenance	9:00-12:00 noon
June 9	Capen Cabin Annual meeting and supper	4pm hike 5pm
August 17	Onion Mountain - Canton—Joint trip with Canton Land Trust and The Nature Conservancy	10:00am

We will explore this intrusive traprock ridge on properties owned by the Canton Land Trust and the Town of Simsbury. The diversity of plant communities found on Onion Mountain reflect the wide variety of soil moisture conditions, ranging from the xeric ridgetop to forested talus slope to swamp communities at the base. Meet at Roaring Brook Nature Center.