

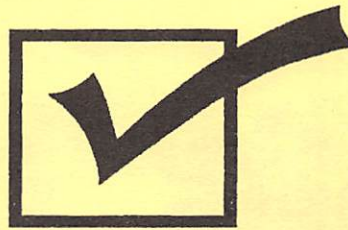
Canton Land Conservation Trust, Inc.

Spring 2003
Newsletter

Open Space Grant

On Monday, April 7th Lieutenant Governor Jodi Rell announced the recipients of the last open space grants applied for in November 2002 at a program attended by DEP Commissioner Arthur Rocque, State Representative Kevin Witkos, four representatives of the Canton Land Trust, and representatives of other towns and Land Trusts with successful grant applications. The Canton Land Conservation Trust was the fortunate recipient of a grant for \$59,900 to help the Land Trust in its effort to purchase 74 acres from Uplands Group LLC. This wonderful tract can be accessed from Uplands Drive, Westwood Drive off of High Valley Drive, and from our Gladstone Property, which borders Woodchuck Hill Road. It is a high piece of land which slopes down to the north, east, and south. During the winter there are good views to the west, of the Barndoor hills to the north and of Onion Mountain to the southeast. Since it was logged in the recent past, the woods are made up of mixed hardwoods, some conifers and lots of young saplings. Wetland areas are also present, giving us a wide variety of habitats.

We are indeed fortunate that, with the help of the Open Space Grant, we should be able to purchase this marvelous property. It is now up to the Land Trust to match the State's grant and toward this end, your contributions to our Land Acquisition Fund continue to be necessary and will be gratefully accepted. Once the acquisition is completed, the property will be opened to the public and the Land Trust will start a trail and management plan.



**Open Space and Farmland Protection Funding
is up for elimination in the Governor's Budget.**

This is the program which is aiding us in our effort to purchase the Uplands property (see previous page). Budget cuts across the board are necessary, but totally eliminating all open space funding would seem to be a short-sighted move. Preservation of open space is a critical component of preserving our quality of life, and many believe this to be particularly true for Canton. Preserving the most important lands for water quality, recreation for all of our citizens, and scenic vistas is of the highest importance. Help keep some funding in place so that the program can more easily get up and running when the economy is in better shape by contacting the Governor and your state legislators, by letter or e-mail, as soon as possible.

Addresses

**Governor John Rowland
State Capitol**

**210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, Ct. 06019 Governor.Rowland@po.state.ct.us**

**Lieutenant Governor M. Jodi Rell
State Capitol
Room 304
Hartford, Ct., 06106 ltgovernor.rell@po.state.ct.us**

**Canton is represented by Kevin Witkos, in the House of Representatives
E-Mail Address: Kevin.Witkos@housegop.state.ct.us**

**and by Thomas J. Herlihy, in the Senate.
E-Mail Address Thomas.Herlihy@po.state.ct.us**

Membership and Land Acquisition:

An envelope is enclosed for those of you who have overlooked your membership renewal, and for everyone who would like to contribute to the Land Acquisition Fund and the purchase of the Uplands property. Each and every membership is of great importance to your Land Trust, not only financially, but also as an indication of your support for what we are doing. Those of you whose membership needs to be renewed will find a red mark next to your name and address.

The Land Trust is "on the move", and we hope to have more exciting news soon, but without your help we shall not be able to continue our efforts effectively.

Reminder to SNET Customers

The Canton Land Trust is participating in the SNET Community Connections program. If you are a customer or sign up in this program, SNET will give the Canton Land Trust five percent (5%) of every dollar you spend on long distance calls. This would be a great help to the Land Trust. You will be helping us raise money at absolutely no extra cost to you. If you are a SNET All-Distance subscriber or if you switch to SNET, call their Community Connections number 1-800-635-7638. Give the SNET representative your name, phone number and 3 digit code at the end of the account number on your bill; give our name, the Canton Land Conservation Trust and our group Organization number- 3506. You can also sign up online; go to www.snet.com/community; click Community Service, click SEC SNET Community Service, and follow their directions. Thank you.

SOMETHING NEW

WHILE WE SHALL CONTINUE TO HAVE SCHEDULED WORKDAYS AT THE CAPEN CABIN AND THE SMITH TREE FARM, WE ARE GOING TO TRY A DIFFERENT SYSTEM FOR OTHER WORK THAT NEEDS TO BE DONE. THE PROPOSAL IS THAT THOSE INTERESTED IN HELPING WITH PROJECTS WILL "ADOPT" ONE OF OUR PROPERTIES. EACH PROPERTY WILL HAVE ITS OWN LIST OF PROJECTS TO BE COMPLETED, AND WORK CAN BE DONE AT YOUR CONVENIENCE. TAKE YOUR FAMILY OR FRIENDS/NEIGHBORS FOR THE AFTERNOON OR JUST AN HOUR OR TWO TO CLEAR A TRAIL OF FALLEN BRANCHES, DIG OUT INVASIVE PLANTS, OR HELP CLEAR A NEWLY FLAGGED TRAIL. IN THE FALL WE SHALL GET TOGETHER TO HEAR WHAT YOU HAVE DONE, LISTEN TO YOUR SUGGESTIONS AND MAKE PLANS FOR THE FUTURE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AND IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL BETTY STANLEY—693-02074.

Eagle Scout

Robert Maglietti, a ninth grader at Canton High School and a Boy Scout, plans to earn his Eagle Scout badge. The project he has chosen to obtain this hard-to-earn badge is to clear, complete and properly mark a trail at our Sun, Wind and Woodland preserve. When Robert's project is finished, we will have a trail that goes along the south side of the preserve, with two connectors to an already existing trail on our Breezy Hill Farm property. When completed, you will be able to see not only evidence of past farming activities such as stone walls, curious rock piles, and an old foundation, but also a seasonal pool with many blue flag iris, and a good variety of flora throughout the length of the trail. The new trail will allow hikers the option of an hour hike or an extended hike of two-plus hours, It will be an exciting addition to our trail system. We look forward to Robert's completion of this ambitious project and are most appreciative of his interest in the Canton Land Trust.



The Canton Land Trust won an award at the recent Land Trust Service Bureau's 20th Annual Land Trust Convocation. Our Trailblazer program received the award in the Education category. Brad Gilchrist's marvelous workbook and Mary Ellen Mullins' enthusiasm and organization perhaps made this award possible, and all of us know that we are indeed fortunate to have such talented people volunteer their time and expertise.

The Trailblazer's next outing will be at our Sun, Wind and Woodland Preserve on Sunday, May 4th at 2 pm. Discovering vernal pools and their inhabitants will be the focus of this family hike.



Land Trust Volunteer of the Year (and Every Year!)

The Land Trust notes with pride and friendship the 90th birthday of our long term director, volunteer, donor and friend, Art Sweeton. Art has a special relationship with the land, having grown up on West Street when it was farmland and recalling how he enjoyed spending time with his grandfather up on Ratlum Mountain. Art and his wife Eunice have been generous land donors to both the Canton and Barkhamsted Land Conservation Trusts. Art is also the very heart of our Board of Directors. Whenever the board confronts a difficult problem, it seems it is always Art's wisdom that helps the rest of us see the proper way to handle it. Art is a great hiker and explorer – and well into his 80s was a tree planter and trail builder on Land Trust properties. He continues to be a great inspiration, teacher and friend to the Land Trust board and members, and to all of Canton.

**Land Trust Members and Friends
Enjoyed a Moonlight Walk**

On February 15, about 75 Land Trust members, directors and friends enjoyed a moonlight walk on the snow followed by a potluck dinner party at Rhonda and Charlie DeWeese's home. The walk followed their trails down to the Big Down Marsh in Barkhamstead. The trails were lit by over 150 luminaries, including a loop around the frozen marsh. Very cold, and lots of snow, but many of the hikers were on snowshoes, and that made for a good path. Special thanks to Mary Ellen and Sean Mullins for lighting all those luminaries. After the party, the workers made another loop at about midnight. It was beautiful with the moon right overhead.

Reading the Forest Landscape

Sunday May 18th at 1:30pm Walt Landgraf will lead a hike interpreting what can be seen at the Sun, Wind and Woodland Preserve. The hike will start from the foundation on the top of Breezy Hill Road. Walt is extremely knowledgeable about the history of the land, and a great communicator. Many of you will be familiar with him from his presentations at the Stone Museum in Barkhamsted and from Canton Historical Society lectures. Space will be limited, so call Chris Williams - 693-6142 - to reserve your place. The hike should last about two hours.

Wanted:

If you have extra saws, axes, pruners or the like, the Land Trust would appreciate having them for use by our volunteers. And to "think big", a riding lawn mower would be a wonderful contribution to help with maintenance at the Mary Conklin Sanctuary.



P.O. Box 41
Canton Center, CT 06020

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Spring Calendar

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| May 03 | 9 am, Capen Cabin work party. Call Ted Cowles, 693-6340. |
| May 04 | 2 pm, Trailblazer Hike at Sun, Wind & Woodlands. Call Mary Ellen Mullins 693-2299. |
| May 10 | 9 am, Smith Tree Farm—Christmas Tree Planting. Call Ted Cowles, 693-6340. |
| May 18 | 1:30 pm. Hike Sun, Wind & Woodland with Walt Landgraf. Call Chris Williams 693-6142. |
| June 01 | 4 pm, Land Trust Annual Meeting at Roaring Brook Nature Center. Hank Gruner will speak on Biodiversity of the Farmington River Valley, followed by a pot luck supper. |