



Canton Land Conservation Trust, Inc.

Fall 2003
Newsletter

The Land Trust seeks to promote the preservation of open space in Canton. Occasionally, however, a piece of land is offered to the Land Trust and not accepted. Why is that? The Land Trust seeks to own properties that have significant recreational, habitat and open space value. The Land Trust has limited resources for land management, and wants to spend its stewardship activities on the parcels that have the most open space value for Canton. Our acquisition committee has developed selection criteria against which all potential acquisitions are measured.

Some of the more important criteria are significance, contiguity to other open space, and size. The significance of a particular parcel of open space depends on many things, including its location, quality, natural resources, and visual appeal. Properties with unusual flora or fauna, views, or unique character are most desirable. Property such as detention ponds, swales, or with potential maintenance issues are generally not desirable.

The proximity of a particular piece of land to existing or potential future open space tracts is also an important consideration. The Land Trust has been able to assemble contiguous parcels upon which we have built and maintained trails enjoyed by the public. Contiguity is also a major factor in creating and maintaining wildlife habitats and corridors, which become increasingly crucial as more of Canton's land is developed for residential subdivisions.

Size matters. Bigger blocks of open space create more opportunities to preserve views and habitat, and to promote passive recreation. Larger pieces also create better opportunities for the Land Trust's stewardship program. Larger, contiguous tracts are easier to manage and maintain than smaller, scattered and fragmented parcels.

Many parcels come to our attention because of Canton subdivision regulations, which require that applicants seeking to subdivide 10 or more acres reserve up to 15% of the subject land (or up to 30% of the land in the case of an open space subdivision) as dedicated open space. The Land Trust works closely with the Canton Conservation Commission to determine whether proposed open space should be preserved by means of a transfer to the Land Trust (or to another third party such as the Town), or by a permanent conservation easement placed on the property.

Charlotte Goodwin Craig, a longtime benefactor of the Canton Land Trust, died August 24th. Charlotte donated the first parcel of land to the Trust in 1973. She served on the board for a number of years. Charlotte was not only interested in the preservation of Canton's open spaces, but was also keenly interested in preserving the architecture in her community; she sat on the committee that founded the Canton Center Historic District. Charlotte was also deeply concerned about the welfare of others, and where she saw a need, she acted. She co-founded the Canton Food Bank in the early 80s and continued to coordinate its activities until 2000. Charlotte loved the outdoors and was an avid hiker, becoming a member of the prestigious Adirondack 46ers at a relatively young age. The Land Trust's first blazed trail was named in her honor and is located on the Wilson Smith Preserve. Charlotte will be remembered for her generous spirit and modest demeanor. She will be missed by all who knew her and whose lives she touched.

Swan Preserve Trail

The Swan Preserve has a wonderful new trail, and is in the process of getting new and more convenient parking. This is our first parking lot, and will enable people to hike at this popular spot without having to park along Case Street.



Access to Cherry Brook

Fred and Harold Humphrey and their sister Lucy Wong have given the Land Trust an easement along approximately 1500 feet of the east side of Cherry Brook in the back of their woodlot off West Road, with the intent for us to build a trail for public access. This section of Cherry Brook is particularly beautiful and contains a large swimming hole. We are most excited and appreciative about this gift. We are looking forward to creating the trail, and to taking a dip on a hot summer day next year.

An Open Letter to our Members and Friends

A legacy is something inherited or passed down from one person to another. Canton is our legacy, which we have inherited or come to own in one way or another to do with as we wish. Now we have a choice. We can sit back while others use the land for private gain or we can help to preserve some of Canton's beauty and even work to enhance that beauty. How often have we heard someone say, "I can remember when there were no buildings in that area, only fields and woods?"

The paragraph above appeared in the Canton Land Conservation Trust newsletter almost thirty years ago. Your Land Trust has been very successful over the past thirty years acquiring, protecting and maintaining some of the most beautiful properties and important habitats in Canton. Most of this has come as the result of the amazing generosity and foresight of Canton residents and lovers of the land. The Land Trust had not purchased a property from its owner until 2000. All the property acquired prior to that was donated, except for one preserve purchased for back taxes.

While it may seem that we have protected a great amount of open space, there are still important areas in town that are vulnerable to loss. Everybody in town knows that the golf course has given way to development. Everybody in town also knows that Sweetheart Mountain hangs in the balance. There are a number of other properties now or soon to be available, including farms, ridge tops and forests. Right now, your Land Trust is in negotiation for several properties. To purchase just those properties in current negotiation will cost some \$150,000 more than the entire non-committed assets of the Land Trust, necessitating some serious fund-raising. In addition, there are other important properties that need to be acted on quickly, or be lost forever.

We can certainly prioritize, and protect those that give us the biggest bang for our buck. Unfortunately, we seem to be right now at a crossroads, where the pressure for change is great, and we need to act now or lose the signature properties we identify with Canton.

It is of the highest importance for you, the people of Canton, to support the acquisition and preservation of as many of these properties as we can possibly afford, at a time when they are in danger of being gone forever. Please be as generous as you can, and make a contribution this season to the Land Trust's acquisition fund. The need is great, and the opportunity at this very moment is with us. The window may close.

New Trail at SWW

As an Eagle Scout project, Robert Maglietti devoted a great deal of time and effort this past spring and summer to completing a new trail at our Sun, Wind & Woodland Preserve on Breezy Hill Road. The trail will be named in honor of Tom Perry, whose foresight and generosity provided the Land Trust with many gifts of land and who was also instrumental in the protection of Sun, Wind & Woodland before the Land Trust acquired it.

Robert is a tenth grader at Canton High and a member of Avon Scout Troop 274. Robert did a lot of the physical work, and he organized and supervised work parties that included fellow scouts and adults and constructed a sign complete with trail map and space for additional information at the trail head. A total of 174 volunteer person-hours were given by Robert and his workers. It is a job well done and well worthy of the Eagle Scout badge. The new trail is 1.5 miles long, and goes through historical farm terrain and a good variety of flora and fauna.



Hey kids, do you like to go hiking but you're not sure where the Canton Land Trust trails are? Why not become a Trailblazer and we will help you find out! The CLT Trailblazers is a kid friendly adventure club for kids ages 5-13. We meet once a month from October- April. The yearly \$5 membership includes a Trailblazer Activity Book with directions and information to all the hiking trails maintained by the Canton Land Trust. The hikes are Family hikes. An adult must accompany kids. This past year was our first year and we enjoyed some fun hikes including a scavenger hunt hike, night hike, animal tracking hike, vernal pool exploration and orienteering. . For more information on how to become a member or to find out when our next hike is scheduled for please call Mary Ellen Mullins 693-2299.

The following kids are the pioneers of the Trailblazers, who were members for the 2002/2003 season or for the beginning of the 2003/2004 year, and we would like to acknowledge them for their support. Thank you for making our first year a big success!

Matthew	Alvarez	Allyson	Getchell	Jeremy	Paiva
Kayla	Alvarez	Nathan	Getler	Amy	Paiva
Mark	Amoroso	Olivia	Gotaski	Amanda	Petruskevicius
Michael	Amoroso	Shannon	Griffin	Sam	Reynolds
Katie	Armstrong	Dylan	Jockel	Lauren	Ronge
Lauren	Berger	Miranda	Jurras	Augie	Shaw
Wyatt	Campbell	Mark	Jurras	Cameron	Sheldon
Chris	Coleman	Kelly	Kumat	Chris	Squire
David	Colon	Tyler	Lange	Jeremy	Stanhope
Mia	Colon	Cameron	Lange	Patrick	Sullivan
Coty	Consic	Grant	Lange	Benjamin	Sullivan
Zack	DeWeese	Daniel	Lewis	Matthew	Sullivan
Dillon	Donovan	Carly	Lockyer	Julia	Thompson
Nathan	Dube	Tim	Lockyer	Lauren	Traceski
Kelsey	Dube	Rebecca	Madigan	Leslie	Tracy
Aylannah	Dylag	Colin	Madigan	Nathan	Tracy
Abigayle	Dylag	Brian	Magna	Nico	Tuccillo
Walter	Dylag	Kailynn	Maloy	Vincent	Uccello
Lily	Edgar	Nick	Marchitto	Chris	Van De Bogart
Teddy	Engvall	Colin	Martin	Willem	van Gemenen
Robby	Engvall	Alexandra	Martin	Ellie	van Gemenen
Leigh	FitzGerald	Lindsey	Milligan	Emily	van Gemenen
Bryan	Fitzpatrick-Fortier	Kyle	Mullins	Joseph	Viener
Justin	Fitzpatrick-Fortier	Sean	Mullins	Billy	Villano
Miranda	Fitzpatrick-Fortier	Wesley	Nichols-Wright	Chris	Villano
Tyler	Fitzpatrick-Fortier	Emily	Nichols-Wright	Katie	Walker
Kayla	Fournier	Cody	Ohlheiser	Garrett	Wolf
Jeffrey	Fournier	Keri	Ohlheiser	Alexandra	Wolf
Madeleine	Gassman	April	Oswald	Sam	Worley
Wolfgang	Gassman	Charlotte	Oswald		

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Trail Guide

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Look for our new trail guides. They will be available by the Christmas Tree Sale. The new guide is loose-leaf in form, for easier updating, and is available for a donation of \$8 for members and \$10 for non-members, including updates as they become available. The trail guide includes improved maps and property descriptions, and all the Land Trust trails. Some of the new maps were prepared by Phil Doyle, using topographic maps as a base. They are really great! We thank Jackie Shadford for her hard work in developing the new guide. Jackie is also the Land Trust's webmaster (among her many talents and contributions). Please visit us on the web at www.cantonlandtrust.org.

New Director

Our newest director is Mary Ellen Mullins. Mary Ellen supplies the ideas and energy behind one of our most popular programs, the Trailblazers Club. She lives on Case Street with her husband Harold and two boys, Sean and Kyle. Mary Ellen is quite the outdoorswoman, and enjoys skiing, cycling, running, swimming and hiking.

A very big
Thank you!

We would like to thank Mary and Chip Geer of Acorn Studio in Hartford for donating their time and talents to produce our great new Land Trust brochure.

Help us by calling all your friends!

Many thanks to those of you who have signed up with SNET's Community Connections which donates to the Land Trust 5% of every dollar you spend on long distance calls. We have made a good start with this program, but we would love to see the quiet stream turn into a torrent.

This is an opportunity to help the Land Trust raise money at no 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 them our name, the Canton Land Conservation Trust, and our group Organization Number - 3506. You can also sign up online. Go to to www.snet.com/community; click Community Service and follow the directions.



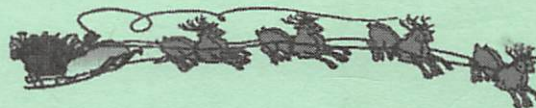
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Please renew your membership or join the Canton Land Conservation Trust.
We are a public, town-wide organization and we need your help.



CALENDAR

- **December 6 (9 am to 2 pm)** Christmas Tree Sale. Smith Tree Farm
- **Saturday, December 6 11 am.** Trailblazers Hike and Activities. Smith Tree Farm
- **January - TBA** Trailblazers Hike and Activities,
- **Sunday, January 18, 1 pm.** Cross Country Ski at Breezy Hill Farm, Call Betty Stanley 693-2074.
- **Saturday, February 7.** Moonlight snowshoe party at DeWeese property, Wright Road, Call 693-3988.
- **February - TBA** Trailblazers Hike and Activities,
- **March - TBA** Trailblazers Hike and Activities,
- **April - TBA** Trailblazers Hike and Activities,
- **June First weekend** 3rd, almost, annual Tour of Ratlum Mountain. Details in Spring newsletter.