



CANTON LAND CONSERVATION TRUST, INC.

**Spring 2007
Newsletter**

Thirty five years ago, on June 22, 1972, the first organizational meeting of the Canton Land Conservation Trust, Inc. took place. The farsighted founders of the organization are well known to many of you: Dick Sanger, President; Judi Friedman, Vice President; Eric (Bill) Danielson, Treasurer; John Kenney, Secretary. Other members of the Board were Miniver Forker, Channing Barlow, Jim Potter and Dick Petersen. The initial mailing for membership was scheduled for October to coincide with an expected visit of the State Environmental Commissioner, Dan Lufkin. By June of 1973, the Land Trust had been given its first piece of property, and another had been promised. There were now sixty members, and the first newsletter was sent out in October of that year. Other activities included designing a logo, a wetland walk, and the creation of a slide show by Judi Friedman based on "The Land is Sacred". Brad Pierce was the first Boy Scout to do an Eagle Scout project in conjunction with the Land Trust—clearing the Craig property and planting shrubs to encourage birds.

Dr. Wilson Smith donated our first large parcel, eighty acres, now the Land Trust's tree farm, in 1975. By that time the Land Trust had been given eight separate properties. Because of people's generosity, love of the land, concern for the future and belief in what the Land Trust is doing, today over sixteen hundred acres have been preserved and protected.

Property maintenance, funding, land acquisition, membership, membership activities and publicity issues were always points of discussion at meetings then, as they are today. We work to be good stewards to our properties, strive to communicate with our membership and the community and continue to protect the open spaces of Canton that mean so much to all of us.

To help us along the way, we would appreciate it if you would take a moment to answer the questions on page 3. Please send the questionnaire to:

Canton Land Conservation Trust
P.O. Box 41
Canton Center, CT 06020

MEMBERS' DINNER

A large group of Land Trust members and friends enjoyed our second Members' Dinner on March 27 at La Trattoria Restaurant. The evening began with a silent auction comprised of a broad variety of services, gift certificates and items such as photographs, paintings, and beautiful and imaginative pottery. The Land Trust is grateful for all the donations made by local businesses as well as the generosity of many members. Of special note was the donation not only of a Harriet Fox print but also a photograph by Angelo Bettera, long-time owner of La Trattoria. When Angelo saw that a silent auction would be part of the evening, he promptly volunteered to contribute something, immediately removing the print and the photograph from the restaurant wall, adding them to the auction table—a true indication of generosity and thoughtfulness from a long-time member of the Land Trust.

"Sweetheart Mountain" provided delightful music for the event, and Hinman's Flower Shop donated bowls of pansies to give a festive air to the dining room. Following a delicious dinner, Walt Landgraf, well-known Director of Barkhamsted's Stone Museum and President of their Historical Society, increased our knowledge of forest changes over time and the many and varied animals which inhabit our part of New England. Yes, we do need to learn to live with bears and even moose!

We are grateful for everyone who contributed to the success of the evening. Those not mentioned above include:

Collinsville Savings Society
Avon Veterinary Clinic
Health Trax of Avon
Joanne Pierce Antiques & Collectibles
Canton Clay Works
Roaring Brook Nature Center
Hickory Ledges Farm
Long's Automotive
Riverside Nursery
New England Audio & Video
John Rohlifing & Peggy Steinway Studio

Tile Design
Sartorius Sports
Spatters
The Mullins Family
Jay Kaplan
Sarah Faulkner
Jay B. Weintraub Law Office
Frank & Betty Stanley
Alden Warner
Chris Williams & Charles Stohlberg
Adriance

Sport House
Red Oak Landscaping
Country Sports
Elenor Smith
Bill Duncan
Mary Schwab
Pat Swan
Marcia Reid Marsted
Collinsville Canoe & Kayak
Canton Exxon

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The CLCT is looking for volunteers to help with maintenance of properties, stewardship, and trail building activities. If you are interested in coming out for some fun, fresh air and hard work shared with others who have a passion for preserving and increasing the value of open space, please join us. The trail building volunteers meet the fourth Saturday of every month (weather permitting) at the Canton Center General Store at 9:00 am.

For more information, please contact Drew Stone at 860 693-4350, or at drew.stone@comcast.net.

TRAILBLAZERS EARTH DAY ACTIVITIES

The CLCT Trailblazers ended the 2006/2007 season on Sunday, April 22 with an Earth Day hike and a game of Capture the Flag. Teams were divided on the basis of correct answers to a few earth-friendly questions. Based on some astute answers, Luke Knisley was delegated captain of the Red team and Jake Tilton headed the Blue team. Participants then set out for a hike on the Breezy Hill Trail. After the hike, the first back to the cow field began a raucous game of Capture the Flag, where red and blue flags were strategically placed. Even the "older kids" (parents) got into the game. Although there was no official judge, the Red team was declared the winners, and everyone feasted on lemonade, strawberries and other sweets.

QUESTIONNAIRE

- 1) How often do you use Land Trust properties? _____
- 2) Please list properties that you like and use the most. _____

- 3) If you are a hiker, where would you like to see more trails? _____

- 4) What organized activities would you like to see more of: evening speakers, hikes with a theme—geology, wild flowers, mushrooms, birds, history, etc., just a hike with a picnic at Capen Cabin? _____

- 5) Would you be interested in:
 being a steward of a property
 helping to construct and maintain trails
 lead a hike
 write an article for the newsletter
 take photos for publications and the web page
 plant Christmas trees and be involved with the tree farm
 help with the Trailblazers
- 6) When would be the most convenient time for you to volunteer? _____
- 7) Would you like to receive your newsletter electronically? _____

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Thank you for your response!

FULL MOON HIKE

It's always fun to be outside on a full moon night, but add a hearty bunch of Canton Land Trust families, a lunar eclipse, the Ray Smith Trail lined with hundreds of luminaries, a blue grass band and lots of food, and you have one enchanted evening! The 3rd annual Full Moon Family Hike, held on March 3, was once again a big success! Things were a little questionable around 4:00pm when the heavens clouded over and the rain started to pour. Hundreds of luminaries were ready to be lit along the Ray Smith Trail in the Mary Conklin Preserve, and miraculously, the sun showed itself just as it began to set. The bags were lit, and to the delight of many, the moon rose as promised in a lunar eclipse. Our thanks go to Mother Nature for her spectacular show and mild weather, making the evening unforgettable. By the time that hikers returned to the Mary Conklin cabin, the party was in full swing—guests tested all kinds of chili from the hot and spicy to vegetarian. The party continued around the campfire, with music provided by Redstone Ridge band.

Many thanks go to the volunteers who help prepare and lay out the luminaries, set up the event, plow and shovel snow, cook chili, bake goodies, play music, donate money and add smiling faces. We are so fortunate to have fun-loving and active Land Trust members like you!

Thanks to Mary Ellen Mullins for submission of the Earth Day and Full Moon Hike articles.



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Canton, CT
Permit No. 10

P.O. Box 41
Canton Center, CT 06020

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

cantonlandtrust.org

SPRING 2007 CALENDAR

MAY

12 - Saturday 9:00 AM Christmas Tree Planting - Smith Tree Farm

JUNE

2 - Saturday 10:30 AM Connecticut Forest and Park Trail Day
Hike led by Charlie DeWeese
Breezy Hill Farm & Sun Wind and Woodland west and east
For further information, call 693-3988.

3 - Sunday 10:30 AM Connecticut Forest and Park Trail Day
Hike led by Sarah Faulkner
Sweetheart Mountain
For further information, call 693-8450.

3 - Sunday 2:00 PM Butterfly Walk at Roaring Brook Nature Center led by Jay Kaplan
4:00 PM Canton Land Trust Annual Meeting at Roaring Brook Nature Ctr.
Slide Show "The Land is Sacred" by Judi Friedman
Business Meeting & Pot Luck Supper