

The Canton Land Conservation Trust, Inc.

Fall 2010

Newsletter

Edited by Gail Deutsch

LETTER FROM the CO-PRESIDENTS

We believe all members of the CLCT would agree that the preservation of land in Canton is important for the benefit of the community. We'll submit that the land has not only been preserved to support wildlife habitats and for the benefit of its scenic value, but also to support the lifestyle of most of the residents of Canton. The CLCT currently maintains many hiking trails and is adding new trails on its Uplands property. It is also adding cross-country ski trails on the Sun, Wind and Woodlands property. Please enjoy the trails; they are there for the enjoyment of all.

The Board of the CLCT comprises 21 members and each Board member serves on one or more of the CLCT's committees. The committees are listed on page 2 of this news letter. We are hoping to increase the size of each committee by adding non-Board members.

Two new residents of Canton have already joined committees. Wayne Jekot has joined our Membership Committee and Rich Stoops has joined our Stewardship Committee. Thank you Wayne and Rich for volunteering. We are particularly interested in increasing the sizes of our Membership, Community Relations and Development committees. If you are interested in joining these or any of our other Committees, please email us at b-gdeutsch@comcast.net.

We have received many compliments from third parties on behalf of the CLCT on the appearance of our website-cantonlandtrust.org. The site was developed by one of our Board members—Bill Duncan. Visit the site and you will find news of coming events, identification and location of our properties and trails and other information of value to residents of Canton.

One of the goals of the CLCT's Board for 2011 is to increase communication with our membership. To that end, we have opened a Facebook page. If you have a Facebook account, go to facebook.com and search for Canton Land Conservation Trust. We hope to receive comments from the membership. To start the dialogue, we have posted 3 questions. Please respond to 1 or more so that the Board may consider your ideas in developing programs or determining the priorities of issues that need to be addressed. The CLCT is your organization; please join the dialogue.

Respectfully, Barry Deutsch & Charlie DeWeese

LAND TRUST ALLIANCE RALLY

By Barry Deutsch

As one of my 1st acts as Charlie Deweese's co-president of the Canton Land Conservation Trust, I had the opportunity to attend the Land Trust Alliance Rally, held in Hartford from , Oct. 2-5, 2010. I attended the Rally on October 4th and 5th. It was thrilling to see over 1700 delegates representing Land Trusts from across the USA convening in Hartford.

Each day I attended 2-3 seminars, each of which was well presented and informative. More importantly, at lunch and breaks, I met representatives from other land trusts from locations as diverse as California, Colorado and Wooster. We compared the problems each of our land trusts face, from urban issues, suburban and rural issues, to issues relating to land trusts that hold land separated by 300 miles, to issues facing land trusts that hold National Historic sites within their borders. The common problem that each of the land trusts face is increasing the involvement of its membership. The common bonds that joined the delegates together is a love of land and a desire to conserve the land for future generations.

At the Rally, I read a quote that I'd like to share, "a culture is remembered by what it preserves." I feel fortunate to live in Canton, a community that has dedicated more than 1800 acres for its citizens, to use now and to preserve for the future. The seminars that I attended at the Rally invigorated me and gave me some new ideas for the CLCT to implement.



randinatives Canton Land Trust Trailblazers by Mary Ellen Mullins

Do you and your kids want to get off the couch, off the computer and into the fresh air into your own reality?? Well come on and join us!!!

If you haven't heard, the CLT "Trailblazers" meet once a month for a family friendly themed hike from April to November. We generally meet on Sunday afternoons from 1-3Pm except for special occasions like the Full Moon Hike. These family adventures are just the thing to get you off the couch and into the great outdoors especially when the weather gets crisp! The added bonus is you will meet other families who like to do the same thing!

The Canton Land Trust trails have a lot to offer and we would like to show them to you, so what are you waiting for? Our hikes have included scavenger hunts, letterboxing, orienteering, animal tracking, constructing fairy houses, hayrides through the woods, gazing at the full moon and sledding to name a few of our activities. After each hike we enjoy treats, refreshments, friendships and traditions. Come check out our 'Hikka stick' filled with creativity from the past several years, maybe you will get a chance to take it home and add your special signature.

Your trusty trail guides Mary Ellen Mullins, Rhonda DeWeese and Jan Tanner want to encourage you and your family to protect our environment while safely having fun exploring the nature close to home.

Caution: Trailblazers might ruin your kids for TV, but that is a risk we hope you will take!!! For more info please check out our website

www.cantonlandtrust.org. Become a member today!!!

Mushroom Walk

by Betty Stanley

On a dry September Saturday a group interested in increasing their knowledge of mushrooms joined Marlene Snecinski on a ramble (sponsored by RBNC and CLCT), through Roaring Brook Nature Center's woods. Members of both the Land Trust and the Nature Center were joined by other enthusiastic people as well as a couple of young, would be mycologists whose sharp eyes found several mushrooms peeking up from the forest floor. Because of the extremely dry summer, there were not a lot of mushrooms in evidence. Mushrooms usually can be found in our area during the spring and then in the fall until a hard frost. When mushrooms appeared after rain and lightning, the Greek god Zeus's lightning was believed to have been responsible. Later fairy rings formed by the circular patterns of some mushrooms were thought to be made by "little people performing magic rites."

Actually a mushroom is the fruiting body of a plant, the part of a fungus that typically appears above ground and contains its reproductive units. The mushroom lacks chlorophyll and gets its food from organic material. They are either saprophytes or mycorrizal mushrooms, but an exception to this is the Pink Ladyslipper which needs mycorrizal mushrooms rooms to survive and thrive.

Mushrooms come in a great variety of colors as well as size. A Hen of the Woods can, in clusters, be 10 to 20 inches wide and from 5 to 100 pounds. Today we know that mushrooms run the gamut from very poisonous to very tasty. Our morning with Marlene greatly increased our knowledge about how mushrooms grow, how the experts can tell the difference between the various mushrooms, and certainly which ones you should or should not eat. Never take a chance unless a truly knowledgeable person has given you the okay to enjoy what can be a delightful treat.

If you wish to learn more about mushrooms, you are free to join the Connecticut Valley Mycological Society Yahoo at : http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/

Christmas Bird Count

by Jay Kaplan

It seems as though it was only yesterday that I was listening to the pleasing sounds of thrushes at dusk and watching scarlet tanagers foraging in my blueberry bushes. Alas, these summer breeders are now far to our south, and juncos are now a constant presence at the bird feeder, a harbinger of the colder weather soon to come. It is now time to begin planning for the annual Christmas Bird Count.

The Christmas Count is the longest running citizen participation field study and it has been a valuable tool for monitoring population trends of migrants and resident bird species. The first Christmas Bird Count was held on the White House grounds during the administration of Teddy Roosevelt as an alternative to hunting birds with a shotgun. Christmas Bird Counts are done throughout North America, as well as in numerous tropical countries. The objective is to Count all birds seen and heard within a fifteen mile diameter circle. Of the more than 2100 Christmas Counts, fifteen are held in Connecticut. The center of the Barkhamsted Count, our closest circle, is the Saville Dam that runs across the southern end of Barkhamsted reservoir. As such, this Count includes all but the southeastern corner of Canton.

Here's how a Christmas Count works: The Count circle is divided into areas, each with a captain. Captains enlist individuals or groups to watch birds at their feeders, in their neighborhoods or in larger sections of the area. It should be noted that Land Trust properties provide excellent opportunities for winter birding. Some participants make a full day of it, while others watch birds at their feeder for an hour or even less. Others may be more adventurous, going out at night to listen for owls or watching for Bald Eagles along the Farmington River. At the end of the day, participants report all birds seen or heard to their captain, who in turn gives the total list for that area to the compiler of the Count. Rare species must be well documented and experienced birders will often carry a camera to provide proof for birds that are not to be expected in the area. Each group also keeps track of hours spent in the field and how many miles they may have covered, both on foot and by car.

The Barkhamsted Christmas Bird Count will be held on Sunday, December 26, the day following Christmas. Anyone interested in participating in the Count may contact Jay Kaplan at (860) 693-0263 or jkaplan@thechildrensmuseumct.org One does not need to be an expert in order to participate, and each year Jay spends a portion of the day helping new Count participants learn how to count birds.

The Christmas Bird Count is administered by Audubon, and



additional information may be found by going to www.christmasbirdcount.org Results of each Count may be viewed on this site along with historical and other information about the Count. For information about Connecticut Christmas Bird Counts, go to the web site of the Connecticut Ornithological Association at www.**ctbirding**.org

JOIN A CLCT COMMITTEE!!! Contact Barry: b-gdeutsch@comcast.net STEWARDSHIP, FINANCE, COMMUNITY RELATIONS, DEVELOPMENT or MEMBER-SHIP.

SAM COLLINS DAY

by Barry Deutsch

On September 25, 2010, the Town of Canton held its annual Sam Collins Day celebration. The Canton Land Conservation Trust sponsored a booth in the Community tent.

As part of its exhibit, the CLCT introduced several new informational brochures and its new bear logo pennant. The picture of the bear forming the logo was taken by William Duncan on his Washburn Road property. The public was most interested in a map of the Town of Canton highlighting all of the CLCT properties.

Land Trust Board members who set up and manned its booth included John Pech, Sarah Faulkner, Tom Kissko, Barry and Gail Deutsch, Scott McAlindin, Karen Berger, Betty Stanley, Elenor Smith, Fred Feibel and Garry Tilton.

One of the visitors to the Land Trust's exhibit was Richard Stoops. Rich is a relative new resident of Canton and was interested in learning about the Land Trust. He expressed interest in working on a future trail crew. On October 16, 2010 Rich joined a work party performing trail maintenance work on the Swan property located on Case Street. Rich sent the following email which is reprinted with his permission:

This morning was my first volunteer experience with the CLCT as we trail crewed the Swan property off of Case Road. I enjoyed the company of Drew, Doug, Matt and Robin. Three of us were newbies who signed up at Sam Collins Day.

What a beautiful property! What great people to crew with. Good conversation framed our labors and our shared love for nature and the environment was evident. I am looking forward to helping out again and will spread the word and hopefully recruit some friends to join us next time.

Since October 16th, Rich and his fiancée Yvonne joined members and friends of the CLCT at the Flatbread Company fund raiser and a geology hike led by Dave Korzendorfer.



CLCT Fall Geology Hike

by Mike Ignatowicz

On October 30th, 17 hikers gathered off Breezy Hill Road on a beautiful fall morning for the 2010 version of CLCT's Geology hike.

The hike was led by Dave Korzendorfer, an experienced geologist who is also President of the Bristol Gem & Mineral Club.



Before starting off on the hike, Dave gave the group a brief history of the geologic formations that we find here in Connecticut. From 450 to 250 million years ago, several of the earth's crustal plates collided with the North American Continent, creating the Appalachian Mountains and the super continent Pangaea. The collision of these plates created most of the schists, gneisses, and quartzites we find exposed in many parts of Western Connecticut today.

About 235 million years ago, Pangaea began to break apart, initiating the opening of the Atlantic Ocean. The breakup caused rift basins that are evidenced by the old sedimentary rocks, lava flows, and areas where basalt has intruded.

We began our hike down the Eunice & Arthur Sweeton Trail. Most of the exposed rock we saw along the trail was metamorphic rock. Looking closely at some of the minerals present and their complex formation provided clues as to how they might have been formed.

We saw numerous rocks with significant quartz deposits in them. Where quartz concentrations are high, the white mineral appearance of the rock makes it easy to spot. Quartz deposits may be different colors in other locales. In addition to appearance, Geologists confirm the identity of different minerals by noting their relative hardness on the Mohs scale of mineral hardness, where Talc is a '1' and a diamond is a '10.' Specific gravity is another method of identification, comparing the weight of a mineral to the weight of water, the reference standard.

We moved off the Sweeton trail to a new (yet unnamed trail being blazed by CLCT Volunteers). What a day to be out there! This scenic trail had several large rock outcroppings displayed deposits of garnet, quartz, and muscovite. As we hiked around the corner, we found a ghoulish display of figures posed in the woods ready for Halloween! Thanks to Elenor Smith, our hike coordinator for this unexpected surprise!

Finishing up on the new trail section, we walked on to Taylor Road, now abandoned, but quite bucolic with the leaves underfoot. Taylor Road has many old stone walls leaving us to wonder what life was like in this area when these walls were built.

Heading back to where we started, Elenor was prepared with an apple cider refreshment for all in attendance. Hope to see you on a CLCT hike soon!

FROM THE CLCT MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE By Garry Tilton

Membership trends are always interesting to observe. While we would like to believe that membership evolves in response to the quality of the programs and experiences the Canton Land Conservation Trust offers, we know it is also a lagging indicator reflecting the general state of the economy and our ability as a community to participate financially in the work of maintaining a healthy productive local environment. Membership in the last few years has been less vigorous than in previous years despite CLCT having done some of its best work with Trailblazers activities, nature hikes, presentations, outreach communications, and trail building/ maintenance. But CLCT has seen some nice trends developing this year. For example we have already seen an increase in the number of new regular members through the first 10 months of this year over all of 2009. We have experienced no lapsed memberships this year, and our new Trailblazer membership is up from 47 last year to 58 Trailblazer families this year. Given that our annual membership renewal activities are beginning now, I expect that by the end of this year, active membership will increase over 2009 levels. Hint, Hint!

As our Board of Directors contemplates all the projects on our plate, we sometimes are overwhelmed with the volume of work there is to do to maintain the properties, manage financial resources, communicate effectively to our membership and the community, and generate ongoing interest and enthusiasm for following through on our mission. The Board cannot do it all ourselves. We need your help. The Membership Committee records and reviews the interests you indicate on your donation envelops, and is sharing these with the various other committees. Members of these committees may reach out to you from time to time for assistance. When they do, I hope you will be able to join in the work and the fun. If you don't want to wait for a call, please have a look at our website (http://www.cantonlandtrust.org/) to see what it going on and contact one of our directors to let us know how you would like to participate. We welcome your participation and your ideas!

For those of you, whose memberships have lapsed, or those, who have never considered joining, we ask you to have a look at the Canton Land Conservation Trust website, check into our programs and volunteer opportunities, sign up for email alerts, and become members - if not today, then soon. Remember, stewardship of the natural resources of our community is in everyone's interest and a gift we give to ourselves, our families, our friends, and our future.

FLATBREAD COMPANY FUND RAISER By Barry Deutsch

On October 19, 2010, the Canton Land Conservation Trust hosted a fund raiser at the Flatbread Company restaurant located in the Shoppes at Farmington Valley. Friends and members of the CLCT enjoyed excellent food and interesting conversation while helping to raise funds to support various CLCT endeavors. The Flatbread Company contributed almost \$400 to the CLCT based on the number of pizzas sold the evening of the 19th. Many thanks to Erich Kronschnabel and his staff at Flatbread for their kind cooperation.

The CLCT also conducted a 50-50 raffle. The winning ticket was drawn by our attentive waitress Kelly. The winner of the raffle was Kyle Mullins who graciously donated his winnings to the CLCT.

Credit for the evening's success is due Rob Sigman and his Community Relations Committee for publicizing the event, John and Peggy Rohlfing for their beautiful banner which was displayed at the restaurant and Karen Berger for selling raffle tickets.

Most of all, THANKS to everyone who supported the evening.

Canton Land Conservation Trust's Upcoming Events Through June, 2011

by Rob Sigman

We have planned a full schedule of hikes, presentations, trail crew work days, Trailblazer events and then we finish our events season with our Annual Meeting of Members & Picnic in June, 2011.

Keep up to date and get all the details about the events by going to http:// cantonlandtrust.org/calendar.html and if you are on our email mailing list you will receive periodic emails with all the details about the events. If you are not on our email list and would like to receive full descriptions of the events send your email address to events@cantonlandtrust.org

Your Land Trust's Community Relations Committee organizes and publicizes this full schedule of events. Your friends and neighbors on the committee are: Bill Duncan, Fred Feibel, Alison Ide-Pech, Mary Ellen Mullins, Rob Sigman, Elenor Smith and Betty Stanley.

Nov. 14, 2010, 1:00-3:00 PM, Trailblazer Event, Fairy Houses at the Mary Conklin Preserve, Indian Hill Rd.

Nov. 20, 2010, 2:00 PM, Discovery Talk, Margery Winters will tell us how to cope if we are "Lost in the Woods?" at Capen Cabin, Breezy Hill Rd.

Dec. 4, 2010, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM (rain/snow date Dec. 5), Christmas Tree Sale at Smith Tree Farm, Doyle Rd.

Dec. 4, 2010, Trail Crew, 9:00 AM, Location to be announced.

Dec. 12, 2010, 1:00 -3:00 PM, Trailblazer Event, Santa Hike in Winsor Woods, Rt. 309, (West Simsbury Rd.)

Jan. 22, 2011, Full Moon Hike with Trailblazers (weather date Feb. 19), location and time to be announced.

Feb. 26, 2011, X-Country Skiing at Sun, Wind & Woodlands Preserve, Breezy Hill Rd., time to be announced.

March 5, 2011, Trail Crew, 9:00 AM, Location to be announced.

March 22, 2011, MembersTDinner, La Trattoria, Guest Speaker Paul Rego will talk about "Bears". Save the date.

April, 2011, Date & Time to be announced. Discovery Hike with Tom Noonan at the vernal pool in Uplands Preserve.

April 23, 2011, Trail Crew, 9:00 AM, Location to be announced.

May 1, 2011, Discovery Hike, 7:30 AM, Early Morning Bird Walk with Jay Kaplan in the Mary Conklin Preserve.

June 5, 2011 Family Hike in Winsor Woods, time to be announced.

<u>Discovery Talk</u>: Teresa Kramer presentation on Raptors at Roaring Brook Nature Center (cosponsored by RBNC), time to be announced.

<u>Canton Land Conservation Trust Annual Meeting of Members & Picnic</u> at Roaring Brook Nature Center, time to be announced.

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CLCT Valued Members

Aetna Foundation, Inc.,	Collinsville Savings Society,	Galloway, Alexandra	Lord, Tim	Porterfield, Dean & Sally	Trouern-Trend, A. & Carol
Agha, Mahmoud & Rawya	Cooper, William B.	Garabedian, Lisa	Lotstein, James & Paulette	Potter, Fred & Ellen	Tuccillo, Susana
Aivano, Peter & Laverne	Corkum, Kathy & Don	Gardiner, Richard C. & Elizabeth	Loureiro, Jeffrey & Sheryl	Potter, Judith D.	Uccello, Michael & Sue Ann
Albert, Roger & Doriann	Corkum, Robert & Theresa	Gentile, Win	Lowell, Barbara	Pratt, Leon H.	Van Gemeren, E. S. & Neils
Albrycht, Richard & Cherilyn	Corso, Jennifer & Chris	Giarnese, Jr. Domenick & Elizabeth	Ludovico, Anthony & Carol	Quattro, Mark & Linda	Vincent, Mary & Richard
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Allen, Bob & Jane	Crowe, Bill & Susan	Gleason, Richard	Lunden, Lionel	Richardson, Jr., Russell	Wallace, Michael
American Intenational Group,	Czaplicki, Paul & Joan	Goedecke, L. Karl	Lyons, Harry & Eileen	Riiska, Isabel	Warner, Jr., Alden Y. & Anne
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Atkinson, Sarah & Todd	Daniels, Lou & Amy	Goodwin, Tom & Sherry	Maglietti, Renee & Russell	Rochford, Mr. & Mrs. Scott	Weiss, Richard & Robin
Atwater, Robert T.	Danielson, Bill & Esther	Gorman, James R. & Becky L.	Mahler, Joseph & Lori	Rockwell, Isabel S.	Wellborn, John & Karen
Atwood, Harold & Vivian	Darling, Doris	Gotaski, Deborah Koval & Michael	Mairano, Frank & Julie	Rohlfing, Peggy Steinway & John	Westmoreland, R. &
Backman, Barbara	Deal, Brian & Melanie	Granfield, Coralie	Malentacchi, Margaret	Ross, Geoffrey & Marjolein	Katherine
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Calabro, Sheryl MacInnis & Matt Campbell, Rie Polrier & Michael Campbell, Tim & Sara Canton Advocates for Responsible Expansion Canton Ski Club, Cantwell, Nathan & Judith	FitzGerald, John & Betsy Fitzgerald, Mark & Karen Flaherty, Andrea & Jim Flatbread Company, Inc. Fletcher, Fred & Mary Fortier, Peter & Irene	Korner, Edwin & Pat Korzendorfer, David & Barbara Kosior, Robert A. & Dana Krzanowski, Stan & Diane Kunkel, Rodney Lamb, Peter & Hilda Lander, Douglas Robins & John	Parsons, Renata & Douglas Patrissi, Vito Paust, Anne Pearson, Katherine Pearson, Peter & Wendy Pech, Alison Ide-Pech & John Pepin, Edward & Susan	Swibold, Richard & Gretchen Tarinelli, Donald & Susan Taylor, Harold & Carol Tennen, K. Rubenstein & Howard Terry, Baldwin & Lane	Sarah Faulkner Frederick Feibel Michael Gotaski Michael Ignatowicz Jay Kaplan
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From the CLCT Stewardship Committee;

by Mike Gotaski

The following is a brief description of projects which have been completed, are in process or are being planned by the stewardship committee.

The CLCT has been fortunate to have benefitted from the completion of two Eagle Scout projects within the past year. James Solomon, of troop 77, led a trail improvement project on the Sweetheart Mountain property. James' efforts included drafting the initial proposal, running a trail crew involving cutting the new trails, blazing the trails, and constructing stepping pathways and bridges in wet areas. Through James' efforts at Sweetheart Mountain, another 1.5 -2 mile loop trail has been added to the trail network on the property. CLCT would like to thank James, his scout project advisor, Emil Huyghebaert, and the other scout and parent volunteers for a job well done.

Eric Vaillancourt, of troop 177, completed a project to

construct a new outhouse at the Capen Cabin. Eric was responsible for the design, procurement of materials, site preparation. and fabrication of the privy as a kit, which allowed preassembled sections to be transported and reassembled on site. As the photo attests, one



classy outhouse, halfmoon and all! Again, a CLCT thanks to The CLCT continues to work on development and blazing of a trail network in Eric, his scout project advisor, Bob Mutch, and the other scout and parent volunteers for their assistance.

Old barns are an iconic reminder of the past when small family farms dotted the rural Connecticut countryside. The CLCT Smith tree farm property contains a house and barn which in a previous life served a small family dairy farm. The CLCT is committed to preserving this heritage. A repair project on the barn was recently completed. Employing the services of local contractor, John Gummer, two rotted corner posts were replaced and the south side of the barn was resided with typical vertical barnboard siding. New gutters, downspouts, and leaf guards were also installed. The CLCT uses the barn for storage of maintenance equipment and the repair work undertaken will ensure the barn will live on.

In addition, work parties in the spring planted 200 seedlings at the tree farm. Half the seedlings were Blue Spruce, with the remainder being a trial planting of Meyer's Spruce which are claimed to be more resistant to deer browse.

Visitors to the Conklin and Sun, Wind, Woodland properties will notice work being done in the fields. The CLCT has been awarded a WHIP (Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program) grant. This is a matching grant to enhance meadowlands being lost due to surrounding forest encroachment. This is a multi-year program and we are completing the initial phase which includes removal of perimeter trees and invasive species followed by preparation of the seedbed for meadow grass seeding which we are hoping to accomplish in spring 2011. Ongoing efforts will entail continued invasive species control in these field perimeters and yearly mowing. Restoration of approximately 15 Bluebird nesting boxes in these areas is planned.

In conjunction with this effort, CLCT funded a trail improvement at the Sun, Wind, and Woodland property to remove stumps and large boulders in order to provide a smoother trail surface. With this improvement CLCT is envisioning the ability to develop a network of cross country ski trails in this area. Think Snow!

the Uplands property. Larry and Eleanor Smith have started a new trail loop off of the Arthur Sweeton trail. We are working on plans to develop an interactive trail with a local geological focus.

Please continue to get out and enjoy the CLCT properties and we thank the community for their continued support.