



The Canton Land Conservation Trust, Inc.

Fall 2012 Special 40th Anniversary Edition Newsletter

Edited by Gail Deutsch



LETTER FROM the PRESIDENT– Barry Deutsch

WOW what a start to 2012-2013 for your CLCT. Thank you Land Trust members, volunteers and Town of Canton citizens for making the CLCT's 40th Year Anniversary Celebration an affair to remember. Scores of helpers enabled the day time events and night time dinner dance to take place in a flawless manner. The celebration on September 29th was the result of one year's planning and hard work. KUDOS to the Committee!!!

Enclosed with this Newsletter is a card which we hope you will complete and return with your membership donation. The card is asking you to donate some of your time to a CLCT activity. Your donation is important to finance the CLCT including the acquisition and maintenance of open spaces in Canton; your participation in the CLCT activities is equally important in maintaining and improving the various properties and in administering the organization.

Just before the 40th Anniversary celebration, Leon (Bush) and Winifred (Winnie) Pratt donated 21 acres of property located at 84 Cherry Brook Road to the CLCT. Thank you Mr. and Mrs. Pratt.

CLCT's 40th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Karen Berger - 40TH Anniversary Celebration Chair

CLCT celebrated its 40th Anniversary on September 29, 2012 with a glorious daytime event at the Mary Conklin Sanctuary and an evening dinner dance gala at Ski Sundown. Eleven fashionable scarecrows directed the small but enthusiastic crowd to MCS where children and assistants constructed 35 new Bluebird houses, children explored nature with games and materials, 40 Flatbread pizzas baked in their outdoor oven were devoured by guests and volunteers, many new fairy houses were created, and everyone was captivated by the raptor and reptile demonstrations.

The Harvest Moon gala began on the deck at Ski Sundown which was enchantingly decorated with autumnal plants and full moon party lights, and featured appetizers and music by the Canton High School Jazz Ensemble. A sumptuous meal was served to over 275 guests who then danced to music by the Hot Cat Jazz Band, stood under the moon by a roaring bonfire and at the end of the evening an energetic few followed the luminaries to the top of Sundown.

I want to thank the Anniversary Committee of Anne Duncan, Betty Stanley, Elenor Smith, Fred Feibel, Jane Latus, John Roling, Mary Ellen Mullins, Norma Ignatowicz, and Sandy Weintraub for the year of planning and preparation that resulted in these two wonderful events. Additionally there are many more people who worked in the kitchen, on the fields and trails, at the events and behind the scenes. We tried to list everyone in our Commemorative Booklet but we thank each of you again for your gifts of time, talent, expertise and dedication to the land trust.

Please go to the CLCT website to view Bill Duncan's photos which capture a whole day of joy and celebration by friends of CLCT.



Invasive species clean-up in the vicinity of Sun, Wind and Woodlands



One of the tasks of stewardship of our land involves battling invasive species. Our group has experts that can identify and explain the growth and spread of the various

invasive plants and the best control methods. Also there are others like this writer that are less academically inclined and just enjoy being in the midst of nature giving the Connecticut native species assistance in their fight to maintain their proper prominence on the CLCT woods and fields. One of the areas that we are now working on to reduce non-native species is in the area of the Sun, Wind and Woodland parking lot. Such land adjacent to a roadway is an ideal habitat for invasive plants because of its high level of disturbance and abundant sunlight.

"Weapons" being used include a brush mower that is like a large rotary lawn mover, chain saw, hand saws and heavy duty pruners. It is a long term commitment to keep an area clear of invasive species and timing of clearing activity is one of the keys to slowing them down or preferably eradicating them.

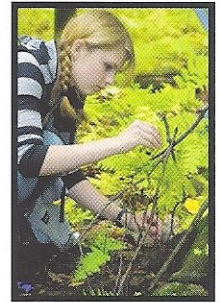
As the CLCT is blessed with much open space, our stewardship committee seeks CLCT members that would like to take on the task of keeping a small piece of property clear of invasive plants. The battle against non-native and invasive plants can only be won if we all work together in a cooperative fashion.

It takes commitment and perseverance but by working together we can make the control of invasive species an enjoyable activity in which we commune with nature as we assist in keeping our native plant friends free from the insidious strangling by non-native invasive plants.

Should you have some interest in taking on a small yet long term commitment in this regard, you are encouraged to contact any of the CLCT stewardship committee members for direction and a coordinated plan.

Tom Kissko—860-921-1426

**40th Anniversary Celebration
(Pictures by Bill Duncan)**



Trailblazers - Jen Mason

The Canton Trailblazers is an outdoor adventure program for children of Canton Land Trust members. The Trailblazers, led by trusty trail guides, Mary Dean, Jen Mason and Gretchen Sonju, have monthly outdoor activities scheduled from October- April.

The group is predominantly comprised of elementary and middle-school children who enjoy engaging in outdoor activities with friends and family. Adults are asked to accompany their child/ children during all Trailblazers events. The activities are family friendly and typically include a moderate hike, an activity and a shared snack. Everyone is welcome to join the fun! Please visit the Trailblazers section of the Canton Land Trust website for additional information, or feel free to contact one of the trusty trail guides.

Our October hike was enjoyed by many Trailblazers veterans. We were also happy to welcome some new friends. Everyone enjoyed a perfect fall afternoon as we hiked the Sun, Wind and Woodland trail to the Capen Cabin for a hot dog roast. Special thanks go to Chris and Jake Dean for volunteering to supervise the fire pit. There were plenty of sweet treats for sharing at the cabin too. After roasting hot dogs, sampling treats and socializing, it was time for the return trip through the woods back to the parking lot. The treats definitely added a little boost of energy which was helpful for the return hike!

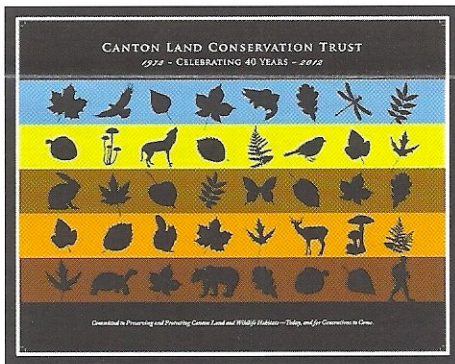
- Please join us for a Trailblazers event soon:**
- *Sunday, December 16 from 1-3pm at the Smith Tree Farm.
 - *Sunday, January 13, 2013 from 1-3 pm, place to be determined
 - *January Full Moon Hike Jan 26, 2013 from 6-10pm at Breezy Hill Farm Trail & Elenor and Larry Smith Barm
 - *Sunday, March 10 from 1-3 pm, place to be determined.

Sam Collins Day

On September 15, 2012 the Town of Canton celebrated its annual Sam Collins Day. The CLCT manned a booth in the Community Tent. This year the theme of its booth was the 40th Year Celebration; the events to be held only two weeks later on September 29th.

During the summer the CLCT sponsored an art contest as part of its 40th year celebration. The winning art was exhibited on Sam Collins Day. The winning artist, Eduardo Barrios, a graphics designer from Collinsville, signed a reproduction of his winning art and the CLCT raffled the signed poster. Ms. Robin Frasca of Collinsville was the excited winner of the signed work. Congratulations to Robin.

Thanks to John Rohlfing, Mike Ignatowicz, Sarah Faulkner, John Pech, Wayne Jekot, Scott McAlindin, Gail Deutsch, Bill Duncan, Tom Kissko, Fred Feibel and Betty Stanley for setting up, manning and disassembling the booth.



Flatbread Pizza

November 6, 2012 was not only Election Day, but also a fundraiser for the CLCT at the Flatbread Company, located in the Shoppes in Canton. Thank you to Peggy Steinway for her beautiful original poster advertising the event. Peggy masterfully adapted Eduardo Barrios's winning art to publicize the Flatbread fundraiser.

Congratulations to Mr. Gary Miller of Canton, for winning the 50/50 raffle.

Thank you to Erich Kronschnable and his gracious and attentive staff at the Flatbread Company for an enjoyable and successful event.

Pratt Property

Thank you to Leon (Bush) and Winifred (Winnie) Pratt for their donation to the CLCT of their 21 acres of beautiful land located at 84 Cherry Brook Road. The property includes a cabin and storage sheds. The Cherry Brook runs through the property. A large section of the property is located west of the Brook.

It is the present hope of the CLCT that its annual meeting in June 2013 will be held at the new property to enable Land Trust members to share the beauty of this exciting, new CLCT property. Ted Cowles is overseeing certain repairs that are needed to the cabin. Thanks to Ron Maillet of Maillet Siding for his contribution towards repair of the cabin's windows.

The name of the property will be Pratt's Place and it was donated in the memory of Lucy T. Pratt and Clara and William Caffelle.

THANK YOU BUSH AND WINNIE!!

Stewardship

The CLCT's Stewardship Committee, under the leadership of Mike Gotowski and John Pech continue their hard work to maintain the properties and 16 miles of trails. Work under the grant for Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program continues and the signage program for our property..... undertaken with funding from the Farmington River Coordinating Council has been completed.

Thanks to the hard work of Wayne Jekot all the trails have been mapped and trail maps have been placed on Kiosks located at the trail heads. The Stewardship Committee was also instrumental in having the Mary Conklin Sanctuary in sparkling condition to host the day time events for the 40th Anniversary Celebration.

Drew Stone led several trail crews which accomplished much needed trail work on our Sweetheart Mountain, Arthur and Eunice Sweeton and Swan Preserve trails.

Thanks also to Dexter Cheney for supporting the Stewardship Committee's efforts to beautify the Mary Conklin property.

