

The Canton Land Conservation Trust, Inc.

Fall 2014

Newsletter

Edited by Gail Deutsch

Presidents' Message

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Canton Land Conservation Trust, we would like to thank the Canton community for its support for our Member support is critically organization. important to the Trust in several ways. It provides moral support and encouragement to the Board of Directors and to our volunteers, and especially to those individuals and families who have donated land. New members and membership renewals let us know that you appreciate and value our work and the generosity of our land donors. Grant-making organizations that provide funds for land acquisition consider membership size and community support as an important criterion when evaluating grant applications. In addition, membership dues help offset some of the cost of preserving land and, in some cases, managing our properties.

The work of land acquisition and preservation continues to move forward, and the past few months have been fruitful ones for our organization. A major project restoring the meadows at the Mary Conklin property is underway. Encroaching brush and vines, including many invasive plants, have been removed, and the cleared areas will be reseeded in the spring. New properties have been donated, increasing our total acreage to over 2,000 acres, and a new

trail has been constructed at the Humphrey Woods property, which was donated just last year.

We hope that you will consider renewing your membership in the Canton Land Conservation Trust or become a new member. Today's Land Trust members have benefited greatly from past work provided by volunteers as well as the many generous donations of land given to the Trust by members of our community. Let's continue the legacy that has been left to us.

Christian Winkler and Jay Kaplan, Co-Presidents Canton Land Conservation Trust

P.S. Please visit our website at cantonlandtrust.org. In addition to providing information about upcoming events and maps of our properties, you may now renew your membership online via credit card for added convenience.

Sam Collins Day by Christian Winkler

This year's Sam Collins Day, which took place on September 20, was the 20th anniversary of the event. Congratulations to the organizers for carrying on the tradition, which gives so many organizations the opportunity to showcase their mission. The weather was very pleasant this year, which brought a good turnout and good spirits all around



The CLCT booth this year had two themes - an update on recent activities, including the extensive meadow clearing taking place at the Mary Conklin Preserve and the new trail construction at the Humphrey Woods property, and education about local invasive plants, including Japanese Barberry, Oriental Bittersweet, Multiflora Rose, and Japanese Knotweed.



Our thanks go to John Rohlfing and Michelle Winkler for their help in setting up and taking down the exhibit, and also to Karen Berger,

Wayne Jekot, Phil Philbrick, and Fred Feibel for their help manning the exhibit.

This year's CLCT Booth focused on Invasive Plants

Invasive plants are becoming more and more of a problem in Canton and throughout the region. Invasive plants crowd out and out-compete the native plants that many species of wildlife depend upon for food, for habitat, or as habitat for insects that in turn provide food. We focused on Japanese Barberry, Oriental Bittersweet, Multiflora Rose and Japanese Knotweed. These four plants in particular are becoming more and more of a problem in our area, as they use their "superpowers" to take over more and more of our land.

Wanted: Someone to Manage the Smith Christmas Tree Farm by Sarah Faulkner

The Land Trust was honored in 1975 with the gift of the Smith Christmas Tree Farm on Doyle Road by its owner, William Smith. It was the Land Trust's first major holding, comprising 64 acres in North Canton and Barkhamsted. Through the stewardship of many directors and volunteers, the Land Trust has maintained the buildings, pruned, mown, cut, and re-planted the variety of trees over the years, and held an annual Christmas tree sale for members and the public. Many families in town, mine included, have fond memories of the annual tradition of hiking into the snowy fields to select and cut our tree, drag it back to the house, and huddle inside with fresh cookies and hot chocolate.

Unfortunately, managing the tree farm is a big job, as any farmer would attest. With volunteer turnover, outside time commitments, deer browse, droughts or too much rain, and other complications, our tree stock has dwindled and the forest has crept in. We've been unable to support a tree sale for a number of years. The Board has tried to find a farmer to take over for us but has been unsuccessful. We're now considering letting the tree-farming part of the property return to its natural New England forest succession.

Hence this news article. We are putting out the call: if you, or anyone you know, is interested in running the tree farm for the Land Trust, please contact our presidents, Jay Kaplan or Christian Winkler who will welcome suggestions.

Trailblazers by Jen Mason



The Trailblazers' 2014-2015 hiking season is off to a spook-tacular start!

The first hike of the year was a Halloween themed scavenger hunt which took place on October 26, 2014 at the Sun, Wind and Woodland preserve. Many of the hikers arrived in costume to hike The Tom Perry Trail which was full of tricky decorations and fun treats for the children.

During the hike, the Trailblazers' were constantly on the lookout for spiderwebs, skeletons, ghosts, bats, and black cats that were lining the trail. The discovery of several cauldrons full of prizes also delighted the hikers. Trailblazers' hike always end with a shared snack and a short social gathering. It was great to meet many new friends as well as catch up with returning Trailblazers while enjoying cider and donuts at the end of the hike.



Trailblazers loves to welcome new hikers! Whether you can only join us for a single hike or every hike this season, we hope to see you on the trail! Our next hike is scheduled for December 21, 2014 at **Mary Conklin Sanctuary.** We are looking forward to a hike and hope to enjoy some holiday fun together. We might even meet up with a special jolly guest on the trail!

Any questions- please contact your trusty trail guides: Michelle, Jen and Gretchen

michelle@winklernews.net, jmason242@co mcast.net, gsonju@gmail.com

Hey Kids...... Canton Land Trust Trailblazers wants you!

Join or renew for the 2014-2015 season. Monthly hikes with a kid friendly theme





from October – May Children must be accompanied by an adult

Please fill out info below and return to

Canton Land Trust
PO Box 41 Canton Center, Ct 06020
Children's name and ages:

Parent or guardian's name :
*Email address:
Address:
Phone:
Donation amount:
Your donation of any size is always
appreciated!!!
We think this is a worthwhile program. May
we suggest a minimum donation of \$25?
A \$50 donation will provide family
membership to the Canton Land

Conservation Trust as well as family

Thank you for your contribution!

Trailblazer membership.

Trail Crew by Drew Stone

This fall the Canton Land Conservation Trust trail crew volunteers were at it again!

On Saturday, October 4th a work crew was held at the Uplands property. Mike Ignatowicz, ever-reliable Steve Mitchell, Drew Stone, and Christian Winkler braved the threat of rain to get out into the woods. A surprising amount of windfall had created numerous obstacles throughout this trail network. In particular, some large downed oaks on the northern loop trail made for challenging navigation. Much of this detritus was cleared by the crew, and new blazes were added to make navigation easier. Come on out and take a hike!



On Saturday, October 25th we had a record turn-out of thirteen people, including:

Ted Cowles, Steve Mitchell, Phil Philbrick, Betty Stanley, Drew Stone, Bunny Terry, and Christian Winkler, as well as a six-person contingent from Shop-Rite Supermarket in Canton. Patrick Alexander and his seven year old daughter Dahlia, Kaelin Ballard, Heather Bernier, Sitara Gnanaguru, and Elizabeth Olmstead all kindly gave their time and were invaluable as our crack lopping crew. accomplished by all on this beautiful fall day meant completing a new trail on the newly acquired Humphrey's parcel, which adjoins the Goedecke Entering the Goedecke property property. approximately a quarter mile from the north end of West Road, and following the trail blazes up through this new trail on the Humphrey's parcel provides beautiful views of the Cherry Brook. From the trail

head all the way to the end and looping back is a hike of about 1.2 miles. Be sure to try out this beautiful new trail!

And thanks again to all of our volunteers for their time and efforts. Great Job!!!

The Canton Land Conservation Trust would like to send out a special word of thanks to our local ShopRite market in Canton. Their energetic sixperson team was a big help with our trail-building efforts. For more photos of their volunteers hard at work, be sure to go to their Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/josephfamilymarkets. Thanks ShopRite!

Quest by Jane Latus

The Quest is On at the Canton Land Trust! - Test your "coordination" with new GPS scavenger hunt

All you need to bring: a GPS instrument, paper and pencil. Already provided: over 2,000 acres of Canton Land Conservation Trust (CLCT) meadows and woodlands.

How to start: register (for free) at the <u>Land Trust</u> <u>Quest</u> (<u>http://quest.cantonlandtrust.org/index.php</u>) site for simple instructions and the latitude and longitude where you'll find your first clue.

The CLCT created the GPS Quest as an additional way for hikers to discover its preserves. It is the idea and work of CLCT Director Bill Duncan, who placed 13 laminated tags on different parcels, each leading its discoverer onto the next tag.

"My purpose is to make the availability of Land Trust properties for hiking more apparent to the community. Many of the Land Trust preserves are away from public view," said Mr. Duncan.

As hikers go about their quests, they can report their findings online and compare their progress with others. It need not be a race, though — unless you want it to be. Some might prefer to linger and savor the views.

Mr. Duncan recommends taking on the Quest as a seasonal project. "To find them all in one day or even a weekend would be rather ambitious." And be forewarned that you'll need additional means of transportation besides your own feet, he said. "The tags are all in different parcels throughout Canton. With few exceptions would one want to walk from one to the other."

Humphrey Grant by Jay Kaplan

As this newsletter went to press, the Land Trust received word that it will receive a Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Open Space and Watershed Acquisition Grant that will aid in acquiring a 12.5 acre property on Ratlum Mountain in the northwest part of Canton.

The property is bordered on three sides by existing Land Trust properties. It can be accessed through these parcels and from the north by the long-abandoned Old Taylor Road that intersects Breezy Hill Road. Owned by members of the Humphrey Family, this wooded parcel provides habitat for interior forest-nesting bird species as well as other wildlife. The Trust now owns a significant unfragmented forest block in this portion of Ratlum Mountain. In the future, The Land Trust's Stewardship Committee will look at the feasibility of trail development in this area. The Trust appreciates the support of the Humphrey family, who have previously worked with the Trust to expand our holdings along Cherry Brook.

CLCT Flatbread Pizza Event by Jay Kaplan

On Tuesday, October 7th, members and friends of the Land Trust gathered in the Shoppes at Farmington Valley for the Trust's annual fundraising event at The Flatbread Company.

The evening raised in excess of \$300 for the Trust. Those who attended had an opportunity to solve

"word mazes" developed by Trust secretary, Sarah Faulkner, as well as to meet family and friends for dinner and a Tuesday night out! We are most appreciative of Flatbread's willingness to provide support to not-for-profit organizations in the Farmington Valley by donating a portion of every pizza sold that evening. Take out pizza is included in Flatbread's fundraisers. This was helpful as we know of at least one Land Trust board member who stayed home to watch his beloved Cardinals as they battled the Dodgers in the National League Championship series.

Land Trust Receives Property Donation on Indian Hill Road by Jay Kaplan

During the summer, the Land Trust acquired just over ten acres off Indian Hill Road, a donation from the Griggs family. This property is contiguous with the Trust's Mary Conklin Preserve immediately to the north and will serve as a buffer to the Ray Smith Trail, one of the Trust's more popular walking trails.

The parcel is heavily wooded and has substantial wetlands that serve as breeding grounds for amphibians in spring. A unique feature of the property is a large rock outcrop in its center. At times, the rocks have been used as dens by porcupines. Due to the nature of the property, it is not likely that it will support walking trails, but the parcel will be reviewed by the Trust's Stewardship Committee. The Trust thanks the Griggs family for their generosity in donating this parcel.

Where Are the Bears? by Sarah Faulkner

You may remember from a previous newsletter that Mike Evans, a student in UConn's Natural Resources department working on his Ph.D. in Wildlife Ecology, has been conducting a study of the black bears of Connecticut.



Bushnell M Camera Name 57°F13°C ●

Mike now has completed his data collection that was done during the summers of 2013 and 2014. We thought we'd catch up with Mike and see what he's learned so far.

Mike's two research questions are: 1) Does bear density change according to development? and 2) Is bear dispersal and spatial genetic structure affected by land use pattern? Or, in short, are humans affecting bear populations through our land use?

To gather his data, Mike set up 175 bear "corrals" spaced 2.5 km apart. He conducted weekly samples over a 12-week period from June to August. The corrals were spaced 2.5 km apart and were located in 20 towns comprising three large geographic areas in western Connecticut. Each of the large areas were characterized by high, medium, or low housing density. Canton was classified in the suburban, or high, density area. Mike had a number of corrals located on Land Trust land.

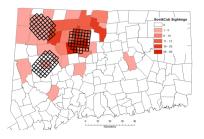
The corrals were enclosures of 2 strands of barbed wire hung 30 cm and 45 cm from the ground, measuring 12-16 meters across with a bear attractant scent in the center. Mike changed the scent lure each week, using such scents as fish oil, commercial Ultimate Bear lure, fryer grease from a restaurant, and blueberry essence (they loved the blueberry essence, Mike reported!). At the end of the sampling period, Mike removed the corrals.

In addition to collecting and analyzing the hair, Mike also set up cameras on hundreds of sites. He gathered many pictures of bears and other animals, and is in the process of reviewing them to look for the rates of bears investigating the corrals and correlating with the hair evidence. He reported on a wide variety of wildlife captured in the photos, including "everything" from moose to bobcat (but no cougars).

Through DNA analysis of the hair samples caught on the barbed wire, Mike is able to identify individual bears as well as determine their relatedness to each other. In 2013, he catalogued 413 hair samples and identified 128 unique bears. He is now in the process of doing the genetic analysis on the 2014 samples.

So far, Mike has found some interesting results about how bear density is responding to human development. His early data indicates that there are higher densities of bears in and around suburban areas, and fewer in more natural, less developed rural areas. He has found a 1:1 gender ratio, and stated that it has been interesting to see the places where the bears show up. His preliminary conclusions are that 1) land-use patterns in Connecticut affect bear population ecology; 2) bear populations are supported by developed areas, and 3) bears may still view development as inhospitable.

Mike recently published a paper in Wildlife Management that has to do with understanding landscape that facilitates or promote



interactions bears/people. His data clearly indicates that intermixed housing and forest promotes human-bear interactions, and may affect bear ecology and behavior. He will publish his genetic analysis when it is completed, as well as a full report in his doctoral thesis.

The Canton Land Trust has been honored to have some of the data collection done on our land. We support and thank Mike for his in-depth study of an increasingly familiar animal in our town.

Collinsville Poet Joan Hofmann

Joan (a published poet, St. Joseph's professor and CLCT member), presented this poem from her most recently published book, as one of several poetry readings during the WordForge Poetry Reading at Billings 11/10/14. Joan was just elected Canton's Poet Laureate. Congratulations!



Ode to the Farmington River

Farmington, river of force and two-faced surface, one placid and passive, the other raging white force, move along as best you can in the hand of man transformed to suit need and wish.

With headwaters touched by private land, run through public and municipal grounds guarded

by lawful protection, on-going management challenge. Imagine: you are deemed a scenic sight. Besides your beaver, muskrat and eagle, in pentimento, without Rainbow Dam and smaller weir-like dams,

in your hold I see anadromous shad and salmon now confined down river to fishway. Imagine with me: in you I see flashes of eels, alewives, herring come up and round

your bends, reflections of iridescent astonishment untamed.

flurry of tail and still quiver, threading ordinary current.

CLCT 2014 Membership by Wayne Jekot

The Canton Land Conservation Trust has been in existence for over forty years and continues to acquire, preserve, and protect land of scenic, natural, or historic value within Canton. In the past year alone we have acquired two new parcels, and we continue to search for opportunities to acquire land. As recent events in the area of Satan's Kingdom have shown, there is a continuing need to preserve and protect open space in Canton. In order to continue to do so, we need a strong, active membership.

We thank all those members who have contributed time and money in the last four decades to bring us to

where we are today; however, there is still much work to be done to ensure that the unique character of Canton persists for future decades. If you are not a member already, please join, and if you are a member, please renew your membership. Individual memberships start at \$25 and family memberships at \$50. You can even donate online now via our website.

In addition to your tax deductible financial contribution, we ask that you donate some of your time to CLCT as a volunteer. In addition to the day-to-day management of over \$7 million in assets, we need your help for various events, activities, and trail crews that take place over the course of each year. Let us know via our website, email, or even Facebook. Thank you in advance for participating in our efforts to continue to save our trees, fields, and waterways. Each of us individually, joining, together, can make a difference for another forty years and beyond.

(We are using a new membership data base. Please let us know if your name is missing or misspelled. Send that information to wayne.jekot@att.net.)

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Mary Young Peter & Jane Zagorsky

Kenneth Schwartz & Cynthia

Zdanzukas

Frank & Kendra Zizzamia

Upcoming Events of Note:

Full Moon Hike - February 7th Annual Dinner - March 24th

CLCT Assets as of 09/30/14

by Gail Deutsch, Treasurer Current Assets

Total Checking/Savings - \$259,860 Endowment Investment - \$300,259

Fixed assets

(land, buildings, equipment)

\$6,595,867

Total Assets: - \$7,155,988



DONATE to CLCT - use your credit card!

Canton Land Conservation Trust continues to encourage and accept donations by cash or by

check. As of December 2013, CLCT will be accepting donations and payments over \$20 by major credit cards (Master Card, Visa, Discover and American Express).

Please go to our website:

www.cantonlandtrust.org or our Facebook page: Canton Land Trust to find the DONATE NOW button, or go to CLCT's

Secure Payment Link:

http://payments.lawpay.com/bpl/lp2525952

▼ Shop at <u>AmazonSmile</u>

and Amazon will make a donation to CLCT. (Choose Canton Land Conservation Trust as your charity).

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Canton Land Conservation Trust, Inc. PO Box 41 Canton Center, CT 06020

www.cantonlandtrust.org

For more info please check our web- site: www.cantonlandtrust.org. or search Facebook for Canton Land Conservation Trust Become a member today!!!