

LANDMARK

The newsletter of the Northern Connecticut Land Trust
No. 2 February 1999

NEW NAME, NEW LOGO, NEW OUTLOOK

Concurrent with our merger with the Vernon Land Trust, comes a new logotype and a new letterhead, properly descriptive of our new name. Hard on the heels of these designs will be a new and up-dated folder describing NCLT in greater detail.

FIVE YEAR PLAN EMBRACED

At the January Directors' meeting, a Five Year Plan of development was presented and approved by the Board. Purpose of the planning document is to target goals for the Trust to attain by the year 2004. One of the primary recommendations is the creation of working committees within the general membership, including Membership/Program, Fundraising, Land Acquisition and Stewardship, and Public Relations. More details about this exciting peek into the future can be learned at the:

SPECIAL MEETING FOR ALL MEMBERS

To be held on March 17, 1999 at 7:30 PM in the Community Room of the Somers Library. At this meeting, the Five Year Plan will be outlined, and the general membership will be urged to participate on one of the working committees. Non-members, and those interested in learning more about our purpose, are urged to attend.

MCCANN FAMILY FARM

With the addition of the McCann Farm to our property inventory, our responsibility for sound land management increases. Regularly scheduled work parties are being organized to achieve a variety of tasks, such as boundary marking, trail clearing and identification. Whit Davis has constructed a number of bluebird and kestrel houses, and these must be installed before spring. Whit hopes to establish a "Bluebird Trail" on the farm, as an environmental plus to the area. Additionally, Somers Boy Scouts have volunteered their time and effort to help in making the McCann Farm a prime example of sound land management

FORESTRY PROGRAM SLATED

On Thursday evening, March 4, 1999 at 7:30 PM in the Community Room of the Somers Library, the Trust will present a program entitled: "Connecticut Forests-Yesterday and Today". Speaker will be Rob Rocks, a Connecticut Service Forester, who will illustrate his topic with slides. Refreshments will be served. This is a FREE program, so bring all your friends and those interested in becoming members. (This event is a part of an enlarged Events Program for Trust Membership.)

LAND MONITORING

One of the “special” things about NCL is its land monitoring program. Each property donated to the Trust, is assigned a “Steward”, whose prime responsibility is to visit the property at least once per month. At that time, he/she utilizes a specially prepared monitoring sheet, checking such items as foot traffic, vehicle traffic, signs of erosion, presence of wildlife, evidence of trespassing and the like. The Steward then makes a detailed report to the Board at its next monthly meeting. Thus the Board has current knowledge of all its properties, and can take immediate action if there are any irregularities. If you would like to be a part of our Monitoring Program, please make your wishes known to any member of our Board. We feel that this program insures that the wishes of a land donor are carried out, and that the lands that we oversee are carefully regulated.

WILD FLOWER HIKES

Led by our knowledgeable director, Jerry Stage, the Trust, in cooperation with the Appalachian Mountain Club, will sponsor a series of wild flower hikes on the McCann Family Farm. Over 50 species of wild flowers have been identified at the site, with more appearing with the change of seasons. Here’s a chance to learn how to identify whose wild flowers you always thought were weeds. The schedule:

Sunday, May 23	Spring wildflower hike
Sunday, June 27	Early summer wild flower hike
Sunday, July 18	Mid-summer wild flower hike
Sunday, Sept., ?	Late summer wild flower hike
Sunday, Oct. ?	Fall foliage hike

(Meet behind Somers Town Hall at 9:00 AM. September and October dates to be announced.)

There is no admission charge, and the public is invited.

HAVE QUESTIONS?

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