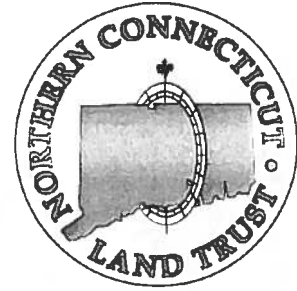


LANDMARK

The newsletter of the Northern Connecticut Land Trust



Number 9

August 2002

New Acquisitions Garner State Award for 2002

For the second year in a row, the Northern Connecticut Land Trust brought home an award from the statewide Connecticut Convocation of Land Trusts held in March. Over 100 people from the 115 land trusts around the state attended the day long event at the Northeast Utilities facility in Berlin, Ct. to discuss land preservation topics and to attend educational workshops. During the awards ceremony, George Grant of the Board of Directors accepted the "Unique Habitat and Substantial Increase in Holdings Award", one of seven special awards given out each year. During the past year, NCLT added 133 acres to the total holdings it has under preservation, a 54% increase. In June 2001, the Trust purchased the 56 acre Swann Farm in Ellington with the help of grants from the DEP Open Space Grant Program and from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. In January this year, the 12.6 acre Wapping Bog in East Windsor, one of the few black spruce bogs in the state, was accepted through donation for preservation. And in February, a 64.4 acre parcel on Bald Mountain was also received through donation. This brings the total land owned by the Trust to over 380 acres.

Annual Meeting Sunday, September 22

The annual meeting and potluck dinner will be held at the Somers Congregational Church, with refreshments and social time beginning at 5:30 PM, followed by dinner at 6:00. Please bring a main dish, salad, or dessert, and your own plates and utensils. Afterward, there will be a short business meeting to elect officers. The featured speaker for the evening will be Cameron Weimar, Executive Director of the newly formed Connecticut Farmland Trust. There is no admission except for a dish to share with all, and the public is welcome. Donations will be accepted to cover costs of the event. To get to the church, head east toward Stafford on Rt 190 from the intersection of Rts 83 and 190 in Somers. The church is the 2nd building on the left, across from Somers Town Hall. Contact Judy Snyder for more information, at 749-5411.

The Connecticut Farmland Trust has been formed to assist farmers, towns, and other land trusts in identifying and preserving productive agricultural land throughout Connecticut. It will provide access to capital for land preservation, the technical consultation to help land trusts in the management of agricultural land, and a central location for gathering and accessing information. The Trust will focus on land that is affordable and accessible to farmers, has a high level of productivity, supports a viable food producing operation, and makes a significant contribution to the total agricultural sector. Preservation can be accomplished through fee simple acquisition (complete ownership) or conservation easements acquiring development rights. The Trust anticipates hiring a coordinator this year, who will have responsibilities for acquisition, stewardship, education, and operation of the organization.

Congratulations to our own Director George Grant who has agreed to be part of the initial Board of Directors of the Trust. We look forward to close working relationships and potential new projects with this energetic group.

Slate of nominees for 2003:

President – Culver Modisette

1st V. President – Karl Hasel

2nd V. President – Jerry Stage

Treasurer – Jim Gage

Recording Secretary – John Maulucci

Corresponding Secretary – Fay Dresner

Directors:

George Grant

Don Smith

Karl Hasel

Jerry Stage

Jim Gage



September Feast of Food and Wine to Support Connecticut Farmland Preservation

Honorary Chairwoman Meryl Streep will join The Hartford Food System, The Working Lands Alliance, and the Connecticut Farmland Trust to present the **2002 Celebration of Connecticut Farms** on Sunday, September 15th from 12:30 to 5:30 PM at the Averill Farm in Washington

Depot. Proceeds from the event will be used by the Working Lands Alliance and the Connecticut Farmland Trust for the work of preserving Connecticut farmland. Hartford Food Systems, a private, non-profit 501(c)3 organization, administers the work of both WLA and CFT.

The event will feature Connecticut's finest chefs, farmers, cheese artisans, vintners and artists from the Connecticut Plein Air Painters Society. Attendees will enjoy delicious locally grown food, live jazz, a live art auction, hayrides, and more. Michael Pollan, best selling author of *Botany of Desire* and restaurateur and cookbook author Alice Waters will speak about the importance of local farms and hold book signings. Tickets to the event will be sold in advance. The cost is \$65 for adults and \$10 for children and includes parking. For tickets or information, call 860-723-5408.

Sam and Susan Averill, the farm's owners, are hosting the event. Their 260 acre farm, purchased from Chief Waramaug in 1746 by the first Averills in the area, became Connecticut's 150th permanently protected farm through the Department of Agriculture's Farmland Preservation Program. The Averill family produces common and old-fashioned varieties of apples and pears and quinces, hay, and Christmas trees.

Congratulations to New Life Members

Over the last few months, the Trust has received the support of 5 new members at the Life Member level. They include:

Norcross Wildlife Foundation (Patron level)

Mr. Mrs Peter M. Ouellet – Somers (Patron level)

Scott and Debra Livingston – Vernon

Scott and Vicki Thomas – Broad Brook

Frances Shaver - Somers

Thanks for your trust and support!

Be on the Lookout for New Trust Decals

New or renewed memberships will be getting the new 3" square "WE SUPPORT" decals with the Trust logo now in hand. The decals will be suitable for displaying on windows of automobiles, stores, or homes to show your support of the conservation objectives of the Trust. If you need more, let us know.

Department of Environmental Protection Developing New Parkland Policy

Until now, it has been illegal to operate All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) and motorcycles on almost all state parkland. This is due to damage caused to habitat and wildlife, and for noise and public safety reasons. Nevertheless, motorcyclists and ATVers have been riding on public and private trails illegally for years. DEP is now developing an ATV policy to determine guidelines for opening some state lands to motorized use. But without a public hearing or a committee vote, Rep. Pam Sawyer (R-Bolton), who is a motorcyclist enthusiast, was able to insert a small provision in a very long motor vehicle bill that broadens the definition of ATVs to include motorcycles. This could lead to an increase in motorized use of parkland trails after the ATV policy is established.

Scantic River Watershed Association Reborn Under NCLT Guidance

With overwhelming support of the Board of Directors during its April monthly meeting, a motion to re-establish the Scantic River Watershed Association group was passed, including approval to apply for a Rivers Alliance of Connecticut grant to help fund the startup costs of the organization. Since then, the grant has been awarded, with the stipulation that 40% matching from non-governmental private sources and/or equivalent volunteer service time be supplied to complete the project. Efforts are currently underway to organize volunteers to direct the organization, to apply for Federal 501(c)3 non-profit status, and to begin planning activities to garner support from communities all along the river to clean up and enhance the quality of the river.

The Scantic River watershed involves an area of some 90,000 acres, extending across Hamden, Mass., and the Ct towns of West Stafford, Somers, Enfield, South Windsor, and East Windsor. Named after an Indian tribe found along its banks by the early settlers, the river has its headwaters among several streams which drain the southern foothills of Hamden/Monson, Mass., and the northern slopes of Shenepsit State Forest in Ct. From the point where these streams converge to the river's mouth is a little over 17 miles as the crow flies, but the Scantic meanders for over 38 miles before it reaches the Connecticut River in South Windsor.

After some 10 years of dormancy for the Association, originally formed in 1972, the revitalization effort has met with enthusiasm from many fronts. The organization of the Association under the Land Trust is thought to be one of the first such relationships in the state, offering unique opportunities to protect the river itself as well as the land near and along the riverfront. Meetings with various organizations, including the National Park Service, are being held to plan out potential project and funding opportunities. All river lovers, canoeists, kayakers, fishermen, bird lovers, hunters, and others are welcome. Look for autumn public meetings to begin in the towns along the river as the committee, chaired by Culver Modisette, former President and CEO of the Farmington River Watershed, gets organization efforts underway.

NCLT-Sponsored Hikes / Walks for 2002

Skyline Scenic Area, Somers

November 16th: Join leaders Jerry Stage, George Grant, and Ginny Patsun climbing the ridge to catch the beautiful views of the Connecticut River Valley. Meet at the Somers Town Hall parking lot at 3:30 PM, followed by pizza with the leaders at the Italian Village in Somers. This hike is cosponsored by the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC).

McCann Family Farm, Somers

September 15th **Fall Wildflowers:** Enjoy the wonders of nature with leader Jerry Stage and possibly co-leaders George Grant and Ginny Patsun while hiking 2-3 miles in this beautiful place. Meet at 9:00 AM at the farm parking lot of Hwy 190 just east of the Rt 83 intersection. This hike is cosponsored by the AMC.

October 13th **Fall Foliage Hike:** Same as above.

For more information about any of these activities, call the appropriate leaders at the following :
George Grant - 860-749-3282 Ginny Patsun- 860-763-4740 Jerry Stage- 860-870-4255

Vernon

September 8th **Eckers Pond:** Join leaders Ed and Fay Dresner to explore both Land Trust and Town property. Meet at 1:00 PM in the far corner lot behind the Vernon Center Middle School, entering from either West Road or Rt 30. A 2 mile forest walk bordering the pond, including a short hill climb.

October 13th **Tankerhoosen River and Railroad Brook Trail:** Meet at Valley Falls Park off Valley Falls Road at 1:00 PM. A 2 mile walk, mostly along the stream to Tunnel Road, up to the rail bed, and back to Park on the Rails-to-Trails path. Possible side trip up 100 foot climb to Railroad Valley lookout, an extra ½ mile for those interested

November 3rd **Indian Trail, Brandy Hill, Railroad Brook:** Meet at Valley Falls Park off Valley Falls Road at 1:00 PM. A beautiful round trip walk of 2 miles with less than 150 foot climb, through forest and along pond and stream bank. Properties covered include Land Trust, Town, and DEP-owned land.

December 8th **Box Mountain:** Meet at Valley Falls Park off Valley Falls Road at 1:00 PM, then carpool to soccer field off Boulder Crest Lane. Hike returns to Park along a forest trail on Land Trust and Town property, with about 100 foot total climb, and a stop at Railroad Valley lookout.

For more information about any of these activities, call the leaders at the following :
Ed or Fay Dresner - 860-872-4120 Karl Hasel - 860-872-8731



Northern Connecticut Land Trust
PO Box 324
Somers, CT. 06071

Phillip and Selma Grant
 120 Broad Brook Road
 Melrose, CT 06049

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Board of Directors

President

Culver Modisette, Stafford

1st V. President

Karl Hasel, Vernon

2nd V. President

Jerry Stage, Stafford

Treasurer

Jim Gage, Ellington

Recording Secretary

John Maulucci, Vernon

Corresponding Secretary

Fay Dresner, Vernon

Directors

Whit Davis, Somers

Ed Dresner, Vernon

Judy Snyder, Somers

Ernie Boothroyd, Ellington

Lois Osier, Enfield

Albert Grant, E. Windsor

Arend Jan-Knuttel, East Windsor

Virginia Patsun, Somers

John Maulucci, Vernon

George Grant, Ellington

Don Smith, Somers

Michelle Hayward, Somers

If you have a friend interested in joining the Trust and supporting the work of protecting our natural resources, please pass this newsletter on to them. Contributions are tax deductible.

MEMBERSHIPS:

Student - \$2.00	Individual - \$20.00	Family - \$30.00
Business - \$100.00	Life - \$250.00	Patron - \$500.00
	Benefactor - \$1000.00	

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE: _____ E_MAIL: _____

Would you like to receive the newsletter by e-mail? _____

Mail to: Northern Connecticut Land Trust
 PO Box 324
 Somers, CT. 06071

If you would like to volunteer to work projects such as fund-raising, trail maintenance, newsletter, or others, please check YES ___ NO ___