

LANDMARK

The newsletter of the Northern Connecticut Land Trust



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Fundraising Progresses for Acquisition of Modisette Property

With the award of a matching grant of \$273,000 from the Ct Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program, the activity to complete the fundraising to acquire Culver Modisette's 125-acre property is well underway. Following this announcement, the Trust has also received \$50,000 each from the Cox Family Fund at the Boston Foundation and the Bafflin Foundation, pushing the project to within 89% of its goal.

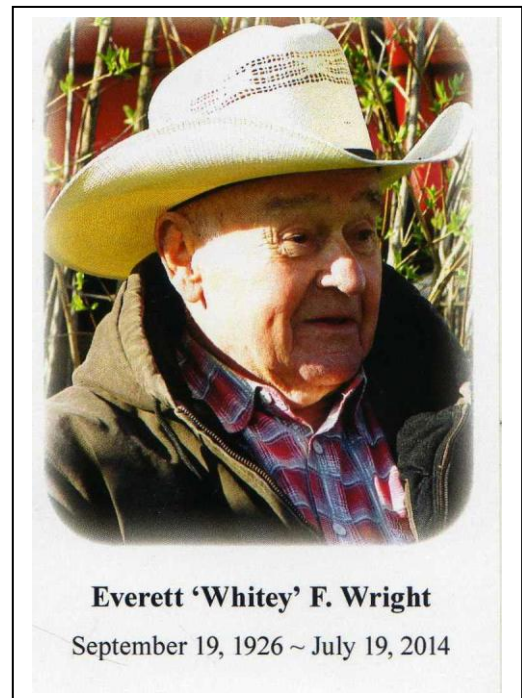
The family has offered the property to the Trust at 25% below the appraised value since it was Culver's wish to protect this land forever. It abuts a section of Shenipsit State Forest and an 83 acre property that has been willed to the NCLT. The Culver Pond property includes shoreline on Culver Pond, a section of Rock-a-Dundee Brook containing native brook trout, and a network of trails through upland forest.

The Trust has also received a generous gift of \$2000 from one of our members. If any other members or friends can help us complete this drive, please send tax deductible contributions to the Trust at PO Box 324, Somers, Ct 06071. Any amount helps and will be appreciated!

Trust Loses 2 Valued Friends

Last summer, Everett Wright of Somers passed away while at home on his farm. Everett was a long time supporter of the Trust, donating a 30-acre parcel to our Scantic Riparian Area in 2003. "Whitey" was a Hartford Circus Fire survivor, former MP in the army Air Force, and avid Enduro motorcross racer and supporter. He loved all aspects of the outdoors, farmed his land right up to his passing, and was described as "the best

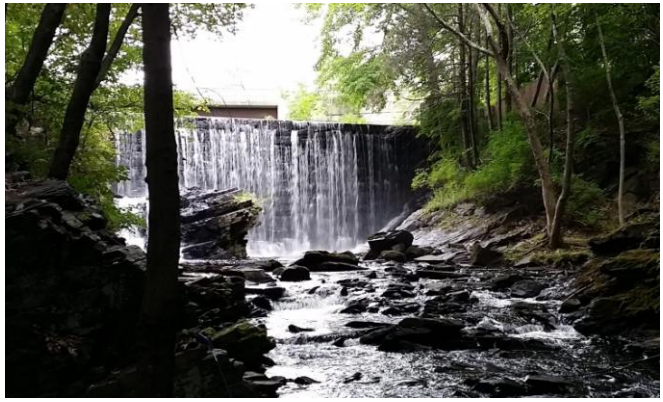
storyteller ever". All of us at NCLT appreciate his concern for the open spaces of Somers and for all



his support over the years.

And In February this year, Emil "Tex" Mulnite passed away. He was a lifelong resident of East Windsor, raising tobacco on Mulnite Farms before switching over to nursery products. Tex was the first member of the original Four Town Land Trust formed in 1978, the first treasurer, and used his first membership contribution to open the Trust's initial bank account. Tex was enthusiastic about conservation issues and was always ready to contribute to any discussions. He sponsored a farm tour early in the history of the Trust, and also served on the town Conservation Commission. Members also remember him sharing his

arrowhead collection at an annual meeting in Melrose schoolhouse.



2015 Schedule of Hikes And Events

(check www.northernctlandtrust.org for
more activities info)

Sat., May 2 - Sunset / Moonlight at Skyline - 7:00PM - moonrise at 6:30, sunset at 8:00. We will hike around Trust's 65 acre Skyline Scenic Area on Stafford Rd near Somers/Stafford line. We will enjoy the sunset and beautiful view across valley towards Springfield from atop mountain, then return by the light of the moon. Meet at the rear of the Somers Town Hall on Rt 190 near the intersection of Rt 83 and carpool to the site.

Sat., May 9 – International Migratory Bird Day walk at Belding Wildlife Management Area in Vernon. This will be a 2-hour walk highlighting migratory bird habitat information. Led by DEEP Wildlife Biologist Jane Seymour (860-306-5418). Meet at 8:00 AM at the parking area on Bread and Milk road.

Sun., May 10 - Mother's Day hike on McCann Family farm - 10:00 AM. Comfortable trail walk thru field and forest. Good bird-watching habitat. Mothers bring the kids – kids bring your mother! Meet at the rear of the Somers Town Hall on Rt 190 near the intersection of Rt 83.

Sat., May 16 – Canoe and Kayak Paddle of Upper Bolton Lake -Take a leisurely tour of this pristine lake setting, perfect for bird-watching, photo opportunities, or just a quiet morning enjoying the outdoors. Meet at the boat launch area off Hatch Hill Road at 9:00 AM. Must bring your own boat, paddles, and life vests. Call Karl at 860-649-4949 for more information

Sat., June 6 – Trails Day Hike at Belding Wildlife Management Area in Vernon. This will be a tour of habitat projects in process at Belding, including wildflower meadow, grassland, riparian restoration and pitch pine. Led by DEEP Wildlife Biologist Jane Seymour (860-306-5418). Meet at 9:00 AM at the parking area on Bread and Milk road.

Sun., June 7 - Trails Weekend - 10:00 AM - We will follow blazed trails through the Land Trusts premier 200+ acre property, featuring woodland and a cow pasture. This approximately 5 mile, one way, hike will be scenic, with bridge crossings and beautifully constructed and well preserved stone walls. There will be the opportunity to loop back to the trail head for a shorter hike. From the Land Trust property we will continue on Somers Trail Committee and Shenipisit State Forest trails to the Soapstone Mountain Lookout. There will be transportation back to the trail head. We will discuss the natural and land use history as well as local wildlife along the way. Meet behind the Somers Town Hall on Rt 190 near the intersection of Rt 83 in the center of Somers. We will car pool to the trailhead and shuttle back from the hike destination. For questions, contact Albert Grant, 860-623-5487 or 860-299-5654, albert_grant@sbcglobal.net.

Sat., June 20 - Hike at Ernie Boothroyd Preserve, Ellington. Meet at 10:00AM.

The 58 acre Ernie Boothroyd Preserve was acquired by NCLT in 2010. Last year our stewardship volunteers created a loop trail to showcase the property. This will be an easy 1.2 mile walk with stops to look at and discuss items of interest along the way. Boothroyd Preserve is covered with Mountain Laurel which will hopefully be in bloom. Directions: From the junction of Rte. 140 and Tolland Ave. in Stafford Springs take Tolland Ave south for 1.5 miles. The Boothroyd Preserve is on the right. If coming from the south; from the Tolland Green take Old Stafford Road (becomes Tolland Turnpike) 4.8 miles north to Ernie Boothroyd Preserve on the left. For further information contact leader Richard Bailey at 860-749-0061, dweezle-ct3@att.net

Sun., Aug 23 -Talcott Ravine Hike – Walk the trail along the Tankerhoosen Brook thru the Trust Talcott Gorge property in Vernon. Park at the Elm Hill church parking lot off Main St in Talcottville at 10:00 AM. Moderate effort walk of 2 miles along the scenic and historic site brook and view the falls off Dobson Rd. (picture above).

Sat., Sept. 26 - Bald Mtn. Preserve, Somers - 10:00 AM – We will hike through two Land Trust properties as well as Town of Somers and State of CT properties. These comprise the Bald Mountain Preserve, which includes the entire summit of the tallest of the surrounding mountains. Foliage should be starting to turn. The trails are steep and rocky in some places but not difficult with good shoes. The distance will be about 2 1/2 miles. Meet at the rear of the Somers Town Hall on Rt 190 near the intersection of Rt 83

Sun., October 11 – Fall foliage along Railroad Brook gorge in Vernon. Hike thru the Trust's Andrew Webster Knapp property to the Rails-to-trails, then up to the ridge overlooking Valley Falls Park and Railroad Brook for some beautiful scenery. Fairly challenging walk with up and down steep slopes. Meet at the Valley Falls parking lot off Valley Falls Road at 9:00 AM. Call Karl at 860-649-4949 for further information.

Sun., Oct. 18 - Skyline Scenic Area - 10:00 AM - Foliage hike with great views of the valley to the west. On Stafford Rd near Somers/Stafford line. Meet at the rear of the Somers Town Hall on Rt 190 near the intersection of Rt 83.

Conserving Heirloom *Malus domestica* Apples on Land Trust Properties

From the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies

Did you know that heirloom apple trees, *Malus domestica*, are often found on land trust properties? Many trees are untended, have not been pruned in recent memory and will quietly disappear without active conservation measures. The Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies is undertaking a conservation management project to document and preserve *Malus domestica* biodiversity in New England. Researchers will conduct site visits and collect information including the location and current health of trees, as well as make recommendations

for *in situ* and *ex situ* management and preservation. Members interested in participating may contact Emily Wright at (212) 810-7285 or emily.wright@yale.edu.



LANDMARK: *Newsletter of the*

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

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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:	Individual	\$25	Family	\$35
			Sustaining	\$50
			Patron	\$100
			Benefactor	\$1000

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