

LANDMARK

The newsletter of the Northern Connecticut Land Trust



Number 11

August 2003

Annual Meeting to be Held September 21 in Somers

The Northern Connecticut Land Trust will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, September 21, in the Somers Congregational church. Refreshments will be served starting at 5:30 PM followed by a potluck dinner at 6:00. Please bring a main dish, salad, or dessert to share, and your own plates and utensils. There will be a brief business meeting with election of officers for 2004.

The featured speaker will be John Monroe, Director of Connecticut projects for the rivers and trails program of the National Park Service. Based in Boston, Mr. Monroe provides technical assistance to conservation nonprofit groups across Connecticut. John has been instrumental in guiding the reactivated Scantic River Watershed Association to become established as a positive environmental organization. The topic will be "The Scantic River Watershed and How it Fits into the National Watershed Movement".

To get to the church, head east toward Stafford on Rt 190 from its intersection with Rt 83 in Somers. The church is the second building on the left. For further information, call Judith Snyder at 860-749-5411.

The proposed slate of officers and nominated directors for 2004 is as follows:

Culver Modisette – President
Karl Hasel – 1st V. President
Jerry Stage – 2nd V. President
John Maulucci – Recording Secretary
Jim Gage – Treasurer
Fay Dresner – Corresponding Secretary

Board of Directors:
Arend-Jan Knuttel
Judith Snyder
Culver Modisette
Edgar Dresner
Virginia Patsun

Revisions to the bylaws are also being proposed, and will be voted on for acceptance at the meeting (cont. on page 3, "Bylaws").

State Continues to Debate Open Space Funding Under New Budget

Although the state has a new budget, the fate of funding for open space protection in 2004 remains to be decided. Currently proposed for the Department of Environmental Protection Open Space and Watershed Acquisition program is a bond plan for \$8 million for 2004, along with \$11 million for the National Recreation and National Heritage Trust program. This represents almost \$2.5 million less than in recent years, but should provide sufficient funds to keep up the momentum these popular programs have developed.

The successful open space and watershed protection program has awarded grants totaling \$55 million since its inception in 1999, allowing for more than 13,000 acres to be protected under 218 projects. The program awards matching grants of 40 to 50% of the cost of a project as proposed by nonprofit land trusts, municipalities, and water companies. NCLT has acquired 3 of these grants so far, totaling over \$370,000, which has contributed to protecting over 250 acres from future development. These successes have brought much-needed exposure to the Trust and its objectives, and have resulted in additional contacts and potential land acquisition opportunities. The Land Acquisition committee has over 1000 acres on its list of actions to be pursued, and the likelihood of completing even a few of these will be jeopardized without the help of such enabling funding sources as these state programs. As the legislature discusses this bond proposal during September, any support you can provide urging these programs be continued will be extremely important in assuring these sources of funds will be available in the future.



Additional Scantic River Waterfront Property Acquired

The 17 acre Lipton property in Somers, acquired along the Scantic River waterfront in January, has been enhanced with the addition of 30 acres adjacent to its southern boundary. Purchased from local farmer Everett Wright in June, the former bedding hay land adds to a continuous greenway of marsh and forestland along the western boundary of the river from Durkee Road down to Four Bridges Road just north of Rt 190, and bolsters the efforts of the Trust and the newly-created Scantic River Watershed Association (see following article) to

create linear passive recreation park areas along the length of the river from Somers to its confluence with the Connecticut River in South Windsor. The groups are working with the state Department of Environmental Protection, the National Park Service, and local towns and residents to protect land along the 38-mile riverfront and its 90,000-acre watershed area.



Scantic River Group to Hold Organizational Meetings

On Thursday, September 24, the reactivated Scantic River Watershed Association will hold an informational meeting at 7:30 PM in Piedmont Hall in Somers, CT., next to the Town Hall. The meeting will outline the areas of the watershed and the functions and objectives of the association, such as eliminating pollution, creating greenways,

clearing obstructions in the river, and promoting compatible recreation.

Follow-on meetings are scheduled for Hamden, MA. October 8 at 7:30 PM in the Hamden Town Hall auditorium; East Windsor, CT. October 21 at 7:00 PM at the Warehouse Point library; and Enfield, CT. November 6 at 7:00 PM in the library on Middle Road.

Please come and join us – “We speak for the river!”



Trust Successful in Capturing Another State Open Space Grant

In April, the Trust received a Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection Open Space grant for \$142,500 to help obtain a conservation easement on the White Farm in the corner of Stafford, Willington, and Union. The nearly 180 acres is a working farm consisting of lovely open fields and woodlands, interlaced with wood roads and a beautiful brook and small pond, on which Bob White raises and sells organically-grown beef. The Trust is working to raise the remainder of the matching funds in order to complete the purchase of the development rights and protect this farm for posterity.

Thanks to all who are participating in the SNET Community Connections program. To date, the program has contributed \$267.56 to the Trust. You can help by calling SNET at 1-800-635-7638 and signing up for their All-Distance coverage, and tell them you would like them to contribute 5% of your monthly long distance bill to the Northern Connecticut Land Trust, code 3178. This will not impact your monthly bill in any way, but helps support the Trust.

Bylaw Revisions Recommended by the 2003 Nominating Committee

The following revisions to the Bylaws are being recommended for adoption at the 2003 Annual Meeting to bring them up to current practices and to be consistent in definition:

Article I, Section 2: Eliminate categories of membership Regular, Associate, Supporting, and Charter, and add Individual, Patron, and Benefactor.

Article I, Section 6: Change "filed with the Secretary" to "filed with the Recording Secretary".

Article II, Section 1: Change the designation of the Board of Directors as consisting of "no more than nineteen full members" to "no more than nineteen members", consistent with the change in Article II, Section 7 regarding the lack of definition of "full memberships".

Article II, Section 2: Under "Election of Directors", change the provision for staggering elections from "not less than three nor more than five shall have their terms expire in any one year" to "not less than three nor more than seven shall have their terms expire in any one year" in order to appropriately account for a potential total of 19 Directors with 3 year terms each. Also delete statement "Directors shall continue in office until a successor is elected and qualified".

Article II, Section 5: Change "filed with Secretary" to "filed with Recording Secretary".

Article II, Section 7: Under Voting, change "Each full membership shall have one vote" to "Each membership shall have one vote", as there is no definition of a "full membership".

Throughout the articles: Change "officer" and "director" to "Officer" and "Director" in all occurrences.

Article III, Section 3: Change "The Secretary shall give reasonable notice" to "The Recording Secretary shall give reasonable notice".

Article V, Section 3: Change adopted Bylaws from as "amended at the Annual Meeting in 1988 and 1996" to as "amended at the Annual Meeting in 1988, 1996, and 2003".

Land Trust Co-Founder Weds Volunteer

On Sunday, August 10, George Grant of Somers and Leslie Green of Manchester exchanged vows at the Grant farm in Melrose. The bride, dressed in a lovely gown of multi-colored lavender, was attended by her close friends Jan Johnson and Carol Duggan. George was attended by his brother Don and close friend Jerry Stage.

The ceremony took place in a bucolic setting on the Grant property. The bride arrived with her attendants by horse drawn carriage and was greeted by her future husband as she crossed an enchanting brook on a bridge that led to the awaiting family and friends. The ceremony included Jerry playing the flute with the processional music, and Carol singing a lovely solo which was dedicated to George by Leslie. A delightful reception, including carriage rides for guests, was enjoyed by all.

It was 16 years ago that George had the foresight with three others to establish the land trust, which was originally called the "Four Town Land Trust". Since that time it has expanded to several other towns and is known to us all now as the Northern Connecticut Land Trust. The acquisition of 86 acres known as the McCann Family Farm was a tremendous boost to the land trust and George's future! Jerry and George had led many interesting wildflower hikes at McCann's and it was on one of these hikes that a Leslie Green happened on the scene. She immediately became enthralled with the property and offered to help with the clearing and trail work. With the birds and bees, beautiful Gulf Stream, and all the other enchantments of McCann's – the rest is history! Our best wishes to Leslie and George.



Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Vernon, CT
Permit No 92

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

Philip & Selma Grant
120 Broad Brook Road
Melrose CT 06049

06016+9616



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

Ed Dresner, Vernon

Judy Snyder, Somers

Ernie Boothroyd, Ellington

Lois Osier, Enfield

Albert Grant, E. Windsor

Arend Jan-Knuttel, East Windsor

George Grant, Somers

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 ___