

Bald Mountain Property In Somers Now Under Land Trust Preservation

SOMERS—Northern Connecticut Land Trust says another major step was taken recently towards keeping the Bald Mountain area in Somers as open space, through a significant donation.

The Trust received a gift of land known as the Bridge property on Upper Scully Road in Somers, from brother and sister, Ted and Elizabeth Bridge-Koenigsberg of Maine. The family kept a cabin and the 10 acres surrounding it, while donating the remaining 64 acres for open space preservation.

The area is a heavily-wooded land that lies on the western flank of Bald Mountain, reaching up to the ridgeline between the Pinnacle and the high point of the mountain.

The land is visible from a large part of the Connecticut Valley and is crossed by the Shenipsit Trail, a

part of the Blue Trail System.

Bald Mountain, at 1,211-foot ele-

**Brother and sister in
Maine donate 64 acres
on Bald Mountain for
open space preservation**

vation, is the highest peak along the Connecticut River Valley from the Long Island Sound, to Mount Toby in Sunderland, Massachusetts, almost 37 miles further north.

NCLT spokesmen say the donation of the Bridge property emphasizes the progress made toward the preservation of Bald Mountain, which, until less than two years ago, was entirely in private hands.

Since then, the town of Somers has acquired the Hurd and Tease

properties for open space. These properties comprise most of Bald Mountain's south face and peak.

The State of Connecticut has added the Pease and Casagrande parcels, totaling almost 400 acres on the eastern and northern parts of the mountain, up to the Shenipsit State Forest.

The Bridge parcel abuts the Casagrande land. The Trust has been in contact with three other landowners in the area who are contemplating conserving their properties that also abut one of the protected Bald Mountain pieces.

The Northern Connecticut Land Trust is a private, non-profit organization operating primarily in East Windsor, Ellington, Enfield, Somers, Stafford, and Vernon, to preserve and protect open space and other natural resources.

Reminder Mar 12, 2002

Northern Connecticut Land Trust Earns Habitat/Holdings Award

added 133 acres to its total acreage under preservation, a 54% increase

**The private, non-profit
group works to preserve
and protect open space
and natural resources.**

over previous holdings.

In June 2001, the Trust purchased the 56-acre Swann Farm off Reeves Road in Ellington with the help of grants from the DEP Open Space Grant Program and from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.

In January of this year, the 12.6-acre Wapping Bog in East Windsor, one of the few black spruce bogs in the state, was donated for preservation.

In February, a 64.4-acre parcel on Bald Mountain in Somers was donated by Ted and Elizabeth Bridge-Koenigsberg of Maine.

Karl Hasel, Trust public relations chairperson, commented that "although this looks like a sudden increase in the success of the Trust in meeting its objectives of open space protection, it is in fact a culmination of many years of hard work and negotiations in bringing about these property acquisitions.

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This acquisition brings the total land owned by the Trust to over 380 acres.

ENFIELD—For the second year in a row, the Northern Connecticut Land Trust has captured one of the top awards at the Land Trust Service Bureau's annual Land Trust Convocation.

Held March 23, at Northeast Utilities facility in Berlin, CT, the day-long event hosted over 100 people from the 115 land trusts around the state.

The participants gathered to discuss land preservation topics and to attend educational workshops.

During the annual awards ceremony, MCLT was presented the 'Unique Habitat and Substantial Increase in Holdings Award.'

George Grant of the Board of Directors was present to accept the award from the Awards Committee chair, Arthur Milnor.

During the past year, NCLT

Johnson Memorial Hospital Community Services Department's Spring Family Wellness Outings

SPRING WILD FLOWER HIKE

Sunday, June 4

9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Location: McCann Family Farm, Somers, CT

Cost: \$2.00 per person

Guide: George Grant

Two to three mile hike among some of the most beautiful scenery in Connecticut. Identify spring wild flowers and other plants.

SPRING FAMILY HIKE

Sunday, May 7

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Location: Nipmuck State Forest

Cost: \$8.50 includes lunch

Guide: George Grant

Five-mile hike includes lunch.

NORTHERN CONNECTICUT LAND TRUST



GEORGE GRANT
President

P.O. Box 324
Somers, CT 06071
(860) 749-3282