

LANDMARK

The newsletter of the Northern Connecticut Land Trust

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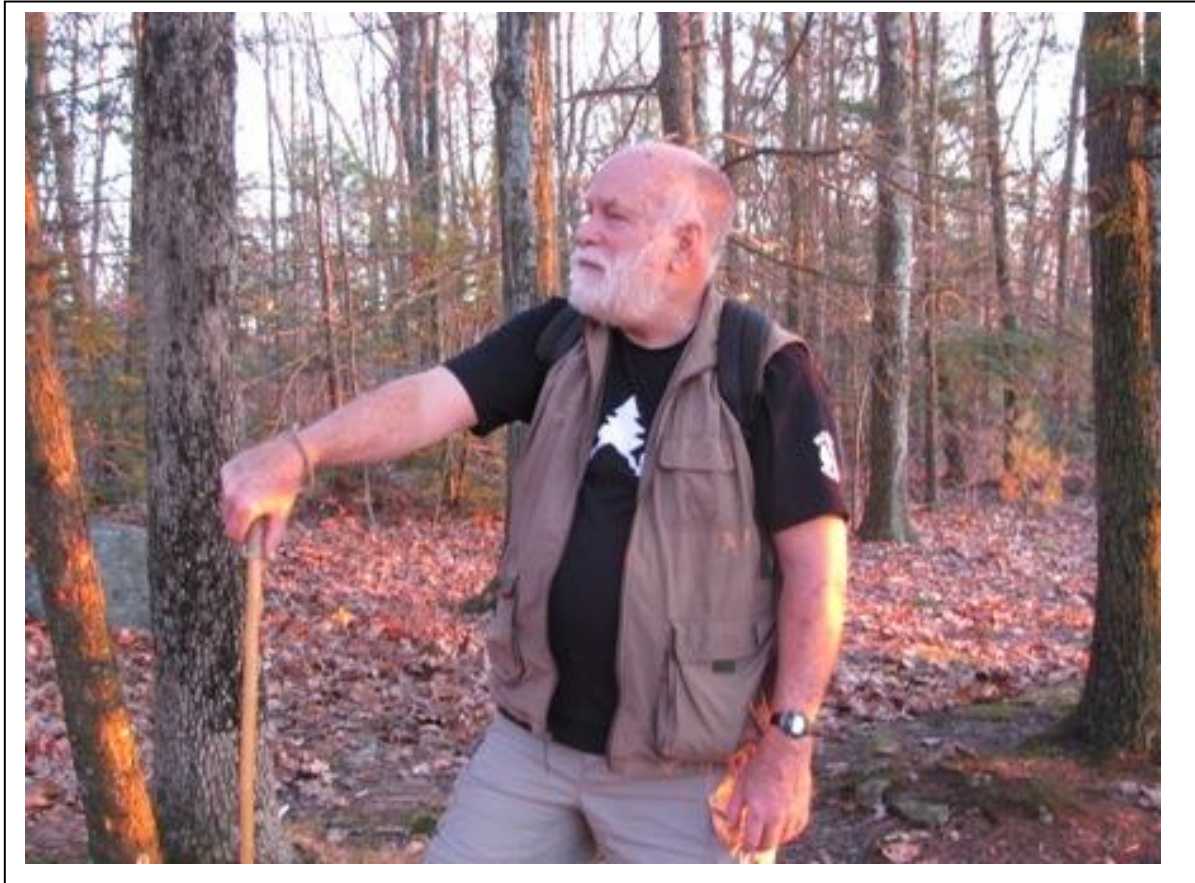


Passing of a Good Friend

We were all saddened by the passing of Jerry Stage on January 23, 2014, after a protracted battle with cancer. Jerry was a long time supporter, Officer, Board of Director member, and Stewardship chair for many years, as well as a lover of nature and all things outdoors. If you ever attended any of our nature walks, chances are you happened into him, as he loved to talk about birds, bees, and wildflowers.

Jerry was one of the founding members of the land trust and a man of many interests. He was an avid runner and a member of the Shenipsit Striders. He completed the Boston Marathon and at the age of 60 completed three 50 mile races within the span of 7 weeks. Jerry, originally from California, earned a PhD in Entomology at Berkley and was a nationally recognized expert on bees. He planned and built many of the trails on land trust properties.

We will sorely miss his smile, his enthusiasm, his knowledge, his leadership, and his friendship.



New Trust Property Acquisitions

The NCLT has recently acquired two new farmland properties. In September 2013, we closed on the 70 acre Myers Farm in Ellington. The property abuts our Swann Farm and is located between Reeves Road and Green Road. The five fields on the property will be leased to local farmers for growing corn and hay. Funding for the purchase was provided by the Hartford Foundation and the Bafflin Foundation. The Connecticut Department of Agriculture and the Town of Ellington purchased the development rights.

In December 2013, we purchased the Satkowski Farm on Upper Road in Stafford. This 20 acre pasture was offered at a bargain price by Katherine Satkowski in memory of Felix and Henry Satkowski, her father-in-law and her husband. Funding for the purchase was provided by the Cox Family Fund at the Boston Foundation. We plan to lease this pasture to a local farmer for grazing livestock.

These acquisitions bring the total acreage owned by the Trust to over 1400 acres in our coverage towns of Vernon, Ellington, Enfield, East Windsor, Somers, and Stafford, with one property in Tolland.

Ginny Patsun Leaves for Peace Corps Assignment

I have been a volunteer for the Northern Connecticut Land Trust (NCLT) for several years leading educational hikes, taking part in work parties, and serving on the Board. The NCLT has been my outlet to pursue many of my interests and satisfy my desire to help preserve the environment. Because of my interests and desire, I am proud to announce after a lengthy application process, I received an invitation to serve in the Peace Corps. I am scheduled to depart for Zambia, Africa early February of 2014.

Zambia is the size of Texas located in sub-Saharan Africa just south of the equator. Zambia is land-locked and bordered by eight countries, including Botswana, Malawi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tanzania, Namibia, Angola, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe. The terrain is rolling hills and is host to several animal species, such as elephants, zebras, and lions. The people are known for their friendliness and hospitality. Zambia is a peaceful country and is home to one of the natural wonders of the world, Victoria Falls.

What I will be doing in Zambia is work as a Forestry Extension Agent. I will take part in the LIFE project which stands for linking income and food with the environment. This project helps people of rural Zambia generate income by increasing food production and conserve natural resources.

Zambia will be my home for twenty-seven months. The first three months will be spent learning a tribal language and learning about the culture. I will live with a host family until I am assigned my permanent post which could be anywhere in the country.

As with most African countries, Zambia has its share of problems. Generating income is difficult, especially for rural communities which rely on heavily on subsistence farming. The cities are modern to United States standards and are heavily populated. Though the cities offer opportunity, there is still a great amount of poverty within. HIV and AIDS is prevalent and many children become orphans or die early from the disease.

Since I will be living in a rural setting, I will be sacrificing many conveniences we have here in the United States. Showers and toilets are not found in rural Zambia. I will most likely have to collect my water from a well. I will have to sleep covered by mosquito netting and rely on a solar generator to keep batteries charged. I will have a cell phone and a shortwave radio to help keep me connected to the outside world. Occasional trips to the city will allow me to stock up on supplies and connect to the internet.

The food will be different. People in rural Zambia eat freshwater fish, porridge, vegetables and fruits. It will be an adjustment for me to adapt to a new diet, especially a western diet full of comfort foods. I will miss ice-cream dearly. But, I will be living among people who will become my friends. I will live in a beautiful part of the world. I will get to know the new flora and fauna which excites me to no end. I will have my field guides and binoculars by my side as I do in the woods and fields here in Ct. I am excited about my new adventure. I am grateful to be serving for an organization that will help me help others and the environment. I see this as an extension to the NCLT. I am hoping that what I will bring back with me from my Peace Corps experience will enhance the NCLT's effort of educating people about the environment and preservation of the environment. I will miss everyone while I am gone, but I will keep in touch. Take care and continue hiking the trails and enjoying nature.

Ginny (follow Ginny's experience at <http://journeyinthethirdworld.blogspot.com>)



Hiking/Walking/Paddling thru 2014 with the NCLT



check www.northernctlandtrust.com for further information

April 12, 6:15 PM – **Sunset hike on Skyline property** – Hike along the Trust’s Skyline Scenic Trail in Somers at sunset for a beautiful view towards the west and the distant Springfield skyline. Meet behind the Somers Town Hall near the Rt 83 and 190 intersection in Somers and carpool to the property. Moderately hilly hike.

May 10, 10:00 AM – **Kayak/canoe exploration of Upper Bolton Lake** – Join us for a leisurely tour of a beautiful, wild, scenic area pond, highlighting a rare grove of Atlantic White Cedar (see Hartford Courant 3/16/14 article by Peter Marteka) and various birds and wildflowers. Meet at boat launch on Hatch Hill Road off Bolton Rd in Vernon. Must bring own boat, paddles, life vests. Contact Karl at 860-649-4949 for more information.

May 11, 10:00 AM – **Mothers Day hike on McCann Family Farm in Somers** – Geared to a family outing, bring the kids and grandparents, aunts and uncles. Easy 2 mile hike thru open field, small stream bridges, and forested trail. Meet in parking lot of Somers Town Hall on south side of Rt 190 just east of intersection with Rt 83. Contact Albert at 860-623-5487 for more information.

June 7, 9-12 AM – **Ct Forest and Parks Trails Day hike at Whitaker Woods in Somers** – We will follow blazed trails on this premier 200+ acre property, featuring woodland and a cow pasture. This approx. 5 mile hike is scenic with bridge crossings and beautifully constructed and well-preserved stonewalls. The hike leaders will discuss land use history along the way. Meet behind Somers Town Hall on Rt. 190 at the center of town; we will carpool from there to our destination. Pre-registration is appreciated. Questions, rain plan and to pre-register, contact leader Albert Grant, 860 623-5487, albert_grant@sbcglobal.net.

June 14, 10:00 AM – **Hike/tour of Ellington Swann Farm and American chestnut orchard project.** Short .5 mile walk followed by optional tour and review of the Trust and American Chestnut Foundation project orchard to restore disease-resistant chestnut trees to the Northeast. Meet at parking area, denoted by Trust sign, off Reeves Road in Ellington. Contact Richard at 860-749-0061 for more information.

Other hikes to be scheduled: Talcottville Gorge and Valley Falls Park in Vernon

Check the website for more scheduled hikes and nature programs throughout the year.



LANDMARK: *Newsletter of the*

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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 ___