

LANDMARK

The newsletter of the Northern Connecticut Land Trust



Number 19

September 2007

20th Anniversary Celebration at Annual Meeting Sept. 16

Speaker to address the American Chestnut restoration project

Come join the potluck supper – annual meeting Sunday, September 16, starting at 5:00 PM at the Somers Congregational Church. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the organization of both the Vernon Land Trust and the Four Town Land Trust, which merged to form the current Trust in 1997. We would especially like to invite former officers of the organizations to see the wonderful progress the Trust has made in the last several years. Featured speaker will be Bill Adamsen, President of the Connecticut chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation, who will talk about the project to cross-breed a disease resistant strain of the once prolific American Chestnut tree and re-introduce it around the United States, and how the NCLT is intimately involved in the project. The talk will begin at 7:00 PM. Social hour begins at 5:00, dinner at 6:00, and will be followed by a short business meeting to elect officers for next year. Bring your favorite dish to share, and your own utensils and dishes. Beverages will be provided. The church is on Rt 190 just east of the intersection with Rt 83 in Somers.

The proposed slate of officers and Board of Director members for 2008 is:

Culver Modisette – Pres.	Albert Grant– Director
Jerry Stage – 1 st V. Pres.	John Maulucci – Director
Karl Hasel – 2 nd V. Pres	Michelle Hayward - Director
Jim Gage – Treasurer	Doug Metivier - Director
Michelle Hayward – Secretary	

Proposed changes to the bylaws would delete the Student member category and add Supporting Member and Champion categories.

Open Space Protection Progressing in Connecticut

According to the May 24, 2007 review draft of “*The Green Plan - Guiding Land Acquisition and Protection in Connecticut 2007 - 2012*”, significant progress was made from 2001-2006 towards the goal of protecting 21% of Connecticut’s land as open space. Up until 2001, the State had acquired 217,000 acres of its overall goal of 321,000 acres to meet its share of the 21% goal. Between 2001 and 2007, another 34,000 acres were acquired, putting the State well ahead of the pace needed to meet its total goal by 2021. The other partners in the open space protection plan include non-profit land conservation organizations, which own 57,327 acres, municipalities owning 74,971 acres, and Class I and II water company lands totaling 97,500 acres, for a total of 230,000 acres. This means approximately 72% of the overall goal for protected land has been achieved to date. This is great progress, but still leaves an average of 25,000 acres every 5 years required by the non-State partners for acquisition and protection in addition to the 21,600 acres to be acquired by the State, so our work is crucial if the 21% goal is to be met by 2021 as initially laid out in 1997. It is important to note that farmland protection efforts acquiring development rights to agricultural property by the Dept. of Agriculture are not counted towards the 21% open space protection goal since they are not specifically maintained for ecological or public recreational purposes.

To aid in this project, Governor Rell issued an Executive Order requiring this “Green Plan” be updated “to better identify sensitive ecological areas and unique features, guide acquisition and preservation efforts, support local build-out maps and assessments, and make these and other maps accessible to state agencies, regional planning agencies, local communities and nongovernmental organizations through geographic information systems (GIS).” To find out more about the DEP’s land acquisition and protection efforts, visit the web page www.ct.gov/dep/openspace.



**LANDMARK – newsletter of:
Northern Connecticut Land Trust
PO Box 324
Somers, CT. 06071**

Board of Directors

President

Culver Modisette, Stafford

1st V. President

Jerry Stage, Stafford

2nd V. President

Karl Hasel, Vernon

Treasurer

Jim Gage, Ellington

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Don Smith, Somers

Wes Smith, Somers

Virginia Patsun, Somers

Margaret Steinbugler, E. Windsor

Andy Hoffman, Broad Brook

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 _____

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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 ___