

LANDMARK

The newsletter of the Northern Connecticut Land Trust



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“Adopt the pace of nature: her secret is patience.” --- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Trust Benefits from Target Circle Program

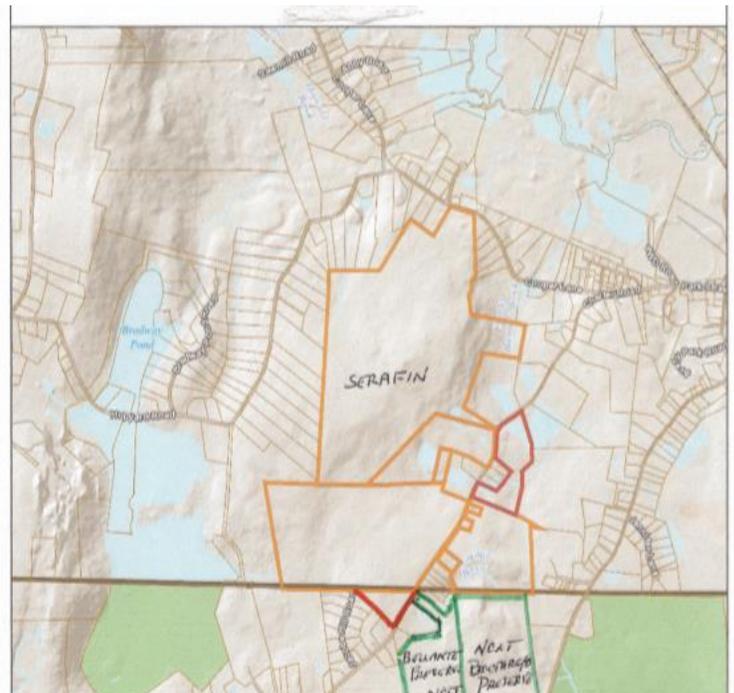
If you shopped at Target during this past Christmas season and entered a vote for the Land Trust in their Target Circle Guest-Directed Giving program, we thank you. The Trust received over 8700 votes that resulted in a donation from Target thanks to you and others who took the time to support their program recognizing local non-profits. “We are excited to share that guests at Target stores cast 8786 votes to Northern Connecticut Land Trust Inc, awarding Target funds in the amount of \$682.39 to your organization. Most importantly, they voted for you, your mission and the impact you have on their community. Full results are now posted for

members of Target Circle at <https://circle.target.com/cr/results.>”

And better news yet, the Trust has been chosen to participate in the next round of this program with 4-6 other non-profits, running from April thru June of 2020. So when you shop at Target, look for their Circle program at checkout and remember the Trust with your votes! Together, we can keep Connecticut and our communities balanced between development and natural areas that we can all enjoy.

Large Tract Added to Preserved Land in Northern Ct. Region

The New England Forest Foundation recently completed the acquisition of a development easement on 365 acres in eastern Stafford bordering Ellington and near the Nye-Holman State Forest. The preservation goal had been under negotiations for several years with John Serafin through the MassConn conservation outreach project and was completed December 30 last year. The property is significant to the Trust as it borders both our Bellante and Ernie Boothroyd properties, making this a major open space tract for wildlife and for outdoor enthusiasts.



“Live in each season as it passes; breathe the air, drink the drink, taste the fruit, and resign yourself to the influence of the earth.” --- Henry David Thoreau

Trust Acquires 11 Acres in Ellington

In September 2019, the NCLT purchased the 11 acre Dora Pearl property in Ellington for a bargain price of \$10,000. The owners of the property had moved out of state many years ago and the heirs to their estate did not respond to the property tax bills sent by the town that had accumulated to close to \$22,000. The town agreed to waive the back taxes and the NCLT acquired the property that abuts our Shenipsit Woods holding and the Shenipsit State Forest. The property is upland forest that is excellent wildlife habitat. The acquisition brings the total land under NCLT ownership to over 1730 acres.

Eastern Ct Initiative Work Continuing

The NCLT participation in the Northeast Land Trust Advancement Initiative with 5 other land trusts is in the 2nd phase, implementing learning and objectives developed last year. A \$1000 matching grant has been received to pursue improved communications and social media efforts, primarily to address our website construction and format. A website expert has been contracted to move the site to a better location with improved maintenance capabilities so that we can continue its look-and-feel development and as well as updating content with our own efforts. This revision will become apparent towards the end of March, so be aware of changes you might encounter,

still under our www.northernctlandtrust.org site. We are also moving towards more regular communications than the twice a year newsletter and Annual Report, utilizing Mailchimp for “news blast” emails every few weeks to highlight recent events to our email members. These will be short, informational emails to keep you aware of items that should be of interest to the preservation community and to keep communication lines open. Please give us feedback on this effort, either positive interest or let us know if you would prefer not to be contacted this frequently, and we will take all input into consideration

Federal Funds to Help Reach State Conservation Goals

The U.S. Department of Interior’s Land and Water Conservation Fund has committed \$560,000 in three grants towards acquisition of 425 acres in eastern Connecticut to “help insure that more of our natural heritage will be protected and enjoyed for generations to come”. Under the state’s Connecticut Open Space Acquisition Strategy, a target of preserving 673,210 acres, or 21% of the state’s land, by 2023 has been set. Recent DEEP estimates show that about 76% of this goal has been achieved to date. With these federal funds and dollars from the ongoing state Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant program, progress continues towards these goals, even though many think the target will not be reached.

“The clearest way into the Universe is through a forest wilderness.” ---- John Muir

2020 Outdoor Activity Schedule

Check News and Events at www.northernctlandtrust.org for latest announcements

Sat. April 4 - Sunset / Moonlight at Skyline – 6:45 PM sharp - moonrise at 3:08, sunset at 7:20. 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 the mountain, have a snack if you would like to bring one, then return by the light of the moon. Meet at the rear of the Somers Town Hall, 600 Main St., Rt. 190 near the intersection of Rt. 83 and carpool to the site. For questions, contact Albert Grant, 860-623-5487

Sat., May 9 – Canoe and Kayak Paddle of Upper Bolton Lake in Vernon -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

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, 600 Main St., Rt. 190 near the intersection of Rt. 83. For questions, contact Albert Grant, 860-623-5487

Sat. June 6 - Trails Weekend - 10:00 AM - We will follow blazed trails through the Land Trust's premier 200+ acre, Whitaker Woods property, featuring woodland and a cow pasture. This approximately 2 ½ mile hike will be scenic, with bridge crossings and beautifully constructed and well-preserved stone walls. We will discuss the natural and land use history as well as local wildlife along the way. Meet behind the Somers Town Hall, 600 Main St., Rt. 190, near the intersection of Rt. 83 in the center of Somers. We will car pool to the trailhead. For questions, contact Albert Grant, 860-623-5487, albert_grant@sbcglobal.net.

Sat. June 20 - Hike at Ernie Boothroyd and Bellante Preserve, Ellington - 10:00 AM. The 58 acre Ernie Boothroyd Preserve was acquired by NCLT in 2010. The Bellante Property is 36 acres abutting the Boothroid Preserve that was acquired this past year. The hike will be about 2 miles featuring abundant mountain laurel in bloom. From Stafford, take Tolland Ave south for 1.5 miles. The Boothroyd Preserve is on the right. 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, dweezlect3@att.net

Sun Sept 13– 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. The trails are steep and rocky in some places but not difficult with good shoes. The distance will be about 2 ½ miles. Meet at the rear of the Somers Town Hall, 600 Main St. Rt. 190 near the intersection of Rt. 83. For questions contact Albert Grant 860 623-5487

Sat., October 3 – 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, 600 Main St., Rt. 190, near the intersection of Rt. 83. For questions, contact Albert Grant, 860-623-5487
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Sun., October 18 – Fall foliage along Railroad Brook gorge in Vernon. Leisurely walk 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 energetic walk with up and down steep slopes, 1 to 1 ½ hours. Meet at the Valley Falls parking lot off Valley Falls Road at 9:00 AM. Call Karl at 860-649-4949 for further information.

Sat. Dec. 12 – Schlaf Farm, Somers. Hike 2.5 miles at a casual pace exploring a 38 acre property conserved by the Northern CT Land Trust located in the picturesque center of Somers, CT. The hike follows easy navigable woodland trails and skirts a cornfield. If there is snow, hikers may plan to bring cross-country skis, snowshoes, or a sled to pull along the little ones. Leashed dogs are welcome. Meet at 10 am at the parking lot located behind the Somers Town Hall (600 Main Street) in Somers. The hike will begin from there. For questions call Albert Grant, 860-623-5487

“One touch of Nature makes the whole world kin.” ----- William Shakespeare

