

LANDMARK

The newsletter of the Northern Connecticut Land Trust



Number 39

March 2021

“Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better.” – Albert Einstein

Trust Again Selected for Target Circle Program

If you shopped at Target in 2020 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 happy to report that our Trust has again been chosen to participate in the program from Jan-March 2021, so please take the time to vote for us when you make purchases at Target and support our natural resource preservation activities.

- Guests earn one vote every time they make an eligible purchase at Target, online and in-store. In this regard, it's not your typical voting program. Members earn votes as they shop at Target.
- Earning Votes In Store: At checkout, a Target Guest may scan her/his Wallet barcode in the Target App at the time of purchase, or scan the barcode on her/his receipt with the Target App within seven (7) days of purchase.
- Earning Votes Online: To earn a vote on a Target.com or Target App purchase, a Target guest must have joined Target Circle and be signed into their Target.com account when they place an order.

Target UPDATE: “as of Feb 16, your organization has seen 14,501 votes in support from approximately 2,471 unique Target guests!”

Vernon Scouts Hike Valley Falls Lookout

Boy Scout Troop 86 of Vernon enjoyed an outing to the scenic overlook at Valley Falls Park in Vernon on the Trust's Andrew Kenneth Webster property and trails. About 20 scouts and parents/leaders participated in this event to get everyone outdoors. Troop leader Michael Lee and Trust Director Karl Hasel led the group on the 1 ½ hour walk to the Rails-to-Trails path and up to the lookout.



“Nature does not hurry, yet everything is accomplished.” --- Lao Tzu

Matching Grant Received from Private Donor

A generous donation from Jim and Lu Sherman and family has been granted the Trust for \$20,000 with a matching challenge, the monies to be used for an improvement project on a Trust-owned property to enhance the visibility of our organization. We are looking at significant improvements to our Scantic Riparian area in Somers along the Scantic Brook with trails and new permanent bridges and scenic areas as a way to begin utilizing these funds. As soon as the weather improves and matching funds come in, we will begin to implement the plans currently being drawn up. We plan to hold a special fundraising drive toward the end of the year to provide the matching funds to meet this challenge. Stay tuned.

Talcottville Bridge Replacement Notice (Vernon)

The State is refurbishing the old bridge at the end of Main Street in Talcottville that leads to the parking area accessing the Trust Talcottville Ravine trails on the west end. The work will replace much of the bridge structure from March thru November this year and severely limit access for that period. Walkers can still get on the trail from Dobson Road on the east end, although parking is limited to along Campbell Ave across the street from the entrance.

The bridge was built in 1891 and refurbished in 1995. The historic characteristics of the bridge will be maintained as it is in a historically significant area of town.

REMINDERS:

>The 2021 Covid relief bill signed into law in late December extends the universal charitable deduction through 2021. Notably, married couples who don't itemize may deduct up to \$600 above the standard deduction for their 2021 donations. Individuals may continue to deduct \$300 above the standard deduction for 2021.

>Membership donations can be made thru Paypal on our Website as a convenient way to keep up your support.

>The Trust is eligible for Amazon Smile donations. Amazon Smile members can designate a percentage of their purchase prices to go to their favorite charity, so keep us in mind.



Image 1: Main Street Bridge #04575 over Tankerhoosen River.

2021 Outdoor Activity Schedule

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

Sat. April 24 - Sunset / Moonlight at Skyline – 6:45 PM sharp - moonrise at 4:45, sunset at 7:41. 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 8 – 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 9 - 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! The hike will be interpreted by Ginny Patsun regarding forest history, succession and health. 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 5 (rain date June 6)- Trails Weekend - 10:00 AM - An interpreted hike with attention to stone walls and historic farming practices on the Land Trust's 200+ acre Whitaker Woods property. This will be approximately 2 1/2 miles with diverse terrain and wildlife. 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.

Sun, June 20- Father's Day Hike at Ernie Boothroyd and Bellante Preserve, Ellington - 11:00 AM. The 58-acre Ernie Boothroyd Preserve was acquired by NCLT in 2010. The Bellante Property is 36 acres abutting the Boothroyd Preserve that was recently acquired. 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 Albert Grant, 860-623-5487.

Sun, Sept 12 – 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

Sun, Oct 3 – Skyline Scenic Area – 10:00 AM - Foliage hike with great views of the valley to the west. The distance will be about 2 1/2 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

Sun., October 17 – 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.

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



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

Board of Directors

President

Patrice Carson, Somers

1st V. President

Rick Dewey, Stafford

2nd V. President

Karl Hasel, Vernon

Treasurer

Bryan Jambard, Enfield

Recording Secretary

Paul Lagel, Enfield

Directors

Gail Faherty, Vernon

Walter Moody, Ellington

Albert Grant, Melrose

Jim Gage, Ellington

Arend Jan-Knuttel, East Windsor

George Grant, Somers

Don Smith, Somers

Gene Julian, Stafford

Richard Bailey, Somers

Josh Bodian, 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: Individual \$25 Family \$35
Sustaining \$50
Patron \$100
Benefactor \$1000

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE: _____ **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 ___