

Raptors take flight at White Barn

Brian Bradley's raptor demonstration drew gasps from a crowd of about 100 spectators at the NLT's White Barn Preserve Sept. 22. Bradley introduced and flew majestic owls, hawks, and falcons for neighbors, NLT supporters, and children. The all-ages event included interactive exhibits from Earthplace, games, and face-painting.

Visitors learned about the importance of wildlife habitats like the White Barn Property, which is home to many birds including a Great Horned Owl. Raising awareness of White Barn is key to the NLT's campaign to save the property from development -- 10 of the property's 15 acres are still slated for tract housing, with permits already granted.

The NLT's successful campaign to save the Farm Creek property in Rowayton has delivered marsh-habitat education to thousands of Norwalk fourth-graders. The freshwater and forest habitat of the White Barn property has the potential to dramatically expand the ecology and habitat education program. We continue working to raise funds to purchase the entire White Barn property, which would become the crown jewel of the thirty conservation areas under our stewardship. This ambitious campaign will only succeed with donations from individuals, families and corporations.



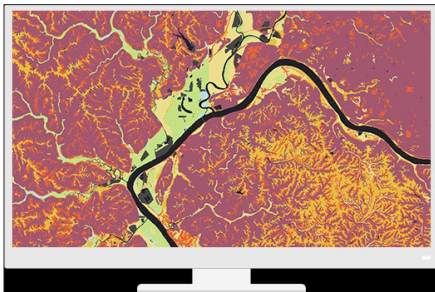
Left, Lisa Wilson Grant watches a raptor demonstration with her grandsons, Cameron and Clarke Baker at the White Barn Preserve Sep. 22.



Below, Falconer Brian Bradley introduces a Great Horned Owl.

Membership jumps 70%

Membership in the Norwalk Land Trust surged dramatically in 2018. For the 2018 membership year there are over 400 dues-paying members, an increase of 70% from 2017. Memberships have doubled in the 06851 zip code, home of the White Barn Preserve. The NLT is fundraising to purchase acreage adjacent to the preserve.



GIS to track NLT preserves

A state-of-the-art GIS System recently purchased by the NLT will assist with property preservation and management and create a central repository for property data, including boundaries and topographical information. The software analyzes spatial location and organizes layers of information into visualizations using maps and 3D scenes.

Skip the plastic, Norwalk!

The NLT supports education and advocacy work by Skip the Plastic Norwalk (STPN), a grassroots group raising awareness about single-use plastics and their environmental impact. The group is urg-



Craig Flaherty, Chair of the Darien Energy and Recycling Advisory Committee speaks at a Nov. 7 forum on Norwalk's new recycling guidelines. Rowayton Gardeners, Rowayton Library, and the NLT co-sponsored the talk, which drew more than 70 people. The presentation was the second in a three-lecture series on how individuals can adopt everyday practices which help the environment. A lecture regarding renewable energy will be held in the winter of 2019.

ing Norwalk restaurants to adopt a "straws available upon request only" policy, and is collecting signatures in support of a plastic bag ban. Visit skiptheplasticnorwalk.org or e-mail info@skiptheplasticnorwalk.org for more information.

Luncheon fetes NLT guides

NLT hosted a luncheon for volunteers who helped with our spring nature education program for Norwalk fourth-graders. Over lunch at Fodor Farm, we traded stories of wonderful moments, got feedback on how to improve the volunteer experience, and thanked the people

who helped introduce nature to Norwalk students. Thirty-two volunteers served as guides for NLT's outdoor classroom program.

Please Leash Your Dogs!

Your canine friends are welcome at most NLT open spaces provided that they are leashed and under your control at all times. NLT preserve inhabitants are all prey to your dogs, who are predators. In addition, our visitors often include small children who may be knocked down or worse by an unleashed dog. Please keep your dogs leashed, and always pick up after them.

Campaign for Hoyt sanctuary reaches goal

Environmental cleanup and a new bird sanctuary will proceed on Hoyt Island thanks to donations and a state grant obtained by Senate Majority Leader Bob Duff.

A \$100,000 State of Connecticut grant will support remediation of PCBs and asbestos left behind after a residence on the island burned down. Donations plus the state grant are enough to fully fund the work.

With luck the cleanup can be done during winter before the nesting season begins. Work will proceed under the supervision of Connecticut's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP).

Over the summer NLT did three invasive plant cleanups on Hoyt under the supervision of Bartlett Master Gardener Intern and NLT



Hoyt Island will undergo environmental remediation and become the site of a new bird sanctuary, thanks to donations and a state grant.

member Michele Sorensen. Michele and volunteers kayaked to the island and spent several hours clearing

invasives. Turkeys, flying squirrels, turtles, bald eagles and osprey will benefit from the new sanctuary.

NLT joins pollinator partnership

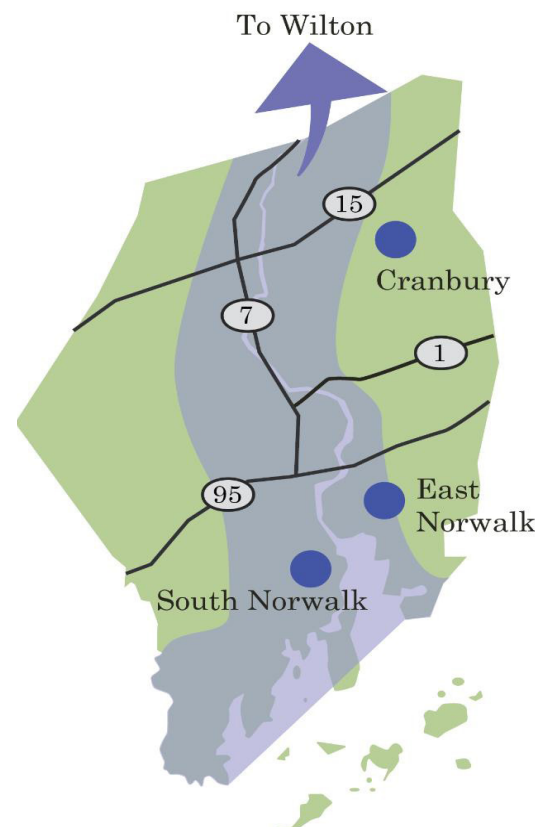
Regional conservation efforts gained a boost recently when the NLT joined the Hudson to Housatonic Regional Conservation Partnership (H2H). The partnership's Pollinator Pathway initiative is creating a chain of safe havens for vital pollinators including bees, butterflies and birds.

Norwalk's portion of the Pollinator Pathway is a broad swath of land on either side of the Norwalk River, from Long Island Sound to Wilton. The NLT and the Norwalk River Watershed Association will encourage landowners in Norwalk to plant gardens or containers on their prop-

erties with native plants in support of pollinators. For more information on this initiative, please contact Lisa Shanahan, lisashan@msn.com.

The Norwalk pathway is part of a larger route for pollinators which reaches Westchester County and the Hudson River. H2H is a multi-state coalition of 50+ organizations and agencies which collaborate to advance the pace and practice of regional land protection in New York and Connecticut.

Right, Norwalk's pollinator pathway, in blue, runs from Long Island Sound to Wilton.





Hailey Vizza, Natalia Henkin, and Gia Henkin, of Norwalk's Cranbury neighborhood, help clear space for a wildflower meadow at the White Barn Preserve in April.



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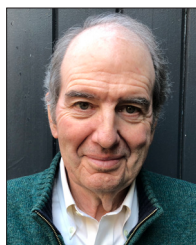
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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Since my last message to you in March, the Norwalk Land Trust has had an exciting spring and summer. The White Barn Campaign has enthusiastically pursued the purchase of a 15.4 acre-tract in the Cranbury section of Norwalk and held a very successful "Birds of Prey" demonstration on the property on Sep. 22.

This spring we hosted fourth-graders from all but two of the City's elementary schools at the Farm Creek property. Students explored nature in one of Norwalk's most exquisite estuaries and viewed wild-life, birds and plant life.

A major part of the NLT's mission is stewardship of our properties. Hoyt Island,



D. Seeley Hubbard

a property located in Norwalk Harbor, needed remediation and stewardship to establish a bird sanctuary for native and migratory birds. It is already home to endangered bald eagle families. The NLT is excited to announce that through Sen. Bob Duff's office, DEEP is granting the Land Trust \$100,000. This grant plus private funds raised will enable the NLT to complete the remediation and create a sanctuary for migratory birds.

As this year comes to a close the NLT is proud of its accomplishments and excited for an even more ambitious 2019. However, we could not do what we do without your support. Thank you all: our members, volunteers, contributors and supporters. You make it all possible.

D. Seeley Hubbard
President, Norwalk Land Trust

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THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

More than 60 volunteers took part in the NLT's work in 2018. THANKS!

Nature Guides

Twenty-eight Nature Guides joined our two interns and five board members to lead 723 fourth-graders from 10 Norwalk elementary schools on their visits to the Farm Creek Nature Preserve. Linda Scull's name had been on this list for years. With her passing we miss her good cheer, and her magic way with the children.

Gwen Alexis
Jane Antil
Betsy Bain
Vickie Bennett
Penny Carroll
Michael Diamond
Ann DiLeone
Lauren Duchene
Maryellen Duffy
Laura Fanzilli
Mary Finnegan
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Nina Miller
John Moeling
Jenny Orr
Rita Phillips
Lynne Pratt
Diane Russell
Ashley Seewald



Norwalk Community College student volunteers helped with April's cleanup of the White Barn Preserve.

Stephanie Sisk
Marny Smith
Kevin Tepas
Gwynne Tibbets
Karin Weller
Barbara Wright

Interns

Erin Sweeney
Emily Walden

NLT Events

Jeff Ackermann
Vickie Bennett
Ed Carlson
Marti Coleman
Ellis Cooper
Davis Dunlop
David Gable
David Hendrickson
George Jackson
Diane Lauricella
Justin Stenger
John Verel

Property Stewardship

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Miki Alicastro

Luis Cancel
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Susan Carlson
Jose Claudio
Marti Coleman
Ellis Cooper
Sandy Fern
Carol Guinta
David Gable
Joanne Gabriel
David Hendrickson
Gary Holda
Jalna Jaeger
George Jackson
Diane Lauricella
Barbara Lencheck
Nancy McClellan
Mark Lyons
Lori Martin
Meredith Michel
Sue Perreca
Save Cranbury members
Michelle Sorensen
Stephanie Sisk
Justin Stenger
Kevin Tepas
Nancy Teufel
John Verel

Dan Verel
Students of Prof. Erica Kipp,
NCC

Annual Meeting Speaker
Reggie Hall

Business and Organization Supporters

Baubles
Brian Bruni
Larry Brown, Brown and Co,
Tree Specialists
Chef Tony Delicias -- Food
Truck, Seaside Sliders
Craftworks Construction,
Rolandas Reciuga, Owner
Greater Norwalk Chamber
of Commerce
Lifetime Landscaping, Raf-
faele Cenatiempo, Owner
Marven Moss
ProteCT Public Lands
Rowayton Market
Rowayton Wine Shop
Wildlife in Crisis



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Fall 2018

Please donate and become a member!

You are supporting continuing preservation of Norwalk open spaces. **Thank you!**

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

E-mail

Phone

Norwalk Land Trust does not share member information.

All membership contributions are tax deductible.

_____ \$1000+	_____ \$100
_____ \$500	_____ \$50 Family
_____ \$250	_____ \$30 Individual
_____ Other (all gifts appreciated)	
_____ My company will match my gift	

_____ Please use my donation for the purchase of the 15.4-acre White Barn Property

_____ White Barn 2019 Pledge

_____ White Barn 2020 Pledge

For Corporate/Professional memberships, please e-mail info@norwalklandtrust.org or visit norwalklandtrust.org.

I am interested in: _____ volunteering as a nature guide _____ property donation
_____ volunteering for stewardship work on NLT properties _____ contact me

Please use my e-mail address to receive NLT communications and to save paper and postage: YES____ NO____

Please clip and mail this form and membership donations to: Norwalk Land Trust, PO Box 34, Norwalk CT 06853