



Norwalk Land Trust NEWS

Fall 2012



Alec Desbordes, clippers in hand, removes dead underbrush from the Farm Creek entrance.



Y Earth Service volunteers haul debris, with NLT Board member John Moeling leading the way.



GE Capital volunteers share the weight of a fallen pine that will be turned into wood chips for building the Stone Crop Road trail.

A French Connection

The Farm Creek Preserve cleanup on July 24 was instigated by Alec Desbordes, the grandson of Jacqueline Curtis, an NLT member. Alec volunteered a day of his time during his summer visit to Norwalk from his home in France, to help the Norwalk Land Trust with stewardship tasks. Alec is active in the French Boy Scouts and is working to become an Eagle Scout.

Adult friends of the Norwalk Land Trust helped Alec with the cleanup, and youth from the New Canaan YMCA's program, Y Earth Service Corps, also contributed their time and efforts to the cleanup.

The day's activities included: clearing brush and other growth off the trails, removing invasive plants, and trail maintenance that requires log liners and wood chip application.

City Park Cleanup in Cranbury

Norwalk Land Trust, GE Capital, New York Bakery and Fat Cat Pie, in cooperation with the Norwalk Recreation and Parks Department, joined forces to clean up a neglected City park in Cranbury. The volunteers thoroughly cleaned the City property that had become a dumping ground for trash, yard debris, and obsolete household items. The team worked for three hours (over 250 man-hours!) collecting old tires, rusted bicycles, an abandoned television set, driveway sealant, and an embedded kiddie pool, all of which filled a 15-yard dumpster. What remains is a reclaimed nature preserve, with trails that are now lined with wood chips, connecting Stone Crop Road North and South.

It is our hope that the property will now be enjoyed by visitors of all ages and species.

Dear Friends:

Since its founding in 1973, Norwalk Land Trust has grown from its original few to nearly 400 members, with almost half of them from Rowayton. However, 80% of the protected acreage, (that's 21 of 27 properties) are located in other parts of Norwalk outside of Rowayton. This includes White Barn, Hoyt Island, Chestnut Hill, Manresa Marsh, and more.

Seven of the fifteen members of the Norwalk Land Trust board are from Rowayton. There are five vacancies. Since our mission is Norwalk-wide, we would like to fill those vacancies with volunteers from East Norwalk, Silvermine, West Norwalk and Cranbury. If you are from one of these areas and have an interest in becoming an NLT board member, we would like to hear from you.

Since 2003, NLT has received stewardship help from GE Capital, Pepperidge Farm, and Deloitte Touche among others, plus various YMCA, Scouting, Junior Achievement, NEON, and school groups. Directors who like working with young people are especially important.

If you care about working to preserve and protect Norwalk's open space and wildlife habitats, please e-mail your interest and suggestions to me at twentyhats@optonline.net.

Thanks,
Marny Smith
President Emeritus

One and a Half Tons of Trash

The Norwalk Land Trust has three properties on the Five Mile River, and keeping the River healthy is a major goal. On June 16, under Trust stewardship, nearly 3,000 pounds of trash and debris were pulled from the River and its banks behind Norwalk Community College.

Volunteers from United By Blue, a Philadelphia clothing company which pledges to clean a pound of trash for each garment sold, teamed with staff from Wilton Outdoor Sports, the environmentally conscious store on Route 7. Highlight: a giant, rusty, iron safe (empty, of course!) hauled from the middle of the River.

NLT Art Exhibit Is a Success!

Thanks to Directors of the Rowayton Arts Center, NLT was offered RAC's Portside Gallery for a "Seasons of the Norwalk Land Trust" art show this past June. For two weeks, paintings and photographs of four NLT properties were exhibited in the gallery fronting on the Five Mile River.

More than 20 conservation-minded, nature-loving artists and photographers submitted landscape paintings and other works of art which were exhibited for two weeks in June. Seven pieces sold and proceeds were divided between NLT and RAC.

The four properties were carefully chosen for their accessibility, variety and geographical location in Norwalk: Hoyt Island off Village Creek, Manresa Marsh from Yost Street, White Barn Pond off Newtown Avenue in Cranbury and Farm Creek Preserve in Rowayton.

Artists and photographers take note! Plans are already underway for another exhibit in 2013. The same properties and a few more will be available throughout the year to provide added variety. Check our Web site for further information.



The opening reception in the Rowayton Arts Center's Portside Gallery was well attended.

With Some Help from Our Friends – Thank You!

In addition to the all-volunteer Board of the Norwalk Land Trust, it takes the help of many friends, volunteers, corporate members and donors to get the work done. The time, expertise and donations by people, organizations, and businesses that care about Norwalk open space are invaluable. In the past 12 months these contributions have included help with property cleanups and stewardship, guiding Norwalk fourth grade students during visits to Farm Creek Preserve, and support for the Evening with Lucie Arnaz and Seasons of the Norwalk Land Trust fundraising events. You have contributed goods, skills, art, grants and services. Well done, everyone. Thank you!

Individuals

Miki Alicastro	Chris Donahue	John Igneri	Stan Pastore	Michele Sorensen
Lucie Arnaz	Phuntsok Dorjee	George Jackson	Rep Chris Perone	Yasemin Tomakan
Brenda Ashooh	Silvia Doyle	Munro Johnson	Jeanette Young Pertz	Ann Tombros
Thomas Balsley	Kathy Draper	Bob Kuchta	Rita Phillips	Peter Tombros
Mike Barbis	Senator Bob Duff	Pierre Lahaussous	Marsha Powell	Kim Tsocanos
Bruce Beinfield	Elizabeth Edwards	Dana F. Laird	Lynn Pratt	Frank Varro
Connie Bennett	Susan B. Edwards	Tammy Langalis	Pamela Park Proctor	Laura Vallejo
Irwin Block	John Fider	Tammis Lazarus	Paul Quick	Richard Ventre
Alex Bloom	Chris Filmer	Hu Lindsay	Deb Randall	Amy Verel
Michael Boil	Terri Flaherty	Joan Manning	Thomas Ranges	Erin Wachob
Chris Bosak	Merion Frolich	Carolyn Marino	Amy Rowe-Smith	Gail Wall
Lisa Bucciari	Christy Gallagher	Kimberly Marino	Susie Salomon	Sandy Ward
Cherie Burton	Jordan Grant	Gillian Marshall	Betty Schneider	Steve Ward
Rep Lawrence Cafero	Lisa Wilson Grant	Anna Massaro	Chuck Schoendorf	Stuart Weismiller
Anne Cagnina	Mindy Green	Bridget McCallum	Linda Scull	Roger Willcox
Maria Camillo	Kerstin Hall	Mike Mocciae	Pete Scull	Barbara Wright
Penny Carroll	Cynthia Hernandez	Barbara Murphy	David Shockley	Ed Wright
Aleeyah Chesney	Gary Holda	Helene Napolitano	Ian Sidey	Carol Wrigley
Stephanie Close	Steve Holton	Jeff Nixon Family	Tia Sidey	
Nina Pallesen Craig	Carol Hooper	John O'Donnell	David Siever	
Mark Dansereau	Marshall Huffman	Yisel Oliveres	Fred Smith	
JoAnn Davidson	David Hurwitt	Brenda Pank	Marcia Smith	
Ann DiLeone	Jessica Huse	Rick Pank	Roger Smith	
Michael DiScala	Ed Hynes	Anthony Parenti	Anna Speed	
Alec DesBordes	Peter Hynes	David Park	Tashi Sonam	

Businesses, Organizations, Professionals

AT & T	Garelick & Herbs	Norwalk Redevelopment Agency
Atria Darien	GE Credit	Norwalk River Watershed Association
BanC House	H & R Home Improvement	Pepperidge Farm
Beacon Capital	The Hour	William Raveis
Brendan's 101	Hocon Gas	Rowayton Arts Center
Brown & Company Tree Specialists	D. Seeley Hubbard, Esq.	Sandak Hennessey & Greco LLC
Build-on	I Love Lucy Collectibles	Save Cranbury
Capital Technology	Junior Achievement	Save the Sound /
Cheers Butler Service	Key Tutoring	CT Fund for the Environment
Connecticut Friends School	The Malkin Fund	Seaman Construction Inc.
Craftworks Construction	Daniel Minchik, DDS	Stamford Kayaking Group
Creekers	Moffley Media	Starbucks
Daily Norwalk	Nestle Waters	Stew Leonards
Designs by Lee	New Canaan YMCA /	The Pantry
Dock Shop Nautical Boutique	Y Earth Service Corps	The Total Printing Center
Laure Dunne Photography	Newman's Own Foundation	tuliptree site design, inc.
Earth Place	New York Bakery	United By Blue
Fairfield County Bank	Nora King & Co.	White Bridge Wine & Spirits
Fat Cat Pie Company	Norwalk Citizen	Whole Foods
Friends of Farm Creek	Norwalk Daily Voice	Wilton Outdoor Sports

Featured Property: Little West Cedar



Three miles up the Five Mile River from Long Island Sound, lies a wooded area the Norwalk Land Trust named Little West Cedar. One of the Land Trust's 27 Norwalk properties, this 2-1/2 acres was generously donated to the Trust twenty years ago by Ruth and Stephen Boski.

Near West Cedar Street, the Five Mile River is a pleasant, meandering creek. The area is wooded but sun-spangled from bend to turn where tree cover permits. Ducks work their way up and back; raccoons leave their footprints in the muddy verge; and deer forage. The property's edges, mostly brambles and cane, make access difficult. Thanks to Eagle Scout Anthony Parenti and his team, there now is a trail along the river to improve limited access along its banks.

It is surprising that the busy campus of Norwalk Community College lies just a few yards north of Little West Cedar, and that the busy retail complex sits just to the south of this scenic property!

Celebrating 40 Years!

2013 marks the 40th anniversary of the Norwalk Land Trust, and the Board has selected a special effort to commemorate this milestone: the building of an Audubon Bird Sanctuary on Hoyt Island, one of the Trust's very first properties.

Hoyt Island's two acres rest across the mouth of Village Creek in South Norwalk. Since its acquisition, Hoyt has been stewarded for the Land Trust by Roger Willcox, a former Director, who lives within sight of the island. The 2013 project involves demolishing and interring the ruins of a house on the island, and preparing its site and surrounding ground for appropriate native foliage in support of a threatened species, the wood thrush. Milan Bull, an officer of the CT Audubon Society, will spearhead the conservation element of the project. Cost of the project is estimated at \$6,000, and raising that amount will begin soon.

NLT 2013 Desk Calendar

The 2013 Norwalk Land Trust desk calendar will be available in October. A colorful photo for each month, taken on NLT properties, allows you to enjoy the land, plants, and creatures protected by NLT all year long. The calendars are also perfect gifts for holiday giving, teacher gifts, and hostess gifts.

The calendars may be purchased at \$17 each (\$2 shipping included). To order, please send your order quantity and a check to Norwalk Land Trust, PO Box 34, Norwalk CT 06853, or order through PayPal account: norwalklt@optonline.net.

A calendar will be sent as a special gift with all 2013 memberships of \$100 or more.



President's Letter

Since our last newsletter the Norwalk Land Trust has continued to identify new opportunities for placing more natural open space under our protection. It has reached out to Norwalk to enlighten and inform its residents of the treasure our nature preserves are to our community. Our educational programs with the public schools, including providing field trips to our properties, are a popular addition to the natural science curriculum in our schools for both students and teachers. In June we had a successful art show for local artist and photographers to display and sell their works created on four of our properties. The Norwalk Land Trust has organized numerous cleanups of city properties and has been instrumental in making the city greener and more environmentally conscious. We will continue to enthusiastically pursue these initiatives.

However, the Board of Directors is also looking into other areas where it believes that the Land Trust needs improvements. The Bylaws will be reviewed for revisions to make the organization function more efficiently. The Board will explore the social media to enable us to communicate better with our members. Another important subject which the Board needs to address is the diversification of our Board and membership. This will include age, race, and geography. We need to engage more citizens who are under 40; more minorities; and more citizens who are geographically dispersed throughout all of Norwalk. We need to be involved universally in Norwalk and to promote our mission of a sound land conservation policy.

Of course, none of these accomplishments or goals could be accomplished without the enthusiastic and generous support of our membership and friends. We thank you and will continuously reach out to you as we pursue our mission to preserve and protect open space in Norwalk.

D. Seeley Hubbard
President

2nd Annual Joint Norwalk River Cleanup

Together with the Norwalk River Watershed Association, the Trust organized its second Spring cleanup of the Norwalk River's banks just North of the Maritime Aquarium, on May 19. The "haul" was smaller than in 2011 given the closure of Oyster Shell Park for renovation, but the Trust reported some 900 pounds of litter removed. Save the Sound, as part of a statewide effort, contributed gloves and bags to defray cleanup costs.



NLT board members and volunteers organize and sign on for the cleanup.

Eagle Scout Projects

Two Boy Scouts pursuing their Eagle designation are working with the Trust on major trail building projects: Anthony Parenti of Norwalk opened a stretch of Five Mile River bank at the Trust's Little West Cedar property, and J. T. Fucigna, Jr. of Darien extended the trail at Big West Cedar. These trails greatly help the Trust reach and remove deposits of trash and debris which have been too remote for efforts to date.



Directors

D. Seeley Hubbard
President

Peggy Holton
John Moeling
Vice Presidents

Kathy Siever
VP/Secretary

Midge Kennedy
VP/Treasurer

Rich Baskin
Katrina Davies
Laure Dunne
Rich Henry
Henry Huse
Joanne Jackson
Diane Lauricella
Peter Law
Mary Verel
Ken Whitman

Marny Smith
President Emeritus

Advisory Board

Miki Alicastro
Lawrence F Cafero Jr.
Bob Duff
Anna Duleep
Diane Keefe
Grace Lichtenstein
Chris Perone
Michael Poler
Amy Rowe-Smith
Roger Willcox

For more information, please visit our Web site:

norwalklandtrust.org

or e-mail us:

info@norwalklandtrust.org

Norwalk Land Trust
News is published
twice a year by
Norwalk Land Trust.

Laure Dunne
Editor



Norwalk Land Trust

P.O. Box 34
Norwalk CT 06853

Non-profit Org.
US Postage Paid
Permit No 207
Norwalk CT 06856

Address Service Requested



Fall 2012

Our Mission

The Norwalk Land Trust seeks to balance nature and development by acquiring land and preserving it in its natural state for the benefit of Norwalk residents and future generations.

2013 memberships support continuing preservation of Norwalk open spaces! Thank You

_____ Name

_____ Address

_____ City, State, Zip

_____ E-mail

_____ Phone

- _____ \$30 Individual
- _____ \$50 Family
- _____ \$100-\$249 Supporting*
- _____ \$250-\$999 Steward*
- _____ \$1000+ Leadership*
- _____ Other
- _____ Matching gift form enclosed

**Norwalk Land Trust does not share member information.
All membership contributions are tax deductible.**

\$ _____ check enclosed to: Norwalk Land Trust
\$ _____ PayPal account to: norwalklt@optonline.net

* This membership level includes an NLT 2013 desk calendar.

Please contact me about: Volunteering _____ Property Donation _____ Other: _____

Use my e-mail address to send me electronic newsletters and communications: Yes _____ No _____

Please clip this form and mail to: Norwalk Land Trust, P.O. Box 34, Norwalk CT 06853.

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