



Norwalk Land Trust NEWS

Spring 2012

The White Barn Is a Bit Greener

Norwalk Land Trust's 5 1/2 acre easement at White Barn Preserve on Cranbury Road no longer suffers the blight of an abandoned, chain-link fenced tennis court. Instead, the court has been removed, fill and topsoil added and new, native plantings will soon appear. A grant to fund the new plants has been applied for.



Fenced tennis court, circa 1940.



Tennis court removal.



Ready for Planting!

Kids and Open Land: NLT Education Update

Simply preserving and stewarding habitats on open land isn't enough in Norwalk. The Norwalk Land Trust encourages the City's young people (and everyone else) to visit, learn, enjoy and help with cleanups and stewardship on the Trust's 27 properties. The intent is to help instill a love of open space and the wildlife and plants on them that will last a lifetime – and the importance of doing so.

Since fall, 2009, most of Norwalk's 4th-grade teachers and students have visited Farm Creek Preserve as a special addition to the City's science curriculum. The program is continuing, and all teachers are encouraged to contact the Norwalk Land Trust through its Web site to participate at no cost, thanks to a grant from AT&T for NLT's education efforts.

Teens from N.E.O.N, Build-On, Junior Achievement, Norwalk High, Brien McMahon High and area private schools have rolled up their collective sleeves to clear paths and collect debris at Farm Creek, Big West Cedar and other properties. Boy Scout troops have signed on to build and extend walking trails, some of which are completed.

We count on Norwalk's enthusiastic youth to continue their work of preserving and protecting open spaces for future generations.

For more news and
information, visit the
NLT Web site:
norwalklandtrust.org

Membership Reaches an All-time High

The highest number of dues-paying members ever joined the Norwalk Land Trust last year. Successful completion of the Farm Creek acquisition, expansion of the education program for Norwalk's youth, and growing interest in volunteering have solidly contributed to the preservation of open space in Norwalk.

At the same time, Hurricane Irene and other weather events consumed a large share of member contributions. New NLT properties (there are two in the works) will require plenty of start-up work and *every* project requires member support.

Please join us! Become a member by filling out the form on back page of this newsletter.

Living History: A Meeting with Elwood Betts

In March, Marny Smith and John Moeling had the honor and opportunity to meet and talk with 87-year-old Elwood Betts, the last of the remarkable Norwalk family who gave its name to so much of the City. Mr. Betts and a colleague have privately published a handsomely illustrated memoir of the reservoirs and mills which once dotted the banks of Betts Brook near East Avenue. The Norwalk Land Trust currently owns three properties through which the brook passes.

Calling All Artists!

Conservation-minded, nature-loving artists and photographers have a unique opportunity to create works featuring four Norwalk Land Trust properties. The paintings and photographs will be spotlighted in "Seasons of the Norwalk Land Trust", a juried exhibit in the Portside Gallery at the Rowayton Arts Center, 145 Rowayton Avenue, June 10 - 24.

Please visit the Norwalk Land Trust Web site: norwalklandtrust.org for directions, maps and detailed information, or contact Marny Smith at fifteenhats@yahoo.com with any questions you may have.

All entries are welcome.

Pitch in Again!

A few hardy Norwalk Land Trust members and volunteers worked through a gale last April to Clean up Oyster Shell Park. This year – on the salubrious date of May 19, and in cooperation again with the Norwalk River Watershed Association – teams will assemble the plaza outside the main entrance of the Maritime Aquarium at 9:30 AM to begin work.

Contribute an hour or more of your time to this important clean-up. Be sure to wear solid shoes and comfortable clothing. Norwalk Land Trust will supply grabbers, bags, gloves and water.

Patagonia Contributes

On January 11, Norwalk Land Trust Director, Marny Smith, accepted a \$1000 donation from Liz Allen, Sales Associate at Patagonia's downtown Westport store. Patagonia also donated two stylish jackets for a Silent Auction at NLT's January Annual Meeting.

"Patagonia's mission statement calls for us to work locally, from store to store, to implement solutions to the environmental crisis," says Patagonia Assistant Manager, Su Ruh.

Corporate support like Patagonia's allows the Norwalk Land Trust to undertake stewardship projects and education programs throughout the year.

Do you have a connection? Please let us know.



Marny Smith accepts \$1000 check from Liz Allen.

President's Letter

2011 was an exceptional year for the Norwalk Land Trust. Our success was because of the increasing support we got from you, our members and volunteers. I am not referring just to your financial support, which is generous, but also your enthusiastic interest in our projects and programs. With your support the Land Trust brought Norwalk school children on our properties to study in Outdoor Classroom; sponsored cleanups of our properties and city property; and laid down trails for better access. At Farm Creek a copy of the original gate was installed at the entrance and the mortar to the hundred year old pillars was restored. The dilapidated tennis court at White Barn was removed and native plantings are being planted. Without your support none of this would have been possible.

The coming year looks to be as active and productive as last year. The education program will be expanded to bring more children on the properties. Adult events and programs are under consideration to expand the awareness of the importance of nature, habitat and our environment. The stone barn at Farm Creek is undergoing repairs to the turret and the interior.

Your Board at the Norwalk Land Trust is dedicated to its mission to acquire and preserve natural land and resources and to generate community awareness of the importance of the environment. However, the Board is a volunteer group that depends on you, our members and volunteers. We need you to tell us what you think we are doing right and what you think we could do better. We urge you to go to our web site. We invite you to be part of making the Land Trust an even better and more effective organization in preserving Norwalk's open space.

D. Seeley Hubbard
President

Volunteer Events

Your help is welcomed at the following property cleanups and 4th-grade student events. Please see the Web site for the most current information and additional opportunities.

April 21: Farm Creek Preserve cleanup, Sammis Street, 9:00 AM - Noon

April 21: Farm Creek Preserve guide training (required for 4th-grade field trip guides), Sammis Street, 1:00 PM

April 28: Farm Creek Preserve cleanup along Roton Avenue, 9:30 AM

May 2, 4, 9, 10 and 11: Field trips for 4th graders (Refer to the "Outdoor Classroom" on the Web site.)

May 19: 2nd Annual Harbor cleanup with the Norwalk River Watershed Association, details in "Pitch in Again!" on opposite page

NLT Winter Retreat



Members of the Board of Directors gathered together this winter at the Convent of St. Brigitta in Tokeneke to formulate plans and envision future projects to further the mission-stated goals of the Norwalk Land Trust.



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



Spring 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.

Please join the Norwalk Land Trust and support the continuing preservation of Norwalk open spaces.

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.

Amount enclosed \$ _____ to Norwalk Land Trust or from
my PayPal account to norwalklt@optonline.net.

I would like to volunteer for the following: *Please check all that interest you.*

_____ Stewardship _____ Education _____ Events _____ Administration _____ Fundraising/Grants

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 membership, please email: info@norwalklandtrust.org or visit our Web site: norwalklandtrust.org for more information.