



# Norwalk Land Trust NEWS

Fall 2013

## Farm Creek Dedication

A gala celebration was held in May to thank all those who generously donated to the Farm Creek Campaign. The property was dedicated as the Charles Irwin Schoendorf Preserve at Farm Creek, to honor our major benefactor, Chuck Schoendorf.

Committee members, a.k.a. the Creekers, devoted nearly five years of their time, enthusiasm and remarkable efforts to the successful preservation of the Farm Creek Preserve. Each member considers their work during those years as deeply satisfying and rewarding.

Our sincere thanks go to the Creekers and all who contributed to this extraordinary endeavor.



Marny Smith, State Representative Terrie Wood, Mayor Richard Moccia, State Senator Bob Duff, Pete Scull, Kathy Siever, Chuck Schoendorf, and D. Seeley Hubbard were among the many who enjoyed the celebration.



## Introducing Langdon Native Plant Garden at Farm Creek

The table centerpieces at the Charles Irwin Schoen-dorf Preserve at Farm Creek dedication were native plants that have now been used to establish a new garden along the trail to the left of the entrance gate to the Preserve. Volunteers from BuildOn and Aon Hewitt cleared the area of invasive ivy and prepared the soil. Native New England plants and bulbs will continue to be added, along with signage. It will take at least a season for the plants to become established, so watch their space.

The plants so far: Bugbane, Maidenhair Fern, Jack-in-the-pulpit, Lady Fern, Spring Beauty, Dwarf Bleeding Heart, Cranesbill Geranium, Fetterbush (Swamp Sweetbells), Mayapple, Solomon's Seal, Christmas Fern, False Solomon's Seal, and Heartleaf Foamflower.



Jack in the Pulpit

## Update on Hoyt's Island Project

Stage One of the project, creation of a Conservation and Management Plan (CMP) by the CT Audubon Society, is under way. Visits to the island have allowed completion of the History and Environmental Setting (above and below tide lines) portion of the CMP. Seasonal changes are being documented. Coming: visits are scheduled to coincide with waterfowl (in December), shorebird and passerine migrations. At year end we will have a complete CMP and can begin organizing implementation. Most of the footwork is courtesy of NLT Board Member Charlie Taney and Audubon Certified Ecologist Anthony Zemba.

To help fund the creation of our Hoyts Island Bird Sanctuary, several foundations have come forward to help. We acknowledge and thank the Jenium Foundation, Enterprise Holdings, Troy Foundation, Bafflin Foundation and EPOC.

## Educating the Educators – Farm Creek Guides

We consider our Outdoor Classroom education program for Norwalk fourth graders to be a success, but there is another important asset resulting from the program: trained adult guides who learn about their environment and the ecosystem of a salt marsh within a tidal estuary so they can explain the details to students on their field trips. Some guides are already committed environmentalists and nature lovers but others are eager to join in.

Farm Creek Guides are all volunteers who come to one or two training sessions at the Preserve where they are given resource materials and the fourth grade science curriculum, which includes units about Adaptations of Animals and Plants. The guides are taken on trail walks by an experienced NLT guide who not only gives names to the plants and trees but also points out the important signs of animal and plant adaptations, producers, consumers and decomposers, and significant invasives.

After independently studying the curriculum, and taking practice trail walks, the guides lead groups of students along the trail, describing the complexity of the salt marsh ecosystem and its inhabitants.

Development of the Common Core science curriculum is just getting started, but by fall, 2014, it should be in place. The Outdoor Classroom program will be offered in the spring and Guide Training will begin in April.



NLT Board member John Moeling instructs several volunteer guides on the various aspects of Farm Creek Preserve that will be of interest to the Norwalk 4th graders.

# With Help from Our Many Friends

The all-volunteer Board of The Norwalk Land Trust gratefully recognizes the many volunteers and groups who gave their time and efforts during the past 12 months to protect open space in Norwalk for the public good. THANK YOU and WELL DONE to everyone!

## Organizations Offered Groups of Stewardship Volunteers

Aon Hewitt  
BuildOn (Supachart Tauthong, Norwalk Director)  
Connecticut Friends School (Kim Tsocanos, Director)  
Diageo  
GE Capital  
Save Cranbury  
West Norwalk Association

## Businesses and Organizations Donated Their Services

Brown and Co., Tree Specialists  
Craftworks Construction LLC  
Fat Cat Pie Company  
Lifetime Landscaping  
Live Green  
Norwalk Tree Alliance  
Rowayton Arts Center  
Stamford Kayak Group



## Individuals Gave Their Time and Skills

### Farm Creek Preserve Guides:

Anne Cagnina  
Ann Martin DiLeone  
Mindy Green  
Cindy Hogan  
Carol Hooper  
Tammis Lazarus  
Poppy Luchars  
Page Morrison  
Rita I. Phillips  
Lynne Pratt  
Carolyn Robinson  
Michael Richardson  
Linda Scull  
Marcia Smith  
Barbara Wright  
Carol Wrigley

### Farm Creek Preserve Dedication:

Creekers (Pete Scull, Chair)

### Friends of Farm Creek Trash Bash Day 2013:

Roy Anderson  
Brenda Ashooh  
Ed Hynes  
Mark Landis  
Tia Sidey  
Ian Sidey  
Mary Singleton  
Ava Singleton  
Frani Taylor  
Chip Weismiller  
Stuart Weismiller

### Native Plant Garden:

Michele Sorenson

### Story Boards:

Theresa Phillips

### Seasons of the Norwalk Land Trust Art Show:

Julie Daniels  
JoAnn Davidson  
Kathy Draper  
Jessica Huse  
Jim Kahnweiler  
Barbara Murphy

### Seasons of the Norwalk Land Trust Art Show Artists:

Madeleine Boucher  
Milan Chilla  
Bridget Cusack  
Jo Ann Davidson  
Kathy Draper  
Laure Dunne  
Christy Gallagher  
Alice Hayes  
Jessica Huse  
Connie Littlefield  
Barbara Murphy  
Helene S. Napolitano  
Luki O'Connor  
Stan Pastore  
Donna Reinman  
Betty Schneier  
Marny Smith  
Ann Marie Tetelman  
Gordon Tully  
Stuart Weismiller

# Featured Property: The Nash Grant



An energetic group of GE Capital volunteers and Norwalk Land Trust volunteers spent several hours hauling debris from the Nash Grant, a NLT property on Wilson Avenue. GE policy encourages and supports its employees working with local environmental organizations, and GE has provided volunteer help

at several NLT properties. More than a truck load of trash, including glass and metal containers, floating debris from Tropical Storm Sandy, plastics, metals, cast-off tires, was removed from the area, providing Norwalk with another pristine open space and a natural habitat for wild life.



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## President's Letter

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Norwalk Land Trust Volunteers have been hard at work. This Spring we had three major clean-up projects, the first with GE Capital volunteers who helped remove 15 yards of trash and invasive species at our Wilson Avenue property. The second project at the Hart Peninsula with BuildOn and local volunteers, reaped another 15 yards of storm debris and trash. Also, 80 volunteers from Diageo gave the newly renamed Charles Irwin Schoendorf Preserve at Farm Creek a much needed "facelift" since the ravages of Super Storm Sandy. 500 man-hours produced a dock railing, an eco-friendly barn apron, refurbished trails, and a stairway connecting to the Langdon Trail. This is one of our properties where we encourage respectful human interaction, and we welcome you to come take a hike to observe the wonders of a salt marsh and experience the improvements to the property.

Our Science Program continues to be a huge success, with 510 Norwalk students from 25 fourth grade classes participating in guided field trips at the Schoendorf Preserve. We are very grateful to the 19 volunteer trail guides who teach our young visitors about the value of natural open space, and life in the salt marsh. Other visitors to the Preserve this Spring included Roton Middle School 6th graders, Brien McMahon High School Marine and AP Biology classes, and 3rd grade students from Rowayton School who learned about the Siwanoy Native American Study Program, in collaboration with the Rowayton Historical Society.

We hope to add more acquisitions to our property portfolio in 2013, and will keep you posted on our progress. Until then, we hope to see you out on the trail and look forward to seeing you at our next Annual Meeting in January – more details will follow!



Sincerely,  
Kathy Siever  
*President*

## Volunteers Needed for Fall Projects!

Did you know that Norwalk Land Trust volunteers are actively making sure that our properties are being preserved in their natural state?

During the months of September, October and November, we will be conducting inspections to ensure that Norwalk Land Trust properties are free of invasive species and trash, and checking property lines for possible encroachments. We will also be obtaining updated property maps, and recording the types of native vegetation observed at each location.

With more than 25 properties, we can surely use some help. If you like to walk in the woods, observe nature, write and do research, we can use your help. No experience necessary.

Please consider participating and e-mail [info@norwalklandtrust.org](mailto:info@norwalklandtrust.org). We will provide a brief tutorial, plus a form to complete.

Many thanks to you all for your ongoing support!



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### Directors

Kathy Siever  
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John Moeling  
*Vice Presidents*

Rich Henry  
*Secretary*

Midge Kennedy  
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Joanne Jackson  
Diane Lauricella  
Marny Smith  
Anna Speed  
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Ken Whitman

D. Seeley Hubbard  
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### Advisory Board

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Michael Poler  
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For more information, please visit our Web site:

[norwalklandtrust.org](http://norwalklandtrust.org)

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## Norwalk Land Trust

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## Fall 2013

### Please join the Norwalk Land Trust for 2014

**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.**

\_\_\_\_\_ \$30 Individual

\_\_\_\_\_ \$50 Family

\_\_\_\_\_ \$100-\$249 Supporting\*

\_\_\_\_\_ \$250 + Trees and Trails\*

\_\_\_\_\_ Other

\* Includes 2014 NLT Desk Calendar

Please use my donation for:

Greatest need \_\_\_\_\_

Hoyts Island Bird Sanctuary \_\_\_\_\_

Farm Creek Preserve \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ check enclosed to: Norwalk Land Trust

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Matching gift

I am interested in: Volunteering \_\_\_\_\_ Property Donation \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please use my e-mail address to send me electronic newsletters and other communications: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

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