



Norwalk Land Trust NEWS

Spring 2014

Farm Creek II Fund Raising Begins!



NLT Board members and guests visited 2 Nearwater Road during the property bus tour (see page 3).

Norwalk Land Trust's Campaign for Farm Creek Preserve Part II must raise \$1 million by October 1 to acquire and preserve property at 2 Nearwater Road in Rowayton. The land juts into the Farm Creek estuary, and is currently zoned for development. It not only is a beautiful location but also is critical to the health of the estuary.

While NLT is applying for public grants, most of the funding must come from private donations, and NLT seeks your immediate help. Please send a generous contribution to help preserve this precious location by making a donation for Farm Creek II. Details for sending your contribution are on the NLT Web site at www.norwalklandtrust.org.



Photo courtesy of Halsted Property LLC

Annual Meeting Featuring Dan Esty

2014 started out with a well-attended Annual Meeting that included an informative presentation by Dan Esty, Commissioner of the CT DEEP. Much of the Commissioner's remarks focussed on the values of open space to an urban community like ours. Esty also spoke about the effects on Norwalk of global climate change and sea-level rises. We are not just dealing now with prevention, but also with what Esty called "resilience" — strategies to control and repair inevitable damage.

Because of your continuing support, NLT has big plans for 2014. Five new properties are proposed or in the works. There will be new wild bird havens, a Monarch butterfly garden, participations at the Connecticut Tree Festival and Live Green Connecticut, and a massive SoNo cleanup undertaken in cooperation with Norwalk River Watershed Association and Save The Sound.



NLT Board member Charlie Taney, Representative Bob Duff, Dan Esty and NLT President, Kathy Siever.

Help with Our Bird Count!

The project: Developing a list of birds spotted in the Farm Creek Tidal Estuary. This list is part of a grant application to the CT DEEP in March 2014. Thanks to Brenda and Rick Pank, Miki Alicastro, and Susan Edwards for helping compile the list. To see the list of birds, visit www.norwalklandtrust.org. Add your bird sightings to the list by sending an email to info@norwalklandtrust.org.

Thanks for your help!

Memorial Gifts

Last year NLT lost two wonderful members, Susan Morris and Bob Kuchta. NLT extends thanks to the friends and families who contributed memorial donations in their names.

For Susan Morris:

Edward and Roberta Clarke
John and Annie Furrer

For Bob Kuchta:

Suzy and Michael Aubrey
Michael Barbis
Richard and Alexandra Boudouin
Stuart and Betty Berelson
Julie and George Burton
Mary and Nunzio Cambareri
Staff of Cloonan Middle School
Susan and David Ernst
Mindy and Chuck Green
Farlin and Linda Johnson
Pierre Moossa
Frank and Peggy Mullaney
Nancy Jo and Erik Rambusch
Rye Country Day School
Herman and Joan Schoenwald
Cathy and Ken Schweitzer
The Shandley Family
Joan Ward

Hoyts Island Update

Thanks to member support, Stage One of the Hoyts Island project, creation of a Conservation and Management Plan (CMP) by the CT Audubon Society, is under way. After a full year of study through all seasons, NLT has an action plan for the 6-acre wildlife sanctuary, one of Long Island Sound's last unprotected islands. Protecting nesting sites, elimination of invasives and removal of the old ruins will all happen this Summer and Fall. For a copy of the Plan, send a tax-deductible contribution to NLT, Box 34, Norwalk 06853.

Most of the footwork is courtesy of NLT Board Member Charlie Taney and Audubon Certified Ecologist Anthony Zemba.

The project takes time, but the results will provide a permanent and ecologically responsible nature and wildlife preserve.

President's Letter

As we welcome Spring, the Norwalk Land Trust is planning property cleanups, scheduling school field trips at the Schoendorf Preserve at Farm Creek, and working hard on the Campaign for Farm Creek II.

In May, NLT Board members will conduct their first-ever cleanup with boat-only access as it begins the second phase of the Hoyts Island bird sanctuary project. Guide training has already begun at Schoendorf Preserve for the education program, and several schools have already scheduled field trips. Three properties have been identified for Spring/Summer clean-ups, and NLT looks forward to partnering with BuildOn and other local volunteers to tidy up these parcels. All of these things can only be accomplished with a strong Board, the support of membership dollars, and volunteers.

NLT is pleased to welcome 4 new members to its all-volunteer board. Each brings a special skill or talent to the organization. NLT also is seeking to increase its membership so that it can implement and increase the number of preservation projects to better serve the community. If you have not already become a member, please do so now, and encourage others to do so as well. Spread the word about all the good things NLT is doing, and bring your friends to Schoendorf Preserve for a visit.

NLT thanks its current members for their continuing support, and looks forward to greeting new ones.

Sincerely,
Kathy Siever,
President



NLT Property Bus Tour

A bit cold, but sunny and clear – that's the kind of day the Board of Directors of the Norwalk Land Trust and a few members hoped for as they climbed into the bus for a tour of NLT properties on Saturday, March 22. The group managed to visit more than a dozen locations scattered throughout Norwalk. We saw a couple of properties that NLT is trying to acquire and some of the hard-to-get-to spaces, which are absolutely lovely. Board members do this every two years since it's important for all to see the various parcels of land for which NLT is responsible. New plans and projects were hatched, and all were energized by seeing and learning more about the wide variety of properties.



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Norwalk Land Trust

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Please join the Norwalk Land Trust for 2014

Memberships support 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 (all gifts appreciated)

_____ My company will match my gift

Please use my donation for:

Greatest need _____

Campaign for Farm Creek Preserve II _____

For Corporate/Professional memberships, please email
info@norwalklandtrust.org or visit www.norwalklandtrust.org.

I am interested in: Volunteering _____ Property Donation _____ Other _____

Please use my email address to send me electronic newsletters and other communications: Yes _____ No _____

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