



ANNUAL MEETING 2010 GUEST SPEAKER:

DEP Commissioner Amey Marrella



Amey Marrella,
DEP Commissioner

The Norwalk Land Trust will host Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) commissioner Amey Marrella as special guest speaker at its Annual Meeting, which is scheduled for October 25. Commissioner Marrella will address the importance of preserving open space as well as initiatives she is directing toward other pressing environmental issues.

In 2009, Governor Rell appointed Amey Marrella as DEP commissioner having previously served as deputy commissioner for environmental quality since April 2006 at the same agency. DEP's primary responsibility is to protect Connecticut's environment, natural resources and wildlife as well as maintain the state's parks and forests.

As commissioner, Mrs. Marrella is continuing the work of modernizing DEP so it can better serve the needs of Connecticut in the 21st century and play a more proactive role in shaping the environmental agenda of the state. To accomplish this goal she is focused on important environmental priorities – such as improving the quality of the state's air and waters, protecting Long Island Sound, reinvigorating the state park system and implementing strategies and recommendations included in Connecticut's innovative Climate Change Action Plan.

Mrs. Marrella brings to DEP the unique perspective of a former local elected official. Just prior to joining DEP, Mrs. Marrella served for five years as the First Selectman of the Town of Woodbridge. Before seeking elected office, she served as an Attorney Advisor for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, helping to develop regulations to implement the 1990 Clean Air Act. Mrs. Marrella is a graduate of Williams College and Harvard Law School.

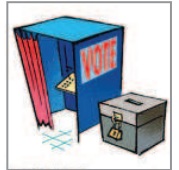
Amey Marrella is looking forward to sharing the breadth and depth of her expertise at the Annual Meeting. Join us for a memorable event of stimulating conversations and an epicurean delight. This event is free and open to the public. 🍷

Save the Date!

- What:** NLT Annual Meeting
- When:** 6:30pm, Monday, October 25, 2010
- Where:** Nowalk City Hall, 125 East Avenue
- Guest Speaker:** Amey Marrella, DEP Commissioner
- Other VIP Attendees:** Mayor Richard A. Moccia

Up For Re-Election

NLT Board of Directors are elected to a three-year term. Those listed below stand for election this year. These individuals bring experience, energy, and valuable skills to the Norwalk Land Trust. We are very grateful for their service.



Miki Alicastro
Peggy Holton
Henry Huse

JoAnne Jackson
Diane Lauricella
Ken Whitman

We thank Amy Rowe-Smith for four years of service on NLT's Board. She has served as a property steward, organizer for annual meetings, secretary, and a most willing volunteer whenever needed. Due to other commitments, she is not seeking re-election. We'll miss you Amy!

THANK YOU ROGER!



Roger Willcox, a 35-year member of Norwalk Land Trust Board and Village Creek Home Owners Association founder was honored last month with a plaque presentation for his service to NLT. Roger will remain with NLT as a distinguished member of its

Advisory Board. The plaque, imbedded in a boulder located steps away from his home reads: "In honor of Roger Willcox, 35 years a director and officer of the Norwalk Land Trust, steward of Hoyt Island, protector of open space." The event was timed to coincide with Village Creek's 60th anniversary. Pictured above at the September 6th plaque unveiling from left to right: D. Seeley Hubbard, Roger Willcox and state representative Lawrence F. Cafero, Jr. along with friends and neighbors.



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A Success Story



D. Seeley Hubbard

This has been a special time for the Norwalk Land Trust. It is nearing a momentous and historic occasion when it will retire its \$2 million mortgage with The Conservation Fund, closing out its \$4,500,000 purchase of the Farm Creek Nature Preserve. This purchase will secure a magnificent 16-acre nature preserve for all Norwalk residents for generations to come. This success story as well as the preservation of the 5.6 acres at the White Barn property four years ago demonstrates an active and dedicated Land Trust committed to the preservation of Norwalk's open space and undeterred by ambitious and challenging projects requiring many years of volunteer service.

But the Land Trust's spectacular success over the last five years cannot be attributed to the Land Trust alone. Both the White Barn and the Farm Creek campaigns were successful because of the coalitions the Land Trust was able to forge with highly focused and committed neighborhood organizations like Save Cranbury, the Campaign for Farm Creek and Friends of Farm Creek.

Such neighborhood participation was critical in securing the support from the city and the state, resulting in \$950,000 from the state open space fund and \$405,000 from the city's open space fund. Such neighborhood participation will be critical for the success of any future acquisition the Land Trust sets its sights on.

These neighborhood groups provided an array of extraordinary talent for fund raising, publicity, public relations; political organization and media savvy. From the beginning when the White Barn property became available for development, Save Cranbury mobilized its neighborhood. There were years of periodic meetings to strategize the best approach to the owner, the Estate of Lucille Lortell, and to craft the most effective opposition to the potential developers who proposed to subdivide the property for the maximum and most

intense use. Save Cranbury, led by Gail Wall and JoAnne Jackson, raised money, set up a website, appeared at local planning and zoning meetings and became effectively knowledgeable of the city's regulatory process. There were many meetings at David Gable and Celia Maddox's house to devise the next strategic move. There were the applications to both the state and city's open space funds. In the end, a complicated solution was negotiated satisfactorily with a developer and The Connecticut Friends School. Without Save Cranbury's dedication and perseverance, the Norwalk Land Trust would never have acquired the conservation easement.

The Campaign for Farm Creek tells a similar story. On June 6, 2006 a small group of Norwalk residents, including Directors of the Norwalk Land Trust and interested citizens formed the Campaign for Farm Creek ("Creekers") for the purpose of raising the daunting amount of \$4,500,000 to purchase 34 Sammis.

The Creekers, led by neighbors Pete Scull, Cherie Burton and Seeley Hubbard, have met almost every Friday morning since that initial meeting. By 2008, they had raised over \$2 million by using old fashioned grassroots fund raising and creative media appeals. On March 4, 2008, the property was purchased for \$4 million with the \$2 million on hand and a \$2 million mortgage from The Conservation Fund. Thereafter, facing the headwinds of the worst economic climate in recent decades, the Creekers are about to complete raising the \$2 million necessary to retire the mortgage. This closes out a four-year campaign. It is an astonishing accomplishment which never would have been possible, without the dedication, focus and that "never give up" attitude of the Creekers.

The "take away" from both these campaigns is obvious. The Norwalk Land Trust's success in future will depend upon forging active coalitions with active neighborhood groups. It will also depend upon our close working relationship with the city and its Conservation Commission. The state of Connecticut has also been generous to the Norwalk Land Trust due to the excellent quality of our grant applications. This coalition between the Norwalk Land Trust, neighborhood groups, the city and the state has been the formula for our past success and will be critical to our success in the future. ☺

B. Seeley Hubbard
President

WITH SOME HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS

The Norwalk Land Trust is the grateful beneficiary of gifts of services, expertise, products, and time from you: people and businesses who care about open space. You have helped with property cleanups and stewardship, staffed a joyous Discovery Day at Farm Creek, become guides for Norwalk 4th grade student nature walks, and much more. You have contributed all sorts of 'good stuff', proceeds from your product sales, and underwritten expenses. Bravo to all!

Individuals

Miki Alicastro
Brenda Ashooh
Suzy Aubrey
Sarah Balsley and Family
Mike Barbis
Rich Baskin
Maribeth Becker
Connie Bennett
Laurel Boudreau
Cherie Burton
Stephanie Close
Heather Crawford
Mark Dansereau
Kate Davies
Fred Dettmer
Tenzin Dickyi
Lorraine Dowdey
Chris Dowling
Bob Duff
Laure Dunne
Susan Edwards
Jean Fitzgerald
Marie Haywood
Hanneke Goedkoop
Rich Henry
Peggy Holton
Seeley Hubbard
Jessica and Henry Huse
John and Chris Tierney Igneri
JoAnne and George Jackson
Marianne Jean
Munro Johnson
Midge Kennedy
Pete Koerner
Tammy Langalis
Diane Lauricella
Peter Law
Brendan McGee
Susan McGoldrick
Maya Mocariski
John Moeling
Gaylen, Alice, and Cassidy Nash
The Jeff Nixon Family
The Rick Nixon Family
Brenda and Rick Pank
Jim Phillips
Barbara Wright
Ed Wright

Business Organizations Professionals

Brendan's 101
Brian Bruni Landscaping
Brown and Company, Tree Specialists
Capital Technology, Inc.
Caricatures by Tom Glover
Darien Rowayton Bank
Dre Towey
Farm Creek Creations – Mindy Green Art Garage
Fat Cat Pie Company
Freddy's Landscaping Corporation
The Glazer Group
iAssistant
Daniel Minchik, D.D.S.
Pepperidge Farm
Rowayton Library
Rowayton Market
Rowayton Seafood
Rowayton Tennis Association
Hobie Smith Woodworking
The Total Printing Center

CREEKERS:



For the past three plus years, Norwalk Land Trust's annual operating budget, which has been less than \$20,000, came from annual dues contributions, in-kind donations, and/or contributions to The Campaign for Farm Creek. With the end of fund-raising to retire the Farm Creek mortgage now in sight, we invite and encourage Farm Creek contributors to join the Land Trust as dues paying members (or renew your membership) for 2011.

Dues are the primary source of funding for stewardship of all NLT properties, including Farm Creek. Dues also cover the operating expense of NLT, to ensure our continuing commitment to preserving open space in Norwalk in perpetuity.

2011 memberships begin October 2010, giving you flexibility in making your tax-deductible contribution. Please keep up your wonderful support! A membership form is included in this newsletter as well as on the NLT website <http://www.norwalklandtrust.org>.

EDUCATING OUR YOUTH

By Marny Smith

Two years ago, Tracey School fourth grade teacher Ken Wood invited the Norwalk Land Trust to speak to his students about what a land trust does and why it is important to preserve open spaces among the development that surrounds us. That invitation was the impetus behind what is turning out to be an exciting new direction for the Norwalk Land Trust (NLT). During the fall of 2009 and spring 2010, we have visited twenty classes (400 students) in six Norwalk elementary schools and hosted 11 field trips (220 students) to the NLT Farm Creek Nature Preserve in Rowayton.

Our classroom presentation begins with an explanation of the difference between parkland and natural open space, stressing the importance of each, and how the wild areas held by a land trust compliment the active recreational opportunities of parks, ball fields and playgrounds. While Norwalk has an impressive number of parks and fields for active sports like soccer, baseball, lacrosse,

football and throwing Frisbees, natural open spaces are for passive recreation such as bird watching, hiking trails, painting, photography and quiet contemplation of nature.

During field trips to Farm Creek Nature Preserve students take trail walks led by volunteer guides to learn about life in salt marshes and tidal estuaries. Guides are able to illustrate first hand facts and vocabulary words taken directly from the fourth grade science curriculum. They point out adaptations, which enable animals and plants to live in the challenging ecosystem of a tidal estuary, like camouflage, which keeps them hidden from predators, or their ability to migrate down into the mudflats or to another part of the coast.

Students learn about the impact we humans have on the natural world through everyday activities that result in habitat destruction or pollution. They learn about food chains, consumers, producers and decomposers that support life, and that living and non-living things interact and co-exist symbiotically in the same ecosystem.

So far, eighteen volunteer guides have been trained to accommodate all twelve elementary school 4th grades during the coming school year. NLT Coordinators of this program, Peggy Holton, Kathy Siever and Marny Smith, believe that volunteer efforts such as this are one answer to the perpetual shortfall in school enrichment budgets. A special fund has been donated to pay for school buses which cost \$180 to \$250 per trip, a cost that previously limited the possibility for field trips.

For more information about NLT education initiative or to become a volunteer field trip guide, please email norwalkLT@optonline.net or visit us at www.norwalklandtrust.org.





POTPOURRI

Save the Date: Discovery Day Is Coming!

Saturday, October 16, 2010
Time: 1 - 4 pm
(Rain Date: Sunday, October 17)
Look for upcoming details at www.norwalklandtrust.org

WHERE DOES THE LAND COME FROM?

By John Moeling, Vice President

How did the Norwalk Land Trust acquire so many parcels of open land in Norwalk -- more than 87 acres and over 25 sites?

Some properties were outright gifts to nature. Their owners -- like Countess Czapski, who wanted her Hoyt Island property to remain a sanctuary for birds -- donate their land directly. In a few cases, if the property is too small, is inaccessible for stewardship, or otherwise unsuited for natural preservation, the Land Trust may choose not to acquire it.

A small number of properties come to the Land Trust as conservation easements. While the donors continue to own the properties, the land use is limited to prevent development. One example: Hart Peninsula, owned by the City of Norwalk, joins three other Land Trust properties to create an unbroken shoreline along Farm Creek.

In situations where building or development is subject to official limitation due to environmental conditions like protected wetlands, donating protected land to the Land Trust can facilitate conservation developments. Property improvements enhance the City's tax base when adjacent protected properties are stewarded by the NLT. Between Bayne Street Extension and Foxboro Road, nearly seven acres of pond and upland woods enjoy Land Trust protection.

Donors are motivated by love of nature, by the possibility of favorable tax treatment, and by commitment to the health and community values of preserving open space. Every donor inquiry is quickly and professionally handled by experienced members of the Land Trust Board of Directors. ☺



Children discovering Farm Creek

NLT In Forbes Magazine?

Yes! Norwalk Land Trust was recently featured in the June 28, 2010 *Special Issue of Forbes* in both the print and online versions. Just in case you didn't get a chance to read it, check it out here <http://www.forbes.com/forbes/2010/0628/investment-guide-land-trust-tax-breaks-conservationist-next-door.html>



Erratum...

November's days were inserted on the December 2010 calendar page; an insert fix is available on request. Our apologies. Please go to the NLT website www.norwalklandtrust.org and click "Contact" to obtain your free insert.

Stocking Stuffers...



The 2011 NLT calendars are now available. It's the perfect stocking stuffer! The calendars will be on sale at our upcoming events and can also be purchased by contacting us directly.



Board Members

Miki Alicastro
Rich Baskin
Katrina Davies
Lorraine Dowdey
Rich Henry
Peggy Holton, Vice President
D. Seeley Hubbard, President
Henry Huse
Peter Hynes
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Midge Kennedy, Treasurer
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Roger Willcox

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is published twice a year by Norwalk Land Trust.

For more information about NLT, please email us at norwalkLT@optonline.net

Lorraine Dowdey
Editor

JOIN US



Being a member of the Norwalk Land Trust has its benefits. Your support means continued preservation of our precious open spaces for today and years to come!

Our Mission...

Norwalk Land Trust recognizes the need to balance nature and development. Acquiring and preserving land protects nature and benefits Norwalk's present and future generations. Norwalk Land Trust is a non-profit corporation dedicated to preserve open space in Norwalk.

Please join the Norwalk Land Trust for 2011

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

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____

Phone (_____) _____

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

2011 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

- \$30 Individual
- \$50 Family
- \$100-\$249 Supporting
- \$250-\$999 Steward
- \$1,000+ Leadership
- Other (all gifts appreciated)
- Matching gift form enclosed

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

Please contact me about: volunteering
 property donation other

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

Please clip and mail to: Norwalk Land Trust, PO Box 34, Norwalk, CT 06853

For Corporate membership, please email norwalkLT@optonline.net or visit our website www.norwalklandtrust.org.