

# Fieber family pledges \$1 million

With a generous pledge of \$1 million, developers James, William, and Robert Fieber kicked off the Norwalk Land Trust campaign to conserve the entire White Barn property, Norwalk's largest parcel of open space currently at risk of development. The NLT now seeks an additional \$1 million to close on the property in Spring, 2018.

"The White Barn property is an excellent development site. However, our family wholeheartedly supports the preservation of the land as an educational and community resource", James Fieber said.

"The opportunity to conserve one of Norwalk's largest remaining at-risk, undeveloped parcels is a one-chance circumstance that calls us all to action. We look forward to its protection and its environmental value benefiting the broader community. We are deeply grateful to the Fieber family for their generous and historic pledge," NLT President D. Seeley Hubbard said.

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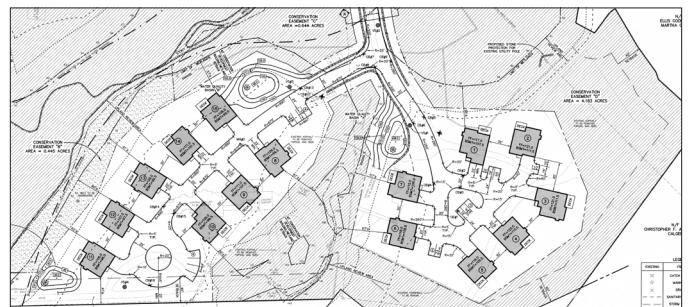
**D. Seeley Hubbard**  
President  
Norwalk Land Trust

Located in Norwalk's Cranbury neighborhood and currently approved for development of 15 homes, the White Barn property includes diverse wildlife, wetlands, woodlands, and meadows as well as the beautiful Stony Brook and a large connected pond. At 15.4 acres, it would become the single largest contiguous open space property conserved by the NLT.

A successful campaign to raise the necessary funds would protect the property from development in perpetuity. Plans include the creation of walking paths from which the public can enjoy the mature forest, wildlife, and picturesque and calming waterscape. The property will also allow expansion of NLT's Outdoor Classroom educational program for all Norwalk fourth-graders. And as with all open space, the property will continue to ben-



A blue heron at the White Barn Property. The NLT seeks \$1 million in additional donations to close on the 15.4-acre parcel in Spring 2018.



Approved development plans for fifteen homes on White Barn.

efit local air and drinking water quality.

The Fieber family's generous \$1 million pledge leaves \$4 million to be raised by the NLT – including \$1 million in pledges and donations that must be raised by the anticipated loan closing in Spring 2018. This campaign represents a rare opportunity to conserve a large, historic property. The NLT is offering naming rights to the property and key features to entice high-value donations. Donations and/or pledges are requested immediately. Please also refer this naming opportunity to suitable potential individuals, families and corporate donors.

**Donations may be made utilizing the form on the reverse. Inquiries to [info@norwalklandtrust.org](mailto:info@norwalklandtrust.org).**

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Giving Day donations surge

With a series of e-mail blasts, a new one-minute video, and Facebook urgings, the NLT's March 1st Giving Day campaign raised 600% more than in 2017.

Giving Day is a county-wide fund raising event in which non-profits compete to win cash prizes by raising the most money or the largest number of individual donations in a given period. Out of 416 participating Fairfield County non-profits, the NLT ranked among the top 15% in terms of dollars raised and unique donors.

The new one-minute video created for Giving Day can be found on YouTube or on the NLT website, [norwalklandtrust.org](http://norwalklandtrust.org). Special thanks to the NLT's Giving Day team and the more than sixty donors who made the day a success.



Hoyt Island, site of future sanctuary.

### Hoyt donations continue

Donations continue in support of remediation and a new bird sanctuary on Hoyt Island, a three-acre island at the mouth of Village Creek.

The total cost is estimated at \$113,000. The NLT must raise an additional \$46,000 to realize our vision of the island as a safe haven for migrating shore birds and Diamondback terrapins. Ten donations have been received so far this year. Please support this worthwhile project with a donation today. Mail checks using the form on the back of this newsletter.

### Nevas family donates land

The children and heirs of Westport philanthropist Leo Nevas donated 7.112 acres of land to the NLT, bringing our total acreage under conservation to 96.97.

The donated parcel is a combination of heavy forest and wetlands and will remain in its natural state, providing protection and habitat for a variety of birds and wildlife. The land is on the Norwalk/Wilton border near Route 33, and it is presently closed to the public. NLT stewards will take inventory in the spring and explore the potential for establishing trails and other public access. Many thanks to the Nevas family for their generosity.



### NLT meets with gardeners

About thirty members of the Norwalk Garden Club attended a Feb. 14 presentation by four NLT directors detailing the NLT's properties and projects.

Garden Club members expressed gratitude for the breadth of NLT's work and the depth of its

passion for education and conservation. After hearing the talk by NLT directors Connie Bennett, Sarah Graber, Tammis Lazarus, and Mary Verel, numerous Garden Club members volunteered to serve as field guides for the Outdoor Classroom, and others may join in future NLT stewardship work. The \$300 honorarium paid by the Garden Club will be applied to the NLT's Hoyt Island remediation project. The NLT thanks the Garden Club for its donation and enthusiasm.

For more information about the Norwalk Garden Club, visit [norwalkgardenclub.com](http://norwalkgardenclub.com). If you know of a local group that would like a presentation about the NLT's conservation and education work, contact [info@norwalklandtrust.org](mailto:info@norwalklandtrust.org).

### Board reflects at retreat

NLT Directors met Feb. 3 for a day long retreat to reflect on the organization's 2017 conservation work, and consider how it can best fulfill its mission in 2018.

The six-hour meeting included discussion of priorities including raising money to purchase the White Barn property, continuing the successful Outdoor Education program, holding awareness-building events, recruiting new board members, and migrating records and membership data to a new software platform.

### Please join our e-mail list

Help conserve resources and boost efficiency by joining our e-mail list. If you're not currently receiving e-mail from the NLT, we don't have your address.

Please send your e-mail address to [info@norwalklandtrust.org](mailto:info@norwalklandtrust.org).



# Volunteers eager to guide fourth-graders

Returning NLT Outdoor Classroom volunteers are eagerly looking forward to helping with another fun-filled season of discovery for Norwalk Public Schools fourth-graders.

Norwalk's twelve Public Elementary Schools have begun reserving days in April, May or June for the NLT's two-day program in which fourth-grade classes learn about conservation, the NLT, and the salt marsh ecosystem of our Schoendorf Farm Creek Preserve.

On the program's first day, NLT members will travel to the school and make a 45-minute classroom presentation, introducing the preserve's flora, fauna, and ecosystem. On the second day, the NLT will bus the same students to Farm Creek where volunteers will assist with tours of the preserve. Volunteers will help show the fourth-graders the nature and function of a tidal estuary. On past visits, excited students and grateful teachers have affirmed the educational and spiritual value of experiencing the natural world. The trips



John Moeling, Connie Bennett, Tammis Lazarus, Marny Smith, and Mary Verel at the Schoendorf Farm Creek Preserve, where they have long volunteered as guides for fourth-graders learning about tidal estuaries and marsh ecosystems. Moeling and Smith are former presidents of the NLT; Bennett, Lazarus, and Verel are current directors. All Norwalk fourth-graders can participate in the NLT's Outdoor Classroom.

are made possible by the generous support of an anonymous donor.

The NLT's Outdoor Classroom is the only local experiential learning opportunity of its kind for most of these nine- and ten-year-olds. Since the program began in 2009, almost 4,000 students have learned about salt marsh ecosystems and the importance of conservation.

**Please support this valuable program by volunteering to guide students.** No experience is necessary and training takes just a couple of hours. Training sessions are Friday April 20th at 1pm or Wednesday April 25th at 11am at the Farm Creek Preserve. Contact Education Coordinator Tammis Lazarus at [tammislaz@gmail.com](mailto:tammislaz@gmail.com) for more information.

## NLT offers learning opportunities for master gardeners, home gardeners, high school students

A limited number of volunteers will have the opportunity to learn gardening skills from NLT Director and Master Gardener Sarah Graber at the Schoendorf Farm Creek Preserve.

Volunteers will learn alongside Master Gardeners or Master Gardener interns, participate in conservation work at NLT's Farm Creek Preserve, and observe pesticide-free solutions for identifying and removing invasives and bug infestations. Volunteers can also learn how to identify plants, trees, and insects. "Volunteering to work with Master Gardeners and

Master Gardener interns is a great way for a home gardener to start taking his or her skills to the next level, enjoying nature in this lovely preserve and giving back to the community all at the same time," Graber said.

Past NLT Master Gardener interns have included Carol Giunta, Stephanie Sisk, Caroline Chiodo and Kevin Tepas. To volunteer, contact Sarah Graber at [sarah.graber@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sarah.graber@sbcglobal.net).

The NLT will also welcome high school interns for a four-week internship in May-June 2018. Interns will give tours, help with preserve stew-



NLT interns Grace Kauffman, Emma Kauffeld and Sam Lamb assist with stewardship of the Farm Creek Preserve in May 2017. The NLT will welcome high school interns again in May.

ardship, and support NLT's ongoing marketing work and membership retention campaign.

## Henkin, Nightingale, Shanahan join board

The Norwalk Land Trust recently welcomed three new directors:

**Julian Henkin** is a passionate advocate of environmental causes with a career in marketing, product management and technology. Henkin holds a degree from the University of California, College of Natural Resources, and has worked for the U.S. Forest Service. He lives adjacent to the White Barn property.

**Bill Nightingale** served for over six years on Norwalk's Conservation Commission and participated in fund raising for the NLT's Farm Creek Preserve Project. He holds a BA in Physics from Connecticut College. He is a Senior Managing Director at BCP Securities in Greenwich, working in sales and trading of international and



Julian Henkin



Bill Nightingale



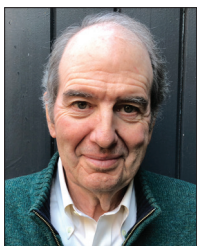
Lisa Shanahan

emerging market credit.

**Lisa Shanahan** is formerly a Trust Officer, Department Manager, and Vice President in the Probate Division of The Northern Trust Company. Shanahan is a graduate of Dartmouth College and the University of Pennsylvania Law School. She lives in Rowayton where her civic involvement includes Shakespeare on the Sound, the Rowayton Library, Impact Fairfield County, and Rowayton Gardeners.

### PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The Norwalk Land Trust begins 2018 with an exciting agenda. Having just concluded the acquisition of 7.112 acres on Norwalk's border with Wilton, we are shifting our attention to raising \$5 million to purchase the 15.4-acre White Barn Property located at 78 Cranbury Road. One million dollars has been pledged, and \$1 million more is needed to close. These two acquisitions will represent a major increase in our conserved acreage, saving fragile habitats and natural resources. Preservation of undeveloped land in its natural state is the core of our mission and 2018 will be crucial to fulfilling it.



D. Seeley Hubbard

We will also focus on the property stewardship aspect of our mission. Volunteers are needed to steward conservation land, to battle invasives, and to work on making properties more accessible to Norwalk's residents, where appropriate.

Last, the NLT will continue its popular Outdoor Classroom Educational Program, providing all Norwalk Public School fourth-graders a two-day environmental education experience which includes a field trip to one or more of our properties. This program has been a huge success for both the NLT and the children.

The NLT thanks you for your support. We could not conserve Norwalk's open space without you.

*D. Seeley Hubbard  
President, Norwalk Land Trust*

*Volunteer with the NLT! Work and learn with Master Gardeners, guide fourth-grade visitors at the Farm Creek Preserve, maintain Norwalk's preserves, help with data entry, or map NLT properties with GPS. E-mail [info@norwalklandtrust.org](mailto:info@norwalklandtrust.org) for more information.*



## NORWALK LAND TRUST

### Directors

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Norwalk Land Trust  
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Bob Welsh  
*Editor*

Laure Dunne  
*Editor Emeritus*

## EVENTS

### Conservation Fund director to speak April 9

How do military strategy and the maintenance of a vegetable garden provide insight into the future of conservation in America? During this period of uncertainty, how will the conservation movement stay relevant and address the challenges ahead?

Reggie Hall, Director of Conservation Loans at The Conservation Fund, will give a talk about the future of conservation in America at the NLT's Annual Meeting on April 9th in the Community Room of Norwalk City Hall. Refreshments start at 6:30pm, Hall's talk starts at 7pm.



Reggie Hall

Hall has successfully conserved hundreds of thousands of acres across the U.S. and Canada, winning numerous awards. In addition to Hall's work at The Conservation Fund, he has served as a Director of Land Protection in North Carolina and as a faculty member at national conservation conferences.

### Solstice Sunset, oysters, live music June 22

Celebrate the official start of summer and the longest days of the year! Bring the whole family and nibbles and drinks to the Schoendorf Farm Creek Preserve, 34 Sammis Street, on June 22nd from 7-8:45PM for a special Summer Solstice Sunset.



Summer sunset at Farm Creek

The NLT will provide live guitar music and oysters. Nature will provide a solstice sunset and the peace of the Preserve. Attendees may bring drinks and additional refreshments. Pouring rain or lightning cancels. This event is the NLT's special thanks to all who contributed to conserving the Schoendorf Preserve.

### Support NLT every time you shop on Amazon

Enter the Amazon website via [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) and specify the Norwalk Land Trust as your preferred charity. From that point forward, access Amazon through [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) and the NLT will receive 0.5% of every dollar you spend. It's easy, it doesn't affect your cost or selection, and every little bit supports the NLT's local education and conservation work.



## CALENDAR

### April 9: NLT Annual Meeting

Annual Meeting open to members and the general public. Reggie Hall, Director at the Conservation Fund, will speak on the future of land conservation.

*Norwalk City Hall Community Room,  
125 East Avenue, 6:30pm*

### April 20: Volunteer Training

Training for volunteer guides who will assist fourth-grade preserve visitors.

*Schoendorf Farm Creek Preserve, 34 Sammis Street, 1pm*

### April 22: Earth Day Weekend Schoendorf Farm Creek Preserve Cleanup

Cleanup and trail restoration in preparation for NLT's Outdoor Classroom program. Tools, gloves, and bags provided.

*Schoendorf Farm Creek Preserve, 34 Sammis Street, 11am-1pm*

### April 25: Volunteer Training

Training for volunteer guides who will assist fourth-grade preserve visitors. This is a repeat of the April 20<sup>th</sup> training; volunteers need only attend one session.

*Schoendorf Farm Creek Preserve,  
34 Sammis Street, 11am*

### April 28: White Barn Preserve Cleanup

Two hours of clean-up and maintenance on the five-acre parcel already under conservation, and survey of ten new acres.

*White Barn Preserve, 78 Cranbury Road, 11am*

### June 22: Solstice Sunset Reception

Celebrate solstice at sunset with oysters, refreshments, and live music. BYOB. Pouring rain or lightning cancels.

*Schoendorf Farm Creek Preserve,  
34 Sammis Street, 7pm-8:45pm*

**For more information about any event,  
contact [info@norwalklandtrust.com](mailto:info@norwalklandtrust.com).**



**NORWALK  
LAND TRUST**

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**Spring 2018**

**Please donate  
and become a member!**

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

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*Phone*

Norwalk Land Trust does not share member information.

All membership contributions are tax deductible.

_____ \$1000+	_____ \$100
_____ \$500	_____ \$50 Family
_____ \$250	_____ \$30 Individual
_____ Other (all gifts appreciated)	
_____ My company will match my gift	

\_\_\_\_\_ Please use my donation for the purchase of the White Barn Property or \_\_\_\_\_ Please use for Hoyt Island

\_\_\_\_\_ White Barn 2019 Pledge \_\_\_\_\_ White Barn 2020 Pledge

For Corporate/Professional memberships, please e-mail [info@norwalklandtrust.org](mailto:info@norwalklandtrust.org) or visit [norwalklandtrust.org](http://norwalklandtrust.org).

**I am interested in:** \_\_\_\_\_ volunteering as a nature guide \_\_\_\_\_ property donation  
\_\_\_\_\_ volunteering for stewardship work on NLT properties \_\_\_\_\_ contact me

Please use my e-mail address to receive NLT communications and to save paper and postage: YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

Please clip and mail this form and membership donations to: Norwalk Land Trust, PO Box 34, Norwalk CT 06853