

# NLT remediates toxic island

## Please give to finish, name new bird sanctuary



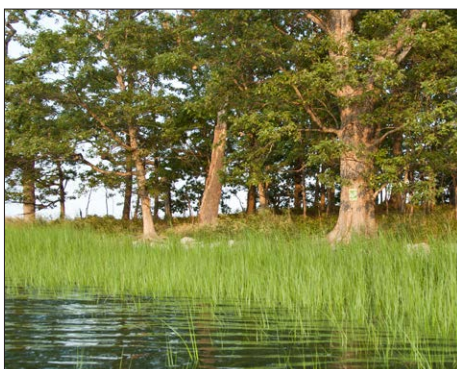
Environmental remediation contractors working under HRT Associates wear hazmat suits to protect from toxic PCBs and asbestos on Hoyt Island.



Hoyt Island, Norwalk Harbor

**W**orkers finished remediating toxic PCBs and asbestos from Hoyt Island on May 21, at a cost of over \$300,000. Project equipment and personnel were barged to the island in a complex operation first conceived in 2013, and scheduled around Norwalk Harbor's seven-foot tidal range.

Now your help is urgently needed to finish and name a new bird sanctuary on Hoyt for more than 140 species, including Great Blue Herons and Bald Eagles, which may already be present. Email [info@norwalklandtrust.org](mailto:info@norwalklandtrust.org) to learn about naming opportunities.



Hoyt Island, as seen from the water off Norwalk Harbor, near Wilson Point and Village Creek.



A feather believed to be from an eagle, found recently on Hoyt by NLT Director Mary Verel.

### PLEASE GIVE NOW

Use form on page 8 to mail a check, or [give online here](#).



## BEHIND THE SCENES

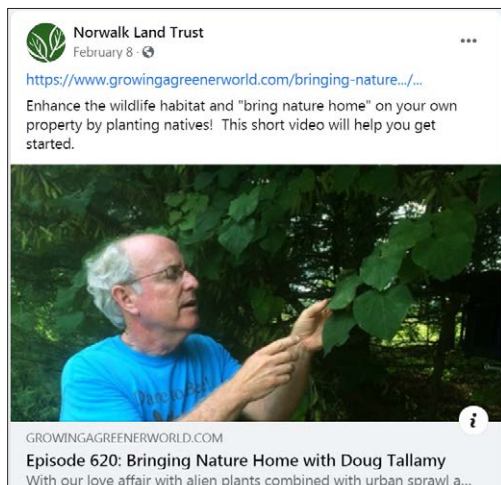
Matt Ryan of Cranbury, Kevin Tepas of Rowayton, Audrey Cozzarin of Spring Hill, and John Fitzpatrick of Silvermine joined the board of directors. Welcome!



Tammis Lazarus created and distributed this sticker in support of World Bee Day May 20.



Land Trust directors held the first in-person meeting in more than 12 months, outdoors at Fodor Farm May 4. Left to right, John Fitzpatrick, Mary Verel, Lynne Pratt, Peggy Holton (seated), Midge Kennedy, Seeley Hubbard, Connie Bennett, Lisa Shanahan, and Rich Baskin.



Bill Wrenn created a series of Facebook and Twitter posts to show Norwalkers how to support backyard nature.



Your Land Trust raised \$8,420, including a \$2,500 prize for receiving the most donations during the 10-11 a.m. environmental power hour, on Fairfield County Giving Day Feb. 25.



Lynne Pratt created this clever advertisement for an April 24 cleanup at Farm Creek.



# Girl scouts, NLT build bat housing



NLT Director Lisa Shanahan helps two girl scouts from Troop #50398 assemble bat boxes April 16 at the Rowayton Community Center. Bats are natural pollinators and pest control, but their populations are dwindling. The new housing affords them ideal spaces to sleep and procreate. Some of the boxes will be placed at the Farm Creek Preserve.



Above and right, girl scouts from Troop #50398 assemble bat houses. The troop built 25 houses, which will be placed on NLT properties and other bat-friendly locations. Bats consume 1,200 mosquitos per hour.



## STEWARDSHIP



Norwalk Land Trust Director Audrey Cozzarin rakes debris at a Farm Creek Preserve cleanup April 24. Two dozen volunteers built trails and planted daffodils.



John Fitzpatrick displays an invasive Japanese Barberry he extracted during a March 27 cleanup at the Big West Cedar property.



Left, Mary Verel, Lynne Pratt, and Matt Ryan with Red Dragon flame throwers which eliminate invasives by burning them. Center, Verel burns invasive Barberry. Above, close-up of the tool at work. Don't try this at home - special equipment and training are required!





## NORWALK LAND TRUST

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

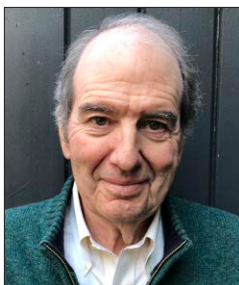
Due to the coronavirus pandemic, this winter we had to restrict activities to virtual Zoom events. We also had to cancel plans for the spring and summer seasons and hope that we can resume our normal schedule by summer or fall. However, with adversity comes opportunity, and the NLT Board capitalized on this restricted period to explore reaching out to Norwalk to make it greener.

Central to our planning is the stewardship of our properties. Mary Verel, as our Stewardship Chairman, has vigorously set out to analyze our properties with respect to their environmental character and their suitability for public access, trails, and educational features.

Another priority is to remove invasive species and replace them with native plants. This includes the planting of new trees, as well as the protection of our older trees. There has been an enthusiastic reception to installing bird and bat boxes on our properties, as well as planting wildflower meadows for butterflies. But our biggest challenge has been the remediation of toxic PCBs and asbestos on Hoyt Island. The property was donated to the Norwalk Land Trust in 1979 by Countess Czapski, who lived nearby in Wilson Point. A caretaker's cottage on the island was burned to the ground by an arsonist in April 2008, releasing toxic contaminants into the soil. The contamination was



**Workers guide a front end loader from a barge onto Hoyt Island prior to remediation of toxic PCBs and asbestos which made it a no-go zone.**



**D. Seeley Hubbard**

severe enough that state and federal law required removal. Hoyt Island is a sensitive environmental sanctuary and home to some 140 species of birds, including families of bald eagles and great blue herons. It is on the migration route of many birds. Many of these species are on the state list as endangered or threatened.

We hired contractors to remove the contamination. The initial cost estimate for its removal was \$128,000, but discoveries in the course of excavation raised the figure to \$303,000. Sen. Bob Duff helped obtain a State of Connecticut grant for \$100,000. We made a commitment to restore Hoyt Island to natural open space. The work has begun, and we have commenced fundraising to pay off the cost. Our commitment to the environment is steadfast, but the NLT cannot do it alone. This is a job where your help is essential.

Despite the pandemic, the Norwalk Land Trust has been busy with its enthusiastic Board, members, volunteers, and contributors: the Norwalk Land Trust family! We cannot do what we do without your support. You make it all possible.

Sincerely,  
Seeley Hubbard

## QUIZ: Can you bark up the right tree?

Identify all four trees and win some NLT swag! Mail your entry to PO Box 34, Norwalk CT 06853, or email to [info@norwalklandtrust.org](mailto:info@norwalklandtrust.org)



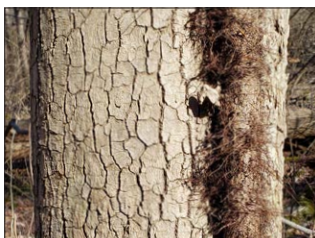
1. \_\_\_\_\_



2. \_\_\_\_\_



3. \_\_\_\_\_



4. \_\_\_\_\_

## Redford says...



Redford, a 2-year-old Redbone Coonhound, is the NLT's new canine ambassador to promote good citizenship on conserved land. Above, he reminds us that pets must always be leashed for safety, and for preservation of native wildlife.

## POEM: I Stand, I Kneel, I Stand, I Kneel in The Starfield

*A pasture hums and flutters  
below wind-swept clouds,  
with stained glass windows,  
wings and bodies, metallic and sequined,  
as colorful as the wildflowers  
in which a deer rests, full of wonder –  
a web woven in blades of grass,  
by a spider smaller than a drop of dew.  
The deer hurdles over the pews  
of wildflowers, her white tail  
makes great arcs in warm wind.  
The skeleton of a snake in the grassy aisle,  
shares its silent prayers  
of bone and skin.*



Lisa Meserole, right, is a Norwalk poet. Originally published in *Shot Glass Journal*.



## NATURE IN OUR CARE

### JIM JACQUES

took these stunning images of birds, including the rare Least Flycatcher and Canada Warbler, on Norwalk's White Barn property. Thanks, Jim, for the photos, and for honoring the maxim to "take nothing but photos, and leave nothing but footprints" on conservation land.



Barred Owl



Mallard



Swamp Sparrow



Canada Warbler



Veery



House Finch



Scarlet Tanager



Least Flycatcher

### PHOTO BUGS

Send us your bug photos!  
And images of nature in  
NLT preserves, or anywhere  
in Norwalk. Email:

[info@norwalklandtrust.org](mailto:info@norwalklandtrust.org)

If we print your photo, you'll  
win NLT merchandise.



### SAVE THE DATE

Join the Norwalk Land Trust and friends  
for cocktails and an autumn equinox sunset.

September 24, 2021, 5-7PM  
Farm Creek Preserve, 34 Sammis Street



**NORWALK  
LAND TRUST**

P.O. Box 34 Norwalk CT 06853

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**Summer 2021**

**Please donate  
and become a member!**

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Name*

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Norwalk Land Trust does not share member information.

All membership contributions are tax deductible.

_____ \$1000+	_____ \$100
_____ \$500	_____ \$50 Family
_____ \$250	_____ \$30 Individual
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_____ My company will match my gift	

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