



# NORWALK LAND TRUST NEWS

Spring/Summer 2022

## INSIDE



Page 3: Preserves get  
5,000 seedlings



Wolfpit Elementary School fourth graders observe a diamondback terrapin specimen during a May 31 visit to the Charles Irwin Shoendorf Farm Creek Preserve. Norwalk students resumed visits May 20.

## Education program resumes



A Wolfpit student displays a chestnut found in a nature scavenger hunt.



NLT Director Mary Verel leads a group of students through trails. Thirty-five volunteers trained as nature guides and led tours.

### Fourth graders visit preserve

**A**fter a two-year pandemic hiatus, Norwalk fourth graders resumed field trips to the Charles Irwin Shoendorf Preserve to learn about nature, tidal estuaries, and the importance of conservation. Visits are rich with discovery, and for many students, their first experience of land in its natural state.



# Nineteen groups join Earth Day event



Director Patty Hein offers native plant seeds to Norwalk youths at the NLT's table in an April 23 Earth Day event organized by Director Audrey Cozzarin. Nineteen Norwalk groups whose activities relate to nature or conservation participated.



Children pose as woodland creatures, and learn about the importance of our mission to save open space for them, especially in developed areas such as Norwalk.



Norwalk youths receive stickers promoting World Bee Day.



Mayor Harry Rilling welcomes guests and speaks of the importance of conserving Norwalk's open space and environment.



# Scouts plant meadow with Fodor seedlings



Girl Scout Christina Vlicky plants a Cardinal flower seedling as part of a project to create a wildflower meadow at land that is becoming the Mary Peatman Preserve in Silvermine. Vlicky and a few scouts from Troop 50960 have made multiple visits as they learn about the importance of pollinators and work toward their Silver Award, one of the highest a scout can earn.



Girl scouts Jessica Edwards and Victoria Koniecko take a break from planting. In addition to the wildflower meadow, the scouts also hope to install birdhouses and bathouses.



A few of the 5,000 pollinator-friendly native wildflower seedlings started by NLT volunteers at Fodor Farm greenhouse. The seedlings are being planted at two NLT properties.

## Stewards meet with developer

JoAnne Jackson and Mary Verel speak with a representative of Able Construction, a developer of 15 homes adjacent to the White Barn Preserve in Cranbury. Jackson and Verel emphasized the importance of not disturbing the preserve.



## Invasives cleared

Volunteer Dan Verel burns invasives using a Red Dragon flamethrower at an early spring cleanup at the White Barn Preserve. There were cleanups at three large NLT properties in late winter and spring.



## NATURE IN OUR CARE



Wood Ducks



Ruby-throated Hummingbird



Cooper's Hawk



Blue Heron

## **CHRIS BOSAK**

*made these vivid, moving images of Norwalk birds in our care. For more of Chris's amazing photos, see his popular blog at [birdsofnewengland.com](http://birdsofnewengland.com).*



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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Ambitious year starts with education

As nature burst forth with the glory of spring, your Norwalk Land Trust blossomed too, with a beautiful celebration of Earth Day on the Norwalk Green and multiple nature walks at the Charles Irwin Schoendorf Preserve at Farm Creek.

After a long winter and a lingering pandemic, it was a joy to hold our first in-person board meeting in May. Our board has set out an ambitious agenda for this year. After a two-year hiatus of our education program, fourth graders are once again visiting our properties and exploring their natural wonders, while learning from science teachers and volunteers.

The removal of toxic materials from Hoyt Island is complete, and the stewardship team is approaching its goal of turning the island into a bird sanctuary.

Your land trust is collaborating with other area trusts to promote native veg-



**D. Seeley Hubbard**



**Fourth graders resumed field trips to NLT properties to learn and appreciate the importance of conservation.**

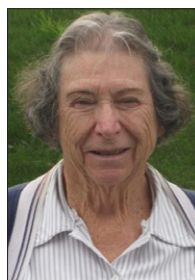
etation on natural open space, pollinator pathways for pollinating insects, and conservation corridors for wildlife.

Our primary mission is still to acquire and preserve natural open space, and we have a number of possibilities which we are actively pursuing.

The Norwalk Land Trust could not accomplish any of its goals without your generous and enthusiastic participation and support. Thank you. Here's to an enjoyable and busy summer.

Sincerely,  
Seeley Hubbard

## IN MEMORIAM



### A Friend's Last Help

Former Rowaytonite Janet Phyfe made the first large gift to the campaign for the \$4.3 million acquisition of Farm Creek, which energized the campaign for our largest preserve. She died late last year at 97, named Norwalk Land Trust as the charity of her choice, and made another significant gift. Her donation will make the Farm Creek estuary even more healthy. Thank you Janet. You made a difference!



# INVASIVES GUIDE

Please support native plants and pollinators by removing these invasives whenever you can.



**Mugwort's** dense underground roots push native plants out of seed bed. Small infestations can be pulled, but some roots usually remain and grow back, requiring continued vigilance. For larger infestations, mow before a seedhead matures in mid-fall, then cover with cardboard and a thick layer of mulch for at least six months. Then plant aggressive natives such as goldenrod, aster, or fringed loosestrife, which will help prevent recurrence. Do not mow mugwort between mid-fall and winter, as this will disperse seeds. Dispose in trash, not in yard waste bin.



**Asiatic bittersweet** climbs and strangles trees. Smaller plants can be pulled. Cut larger plants at base of tree; you need not remove the entire vine. Dispose in trash.



## Redford says...



Redford, a three-year-old Redbone Coonhound, promotes good pet practices on Norwalk Land Trust properties. Above, he smells a nest and decides to take his human to a dog park until nesting season ends in mid-June.

## Excerpt

*Take only what you need.  
Take only that which is given.  
Never take more than half. Leave some for others.  
Harvest in a way that minimizes harm.  
Use it respectfully. Never waste what you have taken.  
Share.  
Give thanks for what you have been given.  
Give a gift, in reciprocity for what you have taken.  
Sustain the ones who sustain you and the earth will last forever.*

—from *Braiding Sweetgrass*, by Robin Wall Kimmerer, a citizen of the Potawatomi Nation



## BEHIND THE SCENES



### Friends honor Holton for environmental activism

Longtime director Peggy Holton was honored at a special birthday dinner with a lighthearted “Eartha Egret Award for Environmental Activism.” Holton has served as an NLT director and staunch advocate for open space for more than 18 years.

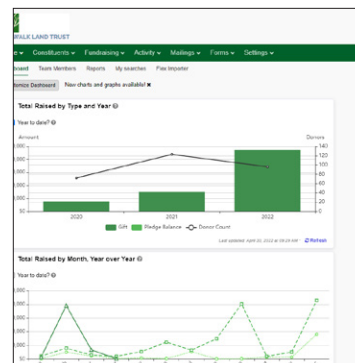
### New sign touts tall grass for pollinators

Audrey Cozzarin created this sign to support bees and other vital pollinators. Skip mowing your lawn every year through May and you’ll help bees emerge from hibernation. Thank you Norwalk for supporting this initiative!



### Scott uses drone for education video

Volunteer Matt Scott uses his drone (inset) to make aerial footage of the Charles Irwin Schoendorf Preserve at Farm Creek, for new NLT videos. One of the videos, funded by a generous grant from the Horizon Foundation, will support the education program.



### 'Green' software

Treasurer Rich Baskin moved NLT data into cutting-edge software Little Green Light, designed to support nonprofit fundraising, record keeping, and member communication. Left, a program dashboard.

### Emails draw generous gifts

Your Land Trust raised more than \$7,700 Feb. 24 on Fairfield County Giving Day, sponsored by the Fairfield County Community Foundation. Patty Hein created a series of email blasts encouraging members to prioritize nature and open space.





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LAND TRUST**

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**INSIDE: Education  
program resumes**



**Spring/Summer 2022**

**Please donate  
and become a member!**

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

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Norwalk Land Trust does not share member information.

All membership contributions are tax deductible.

_____ \$1000+	_____ \$100
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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