

INSIDE



Page 2: Harry the Heron joins parade



A student from the Center for Global Studies at Brien McMahon High School samples water from the dock October 21st at the Charles Irwin Shoendorf Farm Creek Preserve.



Students from Abi Kambanis's chemistry class plan removal of *phragmites australis* at the Charles Irwin Shoendorf Farm Creek Preserve. Students removed about 700 square feet of the invasive species.

Students perform water testing at NLT preserve

Chemistry teacher Abi Kambanis brought multiple classes of high school students to our Charles Irwin Shoendorf Farm Creek Preserve in October for an applied lesson in the chemistry of an estuary.

Students sampled water, which they brought back to their classroom laboratory for testing, and planned and executed the removal of more than 700 square feet of *phragmites australis*, which had completely overtaken native *iva frutescens*, also known as high tide bush.

"The students did great work," NLT Stewardship Chair Mary Verel said. Verel is optimistic that the removal will allow native plants to flourish.

'Bandit' wins day

Visitors to our table at the July 9th Rowayton River Ramble were invited to name a new taxidermied raccoon that will be used in our education program. The winning name was Bandit, suggested by three people, including Cooper Mason, age 5. Other entries, in no particular order:



Bandit



Cooper Mason

Spiker	Bob
Riley	Raven
Scrumble	Keredose
Sir Reginald	Reckless
Raccoon IV	Jack Birch
Nooccar	Prizeguy
George	Boo
Wren the Raccoon	Ricky
Rabid Rickey	Rosie
Roger Bacon	Charlie Creek
Packer	Grilled Cheese
Raccoonie	Ricardo
Rocky	Trash Eater
Sam	Rings
William	Sneaker
Ramona	Kevin
Cracker	Trash
Riolu	Rascal
Randolph	Fiona
Claw	Cracker Jacks

NLT, Harry the Heron join parade

Volunteers practice carrying Harry the Heron prior to the May 29th Memorial Day Parade in Rowayton. Dedicated NLT supporter Pamela Proctor created Harry for our public outreach. Parade goers cheered Harry and his human handlers.



Members and friends join forest bathing walk

Bill Wrenn led members and guests on a forest bathing walk October 16 at our Charles Irwin Shoendorf Farm Creek Preserve. The walk was part of a "Walk Your Land Trust" series together with Darien, Stamford, New Canaan, and Wilton. Forest bathing originated in Japan, and entails centering through the breath and walking mindfully in nature. Numerous studies found the practice lowers heart rate, blood pressure, and stress, and boosts immune response, so much so that many doctors prescribe it.



Temple Beth El volunteers seed Peatman meadow

Volunteers from Temple Beth El Norwalk's Social Action Committee planted "meadow mix" wildflower and milkweed seeds and daffodil bulbs October 23 at our Mary Peatman Preserve. The seeds and bulbs will overwinter and sprout in the spring, developing a new pollinator meadow. Left to right, Andrea Ulrich, Nancy Glater, Ilene Sumberg, Louis Schulman, Sylvia Schulman, Sharon DeFala, Rabbi Ita Paskind, Mary Verel, Irina Aronson, Kevin Tepas, and Neil Plain. Not pictured are participants Mary Oster and Stuart Garrelick.



Hoyt Island prep work begins

Dan Verel uses a power saw to remove a giant English Ivy invasive vine from a mature oak tree on Hoyt Island. We are collaborating with the Connecticut Audubon Society to transform the entire island into a bird sanctuary.



Stewards clean waterfront parcel

Volunteer stewards John Fitzpatrick, Susan Carlson, Patty Hein, Lynne Pratt, Dan Verel, Christine Peterson and April Warchick were glad to have grabber tools for their clean-up of our lovely 7.6-acre waterfront parcel at 250 Wilson Avenue September 28.

BEHIND THE SCENES



Midge Kennedy, left, holds the tongue-in-cheek “Eartha Egret Award for Environmental Activism,” presented by Mary Verel at an informal board gathering July 6.

Beloved director to retire in December

Kennedy lauded for 17 years of conservation

Longtime NLT director Midge Kennedy will retire from the board at the end of this year. Kennedy, who fellow director Mary Verel describes as “the heart and soul” of the organization, was integral to the successful campaign for the Charles Irwin Schoendorf Farm Creek Preserve, the White Barn Preserve, and more recently she led fundraising and grant writing to convert Hoyt Island into a bird sanctuary. She has served as Secretary, Treasurer, and Fundraising Chair, and performs a thousand vital tasks with passion and good cheer, from thanking donors to greeting guests to publicity. At the November 1 annual meeting President D. Seeley Hubbard presented Kennedy with a vase as a token of appreciation for her 17 years of service. She will be missed by all, especially the newsletter editor.

Sign begs dogs to leash

Canine ambassador Redford posed for this sign, now on the gate at the Charles Irwin Schoendorf Farm Creek Preserve, asking dogs to stay leashed to their owners. Unleashed dogs disrupt our native woodland habitat and can also injure themselves.



Community gives to heal vandalized preserve

Charles Irwin Schoendorf Farm Creek Preserve stewards were



stunned in late June to discover the above structure erected in the woods, made of cut-down cedar trees. The vandals, likely youth seeking a recreation space, also destroyed multiple slow-growing native holly and bayberry bushes, amounting to at least \$20,000 in damage. “I’ve never seen anything like it,” Stewardship chair Mary Verel said. Verel spread the word and we received cash donations of more than \$7,000, plus four native holly bushes, to repair the vandalism.

Education volunteers feted at outdoor luncheon

More than 460 Norwalk fourth-graders toured the Charles Irwin Schoendorf Farm Creek Preserve this year in groups of 5-7, with the support of volunteer nature guides.

A June 28 luncheon honored this year’s cohort: Lynne Pratt,



Ann DiLeone, Midge Kennedy, Betsy Bain, Carol Guinta, Maryellen Duffy, Jenny Zech, Tammy Langelis, Maeve Carr, Tina Mangold, Davis Mangold, Jane Graham, Patty Hein, Cathy Nash, Nina Miller, Joe Rogers, Kim Hyde, Georgette Diamandis, Laura Fanzilli, Laura Lamorte and Jonathan Brady. Guests received a hat, above, with our logo and a special inscription on the back.



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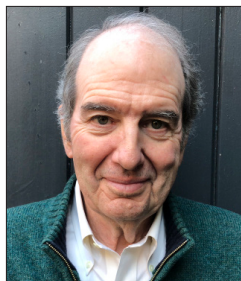
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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Annual meeting considers climate

As Norwalk trees turned spectacular colors, your Norwalk Land Trust held a successful annual meeting November 1st. We were fortunate to hear guest speaker Dominique Browning, the former editor-in-chief of *House & Garden*. Browning's writing regularly appears in the *New York Times* and the Environmental Defense Fund's web site, and she's a recipient of the National Audubon Society's Rachel Carson Award. Her analysis of the climate change debate — particularly the international struggle for solutions — was riveting and held the attention of a full house at the Rowayton Community Center.

We also honored retiring director Midge Kennedy for 17 years of service to the Norwalk Land Trust. Midge was deeply involved in the acquisition of the five-acre easement at 78 Cranbury Road known as the White Barn Preserve; the five-year campaign to purchase the Charles Irwin Shoendorf Preserve at Farm Creek; and the remediation of the Hoyt Island Wildlife and Bird Sanctuary. Midge served on the Board as our Treasurer, Secretary and as Chair of the Fundraising Committee.



D. Seeley Hubbard



Award-winning activist and editor Dominique Browning speaks at our November 1 annual meeting.

We are all deeply grateful for Midge's energy, smile, and enthusiasm. She will be missed.

Looking ahead, we are exploring new ways to emphasize the importance of preserving and protecting open space in this increasingly unpredictable climate. All natural species are facing greater danger from global warming and rising sea levels, and challenges to biodiversity have never been greater. Your NLT is on the front lines of this battle, collaborating with other land trusts, environmental organizations, and governmental entities to find solutions. Thank you for making this possible.

Sincerely,

Seeley Hubbard



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Each like and share promotes Norwalk conservation.

Outdoor party celebrates equinox

More than 250 guests attended our Fall Equinox Sunset Reception at the Charles I. Schoendorf Farm Creek Preserve on Sammis Street in Rowayton September 18. Right, Norwalk Mayor Harry Rilling, First Lady Lucia Rilling, and Oscar and Lisa Carillo. The yearly autumn event thanks our supporters, celebrates our progress, and brings people outside for one last summer sunset.



President D. Seeley Hubbard welcomes guests and discusses our mission of protecting open space.



Guests enjoyed cocktails, oysters courtesy of Norm Bloom & Sons Copps Island Oysters, and a spectacular sunset courtesy of nature.

ENGAGEMENT



Mary Verel shows young guests a wasp nest from a table of nature specimens regularly used for classroom field trips to the preserve. The table includes a mounted fox and raccoon, deer antlers, rattlesnake skin, a horseshoe crab, and other examples of our natural world. The preserved animals are a recent purchase made possible by a generous grant from the Horizon Foundation.



Norwalk State Senator and Senate Majority Leader Bob Duff (D-25) speaks with a guest as the sun sets on the Charles Irwin Schoendorf Farm Creek Preserve. Duff obtained a \$100,000 state grant for the remediation of toxic contaminants on Hoyt Island.



Guests lined up for oysters generously donated by Norm Bloom & Sons Copps Island Oysters, which sells high-quality, consistent, and sustainable shellfish nationwide.



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**INSIDE: Students
test estuary water**



Fall 2022

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