

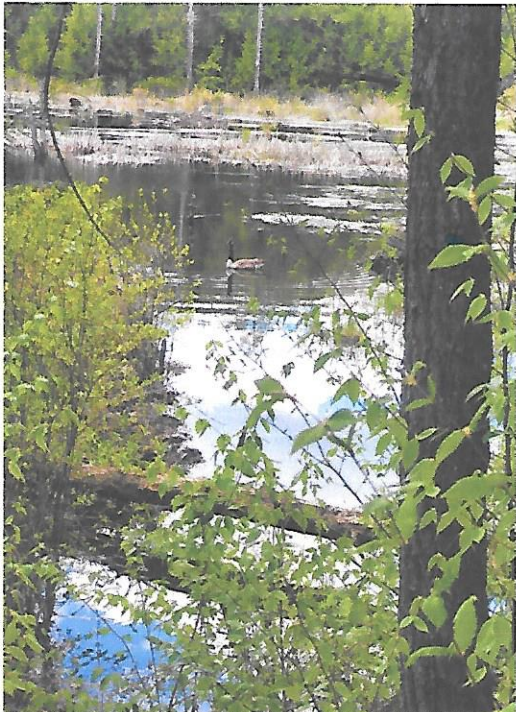


# The Preservationist

[www.hartlandlandtrust.org](http://www.hartlandlandtrust.org) P.O. Box 12 East Hartland, CT 06027 Spring 2022  
[www.facebook.com/HartlandLandTrust](http://www.facebook.com/HartlandLandTrust)

## Trails Opening on the Mill District Nature Preserve!

It's going to be a busy spring for HLT trail volunteers as we prepare our Mill District Nature Preserve trails for CT Trails Day on June 4. We're excited to open to the community our beautiful 117-acre preserve, purchased with two In-lieu Fee grants from Audubon CT and the Army Corps of Engineers as well as additional support from the Farmington River Coordinating Committee. HLT Co-President Fred Jones heads up our trail crew. Our partnership with Hartland's Wilderness School, a program of the CT State Department of Children and Families, will add additional helping hands in the construction of several "bog bridges" to get us through a few wet areas without getting our feet soaked. Pre-registration for this hike is required; please register after May 1st on the Trails Day website, <https://trailsday.org/>. Although space will be limited for this guided hike, the trails will be marked and available for public use after that date. The location of the preserve and some beautiful pictures may be found on the HLT website at <https://www.hartlandlandtrust.org>. It is our hope that many of our neighbors will visit and see for themselves what a treasure Hartland has in the Mill District Nature Preserve.



## Welcoming New Residents to Hartland!

by Susan Pearson

Although many Hartland families have lived here for generations, many others have chosen Hartland to be their home much more recently. Those folks can have quite a time learning some of the basics about living up here. Where can you swim? How do you go about getting one of those reflective number signs to help first responders find your house? Is there a public library in Hartland? What is there to do here? And of course, the all-important hours for the transfer station.

Back in 2019 HLT's President, Fred Jones, had the idea of starting a Welcome to Hartland group. Diana Evans of the Hartland Lions Club and Joanne Groth of the Hartland Historical Society were eager to join with HLT in this effort and Selectman (now First Selectman) Magi Winslow was an enthusiastic supporter. We did some initial planning and then the pandemic hit putting this project on hold. But this winter the Welcome Committee took off again with representatives from the three organizations mailing introduction letters and then delivering Welcome Bags to 66 families new to our community, having moved to Hartland between 2018 and 2021. The bags include information on Hartland, area maps and materials on all three organizations.

Now that we've caught up with previous years, the Welcome Committee will continue to deliver Welcome Bags to new residents as they move into town. Our thanks to the Hartland Library for their donation of bags, to Magi, Jen and Trish from our Town offices for their help in compiling our Resource List, and of course to the Lions Club and the Historical Society for their partnership in this effort.

## Winter Happenings in the Hartland School Pollinator Garden

by Amanda Lukingbeal

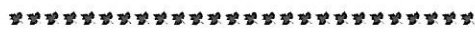
When you observe a garden during the winter months in New England, it may seem like not a whole lot of activity is happening. But inside those dead stems, under those leaves, and even atop those dried up flowers, living creatures of all kinds are still reliant on the native plants there!

Underneath the leaf litter left over from Autumn, in a cozy bed, sleeps a familiar fellow, the Woolly Bear caterpillar which, come springtime, becomes the beautiful Isabella Tiger Moth (*Pyrrharctia isabella*). Without the snug layer of leaves, who can imagine Autumn without spotting our black and brown fuzzy friends? I would surely miss guessing winters length by the width of their brown and black bands!

Inside hollow stems is another favorite winter nap spot for Carpenter bees (*Xylocopa virginica*), which are an oft overlooked pollinating powerhouse. You may notice that hollow stems are exactly what "bee hotels" mimic. No need to purchase a bee hotel if you allow plants and grasses to be left standing throughout the winter months. Come Spring, when the bees become active, you can leave the stems cut back to around 10 inches for future nesting sites!

Plants such as Joe Pye Weed (*Eupatorium*), Coneflower (*Echinacea*), and Blazingstars (*Liatris*) not only provide habitat for our sleepy-headed insect friends but also a wealth of seed for our hungry bird friends. Goldfinches, Cardinals, Sparrows, Chickadees, nearly all the birds you see in Winter, benefit from plants and flowers being left for a late Spring clean-up.

We hope that the next time you are in the Winter garden, you take a moment to observe all of the ways in which plant "litter" is, in fact, a smorgasbord, AND a warm bed for our fellow, hardy New England Winter-braving pals.



### HLT Officers:

- Fred Jones**  
*Co President*
- Susan Pearson**  
*Co President*
- John Harrity**  
*Vice President*
- Amanda Lukingbeal**  
*Secretary*
- Jane Jones**  
*Treasurer*

### HLT Directors:

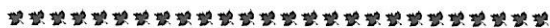
- Alana Bordewieck**
- Fred Caputo**
- Sandy Lisella**
- Sue Murray**
- Brandon Pizzoferrato**

**President's Message** from Co - President, Susan Pearson

I am honored to be joining Co-President Fred Jones in the leadership of Hartland Land Trust. HLT has accomplished so much since incorporating in 2006, thanks to the tireless work of the HLT Board and volunteers and the generous support of the Hartland community. We have now successfully preserved nearly 200 acres of beautiful Hartland forestland, sponsored 46 educational offerings to our community through our Speaker Series, Annual Forums and assemblies at Hartland School, conducted 9 CT Trails Day and other Hartland hikes, and more – quite a list of accomplishments!

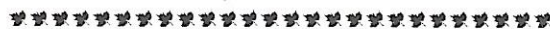
Despite the pandemic, HLT has carried on. Trailwork has continued in HLT's Mill District Nature Preserve in West Hartland. We resumed some in-person educational events in fall of 2021 and are planning others for 2022, including hosting Lucianne Lavin, PhD, of the Institute for American Indian Studies this November. We are hopeful that the pandemic restrictions will continue to ease, but because we need to stay flexible, we will be relying on Facebook and our e-mail list as well as our website to communicate our upcoming offerings. If you have not done so already, please "like" us on our Hartland Land Trust Facebook page, and join our e-mail list by e-mailing us at [hartlandCTlandtrust@gmail.com](mailto:hartlandCTlandtrust@gmail.com) or by completing contact information on our website, <https://www.hartlandlandtrust.org>. We promise we won't clutter your inbox but going forward these will be our most timely ways to communicate what we're up to.

Judging from the number of cars that I've seen parked at Hartland's numerous trailheads, I know I'm not alone in feeling blessed to be able to enjoy this beautiful corner of the world, especially in the past two years. The news is full of the benefits of our forestland – for our physical and mental well-being, for combatting climate change, for protecting the purity of the water that flows from Hartland in our Wild and Scenic Salmon Brook and Farmington River – we here in Hartland are entrusted with precious resources. Please consider supporting Hartland Land Trust's important work in protecting our land in whatever way you are able – by joining our trail-making team, by helping us plan events, by designating HLT as your charity for AmazonSmiles or by becoming a member, renewing your membership or making a donation to HLT. And of course do celebrate Hartland by getting outside this spring!



**Aldo Leopold and his Hartland Connection**

In the spring of 2020 HLT planned a showing of *Green Fire*, the documentary film about the life and work of naturalist Aldo Leopold who is considered by many to be the father of the conservation movement. Then the pandemic came. Though we cancelled our plans the event was rescheduled for March of 2022. Aldo may be best known as the author of *Sand County Almanac* and for developing what he named the Land Ethic which the Aldo Leopold Foundation website describes as an "ethical, caring relationship between people and nature". One person who was greatly influenced by Aldo was his niece Edith Leopold, who lived on Rengerman Hill Road in Hartland from 1955 until her death in 2001. HLT's showing of the *Green Fire* film was preceded by an introduction and slideshow about Edith and her relationship to her land here in Hartland.



**Tribal Acknowledgement**

"We are gathered on the traditional lands of the Tunxis, Agawam and Mohican tribes and all other tribal communities who may have once called Hartland their home. Hartland Land Trust asks you to join us in acknowledging these tribal communities that respected and cherished the forests, streams and wildlife that make up this beautiful land we know as Hartland."

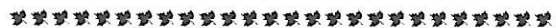
**Hats Off To:**

- \* **Tom Bull** Mill District Nature Preserve trail volunteer
- \* **Nicki Hall and Sam Slater** volunteer monitors for the Mill District Nature Preserve
- \* **Neil Gilpin** for volunteer stewardship of the Bassett Kell Preserve
- \* **Tom Dyer** for his tireless efforts on our trail work on the Charles and Lois Beach Preserve and the Mill District Nature Preserve
- \* **EHVFD and Bethany** for generous use of facility for speaker series presentations
- \* **Robinson & Cole** for their pro bono support of our conservation efforts
- \* **Farmington River Coordinating Committee (FRCC)** for their continued financial support through their grant program



**Wild and Scenic Small Grant Opportunities**

Hartland is a member town for two Wild and Scenic designations: the Farmington River Coordinating Committee (FRCC) since 1994 and the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Committee (LFSWS) since 2019. Both groups as part of their efforts to support local endeavors and enhance river and brook protection offer small grant programs from the headwaters of the Salmon Brook to the banks of the Farmington River. The programs provide funding opportunities for member town municipalities, schools, educational, cultural institutions and non-profits with a minimal application process. See websites for more info [farmingtonriver.org](http://farmingtonriver.org) or [lowerfarmingtonriver.org](http://lowerfarmingtonriver.org) and feel free to contact local Hartland reps, Dan Bowler (FRCC) [dbowler2@hotmail.com](mailto:dbowler2@hotmail.com) or Sue Murray (LFSWS) [suemur@sbcglobal.net](mailto:suemur@sbcglobal.net)



**Updates**

- \* **Communications** Please Note HLT's new mode of communication to you via Mail Chimp rather than emails. You can visit our website to be added to our list for HLT event notifications.
- \* **Salmon-in-Schools** HLT happily resumed assisting the project for an eighth year 2021 after its 2020 suspension due to the covid pandemic restrictions.
- \* **HLT Book Gifts to Hartland School Library:** *"Life Cycles: Everything From Start to Finish"* a DK Reference Book. To Hartland Town Library: *White Feathers, The Nesting Lives of Tree Swallows* by Bernd Heinrich



Left: One of the brooks on the Mill District Preserve  
Above: Volunteers meet at the Mill District Nature Preserve trailhead

**Speaker Series** by Alana Bordewieck

In September **Jay Kaplan** Director of Roaring Brook Nature Center presented CT Butterflies and Moths.

We learned about:

*Identification aids:* Moths have thicker, fuzzier bodies with feathery antennae; butterflies slimmer bodies with thin, shoot-like antennae.

Caterpillars of moths weave a cocoon, butterflies a chrysalis.

*Protection:* Mimicry and taste. The IO moth with its large, eye-like circles confuses the predator into thinking it is bigger than first thought. The Monarch butterfly lays its eggs on the bitter milkweed plant. The caterpillars feed on the milkweed making them distasteful to birds.

*Threats:* climate change, the agricultural practice of mowing down to the road leaving no undisturbed space for milkweed to grow, and GMO plants with pesticides bred into them.

*Migration and hibernation:* Monarchs migrate to Mexico for the winter. Successive generations make the return journey North. We think of butterflies as summer denizens dining on nectars, but the mourning cloak butterfly hibernates here and can be seen in late winter- early spring drinking sap. Others acquire salts and minerals from mud and cow flocs. Butterflies/moths do not have mouths but rather proboscises—long, tube like tongues.

*Interesting facts:* The non-native Gypsy Moth imported mid 19<sup>th</sup> century by a businessman intending to create a better quality of silk by interbreeding with silk worms of the Manchester Cheney mills. The result --wide spread defoliation in the 1980's. The prolific moth lays up to 300 eggs developing into caterpillars, stripping trees of leaves all over the state. Spraying destroyed many beneficial insects as well until a fungus was developed to kill only the gypsy moth before pupation.

*Further info:* like the annual bird count one can participate in one for butterflies at [www.naba.org](http://www.naba.org). For how these insects inspire recent innovations in solar panels and olfactory sensors in drones check out Butterfly Blueprints on [nova pbs.org](http://nova.pbs.org), or YouTube



**Bobcats in CT** by Susan Pearson

Hartland resident and DEEP Furbearer Biologist **Jason Hawley** treated an enthusiastic audience to a sneak preview of his doctoral research on our bobcat population here in CT. He started with some fun facts about our elusive neighbors. Bobcats are the only native feline species currently living in our state and are found throughout CT. Typical bobcat habitat is young forestland with wetlands. Spending so much time in the brush may be responsible for their iconic bobbed tails. The thick understory gives them cover as they are “ambush predators”; fast and effective hunters, they can take down even a 100-pound deer. Not fussy eaters, analysis of their stomach contents reveal they eat the meat of squirrels, rabbits, birds, muskrats, rodents, beaver, cattle, chipmunks and even porcupines! Their ranges can be as large as 30 square miles. A typical litter consists of 1-4 kittens, born in April to May, and the kittens stay with their mother until the next winter’s breeding season.

Jason’s CT Bobcat Project utilizes trail cameras and iNaturalist citizen science reports of bobcat sightings. With the assistance of volunteers Jason has trapped over 100 bobcats in a variety of different habitats and fitted them with GPS collars to obtain data on their movement and habitat preference. His surprise finding from this data is that bobcats are found in even urban areas as long as there is adequate cover for the animals to hide while hunting. Our CT bobcats are indeed very adaptable animals!

For those of you who missed Jason’s presentation, it was taped by Granby Community TV and can be found on their website: <https://gctv16.org>.



Photo by Harald Bordewieck



**Conservation and Stewardship Fund**

*"We must strive to touch the land gently and care for it as true stewards...for those who follow us... may see that our mark on the land was one of respect and love."*  
Robert B. Oetting (1934-1990), wildlife researcher

The Fund was first established June 2013 in memory of Gib Anderson, longtime supporter of our organization and former Chairman of the Hartland Conservation Commission. Since inception, the fund has named 49 honorees.

If you would like to help the fund grow, you may give in the following ways:

- outright donation
- in honor of a living supporter of conservation
- in memory of someone who has died

If you choose to recognize someone, please indicate the person’s name along with your donation on the enclosed envelope under Conservation and Stewardship Fund or under Join/Donate on our website.

Current contributions (Jan 1, 2021 - Feb 13, 2022) in the following names:

- |                                      |                                     |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Gib Anderson</i>                  | <i>Rebecca Huntley</i>              |
| <i>Mary &amp; Greg Anderson</i>      | <i>Ellen Jansen</i>                 |
| <i>Wade Cole</i>                     | <i>Joe Kane</i>                     |
| <i>Robert Davies</i>                 | <i>Esther Hayes Laubin</i>          |
| <i>Nancy &amp; Thomas Dyer</i>       | <i>Gert &amp; Al Lilliendahl</i>    |
| <i>Ramona Eddy</i>                   | <i>Dorothy &amp; Fred Mueller</i>   |
| <i>Ida &amp; William Emerick Sr.</i> | <i>Neil Mueller</i>                 |
| <i>Lynn Goldberg</i>                 | <i>Marion &amp; Bill Murray Sr.</i> |
| <i>Irene &amp; Joe Haag</i>          | <i>Gloria Nelson</i>                |
| <i>Dale Hazard</i>                   | <i>Susan Pearson</i>                |
| <i>JoAnn Hazard</i>                  | <i>Tim Root</i>                     |
| <i>Roland Hazard</i>                 | <i>Pauline Skaret</i>               |



## Dear Carol,

Tree swallows have taken over my bluebird boxes, what can I do?

Blue in Barkhamsted



## Dear Blue in Barkhamsted,

Tree Swallows in your bluebird boxes may not be what you intended, but you have attracted a delightful aviator. These feisty little packages of personality will entertain you for hours as they swoop and dive around your property like fighter jets as they scoop up bothersome insects. One trick I use to attract both tree swallows and bluebirds to my boxes is to place two bluebird houses close together, about 5-10 feet apart. The tree swallows like plenty of space from other swallow families and this arrangement leaves a box open for a bluebird family. I have found that both my swallows and bluebirds enjoy this arrangement and return year after year to nest.

*Carol Blouin* is a local writer, orchardist and Master Wildlife Conservationist.

## Calendar of Events 2022

- ✿ **April 22 Earth Day**
- ✿ **June 4 Connecticut Forest & Park Association CT Trails Day**  
Hike the Mill District Nature Preserve. Pre-registration required.
- ✿ **June 20-26 National Pollinator Week.** Refrain from chemical pesticide use. Plant native plants to flower from spring through fall.
- ✿ **Nov 14 Native American Winter** with Lucianne Lavin 7:30 p.m.  
Venue TBD.
- ✿ **December 13 Tenth Annual HLT Fundraiser at Flatbread Pizza,**  
5-9 p.m. Canton Shoppes

**Give to Hartland Land Trust at No Cost to You**  
**USE AMAZON SMILE!** Sign up for AmazonSmile and pick **Hartland Land Trust Inc** as your charitable organization.

**The Preservationist: Newsletter of Hartland Land Trust Issue #15 Spring 2022**

*Working for the preservation and  
enjoyment of open space  
in our community*



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is a not- for- profit,  
501(c)(3) organization.  
All officers and directors  
are volunteers.

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ENVELOPE ENCLOSED WITH  
MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION