



# The Preservationist

www.hartlandlandtrust.org

P.O. Box 183 Riverton, CT 06065

Spring 2008

## *A Message from the President*

Spacious woodlands, pristine rivers and brooks, unscathed ridgelines .... are defining elements of Hartland's character, past and present. Preserving the "rural character" of Hartland was an overwhelming response in the 10 year Conservation and Development Ad Hoc Committee's town wide survey conducted in the spring of 2006. As a result, the Hartland Land Trust was formed: incorporated in October 2006 and designated 501(c) (3) status from the IRS in October 2007. We are a private, not for profit, fully volunteer organization whose mission is to maintain the "rural character" of our town. The important task of fulfilling this mission may be a responsibility of not only the HLT directors, but of all Hartland citizens who are concerned about the complexion of Hartland's future landscape.

This newsletter will provide you with some information about our organization, explain how to protect and preserve your land, outline some upcoming activities, and tell you how to become a member so that you, too, may help us in our mission to preserve Hartland's natural beauty.

Sincerely,

Fred Jones, *President*  
Hartland Land Trust



*"That land is a community is the basic concept of ecology, but that land is to be loved and respected is an extension of ethics."*

*- Aldo Leopold*

## *What is a Land Trust?*

Land trusts are organizations directly involved in protecting land for its natural, recreational, scenic, historical, or agricultural value. Land trusts may purchase or accept donations of land or of conservation easements, manage land owned by others, or advise landowners about how to preserve their land.



## *Please join us at our Annual Forum*

- ✿ June 2, 2008 7-9 p.m.
- ✿ Hartland Elementary School
- ✿ Guest Speaker: Robert M. Thorson, author of *Stone by Stone*

## *A Sense of Time and Place*

### *Understanding and Conserving Stone Walls*

Professor Thorson will describe the stone walls of Northwestern Connecticut, placing them into a regional and national context. He will also discuss why conservation of these "dryland" stone walls is an important element of resource management. If there's time, he will explain the glaciology of Hartland's "Balancing Rock."

Copies of his books will be available for purchase and signing.

Please visit our website at [www.hartlandlandtrust.org](http://www.hartlandlandtrust.org) to read Professor Thorson's complete biography.

### **HLT Officers:**

Fred Jones, *President*  
Neil Gilpin, *Vice President*  
Alana Bordewieck, *Secretary*  
JoAnne Bannister, *Treasurer*

### **HLT Directors:**

Kris Anderson  
Gillian Bearns  
Carol Blouin  
Gail DiMaggio  
Kathy Dunn  
Rebecca Huntley  
Phil Mikan  
Joyce Mueller  
Susan Murray  
Ruthe Ploskunyak  
June Shew  
Lorri Wood  
Wade Cole, *ex officio*

This article provides general information and does not constitute legal advice or a legal opinion.

## *Landowners: Understanding the Options* by Gillian Bearn

For anyone who owns a large tract of undeveloped land, the question of what to do with that land long term can seem overwhelming. As we get older, we may not be capable of maintaining it. Our children may not want the land because they live far away, or they are not interested in owning or maintaining a large property. For many, land represents our most significant asset, and we feel compelled to divide that asset among our children or family members. This inheritance dilemma can lead to the subdivision or sale of the land contrary to our interest in protecting or preserving the land. Different options exist, and landowners should explore these options before making any final decisions regarding the succession of their land.

Under the law, property ownership or title to land is described as a bundle of sticks where each stick represents one right – the right to use, the right to sell, the right to lease or rent, etc. These different sticks can be divided in different ways at different times and among different people or entities, and it is not until you have sold or given away all of the sticks that you are no longer considered the owner of the land under the law. Unfortunately, many landowners do not realize that they have all of these rights. An understanding of how these rights can be divided and the legal tools available may help resolve the quandary of what to do with your land.

- **Outright donation:** land can be donated to a charitable organization that is equipped to assume the responsibilities of ownership. The gift can be made during your lifetime or through your will. This option may be best where you and your family live elsewhere and are no longer able to or interested in maintaining the land.
- **Covenants:** restrictions in the title that require or restrict activities to conserve or preserve the land during your lifetime or into the future binding all future owners
- **Easements with life use:** you can donate the land and retain certain rights to the land to live on or use during your lifetime, or during that of your spouse, partner or child (donation or bequest with retained life estate)
- **Easements:** grant access to the land or the right to use the land in a particular way, but you can retain title to the land. Typically the easement “runs with the land”; i.e. the next owner assumes all of the rights that you have to the land while the holder of the easement continues to enjoy the rights that were given through the easement.
- **Charitable gift annuities / charitable remainder trusts:** creative estate planning tools which allow you to derive some financial benefit from a donation of land to a charitable organization.
- **Tax benefits:** the landowner may derive tax benefits during his or her lifetime or for his or her estate through state and/or federal programs. The donation of land can reduce or eliminate current property tax liability and can reduce or eliminate estate taxes.

The Hartland Land Trust is happy to provide you with additional information about these options and can help you find an advisor should you wish to explore how these options might be applied to your specific situation.

### **MEETING SCHEDULE**

The Hartland Land Trust meets from 7-9 P.M. on the fourth Monday of each month in the Hartland room at Town Hall. We encourage public participation at our meetings and would welcome the opportunity to discuss your thoughts and concerns.



Photo by: Gail DiMaggio

## **Hartland Community Trails**

by R.V.Fish, Superintendent of  
the Hartland School

This joint project between the town and school department is to provide a trail for non-motorized use from the school/town hall complex to the town athletic facilities (Berg Field) and beyond to the Alice Merritt Pond all on town land and possibly including the Audubon property with its trails.

The trail committee consists of Dan Bowler, Wade Cole, Roy Fisher, Warren Haag, Tim Irwin, Fred Jones and Bob Fish. The project calls for cutting trails, grading entrance areas, proper signage and providing raised platforms over wet areas. All work to date has been done by the committee. The first leg of the project, a trail from the school/town hall complex to Berg Field has been completed. The remaining work will be continued in the spring of 2008. The money needed for this project has been obtained from a state grant as well as part of a federal grant. We have worked with the Hartland Land Trust and the Audubon Society on this project so you can see it is truly a community effort.

We hope everyone will take advantage of and enjoy the completed portion of the trail.





## *HLT'S Stone Wall Discovery Program*

The topic of old New England stone walls is dear to most people's hearts. You may recall the late Walt Landgraf's colorful and informative presentation "Sermon in Stone" at HLT's annual forum last June. One of The Hartland Land Trust's goals and long term projects is to call attention to the many unique stone walls within Hartland's boundaries.

HLT would like to identify and catalog many of our important stone walls. The identification of these stone walls should give us a baseline to their present condition, and allow us to closely monitor their status over a long period of time. If you have a significant wall on your property, or know of any in town that you feel merits special attention please contact an HLT director. Visit: [www.hartlandlandtrust.org](http://www.hartlandlandtrust.org) for more information.

### *Traditions of Spring* by Carol Blouin

As spring approaches and winter's snow slowly creeps away from the sun-warmed trees, the rituals of spring are once again placed in motion. Sugar buckets grace our maples, as the sweet water held frozen in winter captivity breaks free, trickling upward to branch and twig, happily providing nourishment for the still petite buds. Stonewalls now showing their bony, lichened backs greedily absorb the sun's rays, thankful to emerge from frost's icy fingers. A white-coated weasel plays in this warm rock jungle popping up at every noise, hustling to see who is moving past his protective playground. Neck stretched long, curious at every movement, the weasel satisfies his mind, all is well, dropping urgently into his solar heated castle to search for a tasty mouse.

Centuries ago, winter after winter, field after field, stonewalls grew from our need to organize the landscape. A walk through a patch of wooded forest today may look wildly disorganized, but a closer look may reveal an old, shrinking, litter covered wall snaking through the forest. Piles of stones once orderly placed, sink into the loamy soil. Along-side the broken-down stone wall, lies a discarded farm implement having rusted for decades leaving merely a collection of thin broken metal wafers. Man orders. Nature rearranges. Entropy is king. Stones emerge. Man reorders.

This very winter we are now about to escape, has been nurturing a new crop of stonewall candidates. As we awaken our garden, surveying the fields, we see that old man winter has been busily pushing, heaving and eroding frozen soil to reveal this season's crop of stone potatoes. As all things seem to change, this chore remains the same. Those cleared rocks from our early spring garden will find their way to those old walls started so many years ago. Our resident weasel will have new stone crevices to explore as we continue to build on Hartland's tradition of stonewalls.

### *Calendar of Events*

- ✿ Earth Day Clean up Walk,  
April 19, 2008 8 a.m.  
Rain date, May 3, 2008
- ✿ 40th Anniversary of the  
Wild & Scenic Rivers Act,  
April 26, 2008
- ✿ Deadline for entries of  
Photos and Artwork,  
May 1, 2008
- ✿ Hartland Historical Society  
Membership Meeting, May 16, 2008  
7 p.m. Hartland Room, Town Hall  
Brett Watson, *speaker*
- ✿ Wonders of Hartland  
Photo and Art Exhibit,  
May 29 - June 6, 2008
- ✿ HLT Annual Forum, at the  
Hartland Elementary School.  
Guest speaker: Robert M. Thorson,  
author of *Stone by Stone*  
Monday, June 2, 2008, 7-9 p.m.

*Funds for publishing and mailing  
this newsletter were provided by a grant  
from the Farmington River  
Coordinating Committee - FRCC  
[www.farmingtonriver.org](http://www.farmingtonriver.org)*

## ***Earth Day Clean-Up Walk Saturday, April 19, 2008***

The **Hartland Land Trust** and the **Boy Scouts of Troop 121** will assist the **First Congregational Church of Hartland** in conducting a "Town-Wide Clean-Up Walk" on **Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>**. First Church will continue with a clean-up of designated "off road areas" on April 26<sup>th</sup>. Rain date for April 19<sup>th</sup> will be May 3, 2008. Please plan to meet at Berg Field or the Town Library at 8 A.M. on April 19<sup>th</sup>.

Volunteer sign up is now available at the First Church, Town Hall and the Town Library. Collection bags and disposable gloves will be made available to all volunteers. Refreshments will also be provided the day of the clean-up. Please plan on participating in this worthwhile community event.

For more information about this event contact: Kerie Nichols at 653-7616 or Pastor Kurt Satherlie at 653-6495.

## ***Calling on all Photographers and Artists! HLT's First Annual Photo and Art Exhibit***

The 1st Annual Hartland Land Trust Photo and Art Exhibit "**Wonders of Hartland**" will open on June 2, 2008 at the Annual HLT Meeting and Public Forum at the Hartland School Library from 7 to 9 P.M. This exhibit will display visual art from the members of the community that have been inspired by Hartland's outstanding landscapes with attention to our theme of "Stone Walls of Hartland".

Photos and artwork may include the following subjects:

- stone walls - scenic beauty - wildlife - water / rivers and streams
- recreation - history / cultural

Photographers and artists of all ages and abilities are invited to participate.

We are encouraging everyone who wants to show their work to do so.

Photographers and artists do not have to be residents of Hartland, however, **ALL IMAGES MUST BE OF HARTLAND.**

For details and requirements please visit our website at:

[www.hartlandlandtrust.org](http://www.hartlandlandtrust.org) or call Fred Jones at 860-379-5868.

An entry form is provided in this newsletter and also available at the Hartland School, Town Hall, Town Library or on line at [www.hartlandlandtrust.org](http://www.hartlandlandtrust.org).

Please exhibit your images of Hartland's natural beauty!

Let friends and neighbors know!

Let's emphasize the "ART" in Hartland!

## ***National Wild and Scenic Rivers*** by Susan Murray

Hartland is characterized by expansive natural resources providing the foundation for inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic River System. With a majority of Hartland containing vast contiguous tracts of land, water continues to play an ever important role. Hartland is fortunate to possess a significant network of streams, rivers and waterways with an abundance of natural resources, recreational and aesthetic benefits. Our water quality is outstanding and supplied to over 400,000 Hartford county residents.

Hartland's first association with the National Wild and Scenic River System was with the Wild and Scenic designation of 14 miles of the Upper Farmington River in 1994 by an act of Congress. The section of the Farmington River in Hartland is in the outermost southwest corner. The Farmington River Coordinating Committee (FRCC), a non-regulatory group, and its partners provide the stewardship management for the Farmington River and its upper watershed among the five river-front towns (Barkhamsted, Canton, Colebrook, Hartland, and New Hartford) and are committed to ensuring the river's beauty and character will be enjoyed by generations to come.

More recently, Hartland's second affiliation with the National Wild and Scenic River System is participation in "The Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Study" which was initiated by the Farmington River Watershed Association (FRWA) and was signed into law by President Bush in November, 2007. The Feasibility Study includes the 10 towns of Avon, Bloomfield, Burlington, Canton, East Granby, Farmington, Granby, Hartland, Simsbury, and Windsor. The Committee's membership combines 2-3 locally appointed representatives of each town, FRWA, Salmon Brook Watershed Association (SBWA), CT Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and The Stanley Works. The National Parks Service (NPS) provides staff support, funding, and overall coordination.

In gaining recognition for the Wild and Scenic designation, the river must possess at least one Outstanding Resource Value ("ORV") and be "Free Flowing". The Committee has determined the following ORV's for the Lower Farmington/Salmon Brook: Geology, Water Quality, Biological Diversity, Cultural Landscape and Recreation. The Study Area segment within Hartland is the West Branch of the Salmon Brook in the southeast corner of town which exhibits the ORV of excellent water quality.

The 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act will be celebrated on Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008. We will keep you posted on the local events scheduled in each of the Study Area towns. Feel free to visit either website: [www.lowerfarmingtonriver.org](http://www.lowerfarmingtonriver.org)

or [www.salmonbrookwildandscenic.org](http://www.salmonbrookwildandscenic.org)





**1st Annual Hartland Land Trust  
Photo and Art Exhibit  
2008**

**Entry Form**

The 1st Annual Hartland Land Trust Photo and Art Exhibit "**Wonders of Hartland**" will open on June 2, 2008 at the Annual HLT Meeting and Public Forum at the Hartland School Library from 7 P.M. to 9 P.M. At this event a presentation on "stone walls " by Robert Thorson will be given with a reception and refreshments to follow.

This unjudged exhibit will display visual art from the members of the community that have been inspired by Hartland's outstanding landscapes with attention to our theme of "Stone Walls of Hartland".

Photos and artwork may include the following subjects:

- stone walls - scenic beauty - wildlife - water / rivers and streams - recreation - history / cultural

Details and Requirements:

- 1) The exhibit will be open for viewing from Thursday, May 29th until Friday, June 6th.
- 2) Photos and artwork included in the exhibit may be selected and reproduced for future use in HLT publications such as posters, calendars and newsletters.
- 3) Photographers and artists of all ages and abilities are invited to participate. Photographers and artists do not have to be residents of Hartland, however, ALL IMAGES MUST BE OF HARTLAND.
- 4) Each photographer or artist may enter up to three of their own photos or pieces.
- 5) Photos and art must be ready to hang (with wire attached). Photos and artwork must have title and name of artist on back.
- 6) Submit photos or art during the week of May 26, 2008. Please bring your photos or art to Magi at the Town Hall during the hours of 9 A.M. to 4 P.M. Call Fred Jones at 860-379-5868 for more information.

**Photos or Artwork Submitted:**

1) Title: \_\_\_\_\_

2) Title: \_\_\_\_\_

3) Title: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby allow the use of my photo(s) or artwork for the above titled exhibit and in future publications of the Hartland Land Trust or by organizations that may borrow images from HLT. I am the photographer or creator of the submitted photo(s) or artwork listed above. I have read and understand the details and requirements above.

Photographer's or Artist's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this form by May 1, 2008 to: Carol Blouin  
384 Center Street  
West Hartland, CT 06091**

visit [www.hartlandlandtrust.org](http://www.hartlandlandtrust.org)

Membership information  
located on back

P.O. Box 183  
Riverton, CT 06065



Preserving Hartland's Natural Beauty

Postal Patron

### HLT'S Mission Statement

To endeavor to maintain the rural character of our area for present and future generations by protecting its diverse natural resources through the conservation and management of significant lands. Engaging in and promoting the scientific study of and education regarding natural resources; and using all properties held or controlled by the Land Trust and the net earnings thereof for the benefit of the general public and for charitable, educational, recreational, conservation, scientific and historical purposes."



#### Ways in which I would like to help

- Trail Project
- Stone Wall
- Discovery Project
- Computer Work
- Speaker
- Photo /Art Exhibit
- Earth Day Project
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_



## 2008 Hartland Land Trust Membership Form

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

Yes! I agree with what you are doing. Please sign me up!

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\*CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Daytime Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening: \_\_\_\_\_

Send newsletters electronically to: (e-mail ) \_\_\_\_\_

#### Membership Class:

Individual \$15  Family \$25  Friend \$50  Sponsor \$100  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to "Hartland Land Trust" and mail to: Hartland Land Trust  
P.O. Box 183

*Thank you for your support! All contributions are tax deductible.*

Riverton, CT 06065

For more information  
Please call: 379-5868