



The Preservationist

www.hartlandlandtrust.org P.O. Box 183 Riverton, CT 06065 Spring 2011

Thank You Bassett-Kell Family!

This 4th edition of our newsletter is dedicated to Charles E. and Robert W. Bassett.

It is with great pleasure and satisfaction that we announce to the people of Hartland that the Hartland Land Trust and our community will soon have our first parcel of land. The Bassett and Kell families, who have been stewards of this property for four generations, have generously donated this parcel. In the weeks ahead, the land trust will be working with the family to finalize the transfer of the property with the help of a grant from the FRCC. With this donation the Hartland Land Trust will protect and manage this land that will forever remain in its natural and undisturbed state.

This parcel consists of forest lands and wetlands with brooks that are tributaries that ultimately feed the upper Farmington River. It is a pristine habitat and a sanctuary area for a variety of wildlife.

This milestone is the culmination of four years of hard work by the Hartland Land Trust. The very existence of the Hartland Land Trust is a tribute to our town. As you may know, it was the wish of the majority of the citizens polled six years ago that led to our formation. We as a land trust are dedicated to the long term preservation of any or all significant lands that come our way.

It is with profound gratitude that we thank the Bassett and Kell families for their commitment to Hartland land preservation.

HLT Officers:

Sue Murray,
President

Alana Bordenwiecek,
Vice President

Susan Pearson,
Secretary

Gail Dimaggio,
Treasurer

HLT Directors:

Kris Anderson
JoAnne Bannister
Carol Blouin

Tom Dyer
Neil Gilpin
Sara Hannafin
Jason Hawley
Rebecca Huntley
Fred Jones

Joyce Mueller
June Shew
Lorri Wood

Wade Cole, ex officio



A view of the Bassett/Kell Property

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.

"Wilderness is a resource which we can shrink but not grow ...the creation of new wilderness in the full sense of the word is impossible."

Aldo Leopold

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 stewardship of significant lands. To engage in and promote the scientific study of and education regarding natural resources. To use 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.

Celebrate Earth Day on the Hartland Community Trail

by Tracking Wild Things - Guided Hike with Tom Dyer

Saturday April 30 / Sunday May 1, 2011 whichever is the better weather day, 1-3 P.M.

Please join the Hartland Land Trust on a two-hour guided hike on the Dr. Robert V. Fish Educational Wildlife Trail and adjunct community trail. Plan to meet at the East Hartland School by 1 p.m. Please park in the rear lot next to the Gymnasium. Participants should wear appropriate shoes for a trail hike and dress in layers according to the weather. The hike will be approximately one mile. We will make many stops along the way to check out tracks and signs of the animals that inhabit our town. Children and families are encouraged to participate.



Who did this? Find out on our "Tracking Hike"

NEW on our Website!! Look for postings from David Irvin, DEP Forester . David has been managing East Hartland's portion of the Tunxis State Forest for 14 years. He will alert us to timber harvests, closings and openings of hiking trails and what's going on in our forest.

Calendar of Events

Tracking Walk, with Tom Dyer,
April 30 / May 1, 2011
(the better weather day) 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Wonders of Hartland
Photo and Art Exhibit
Hartland School
May 30 - June 10, 2011

HLT's Annual Forum,
at the Hartland School
Guest speaker: Chris Spatz
of the Eastern Cougar Foundation.
Topic: ***Eastern Cougar***
Friday, June 10, 2011
7- 8:30 p.m.

Watch for signs This Summer 2011
Land Owners' Options, a presentation
with Aimee Petras FRWA and
Amy Blaymore Paterson CLCC,
a cooperative effort for the
Barkhamsted Land Trust and the
Hartland Land Trust

Speaker Series:
*All presentations are at the
Hartland Town Hall
at 7:30 p.m.
with refreshments
Free but donations gratefully accepted.*

April 25, 2011
"Invasive non-native species"
Peter Picone, CT D.E.P.

September 26, 2011
"Bald Eagles"
Ken Etheridge,
Great Meadows Conservation Trust

November 28, 2011
"Global Forestry"
Dr. William R. Bentley,
Salmon Brook Associates

Looking Ahead - New Daytime Activities:

February 25/26, 2012
(the better weather day)
"Winter Tracking Hike"
with Tom Dyer.
If weather prohibiting, alternate activity TBA.

TBD May 5/6, 2012 **"Letter Boxing"**
with David Irvin, DEP Forester,
Hartland's Tunxis Forester

***Watch for HLT Tag and Craft Sale
this Spring!***

A Message from the President

We move into the spring of 2011 with the momentum from significant accomplishments during the past year and the excitement of our first land holding materializing this year.

Our board and members are actively engaged in our mission of “Working for the preservation and enjoyment of open space in Our Community”. The roar of preservation radiates passionately from our townspeople to maintain the rural character of Hartland, particularly in the midst of the cell tower issue, and our municipality is leading the effort in determining the need and /or placement of towers by guiding and managing conservation and development as recommended in the 10 Year Plan.

Last year our board completed a Challenge Award training in property transactions. We carry forward that knowledge and expertise for our Land Acquisition and Stewardship committee in acquiring our first parcel: a generous donation from a family committed to conservation, the Bassett/Kells of West Hartland. A second grant from FRCC will facilitate the transaction.

We are currently co-sponsoring, with Hartland’s Conservation Commission, a Build-Out Capacity project contracted with the Farmington River Watershed Association through a Farmington River Coordinating Committee land resource grant. The plan applies town regulations to further delineate land available for development.

Our Guest Speaker series coordinated by our Outreach and Education committee, very well attended by our community and surrounding towns, is being expanded with children’s topics and hours, and a special presentation on Land Options for Landowners in the planning.

I can only say I’m honored to lead our organization in achieving the goals of our land trust with the shared vision of our town. Thanks to our Membership and Fundraising committee, our young organization is steadily growing. We appreciate your continued support of membership and volunteerism in the conservation of Hartland, “this little strip of earth we so affectionately call, this Land of Ours”.

Sincerely,
Sue Murray, *President*



Edith's Home circa 1950

Update on The Edith Leopold Audubon Sanctuary by Susan Pearson

This summer please come to visit the Edith Leopold Sanctuary on Rengerman Hill Road in East Hartland. Plans include a new kiosk to welcome visitors to the sanctuary given by Edith to the National Audubon Society, administered by Audubon Sharon. The kiosk, a joint project of the Hartland Land Trust and Audubon, will highlight biographical information on Edith Leopold. June Shew and Susan Pearson are working on text for the sign. Funding for the materials will come from a grant the Land Trust received from the Farmington River Coordinating Committee (FRCC).

Scott Heth of Audubon Sharon, with the help of the Hartland Land Trust and the Wilderness School, intends to clear some trails on the property this summer, making the sanctuary a close by destination for a nice wander in the woods. “We want to make it possible for people to get excited about nature here. That’s what Edith wanted,” says Heth.

Edith Leopold, a long-time resident of Hartland, moved to *Windsong*, as she called her home, just one week before the big floods in 1955 that isolated the town. She was the niece of naturalist Aldo Leopold and learned much about nature from him. She enjoyed walking in the woods on her 38 acres on the south side of Rengerman Hill Road, usually in the company of one or the other of her German shepherd dogs, all named Brunhilde (Hilly). She maintained extensive records of the climate and habits of migrating birds throughout the 46 years that she lived in Hartland until her death in 2001. In addition to this avocation, Edith was a devoted citizen of Hartland, serving on nearly every board of the town at one time or another. Her care for this town, as well as her love of nature, culminated in the gift of her land to Audubon, ensuring the land that meant so much to her would continue in its natural state and remain open for others to enjoy. So plan to visit this year!

SPEAKER SERIES by Rebecca Huntley and Alana Bordewick

“It is not so much for its beauty that the forest makes a claim upon men’s hearts, as for that subtle something, that quality of air, that emanation from old trees, that so wonderfully changes and renews a weary spirit.”

Robert Lewis Stevenson

2010 was the second exciting year of the Hartland Land Trust Guest Speaker Series. We have learned so much about the plants, trees, animals, and landscape of our wonderful highlands. It was “standing room only” for several presentations, and we are happy to hear how much our neighbors and friends look forward to meeting each new speaker.

Aimee Petras of the Farmington Valley Watershed Association brought us information on Natural Lawns and Gardens. We learned of natural methods of fertilization, pesticide free grub control, and of plants and grasses, which require little or no watering and attract beneficial insects.

Andrew LaBonte, a Biologist with the CT DEP thrilled our audience with photographs and facts about the moose found in our Hartland forests. The moose are being captured, radio-collared, and ear tagged to gain information on age, weight, health and habitat use. A female moose that was captured in March 2009 missing since May 2009 was recently observed with a calf in Hartland. For the past month both have been seen here with a bull moose that had been collared in January 2010.

Peter Brazaitis, Department of Vertebrate Zoology at Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History taught us about Reptiles in the Connecticut Landscape and beyond. He emphasized the importance of preserving habitat is more far-reaching than protecting one species. The timid timber rattlesnake dens only in Glastonbury and Kent, CT. Unlike milk snakes with red eyes and round pupils, copperheads have cat-like eye slits and prefer the talus slopes of Meriden. He advised a snake cannot strike more than 2/3 of its body length, but if bitten, one should not use a tourniquet that might pool venom but rather wrap the entire limb in an ace bandage and get quickly to a hospital. We heard how to distinguish the lovely spring and summer sounds of toads and frogs: wood frogs clack and toads trill. Gray tree frogs love evergreens, another habitat in need of protection. If you are interested in participating in an amphibian count with PARC (Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation), go to www.parcplace.org to find the area that interests you.

We learned how to Protect Water Quality with Low Impact Development (LID). **Sean Hayden**, a Resource Conservationist and Soil Scientist with the Northwest Conservation District, gave us great ideas for purifying runoff water with "Rain Gardens", water permeable pavement, and responsible building and landscaping practices that some developers now use. They benefit from lower costs without the need for diversions or drains, and towns appreciate not having to maintain diversions.



Dr. John Raabe presents at an HLT Speaker Series Event

In the school library, surrounded by the mural of our hills, Hartland's own **Dr. John Raabe** spoke on "The Geology of Hartland" taking us through time, movement of continents and Paleozoic events to explain our local hills through rocks. Our Taconics derive from a Paleozoic event, while the Triassic Valley of CT is represented by the red rock at Cherry Brook in Canton. The north to south movement of the glaciers explains the rarity of east-west roads, as well as gravel eskers and wetlands on Sunset Road and swamps atop the West Hartland hills. From his research library he shared beautiful specimens of Hartland schist, garnets, blue-green kyanite in quartz and brilliant red-orange glossopteris (leaf) fossils that prove Africa, South America and Australia were once a single land mass.

For upcoming speakers and topics, please refer to details on our Calendar of Events and watch for signs in town, postings in the newspaper and on our website.

Deer Carol,

I love to feed the birds in the winter, but the bears always seem to find my feeders in early spring, when is the best time to bring in my feeders for the year?

Hibernating in Hartland



Dear Hibernating in Hartland,

I usually bring my feeders in around late February or when the temperature moderates and the maple trees start to produce sap. If you have a Red or Sugar Maple tree in daily view from your home break a small twig on a lower branch. When the sap starts to run, you will see it dripping and even a little icicle may form at the break when temperatures fall in the evening. This is a fun reminder that the bears will soon be on the prowl for food, and spring is on its way. Remember, bears have been snoozing for months and are looking for easy food to fill their empty bellies. Bird feeders and outdoor garbage cans are like candy stores for a winter starved bear. A small amount of ammonia sprayed in your garbage pail on garbage day will deter the bear.

Deer Carol,

It has been a long, snowy winter and several of our small trees had their bark gnawed off all around the base of the tree. What should I do to prevent this from happening again?

Girdled in Granby

Dear Girdled in Granby,

Mice and Voles are resourceful little creatures. When the snow cover lingers they burrow tunnels under the snow and feed on anything they can find including the delicious bark of young trees. Plastic expandable tree wraps work well and can be placed on your young trees in late fall. You can also wrap the base of the tree with metal window screening and tie it in place with flexible metal wire. Beware, you must loosen or remove the screen in the spring to prevent the tree from growing into the protective screen. I find it is healthier for my trees to remove all protective covering in the spring, as the wraps are a perfect hideaway for destructive insects.

Deer Carol is written by Carol Blouin
a Master Wildlife Conservationist.

EASTERN COUGAR SIGHTINGS TO BE DISCUSSED AT HLT FORUM

by Carol Blouin
Master Wildlife Conservationist

The Eastern cougar, are they living here in the Northeast or are they figments of our fertile imaginations? Once native to New England, mountain lion sightings have become a source of controversy. The occasional sightings reported in our area have some wondering if the largest apex predator, who long ago roamed our forests, is making a comeback. Christopher Spatz, President of the Cougar Rewilding Foundation will reveal the latest research he has conducted on the presence of the Eastern cougar in the Northeast region at our **Annual Forum on June 10, 2011**. Mr. Spatz will present a wealth of fascinating research using remote camera surveys, as well as 10 years of investigation conducted on various field evidence and a wide variety of cougar sightings reported by the public. Spatz will delineate the specific evidence needed to produce a confirmed sighting and why many of the reported sightings remain unconfirmed. This presentation will also delve into the impact the Eastern cougar would have on the habitat in the Northeast if a breeding population exists in our region.

Please join us at our **Annual Forum at 7 p.m. on June 10, 2011** at the Hartland School in East Hartland. The forum is free and open to everyone. Donations to support the Hartland Land Trust are, as always, welcome.



Bringing Back the Legend: Cougar Recovery in Eastern North America

**Lecture: Christopher Spatz, President
Cougar Rewilding Foundation www.cougarrewilding.org**

Calling on all Photographers and Artists! Fourth Annual Photo and Art Exhibit

The 4th Annual Hartland Land Trust Photo and Art Exhibit “**Wonders of Hartland**” will run from June 3rd - June 10, 2011 in the Hartland School. This exhibit will display visual art from the members of the community that have been inspired by Hartland’s outstanding landscapes and wildlife.

Photos and artwork may include the following subjects:

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

Photographers and artists of all ages and abilities are encouraged to participate. 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 or call Fred Jones at 860-379-5868. Entry forms are available at the Hartland School, Town Hall, Town Library, Riverton Store or on our website. The deadline for dropping off the artwork at Town Hall is Friday, June 3rd by 10 a.m. Let friends and neighbors know! Let’s emphasize the “**ART**” in Hartland!

Ways in which I would like to help

- Trail Projects
- Speaker Series
- Photo /Art Exhibit
- Audubon Project
- Other: _____



2011 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: (email) _____

Membership Class: New Member Renewal

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

Riverton, CT 06065

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

For more information
Please call:
Lorri: 860-653-3330

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visit: www.hartlandlandtrust.org

*Membership information
located on back*

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Preserving Hartland's Natural Beauty

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