

The Preservationist

www.hartlandlandtrust.org P.O. Box 12 East Hartland, CT 06027 Spring 2016
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HARTLAND LAND TRUST

HLT 10th Anniversary Celebration

We are happy to announce our 10th anniversary as an organization! Please join us and our collaborator the Hartland Historical Society for a fascinating talk by historian and author Marty Podskoch on the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) on Saturday, October 1, 2016 at the Wilderness School, site of former CCC Camp Robinson, on Rte 20, East Hartland. Tom Dyer, former founding director of the Wilderness School (WS) and former HLT director, will lead an easy hike (.5 to 1 mile) of the property and other State Forest areas used by CCC with options to go off trail to see foundations or remain on the trail. The hike is easily modified for children and the elderly. We will see an old brick kiln area, dump, foundations and the stone WS administration building. The new WS Director Gene Marchand and Program Director Aaron Wiebe will participate to be available for any questions that arise regarding the WS. Talk at 1 p.m. followed by refreshments; hike at 3 p.m. Please consider donating \$10 (or multiples thereof) for our 10th anniversary the day of the celebration or any time to the Hartland Land Trust P.O. Box 12 East Hartland, CT, 06027



Camp Robinson courtesy Hartland Historical Society

Third Hartland Photo Calendar 2017

Calling all photographers! Please submit a **maximum of (4)** photos of flora, fauna or landscapes. All photos must be taken in Hartland and submitted digitally at the highest resolution by **July 9, 2016**, to **HLTphotocalendar@gmail.com**. Please include **photographer's name** and identify **location**. Once again thanks go to Traci Vincent for assisting Directors Carole Vincent and Kris Anderson in this project! Questions, call Carole at 860-653-4004 or email **HLTphotocalendar@gmail.com**.

Annual Forum: Snakes Alive! by Jay Kaplan



Are there any dangerous snakes in Hartland? Does a snake really feel slimy? Learn the answers to these questions and many more when Jay Kaplan, Director of Canton's Roaring Brook Nature Center, brings his "Snakes Alive!" program to the Hartland Land Trust's annual forum on Friday, June 3 at 7 p.m. at the Hartland School. An introductory Powerpoint presentation will provide an overview of snake adaptations as well as information on the fourteen species that live in Connecticut. Of course, a good number of live snakes will also be on hand. There will be plenty of time for questions and some opportunity to touch and handle snakes following the presentation. There is no admission charge, but donations to the land trust are gratefully accepted. Refreshments will be served after the program.

HLT Officers:

Mark Ziarnik
President

Fred Jones
Vice President

Susan Pearson
Secretary

Rebecca Huntley
Treasurer

HLT Directors:

Kris Anderson

Alana Bordewieck

Molly Bouffard

Sue Murray

Carole Vincent

Lorri Wood

Wade Cole, *ex officio*

The Hartland Land Trust, incorporated Oct. 2006, is a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) organization. All officers and directors are volunteers.



CT Trails Day

HLT will represent Hartland by sponsoring a hike for CT Trails Day, an effort by the CT Forest and Park Association (CFPA) to include every CT town in an outdoor activity. Our 3 mile hike will cover the section of the Tunxis Trail from Pine Mountain to the Indian Council Caves on Saturday, June 4 from **9 a.m. to 11 a.m.** Hartland residents and HLT volunteers, Steve and Pam Emmons will be our hike leaders. We will meet at the gate on Pine Mountain Road (State Forest Road) on Route 179 at 9 a.m. This educational hike is of moderate difficulty. Please bring water, sunscreen, insect repellent and dress appropriately with sturdy shoes. Please no pets. No rain date.

"Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves."
John Muir



President's Message from Mark Ziarnik

Greetings,

October 2016 marks the 10th anniversary of the founding of Hartland Land Trust. Over the past decade the land trust has been actively engaged in our community, reaching out with our educational speaker series, sponsoring informative and fun hikes, supporting the Salmon in Schools program, working with landowners interested in conservation, and putting out calendars with outstanding nature photos captured by many talented photographers. We've come a long way over the past ten years! None of this would have been possible without the motivation and support of our founders, board members, volunteers, donors and the community of Hartland. A heartfelt thank you to all of you!

The Hartland Land Trust endeavors 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.

Maintaining our rural character for "future generations" is a long term effort, not something that we can rely on our founding and present members to do by themselves- it will require sustained, community-wide support. Our first decade has been put to excellent use in establishing the on-going programs described above. Everyone that helped make this happen or who has attended some of our events should be proud to have played a role. Our next charge, however, is to put in place the mechanisms and support needed to continue the mission for which we were chartered. Long term success will depend on the active involvement of people of all ages. On the back page of this issue, you will find a list of volunteer support that we could use now. There are lots of opportunities to chip in. Please consider anything on this list that sparks your interest. Or if there is something else you would like to do to help, drop us a note, send us an e-mail, visit us on Facebook or talk to one of our Directors. We'd love to hear from you!

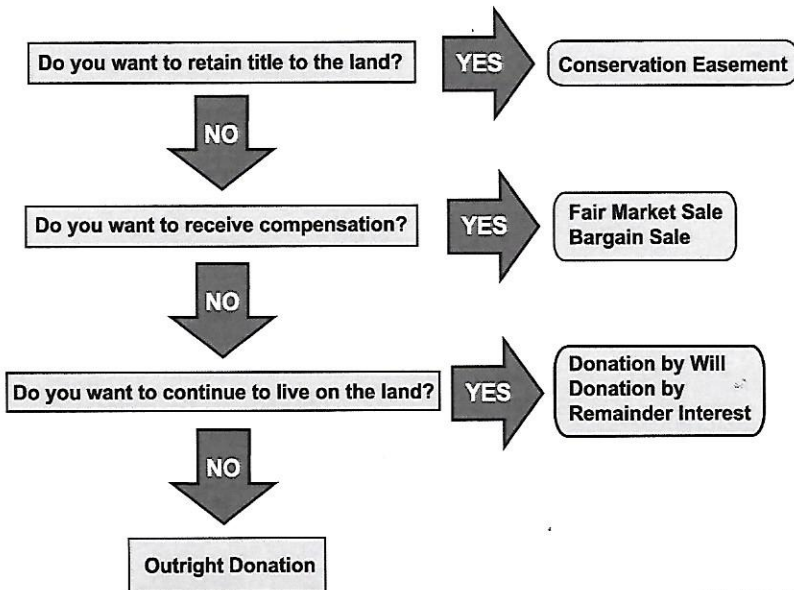
Happy upcoming 10th anniversary to Hartland Land Trust! Who knows what we can all do together with the next ten years?

Mark



Conservation Corner

LAND OWNER DECISION TREE



The Szewczyk Conservation Story

Dennis Szewczyk was a planner, a hard worker and a very determined man. He had a Connecticut map in his Windsor office with squares of all our towns. He would take different routes home to Chicopee to discover the best place to raise a family. One evening he drove through Hartland and that was it! In 1980 he and his wife Marie bought a lot on Homewood Road and for three years worked mostly themselves on building the two-story house Dennis had designed where they raised two daughters, Holly and Dawn. In 2000 Dennis began a search again—this time for his dream property with more forest land which he loved and the wildlife it supported. The plan was for a more convenient one-story home and a lot for each daughter. He found what he was looking for. In September 2010 he bought just over 74 acres on Stillman Road in West Hartland. Plenty of room for family with the majority left in forest. Three weeks later he was diagnosed with cancer. Undismayed he took every Wednesday off from work to labor on his land. He and Marie cleared an 800 foot driveway and staked off what was to be a future home from the plans he had drawn himself. Dennis fought the disease with all his might, but it was tougher than even this strong man. In his last weeks he asked Marie to drive him to the property, so he could sit in the car gazing at his forest land, continuing to dream and be comforted by it. He loved trees especially the oak for its strength. In April 2012 Dennis died leaving a property behind too large for Marie, or by now his married daughters with families of their own, to manage. April 2014 Marie set about researching what her options were that would also be in line with Dennis's vision. Perhaps the State would be interested in once again attempting to close the gap in the greenway. The assessors' office directed her to HLT where Sue Murray and Mark Ziarnik of the LC & S Committee assisted Marie in working with the State for CT DEEP to acquire her property. Marie credits Mark with encouraging her to have patience and approaching the State on her behalf during silent pauses in the process in that long year until the sale was final. The State's purchase closes a gap, enlarging the Tunxis State Forest forever, so when you are hiking or hunting there, think of Dennis who loved the outdoors, too. Marie is good with what has become of Dennis's dream property and so are we. Thank you!



As told to Alana Bordewieck by Marie Szewczyk



A list of conservancy financing options:

- Enhanced Tax Incentive for Conservation Easement Donations
- Farm Preservation Program
- Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition (OSWA) Grant Program
- Forestry legacy Program
- Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)
- Highlands Conservation Act
- Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program

"There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature – the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after the winter."

~Rachel Carson

Pam Gilpin, a professional gardener for 24 years, spent eight years photographing the insect world she encountered while gardening, and brought us **Friend, Foe, or Escargot**. Pam advocates planting only native species, as native insects and birds will not feed on non-native plantings. She uses no pesticides or insecticides and does not spray flowers, as it kills bees, which are already suffering. 540 pests are already resistant to spray, and 96% of terrestrial birds depend upon insects to feed their young.

Different sizes and shapes of flowers attract different sized insects with different sized mouths. Insects with downward facing mouths eat plants; those with forward facing mouths eat bugs that eat plants. What we often consider pests are actually food sources for other insects.

Lacewings eat aphids, red velvet mites eat ants, rove beetles eat flies, wasps in the garden prey upon pests. Centipedes will eat any bug around so are good to have in your house. They start with eight legs and molt until they have thirty legs.

Pam suggests the sites bugguide.net and whatsthatbug.com and books, *Bugs Rule!* by Whitney Cranshaw and *Bringing Nature Home* by Douglas Tallamy. She advocates biodiversity in the garden: plant many different flowers for different insects, don't spray, and enjoy!

Dr. Sandra Anagnostakis of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station has spent forty-eight years working with **Chestnuts**. The American Chestnut, *Castanea Dentata*, was once the dominant New England tree. Chestnut trees very quickly grew 80 to 90 feet tall in areas of acidic soil and could easily dominate a forest. Its native range was North Georgia to Southern Maine, and at the turn of the century one third of New England forests was chestnut. "Witness trees" in old New England records were used as landmarks for property descriptions in deeds.

A number of diseases have devastated the American chestnut. By 1824 ink root disease had entered the southern United States, possibly from imported Portuguese cork oak trees. In 1875 blight began in New York when a fungus was accidentally introduced in Japanese nursery stock. By 1940 most mature American chestnut trees had been wiped out by the disease. Chestnut gall wasps lay their eggs in developing tree buds, damaging new growth and disrupting the fruiting process. Weevils, small white worms, lay their eggs through the chestnut's spiky burr and hatch when the nuts ripen and fall to the ground.

Since 1930 scientists have worked on resistance through breeding, mixing resistant Asian trees and American trees in an attempt to create resistant hybrids. An introduced tree virus, which infects the blight fungus and slows down its progress, has been investigated. Dr. Anagnostakis reports that to date nothing has worked very well, but attempts continue within the scientific community.

We learned much about **Bees** with **Dr. Kimberly Stoner** of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station. Bees are a pollinator of all food plants, including fruits, vegetables, nuts and seeds. Historically, there are 328 species of bees in Connecticut.

Bees with large nests are more likely to sting, as they have large numbers of workers that can be sacrificed. Most bee and wasp species are solitary and do not sting. Only female bees sting; honeybees are the most likely type to sting and the only bees to leave their stinger behind. Bumblebees can sting more than once because their stinger is not left.

Honey bees evolved in Asia and Africa, lived in Europe for 10,000 years, and were brought to North America. They over-winter in the hive as a tight cluster of workers, using honey as fuel to keep the hive at 93 degrees. Honeybees reproduce by swarming, sending off a chunk of the colony, and communicate information within the colony by dancing.

Bumblebees are declining in species diversity around the world. Causes of decline are pesticides, parasitic mites, lack of good habitat, climate change, pests, diseases, and pathogens from commercialized bees.

Planting flowers and trees that bloom throughout a long season is critical for bees in spring and late summer to fall. Many broad spectrum insecticides are acutely toxic to bees, as bees are insects. Willow, maple, goldenrod, clover, blueberry, sunflower, bee balm, and American aster are just a few of the native plantings that provide easily accessible nectar for bees.



Deer Carol,

*What is integrated pest management and is it safe?
Bugged in Barkhamsted*



Dear Bugged in Barkhamsted,

Integrated pest management or IPM is a method of managing pests that refrains from regularly scheduled applications of pesticides and uses "non-chemical" or organic methods as the dominant choice. IPM is a well thought out written plan specific to a particular crop, farm or environment and only utilizes chemical pesticides when insect populations are overwhelming and it is absolutely necessary to apply a pesticide. In this planned approach when a non-organic pesticide is needed the lowest toxicity formulation is used in order to minimize the impact on the surrounding environment. To learn more about IPM please visit www.ct.gov/deep and search integrated pest management.



Updates

- ✦ HLT has authorized biologist Betsy Corrigan to undertake a baseline study at the Bassett-Kell property in preparation for future trails.
- ✦ At a dinner in January at The Coach Stop, twelve current and former directors of HLT honored Joyce Mueller upon her retirement from the organization as a founding mother of the land trust, a director and mainstay of M & F. A donation in her honor was given to our Land Conservation Fund.
- ✦ If you would like to help the fund grow by giving in recognition of a living supporter of conservation or in memory of someone who has died, please indicate the person's name and fund along with your donation on the membership/donation form enclosed or under Join/Donate on our website. A perfect birthday, anniversary or Earth Day gift for the conservation-minded!
- ✦ HLT will assist for the fourth year in the Salmon-in-Schools Project at Hartland School.
- ✦ In addition to our annual donation of books to the school and town libraries, HLT has donated 17 DVDS of its popular Speaker Series to the Hartland Library in honor of its 50th Anniversary. Congratulations Hartland Library!
- ✦ An angel donor has made a generous contribution, so we can continue our speaker programs. THANK YOU!!

What Can I Do to Help?

- Helping landowners interested in conservation
- Monitoring protected properties
- Trail blazing and maintenance
- GIS Mapping
- Publicity including print and/or social media
- Taking still photos of events
- Assist in video recording land trust speakers for Granby Community TV
- Writing grant applications
- Fundraising
- Staffing a Land Trust booth at community events
- Assisting in organizing and serving refreshments at Land Trust events
- Finding and scheduling speakers
- Providing legal advice
- Volunteer recruitment and organizing
- Serving as a liaison to other community organizations

We look forward to your response to 860 738 0844, or email HLT at hartlandCTlandtrust@gmail.com

Calendar of Events 2016

- ✿ **April 22 Earth Day** School assemblies on Bats with Gerri Griswold
- ✿ **June 3 HLT Annual Forum** June 3, "Snakes Alive" with Jay Kaplan of Roaring Brook Nature Center, Hartland School, 7:00 p.m.
- ✿ **June 4 CT Trails Day** Pine Mountain to Indian Council Caves 3 mi. with Steve & Pam Emmons, 9 - 11 a.m.
- ✿ **June 20-26** National Pollinator Week plant native flowers and refrain from chemical pesticide use
- ✿ **July 9 Deadline** for submissions for Photo Calendar 2017 to HLTphotocalendar@gmail.com
N.B. All pictures must be taken in Hartland
- ✿ **Oct 1 HLT 10-Year Celebration** 1 p.m. at the Wilderness School, Rte 20, East Hartland
Guest Speaker - Refreshments - Guided Hike
- ✿ **November 28, Forest for the Birds** with Sean Grace Audubon Sharon Director, Hartland School, 7:30 p.m.
- ✿ **December 13, Fourth Annual HLT Fundraiser** at Flatbread Pizza, 5-9 p.m. Canton, CT

The Preservationist: Newsletter of the Hartland Land Trust Issue #9 Spring 2016

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION
ENVELOPE ENCLOSED WITH

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HARTLAND
LAND TRUST



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

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