



# The Preservationist

[www.hartlandlandtrust.org](http://www.hartlandlandtrust.org) P.O. Box 12 East Hartland, CT 06027 Spring 2021  
[www.facebook.com/HartlandLandTrust](https://www.facebook.com/HartlandLandTrust)

Hartland Land Trust Presents:

## Charles and Lois Beach Preserve Scavenger Hunt!

Hartland Land Trust is excited and proud to introduce a new spin on this year's Connecticut Trails Day Hike; a self-guided, all levels, Scavenger Hunt! Ages 3 to 103 are invited to take part in this fun way to explore the Beach Preserve. CT Trails Day is June 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Hartland Land Trust volunteer Heike Krauland and her son Tavin have been busy bees working with board member Amanda Lukingbeal to create a scavenger hunt with age-appropriate, tiered levels of difficulty.

Land Trust board members submitted some of their favorite natural items from the preserve for inclusion in the hunt.

Can you and/or your little one find all the items for a prize? Follow the clues and find out! All items will be located safely along the marked trail, so please stay safe and stick to the path!

We will be encouraging participants to post pictures of their findings on our Facebook page.

Instructions and directions to the Beach preserve will be posted on the Hartland Land Trust website and Facebook page as we get closer to CT Trails Day.

On June 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, we will post our video with the answers to the Scavenger Hunt!

We can't wait to see all the amazing clues you solve!

*"I took a walk in the woods, and came out taller than the trees."* Henry David Thoreau



### Out on the Trails

It's been wonderful to see so many people outside enjoying the beautiful trails here in Hartland during this past year when so many other opportunities for recreation have been denied us. But with increased trail usage it's more important than ever to respect "trail etiquette" by:

- ☛ Parking safely
- ☛ Staying on marked trails
- ☛ Observing all posted signage, including all motor vehicle prohibitions
- ☛ Keeping dogs on leash
- ☛ "Leave No Trace": taking all trash with you, including used masks and bags of pet litter
- ☛ In this time of COVID, practicing social distancing on the trails and keeping a mask handy for times when staying 6' from other groups may not be feasible

#### HLT Officers:

**Fred Jones**  
*President*  
**Susan Pearson**  
*Vice President*  
**Alana Bordewieck**  
*Secretary*

**Jane Jones**  
*Treasurer*

#### HLT Directors:

**Fred Caputo**  
**John Harry**  
**Sandy Lisella**  
**Amanda Lukingbeal**  
**Sue Murray**  
**Brandon Pizzoferrato**

## Hartland Land Trust Establishes Mill District Nature Preserve

On December 15, 2020, Hartland Land Trust (HLT) closed on its second parcel purchased with funds from Audubon Connecticut's In Lieu Fee (ILF) Program. This 52-acre property contains extensive forest wetlands, bisected by an upper perennial watercourse that drains into the West Branch of the Upper Farmington National Wild & Scenic River. This new acquisition will be combined with a bordering 65-acre parcel that was purchased last year through a prior ILF grant to form what will be known as the "Mill District Nature Preserve". This beautiful property also abuts HLT's 22-acre Bassett - Kell Preserve. Preserving this property in perpetuity provides another layer of protection to our pristine wetlands and will counter fragmentation and sensitive habitat loss.

Additional financial support was provided through the Farmington River Coordinating Committee's (FRCC) Land Protection Grant Program. Invaluable legal service was provided pro-bono by the law firm of Robinson and Cole LLC of Hartford, CT. Our thanks go out to FRCC and Robinson & Cole for their continued support of HLT's conservation efforts. Our board also acknowledges past HLT president and former Hartland resident Mark Ziarnik, whose vision, skillful grant writing and guidance through the acquisition process enabled this project to come to fruition.





## President's Message *from Fred Jones*

"Stewardship is based on an ethic dealing with man's relationship to the land and to the animals and plants which grow upon it." Aldo Leopold

Hello fellow Hartland friends,

Spring is upon us and Earth Day is fast approaching. It will be refreshing to get outdoors to enjoy Hartland's natural beauty. Our healthy soil, clean air and water, and biological diversity, are no time more than now, so important to our health and wellbeing. Our land trust exists for this purpose – preserving lands with significant conservation values for the public good.

It is Hartland Land Trust's duty and responsibility to manage and protect the 189 acres now under our care. Stewardship can be a daunting task. A never-ending task. A task requiring manpower and money. Acquiring property, however critical, is only the first step. Our work begins in earnest once we become the long-term caretakers of the properties entrusted to us.

Think of stewardship as a three-prong approach. There are the DOERS who are the field workers whose job it is to build and maintain the trails, clean the properties and prepare monitoring reports. There are the PRACTITIONERS whose work it is to review the management plans and monitoring reports, write land use policies and prepare grants. Then there are the DONORS who provide the necessary funding for land acquisition and land management activities. Each group can be comprised of board members, volunteers and professional contractors. All three groups are equally important and necessary for stewardship to be successful. We can all be good stewards just by being aware and knowledgeable of the natural world around us and making sure we do no harm to our little piece of the planet. A more focused and impactful measure would be your direct participation as a Doer, Practitioner or Donor in helping HLT fulfill its mission. Our sincere gratitude goes out to all of you who have participated in supporting HLT in the past with its stewardship endeavors. Your past support is essential to our work and you are making a positive impact on our town! For those of you who have not participated and are considering becoming a member, steward volunteer, or donor, we'd love to hear from you. Please visit our new website at [hartlandlandtrust.org](http://hartlandlandtrust.org).



### Updated HLT Website!

HLT is proud to announce the unveiling this spring of our new and improved website. Beth Okun of Charlotte's Web Designs has generously donated her services to HLT to bring our website up-to-date and also to patiently train our directors in how to make changes. We hope you will "visit" us at [www.hartlandlandtrust.org](http://www.hartlandlandtrust.org) often to see what we're up to!



### Seventh Hartland Photo Calendar 2022

#### A Retrospective

HLT 2022 Photo Calendars will take up the covid-postponed retrospective of selected photos we did not have room for in previous years. Limited to 13 photos per calendar we have often found it difficult to choose among the wonderful submissions sent to us. If you would like to place a business card advertisement in the calendar, please contact John Harrity or Sandy Lisella at 860 "967 4794 for more information. Calendars will be available for sale at our Speaker Series in September and November and at the Artisan Fair if held.

## Updates

\* **Welcome** to new Hartland Land Trust Directors **Jane Jones, Sandy Lisella, and Brandon Pizzoferrato!**

\* **The Salmon-in-Schools** project was suspended for 2020 because physical distancing of desks compliant with CDC guidelines left no room for the tanks in the classrooms. All intentions are a go for the program for next year. HLT looks forward to assisting.

\* **HLT Book gifts:** - To Hartland School Library *Miss Maple's Seeds* by Eliza Wheeler. To the Hartland Town Library *A Sting in the Tail: My Adventures with Bumblebees* by Dave Goulson founder of the Bumblebee Conservation Trust.

\* We look forward to a co-operation with the **Wilderness School** on various trail projects at the Beach Preserve. **DEEP** has completed its bear management on the preserve.



### New Small Grant Offering

Open to municipalities, schools, educational and cultural institutions and non-profits to support a variety of river-related conservation and education and outreach projects.

For more info visit the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Committee (LFSWS) website, News & Events, <https://lowerfarmingtonriver.org/news-notes/>



### Hats Off To:



\* **Rebecca Huntley** who recently retired from the HLT Board. A founding member of Hartland Land Trust and director for 18 years, she served on all three committees at one time or another: O & E, M & F, and LC & S as well as the office of treasurer. We thank her for her ideas, commitment, and readiness to do whatever needed to be done.

\* **Philip Groth** for his years of maintaining HLT's original website.

\* **Heike Krauland** for creating and posting tree identification signs for the Beach Preserve trails and the fantastic scavenger hunt for this year's CT Trails Day. **Tavin Noack-Krauland** for creating the accompanying video.

\* **Stewards** Great appreciation for our volunteer stewards who monitor HLT properties: **Tom Dyer** and **Tim Kendrik** for Beach Preserve, **Neil Gilpin** for Bassett-Kell Preserve and newly welcomed volunteers **Sam Slater** and **Nicki Hall** for Mill District Preserve.

\* **DEEP** for bear management program on the Beach Preserve to make the trails safe for hikers.

\* **Brian Watkins** and the crew of Arborworks for removing pro bono a tree damaged by the storm Isaias endangering a trail by the Leopold Bench at the Beach Nature Preserve.

\* **Carole Vincent** for help in reviving the Calendar project.



*"What is man without the beasts? If all the beasts were gone, man would die from great loneliness of spirit, for whatever happens to the beasts also happens to man."* Chief Seattle 1786-1866

**Bobcats, Fishers, Bears, Coyotes--, Oh my!**

September 26, following CDC guidelines, socially distanced and masked, a group gathered in the afternoon at the Berg Field Pavilion to hear a presentation on **Hartland's Furry Neighbors** fact and fiction by Melissa Ruszczyk, a seasonal resource assistant for fur-bearing animals with CT DEEP, and her assistants Abigail Stone and Jenna Rose.

Melissa stated bobcats are in every town and city in CT including Hartford and Bridgeport. People are encouraged to use an on-line submission site for sightings. 100 bobcats have been collared for tracking and observation. She gave a detailed description of the animal noting it has a 5-7 inch black tail with a white tuft, white eye rings, stripes on its legs, and a spotted belly. A male averages 28 lbs, the largest weighing 39 pounds, the female 18. They breed February – March and litter April-May after which the male leaves. They are mostly crepuscular hunters dawn and dusk, but can hunt any time. If a bobcat gets too close to livestock or pets, she suggests hazing by making loud noises with a can filled with stones known as a bear can.

Abigail introduced us to the fisher that by 1900 had disappeared because of logging and land use that diminished its habitat. In 1908 the fisher was reintroduced to CT with the help of Vermont trappers. Abigail dispelled the misnomer of fisher cat. They are not felines. They belong to the mustelid family which includes otters, badgers and wolverines. Nor do they attack children or pets as they are actually very shy. The blood-curdling scream associated with the fisher is probably from a red fox, owl, or even a very frightened rabbit. The black to light brown fisher has a pointed snout, small eyes and ears, very sharp canines, and can land head first onto its prey.

Jenna Rose clarified the tags on black bears' ears do not mean incidents of nuisance behavior. The tags mean the bears are being researched. The color indicates the year the animal was tagged. If it has only one tag, it probably lost one. 20 females have radio collars, so researchers can visit the den, check on the cubs and tag them the next year. Bears bulk up in late summer and fall to den under a fallen tree or rocks for the winter, but if the winter is mild they may not den at all. The best way to prevent bears from becoming a nuisance is to remove all attractants. Take in bird feeders March to November or later if the winter is mild. Rake up bird seed shells. Keep garbage cans inside if possible or add ammonia to the garbage and cans or get bear proof cans. Never intentionally feed them. If you do meet a bear, make noise clapping hands, shouting or shaking a bear can or banging a pot and lid.

Melissa explained the Eastern coyote is a migrator not native to CT. It became the top predator as wolves declined. As the coyote's range expanded, the coyote occasionally bred with a wolf to produce coywolf offspring. If a coyote seems to be following your dog, it is only making sure the dog is leaving and not invading its food territory. A resident coyote breeds in the area; a transient coyote is a young one looking for its own territory or a mate.

A collection of animal furs and skulls were available for viewing after the talk.



**Speaking of neighbors** and being a good one, **Ann Brieck** submitted a reminder on the dangers of human food litter to animals. It is estimated that 90 percent of owls in rehabilitation have been injured in car accidents. The birds are often attracted to roadsides because mice, birds, and other scavengers are feasting on dead animals and biodegradable litter found there. Have you ever tossed an apple core, banana peel, or other food item out of your car, figuring it's biodegradable and might prove a tasty treat for a critter? The devastating domino effect starts with us humans. Animals, especially in winter when food is scarce, go to where food is most accessible. Roadsides littered with biodegradable trash, paper and plastic are a tragic combination. Of course there is more to be done in the bigger picture.

In less than a single human lifetime, 2.9 billion breeding adult birds have been lost from the United States and Canada, across every ecosystem. Learn more at the American Bird Conservancy ([abcbirds.org](http://abcbirds.org))



**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, a longtime supporter of our organization and former Chairman of the Hartland Conservation Commission. 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.

As of this writing 43 people have been recognized by donations in their names:

- |                                      |                                     |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Gib Anderson</i>                  | <i>Jeff Mishell</i>                 |
| <i>Bruce Bailey</i>                  | <i>Joyce Mueller</i>                |
| <i>Charles Bassett</i>               | <i>Neil Mueller</i>                 |
| <i>Charles &amp; Lois Beach</i>      | <i>Bill Murray Sr.</i>              |
| <i>Alana &amp; Harald Bordewieck</i> | <i>Sue Murray</i>                   |
| <i>Franklin Clement</i>              | <i>Gloria Nelson</i>                |
| <i>Wade Cole</i>                     | <i>Robert Norcross</i>              |
| <i>Robert Desmond</i>                | <i>Susan Pearson</i>                |
| <i>Paul Eseppi</i>                   | <i>John E. Ransom</i>               |
| <i>Neil &amp; Deb Gilpin</i>         | <i>Leonard C. Ransom</i>            |
| <i>Russ &amp; Polly Hayes</i>        | <i>Heidi Murray Senland</i>         |
| <i>Willis Hayes</i>                  | <i>Howard Stambler</i>              |
| <i>Roland D. Hazard</i>              | <i>Gregory Tarbox</i>               |
| <i>Carl Hohloch</i>                  | <i>Alfred &amp; Gertrude Tracht</i> |
| <i>Cam Irwin</i>                     | <i>Carole &amp; Glenn Vincent</i>   |
| <i>Ellen Jansen</i>                  | <i>Traci Vincent</i>                |
| <i>Joe Kane</i>                      | <i>Mark Ziarnik</i>                 |
| <i>Al &amp; Gert Lilliendahl</i>     | <i>Nelson Zymbler</i>               |



**For Earth Day and every day, love our earth and recycle!**

**The Garbage Project** is a study of waste conducted by a group at the University of Arizona, USA. The project has unearthed from landfills hot dogs, corn cobs and grapes that were 25 years old and still recognizable, as well as newspapers dating back to 1952 that were still easily readable!

**How fast do things biodegrade?**

This table shows how long some common items will take to break down if left in the environment.

Vegetables	5 days - 1 month	Leather shoes	25 - 40 years
Paper	2 - 5 months	Nylon fabric	30 - 40 years
Cotton T-shirt	6 months	Tin cans	50 - 100 years
Orange peels	6 months	Aluminum cans	80 - 100 years
Tree leaves	1 year	Glass bottles	1 million years
Wool socks	1 - 5 years	Styrofoam cup	500 years to forever
Plastic-coated paper milk cartons	5 years	Plastic bags	500 years to forever



## Deer Carol,

Do blue jays eat all the food they take? They seem to empty my feeders in the fall pretty darn fast.

Curious in Connecticut

### Deer Curious in Connecticut,

These intelligent and resourceful birds can appear to be bossy piggies at our fall feeders.

If we look a little deeper into the causes of their behavior, we'll discover that they're in the midst of gathering huge stockpiles of food for the winter. In the fall, jays hide or cache food, at many locations all over their territory. The amazing feat is how they recall, months later, with pinpoint accuracy, each location. Is it luck? Not at all. As the days shorten, the hippocampus region of their brain, the area thought to be responsible for memory, doubles in size. With that doubling jays remember complex mental maps of countless storage sites. Throughout the winter blue jays continue to efficiently recall and excavate their caches. When Spring approaches with its new array of fresh food, another change is triggered. Their hippocampus begins to shrink and the mental maps that sustained them through the winter are gradually forgotten. So the next time you see harried blue jays at your fall feeder, know that they're working on a tight deadline to store enough food for the coming winter.



## Calendar of Events 2021

- ✦ **April 22 Earth Day**
- ✦ **June 5 & 6 CT Trails Day Scavenger Hunt at Beach Preserve.** Self-guided at Hi-View Road, West Hartland, 1.1 mile from route 20. HLT Beach Preserve is located on right side of road after house # 217. Look for kiosk. Please park only on preserve side of road and stay on the trails.
- ✦ **June 21-27 National Pollinator Week.** Refrain from chemical pesticide use. Plant native plants to flower from spring through fall.
- ✦ **September 27 Annual Meeting 7 p.m. Followed by Speaker Series** on CT Butterflies and Moths with Jay Kaplan 7:30 p.m. at Hartland School. **CDC guidelines**
- ✦ **November 15 Speaker Series** on Bobcats and recent DEEP research project with Wildlife Biologist Jason Hawley. 7:30 pm at Hartland School. **CDC Guidelines**
- ✦ **December 14 Ninth 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.

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

## The Preservationist: Newsletter of Hartland Land Trust Issue #14 Spring 2021

ENVELOPE ENCLOSED WITH  
MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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

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HARTLAND  
LAND TRUST



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

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