
The Balance Sheet

Cheshire Land Trust cheshirelandtrust.org Vol. 45, No. 1 March 2017

Preserving Land as a Living Resource Since 1969

Annual Meeting

We invite you to the Cheshire Land Trust's 48th Annual Meeting on Thursday, March 30th at Cheshire Senior Center, 240 Maple Ave.

Peter Picone, DEEP Wildlife Biologist, naturalist and author of the "Upper Quinnipiac River Canoeable Trail Guide" is our speaker.

Mr. Picone will present an overview of recent projects undertaken to make the Quinnipiac easily accessible to outdoor enthusiasts. His talk also highlights updates to his original trail guide.

Join us for refreshments at 6:30 p.m. followed by the business meeting and the election of the 2017 governing board at 7:00 p.m.

For more information, please email us at CheshireCTLand@aol.com.

COMING SOON: CANOES ON THE Q

By Lauren Bennett, Restoration Biologist

US Fish and Wildlife Service

As the single largest private owner of riverfront along the Quinnipiac River, CLT is pleased to be working with a host of other organizations to launch (pun intended) a new and improved canoe-able trail along the Quinnipiac River.

The canoe trail project is part of a larger effort to restore the River. In summer 2016, two dams on the Quinnipiac River were removed in Southington and Meriden, effectively opening up an additional 16 miles of river and stream habitat to fish passage – and people passage.



The canoe trail re-launch will include a new on-line brochure, new canoe trail signage, and several new car-top boat launches in Southington and Cheshire.

This major effort to reconnect people to the water included the partnerships of numerous participants:

The State Wildlife Division
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
The Towns of Cheshire and Southington
Trout Unlimited
The Quinnipiac River Watershed Association
Quinnipiac Valley Chapter of the Audubon Soc.
Southington Land Trust
Cheshire Land Trust

A celebration and inaugural paddle down the trail is planned in Fall 2017. Details Soon!

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PLACEHOLDER FOR FINANCIALS

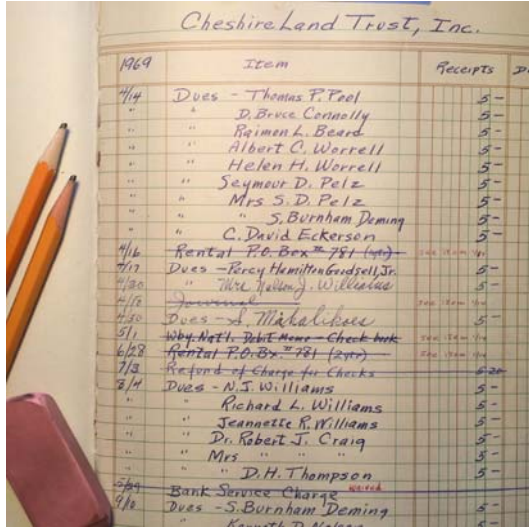


HOW \$5 PRESERVED 600 ACRES

By David Schrumm

This old ledger documents the beginning of the Cheshire Land Trust. A group of concerned citizens met at the home of Emma “Lee” and Seymour Pelz on Cheshire Street on March 26, 1969. Twelve people gave \$5 each to start the Trust.

Twelve people... five dollars.



The foresight of this small group is remarkable. They planted the seed for a land trust at a time when the environmental movement was just starting to sweep the country.

By the end of 1969, more people had joined. In the following year, the Trust accepted its first gift, a 40-acre forested parcel on Cheshire’s western ridge.

Others helped the seed grow. Landowners gifted land out of love for their land, some of which had been in their family for decades. Several individuals left monetary bequests. Finally, there are the many members who have paid their dues every year and made additional contributions over the past 48 years.

Understanding why we all have chosen Cheshire to raise our families is easy with all the pastoral beauty and open spaces. Help us to maintain the quality of Cheshire’s natural resources with your financial and volunteer support.

Please consider playing a larger role in the future of our town with the Cheshire Land Trust.

Here’s how:

- Become a Land Trust member or renew now!
- When considering charitable donations, remember the Cheshire Land Trust.
- If you have a Land Trust property in your neighborhood, become a Land Steward for that property.

CLT – UCONN CONNECTION

By Laura Cisneros, NRCA and Joy VanderLek, CLT

It’s not every day you get to hunker down by the water’s edge, silently watching birds fly and feed as the sun rises, or go slogging through the shallows of the Quinnipiac to learn about riparian buffers, or kayak Hanover Pond to take water samples on a sunny but brisk December day. These are just some of the things we did as we partnered with the Quinnipiac River Watershed Association to mentor a local Cheshire High School student through a special program at UCONN.

The program, The Natural Resources Conservation Academy (NRCA; <http://nrca.uconn.edu/>) is an innovative program in conservation and land use planning that engages high school students, adult conservation volunteers and teachers with conservation efforts at the community level.

“The program is now in its 5th year, and has worked with over 100 students and more than 75 community partners (e.g., land trusts) on 98 community projects that have directly advanced conservation strategies statewide,” said Laura Cisneros, NRCA Program Coordinator.

Cisneros introduced CLT to CHS senior Jake Lawlor, who is pursuing a future in environmental science. For his project, Jake met with CLT’s Sigrun Gadwa and QRWA’s Ginny Chirsky and Becky Martorelli, who taught him about water quality monitoring, including aquatic biodiversity.

In Fall 2016, a massive dam project was undertaken at Hanover Pond in Meriden. How would it affect the wildlife and water quality? (see page 5)

CLT – UCONN CONNECTION

(continued from page 2)

It would be the perfect opportunity for Jake to monitor and use as his NRCA project.

“Drawdown was being used in Hanover Pond to construct an Archimedes screw which would supply hydropower, and 6 vertical feet of water was removed,” Jake said. “This created a drastic change in the environment, and the focus of my project was studying the effects of this change on water quality and the avian community.”

Jake’s observations from his project will be on display and formally presented, along with those of his fellow NRCA student ambassadors, in a conservation conference at UCONN in March.



NRCA Ambassador and CHS senior, Jake Lawlor

CLT is proud to have been involved in this community education project. We extend our gratitude to the following people, who graciously gave their time and expertise:

Ms. Ginny Chirsky and Ms. Becky Martorelli, Quinnipiac River Watershed Association; Mrs. Sigrun Gadwa, Carya Ecological Services, LLC and former CLT Board Member, Mr. Scott Schaefer, CLT Stewardship, and Ms. Joy VanderLek, CLT Outreach & Education Chair.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

It’s time to renew your annual membership. Your donation is tax-deductible. Many of the properties are open to the public for hiking, birdwatching and passive recreation. It’s easy to give via PayPal, when you go to www.cheshirelandtrust.org or snail mail to CLT, P.O. Box 781, Cheshire, CT 06410. **Membership runs from 4/1/17-3/31/18.**

IVES FARM STAND T & D

Believe it! It’s not too early!



CSA sign-ups are going on right now! Email Mary Ann Arisco at ivesfarmtd@yahoo.com if you would like schedule details to find out what vegetables and fruit the farm stand will offer CSA customers this year.

EVENTFULLY YOURS

Never a dull moment! It’s been an exceptional year with an abundance of events for all tastes and ages.

Here’s your invitation to come to one or all of the following CLT events coming up:

March 30 - Annual meeting - Cheshire Senior Center

April - Vernal pool night walk - TBA

May 6 - Audubon Hike - Cran Property (by Lock 12)

June 3 - CT Trails Day with Cheshire Environment Commission at DeDominicus property. RSVP required: 203-271-6670.

June 3- Weedstock at Ives Farm, TBA

June 15: Evening at Ives Farm, Saturday, 5:30-8:00 p.m.

July & August hikes and meetups – TBA

Sept. 16- See you at the Cheshire Chamber of Commerce Fall Festival.

Sept. 23 - A Day at Ives Farm. 10a.m.- 3:30 p.m.

October 28: Ives Farm Tractor Trot 5K Walk & Run 10 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Stay up-to-date with Twitter, Facebook and email blasts. Let us know what you want to do! Owl hikes, geocaching, stargazing? Leave a message at 203-806-0258 or email us at CheshireCTLand@aol.com

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Mark Kasinskas, President CLT



Have you been out to a Cheshire Land Trust property lately? If “No” ... that’s okay.

I haven’t either.

Winter is frequently a time when we huddle inside, waiting for fairer weather before we head out and explore much of the outdoors.

But, whether or not we actually go out to Ives Farm or Fresh Meadows, or any of CLT’s great open spaces, it’s important to know that they are there—that they are *protected* lands, and that they will be there if and when we or anyone in the future wants to experience them firsthand.

Environmental economists call this idea “existence value.” It’s why many people will donate money to protect a rainforest or a Bengal tiger. Even though they may never actually visit a rainforest, or see a tiger in its natural habitat, just knowing they are protected is sometimes enough.

This alone is a compelling reason to support international causes, as well as the Cheshire Land Trust and similar locally oriented organizations.

Whether you never see CLT’s lands (or do not even know where they are), just occasionally drive by them, or frequently go on hikes or attend CLT events, the lands are out there— today, tomorrow, and in perpetuity. That is the primary purpose of the organization - to preserve land, natural resources, and wildlife habitat for the benefit of the community. Forever.

Another important environmental economics term is “willingness to pay.” For example, liking the idea of preserving land, maintaining trails, and running environmental events is one thing - making it happen is something else completely.

I recall stories from CLT’s early days--- when there was essentially a group of like-minded people, who had some great land preservation ideas, but no land or the money to get it.

Somehow, they made it work, and CLT now successfully protects nearly 600 acres around Cheshire, entirely as a small private non-profit organization without any taxpayer support.

Maybe a CLT property is near you as you read this. It’s clear that many who have come before us were willing to pay, through effort and/or by checkbook, to help grow what is now a successful organization dedicated to preserving land and educating people about it.

As CLT approaches the end of its first 50 years, we are not done. Your Board of Directors continues to look for additional lands to preserve, responsibly manage the 34 properties we currently protect, and provide an ever-expanding range of educational and recreational opportunities.

We think it’s important, and we think you do too.

We think there continues to be great value in the existence of preserved open spaces throughout Cheshire, and hope you will join us in a willingness to pay for those goals to be further realized.

Unlike rainforests or tigers, Cheshire Land Trust properties are in our local backyards. They are not an abstract idea or some faraway place - they are local forests and farms, hilltops and wetlands. They are an integral part of the community in which we live and a vital counterpoint to the developed portions of our town.

Their protection is a perfect embodiment of ---
Think Global, Act Local.

So please, continue supporting CLT’s mission by joining us for great events, visiting CLT lands on your own, and, yes, financially supporting CLT’s work.

We’re grateful for your continued interest, share your sustained values, and, as always, seek your help in continuing to achieve our important goals.

INVASIVES - FIGHT BACK!

*Sigrun N. Gadwa, MS, PWS, Ecologist, Registered Soil Scientist
Carya Ecological Services, LLC*

Don't look now, but there's something taking over field and meadow in your town—maybe even in your own backyard!

Autumn olive is despicable. It's an invasive you need to get control over before it overruns your space.

Luckily, Autumn olive is easy to control, easier compared to mugwort, Japanese knotweed, or European buckthorn, that is. Use the "cut 'n paint" technique, between 4th week in August & 3rd week in September, apply Triclopyr with a narrow window sash brush within 10 minutes of painting the cut stem, and paint 2" below the cut.

Use 8% Triclopyr, available in a one to three gallon container to homeowners as Brush-B-Gon from Hines Hardware, Home Depot or Lowes - but **do check** the list of active ingredients to make sure some other active ingredient has not been added. If so, please try to find another container with just Triclopyr.

Triclopyr is just a plant hormone analogue, toxic to broadleaf plants but not grasses, mosses, fungi, and sedges - or creatures. Based on my research, Triclopyr is far preferable, environmentally, to glyphosate (in Round-up).

Autumn olive usually just has one trunk, and the wood is not even very hard. One can hand saw it if strong. Wear glasses or goggles and gloves, and work carefully, without splashing.

I've seen 100% kill on large stands of Autumn olive when this method used, but failure when application was delayed too long into October, after frost.

Look for more tips on eradicating invasives along with learning about native plants and animals on the Cheshire Land Trust Facebook page.

Officers & Directors

CLT is looking to its membership to fill open Board positions. What skills and enthusiasm can you bring?

Please contact us at CheshireCTLand@aol.com or 203-806-0258. We look forward to talking to you.

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

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|----------------|--------------------|
| President | Joy VanderLek |
| Vice President | Dave Mercugliano |
| Treasurer | David Schrumm |
| Secretary | Kristi Fleischmann |

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|----------------|-----------|
| John Hilzinger | 2016-2019 |
| Patty Hartmann | 2016-2019 |
| Mark Kasinskas | 2017-2019 |

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| Open | 2015-2018 |
| Joel Renker | 2015-2018 |
| Matt Abdifar | 2015-2018 |

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| Open | 2014-2017 |
| Rick Marinaro | 2014-2017 |
| Jim Mertz | 2014-2017 |



The Balance Sheet is published by the Cheshire Land Trust twice a year.

Editor: Joy VanderLek

Contributors: Mark Kasinskas, David Schrumm, Sigrun Gadwa, Laura Cisneros, Lauren Bennett and Peter Picone.

We have a great time organizing “A Day at Ives Farm” and the “Ives Farm Tractor Trot 5K Walk & Run.” It's exciting and fun! Let us know if you'd like to join our volunteers. Non-profit groups and students are welcome. (Community/volunteer and stewardship hours are given.)

Keep up-to-date with CLT news, Stewardship days, events and programs by visiting cheshirelandtrust.org, our **Facebook page** or **follow us on Twitter**.