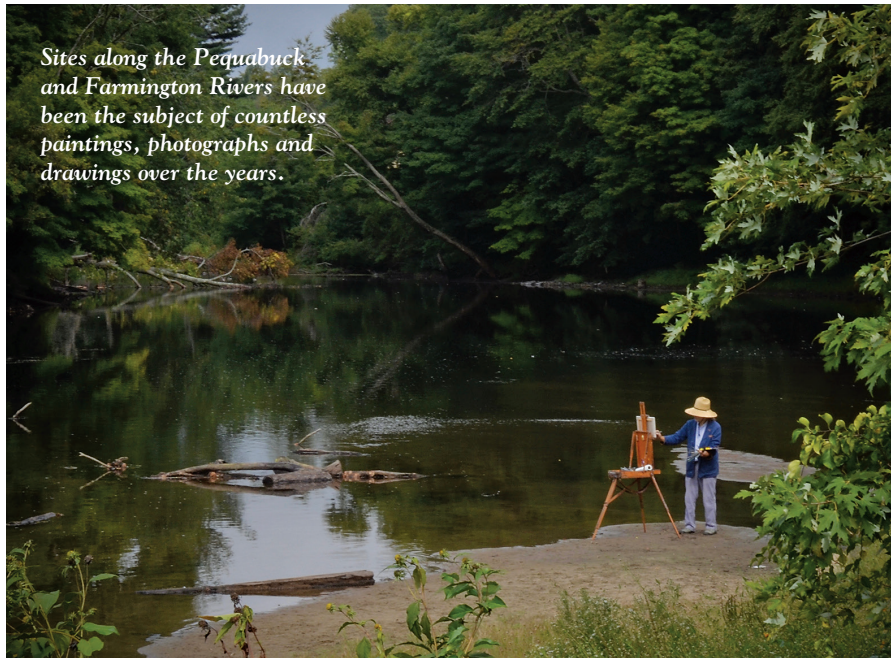


Protecting open space in perpetuity through acquisition, stewardship, education, and advocacy



Sites along the Pequabuck and Farmington Rivers have been the subject of countless paintings, photographs and drawings over the years.

Creating Better Bird Habitat at the Bushley Parcel

Our 23.7-acre Bushley parcel, also known as the West District Nature Preserve, is rife with potential. Discussions among the members of the Board of Directors have targeted ideas ranging from the creation of a nature center open to the public to keeping it as a private preserve. Whatever the future holds for this property bordering West District Road, it is rich in both history and ecosystems, and we hope to make it a better habitat for wildlife, especially birds.

To that end, we enlisted the services of Eric Hansen, of Ferrucci & Walicki Forestry and Land Management Consultants, and Milan Bull, Senior Director of Science and Conservation at the Connecticut Audubon Society. In October they accompanied FLT President Richard Kramer, Land Trust Executive Director Bruce Edgren, and board members Steve Nelson, Jim Calciano, Evan Cowles, and Diane Tucker on a walk through the property to assess its current conditions and, going forward, to determine what kinds of stewardship practices would be most effective in enhancing and improving the parcel's avian habitat.

One advantage in improving bird habitat is that doing so creates better habitat

(continued on page 3)

Using Open Space to Inspire Visual Artists

We hosted a video contest last year! And we're doing it again, along with a year-long monthly photo competition. Both feature plenty of prize money.

So you might ask, why are we devoting time and treasure to such pursuits?

At the Farmington Land Trust, we are always striving to find new ways to share the riches of our properties with the broader community of Farmington and beyond. Our wealth lies in our more than 300 acres comprising 66 separate parcels. And our bounty includes historic sites, hiking trails, the many well-documented healthful benefits of being in an open green space, and the preservation of the rural agrarian character that so defines much of Farmington, even today. We try to share those treasures through programs open to the public, with topics ranging from lectures to walks and birding outings.

But there is another aspect to our holdings which we perhaps have not highlighted enough. One that is also, ironically, perhaps their chief attribute: their beauty.

Sun-splashed riverside vistas, inviting wooded knolls, dramatic lookouts, trails threading through shade-dappled hardwood forests — our holdings are rich in the kinds of scenic splendors that have inspired artists of all sorts for generation after generation.

In fact, the Cowles Parcel off Meadow Road was a hotspot for plein air painters about a century ago, when Robert Bolling Brandegee, a celebrated art teacher at Miss Porter's, attracted many friends and colleagues to paint in town. A scenic spot along the Pequabuck on the Cowles Parcel was so often the subject of patrons' requests that it was dubbed the "mercantile bend". I'm not certain, but that big old sycamore tree by a bend in the pathway may be the very same tree depicted in some of Brandegee's works. If so, it may have become, over the ensuing decades, the most painted tree in town.

(continued on page 4)



Photo: Tina Delaney

Farmington: A Place for People and for Wildlife

Farmington residents welcome the natural world nearby. Thousands of acres in our town have been conserved, and our quality of life is enhanced by the presence of these natural habitats. More and more, there is evidence that the health and well-being of these natural areas is directly linked to our own.

One of these ecological treasures is the Land Trust's **West District Nature Preserve**, a gift by Ruth and Mary Bushley of their family farm. Located across Coppermine Road from West District School, it, together with the Town Memorial Forest and two other Town conserved properties, provide over 400-acres of connected natural habitat, a truly wonderful collocation of human and wild life, situated in an otherwise developed area.

The FLT's WDNP is a particular gem in this natural ecosystem. Because it exhibits many different ecological features — including vernal pools, open fields, stands of both hardwood and softwood forests, swampy areas and a pond — it offers everything a naturalist could ask for in terms of varied ecosystems, and along with this habitat, there is an abundant variety of wildlife.

Earlier this year, we contacted Milan Bull (CT Audubon Society), who leads our annual spring migratory birding event, to determine what steps we could take to enhance the habitat for birds at WDNP. Milan was interested. This fall he and members of the FLT Board walked the property along with land management consultant, Eric Hansen (Ferrucci & Walicki) to conduct a habitat assessment. Eric has done consulting work for CT Audubon on many of its properties. After studying the property and its environs, Eric prepared a long-term management plan for each of the 7 distinct

habitats he identified on the property. In the plan, Eric outlined steps to be taken over the next few years that will enhance the

habitat for birds. Many of these site management tasks can be done by volunteers, so this provides an excellent opportunity for local birders and others to become engaged with this abandoned farmland and its inhabitants.

Over the longer range, Eric's report concludes: *"This property is a gem in the middle of an otherwise heavily developed area ... there are many different distinct habitat types that currently provide quality (space) for a variety of wildlife ... it is ideally situated to be an educational center for the outdoors."*

With the benefit of guidance from Eric, Milan and CT Audubon and with the work of our dedicated volunteers we hope to improve the bird habitat and fulfill the potential of this unique property over the next few years.

While the WDNP is a preserve and accessible only by guided visits, other Land Trust properties are open to the public. Our properties located near the entrance to Mountain Spring Road: the Carey and Barney Pastures; Rauch, Lidgerwood and Yellin Parcels; and Anderson Ridge, collectively called the **Mountain Spring Nature Trail** and totaling 26 acres, offer *"The Outside is Good for Your Inside"* experience for all residents. They host multiple trails across a wet meadow and on up to the ridgeline, providing a setting for nature studies, expositions, and healthy hikes.

Also on the MSNT site is a former Carriage House whose exterior is currently being restored. Most of the exterior renovations, including new windows and an ADA bathroom, were completed this year through an extraordinary gift by Metro Realty. The site is now much more accommodating to the outdoor activities that often begin and end in the parking area adjacent to the Carriage House. Also, this fall, the doors to the underground milk cellar on the property, which were much in need of repair, were restored by Lawrence E. Rose Inc.

Looking forward, we are excited by the prospect of linking the MSNT property's Anderson Ridge trail to the Metacomet Trail on our nearby **Bancroft Parcel**, giving access to this 63-mile Blue-Blazed hiking trail from Mountain Spring Road.

The celebration this fall of the 40th Anniversary of saving the **Bull Lot**, a 6-acre meadow in the heart of Farmington Village preserved by its neighbors was another reminder of the commitment of Farmington residents, past and current, to **Share the Responsibility to Save the Land**. You can join them in their commitment by being a part of the Land Trust as a member and a volunteer.

~Richard Kramer



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M, T, Th 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Phone: 860.674.8545

Better Bird Habitat (continued from page 1)

not just for birds but for a wide range of wildlife species.

When you manage a site for birds, says Eric Hansen, “as a proxy you’re managing for a lot of different species of wildlife.”

One of the parcel’s greatest strengths as a wildlife or bird habitat is its diversity, which is further enhanced by the adjoining 360-acre wooded, town-owned parcel. Within the Bushley property itself, Hansen identifies seven discreet habitat areas, ranging from mature to young stands of forest, from fields to the roughly one-acre pond in the southwest part of the parcel. It includes a watercourse, a stand of aspen worth enhancing, vernal pools, and more.

Of the site, Eric Hansen says “There is a pretty remarkable amount of habitat types and conditions, especially given the size of property. The bedrock foundation is already there; not all properties have that. What I would like to see is just building on what you already have.”

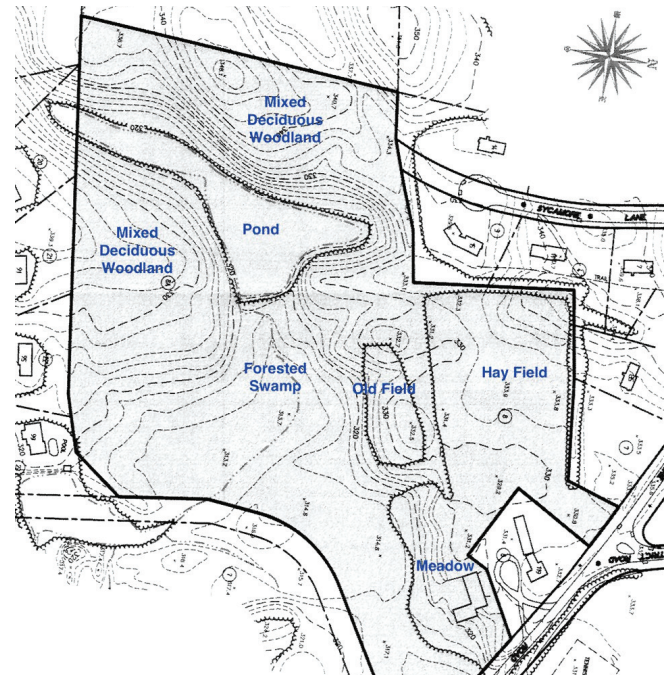
Building on what we already have means embarking on a multi-staged effort that targets individual needs within each of the seven discreet habitat areas. The good news is that virtually all of it can be done by volunteers. Here are some of the ideas and suggestions included in Eric’s report.

Throughout most of the area, there are enclaves of invasive plants that need attention. The idea is to gradually remove the gnarled clumps of multiflora rose, the strangling vines of bittersweet, the spreading tangles of Japanese stiltgrass, and the shrubby bits of barberry and winged euonymus and to then replace them with more desirable, beneficial native plant alternatives, such as highbush blueberries, spicebush, winterberry, grey-stemmed dogwood and others that, in many cases, are already present on the property. The more desirable native plants provide such necessities as nectar, mast (the fancy word for foods enjoyed by wildlife), and cover, thus enhancing the habitat not only for birds but for all types of wildlife.

In some of the wooded areas, there are poorer quality pines and some hardwoods which should be cut or girdled to reduce competition for sun, provide growing space, and enhance the vigor of remaining species. Carefully selected trees could be girdled, then would die in place to create standing snags or cavity trees that are valuable habitat elements. In some areas creating brush piles would be a good idea.

Other canopy thinning helps to create pockets within the forested areas that are regenerating, and having forest pockets of differing stages of maturity not only better prepares the forest to withstand pests and disease, it keeps a new generation at the ready to replenish the forest over time.

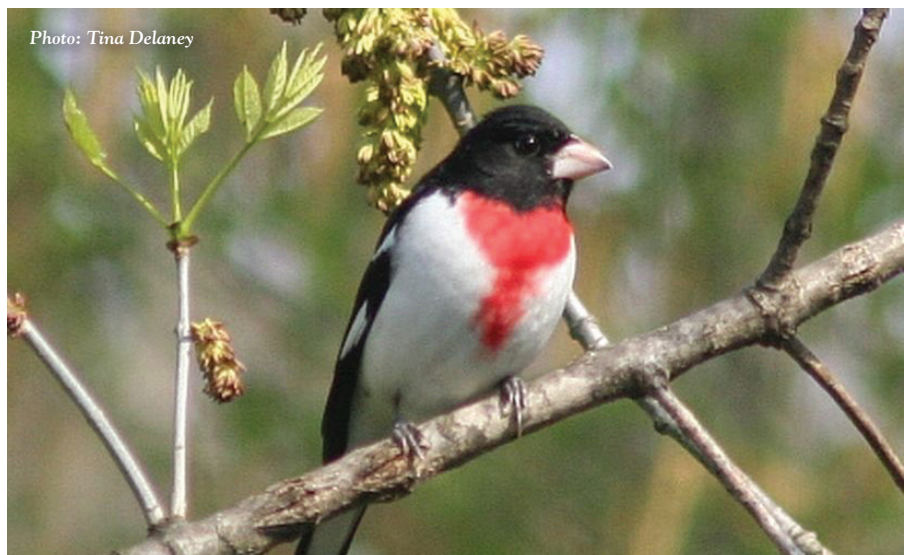
An existing stand of aspens on the property could be beneficial in helping to soften some of the edges along the field and forest boundary. Edges and transitional zones are key areas for enhancing wildlife



ONE OF THE PARCEL’S GREATEST STRENGTHS AS A WILDLIFE OR BIRD HABITAT IS ITS DIVERSITY, WHICH IS FURTHER ENHANCED BY THE ADJOINING 360-ACRE WOODED, TOWN-OWNED PARCEL.

habitat. One idea is to cut down the aspen grove to encourage its resprouting response. To be most effective, the surrounding area should be opened up to reduce competition from other trees along the perimeter of the aspens and so sunlight can easily penetrate to the stand of aspen. In time, the aspens would be reinvigorated and the stand would spread.

More generally, the report also suggests that we consider creating a small and discreet trail system threading through the most interesting parts of the property. To enrich the experience, we could include educational signage to help visitors better understand the significance of the habitat areas they are visiting. We might also continue working with local schools, such as our research partnership with Central Connecticut State University, to create long-term inventory plots where vegetation, birds, invasive plants, amphibians and more can be studied and the data tracked over a longer time frame.



At any rate, there's no denying there are plenty of places in the land trust's purview that are worthy targets for the artistic eye.

To celebrate those special locations and to help invite younger people to appreciate them as well, last year we hosted a video making contest for Farmington kids age 12 to 18. To keep barriers to entry low, we employed simple rules: videos could be shot on anything from a phone to a drone, they had to be less than three minutes in length, had to include at least one scene shot on a Land Trust property and must express a positive vision of nature and/or the outdoors. We tried to spread the word through the school system's Friday folders, online, and just about any way we could.

Our efforts generated a dozen entries, and while it might have been nice to have DOZENS of entries, we felt that twelve videos was a respectable response. We convened judges, Jennifer Boyd, a winner of multiple Emmy Awards for her work at WFSB and CPTV, and Ian Ally-Seals, director of the cinema program at Real Art Ways in Hartford, with board of director's member Steve Silk serving as a tie-breaker.

Their videos were screened and the winners announced. Farmington High School student Angela Choe won \$250 for best in show and \$500 best phone video for her "Exploring Nature in Farmington"; Miss Porter's students Jessica Sardilli and Kayleen Procanik won \$500 for best traditional method video for their "Weekend in Farmington"; and FHS student Rashendra Pinto took \$500 and the top award for a drone video with his "Farmington From Above".

We feted the winners at our annual fundraising dinner, and celebrated all the participants with a film festival hosted by Real Art Ways on Nov 3. Angela's video, in a more tightly edited version suggested by the judges, is presently displayed on the home page of the Land Trust's website. We anticipate using the videos on social media including Facebook and Instagram, and expect it will be a good way to help raise consciousness about the Land Trust. The contest also generated a cover story in Valley Life, which certainly contributes to raising our profile.

So we decided to embark on a second annual video contest using the same set of rules but opening participation to students living in any of the towns that were historically once part of Farmington, so that means kids 12-18 in Southington, Plainville, New Britain, Burlington, Berlin, Bristol, Avon — in addition to Farmington students — are eligible to enter. Again, our ultimate effort here is to make more people aware of the Land Trust and its mission, and to encourage broader use of our parcels which are open to the public. For more information, and to download and entry form, visit our website.

We also kicked off a monthly photo contest for 2019, and each month anyone is eligible to compete for a \$50 prize. Pictures must be entered for the month they are taken and must be shot on

a Land Trust property. To enter, photos must be posted to Instagram or Facebook and hash tagged #fltphoto19 and, ideally, geotagged. At year's end, we will choose from among the 12 monthly winners a first, second, and third place photo for the year, which will include an additional cash award. As with the videos, those submitting to the Land Trust competition grant the Land Trust usage rights to use any of the entries in whatever way they deem suitable — in social media posts, as images on our website, as part of an annual calendar, or whatever.

As it turns out, the Land Trust has been involved in somewhat similar enterprises in the past. Years ago, we hosted an art exhibit, and a photo contest. We also hosted a plein air painting day a few years back, and that seems like an idea worth reviving. It might best succeed if taken under the wing of some local Land Trust-loving artist who could serve as a nucleus around which such a group might take shape. If there are any plein air painters out there who might be interested, please let us know.

So while we may not be breaking new ground, what's different is the ongoing nature of our competitions and the possibility of creating some synergy through social media and our website. It also ties into our "Save the Land" series, with a "Save the Land, Share its Beauty" icon offering a reminder that what we have is not just something worth preserving, it is something worth celebrating through the eyes of artists.

**SUN-SPLASHED RIVERSIDE VISTAS,
INVITING WOODED KNOLLS,
DRAMATIC LOOKOUTS, TRAILS
THREADING THROUGH SHADE-
DAPPLED HARDWOOD FORESTS
— OUR HOLDINGS ARE RICH IN
THE KINDS OF SCENIC SPLENDORS
THAT HAVE INSPIRED ARTISTS
OF ALL SORTS FOR GENERATION
AFTER GENERATION.**

Meet Our New Board Member: Peter Dorpalen



I have lived in Farmington for 20 years. Prior to retiring five years ago, I was a regional planner including 21 years as the executive director of the

Central Naugatuck Valley Regional Council of Governments. My work focused on transportation, land use, and economic

issues, plans, and projects. I am a long-time volunteer with Connecticut Forest & Park Association, which oversees over 800 miles of blue-blazed trails in the state. I manage the blue-blazed Metacomet Trail over Rattlesnake Mountain and Pinnacle Ridge in Farmington and Plainville as well as helping out trail managers on 40 miles of blue-blazed hiking trails in NW Connecticut. With the Land Trust, I have assisted with trail design and construction and serve as

a steward for several FLT properties. Along with hiking with my dog and friends, I enjoy bicycling, kayaking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and playing with my two little grandchildren.

How did you first become involved with the Farmington Land Trust?

I approached the FLT about becoming a property steward, and took on the Balazy Easement adjacent to the Farmington

Acquiring the Historic Little Reservoir Property

By Evan Cowles

The Farmington Land Trust is in the process of acquiring the “Little Reservoir” property near the top of Diamond Glen Road from the Connecticut Water Company.

The “Little Reservoir” property is on the south side near the top of Diamond Glen Road. This historic site contains the remnants of a mill pond built to feed early mills used to saw lumber, grind grain, and process wool for the townspeople of Farmington and beyond. These mills were among only a handful of 17th century commercial mills in Connecticut and were operated for close to 200 years.

The adjacent triangular parcel at the corner of Diamond Glen and Reservoir Road held a 500,000-gallon water tank built in the 1930s to hold water in reserve for Farmington Village. Chlorine was also added to the drinking water here.

Separating the two properties is Wadsworth Street, a paper (abandoned) road owned by the town. It was created for the farm wagons leading down the hill from the now abandoned Wadsworth apple and peach orchards along Route 6.

The Connecticut Water Company contacted the FLT in 2016 about their interest in getting rid of both parcels, totaling about 1.2 acres, in a single transaction. We could not pass up the opportunity

to save these historic properties and have been working ever since to acquire them. Real estate transactions are never straightforward and this one has given us a few surprises, but we are confident that we can finish the acquisition in the first half of 2019.

You may have noticed that the water company demolished the existing little brick building (where the chlorine was added) and underground water tank during the Fall of 2018 in anticipation of turning the property over to us. To finish things off, we supplied them with a conservation/wildlife seed mix that you will see sprouting in the Spring.

The Land Trust has never before used its own money to acquire a property, but the Board of Directors approved the funding for the balance of the acquisition costs because the board felt that the significance of the properties is so outstanding that we could not let this opportunity pass.

The total estimated acquisition and related costs for the two properties is \$15,000, and we have a good running start on raising the funds from contributions. We have received a very generous gift from the Mason family in memory of Henry Mason, long-time FLT board member and steward, who, as a youth in the 1930s helped with

the concrete work when the water tank on the property was built. Several other donors have dedicated donations to their parents. We are soliciting additional contributions so that the entire cost will be supported by our donors. We welcome any amount toward this wonderful opportunity.

We very much look forward to adding these two small historic properties to our FLT holdings in early 2019.

Land Trust treasurer Doug Pelham, Adrian Wadsworth, Land Trust Vice President Evan Cowles, board secretary Diane Tucker and her daughter inspect some of the subterranean portions of the Little Reservoir property.



Business Center on Rte 6. Prior to that, I attended an FLT invasive plant work party, which proved helpful for my own trail management work and also as an FLT steward.

What made you decide to join the Board of Directors?

Before joining the board, I participated in FLT meetings related to properties, trails, parcel documentation, and trail mapping and had enjoyed working with the board. It was nice to be asked to join the group.

What part of the Land Trust's mission — education, stewardship, acquisition — is most interesting to you and why?

As someone who loves being outdoors, land stewardship is the most engaging because it gives me opportunities to explore and to help maintain and improve the land.

How do you think the FLT could reach out more effectively to the community?

The FLT has already done a lot through its recent film festival and through its numerous

events and hikes. Larger signs along its properties would raise awareness of the FLT's presence in the community — something the Board has started to discuss.

Is there anything specific you hope to accomplish during your term?

I plan to help monitor, maintain, and improve FLT parcels and trails and hope to increase the visibility of the properties.

Where we live

I find myself thinking about the future lately. With my youngest child off to college and my retirement from the world of academe, my attentions have turned to place. As real estate agents like to remind us: Location! Location! Location! So, with friends hightailing it to warmer and sunnier points south, I'm asking myself a simple question: is this where we want to live?



I know some people think of Farmington as cold, but Tamra and I moved here from St. Paul, Minnesota — where it really is cold — 12 and a half years ago. Back when we started dating, Tamra transplanted, so to show off Minnesota's arctic temperatures, I did the obligatory stunt of tossing a cup of boiling water into the air on a reasonably chilly morning (-20) to show that the water froze so quickly that no liquid touched the ground (she married me anyway). So relatively speaking, we think of Connecticut as the banana belt.

I'll not be viewed as a Yankee in my lifetime, nor will my children. But my grandson Patrick will carry a lengthy enough lineage to qualify (I think). Even though we may never be called Yankees, Farmington feels like home. And our youngest child definitely views the town as her home.

So here we are. It's not bad. In fact, it's great! The more Tamra and I think about living elsewhere, the more we appreciate Farmington as our home. I've been with the Land Trust as Executive Director for almost three years and the experience has definitely changed my perspective on open space and its value to a community. In an effort to maintain some academic connection, I entered the FLT and CCSU into ALPINE (Academics for Land Protection in New England). It's a consortium of 24 academic

institutions throughout New England that have collaborated on protecting forests and open space. Through student programs (much like our collaborations with CCSU and FHS) they instill a cross-generational appreciation for land protection. Uniting and strengthening the voice for land protection is part of our mission.

Beyond the organizational development, the executive director position has afforded me a knowledge of the people and places in Farmington. I've been on countless hikes and hosted several programs that have all allowed other people with outdoor interests to mingle and hopefully pass along to each other and their broader constituencies the value of open space. Along the way I've become an outdoor zealot.

Personally using open space has sort of crept up on me. Weather permitting, I take a daily six mile hike. The 10,000 step fitness craze hit us about two years ago. Farmington happens to be a terrific landscape to get your steps in and have a beautiful view along the way. Some of my favorites:

- Cowles parcel to the boathouse and back — flat and about 10,000 steps. Keep going to the Rails to Trails for a little elevation and a 5 mile loop via the Red Oak Hill sidewalk.
- Route 6 turnoff to Will Warren's Den and back — elevation and about 5,000 steps (Main Street up Hatters Lane to Will Warren's Den and back gets you almost 12,000 steps)
- Mountain Spring Nature Trail past the bird blind and out to the woods and back — about 3,000 steps (add the spur with elevation to Anderson Ridge and you have about 5,000 steps)

These walks are reminders of the special place Farmington is. Doing them at dawn will open a new world of creatures to you. Doing them at dusk will give you a memory full of beautiful sunlit images.

Celebrating the Bull Lot In Its 40th Year

By Frances Brown

On a sunny and chilly Sunday afternoon on October 28th, if you happened to be walking down Colton St. in Farmington, you'd see about 50 happy neighbors and friends celebrating the beautiful open meadow there, fondly known as the Bull Lot. This was not a grazing pasture for a bull, but is nonetheless aptly named, the Bull Lot, as the original owner was Thomas Bull. This 6 acres of open land has been preserved and protected now for 40 years thanks to a group of local concerned citizens who bought this property to save the land from being developed into a development with 12 homes.

After they purchased the Bull Lot, their group gave conservation easements to the Farmington Land Trust. The original Bull Lot group back then were: Tom Richardson, Hal and Donna Gorman, Jean and Jay Glasel, Pamela Benedict, Drew and Shirley Langhauser, Al and Ann Sala, Francis Glasheen, Willard Soper, Nancy Richers, and the Connecticut River Watershed Council.

The 40th year Celebration was organized by the FLT with help from neighbors, Sharon and Forrest Wright and Donna and Hal Gorman, parcel owners of the Bull Lot, to honor and recognize all those who contributed to the purchase of the land. With a fire blazing in the fire pit, hot cider and champagne and homemade goodies shared by all, we celebrated the open land together, and gave many thanks for the foresight and community organizing in 1978 so that today we all can enjoy this open field in the village into perpetuity.



Restoring the Carriage House

By Steve Nelson



What Carriage House? It's right there, on the right, across from the peach colored Barney House mansion, named for former resident D. Newton Barney, at the beginning of Mountain Spring Road. It shares a driveway with the residence at 10 Mountain Spring Road and introduces us to the starting point of the Mountain Spring Nature Trail (MSNT).

The Carriage House was a garage for the automobiles and served as an office and workshop for the chauffeur of the Barney family. Inside, it features beautiful cast iron work and radiators, an early overhead car wash featuring internally sloped drainage in each bay, and a magnificent workbench. The Carriage house, along with the 2.2-acre Carey Pasture it stands on, was given to the Land Trust by Anne Carey in 1996. Over the intervening years, the Land Trust hasn't done much to it or with it, other than using it to store some tools, equipment and old files.

With the development of the 26-acre MSNT, which includes the Carey Pasture, and its adoption by Pro Health Physicians, who participate in our Adopt-a-Parcel program, it now hosts many different events each year. Programs, which are put together by Bruce Edgren and Diane Tucker, are bringing more participants to the area. Hence the need for an ADA-compliant bathroom, and renovation of the facility. We decided to embark on an upgrade of the Carriage House, even though we don't yet know what our long-term use of the facility might be, whether an office with a conference room and an area for storage of tools and equipment, or a two- or three-bay nature center for developing more programs; and possibly a small teaching venue.

What we do know is the building is in sound structural condition, but in need of quite a bit of cosmetic upgrades. So...when the Land Trust needs money, or a special task accomplished, who do we always look to? Land Trust Vice President Cate Grady-Benson. Cate contacted Land Trust member Geoff Sager of Metro Realty, developer of the medical buildings on Farmington Avenue and South Road, among other buildings in the greater Hartford area. Geoff said he could help, not only financially, but by managing the restoration as well, providing design of the handicapped-accessible bathroom and

mechanical space. Not only that, he would coordinate his contractors to perform the work.

The project was then passed to Geoff's project manager, Marc Tardiff. With Marc's guidance, a new chimney was built. The slate roof was patched and repaired. The rotted and insect-infested soffit and fascia boards were replaced with AZEK type PVC trim boards, an upgrade rather than just patching and repairing the existing trim.

Windows and trim needed replacement too. The Land Trust wanted a historically correct window installed, so Cate approached fellow Land Trust member Ted Sanford of Sanford & Hawley fame. Ted, along with another Land Trust member Rick Mullen, were able to provide the window we wanted, and an additional frosted window for the bathroom, at cost. Member Kathy Wadsworth, provided the bathroom with a sink and toilet in memory of her late husband, former board member Jorge Andres Delano.

Marc also has provided the Carriage House with a new electrical service, new underground sanitary and water line, took out the old floors, installed the bathroom plumbing and electrical outlets. The current concrete floors were sealed by Land Trust member Greg Kaminski in preparation for a future floor of vinyl or ceramic tile. New walls and paint, toilet accessories, and four new raised panel doors with glass transoms just about completes the Carriage House's transformation.

Well, not quite. When you drove in, the first thing you saw was the three overhead doors with their broken panels and flaking/peeling paint dappling the columns on either side. Bad first impression. So board member Jim Calciano came over with scrapers and heat guns and stripped them all down. A contractor replaced the panels, and with a coat of white paint and the installation of a handicapped asphalt ramp, phase one and now most of phase two — the bathroom phase — is complete.

The underlying theme throughout is that all the work, cost, and lots of the effort to restore the Carriage House was provided by our fellow Farmington Land Trust members. On behalf of the board, I thank them.



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Preserving the Land We Love

When we visited Farmington for the first time, we fell for it. Our early impressions were vague, but lasting. We were drawn to views of mountains, snippets of river, grand old trees along Main Street, and open fields out on Meadow Road.

Now that Farmington is our home, the mountains, rivers and meadows have become part of our daily life and taken on greater importance to us. We seek out moments that bring us closer to the land. We walk in the woods with our children, take them canoeing in the summer, and always keep an eye out for foxes, bears and turkeys.

On excursions outside, we are inevitably struck by the beauty of our surroundings and can't help but remark how lucky we are to live in a place like this. At the same time, we see the many challenges facing our natural environment. The Farmington Land Trust works to preserve the land that we love, and we support it for this reason.

~Margaret Heiner & Oliver Tostmann

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

Snow Moon Snowshoe Outing

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH AT 5:30 P.M.
TUNXIS COUNTRY CLUB
87 TOWN FARM RD., FARMINGTON

Get your snowshoes or cross country skis ready for this short trip to a bonfire area for stories and fellowship. Revel in our New England winter!

Ticks!!!

SUNDAY, MARCH 3RD AT 2:30 P.M.
FARMINGTON COMMUNITY AND SENIOR CENTER
321 NEW BRITAIN AVE., UNIONVILLE

Dr. Kirby C. Stafford III is Chief Entomologist (head bug expert) of the Department of Entomology and State Entomologist at The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station. He was recently featured in a story on ticks in the October issue of *Connecticut Magazine*.

Farmington Land Trust Annual Meeting and Pot Luck

THURSDAY, APRIL 4TH AT 5:30 P.M.
PORTER MEMORIAL
75 MAIN ST., FARMINGTON

Milan Bull, Senior Director of Science and Conservation
The Connecticut Audubon Society. Topic TBA

Birding Along the Pequabuck

SATURDAY, MAY 4TH AT 7:30 A.M.
COWLES PARCEL OFF MEADOW ROAD

Milan Bull of CT Audubon Society will lead a hunt for early migrating species, including raptors. This popular event documented 26 bird species last year.

*For more information on any of our events, call 860.674.8545,
email us at ed.farmingtonlandtrust@gmail.com or visit www.farmingtonlandtrust.org*