

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



The Town of Farmington's first acquisitions of open space were intended to help protect the Farmington River floodplain from development.

Photo by Art Sribanpot

Land Trust Teams with Town Government to Preserve Open Space

Town Council Approves Purchase of Ridgeline Acreage

You know the Farmington Land Trust has acquired and preserved nearly 300 acres of open space in Farmington — you may not know the Land Trust has played a crucial role in setting aside thousands of acres more.

The Land Trust is a staunch advocate for Farmington's acquisition of open space and works closely with the town government through the Land Trust's two seats on the town's seven-member Land Acquisition Committee. The Land Trust takes part in municipal decisions and reaches out in an advocacy role to the town's citizens.

Most recently, our efforts helped advance the town's plan to acquire 107.1 acres on a stretch of the ridge top near Farmington's southern border. The area adjoins hundreds more acres of woodland and has been identified by the 2008 Farmington Valley Biodiversity Project as a Primary Conservation Area thanks to its rich diversity of habitat types. Nearly two-thirds of a mile of the Metacomet Trail runs through it. A vote last month by the Town Council to acquire the property passed unanimously, and, barring unforeseen circumstances, closing is

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Clatter Valley Road Parcel Preserves Ancient Path

Let's go back. Way back. Sometime after Ice Age glaciers retreated from the Farmington Valley, a band of nomadic hunters paused atop the great brow of rock we know as Metacomet Ridge. They looked west, over the Farmington Valley, and saw a promising hunting ground, rich with the megafauna of the time, a treasury of animals now extinct. All they needed was a way to get down the sheer face of the ridge.

There were only a few notches in that long ridge top, openings that made descending to the valley an easier trek. Eventually those hunters found a passage to their liking, and that footpath has led the way into Farmington for thousands of years, only recently — in the last 20 or 30 years — becoming too overgrown to allow easy passage. The first European settlers followed that path on their way to Farmington, and later so did the weekly stagecoach from Hartford. By then, the path had a name. They called it Clatter Valley Road for the noise the stage made as it rattled down the ridge.

The road began near Talcott Notch, crossed what is now Metacomet Road and went downhill to connect with Cedar Street (present-day Mountain Spring Road) and then continued south to link with what is now Route 4.

Today, a portion of that time-worn road is preserved on a 13.8-acre parcel recently acquired by the Farmington Land Trust. It includes the gradual downhill part of the track, from just west of Metacomet down to Mountain Spring Road. Thanks to the Land Trust, the old byway will not be as easily forgotten as some of the other spots near the old road, places with picturesque names such as Mile Swamp, Dirty Hole, Stone Crusher, and the Devil's Rocking Chair.

Bobbie Emery, who grew up near Clatter Valley Road and whose family once owned

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Letter from the President

Greetings on our 45th anniversary! Thank you for the part you played in our success in 2015 — and for your continued generous support of the Farmington Land Trust!

In 45 years, FLT has saved more than 290 acres and, in addition, over 3,000 additional acres has been preserved by the town of Farmington in partnership with the Land Trust. This is an incredible record of accomplishment and cooperation between town and Land Trust.

Since our founding in 1971 our mission has been to Save the Land. How do we accomplish this goal? Through acquisition, stewardship, education, and advocacy.

This past year has been extraordinarily busy and productive for us:

- We acquired the Clatter Valley Road Parcel — 13.8 acres rising up the ridge from Mountain Spring Road along the historic Clatter Valley Road, over which the earliest settlers traveled from Hartford to the Farmington River Valley. It is now part of a contiguous 45-acre tract — protected by the FLT. Acquisition activity continues with two other parcels being considered for donation by generous and far-sighted families.
- Stewardship is a critical part of protecting the land — to promote the health of natural habitat and native species. Our stewardship program has grown significantly this year with the addition of new stewards and the fieldwork of many volunteers.



- We offered numerous educational and community events — like our wonderfully successful Harvest Farm-to-Table Tasting fundraiser — and we will offer many more in 2016. We also continue to support ecological research on our properties by students and faculty from CCSU and our newsletter, *The Steward*, has new design and editorship.
- Our successful collaboration with the town of Farmington points to the importance of continuing to build and strengthen relationships with landowners, businesses and governmental agencies to advocate for preservation of open space for the enjoyment of generations to come. Only by sharing the responsibility can we ensure that our children will be able to experience the joy and beauty of this wonderful land.

How can you help?

- Ask at least one friend to join the FLT. Last year our membership grew by 40%! Let's surpass that number in 2016.
- Contact one of the board members listed below and offer to help on a committee, to be a steward or to participate in fieldwork on one of our parcels. Suggest a parcel of land that you would like to see preserved. Let our office know of anyone who might want to consider donating land to the FLT.

Your continued membership and generous support of FLT will help ensure the preservation of open space in Farmington — for once it is gone, it is gone forever!

~Richard Kramer



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The Farmington Land Trust
The Canal House
128 Garden Street
Farmington, CT 06032

Office Hours:
M, W, Th 10 a.m. -4 p.m.
Phone: 860-674-8545

FLT's 2016 Annual Meeting — Celebrating our 45th Anniversary!

This year's Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 21st at the Sarah Porter Memorial Hall, First Church of Christ, Congregational, at 75 Main Street, Farmington, from 5:30–8:00 p.m.

This year we honor **Sallie Norris** as our Citizen of the Year for her work on behalf of the Land Trust, her years of loyal board service, and for her generous support of our mission. We also recognize **Mike and Tina Delaney** as our Stewards of the Year. Both have been outstanding advocates for the preservation of land in our community, especially for the parcels they have carefully stewarded for so many years. Please join us in congratulating Sallie, Mike and Tina and thanking them for all they do for FLT!

Following the business meeting Henry Glick, doctoral student at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, will discuss the recent research project "*Mapping Tree Density at a Global Scale*" that estimated the global number of trees at approximately 3.04 trillion — an order of magnitude higher than previous estimates. The research provides important insights into the direct effect of human development on tree density and its positive effects on carbon storage.

To attend the Annual Meeting and dinner, RSVP by email to farmingtonland.trust@snet.net or by phone 860-674-8545, and let us know what dish you plan to bring.

Clatter Valley Road Parcel *(continued from page 1)*

much of the land surrounding it, found an arrowhead left behind by one of those early hunters. Former Connecticut State Archaeologist Nick Bellantoni estimated the projectile point to be 4,000 to 6,000 years old. He posits that ancient hunters kept watch over the valley from camps on the ridge, and scuttled down the pathway with bow and arrow and spears when they spied herds of potential prey.

Bobbie and Nick once explored the old road site and the two have assembled as accurate a picture of the site as may be possible. Bobbie grew up playing along the old roadway and remembers efforts to keep it open and clear of fallen trees. The forest then was filled with huge trees and had very little understory. Back in the day, animals pastured up on the slopes below Metacomet Ridge; old stone walls suggest their borders. Her family often picnicked and had bonfires there; she says during her mother Hope Emery's time, a pick-up truck could travel up Clatter Valley Road. One of Bobbie's great aunts planted pine trees along the roadway, and today a few vantage points along the ridge yield views of the crowns of those now tall trees. They rise from woods rich with bear, foxes, deer, coyotes and more.

Over the past few decades, Bobbie says the wooly adelgid disease damaged the local hemlocks badly enough to open the forest canopy, and invasive plants started moving in to colonize the forest floor. Parts of the parcel are now dense with brush and the decaying trunks of fallen trees, in some areas so thickly that it is now difficult to walk. So, she says retracing the exact course of Clatter Valley Road will take a little time.

Her grandparents bought the land from John Treadwell Norton, who built what is now known as the Barney House

on Mountain Spring Road. Norton was an engineer and surveyor during construction of the Erie Canal and had come to Farmington to help with the Farmington Canal. Bobbie remembers an area near the old roadway where a waterway was diverted between two stone walls. Her parents always called it the feeder canal, and Bobbie thinks there is some connection between the canal-builder Norton and the waterworks found on what had been his property, although she has never found any documentation to confirm it.

Norton was also one of Farmington's most active abolitionists, and was in part responsible for bringing the escaped slaves from the ship *Amistad* to Farmington. He was also active in the Underground Railroad and Bobbie likes to think he may have helped smuggle escaped slaves along Clatter Valley Road on their way to freedom.

Bobbie Emery will lead a walk through this historic property sometime later this season; see our website for more information.



Bobbie Emery, in front at right, led a small group on an exploration of the Clatter Valley Road Parcel.

FLT Supports Changes to State's Public Lands Conveyance Act

In our latest advocacy initiative, the Land Trust spoke in support of CT Senate Joint Resolution 5 *Proposing an Amendment to the State Constitution Concerning the Environment and Natural Resources of the State*. The State's Conveyance Act currently gives the General Assembly the ability to sell, trade or just give away public lands — including parts of state parks or forests — without a public hearing and with a simple majority vote.

The FLT Board of Directors sent a letter to Senator Kennedy and Representative

Albis of the Environment Committee supporting an amendment to the state constitution that would require a public hearing and a two-thirds majority vote before any public land or easement held for conservation purposes could be conveyed.

Writing on behalf of FLT, Doug Pelham, Treasurer and board member, said "Our Certificate of Incorporation and our Bylaws prevent us from disposing of land donated to us for conservation purposes in a manner contrary to the wishes of our donors. We believe the State of Connecticut should

impose similar limitations..."

Speaking later, Doug explained, "we just want the process to be open and thoughtful."

On February 19th the Environment Committee held a hearing on the proposal. Advocacy is an important part of our mission to preserve open space in Farmington for generations to come. In partnering with CFP, the Connecticut Land Conservation Council and the Land Trust Alliance, we can make our voice heard at the state and national level too.

Partnering with Town Government *(continued from page 1)*

expected within the next month or so.

The town's first major acquisitions of open land date back to the 1970s, when it purchased more than 1,000 acres in the Meadows to protect the Farmington River floodplain from development in the wake of the 1955 flood. Then the pace of acquisition slowed.

The town's Conservation Commission recognized that there was no local mechanism for acquiring and preserving open land, and that landowners who wanted to donate land to be preserved as open space had nowhere to turn. This inspired the Commission's Jack Emery to spearhead the founding of the Farmington Land Trust in 1971, marking the beginning of a more intentional path to preserving open space in Farmington.

In the late 1990s the old Unionville Water Company's reservoir property on Reservoir Road came onto the market. Thanks to earlier efforts by the Conservation Commission to identify desirable properties to be preserved as open space, the town recognized a good opportunity. Unfortunately neither the Land Trust nor the town had the means to purchase the land.

"It was sort of an eye-opener that property could become available quickly and the town would have to react

quickly, but there were no funds," said Liz Dolphin, a former assistant town planner who serves as a consultant for the town's land acquisitions. "The town had to have a referendum and go out and ask the voters: 'Are you willing to pay for this property?'"

As town officials, "we couldn't go out and promote it," Liz said, "but the Land Trust did a great job in doing that part."

The referendum passed, and in 1997 the reservoir property was acquired for \$875,000.

The purchase, and the efforts behind it, inspired a new way of thinking about the preservation of open space in Farmington. Richard Kramer, president of the Farmington Land Trust, said, "After all the work that was done, people sat down to say 'Hey, we've got to have a way to do this.'"

Members of the Land Trust and Conservation Commission met in 1998 and recommended formation of the town's Open Space Acquisition Committee. Its membership comprised one (later two) council members and two representatives from the Conservation Commission. In an unprecedented acknowledgment of the synergy the Land Trust brought to the town's efforts to acquire open space, it also gave two seats on the committee to the Land Trust, which are currently filled by Land Trust president Richard Kramer and board member Evan Cowles. (Later, a citizen representative was added to the roster.)

The New Committee Takes Action

One of the Committee's first acts, in 1998, was to compile a list of desirable properties. The result was formation of the "A List," which includes farms, parcels for preservation as open space or places for recreation, and properties with historic, scenic, or archaeological value. Later, the acquisition of properties for municipal use was added to its charge and its name changed to the Land Acquisition Committee.

Since then, the Committee has been instrumental in the acquisition of additional properties – such as Suburban Park, Diamond Glen, Saddleridge – and the purchase of all the town's major farms, which are leased back to farmers who continue working the land.

In a vote of confidence in the process, Farmington voters have continued to approve referendums to raise money earmarked for the acquisition of unspecified open space. In some cases, the Land Trust has been granted a conservation easement on town-owned properties designated as open space, affording an

additional layer of protection and stewardship for those spaces in perpetuity. And in many cases, state grants have contributed to the purchase of open lands.

The town now owns a little more than 3,000 acres, or 16% of Farmington's total area. The goal, ultimately, is to set aside 40% of the town's land as open space. With the Land Trust's nearly 300 acres, privately owned protected open space such as The Hill-Stead and Winding Trails, and state parcels – including 800-acre Shade Swamp Wildlife Sanctuary – the town is well on its way to reaching that goal. And the Land Trust continues to be an important partner in this progress.

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Open land appeals to hikers and outdoors people of all ages.

2016 Strolls on the Land

Saturday, April 23 — Birding at Cowles Parcel, 7:30 a.m.

Milan Bull, Senior Director of Science and Conservation at the CT Audubon Society, will lead a hunt for early migrating warblers, brown thrashers, and more than 20 other species he thinks will likely be spotted then, including raptors such as Cooper's hawks and red-tailed hawks. He will also talk about how climate change is affecting the bird population of Connecticut and what homeowners can do to make more bird-friendly yards. Meet at Cowles Parcel parking lot off Meadow Road. Bring binoculars.

Sunday, May 1 — Wildflowers at the Canal Aqueduct

The riverside Canal Aqueduct parcel in early May is prime time for woodland wildflowers, and a great opportunity for home gardeners to see these plants in the growing and habitat conditions in which they thrive. Steve Grant, the Hartford Courant's long time nature writer, will lead the way. For more about Steve, visit www.thestevegrantwebsite.com. Meet at the Canal Aqueduct parking area off Waterville Road (Rt. 10) just before the Avon town line.

Sunday, May 15 — Botanizing expedition at the Bushley Parcel

This more than 25-acre parcel is home to all kinds of microclimates, from open meadow to dense forest, and seasonal wetlands. It has never been inventoried for its lush and perhaps unusual plant life. Dedicated botanists and gardeners are invited to explore parts of the site with Robert Capers, staff botanist at UCONN's Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and the collections manager at UCONN's George Safford Torrey Herbarium. This walk will be limited to five participants. For more information or to reserve a spot, visit www.farmingtonlandtrust.org or call the Land Trust at 860-674-8545.

Sunday, June 5 — CT Walk Day/Shade Swamp Wildlife Sanctuary

There aren't too many places in Farmington that were proposed as a home for a giraffe, but the Shade Swamp Sanctuary, off Route 6 near New Britain Avenue, is full of surprises. The 800-acre state-owned preserve, which is now maintained by the Farmington Garden Club, was home to a small zoo for many years, and boasts a rustic shelter. Expect to see streams, wetlands, and a whole host of ferns. Naturalist Diane Tucker will lead the way. Meet at the Adirondack style pavilion off route 6 near the intersection with New Britain Ave.

Sunday, July 24 — Meet the Moths, Carey Parcel, 7 p.m.

Did you know that there are thousands more moths than butterflies? Or that they can come in colors like shocking pink, orange and green? See some fascinating "night butterflies" as we hike a path of trees sugared in naturalist Diane Tucker's special sauce that attracts hungry moths. We finish with a light display that draws moths and other nighttime insects sometimes from long distances. Moths are a much-maligned insect, far less troublesome and more valuable than is commonly thought.

August — Chimney Swifts at Farmington High School

Self-guided viewing of chimney swifts roosting at FHS before they begin their annual migration to the Amazon basin in South America. After a day of feasting on insects, the birds gather at dusk to take shelter in the high school's tall chimney. Scores of birds convene in swirling clusters to circle, dive, and swoop. Be at the site 10 minutes before sunset, and head to the center courtyard by the school's entrance and main chimney.

Sunday, Sept. 11 — Hike the Canal Aqueduct

Visit remnants and ruins from the old Farmington Canal, which crossed Connecticut top to bottom and served as a major artery of trade back in the early 19th century. The walk will be led by Farmington history aficionado Jay Bombara. Meet at parking area for Canal Aqueduct parcel, left side of Rt. 10 northbound, just past Aqueduct Lane.

Thursday, Sept. 22 — The Great Ditch — Land Trust Fund-raiser, Farmington Gardens, 6-9 p.m.

Enjoy cocktails and dinner, followed by a special presentation from Farmington's own Jay Bombara, a history enthusiast who will talk about the tragic history of the Farmington Canal. Considered the most ambitious canal project in New England, the canal took a decade to complete; but the coming of railroads put it out of business less than two decades later. Today much of the canal's old path has been converted to hiking trails. The FLT protects two locations along the canal, the Canal Aqueduct and the Feeder Canal. Invitations to follow. For information or volunteer opportunities contact the FLT office at 860-674-8545.

Sunday, Oct. 2 — Photo Workshop at the Cowles Parcel

3 p.m. to about 6 p.m. Steve Silk will help photographers refine their techniques to create more vivid, impactful nature photographs in a non-technical way. The workshop will emphasize how to "see the picture" rather than technical aspects of photography. Bring cameras and, if you have them, tripods. Meet at the Land Trust office, 128 Garden Street, Farmington. Limited to 12 participants.

Sunday, Oct. 16 — Birds of Prey: Raptors in Connecticut, Carey Parcel

Get to know six raptors native to Connecticut: Dakota, the red-tailed hawk; screech owls Herkimer and Jade; Forrest the barred owl; and a pair of kestrels, Fianna and Spirit. Mary-Beth Kaeser of Horizon Wings will show the birds and talk about how they hunt, how they eat, and how they live. Program birds are raptors who can no longer be released due to either injuries or prolonged captivity. Most came to the center as injured birds. You can learn a bit more about the birds online by visiting www.horizonwings.org. For more information, visit www.farmingtonlandtrust.org or call the land trust at 860-674-8545.

All strolls depart at 1 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

Questions and to register, contact the office at 860-674-8545 or by emailing: farmingtonland.trust@snet.net.

No pets are allowed on walks.

Surprising Pollinators

Sure, you may know all about the “superstar” pollinators – bees and butterflies – but what is really astonishing is that there are more than 200,000 other individual species that, with varying strategies, play a critical role in flower fertilization.

According to studies sponsored by the National Science Foundation’s Division of Environmental Biology, **pollinator diversity matters!** In ecosystems and crop fields that have more pollinator species, pollination and crop yields are higher than in systems with fewer pollinator species. But how broad a diversity are we talking about?

When flowering plants began to appear about 130 million years ago, flies and beetles were the first pollinators. Now their ranks are swelled by other insects such as bees, butterflies, wasps and ants, by animals like birds (especially hummingbirds), and by:

- Slugs and snails, though they may be considered pests who eat through your garden and landscape, are smearing and sharing pollen as they slide over flower clusters.
- Bats, with their diversely shaped muzzles and tongues adapted to variously shaped blossoms, are responsible for pollination for over 350 plant species in the Americas.
- Some 40 varieties of lizards, like skinks, move nectar and pollen from plant to plant on feet and face as they forage among the blossoms.
- There are more than 150,000 species of moths, so these insects boast far more diversity than do bees, who number some 20,000 species. But because moths work the night shift, they aren’t always credited with being pollinator VIPs.



The Polyphemus moth is one of 150,000 species of moth that serve as pollinators.

(Learn more about moths as FLT celebrates National Moth Week in July. Check our events listing on page 5)

What can you do to support pollinators?

- Plant native flowers that attract pollinators and help boost their populations. Check the U.S. Forest Service’s website for Attracting Pollinators Eastern US, a helpful guide.
- Use pesticides carefully and sparingly.
- Vote with your fork! Purchase food that is grown using responsible agricultural practices.

For more information on the National Science Foundation’s study about pollinators and the impact of their declining numbers, visit phys.org/news/2015-07.

~Deborah Carey

What’s the Buzz?

On Sunday afternoon, March 20th, the Farmington Community Center was a hive of activity as town residents gathered to welcome Tabitha Mansker, the 2016 American Honey Princess. Tabitha serves as a national spokesperson for the American Beekeeping Federation, a trade organization representing beekeepers and honey producers throughout the U.S. At the invitation of the Land Trust, Tabitha spoke to the crowd of 40 about the importance of honeybees to Connecticut agriculture and shared information about the many uses of honey – even its healing properties.

FLT member and apiarist Becky Jones helped to arrange the visit, and brought along her demonstration hive, to the delight of the children in attendance. “It’s wonderful to have the opportunity to spread the word about the importance of honeybee pollination in a community setting,” said Jones. “Kids just love seeing the Princess and hearing about the honey and the hives.”

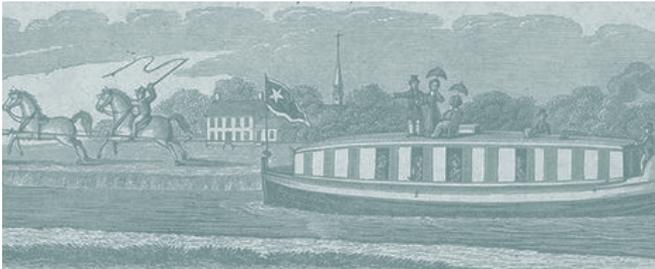
Prior to her selection as the American Honey Princess, Ms. Mansker served as the 2015 Texas Honey Queen. She is pursuing studies in business and marketing and hopes to become a teacher. When not studying or traveling, she stays busy helping to manage her family’s 16 bee hives.

As FLT celebrates the **Year of the Pollinator**, Tabitha’s visit was a fun way to remind people that the beekeeping industry touches the life of every person in the country. Honeybees are responsible for nearly one-third of our diet, pollinating a large majority of our fruits, vegetables, nuts, and legumes – at a value of nearly \$19 billion per year for U.S. agriculture.



Tabitha Mansker, the 2016 American Honey Princess

~Deborah Carey



SAVE THE DATE / 9.22.16

The Great Ditch: What Ever Happened to the Grand Old Farmington Canal?

**Join Us for our Annual Land Trust Fund-Raiser
Thursday, September 22nd, from 6-9 p.m.
at the Farmington Gardens**

Guests will enjoy cocktails and dinner followed by a special presentation from Farmington’s own Jay Bombara, JD, Sr. VP, General Counsel, Chief Compliance Officer — Horizon Technology Finance and history enthusiast. Jay will talk about the tragic history of the Farmington Canal, considered the most ambitious canal project in New England. It once extended 80 miles from New Haven north to Granby, where the route continued into Massachusetts as the Hampshire & Hampden Canal, to a final destination at the Connecticut River in Northampton. The FLT protects two locations along the canal, the Canal Aqueduct and the Feeder Canal.

Jay will also lead a hike through the Land Trust’s Canal Aqueduct Parcel on Sunday, Sept 11 at 1 p.m.

Invitations to follow. For information or volunteer opportunities contact the FLT office at 860-674-8545.

By the Light of The Snow Moon

Our first annual Snow Moon snowshoe/hike was enjoyed by about 20 hardy New Englanders! We gathered at the Cowles Parcel, where FLT board member Evan Cowles, whose grandparents donated the parcel to the Land Trust, regaled the group with stories detailing the site’s history all the way back to the Ice Age. As he spoke, the Snow Moon provided a gentle snowfall, and the perfect hush as we walked (not enough snow for snowshoeing) the Nancy Conklin Trail, located on the property. On their return, hikers gathered around a roaring fire to warm up, sharing stories and libations.

~Cate Grady Benson



New Board Member: Linda Powers Tomasso

Linda Powers Tomasso is an environmental policy researcher at the Center for Health and the Global Environment at Harvard University, where she also teaches in the Sustainability and Environmental Management Program.

Her master’s thesis research on the carbon storage capabilities of Connecticut’s forests has been published in the Journal of Environmental Protection, and featured in several webinars, including the UCONN’s Center for Land Use Education and Research, and the CT Governor’s Council on Climate Change. It marked the first time satellite mapping of land use change in Connecticut was used to understand the impact of forest loss on climate change in the state. She learned, for example, that the four percent of Connecticut’s forestlands that were razed and developed between 1985 and 2010, if left untouched, would have sequestered in that



time more carbon than the state’s total annual fossil fuel emissions. Ignoring woodland’s ability to sequester carbon has led climate policy-makers to undervalue the role forests play in reducing net carbon emissions and on climate dynamics in general.

Linda is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame, the Georgetown School of Foreign Service, and Harvard and began her career as a U.S. Foreign Service Officer with diplomatic posts abroad and in Washington. She has been a Trustee of the New

Britain Museum of American Art since 2000, served on the board of the Stanley Whitman House, and the Friendship Service Center in New Britain. She and her husband Michael have four college-age children, all graduates of Farmington High School. They have made Farmington their home for the past 20 years, relishing the scenic outdoor opportunities this town provides.



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Join us for our 45th Anniversary Annual Meeting and Dinner

Thursday, April 21 5:30-8:00 p.m.

Sarah Porter Memorial Hall
First Church of Christ Congregational
75 Main Street, Farmington

See page 2 for details.

Bruce Edgren Named New Executive Director for FLT

Please welcome Bruce Edgren as the Land Trust's new Executive Director! Bruce, who joined the FLT Board of Directors in December, takes on this new role with a goal of making the Land Trust a larger, more effective force in its mission to "protect open space in perpetuity for the benefit of current and future generations."

"I look forward to working with this incredible board," Bruce said.



"And I thank Deborah for her help in assuring a seamless transition for our members and constituents."

Bruce was the founding Chair of Hartford's University of Saint Joseph School of Pharmacy Practice and Administration, from 2009 until retiring in 2015. He has held positions in Clinical and Product Development at several major pharmaceutical enterprises and served as a consultant on national health care policy initiatives in 2012-13 as a Fellow with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the American Political Science Association in Washington, DC. Today Bruce continues in his consultative role as the principal and founder of Maple and Main Consulting, LLC of Farmington.

He and wife Tamra Lair, and their daughter Hanna, live on Main Street in Farmington.

Deborah Carey Ends Tenure as Interim Executive Director

Deborah Carey, our Interim Executive Director since April 1, 2015, will leave us after the 2016 Annual Meeting. During her tenure, Deborah was responsible for creating a road map for our records management and for securing a grant from Land Trust Alliance that covered the cost of the organization and digitization of FLT's property files and governance records. That data is now backed up in cloud storage. She focused on organizational effectiveness, helping us build a more robust governance committee structure, and kept the office running.

"It's been lots of fun," Deborah said. "I'll miss the energy of the hardworking FLT board and volunteers, but I'm looking forward to getting back to my own volunteer work in hospice and memory care — and as vice president of the Farmington Valley Chorale."

We'll miss her eye for detail and her talent for simplifying complex ideas.

