

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



We know of no conserved land that any community has ever regretted having.

Acquisition Update by Evan Cowles, Board VP and Acquisitions Chair

The Farmington Land Trust has acquired two significant pieces of open space this fall in keeping with our mission statement: *The Farmington Land Trust protects open space in perpetuity for the benefit of current and future generations through acquisition, stewardship, education, and advocacy.* Acquisition has a high priority for our board, a process that takes patience and diligence.

Our goal is to protect land and water resources for their natural habitat value, adding to the quality of life for all. Our efforts become increasingly important in the face of urban sprawl and development, competition for limited natural resources, and climate change. We preserve some of Farmington's most beautiful woodlands and meadows, watercourses, wetlands, riparian habitat, and wildlife corridors.

The FLT has acquired 70 pieces of property over more than fifty years. Some of our parcels are small or in the middle of housing developments, while others are larger, providing public access and protecting valuable wildlife habitat. We have wildlife preserve land where public access is prohibited to protect the land's specific environmental assets. When we consider acquiring land, we look for parcels that are adjacent to land we already are conserving, or land that has particular conservation value as open space.

Our properties have come to us primarily from donations. In most cases, a gift of land has both the benefit of preservation of open space and a variety of financial pluses to the donor. These benefits include avoidance of capital gains taxes and realtor fees and receiving a full federal and state tax deduction for the appraised market value of the property. The difference to our donors between selling a parcel vs donating it usually ends up being quite small.

By giving a parcel of land to the FLT, you ensure that it will join over 300 acres of Land Trust land in town. We keep the land as open space in perpetuity – right, that means forever.

Two Farmington Properties Donated to the FLT!

Our Acquisitions Committee has been hard at work. One of the core tenets of the FLT is the acquisition of land to preserve as open space in perpetuity. We are excited to announce the acquisition of 8234 Farmington Avenue. This parcel, encompassing 1.84 acres, is located on the main corridor into town when exiting off I-84. The property was generously donated by Stephen and Liz Kendrick in July 2024. Prior to the Kendricks acquiring the property in 2021, the previous owner had listed the lot for sale as an approved building lot, with access from scenic Mountain Spring Road. Thanks to Stephen and Liz's generosity, no additional development will occur on this site, preserving the wooded land forever.

Our second acquisition is a 4.43-acre parcel of wooded land located at 8535 Mountain Spring Road. This latest addition, generously donated by David Savin, reinforces our commitment to preserving the natural beauty and open spaces that define our community. We are immensely grateful to the Kendricks and the Savins for entrusting us with the preservation and protection of this beautiful land.



Evan Cowles, Cate Grady-Benson, David Morrisey, Liz Kendrick, Stephen Kendrick, and Francie Brown Holmes at the closing of the Kendrick property acquisition

(continued on page 2)

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Celebrate the Land We Cherish

Happy Valentine's Greeting to you and yours. Happy Valentine's to the land we love. The Farmington Land Trust is honored to protect and preserve over 300 acres of open space in Farmington and Unionville. Thank you to all who support and believe in our dedication to the land, to conservation and to the environment. Along with acquisition, education, and advocacy, stewardship remains central to our mission and is more important now as we face the effects of climate change.

With an eye on this, the Board agreed to place environmental education as a priority. Here are some of our achievements towards this goal.

- December 2023, we moved into the renovated Wilcox-Bushley farmhouse thanks to the Bushley sisters' generous gift. Our new headquarters and Environmental Education Center is a masterpiece. Come visit us!
- Spring 2024, we hosted our first pollinator program at the Wilcox-Bushley Homestead, hosting over 350 second graders from the Farmington Public Schools for an immersive field trip focused on the critical role of pollinators and the importance of stewarding the land. After much planning, our Executive Director, Cate Grady-Benson, Tara Vasquez, Farmington Elementary Science Curriculum Specialist, and extraordinary volunteers worked to create this outdoor classroom. We are confident this will be an annual program inspiring the naturalist in younger generations. One second grader commented, "I've never walked in the woods before! I can't wait to come back!"
- Summer 2024, we hired an Education Coordinator, Sally Chaves, to fulfill our mission of environmental education. We offer monthly programs curated by our volunteer Education Committee, chaired by



Board Member, Liz Bennett. Last year's theme was "The Effects of Light Pollution", this year's is "Taking action in your own space".

As a non-profit organization we rely on membership dues, our annual legacy fundraiser, generous donations from community members, and grants to fulfill our mission. This year was an exceptional year in grant donations and has helped us thrive.

• Working with our State Representative, Mike Demicco, Cate Grady-Benson applied for a grant from the State for CT Bond Fund to help us create the WBH Environmental Education Center. After much diligence and perseverance, the FLT was awarded \$250,000.

- We received a generous grant of \$20,000 from the Richard P. Garmany Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. This funding will be utilized for our Accessible Fishing Pier project in Unionville, focusing on the removal of the existing pier, restoration of the riverbank, and creation of an accessible viewing platform.

We have flourished over the years becoming increasingly known as a vital conservation organization dedicated to the environment. This is largely to do with our Executive Director Cate Grady-Benson at the helm. She brings a creative dynamic vision to the FLT and has propelled us forward in many directions — strengthening our organization's foundation. Cate will be stepping down from her position as ED at the end of June. She is committed to chairing the Fishing Pier Remediation Project in Unionville through its completion. We will greatly miss Cate and her skilled leadership. We are so fortunate she will stay involved in many ways.

A heart-felt Thank You.
Francie Brown Holmes, President

Acquisitions *(continued from page 1)*

We have a team of volunteer stewards who keep watch over all our parcels. We monitor the land for invasive species and remove what we can. We protect the land from encroachment from neighbors: we have strong legal tools to use when others do not respect the natural state of our conserved open space. We maintain trails, and identification signage.

In addition to acquiring land directly, we also have two seats on the Town of Farmington Land Acquisition Committee, which purchases land for open space and other town purposes. This effort has been well supported by the voters, with full funding for land acquisition. The Town has also been very successful in getting state grants for these open space acquisitions through the state's Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program.

The Farmington Land Trust continues to push hard to conserve our town's natural resources. "30 by 30" is a global initiative to protect 30% of the earth's land and oceans by 2030. We're proud that Farmington has reached that goal; but we need to push even harder to exceed it to compensate for those communities that can't, and because we know of no conserved land that any community has ever regretted having.

Please let us know if you have any questions about the benefits of donating land to be protected in perpetuity, and we'd be happy to talk with you.

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Evan Cowles, *Vice President*

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Meghan Naujoks,
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Sally Chaves,
Education Coordinator

Cate Grady-Benson,
Newsletter Editor

Olivia Lawrence,
Newsletter Editor

Jane Guay, *Contributor*

Design: John Johnson Art Direction

The Farmington Land Trust

119 Coppermine Rd.
Unionville, CT 06085

office@farmingtonlandtrust.org

farmingtonlandtrust.org

Office Hours MWF 9 a.m.–12 p.m.
Phone: 860.674.8545



Light Pollution, Effects on Habitat and Humanity

by Craig Repasz, Lights Out Connecticut Chair & Co-founder

As a kid I had a special place that overlooked the hills and the river valley of my hometown. I would lie in the grass and watch the clouds float across the sky or watch a spittle bug froth up a section of stem on a Queen Anne's lace or watch the field crickets. I wondered about the boundaries of this little plot. How far into the earth did it go? To the earth's core? How far up did it go? Would it include the clouds, the sun, and the birds flying over? What about at night? Would the stars and planets wheeling overhead be included? What about the moths and the bats? I had a big imagination.

I volunteer on my local land trust properties trying to build and maintain native plantings and habitat. We select our plantings to build a natural sustainable habitat that will strengthen the ecosystems around us. The term is "rewilding" and brings us away from the manipulated environment. Most of the visitors to these properties come during the day and soak in the blooms, the breezes, the birds, and the butterflies, a diurnal experience. I find myself pondering questions similar to those I posed as a kid on the sunny hillside. Do we need to just focus on what happens during the day or should we be concerned about the night too? Looking through the lens of darkness, our properties are teeming with nightlife, roaming foxes and bobcats, moths, bats and nighttime blooming flowers. The habitats on our land trust properties have both a space and time aspect. Let's not overlook these special places at night.

The dark is habitat, too, and we are losing our nights at an alarming rate due to light pollution. According to a Dark Sky International report in 2016 more than 80 percent of the world's population lives under light-polluted skies. Light pollution is human-made alteration of outdoor light levels that occur naturally. The United States and Europe have it even worse, with 99 percent of their denizens experiencing skyglow at night. Satellite pictures of the earth show that nighttime darkness does not exist in most of Connecticut. A Citizen Science project from the National Science Foundation published in 2023 showed that the sky brightness increased by 7- 10% per year (and 9.6% on average) over a 12-year period. This increasing light pollution has a profound impact on wildlife, and human health and safety.

Most organisms, including mammals, have developed an endogenous circadian timing system under the earth's natural 24 hour rhythm that is adapted to the regular alternation of light and dark phases. Thus, it seems likely that changing these conditions will impact physiology. Life on earth has evolved to depend on the dark for important life cycles.

Our land trust properties can range in size from one hundred acres to just a fraction of an acre. These spaces can serve as crucial habitats for migrating birds and insects. Light pollution can disrupt the movements of

nocturnal and diurnal animal migrants by causing disorientation, collisions with structures, and loss of aerial connectivity to the night sky. Further, sky glow due to light pollution leads to use of unfavorable migration stopover sites and altered life cycles.

Moths are one group of nocturnal insects that are in significant decline. Their disappearance is problematic because they play a key role in food webs and in the pollination of plants. A new study provides experimental evidence for the fragmentation of landscapes by streetlights and demonstrates that light pollution affects movement patterns of moths beyond what was previously assumed, potentially affecting their reproductive success and hampering a vital ecosystem service. These behavioral changes prevent moths from feeding and breeding such that entire generations could be lost. Scientists have warned about an insect Armageddon.






The firefly, an icon of our summer nights, is disappearing from our yards and fields due to a combination of light pollution, pesticides and habitat loss. Light pollution disrupts the mating behavior of these insects, not only by impairing the ability to discern the darkness needed for producing light displays to attract a mate, but also the ability of a potential mate to perceive these signals.

How to Bring Back the Dark

The solution to bring back the dark can be simple: shut off the lights. If you need light, put it only where it is needed. Keep the brightness as low as possible. Put lights on timers and motion sensors. And use amber-colored lights. Support organizations like Dark Sky International <https://darksky.org/> and Lights Out Connecticut <https://www.lightsoutct.org/>. Encourage your town to adopt the Model Outdoor Lighting Regulations: www.lightsoutct.org/model-municipal-lighting-policy-for-connecticut. Talk to your friends and neighbors. Many people still regard excessive light as necessary, rather than as pollution.

Five Lighting Principles for Responsible Outdoor Lighting



- Responsible outdoor lighting is
- 1 Useful**
Use light only if it is needed
All light should have a clear purpose. Consider how the use of light will impact the area, including wildlife and their habitats. 
 - 2 Targeted**
Direct light so it falls only where it is needed
Use shielding and careful aiming to target the direction of the light beam so that it points downward and does not spill beyond where it is needed. 
 - 3 Low Level**
Light should be no brighter than necessary
Use the lowest light level required. Be mindful of surface conditions, as some surfaces may reflect more light into the night sky than intended. 
 - 4 Controlled**
Use light only when it is needed
Use controls such as timers or motion detectors to ensure that light is available when it is needed, dimmed when possible, and turned off when not needed. 
 - 5 Warm-colored**
Use warmer color lights where possible
Limit the amount of shorter wavelength (blue-violet) light to the least amount needed. 

from <https://darksky.org/resources/guides-and-how-tos/lighting-principles/>

A Conversation with Board Member Board Member Vijaya Gorty

What led to your passion for the environment and land preservation in Farmington?

Growing up in a small town surrounded by abundant natural resources, including the privilege of spending time on my grandparents' farm, instilled in me a deep appreciation for the environment. These experiences fostered a profound connection to nature and a respect for the delicate balance of our ecosystems. However, witnessing the gradual encroachment of concrete development upon our town, replacing cherished natural spaces and impacting the health and well-being of my community, deeply troubled me. This firsthand experience ignited a desire to actively contribute to environmental preservation efforts within my own surroundings.

Ultimately, my passion for environmental and land preservation in Farmington stems from a profound appreciation for the natural world, a concern for the well-being of my community, and the simple joy I find in immersing myself in nature.



What intrigues you about the Farmington Land Trust?

The Farmington Land Trust intrigues me deeply. I'm particularly drawn to the organization's collaborative culture and the evident passion and dedication of its Board, donors, and members. Witnessing the community come together to protect open space in these challenging times is truly inspiring. The love and commitment demonstrated by everyone involved is incredibly heartwarming and a testament to the importance of land conservation in Farmington.

What do you do in your spare time when not focusing on FLT?

In addition to my role as a Product Management professional at Elevance Health, I enjoy pursuing my passion for cricket. I actively promote the sport in our area through Premier Cricket Academy LLC. I also dedicate my time to volunteering with Agaram Tamil Padasalai, a local Tamil heritage language school. These enriching experiences, alongside my service on the FLT Board, bring me immense joy and fulfillment."

Meet Board Member CJ!

CJ Calcinari began his passion for the Farmington Land Trust (FLT) many years ago after meeting Executive Director, Cate Grady-Benson. Their relationship started during an invasives removal volunteer opportunity. CJ offered to help the FLT, specifically in marketing/communications. At that time the organization needed someone to take on communications to tell our story and share our successes. He soon was asked to join the Board of Directors. Throughout the past few years, CJ has participated in several roles, ranging from the Acquisitions Committee member to the Chair of the Communications Committee.

His unique interest in the FLT comes from an environmental perspective, as the non-profit organization continues the fight for preservation of land.

"The Farmington Land Trust prides itself on the fact that we not only preserve the land from development in perpetuity, but we also ensure the land is taken care of from an environmental standpoint." Calcinari stated. This is a collaborative effort by the Board members and staff, community volunteers and the generous donors to the FLT, many of whom attended the *Preserving Our Legacy Fundraiser* Starry Night Gala at the Farmington Polo Club on November 8. At this event, along with many others, CJ captures picture-perfect moments, CJ uses to capture picture-perfect moments for the organization to share with the public.

Outside of his personal dedication to the FLT, he takes time filming videos and taking photos. He also uses his passions when working for the Marketing/Communications team of a corporation in the community.

The Farmington Land Trust continues to foster a welcoming environment for members on and off the Board, while also fostering the interests that are needed for non-profit organizations, such as CJ's continued interest in communications.



Starry Night Gala, annual Preserving Our Legacy fundraiser, raises over \$60,000!

by Jane Guay

On Friday, November 8, the Farmington Land Trust (FLT) hosted the Starry Night Gala, also known as the annual *Preserve Our Legacy Fundraiser*, at the Farmington Polo Club. The formal event hosted over 150 conservation-minded guests. The night started off with delicious appetizers, music and dancing with a DJ, and an ongoing gallery slideshow displaying several events throughout the year. This includes the Solar Eclipse Party, Yoga, the Membership Thank You Event, and general volunteering throughout the year.

Several generous sponsors helped to make the event a success, including Ion Bank, Northwest Bank, Thomaston Savings Bank, Connecticut Wealth Management LLC, Bouvier Insurance, the Hometown Foundation, and The Walker Group. Notably, The Walker Group was the lead sponsor contributing \$5,000.

The funds raised will go towards operating expenses, as well as for environmental and conservation education. The “Raise the Paddle” raised over \$30,000 specifically for the education programs the FLT hosts. Sally Chaves, the Education Coordinator, spoke about how important providing environmental education is for the FLT, whether it be through field trips or hands-on experiences. “Being able to have this Land Trust value education is very unique and very special.” Chaves stated. Chaves developed a relationship with the FLT several years ago while teaching at West District Elementary School in Farmington. She formed a relationship with Executive Director,



Cate Grady-Benson, and was able to bring her kindergarten classes for outdoor education at the Wilcox-Bushley Homestead. For the future generations to be able to experience the environment hands-on is especially important for Chaves.

The relationships formed for a common cause are a special part of the FLT. Francie Brown Holmes, President of the Board, spoke a lot about the community within that makes the event so impactful. She noted how originally getting connected through friendships allowed her to see the collective dedication to the mission of land preservation in Farmington. The FLT community has grown over the years through these relationships and the continued fight for open space.

State of Connecticut Awards \$.25 Million Grant for FLT Education Center

Francie Brown Holmes, CJ Calcinari, Jim Calciano, Cate Grady-Benson, Governor Lamont, Representative Mike Demicco, Meghan Naujoks and Steve Nelson at the Capitol celebrating the \$250,000 Bond allocation for the Wilcox-Bushley Homestead Environmental Education Center from the State of Connecticut Bond Commission



From Executive Director Cate Grady-Benson

I have had the privilege of acting as the Executive Director for the Farmington Land Trust for the past three and a half years. I was also fortunate to serve on the Board of Directors for six years as Chair of Development. I have worked alongside so many kind, smart, generous and environmentally conscious community members. Our shared passion for preservation of open space and environmental education has allowed us to create our headquarters, the Wilcox-Bushley Environmental Education Center, where we provide education about the effects of climate change, direct stewardship for our 70 properties and plan for our future in a changing world. I am confident we are in a great position to take on the challenges ahead. I have decided to step down as the ED at the end of June 2025 to pursue other projects. I will continue to work with the FLT to support the vital mission near and dear to my heart.

Change is one of the few constants in life, a truth that resonates deeply in the context of our planet's climate and land stewardship. Climate change challenges us to reconsider our relationship with the environment. The Land Trust's role is vital for adaptation and mitigation. We are positioned to protect critical ecosystems, preserve biodiversity, and support sustainable land use practices that contribute to our climate resiliency. Over the past several years we have seen rising temperatures, and more frequent extreme events like droughts, floods, and wildfires. These changes directly impact our ecosystems, threatening wildlife habitats, plant life, food production, and our communities. Our Land Trust plays a critical role in climate resilience by acquiring, stewarding, and protecting land in ways that address these environmental challenges.

Ways the FLT Contributes to Climate Resiliency:

> **Provide Carbon Sequestration Resources:** Forests, wetlands, and grasslands are vital carbon sinks that help mitigate the effects of



climate change. We conserve these landscapes, ensuring they continue to store carbon and regulate local climates.

> **Provide Habitat for Wildlife:** Climate change forces species to migrate as they seek suitable habitats. We create wildlife corridors and interconnect protected areas that allow for these movements, increasing the likelihood of species survival.

> **Provide Ecosystem Protection:** Healthy ecosystems provide essential services such as water filtration, flood mitigation, and soil stabilization. We safeguard these services by protecting watersheds and floodplains and managing land use to reduce erosion and pollution.

> **Engage With Local Communities:** Climate resilience takes a village. Public education, volunteer programs, and partnerships with local groups help build a shared stewardship.

As the climate continues to change, we must remain proactive, and collaborative. Partnerships with the town of Farmington, academic institutions, local, state and national environmental organizations and private landowners remain essential to continuing our mission. I am committed to working with the FLT to help ensure we remain a positive force for change.

Your Membership Matters!

Your membership support has the direct effect to:

- Preserve and protect over 300 acres of open space in Farmington
- Provide a natural laboratory on our parcels for environmental science students for CCSU, Miss Porters, and Farmington Public Schools
- Provide stewardship of 70 properties
- Offer educational and recreational programs each month: expert panel discussions, pollinator field trips for second graders, raptor demonstration, yoga, and guided hikes on land trust parcels
- Keep you informed of land conservation successes and challenges through our newsletters and communications

The Farmington Land Trust can offer these activities and programs thanks to membership contributions from generous supporters. These donations also fund stewardship of our properties, our newsletter, advocacy for open space, and our office. The FLT is a not-for-profit 501c (3) organization.

All members will receive our newsletter, an invitation to our Annual Meeting with a special guest speaker and access to our monthly educational programs.

Membership Levels:

Advocate: \$25	Forester: \$500
Household: \$75	Protector: \$1,000
Sustainer: \$125	Defender: \$2,500
Naturalist: \$250	Guardian: \$5,000



Membership is based on the calendar year. Donations are tax deductible to the extent of the law.

All membership donations are very much appreciated!

Scan QR code at left or visit farmingtonlandtrust.org to join or renew for 2025!

Farmington Land Trust Hosts Membership Thank You Event

by Jane Guay

Throughout the afternoon of Sept. 22, 2024, Farmington Land Trust hosted its first annual membership ice cream social to show gratitude towards the loyal 342 members of the beloved non-profit.

There were also engaging activities with the community such as nature walks, scavenger hunts, house tours, and information about the non-profit's new and upcoming solar project. These activities as well as others throughout the year are all used to allow for more engagement with members of the FLT and to encourage community passion to thrive.

The 40 attendees consisted of a wide range of ages, allowing for multiple generations to get a glimpse of the FLT's mission and purpose. Thus, multiple generations were provided with both child-friendly and mature activities to appeal to all.

While members of the non-profit and those on the Board of Trustees may have different reasons for their affiliation with FLT, both groups share a strong passion for saving the environment and preserving the natural land of Farmington.

Liz Bennett, secretary for the board of the FLT since 2021, shared how she is able to express her passion for the environment through her work with the non-profit. "[I'm] passionate about saving Farmington's open spaces from being developed," Bennett said. Like many other members of the FLT, Bennett strives to save Farmington's habitat and natural spaces. In just three years, her passion for these goals grew into leadership, from member to active participation on the Executive Committee.

Ashley Raphael, a member of the board since 2018, also shares a similar passion, one that emerges whilst being a part of a non-profit with a strong purpose. She said her continued interest comes from, "the people that are here with me". While the FLT shoots for the purpose of saving the Farmington environment, the community grown within is just as important in the journey along the way. That community, it is hoped, will be sustained by "what we're going to give our future generations", Raphael said.

Not only was the membership event an example of something fun to do on a Sunday afternoon, but a way to show gratitude towards the loyal and passionate members of the FLT. Events like these allow the community to grow within, all while continuing to advocate for the natural environment of Farmington, Connecticut.

Jane Guay is a senior student at Farmington High School who is working with FLT for her Capstone project.



Photo: Ashley Raphael

The Farmington Land Trust Hires Education Coordinator

As we were renovating the Wilcox-Bushley Homestead to create an environmental education center and our headquarters we saw the need for additional help in expanding our educational offerings. Education is one of the tenets of our mission. After receiving an anonymous donation specifically for hiring an educator we were fortunate to hire Sally Chaves.



Sally was an elementary school educator for 35 years in the public schools, most recently West District School. She is also a Certified Outdoor Educator, Unionville resident and an amazing person! She is working part-time organizing our programming and creating some new and exciting offerings. We are so fortunate to have many conservation-minded supporters of the FLT.

Volunteer Spotlight by Cate Grady-Benson

I met Mike Tucci and his dog Brio while walking my dog Bailey on the Cowles property one sunny day. This chance meeting and subsequent conversation about his desire to serve his new community opened the door to ask him to volunteer for the Farmington Land Trust. Since his move to Farmington with his wife, Dr. Melissa Cranford, Mike has joined the Farmington Fire Department, serves as an Alternate Commissioner for Town Planning and Zoning and worked as Deputy Treasurer for the Mike Demicco 2024 campaign. He wasn't kidding about helping the community!



Since that conversation, Mike has taught yoga at the Pollinator Field Trip, hauled lumber, removed invasives and agreed to chair the Stewardship Committee of the FLT. We are so grateful for all he does. Our volunteers are the lifeblood of the organization!



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Instagram!**

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS!

Unleash Your Garden's Power: Ecological Gardening and Companion Planting Webinar

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19 • 7PM In-person at the Wilcox-Bushley Homestead, 119 Coppermine Rd., Unionville or Online via Zoom

Join renowned garden expert Charlie Nardozi and discover the secrets to:

- Supercharged Soil: Learn how to create a thriving garden ecosystem.
- Nature's Guardians: Attract beneficial insects to protect your plants.
- Plant Powerhouse: Maximize your harvest with strategic companion planting.

FLT Annual Meeting And Potluck

THURSDAY, APRIL 24 • 5PM Winding Trails, Garmany Hall
50 Winding Trails Dr., Farmington

With special guest speaker Louise Washer, co-founder and board member of the Pollinator Pathway, Organizer of Connecticut Pesticide Reform (CPR), and President of the Norwalk River Watershed Assoc.

Yoga on the Land

SUNDAYS, JUNE THROUGH SEPTEMBER 21 • 9AM

Mountain Spring Nature Trail • 16 Mountain Spring Rd., Farmington

Join us for a one-hour outdoor yoga class with Sarah Wadsworth, a skilled instructor from West Hartford Yoga. Sarah's class is designed for all levels. Experience the transformative power of yoga.

Birds of Prey at the Hill-Stead Museum

SATURDAY, JUNE 14 • 10AM

Come experience an unforgettable day, on the scenic lawn of Hill-Stead Museum, where you'll have an opportunity to meet majestic birds of prey, lovingly cared for by volunteers from A Place Called Hope in Killingworth. Purchase tickets online at www.hillstead.org

Citizen Science Bee Count On The Cowles Parcel

SATURDAY, JULY 12 • 9AM 8495 Meadow Rd., Farmington

Unleash your inner scientist! Discover the fascinating world of bees and contribute to real research. Join our Citizen Science Bee Count and capture photos of bees in your neighborhood. Snap a pic, save a bee!

Summer Night "Symphony" Cricket Radio/Tuning into Night-singing Insects

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27 • 7PM

Wilcox-Bushley Homestead • 119 Coppermine Rd., Unionville

Join renowned naturalist John Himmelman for a summer evening of insect soundscapes. Discover the hidden world of night-singing insects as you learn about their fascinating behaviors and ecological significance.

Autumn's Beauty: Nature-Friendly Landscaping

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 • 7PM

Wilcox-Bushley Homestead • 119 Coppermine Rd., Unionville

Leave the leaves and save the bees! Fallen leaves, decaying logs, and gone-by flowers are more than just "mess"—these leftovers nurture wildlife like birds, pollinators, fireflies and turtles. Join Kathy Connolly, landscape designer and expert in earth-friendly design, for a workshop on creating sustainable, beautiful landscapes that support local wildlife.

Land Trust Hiking Swap

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25 • 9:30AM

Simsbury Land Trust Trailhead, 60 Westledge Road

Join us for our first-ever Hiking Swap in partnership with the Simsbury Land Trust. Meet us at the trailhead located at 60 Westledge Road in Simsbury for a challenging and rewarding six-mile hike. This hike is best suited for ages 12 and up, and not recommended for young children.

Opt-Outside Hikes (two options)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28 • 11AM

West District Nature Preserve or Mountain Spring Nature Trail

Join us on Black Friday for an outdoor experience at the Wilcox-Bushley Homestead, where you'll have the opportunity to explore the West District Nature Preserve. Enjoy a one-mile hike. Looking for a more challenging adventure, hike the Mountain Spring Nature Trail. This trail offers a more strenuous experience with rewarding views.

Boxing Day Bird Count with Naturalist Diane Tucker

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26 • 8AM. (RAIN DATE JANUARY 1, 2026)

Wilcox-Bushley Homestead • 119 Coppermine Rd., Unionville

Join us for our Annual Birding Event, led by naturalist Diane Tucker. Explore the beautiful West District Nature Preserve. An opportunity to observe and identify various bird species in their natural habitat, all while enjoying the beauty of winter in Connecticut.

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