



Photo credit: Tina Delaney

The President's Message

Forty-three years ago the Land Trust was created. The founders were possessed with an instinct for preserving the priceless and irreplaceable natural beauty, which enhances life in Farmington. Today, we are the beneficiaries of their foresight. Ours was one of the earliest land trusts organized in Connecticut. Its creation coincided with the formation of the Department of Environmental Protection, in 1971, headed by Dan Lufkin for the State of Connecticut

This year much is going on at the Land Trust, from a CCSU beetle study at the Carey, to working with the Student Council at the East Farms School to create a field guide for the school's East Farms Pond; however, I will comment on only two. Before I do, I would like to thank, once more, Mary Bushley and Ruth Bushley Childs for their generous gift last year of the Bushley home, which now reconnects the house with the adjoining 24 acre parcel, known as "West District", which they donated in 1995.

This fall the Land Trust will celebrate "Preserving our Legacy" with a dinner and fund-raiser that is being organized by Cate Brady-Benson, chair, Sallie Norris and others. Please contact Cate or Sallie if you would like to be a part of the coordination and planning for the

event, and do attend, it is sure to be fun and an evening to remember.

Finally, the Land Trust has started Phase-One of a record organization project. Peter Bartucca will lead the effort and be assisted by Paula Ray along with many other volunteers. How can you help? If you have FLT documents, old news-letters, pictures or other material, please contact the office. We will scan and return the documents or, if you would be so generous, they will be catalogued and included in the archive that is being created.

- Richard Kramer



We welcome our new Director, Nina Mayhall Hayes. A native of Alabama, Nina holds a Bachelor of Music and a Masters of Music from the University of Alabama. She has resided in Farmington for 24 years during which time she has been actively involved in the community, serving on the FVGLA Board, the Stanley Whitman Board, the St. James Episcopal Church vestry, and as president of the Farmington Garden Club. She was the first president of the Hill-Stead Museum's volunteer organization, the Hill-Steaders and was the founder of the annual Farmington Clean-Up initiative. Currently, Nina is the Colonial Dames Trustee of the Hill-Stead Museum.

CCSU Biology Students on the Land!



Students from Central Connecticut State University took to the woods this past fall to survey for mammals at the West District Preserve. The group of graduate and undergraduate students gained experience using a variety of techniques to find out what species of mammals are using the property.



Over many repeated visits, groups of three would walk along one of nine mapped out routes, called transects, to catalogue and collect signs of mammals. Most often scat was identified to the species, but tracks and hair were also found.

Triggered cameras were set up for several weeks in different locations of the property to get photographs of nocturnal animals. Additionally, four late-night “spotlighting” surveys were completed to detect animals moving about after dark.

Deer were the most commonly identified species, but many others included coyote, black bear, and even flying squirrel were identified. A formal presentation of the group’s findings is expected to take place in late spring. All of the students involved in the project would like to thank FLT for the opportunity to learn valuable skills in the field.

- Kyle Testerman, CCSU Graduate Student



A team of upper class CCSU ecology students gave an informal presentation at the Land Trust’s Annual Meeting and Dinner. The presentation summarized ecological field studies they performed at the Carey and Barney parcels. The Land Trust is extremely appreciative to the Farmington Chapter of UNICO for its continued support of research projects performed on Land Trust parcels.

- David DeNuccio

43rd Annual Meeting Highlights!

Citizen of the Year Awards 2014 Presented to Mary Bushley and Ruth Bushley Childs

The Land Trust is fortunate to have donors such as Ruth Bushley Childs and Mary Bushley. Nineteen years ago, the sisters donated the remaining land of their family farm, a 23.6 acre parcel which became the West District Preserve. This parcel is one of the most valuable and important holdings of the Land Trust, because of its biological diversity and strategic location abutting Town open space. Now the sisters have again shown their generosity and foresight by donating the remaining one acre parcel upon which stands the family farmhouse, with the vision of having this become the future home offices of the Land Trust.



Mary and Ruth epitomize the type of donors that the Land Trust thrives on. They could have sold the land that they donated and become wealthy women. However, it was more important to them to leave a legacy for the citizens of Farmington

and help to preserve the farming character of our town. Their latest donation benefits the Land Trust by allowing us to establish offices on one of the parcels we own, thereby fulfilling a key piece of our recently completed strategic plan.



Once renovated, the house will be known as the Wilcox-Bushley Conservation Center. Our goal is to modernize the house to meet our current and future needs, while at the same time preserving the

character of the house as a showcase for how life was lived back when family farms dominated the Town's landscape. We thank and applaud the Bushley sisters, and are deeply grateful for their generosity.
- Doug Pelham

Stewards of the Year 2014

Our award this year is being awarded to Dr. Henry and Heidi Maresh. They have been stewards of the Pond Lot and Boulder Brook parcels since before the steward program was introduced in the early nineties. Each of the parcels abuts their own property on Mountain Spring Rd. They have been extremely active in the management of these parcels including clean up after storms and the everyday maintenance. They have both been strong supporters of the Land Trust and Heidi has served on the board for about 12 years; the chair of the Land Trust Acquisition Committee as well as the FLT member of the Farmington Town Acquisition Committee. They have been a conduit of historical knowledge of the Land Trust and that is important to any volunteer board that is in constant change like ours.



Join Us!
**'Preserving
our
Legacy'**



Date: Thursday November 6th, 2014

Time: 6:00-9:00 pm

Place: Farmington Country Club

Celebrating and honoring our founder Jack Emery, and our first Executive Director Dick Noyes and the preservation and progress made in the past 43 years! This special fund-raising event will explore the Past, Present and Future of the Farmington Land Trust. We cannot do this important work without your support!

Cate Grady Benson

Event Chair

Preserving our Legacy

Richard Kramer

President

Farmington Land Trust

Please contact our Office for more information:

Phone: 860-674-8545

Nature Notes

Be Bear Aware!

By the time you receive this newsletter, our Connecticut bears will be out and about and foraging for food to replenish the body fat they lost over winter. Now is the time to become reacquainted with the seven tips recommended by the CT DEEP Wildlife Division to prevent problems with bears.

- Never feed bears! Bears that associate food with people may become bold and possible cause property damage
- Remove bird feeders. Bears will eat seed that is easily available.
- Clean grills after use
- Do not leave pet food outside
- Store livestock food in airtight containers
- Do not add meat or sweets to compost
- Store garbage safely. Keep trash bags in a container with a tight lid and store in a garage or a shed until collection morning.



If you see a bear: Enjoy it from a distance. Advertise your presence by shouting and waving your arms or walk slowly away. Never attempt to feed or attract bears.

Report bear sightings to the Wildlife Division:
(860) 675-8130.



Do your Part and Protect Pollinators!

In many places, pollinators are in trouble. Honey bee decline has been in the news but our native pollinators, such as many solitary and bumble bees, also appear to be disappearing.

Bees move pollen from one flower to another to produce seeds within the fruits and vegetables we eat, such as blueberries, apples, cherries, peppers, and pumpkins. Wild animals depend tremendously on the seeds and fruits of many plants.

In fact, the service of pollinating animals is vital to over 85% of the world's flowering plants. By providing native plants of different colors, shapes, and blooming times, you can do your part and help our pollinators.



Our First Stroll on the Land - Attracting Bluebirds

On Sunday afternoon, May 4th, Master Wildlife Conservationist Fred Lowman (MWC), presented an informative and engaging seminar on 'Attracting Bluebirds'.



This was the first event in the Land Trust's popular series, Strolls on the Land. The group met at the Carey Barn on the Carey Pasture parcel on Mountain Spring Road for the workshop.

Fred Lowman has been monitoring bluebird nest boxes on his property in Barkhamsted for several years. He shared his experiences and his success stories and presented a short seminar for the group, with a lively question and answer session as well. This engaging

and fun workshop consisted of an informative discussion on the natural history of bluebirds, tips for getting bluebirds to nest in your backyard and how to keep them coming back!



We want to thank Fred for lending us his time and talents so that we could offer this seminar to our members and community!

Bluebird Do's and Don'ts

- Bluebird boxes should not be in sight of each other. If you have several boxes in sight of each other you will only get one pair of bluebirds.
- Bluebird boxes should not be located directly in front of a forest edge. Bluebirds like having open space surrounding them.
- Boxes should look due south with some kind of tree or shrub 20 feet in front of it. Fledglings will fly to the shrub when leaving the nest.
- Clean the blue bird box in early March. Remove any material from last year's activities. Bluebirds like to start "fresh".
- Other native birds such as house swallows, wrens and chickadees may also use these boxes. If they move into a box, you are not allowed to remove their nests.

All migratory birds and their nests are protected under Federal law. For more information refer to the US Fish & Wildlife Service: <http://www.fws.gov/>



Memberships Count!

Yes! I want to help the Farmington Land Trust Protect our Town's Open Space!

Name _____

Email _____

Spouse _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Donation level (circle one):

Member \$ 50.00

Steward \$ 100.00

Forester \$ 500.00

Naturalist \$ 250.00

Protector \$1,000.00

Defender \$2,500.00

Guardian \$5,000.00

Other _____

Enclosed is my tax-deductible check, payable to the Farmington Land Trust, or

Charge my: Visa __ MasterCard __ Card #:

Name on Card: _____

Exp. Date: _____ CCV#: _____

I would like to send a gift membership to:

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

The gift is for the Holidays ____ Birthday _____

Other _____

Please send them a card and bill me.

Check _____

Credit Card _____

Learn how to make legacy gifts to the Farmington Land Trust and receive significant tax advantages:

- 1. With a gift of shares of appreciated stock*
- 2. In your estate plan*
- 3. From your retirement account*

Speak to your tax consultant or financial planner, or call our office for further information.

As always, we want to thank both new members and our renewing members for their support.

Farmington Land Trust

128 Garden Street, Farmington CT 06032

Ph. 860-674-8545

Email: farmingtonland.trust@snet.net

Website: www.farmingtonlandtrust.org

(Please note our new website is under construction)



Visit our page on Facebook.



Tina Delaney 2005

Our Members

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Mary Crary
Michael & Tina Delaney
Cate Grady-Benson &
John Benson
Debbie & Roger Klene
Richard & Susan Kramer
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Members (up to \$99)

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Mary Bushley
Ruth Bushley Childs
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*Thanks to all our members
for your continuing support!*

Farmington Land Trust

Board of Directors:

Richard Kramer, President
Doug Pelham, Vice President
Bruce Fernandez, Treasurer
David DeNuccio, Secretary

Board Members:

Richard Berlandy, Michael Delaney,
Nina Hayes, Michael Lecours, Sallie Norris,
Steve Silk

Tina Delaney, Executive Director
Suzan Scott, Assistant to the Executive Director

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E-mail: farmingtonland.trust@snet.net

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Mark your Calendars - Upcoming Events!

- June 7th - CT Trail Day
- June 29th - Stroll 'Butterflies & Insects' with Jay Kaplan
- Month of July - Chimney Swift Watch at FHS (daily) 1/2 hr before sunset.
- September 14th - Stroll to Will Warren's Den with Bill Wadsworth
- September (TBA) - Unionville Festival
- October 5th - Stroll at Town Memorial Forest with Eagle Scout Will Stanford
- November 6th - 'Preserving our Legacy' Benefit for the Farmington Land Trust



For more information, call our office, 860-674-8545 or check our page on Facebook.