



THE CLINTON LAND CONSERVATION TRUST

TRUST TOPICS

A NEWSLETTER OF THE CLINTON LAND CONSERVATION TRUST, INC.

P. O. BOX 121, CLINTON, CT 06413

www.clintonlandtrust.org

SEPTEMBER, 2007

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Kenneth McDonnell

What a difference a year makes. Twelve months ago, I was pondering the meaning of an anniversary and, more particularly, the upcoming 40th anniversary of the Trust. Since then, the executive board has embarked on a whole array of ambitious programs that were sponsored by the Trust and its supporters. We now have a fully functioning and informative website. We hope to use it to communicate with our members, publish maps of our properties and provide updated information about the Trust on a regular basis for many years to come. In a few short work-day Saturdays, we also created a whole new trail system in property known as the Kenilworth Forest. We hope to add this area as a recognized Trust property and hiking destination comparable to Peters Memorial Woods and the Jesse Buell Forest. Besides holding the now annual Peeper Patrol, we also contributed to two television productions and sponsored local environmental field trips and discussions at Clinton schools. And of course, every household in town recently should have received our beautiful brochure and plea for contributions. Over the past year, the quality and pace of the work done in the name of the Trust by all our volunteers has been tremendous and inspiring.

How does all this activity relate to an anniversary? Everything done this year was intended to promote the goals of the Trust, expand its membership and build up its financial resources. If an anniversary is a time to observe the present, acknowledge the past, and prepare for the future, then everyone who has supported the Trust with their time or their money should feel proud about the existence of the Trust and hopeful for its future.

Please come to our annual meeting that will be held for the first time ever at the Henry Carter Hull Library. Come listen to our annual report to the members, ask questions, offer suggestions and think about signing up to volunteer in any small (or large) way. Or just come and enjoy our speaker, the photographs on display and the refreshments. Hope to see you there.

THE ALICE & DAVID CROSBY ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOLARSHIP - 2007

This \$1000.00 Memorial Scholarship was established in 1997 in memory of David Crosby, a former CLCT Board member and his wife Alice, for many years Chairman of the Clinton School Board. The grant is awarded annually to a Clinton graduating Senior planning to pursue their education in an environmental field.

This year's winner is Andrew Desrosiers, son of Richard and Pam Desrosiers. Andrew is a recent Morgan High School graduate, who will be attending Plymouth State University in New Hampshire this fall, where he will be studying meteorology. While a student at Morgan Andrew spent time repairing the school's once unworkable weather instrumentation. The weather station is now fully functioning and part of WTNH's Storm Team 8 WeatherBug system. Congratulations and good luck to Andrew.



CLCT President Ken McDonnell and Outreach Chairwoman Sally Heffernan present the 2007 Alice and David Crosby Scholarship award to Andrew Desrosiers and his parents Pam and Richard Desrosiers

"Study nature, love nature, stay close to nature. It will never fail you."

— Frank Lloyd Wright

UPDATE ON LAND CONSERVATION PROJECTS - THE KENILWORTH FOREST- ITS HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT

Written by Mike Castiglione

With a lot of help from volunteers the Clinton Land Conservation Trust recently completed an extensive trail network in the Kenilworth Forest Preserve. This wonderful natural area of inland wetlands and upland forest habitat represents the largest, intact protected natural area in Clinton, totaling well over 120 acres. Additional smaller CLCT and State Forest protected parcels in the area brings the total of protected land in the north western part of town to over 200 acres.

This area provides recreational opportunities to all residents of Clinton, but especially to people living in the area. Public access to Kenilworth Forest is available from the Kenilworth Drive cul-de-sac, Christina Drive, and Olde Orchard Road. Over 50 homes directly abut this nature preserve, providing many residents easy direct access and use of this natural resource. We look to these residents as potential "stewards" of "their" Open Space. CLCT will develop maps of all the newly marked trails in Kenilworth Forest within the next couple of months, so all residents have an opportunity to explore and enjoy this beautiful area. They can be accessed through our website at www.clintonlandtrust.org

Such extensive land preservation would not have been possible, however, without the foresight of residents 40 years ago, when the Clinton Land Conservation Trust was first incorporated. The first large tract of Open Space in Kenilworth was set aside in 1984 after the original developer, the CLCT and the Planning and Zoning Board worked together to establish a "Conservation Subdivision". Under normal 2 acre zoning in the area, only 10% of the land would have been set aside as Open Space. Under the new Conservation zone, over 40% was set aside, with no increase in the number of housing lots.

CLCT Board Members actively participated at the Public Hearings. Besides supporting the Conservation zone, we also suggested "linking" the new Open Space with existing preserves. For example, Old Burncoat Road was an historical, abandoned town road (which had been turned into a logging road). The developer agreed to donate a linear green belt along this old logging road to the CLCT, which connected this new large Open Space area to existing Trust and State Forest parcels in the Fox Hill area. An Eagle Scout later built a walking bridge over a stream along this route.

Based on further CLCT input, the developer and PZC agreed on various other changes that further enhanced the size and integrity of the Kenilworth forest, while preserving public access to it.

Kenilworth Forest now joins a list of other CLCT nature preserves including Peters Memorial Woods, the Jessie Buell Forest, Deane Haag Nature Trail and Chittenden Hill Loop-all containing incredible natural features and with extensive trails for the public to enjoy.

We must continue to work on preserving other currently unprotected natural areas. The town is currently looking into purchasing some of the dwindling remaining Open Space in town, using State and Federal Funding where possible. We strongly support this effort. The CLCT has been preserving land and resources since 1967 and we will continue to try to protect the extraordinary natural beauty that exists within the town of Clinton.

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Published periodically for the members of The Clinton Land Conservation Trust, Inc., P. O. Box 121, Clinton, CT 06413

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The Board of Directors

Cordially invites you to attend

The 40th Annual Meeting of the Clinton Land Conservation Trust

To be held at the

Henry Carter Hull Library

On Monday October 15th at 7.30 pm

After a brief meeting, a program will be presented by local photographer Jeff Feldmann, entitled "Nature from a Kayak" This will be followed by a reception and refreshments. Guests will also be invited to view photographs of land trust scenes on display in the library.

SCOTT TUCKER'S EXPEDITION NEW ENGLAND EXPLORES PETERS MEMORIAL WOODS

In July CLCT co-sponsored, with the friends of the Henry Carter Hull Library, a children's summer activity with Connecticut Naturalist Scott Tucker. Scott Tucker's *Expedition New England* is a cable TV show designed for families, that encourages viewers to explore their amazing local natural environment.

Ten Clinton families with children of all ages joined Scott in a journey of discovery through Peter's Memorial Woods, to film an episode which will eventually be shown on Channel 18. For more information go to: www.expeditionnewengland.com

Dana Skidmore, a new Board member was one of the families involved and along with children's Librarian Lynn Hidek reported that the expedition was very exciting. Everyone covered themselves in bug spray and hiked through Peters Woods on a warm Saturday morning. Scott enthusiastically pointed out mushrooms, ferns, downed hemlocks, wood frogs, green frogs, dusky salamanders and



the best find - a spotted turtle (which is a semi-threatened species). Scott was extremely lively in his teachings and his excitement was contagious. The kids couldn't get enough and all present felt that he made hiking in the woods come alive. Scott had also brought along a previously captured black rat snake to show to the families. Although captured elsewhere, this species of snake could be reasonably expected to inhabit woods such as are found in this area.

The CLCT is proud to have welcomed Scott and some new guests to our wonderful Peter's Woods. Many families were very impressed with the extent of the forest, the interesting trails and natural features and commented on how well the woods and trails were maintained. Thank you to all members and in particular to Bert and Ginny Godwin who have labored long hours to make the Peters Memorial Woods such a special place.

CLINTON YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES - SUMMER HIKING FUN AND LETTERBOXING

Clinton's Youth and Family Services Bureau, with support from the Land Trust, arranged a program called "Hike It" for youth entering 1st and 2nd grade, which ran weekly for a month. 2 groups of about a dozen children hiked the trails at Ethel Peters Memorial Woods with nets and bug jars. An older group, the Trailblazers, for youth entering 3rd and 4th grade, also hiked for 7 weeks and this program combined photography with exploring nature.

The Bureau's Director, Andrea Kaye, said the children were thrilled with the things they saw and found on their hikes, which included many kinds of critters-from ants to toads. They collected specimens of bugs and fungus and on one amazing day heard the sounds of a huge tree fall in a remote part of the forest. Since this coincided with rumors of a black bear sighting on Carter Hill Rd. the same week the children were very impressed with the wonders of the outdoors! Other activities included making a rock necklace, matching colors to natural objects and developing a photo album. The hikes were supervised by adults with the help of some older students from the Eliot School and netted the additional advantage of a great deal of trash being picked up and removed from the trails by the students, for which we are most grateful.

The hiking program also introduced the groups to "Letterboxing". Using the website www.letterboxing.org it was established that there were at least 4 letterboxes hidden in the Peter's Woods since 2004. The young hikers managed to find them all, using the instructions and clues from the website.

Letterboxing etiquette was explained, which involves stamping the journals found in the box, sometimes adding a note and returning everything carefully to a dry, concealed container. As the children found the boxes they shouted with excitement, little knowing they had just spent an hour reading, orienteering, learning to follow directions, observing small details and respecting the rules. These children are on their way to learning to love and respect nature and the CLCT is pleased that this program was a success. Thanks to Jane Southern for helping with this activity which we hope will continue each year.



Youth and Family Services ran a very successful summer camp in July for local children to explore the flora and fauna in Peters Memorial Woods

SATURDAY WORK DAYS: HELP WANTED

The Clinton Land Conservation Trust is starting up its monthly volunteer work project routine again. Last season was a very successful one for us as we cleared and maintained trails in Peters Memorial Woods, The Jesse Buell Forest and the new Kenilworth Forest.

We meet on the 2nd Saturday of every month at a location which is announced on our website at www.clintonlandtrust.org. We work from 8.00 am until 10.00 am. So bring your family out for a good cause – children, weekend guests and dogs are welcome! Work days will be on Saturdays, Oct 13th, Nov 10th, Dec 8th.

There is still a lot of work to be done on land Trust property: contact Frank Byrne for details at fbyrne@snet.net. Examples of projects waiting for volunteers are:

- Bridges over streams and wet areas
- Final trail clearing and mapping in Kenilworth
- Trails connecting Kenilworth to Deane Haag Forest and to Cockaponsett State Forest
- Beginning the wildflower meadow project in Jesse Buell for which we will be receiving grant money

LAND TRUST PHOTO EXHIBITION

HENRY CARTER HULL LIBRARY

MONDAY, OCTOBER 15TH THRU NOVEMBER 2007

As part of the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the formation of the Clinton Land Conservation Trust a collection of photographs highlighting the natural beauty of our properties will be on display at the library. To kick off the exhibition the guest speaker at our Annual Meeting, Jeff Feldmann, will present a program entitled "Views of Nature from a Kayak". Some of his excellent photography will be included in the library display. His work can also be seen at www.jeffphotos.com.

The public is cordially invited to the Trust's Annual Meeting, which will take place on Monday Oct 15th at 7.30 pm in the community room at the library. Following the slide presentation there will be a reception to celebrate the opening of the Trust's photography exhibition and refreshments will be served.

BLUEWAYS vs. GREENWAYS

The Board of Directors of the Clinton Land Conservation Trust were out in their canoes and kayaks on the Hammonasset, Indian and Hammock Rivers on September 15, 2007 to study, map and inventory the land trust's existing blueway properties.

Currently, the Clinton Land Conservation Trust, along with the Madison and Killingworth Land Trusts, are pursuing a tri-town effort to inventory and map public sites along the Hammonasset River for preservation purposes and potential recreational use. The paddling crew also supported "International Coastal Cleanup Weekend" by collecting trash all along the route.

Since 1967, the Trust has been pursuing its primary mission of preserving open space for public use through the creation of a greenway trail system in the following forested preserves:

- 1) **Kenilworth Forest** (having trail heads and parking located at both Kennilworth Drive and Olde Orchard) with trails extending through over 150+ forested acres.
- 2) **Jesse Buell Forest** (having trail heads and parking located at both Cream Pot Road or Taylor Ridge) with trails extending through 98 forested acres.
- 3) **Peter's Memorial Woods** (having trail heads and parking located at

Valley Road and Brickyard Road) with trails extending through over 82+ forested acres.

- 4) **Chittenden Hill Loop** (having its trail head and parking located on Chittenden Hill Road) with trails extending through 23 forested acres which, in turn, abuts Cockaponset, the largest state forest parcel in town of over 300 acres.
- 5) **Deane Haag Nature Trail** (having its trail head and parking located at Kennilworth Drive) with trails extending through over 12 forested acres.

Throughout its 40 years of existence, the Clinton Land Conservation Trust has been promoting public use and enjoyment of its nature preserves and properties, which now total approximately 800 acres. Existing trail maps are available on the CLCT website www.clintonlandtrust.org. Canoe and kayak trail maps of the Hammonasset, Hammock and Indian Rivers (identifying all trust properties/public access sites and points of interest) will also soon be made available by the trust as part of its ongoing effort to expand the public's use and enjoyment of both its greenway and blueway properties.

Michael Castiglioni Michael Houde Lawrence A. Ouellette, Jr.

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