



THE CLINTON LAND TRUST

TRUST TOPICS

A NEWSLETTER OF THE CLINTON LAND CONSERVATION TRUST, INC.

P. O. BOX 121, CLINTON, CT 06413

www.clintonlandtrust.org

SEPTEMBER, 2006

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Kenneth McDonnell

I have been watching some of the many television programs and reading newspaper articles recently about that horrible day known as 9/11 and I started to think about the meaning of an anniversary. Ella Grasso, then Secretary of State for Connecticut, signed the Articles of Incorporation for the Clinton Land Conservation Trust in 1967. As we approach our 40th Anniversary, it is time to reflect on and celebrate the past but also a time to consider the future and recommit ourselves to land conservation in Clinton.

Thinking about all our national and global problems but understanding that we can only act locally, I want to focus on the upcoming anniversary of the Clinton Land Conservation Trust, Inc.

1967 was not a happy year for our country, with thousands of Americans dying in the Vietnam War and millions beginning to protest the fighting of an ill-defined enemy on the other side of the world. Yet on a local level, extraordinary things were happening. A small group of people in the Town of Clinton decided that it was time to start an organization dedicated to protecting our local natural resources. They formed a legal entity that they hoped would work to preserve our natural environment in perpetuity. Next year will be the fortieth anniversary of our incorporation. The question is, are we just marking the passage of time on the calendar or have we moved forward and made progress?

In 1967, our founding members raised money by starting a program to collect, smash and recycle glass. Today, our expenses are covered by the dues we collect from our membership and the income we derive from an endowment left to us by the late Ethel Peters. Since 1968 when the Trust accepted its first piece of salt marsh to protect as open space, the Trust has acquired over 750 acres of land, including salt meadows, wetlands and forests. The land parcels range in size from less than an acre to over 70 Acres and even include a small piece of land on Cedar Island. The Trust is financially stable and has certainly worked to fulfill its task of protecting some valuable land from development, during a time when Clinton has seen an unprecedented level of new building.

However, while we are proud of our past accomplish

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MONTHLY WORK DAY GETS THE JOB DONE — COME JOIN US!

Meet every 2nd Saturday with other CLCT volunteers and discover the rewards of trail maintenance! Since April of this year, monthly property clean up has continued slowly but surely as volunteers met for 2 hours from 8.00-10.00 am to work on cleanup and trail maintenance at various sites belonging to the Land Trust. To find out where to meet please go to the website at www.clintonlandtrust.org and click on "monthly work project". You may also call Frank Byrne at 669-2115. We only work for 2 hours and no skills or tools are needed, just a willing heart. Bring your children and we will guarantee they will have an interesting time. Thank you to the loyal members who have helped already this year and to those who haven't yet made it out there, please come along for the next time:



October 14th and November 11th.

***Frank Byrne & Rep. Brian O'Connor
cleaning up trails***

THE CLCT ANNUAL MEETING

Members of the Trust and the public are cordially invited to the Annual Meeting which will take place on Monday October 16th at 7.30 pm in the Rose Room at the Clinton Town Hall.

After a brief meeting to elect officers and hear the Annual report, Peter Picone will speak on the subject of "**Enhancing the Backyard Habitat**". Peter Picone, a graduate of UConn joined the Dept of Environmental Protection in 1990 where he has been working on urban wildlife issues and land management. He and his wife own the Charter Oak Tree Farm in Sprague. Picone is a well known speaker on land management issues as they relate to the average homeowner and will share ideas as to how to incorporate wildlife habitat into the typical landscape. This should be a topic of relevance and interest to all and members and friends are encouraged to attend.

THE ALICE & DAVID CROSBY ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOLARSHIP-2006

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 to Clinton graduating Seniors planning to pursue their education in the environmental field.

This year's winner is Zachary Borg, son of David and Celeste Borg, who will attend the University of Vermont in the fall where he is majoring in Biology.

Zach is particularly commended for his efforts on behalf of the Land Trust, who benefited from his recently completed Eagle Scout Project. For more information on the extraordinary new trail he created off Chittenden Hill Rd, and the useful wetland bridges constructed during this project, please see the article in this newsletter.

Zach Borg in Eagle Scout uniform on his new trail bridge



LAND TRUST THANKS TO ...

Although **Lynnabeth Mays** has recently retired as Secretary of the Trust her spirit lives on as we panic about who is now responsible for the cookies for the Annual Meeting. Thanks Sally and David for stepping up into this void! Lynnabeth was given a granite birdbath by the Land Trust as a token of our esteem and this has been installed in her new garden in Madison by Diana and Sally and yes it weighed a ton. The Mays love their new garden feature and thank everyone most sincerely.

Lou Bougie, one of the founders of the CLCT has taken it upon himself to update the map of the Trust land holdings, a daunting task which he has recently completed. The map is a triumph of clarity and skill and Lou should be congratulated. Lou has also spent a great deal of time and creative energy on facilitating the making of a documentary video celebrating 40 years of Land Trust history. This will be a highlight of next year's 40th anniversary celebrations and we are beholden to Lou for conceiving the idea and carrying it through to completion.

Thanks also are due to our new Secretary, **Jane Southern** who has energetically taken on her new role and even found time to repaint one of our signs as well as helping with trail clean up. Jane is a great new asset to our Board, whose members are continually working in various capacities to maintain and improve our properties.

The CLCT has many partners in the community but wishes to express particular thanks to the **LOWER CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY HORSEMANS CLUB**. The "horse people" as they are affectionately called, have been a great asset to our organization since they approached us in 2005 about using the trails. Their riders are helpful and courteous and have rendered first aid as well as assisting in routine trail maintenance, by removing storm damage and trash from trails. The president of their Club, Melissa Evarts and her family were kind enough to come and help last Saturday at the Monthly Work Day and we greatly appreciate their support.

Finally a heartfelt **THANK YOU TO ALL MEMBERS** who have supported the Land Trust this year in ways small and large. Thanks for sending us your dues, thanks for moving those branches off the trail and thanks for picking up and removing the trash while you walked. We hope you will continue to enjoy the Land Trust properties and help us protect them.



Volunteers on Annual Trails Clean Up Day

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www.clintonlandtrust.org

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EAGLE SCOUTS DEMONSTRATE THAT CLINTON YOUTH CARE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT.

Board member Frank Byrne was delighted to receive proposals from two Boy scouts this year expressing an interest in completing their Eagle Scout projects under the auspices of the Clinton Land Conservation Trust. Fewer than 4 percent of scouts attain the rank of Eagle Scout, which requires that the Scout complete a significant service project benefiting the community. Scott Loescher and Zachary Borg were both awarded their Eagle Scout rank this summer. Details of both successfully completed projects are given below.

SCOTT LOESCHER: BUILDING AND INSTALLATION OF 15 NEW BLUEBIRD NESTING BOXES ALONG THE LAND TRUST PROPERTY BORDERING TAYLOR RIDGE AND IN OTHER LOCATIONS.

The Eastern Bluebird has seen declining populations due partly to competition for nesting cavities from sparrows and starlings, loss of field habitat and severe weather patterns. The introduction of well sited bluebird nesting boxes is a way to reverse their population decline. Scott spent the winter building blue bird nesting boxes to specifications provided by the Sessions Woods Nature Center in Burlington. The Dept of Environmental Protection's Blue Bird Initiative donated cedar milled by State inmates, Jeff Cashman of Cashman's Hardware in Clinton donated posts,



pipes and screws and a housing initiative was born! The nests were installed early this year and Scott gave each human householder near the new nests sites a handout on bluebird nesting habits. We understand many of the boxes were inhabited this spring. Scott is now up at the University of Connecticut studying biology and we wish him every success.

ZACHARY BORG: CLEARING AND CREATION OF A NEW TRAIL, WITH BRIDGES, IN THE LAND TRUST PROPERTY OFF CHITTENDEN HILL ROAD

This land trust property on Chittenden Hill Rd in the North East of town borders the Cockaponset State Forest and has until now been undeveloped for public use. The new

trail created by Zach and other scouts from Troup 55 consists of a cleared forest path into the wooded area, enhanced by the installation of three long wooden plank bridges over wet areas. The extensive growth of skunk cabbage and other wetland plants is testament to the high water table in this area and the bridges provide access to this attractive and unspoiled wood.

Zach cleared over 1000 ft. of new trail, which is ideal for hiking, birding and the like. It is hoped that this area will be enjoyed by local residents and that in future years the trail can be extended further. We thank Zach for his hard work and wish him luck as he pursues his studies in Biology at the University of Vermont.

NATIVE PLANT FOR THE SEASON

Hydrangea quercifolia (Oakleaf Hydrangea)

Habit and Form

- a deciduous flowering shrub
- stoloniferous and multistemmed
- individual stems branch little
- shape is rounded to mounded
- most plants are 4' to 8' tall, but can reach 12'
- wider than tall

Summer Foliage

- opposite, simple, deciduous leaves
- leaves have 3 to 7 lobes
- overall oak-like leaf shape is interesting
- leaf margins serrate
- 3" to 8" long and about two thirds as wide
- dark green color above with undersides being white to tan tomentose
- foliage is coarse

Autumn Foliage

- showy
- red or red-purple; sometimes orangish
- leaves hold late into fall and early winter

Flowers

- upright pyramidal clusters of white flowers
- panicles contain small fertile flowers and larger sterile flowers toward the base
- panicles are 10" long

- as flowers age, they turn pinkish in late summer and tan in the autumn
- peak bloom is early July
- showy in bloom

Bark

- new shoots are covered with dense rusty-colored hairs
- old stems develop exfoliating cinnamon bark with prominent lenticels

Culture

- full to partial shade
- requires a moist, organic, fertile soil
- mulch the root zone
- protect young plants in winter for they are more tender than the older plants.

Landscape Use

- shrub border
- specimen
- groupings
- mass plantings
- to add textural variety to a landscape
- naturalizing
- foundation plant
- flower interest is not essential

Cultivars/Varieties

- Alice • Alison • Harmony • Pee Wee and 'Sikes Dwarf Snowflake • Snow Queen

CHARITABLE GIVING-USING DONOR-ADVISED FUNDS

Many people who donate to charity tend to make recurring donations to those organizations whose pursuits are most important to them. Others make contributions less selectively, but no less passionately. Regardless of which group you fall into, it's worth investigating donor-advised funds. Donor-advised funds are generally easy and inexpensive to establish, and simple to operate, while offering potential tax and estate planning benefits.

If you have substantial amounts of appreciated securities, are expecting a large influx of cash, or you need an income tax deduction, consider a donor-advised fund as a way to direct your charitable contributions and bring structure to the giving process.

This information was kindly provided by David Adams, a Senior Vice President with Smith Barney located in Essex. He may be reached at david.r.adams@smithbarney.com

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS FOR 2006

Membership envelopes are included with your newsletter. Thank you for your continuing support of the CLCT. If you have

already renewed for this year please pass the envelope on to a friend.

"We come and go, but the land is always here. And the people who love it and understand it are the people who own it — for a little while."

Willa Cather

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

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ments we have to try to look into the future and imagine the tremendous changes that will occur in the next 40 years. Try to imagine what we want the town of Clinton to look like midway through the 21st century. Will there be enough acreage of undivided forest and undisturbed salt marshes to support birds, fish and other wildlife in our town? Will our well water and reservoirs continue to be recharged with clean water filtered through inland wetlands and older growth forests? Will there be any natural vistas left similar to what existed in 1967 or what remains today?

In 1967, there was no Clean Water Act or Clean Air Act or wetlands commissions and Earth Day was years away. Yet a small group of concerned citizens in Clinton got together

and dedicated themselves to make a difference. We now enjoy some of the fruits of their efforts. We need to remind ourselves of the challenges they faced and become inspired again to make a difference for the future. The task before us is a challenge, but not an insurmountable one. We have to find some time within our busy lives to make a small difference at our local level. Please join us and help any way you can. Come to our annual meeting. Offer suggestions. Spend an hour some Saturday at a work day. Adopt a trail or a piece of land trust property in your neighborhood. Offer computer assistance. Send in your dues and encourage others to do so. Vote. Every small effort added together will have a larger and long-lasting impact on the next forty years.

Please recycle this newsletter - give it to a friend !

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