

LAND TRUST NOTES



The Bethlehem Land Trust Inc., P.O. Box 322, Bethlehem, CT 06751
bethlehemlandtrustct.org • bethlehemlandtrustct@gmail.com

Fall 2015

Pitch In for Preservation

We're passing the hat: The Bethlehem Land Trust annual membership campaign is underway. We know you share our passion for the beautiful rural landscape in which we are lucky to live. You (that is everyone who lives here and many nonresident friends and neighbors too) are key to the success of our mission to preserve the surrounding farms, fields, and forests for all to enjoy, forever.

Stewardship is high on the agenda of the BLT board—we have big dreams for conservation of more rural lands and enhanced accessibility of our existing ones (visions of trails in the Canfield Preserve entice us). Your tax-deductible support enables us to maintain our properties, reach out to local landowners to encourage and facilitate donation of acreage or conservation easements, co-sponsor events with like-minded organizations, upgrade our stewardship practices, stay strong, and grow.

Dollars help, so please be as generous as you can to join us or renew your annual membership: Open space is priceless in one sense, but requires an

investment in another. Take advantage of the enclosed envelope. We appreciate your support!

MAPPING PROGRESS

The Bethlehem Land Trust is fortunate to be the beneficiary of assistance from the nearby Weantinogue Land Trust. Weantinogue is larger, has paid staff, and is committed to helping small land trusts accomplish legal and technical projects. It has long been the goal of the BLT board to have accessible, accurate maps of our properties and we are so grateful that Weantinogue has undertaken the data entry necessary for this to happen. It's a huge undertaking—BLT president Mary Hawvermale has spent untold hours unearthing aged documents at Town Hall in order to provide the needed boundary and deed information. Once done, the information will be available to anyone with a GPS device, making it possible to walk the property boundaries with confidence. And we will be able to compile all that data into a good map of all our holdings: something we know will be useful and beautiful!



PHOTOS BY BEV MOSCH, LEFT; DOUG MAHARD, RIGHT



DAYS OF WINE & APPLES

SMILING FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, JESSICA LEWIS, KERRY ANN O'HAZO, TYLER O'HAZO, AND KERRY DURKIN ENJOYED LOVE OUR LAND—FARMS, FIELDS & FORESTS. A WINE, BEER AND SPIRITS TASTING, OUR NEW FUNDRAISING EVENT TOOK PLACE AT THE BETHLEHEM FAIR-GROUNDS LAST SEPTEMBER 27TH. WONDERING WHY THESE APPLES ARE SHOWN? TURN TO THE FINAL PAGE

Thanks, we know you truly Love Our Land

The Land Trust hereby offers a toast of appreciation to all who attended our 11th annual fundraiser, where wine, beer, and spirits were sampled (and spirits were high). It was our most successful event to date — could this be because the barn at the Fairgrounds looked so festive, the music by local band Switch Factory set just the right mood, or the guests were jazzed by the prospect of the total eclipse of the moon later that evening?

PLATINUM, SILVER, AND GOLD:

THANKS TO THE SPONSORS WHO MADE IT POSSIBLE This year's fundraiser was more casual, more fun, and behind the scenes, a lot more complicated than our previous dinner/auctions. An enormous shout of appreciation goes to Classic Turf Company, Eagle Electric, and Little Town Mechanical Contractors for contributing Platinum Sponsorship; to Pustola & Associates, our Gold Sponsor, and to March Farm, Klemm Real Estate, Nick's Country Kitchen, and Hickcox Funeral Home, our Silver Sponsors. Local businesses all, your commitment to maintaining the rural character of our community is stellar.

LET'S HEAR IT FOR OUR EVENT COMMITTEE TOO!

The Board looked beyond our members to produce the event and we were so smart to do so. Kate Eren,

the chair (and now our newest board member), worked tirelessly to organize and control the details. Heather March, Larissa Zepko-March, and Heather Chirumbolo were her unflinchingly diligent and cheerful associates. BLT board member Sandra Ruzicka imagined and created the festive decor.

AND THANKS TO THE MANY OTHERS WHO HELPED Vic Losure, owner of Elm Press in Terryville, provided the invitations. Winvian Farm in Morris provided the focaccia. Bethlehem Spirit Shop provided ice. Discount Liquors in Woodbury and Samuel Adams Brewery in Boston donated beverages for us to sell. March Farm provided the pie bar and loaned us a hay wagon, pumpkins, and gourds. Students at the Woodhall School helped with setup and parking.

The Wine, Beer, and Spirits tastings in the center of the room were courtesy of Premier Wine & Spirits of Southbury, Spiked Seltzer, Charter Oak Brewery, Black Hog Brewery, Litchfield Distillery, and Hartford Distributors.

And many, many individuals and businesses in our community donated goods and services to the silent and live auctions.

The BLT board thanks you all for contributing, bidding, and buying to support such a fine cause.



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: LOCAL BAND SWITCH FACTORY SET THE TONE AT THE RECENT BLT FUNDRAISER. VINO, READY FOR TASTERS. DECOR IN THE BARN FEATURED LOTS OF LOCAL FLORA. THE FAIRGROUNDS BARN PROVIDED A PERFECT RUSTIC SETUP FOR OUR SILENT AUCTION.

PHOTOS: THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: BEV MOSCH, STUART RABINOWITZ, LYNN BAKER, STUART RABINOWITZ. OPPOSITE: BEV MOSCH.



STANDING AT FAR RIGHT IS KATE EREN, EVENT CHAIR AND NOW A MEMBER OF THE BLT BOARD. SHE WAS JOINED AT OUR RECENT FUNDRAISER BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS LARISSA ZEPKO-MARCH, SANDRA RUZICKA, AND HEATHER CHIRUMBOLO TO TOAST THE RURAL BEAUTY OF OUR TOWN.

MEET KATE EREN

Having grown up in Plymouth, Massachusetts, my love of the ocean is inevitable—I grew up sailing and spending every possible minute outside and on the water. After attending Merrimack College in Andover, MA, I worked for the non-profit CIEE (Council on International Education Exchange) where I had the opportunity to travel to more than 30 countries before I turned 25. I met my future husband, John, who grew up in Woodbury, CT, while working in Boston. Soon after we were married, we earned our MBA degrees together and began looking for a home in Litchfield County. We settled in Bethlehem and for the last 10 years we have truly made our house a home. And I have fallen in love all over again with the outdoors—but now it is with the hills, rivers, fields, lakes, and amazing hiking that we have, all in our backyard. I am so excited to be a part of the Bethlehem Land Trust and look forward to preserving and maintaining more beautiful land for my daughter and future generations yet to come.

This and That

☛ You can support the Bethlehem Land Trust by buying groceries at LaBonne’s Food Markets. It’s painless: Just save your receipts and send them to the address on the front of this newsletter. We will turn them in to LaBonne’s and in return, the BLT will receive a portion of the money LaBonne’s donates to local organizations and churches.

Thank you LaBonne’s for supporting us as we support you.

☛ There are four new trees in the arboretum at Long Horizons: two white birches and two Thundercloud Plums. Thank you Planter’s Choice for donating.

☛ The BLT is suffering. Suffering for lack of an office. A place to store our records and hold our board meetings. Don’t be shy, if you have a space that’s wanting a good tenant who offers a tax deduction in return, send us an email or snail mail at the address on the first page of this newsletter.

*To enjoy this newsletter in color, visit
www.bethlehemlandtrustct.org*

— ❁ ❁ — SUPPORT THE LAND TRUST — ❁ ❁ —

Mission Statement

To permanently protect and preserve local farmland, fields, forests, and wetlands through acquisitions or easement; to conserve the natural, scenic, and historic resources of these properties and educate the public about them; and, where feasible, to provide access for their enjoyment by the community at large.

You can help the Bethlehem Land Trust to fulfill our mission. To become a member or make a donation, simply fill out this form and return it to the address on the reverse, enclosing a check made out to the Bethlehem Land Trust.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP \$35.00

☛ FOREST STEWARD (\$40–\$499)

☛ FIELD STEWARD (\$500–\$999)

☛ FARM STEWARD (\$1,000 PLUS)

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

Did you know?

How often have you admired the small, charming orchard adjacent to the garden at the Bellamy-Ferriday House? Have you assumed it belongs to the House? Of course, it once did, but Miss Ferriday included it in the large tract she donated to establish the Land Trust. This fall, Bellamy Preserve steward Douglas Mahard reports the apple harvest has been extraordinary. If your visits to the Preserve are devoted to walking the woodland trails, we suggest you take a different approach next time and turn into the orchard to enjoy a bit of historic tranquility. We can all look forward to apple blossom time next spring.



SPECTACULAR

WHILE BALD EAGLES ARE NOT RARE IN OUR WHEREABOUTS THEY ARE HARDLY AN EVERYDAY SIGHT FOR MOST OF US, AND IT IS ALWAYS A THRILL TO SEE ONE, NOT TO MENTION TWO. CHRISTINE MURPHY WITNESSED THESE IN THE HARD HILL ROAD NEIGHBORHOOD. YES, THEY ARE DINING ON FOX.

☛ PHOTOS BY CHRISTINE MURPHY



Bethlehem Land Trust

P.O. Box 322 BETHLEHEM, CT 06751



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**Neighbor
Bethlehem CT 06751**