

LAND TRUST NOTES



The Bethlehem Land Trust Inc., P.O. Box 322, Bethlehem, CT 06751
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Fall 2016

A Year of Good News

Let us preface the news with a heartfelt THANK YOU to the Bethlehem community for all the support that has enabled a year of strong growth for the Land Trust. Some particulars:

- We have an office! In the plaza between the hardware store and the pharmacy. Perhaps you've seen the sign on the True Value tower. Thank you to the Millspaugh family for welcoming us with a reasonable rent, to Little Town Mechanical and Eagle Electric for helping to set it up, to Doug Sherman for arranging the donation of handsome cabinets and to Woody Mosch for installing them and giving them countertops. Board meetings now are held there, our records are stored there.
- We received three grants! Thank you to the Thomaston Savings Bank, your generosity goes a long way toward furnishing the office. Thank you to the Connecticut Community Foundation for providing money for our computer and trusting us to earn your matching funds at our fall fundraiser.
- Our second Love Our Land wine, beer & spirits tasting was great fun and the most successful fundraising event we've held. Thanks to all who donated and attended—details on the next page.
- We're supporting the next generation of land conservationists with a scholarship for a young Bethlehem resident—see the story on page 3.
- Our history will soon be accessible with the click of a mouse. The nearby Weantinogue Land Trust, which has paid staff and is committed to helping smaller

area land trusts accomplish legal and technical projects, is scanning and organizing 30-plus years of BLT documents. No more digging through crowded file drawers or handling of frail documents.

• We pitched in quietly to help the Bellamy Ferri-day House & Garden produce two events: Pollinator Day and an informative and fascinating showing of birds of prey at the Harvest Fest.

• The Bellamy Preserve is ever more enticing, thanks to the tireless stewardship of Doug Mahard, who keeps the trails clear and oversees the care or removal of trees as needed. Strolling is encouraged.

• We set up a Facebook page: www.facebook.com/BethlehemLandTrust. Friend and follow us!



PHOTO BY NANCY MCMILLAN

STEWARDSHIP IN PROCESS

BOARD MEMBER DOUG MAHARD DEVOTES MANY HOURS TO KEEPING THE BELLAMY PRESERVE ACCESSIBLE AND PLEASANT TO VISIT. NEXT TIME YOU WALK ALONG THE MAIN WOOD ROAD, YOU WILL SEE HE HAS CLEARED BRUSH AND FALLEN TREES FROM THIS OLD FOUNDATION TO REVEAL A BIT OF HISTORY AND HIGHLIGHT THE LOVELY TREES GROWING HERE. WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO PAUSE.

Once again you've shown you truly Love Our Land

The Land Trust hereby offers a toast of appreciation to all who attended our 12th annual fundraiser, where wine, beer, and spirits were sampled (and spirits were high). Great music, charming decor, plentiful, tasty food, and our new online/electronic reservation and payment system kept everyone in a festive mood.

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

LEFT: LOCAL BAND SWITCH FACTORY SET THE TONE AT THE RECENT BLT FUNDRAISER. BELOW RIGHT, TOP TO BOTTOM: VINO AND A CROWD OF TASTERS; A SERIOUS CONVERSATION ABOUT THE LIBATIONS; THE HORS D'OEUVRES WERE A DEFINITE DRAW. IN THE MIDDLE: ANOTHER GOOD CHAT BETWEEN FRIENDS. BOTTOM LEFT: A PAGE FROM THE EVENT PROGRAM EXPRESSES OUR GRATITUDE TO ALL WHO SPONSORED AND DONATED TO THE EVENING.



Bethlehem Land Trust Love Our Land— Farms, Fields, and Forests

PLATINUM SPONSORS

Eagle Electric
Little Town Mechanical Contractors

GOLD SPONSOR

Connecticut Community Foundation

SILVER SPONSORS

Classic Turf Company
Hickcox Funeral Home
Klemm Real Estate
March Farm
True Value of Bethlehem
The Woodhall School

MUSIC BY SWITCH FACTORY

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Thank You

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MANY FRIENDS MADE THIS EVENT POSSIBLE
Vic Losure, owner of Elm Press in Terryville, provided the invitations.

March Farm loaned us the hay wagon, pumpkins, gourds, Internet connection, and so much more.
The Morris Spirit Shop provided servers for the tasting table.

Students at the Woodhall School helped with setup, food serving, and parking.
Bethlehem Police Department.

THIS EVENING'S AUCTIONEER IS PETER DZIELINSKI

WINE, BEER & SPIRITS TASTING COURTESY OF
Bethlehem Spirit Shop
Black Hog Brewery
Discount Liquors of Woodbury
Half Full Brewery of Stamford
Hartford Distributors, Inc.
Litchfield Distillery
Morris Spirit Shop
Spiked Seltzer

THE CATERING FOR THIS EVENT IS BY CIESCO
CATERING, TORRINGTON, CT.

BLT SUPPORTS THE NEXT GENERATION

This year the board of the Land Trust established a \$1,000 scholarship to support a future open space preservationist. The scholarship is available to any Bethlehem resident pursuing a degree in environmental or conservation sciences, forestry, or agriculture. Application details for the 2017 scholarship are on our website.

"I want to change the way we interact with our environment, becoming caretakers of the Earth's systems rather than just takers."

This is the goal of Claire Scherf, the recipient of the 2016 scholarship. Best wishes to Claire, now a freshman at St. Michael's College in Vermont, who plans to combine her environmental studies with studio arts and a human rights minor, hopes to be involved with research, and looks forward to an advanced degree that will allow her to "make as big a positive impact on the environment and peace and justice on all spectrums as I possibly can."

Money Matters

You (that is everyone who lives here and many nonresident friends and neighbors too) are key to the success of the Land Trust's mission to preserve the surrounding farms, fields, and forests for all to enjoy, forever. For us, preservation means not only acquisition of property or easements but includes stewardship and communication. The care of our



CLAIRE SCHERF, 2016 BLT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE MAJOR AT ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE, AFTER DOING FIELD WORK ON MOUNT MANSFIELD IN VERMONT.

properties—clearing and maintaining trails, caring for trees, creating maps, monitoring the status of the land—is high on our list of things to do. With your help, we can acquire the services needed to execute things the volunteer board is not able to do itself. The envelope enclosed in this newsletter signals that our annual appeal is underway. Your continued support is tax deductible and very much appreciated.

*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 the form on the provided envelope, enclose a check made out to the Bethlehem Land Trust, and post it. Thank you.

In Memoriam

A DONATION TO THE BETHLEHEM LAND TRUST
HAS BEEN MADE IN MEMORY OF:



CHARLES (BUD) WOODWARD, BY HELEN WOODWARD KUNZ



Black bears: fear not but be smart about them

Witnessing a black bear through your window is a bit like watching a Disney cartoon; meeting one on a hiking trail is another matter all together. But *ursus americanus* really isn't interested in us humans, only in food we may carelessly allow to tempt him or her. Good to know for this season: while black bears do not truly hibernate, they do den for the winter months and do not rouse unless provoked. Some bear savvy tips:

- ☛ Keep your grill and garbage in the garage.
- ☛ Provide bear-proof fencing for beehives.
- ☛ Sadly, refrain from feeding the birds, at least for spring though fall.
- ☛ Should you encounter a bear while you are outdoors, make loud noises and wave your arms while slowly backing away—do not turn and do not run—in all likelihood the bear will depart.



BEAR INFO ON THE WEB

The Connecticut Department of the Environment has excellent bear information online. To view it, visit www.ct.gov/deep and click on “Black Bears” in the “Advisories” section—you’ll find Do’s & Don’t’s and a link to a fact sheet. Another informative site is www.wildlifeofct.com—click on “Mammals” and then “Black Bears.”

JUST LOOKING

CHRIS AND CRISTINE VOGEL WERE MOMENTARILY CHARMED BY THIS VISITOR TO THEIR GUILDS HOLLOW ROAD TERRACE—JUST LONG ENOUGH TO TAKE A PORTRAIT THROUGH THE SCREEN.

☛ PHOTO BY CRISTINE VOGEL

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