

LAND TRUST NOTES



The Bethlehem Land Trust Inc., P.O. Box 322, Bethlehem, CT 06751
bethlehemlandtrustct.org

Summer 2014

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. 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 membership: Open space is priceless in one sense, but requires an investment in another. Take advantage of the enclosed envelope. We appreciate your support!

IT IS TOO SOON TO CELEBRATE BUT WE'RE AT WORK BEHIND THE SCENES
Easement is a form of land preservation in which people retain full ownership of their property, including the right to farm it, sell it, or pass it to heirs, while precluding and prohibiting its development even if it changes hands. Eased land remains private, and although it is not open to the public, it is a key component of the open space in Bethlehem. As this newsletter goes to press, the BLT is working with the owners of several important parcels in town to establish conservation easements. For now our lips are discreetly sealed but we look forward to sharing the successful conclusion of these endeavors.

PLANNING TO PRESERVE? WE CAN HELP.
Perhaps you own property of some size — a farm, natural meadow, or woodland parcel — and worry

that you or your heirs won't be able to keep it "as is" in the future. If the thought of that land becoming a housing tract is unthinkable, consider donating it outright to the Bethlehem Land Trust or placing a conservation easement on it. You'll have peace of mind knowing you've honored your family land, and depending on which option you choose, may retain ownership and use of the land. Both options can be implemented in the immediate future or included in your estate planning, and there may be significant tax advantages to them. The BLT is here to facilitate the process: for more information visit our website, www.bethlehemlandtrustct.org or email us at bethlehemlandtrustct@gmail.com.

Town Cleanup: Damp but Done

Thank you to all who participated in the roadside cleanup day sponsored by the BLT and Town this past April 26, in honor of Earth Day. Undaunted by the chilly drizzle, you filled more than 20 bulging bags, which the town crew retrieved and disposed. Maybe next year will see a balmy spring cleanup day, or better yet, perhaps those who thoughtlessly toss bits of trash will think better of being so uncivil.



SANDRA RUZICKA, DOUG MAHARD, JOHN SWENDSEN, LYNN BAKER, AND MARY HAVERMALE GREET VOLUNTEERS ON CLEANUP DAY.

PHOTO BY NANNY SWOYER

A Grand Day for Monarch Butterflies

June 7 was a glorious day, seemingly made to order for the 100 or so enthusiasts who celebrated the grand opening of the Caroline Ferriday Monarch Butterfly Way Station. A joint venture of the Bethlehem Land Trust and the Bellamy-Ferriday House & Garden, the way station provides a nurturing environment for this striking and intrepid butterfly in both the Garden and the adjacent Bellamy-Ferriday Preserve. The celebration featured George McCleary, a certified butterfly educator and the gardener at the Bellamy-Ferriday House, who explained the needs and life cycle of the monarchs in an entertaining program complete with chrysalis, caterpillars, and freshly hatched butterflies. George

called upon the younger members of the audience to set the butterflies free so that they can feast on a milkweed diet that will support successive generations and fuel a flight of many thousands of miles to their other breeding ground in Mexico.

While the butterflies had their first milkweed meal, the guests were delighted to munch on snacks prepared by the Soroptimists; of particular note among the tasty offerings were decorated butterfly-shape cookies created by sisters Marie and Margaret Rosa. Before and after the program, those who wished created butterfly masks and fans that were prepped by BLT board member Sandra Ruzicka. Our assessment: crafters ranging from 2 years to well into their teens were delightfully artistic, one and all, and their works made the day even more beautiful to behold.



WHETHER MASQUERADING AS AN EXOTIC BUTTERFLY OR FASCINATED BY THE LIVE ONES AND EDUCATOR GEORGE MCCLEARY, PARTICIPANTS AT THE GRAND OPENING OF THE CAROLINE FERRIDAY MONARCH BUTTERFLY WAY STATION HAD A FINE TIME.

Hold November 22 for our 10th dinner/auction!

Even BLT board members who have produced and enjoyed every one of our festive annual fundraising evenings had to pause a moment to realize this fall will see the 10th dinner and auction. A huge “thank you” to all the volunteers, donors, and attendees who have made this event a success! Be sure to mark your calendars, it’s not too early to set Saturday, November 22 aside: We are thinking ahead to the menu, the décor, and most important, to the goods and services that will be donated and fiercely bid upon by our community. So plan now to donate something enticing if you can (write to bethlehemlandtrustct@gmail.com) and then join us to wine, dine, and bid in order to preserve our open space (more information coming in the fall).

SALUTING OUR VOLUNTEERS

They are often invisible to everyone but the board members with whom they work, but our volunteers provide invaluable support the whole community can appreciate. So join us as we thank in particular: Students at the Woodhall School who help with stewardship, especially in the Long Horizons Preserve. The loyal friends who over the years have helped set up, serve, and clean for the dinner/auction: the Girl Scouts; Larry and Jennifer Hunt, their son Alex and his wife Emily; Chris Armentano;

the staff at Eagle Electric; Bill and Mary Joyce; Charlene Falk. And professionals in our community who donate precious time and services or work for us at a favorable rate: attorney Bob Hanahan, Vic Losure of Elm Press in Terryville, Brothers’ Tree Service, surveyor Gary Giordano, landscaper Scott Blum. We are grateful for your assistance.

The BLT appreciates help with stewardship and trail maintenance, property monitoring, and the dinner/auction. If you would like to volunteer, contact us at bethlehemlandtrustct@gmail.com.

In Memoriam

DONATIONS TO THE BETHELEHEM LAND TRUST
HAVE BEEN MADE IN MEMORY OF:



MATTHEW COWLES, BY EMILY ALDRICH AND CAROLYN ALDRICH



JAN BENSON, BY MARK AND DINA BENSON

Remembering Matthew Cowles, 1944–2014

The Bethlehem Land Trust Board of Directors is saddened by the passing of our friend and generous supporter. We extend our condolences to his wife, Christine, and daughters, Isabel and Lily.



— ❁ ❁ — 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. Or visit bethlehemlandtrustct.org to join and pay by PayPal or credit card.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP \$35.00

❁ FOREST STEWARD (\$40–\$499)

❁ FIELD STEWARD (\$500–\$999)

❁ FARM STEWARD (\$1,000 PLUS)

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

Avian Tenants on the Pratt Preserve

This pair of indigo buntings chose the Pratt Preserve as a nesting site this spring. Though sightings of the male are not rare in these parts, his brilliant shimmering blue never fails to thrill. His mate, a soft brown with a streaked breast, is less commonly seen. BLT president Mary Hawvermale and her son Nick felt privileged to find them together. To see this sweet couple in color, visit the BLT website, www.bethlehemlandtrustct.org.



WOMAN'S WORK

THE FEMALE INDIGO BUNTING (LEFT) BUILDS THE NEST AND CARES FOR THE EGGS AND FLEDGLINGS WITHOUT HELP FROM HER MATE. BUT IF SHE LAYS A SECOND SET OF EGGS WHILE THE FIRST BROOD IS STILL IN THE NEST, HE WILL FEED THE FIRST WHILE SHE SITS ON THE SECOND. ♡

PHOTO BY NICK HAWVERMALE

Bethlehem Land Trust

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Neighbor
Bethlehem CT 06751

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We hike corrected: The lovely ravine trail referenced in the Winter 2014 newsletter can be reached through the BLT Long Horizons Preserve, but it is part of the town-owned Swendsen Preserve.

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