

LAND TRUST NOTES



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

Winter 2014

STEWARDSHIP KEEPS UP THE LAND
Brawn, people-hours, and money are the informal definition of stewardship, with some sweat and insect repellent thrown in. Although the word stewardship is not in the BLT Mission Statement (on page 3 of this newsletter), it must be understood to be a principal tool for preserving, protecting, conserving, and providing access to our properties. You may not realize how elemental and hands-on a task this is. Board member Doug Mahard is the steward of the Bellamy-Ferriday Preserve in the center of town, and he works diligently on its upkeep and to open new trails. Last spring he kept a journal detailing his forays into this property; when you read excerpts on page 2 you will surely applaud his efforts and perhaps be inspired to visit to see the results.

For a small land trust such as ours, with an all-volunteer board of directors, stewardship is both a pleasure and a challenge. We enjoy maintaining the preserves so that everyone can appreciate and experience them, but wish we had the human and financial resources to clear more trails, better clean up storm debris, more vigorously fight invasive species, provide more trail maps, and generally call attention to the beautiful lands in our care.

Time spent on BLT properties often yields exciting wildlife sightings, provides a peaceful interlude, and if you chose to help, can be invigorating and satisfying. If you'd like to volunteer at the Bellamy-Ferriday Preserve, Two Rivers Preserve, Canfield Preserve, or the Long Horizons Preserve, where there is an arboretum as well as a ravine trail, the only requirements are basic good health, some work gloves, and a love of the outdoors — no experience needed (contact bethlehemlandtrustct@gmail.com, we will respond). A financial gift will help the BLT meet stewardship goals too, enabling us to do such things as pay for services we cannot provide ourselves, rent special equipment, or upgrade

graphics (to donate, visit bethlehemlandtrustct.org or use the coupon in this letter).

Thanks to You, We Sold Out

On the night of November 23, 2013, Bethlehem's Memorial Hall was packed to capacity as every ticket for the Land Trust's ninth annual dinner and auction had been sold. The atmosphere was festive and the silent and live auction items saw vigorous bidding. A resounding "thank you" is hereby extended to the advertisers who supported the evening, all those who donated items (which included the work of many local artists and artisans and lots of local business services), to the Girl Scouts and others who volunteered to help with the event, and to the attendees who made the evening so lively. Mark your calendar: this year's dinner/auction will be November 22, Saturday before Thanksgiving.



One of our stewardship goals is to eradicate the Burning Bush that is an unwelcome, freely reproducing, and unruly resident of BLT preserves.



INVASIVE BURNING BUSH SPILLING THROUGH WOODS AND ONTO A TRAIL

Stewardship Day by Day

It is a pleasure to stroll through the Bellamy-Ferriday Preserve, located just north of the Bethlehem Green and east of March Farm. These excerpts from Doug Mahard's journal of his work there last spring, accompanied by Charlie, his Springer Spaniel, give a glimpse at what it takes to keep the trails open and the property neat. Doug, thank you.

MAY 13, 2013

To date I have scouted the entire Bellamy Preserve; begun a new trail in the pine forest off the northwest trail; started clearing downed and dead limbs from around the pond on the main trail and in the small pine stand south of the pond; begun piling branches on the side of the main trail for future chipping. Pulled garlic mustard plants along the main trail along with some burning bush. Started to reestablish trail connecting main trail to west trail. General pruning and cutting of vines growing up trees.

7 TO 8 A.M. AND 1 TO 3:30 P.M.

Parked by graveyard, walked with Charlie on the east trail to main trail to connecting trail to west trail back to main trail. Saw Sarah and her black Lab. Pulled up some garlic mustard and dragged fallen and pruned branches from small pine stand on west trail. Started branch pile in close proximity to gate on Munger Lane across from Ariola house. Pruned pine stand along southeast side trail. Piled brush.



A SNOWY INVITATION TO THE BELLAMY-FERRIDAY PRESERVE

MAY 14, 2013, 7 TO 9 A.M.

Parked at Munger Lane gate. Trimmed dead branches from pine stand on the southern part of the east trail. Piled brush. Cut poison ivy vines along north wall leading to barns and removed some saplings growing along the path.

MAY 18, 2013, 3:00 TO 4:00 P.M.

Parked at Munger Lane gate and walked with Charlie around the perimeter trails. Spectacular light coming in through the woods. Very beautiful day.

MAY 19, 2013, 6:30 TO 8:00 A.M.

Charlie and I parked at the graveyard and walked down the main trail. Did some pruning and brush piling. Thought it might be nice to have an elevated boardwalk over the east trail where the trail, brook, and stone wall all intersect.

MAY 20, 2013, 6:30 TO 9:30 A.M.

Charlie and I parked at the graveyard. Pruned and piled brush off the east trail and around the pond area. Met Christa and her long-haired Shepherd puppy. Told her I was the steward and thanked her for enjoying the Bellamy.

MAY 21, 2013, 12:30 TO 2:30 P.M.

Charlie and I parked in the field along Route 61 and walked the stone wall, pruning and marking trees to be cut by a contractor yet to be hired. Walked back by bushwhacking through the northeast pine forest and connecting with the east trail, then heading south along the main trail back to the car. Need new pruning blade.

MAY 22, 2013, 8:30 TO 9:30 A.M.

Charlie and I parked at the graveyard, said "Hello" to an older gentleman walking there, and proceeded to pile brush by the pond and adjacent pine forest.

MAY 27, 2013, 8:30 TO 12:00 A.M.

Charlie and I parked at the Munger Lane gate. Met Doug Greene and his dog; he rents the house across the street from the gate (also part of Miss Ferriday's estate). Cleared the right wall up to the stile bordering the Ferriday property. Cut the huge poison ivy vines on the opposite wall. Trimmed brush on the main trail. Beautiful Memorial Day.

JUNE 1, 2013, 5:30 TO 9:00 A.M.

Charlie and I parked at the graveyard. Walked down main trail. Pruned and piled brush around pond. Went back to car on northeast trail, pruning and piling brush.

JUNE 2, 2013, 8 TO 10:30 A.M.

Met Mark Metcalf at the graveyard and proceeded to pine stand on northern part of the west trail. Cleared the southern stone wall of downed tress and saplings and a few along the back wall. Piled brush.

JUNE 5, 2013, 6:30 TO 8:30 A.M.

Charlie and I parked at the graveyard. Continued to clear new trail in the northwest pine stand. Walked back along main trail, misc. pruning along the way.

JUNE 10, 2013, 1:30 TO 3:30 P.M.

Charlie and I parked at the graveyard. Piled brush from the new trail in the northwest pine forest.

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DO YOU THINK THE FOX AND THE CROW WERE STROLLING TOGETHER THROUGH THIS SNOW IN THE PRATT PRESERVE?

The BLT Board of Directors Welcomes a New Member

Emily Eisen has joined the Bethlehem Land Trust Board of Directors. We gladly add this introduction to her to the bios of the rest of the Board found in our Fall 2013 Newsletter:

I was raised in Westchester County, New York, and attended Connecticut College. When my husband opened his neurology practice in Waterbury, we chose Bethlehem as our home because of its rural nature and open spaces. When we first moved here, in 1971, I worked as the school psychologist for Region 12. Then, after getting my Ph.D. in psychology, I joined the clinical faculty at the Yale School of Medicine and have taught in the Department of Psychiatry since 1984. I have a private practice in neuropsychology in Waterbury.

I have been involved in the Old Beth Historic Society for a long time and have served on the boards of other Bethlehem organizations, including Bellamy-Ferriday House and Wellspring. I have served as a trustee of the Connecticut Community Foundation and the Chase Collegiate School and am currently on the board of Gaylord Hospital.

My son, Andrew, was born and raised in Bethlehem and would like to maintain roots here no matter where his work takes him. I am honored to serve on the BLT board, working to help preserve this beautiful area for posterity.

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❁ ❁ 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 _____

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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP \$35.00

❁ FOREST STEWARD (UP TO \$499)

❁ FIELD STEWARD (\$500-\$999)

❁ FARM STEWARD (\$1,000 PLUS)

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

Neighbors We Rarely See

One benefit of frequenting the outdoors is you've a good chance of being in the right place at the right time for seeing something special. If you are lucky, you may be rewarded with a good photo opportunity, complete with eye-contact, as was offered by these owls.



SCREECH OWL & BARRED OWL

BLT PRESIDENT MARY HAWVERMALE COUNTS THE SCREECH OWL ABOVE AMONG THE RESIDENT WILDLIFE ON THE PRATT PRESERVE. SMALL, ONLY 8½ INCHES LONG, HE IS DISTINGUISHED BY FEATHERED EAR TUFTS. THE BARRED OWL AT RIGHT STARED DOWN AT VICE PRESIDENT STUART RABINOWITZ ON A WALK THROUGH THE BELLAMY-FERRIDAY PRESERVE. TWENTY-ONE INCHES LONG, HE FAMOUSLY QUERIES "WHO COOKS FOR YOU?" OR INVITES YOU TO "COME EAT YOUR FOOD." 🦉

Bethlehem Land Trust

P.O. Box 322 BETHLEHEM, CT 06751



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