



New Hartford Land Trust

preserving our community's natural resources and rural heritage

President's Message

Remembering Ginger Eigenbrod

Virginia Eigenbrod, a dear friend of the NHLT and the widow of former NHLT President Ron Eigenbrod, died on November 23rd. Ginger was a creative, spirited, kind, smart and athletic woman who loved nature and hiking with NHLT. We miss her and are very grateful that she included NHLT in her will.

Thank you . . . to all of the individuals and families who gave money and/or time to NHLT during 2012 and to date this year. Your contributions make it possible for us to fulfill our land preservation and stewardship mission! We ask that you give as generously as you can so that we can also meet our goals for the Campaign for the Alfred Sabolcik Property (see p. 3). Special gratitude goes to the many NWR7 students, Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts who worked very hard at our Alfred Sabolcik Property and on our Fall Frolic fundraiser (see below).

For those who are not current contributors to NHLT, we hope you will read about our work in this newsletter and consider joining. Please complete the form on the back page and mail it with your check or let us know other ways that you may be able to help us preserve key lands and natural resources in our community. Join our e-news list to learn more!

One Fabulous Fall Frolic!

In this 'land of steady habits' it is sometimes hard to start a new tradition and succeed. Thanks to the collective efforts of many, the NHLT hosted its first 'Fabulous Fall Frolic' for nearly 200 partygoers at Ski Sundown last October. Folks thoroughly enjoyed themselves and we plan to reprise the event again this year. Please don't make any plans for mid-October 2013 yet and we will let you know the firm date shortly!

I want to thank the Girl Scouts, NWR7 students and the hardworking committee that put the event together: Cindy Bohan, Susie Horn, Priscilla Marshall, Karen Meares, Judy Stewart and Madeline McClave. The only serious note of the evening was when NHLT's first Founder's Award was presented to Tom Klebart (see p.4).

Huge thanks to:

- Bob Switzgable/Ski Sundown**
- Rani Arbo & Daisy Mayhem**
- Kenny Dahill/MarWin Farm**
- The Meat House**

(continued on p.4)



Courtesy of Solveig Hayward

Don't miss this year's Fabulous Fall Frolic!

NHLT Annual Meeting

Sunday, March 3rd at 4 p.m.

Learn About the Emerald Ash Borer and Other Invasive Insects

Please join us on Sunday, March 3rd at 4:00 p.m. for the New Hartford Land Trust (NHLT) Annual Meeting at Town Hall. This is your chance to learn more about the Land Trust and our current activities and hear entomologist Dr. Claire Rutledge speak on The Emerald Ash Borer and Other Invasive Pests.

The Emerald Ash Borer is an exotic wood-boring beetle that kills ash trees. This beetle was first detected in Detroit, Michigan, in 2002 and has since spread to 17 states. The Emerald Ash Borer was detected in Connecticut last July. At the NHLT Annual Meeting, you will learn about the history and biology of the beetle, the threat it poses to our forests and landscapes, how we track its spread, and what you can do to help minimize its impact on our ash trees.

(continued on p.4)

What's Inside:

NHLT Wildlife Programs: Moose & Owls	p. 2
Noel Property: A Walk in the Woods	p. 2
Campaign for the Alfred Sabolcik Property	p. 3
Klebart Receives Award	p. 4
Conservation Issues in the News	p. 4
Spotlight on Invasives: Multiflora Rose	p. 5
Your Land Trust Needs You! Join NHLT	p. 6



New Hartford Land Trust, Inc.
 P.O. Box 272
 New Hartford, CT 06057

E-mail: newhartfordlandtrust@yahoo.com

Board Members (01/01/13):

Madeline McClave
President

Jeff Ollendorf
Vice President

Lynn Charest
Secretary

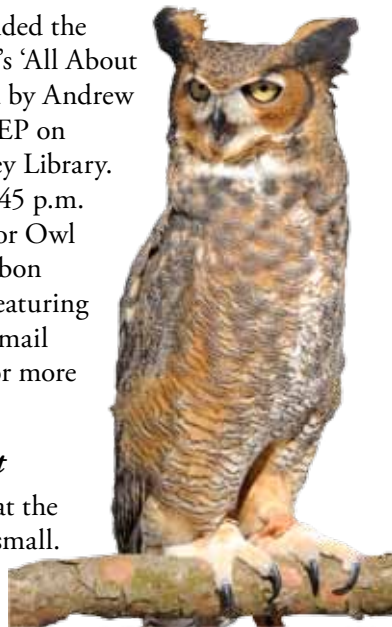
Tammy Casey
Peggy Grohs

Roger Dietlin
Anne Hall

Eloise Farmer
Karen Meares

NHLT Wildlife Programs: Moose and Owls

More than 50 people attended the New Hartford Land Trust's 'All About Moose' program presented by Andrew LaBonte from the CT DEEP on January 30th at the Beekley Library. On Friday, April 5th, at 6:45 p.m. NHLT will host an outdoor Owl Prowl led by Sharon Audubon Director Scott Heth and featuring owls from their Center. E-mail us or call 860-489-4118 for more information.



Great Horned Owl at Sharon Audubon Center/Photo by James Gimnetty

Moose in Connecticut

Mr. LaBonte explained that the state moose population is small. Connecticut first began tracking what was then a transient population in 1992. In 1998 the first known calf was reported in Ashford. The 2008 moose population was estimated at 73, based on data compiled from sightings. It is estimated that by 2028 the population could be as high as 258 moose. New Hartford has had 22 moose sightings reported to the DEEP.

Moose prefer higher elevations, with 90% of the Connecticut sightings coming from locations over 900 feet. They require large tracts of land and favor areas where timber is actively being cut, as this creates ideal feeding grounds. The most popular areas for moose in Connecticut are in Hartland and around the Barkhamsted, Colebrook, and Hogback Reservoirs. New Hartford's open spaces and wetlands are ideal for moose as well, creating greenways through which the animals can access surrounding forests including Nepaug, Sessions Woods, and MDC properties. In addition to Litchfield County, some areas in northeastern Connecticut have suitable conditions. However, because

moose roam to establish new territories, they have been found across the state.

The DEEP feels that the moose population in Connecticut will remain limited as it is constrained by a number of factors. Chief among them is unsuitable habitat. In addition to being highly developed, Connecticut is simply too hot for moose: at temperatures of over 68F in the summer or 23F in the winter, moose develop heat stress; because of this they must have access to cool water-bodies in the summer. Additionally, moose are vulnerable to a parasitic brain worm that is carried by white tail deer. Although not harmful to deer, it is almost always fatal to moose; where there are a lot of deer, there are few moose. Finally, motor-vehicle collisions are a serious threat to such a mobile animal.

The DEEP relies on citizens' reports of moose in order to track the population. You can report a moose online at: <http://www.depdata.ct.gov/wildlife/sighting/mooserpt.htm> or call: (860) 642-7239.

Noel Property: A Walk in the Woods

The NHLT's Ken Eric Noel property is not generally open for public access so please join us for a guided tour there later this spring. Following is an account of a walk on the parcel by NHLT Board member Anne Hall.

Connecticut is not known for its amazing landscapes; for the most part we take our pleasures in the elegant infinity of the smaller landscapes. The Noel property is one such place. One enters through a mixed forest: the low ridge is populated by beech and hemlock; in the slightly wetter area ahead and to the left, red maple and hickory form a stand. Walking farther in, mountain laurel encroaches, eager to take hold on the path. And what a path! Innumerate ground species A testify to the relatively undisturbed nature of the land: ground pines, club mosses, wintergreen, partridge berry, fungi, moss, lichen, even bluets smiling in a patch of sun.

Just beyond a hemlock grove stands a spreading beech. Beneath its silver limbs is an overlook and some dozens of feet down is a jewel of a New England beaver pond. The

(continued on p.5)

Sign up for the NHLT e-newsletter!

Send us a message at

newhartfordlandtrust@yahoo.com

to let us know you would like to receive periodic alerts about walks, talks, work days and other events.

Campaign for the Alfred Sabolcik Property

Campaign Goal: \$100,000
Raised to date: \$20,000
Remaining to be raised: \$80,000

Key Cost Items: \$50,000 mortgage bequeathed to NHLT along with 90+ acres plus A-2 Survey and baseline assessment, legal and insurance, demolition and clean-up, fencing, signage/plaque, parking, plant material

NHLT's Board and many other volunteers have been working hard over the past year to prepare the Alfred Sabolcik Property so that it can be opened to the public for hiking and cross-country skiing in late 2013 or spring of 2014. Others are helping with fundraising and we thank them for hosting gatherings for neighbors to learn about the project and for contributing to the Campaign so that we could send off our first mortgage payment last December.

The photos here show some of our progress at the site in 2012. Please e-mail us at newhartfordlandtrust@yahoo.com or call 860-626-0301 if you would like to volunteer, learn more about the Campaign or help us with fundraising. Join us on Saturday, June 1st, for a workday at the property!



NWR7 Student 'Fencing' Team Led by Norman Meares Admires Their Work on Planting Day Last May. More than 140 People Volunteered to Dig in and Fence Native Shrubs as Part of a Grant Project in May of 2011 and 2012.



Many Old Vehicles Have Been Removed and Sold for Scrap

Adult volunteers created the planting plans, ordered the plants, organized and led teams of students and Girl Scouts, and worked with NWR7 teachers on recruitment



Two Streams Merge on the Property and Feed into the Nepaug River. We Plan to Build a Bridge so Hikers can Cross the Stream in High Water

Cub Scouts Put Together 30 Bluebird Houses for NHLT at the Property. Some Will Go to Other NHLT Properties.



NHLT has secured the old house and barn sites and posted signs to prevent ATVs and others from entering until the property is ready for public access. We plan to display some of the old farm equipment with interpretive signage. There will also be a plaque in Alfred Sabolcik's memory and plantings near the foundation of the house.

President's Message *(continued from p.1)*

Many local farms donated door prizes, pumpkins, plants and fresh dinner ingredients:

Barden Farm, CT Valley Winery, Gresczyk Farms, Grinvalsky Farm/Cornstand CT, Hayward Farm, Holiday Farm, Jerram Winery, Maple Hollow Farm, MarWin Farm, Renaissance Farm, West Hill Sugar House, and Wild Carrot Farm.

For the bountiful beer, cider and buffet, we thank Thomas Hooker Brewing Co., Foothills Delery, Marandino's, Blue Sky Foods, Chatterly's, Collinsville Baking Co., and Hayward Farm. Moscarillo's donated a lovely centerpiece.

Many individuals donated beyond the ticket price as Great Pumpkin, Golden Grain and Mighty Acorn event sponsors. We appreciate their financial support along with that of Burdick Road Orchard, Jerram Winery and Radwick's Coffee & Sandwich.

Please patronize these local farms and businesses and join the Fall Frolic this October!

Madeline McClave, President

Annual Meeting *(continued from p.1)*

Dr. Rutledge joined The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in 2004. Her major focus is wood-boring beetles that attack living trees. Dr. Rutledge's program has concentrations in beetle mating biology, their chemical communication and the detection of jewel beetles using bio-surveillance. She has a Master's and Ph.D. in Entomology from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

The Meeting will also include a brief update on Land Trust activities and our annual election of Board members. Current NHLT members can vote in the election. If you have not joined yet this year, please send in your check as soon as possible. A membership form is at the back of this newsletter.

Come out on a late winter Sunday afternoon to hear an interesting talk, see colorful slides, learn about what's happening with the Land Trust and spend some time with neighbors and friends!

Conservation Issues in the News

Land trusts and land conservation, generally, are facing several threats in the current legislative sessions in Congress and at the Capitol in Hartford.

In addition, there is a potentially serious Farmington River Watershed issue pending. To learn more, please join our e-news list or call 860-626-0301.

Klebart Receives Founder's Award

At the NHLT's Fall Frolic at Ski Sundown last October, the NHLT's first Founder's Award was presented to Tom Klebart in appreciation for his wonderful dedication to the NHLT for more than 25 years. The framed award reads,



in part, "Presented for extraordinary leadership in service as past President and Board member. Your perseverance, good will, passion for land conservation and deep sense of caring about the well-being of this community have been vital to this organization and to the preservation of open space in New Hartford".

Tom and his wife, Rena, moved to Massachusetts last year and Tom resigned from the NHLT Board last June after decades of service. He was instrumental in moving the NHLT forward organizationally. He also worked closely with the Town and other key partners on a variety of land preservation projects including Riverview Park across from the Post Office. Tom was a treasured colleague on our Board and we are grateful that he remains involved as an advisor and friend to the NHLT.



Courtesy of Catherine Brooks

Hikers have enjoyed CT Trails Day walks organized by NHLT over the past three years. Join us on Saturday, June 1st for walking and working at the Alfred Sabolcik property to help prepare it for public access. Sign up for the NHLT e-news to get notices about monthly hikes and other programs!



NHLT Land Conservation Committee members George Durstin, Roger Dietlin and Jeff Ollendorf at the Noel Property

Walk in the Woods *(continued from p.2)*

steep, rocky slopes are a tangle of laurel, witch hazel, swamp azalea, and blueberry. The pond's shore has clumps of rushes wherein might hide a beaver or a duck, or perhaps a turtle dozing in the sun. There is a great dead tree standing sentinel, haunted by woodpeckers, owls, and hawks. The

pond is not reachable from this point, so one reluctantly moves further into the woods.

The laurel is now a lustrous green sea beneath the more open forest of oak and pine. In fall, the witch hazel forms a golden crown above the green; in spring, the green is ornamented by pink and white flowers. The grouse, the turkey, and the fox know their way through this sea where people cannot move easily. So we continue down the slope, reaching at last the outlet of the pond: an old beaver dam and a boggy area where tufts of sedges grow to be colonized by blueberry bushes looking for the sun. We have come to the end of our walk and must retrace our steps though the farther shore beckons. This is no hardship. Next time we will see much more in this land of forest, rock, and water.

Please contact us at:
newhartfordlandtrust@yahoo.com
or 860-626-0301

Spotlight on Invasives: Multiflora Rose

Multiflora rose, an import from Asia, has become one of the most noxious weeds in the eastern United States. It is an extremely prolific shrub that forms huge thickets that block native plants from growing. New plants start in open fields and on forest edges and then invade open woodlands, marshlands and any disturbed land; displacing our native plants, damaging pastures and lowering property values. Its invasive growth habit causes impenetrable thickets that damage pastures and forests and prevent the diversity of plants available as food for our wildlife.

Multiflora rose is a perennial shrub with long, very thorny arching stems. White to pink flowers appear in May or June. Green rose hips develop during the summer becoming bright red in fall and persisting through winter. Although attractive, the rose hips are only eaten by birds as a last resort, as they lack the appropriate sugars and fats.

The Multiflora rose was deliberately introduced to North America in the late 1800's. It was advertised to farmers as a form of living fence and was used to stabilize roadside banks while its Asian origin as well as decorative flowers and rosehips attracted gardeners. Highway departments continued to use it well into the 1900's and it was used for 'wildlife' plantings until concerns about its invasive qualities were raised. It can be managed by continual cutting of stems at ground level or cutting the stems and painting the cut edge with a herbicide.

So what are some native alternatives? For hedges, the Washington and Cockspur Hawthorns make a thorny hedge of about the same height. Gray Dogwood or Red Chokeberry are good, thornless hedge plants and display brilliant fall color. All three sport white flowers.



Thanks to the hard work of many volunteers, the NHLT has removed huge stands of Multiflora rose from old pasture areas and along the stream banks at our Alfred Sabolcik property. We always need lots of help with identification and removal of invasive plants on our lands. Please contact us at newhartfordlandtrust@yahoo.com if you can help!

For more information, visit the CT Invasive Plant Working Group web site at www.hort.uconn.edu/cipwg or the Invasive Plant Atlas of New England site at <http://nbii-nin.ciesia.columbia.edu/ipane/>.



New Hartford Land Trust
 P.O. Box 272
 New Hartford, CT 06057

U. S. POSTAGE PAID
 WINSTED, CT 06098
 PERMIT #203

Upcoming NHLT Events
Mark Your Calendars!

- Sunday, March 3 at 4 p.m.**
Annual Meeting and Slide Lecture
The Emerald Ash Borer & Other Invasive Pests
- Friday, April 5 at 6:45 p.m.**
Owl Prowl with Sharon Audubon
- Saturday, April 27 at 9:00 a.m.**
Earth Day Event
- Saturday, May 11 at 9:00 a.m.**
Guided Hike
- Saturday, June 1 at 9:00 a.m.**
CT Trails Weekend– Work Day

Postal Patron

Your Land Trust Needs You!

There are many ways to get involved after you send in your annual gift to NHLT!

- Lead a walk or talk – let us know your ideas!
- Take photos for us
- Encourage your friends and neighbors to join and volunteer
- Help plan our Fall Frolic fundraiser
- Write a feature for the NHLT e-Newsletter
- Advocate for state and federal policies that promote conservation
- Help maintain our properties and open them to public access
- Buy or Sell Thanksgiving Pies for NHLT
- Spread the word about our work!

Please e-mail us at newhartfordlandtrust@yahoo.com, call 860-626-0301 or drop us a note on the membership form below. Whether it's for a few hours a year or a few hours a week, we can use your help!



New Hartford Land Trust 2013 Membership Form

Yes! I support the permanent preservation of key open space, farmland and forests in New Hartford. I will join the New Hartford Land Trust for 2013.

Junior: \$10.00 Individual: \$20.00 Family: \$35.00 Sustaining: \$50.00 Patron: \$100.00 Benefactor: \$250.00+

I will also donate to the Campaign for the Alfred Sabolcik Property to help NHLT raise the \$80,000 still needed with a gift of \$_____.

My check payable to NHLT in the amount of \$_____ is enclosed.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

e-mail (for e-news): _____ Phone: _____

NHLT is a 501(c)3 organization. Your gift is tax-deductible as allowed by law.

Please contact me about volunteering. The activities that interest me are:

- Fundraising Events Land Maintenance Stewardship Walks & Talks Membership Other

New Hartford Land Trust • P.O. Box 272 • New Hartford CT 06057