



## News from the New Hartford Land Trust

Volume 3, Issue 1

**David Leff, CT DEP Official and Noted Author,  
to Speak on Sunday, January 22**

Please join us at the Town Hall Senior Center on Sunday, January 22 at 4:00 p.m. for the New Hartford Land Trust Annual Meeting. Our speaker will be David K. Leff, Deputy Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (CT DEP). A resident of Collinsville, Leff is also the author of [The Last Undiscovered Place](#), a first person narrative about the way in which people relate to their landscape and communities.

Advance scouts tell us that he is a very engaging speaker and we hope you will come out to thank him for the two magnificent state grants totaling \$900,000 that were awarded by the DEP for New Hartford's first two open space purchases (see article on page 3).

At DEP, Leff is principally responsible for conservation programs including parks, forests, fisheries, and wildlife. Among his primary concerns are preservation of open space and protection of sensitive and unusual natural communities. In 1997 he chaired the Governor's Blue Ribbon Task Force on Open Space. Since that time over 50,000 acres of land have been protected. He is currently Chairman of the Connecticut Invasive Plants Council.

Mr. Leff is Chairman of the Collinsville Historic District Commission. He is also a maple sugar maker and has been on the board of directors of the Maple Syrup Producers Association of Connecticut. Leff is a regular contributor to the Hartford Courant.

Come out to learn about what's happening with preservation at the state level and to hear Mr. Leff's conclusions about what it really takes to 'become native' to a place. If the weather is questionable, call 738-4160 for information.

### Message from the President:

Your Land Trust has had a busy 2005. In addition to watching over the 346 acres that the NHLT either owns outright or has a conservation easement on, we have worked hard on several other projects. One area of future importance was our review and recommendations for the proposed updates to our Town's Plan of Conservation and Development. Many thanks to former Land Trust board member, Jean Darlington, who worked to ensure that the revised Plan contains accurate information and useful recommendations about open space.

The New Hartford Land Trust (NHLT) led the third annual Earth Day Town Cleanup in April. Thanks to the Town for trucks to fill up with debris. Join us again on April 22, 2006!

Our annual fundraiser became the place to be the weekend before Memorial Day. Over 400 turned out for the "Spring Swamp Stomp" at Ski Sundown partaking of refreshments and enjoying the zydeco music. Many thanks to Bob Switzgable for generously lending his terrific Ski Sundown facility and staff. It is a great place for your next wedding or family gathering too.

Summer saw us working on the trails at the 50-acre Regents Park property. It's not quite ready for prime time, but will soon showcase deep woods, old growth hemlock, and a lovely stream. In August, we hosted a return concert in the new Riverviews Park (across from the Post Office) by Eric Mintel and his jazz quartet. It's free, thanks to the NHLT and the generosity of Tangarone & Prelli Insurance. We plan on making this an annual event.

*(cont. on bottom of page 2)*

### What's Inside:

**Town's First Open  
Space Purchases  
Approved - p. 2**

**Land Trust Raises Gap  
Funding for Jones  
Mountain Deal - p. 2**

**Land Trust Free  
Summer Concert - p. 2**

**New Hartford to  
Preserve Cherished  
Places - p. 3**

**Money and Spirits  
Raised by Swamp  
Stomp- p. 3**

**Join NHLT - p.4**

## Town's First Open Space Projects Approved

On December 21 and January 5, residents crowded into Town Hall and unanimously approved resolutions for the Town to purchase the two properties described in the article on page three. On behalf of the entire community, we thank the Goula and Jones families for persevering through New Hartford's first open space preservation efforts. Their commitment to ensure that their family lands are preserved forever will contribute incalculably to our quality of life. A mix of bonding, current Town funds, state grants and private monies raised by the Land Trust will pay for the purchases.

These parcels will be available for passive recreational use by the public and will never be developed. The closings are set for February.

We are grateful for the work of the Open Space Preservation Commission (OSPC) and its leaders. Many thanks also go to the Trust for Public Land (TPL) and their Project Director, Alicia Betty, for negotiating the Jones Mountain deal on behalf of the OSPC. TPL applied for the state grant money that is helping to pay for the Jones parcel and is covering many other costs to complete the purchase.



*Frank Jones and daughter, Jeanne (front), with Town officials and representatives of NHLT and TPL.*

## Land Trust Raises Gap Funding Needed to Close Jones Mountain Deal

The New Hartford Land Trust nimbly stepped up to help move the Jones project through its final set of Town approvals. At its December 8 meeting, the NHLT board voted to make a \$30,000 grant to help meet the \$119,000 gap in project funding and also decided to run a Challenge Campaign for Jones Mountain to raise the rest of the money by April 1, 2006.

In five short weeks, the NHLT learned that New Hartford residents wholeheartedly support the preservation of key open space parcels! Many people gave generously and asked their friends to do the same. As we go to press, all but a few thousand dollars has been firmly pledged or contributed! We especially want to thank the Farmington River Coordinating Committee for its grant of \$30,000. NHLT Board President, Ron Eigenbrod, committed the first leadership gift of \$5,000. The Kingdom Game Club and an anonymous donor generously followed suit! More details about the campaign will follow in the next newsletter.



## The 2005 Land Trust Free Concert: Swingin' (Again) with the Eric Mintel Quartet

On a sultry Sunday last August, New Hartford residents cooled down to an afternoon of upbeat jazz presented by the Eric Mintel Quartet, playing for the second time in downtown New Hartford's "Riverviews Park". Over 100 guests reclined, snacked and snapped fingers on the grassy slope while the quartet whipped up "Take Five" and other Dave Brubeck favorites. Tangarone & Prelli Insurance generously helped the Land Trust sponsor the event. Next year's free concert is tentatively set for Sunday, August 13.

The Park, accessible from the 'patient parking area' of the Town Hall parking lot near the river, or across from the Post Office, is open during daylight hours. It was made possible by generous donations to the NHLT from the Beekley and Heath families, long-time residents of New Hartford. The Land Trust also received a \$6,300 grant from the Farmington River Coordinating Committee to create a riverside walkway.

The Land Trust is seeking donations to place named benches along the trail. To find out more, call Ron Eigenbrod at 738-4136.

## Message from the President (cont. from page 1)

The outstanding work of the Town's Open Space Preservation Commission (OSPC) to acquire and preserve the Goula and Jones properties brought all of us together in December. Our hats are off to OSPC's founding Chair, Caren Ross, and its current leader, Bill Michaud, for moving these first two projects ahead. The NHLT was proud to assist with last-minute fundraising of \$120,000 to help make it happen. We are awed by the support and generosity of our townsfolk!

Join NHLT and get involved! Our board meetings are open to all members. Those meetings and our events are posted ahead on our web site. I look forward to seeing you at the next one!

Ron Eigenbrod  
President

## New Hartford Wins \$900,000 to Preserve Cherished Places

"I'd rather sit alone on a pumpkin than crowded on a velvet cushion," said Governor Jodi Rell, quoting Henry David Thoreau, at a ceremony on November 17 announcing the state's open space grant recipients. She was highlighting the importance to the human spirit of tranquility, simplicity and solitude which are so often neglected in the frenzy of living.

Appropriately, the governor's ceremony was held outdoors, under a tent, alongside a crystal clear lake surrounded by woods and meadows that will be preserved with state open space money. The Norwalk Land Trust, which is spearheading the effort to preserve the property, hosted hundreds of land preservationists gathered to mark the important day, including New Hartford's First Selectman, Bill Baxter, and founding OSPC Chair, Caren Ross.

New Hartford, a town still rich in such places of sublime beauty, was the single biggest recipient of state grant awards, selected to get more than twice the amount of any other town in the state, and almost 15% of the total \$6.8 million dispersed. New

Hartford will receive \$900,000 from the Department of Environmental Protection toward the purchase and permanent preservation of almost 300 acres of pristine land on two parcels. One parcel is at the very top of Cotton Hill Road, at the highest point in town, and it features farmland, forest, a spectacular wetland, sweeping scenic vistas and a Native American soapstone quarry. The other parcel encompasses 166 forested acres that run from close to the bottom of Steele Road up to the top of Jones Mountain. It is the backdrop to the downtown, and from its lookout point on top, one can see for miles across the intact ridgelines of the northwest corner.

The New Hartford Land Trust, working in partnership with the town, plans to collaborate for the successful preservation and stewardship of these properties. As a private entity, the Land Trust can augment the work of the town, organize volunteers, and play a watchdog role in assuring that preserved lands and conservation easements are never violated. After all, "What is the use of a house if you haven't got a tolerable planet to put it on?" (Thoreau)

## Money and Spirits Raised by Spring Swamp Stomp

Nearly 400 people turned out to support the New Hartford Land Trust and to 'shake their tails' at the 'Spring Swamp Stomp' last May (thanks in part to some great advance promotion by Litchfield radio station WZBG/97.3 FM). The event netted almost \$6,000 for the NHLT! Saturday, May 20 is the tentative date for a repeat performance in 2006. Mark your calendars and get ready to party!

The NHLT is extremely grateful to Bob Switzgable who donated Ski Sundown for the event as well as lots of his own time and that of key staffer, Patty Dionne. Stompers grooved to the bayou music provided at a deep discount by River City Slim and the Zydeco Hogs and danced late into the evening on the deck looking up at the ski slopes and the night sky. They also grazed on hors d'oeuvres and a buffet dinner put together by volunteers and with contributions from the businesses listed in the box here.

We also want to thank New Hartford resident, Curt Cameron, and his former business, New England Beverage Company (now The Cork), for providing wine and microbrews at a very low cost to the Land Trust in support of the fundraiser. In addition, nearly 20 people contributed home-baked specialties to the fabulous dessert table.

All NHLT board members worked hard on the event. Many thanks also to several other key volunteers who helped make the 'Stomp' such a success: Priscilla Marshall, Julie LaSata, Susie Horn, Pat Keener, Norman Meares, Wendy Ollendorf, and Ginger Panikoff.

If you'd like to work on this year's Swamp Stomp, we'd love your help! To volunteer, please call Madeline at 626-0301.



**Many thanks to our  
Swamp Stomp business  
supporters:**

**Ski Sundown  
New England Beverage  
River City Slim and the  
Zydeco Hogs**

**Applebee's  
Arturo's/Millite's Bakery  
Blue Sky Foods  
Cakes By Jenny  
Chatterly's  
Earth Blossom Florist  
Harwinton Italian Pizza  
Jimmy's Store  
Marandino's  
Pricechopper  
Stop & Shop  
WZBG/97.3 FM**



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

U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
NEW HARTFORD, CT 06057  
PERMIT #18

## 2006 Land Trust Events- Mark Your Calendars!

**Sunday, January 22-**  
Annual Meeting/Speaker  
(see p.1 for details)

**Saturday, April 22-**  
Earth Day Cleanup

**Saturday, May 20 - (tent.)**  
Spring Swamp Stomp

**Sunday, August 13 -**  
Free Concert Downtown

## Postal Patron

## Get Involved with the Land Trust!

The New Hartford Land Trust welcomes new members and volunteers. You can get some fresh air and see new parts of our town by helping us with trails and other property management activities. You can meet new people and help us raise funds by working with us on events. The New Hartford Land Trust needs volunteer stewards to help monitor its many properties.

We also need help with clean-up and maintenance of properties, fundraising activities, and acquisition activities. Please help us by putting your most valuable gift—yourself—to work for our common goal! If you are interested in volunteering, please call Ron Eigenbrod at 738-4136.

We depend on membership fees to support operations, insurance, mailings, and land maintenance expenses, and to acquire land. Get involved with permanently protecting the conservation value of our land in New Hartford by becoming a member.

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

Enclosed is my tax-deductible check for \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



Please make your check payable to New Hartford Land Trust, and mail to:  
**New Hartford Land Trust, P.O. Box 272, New Hartford CT 06057**

To find out more, go to [www.newhartfordlandtrust.org](http://www.newhartfordlandtrust.org)