



February 2011

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New Hartford Land Trust

preserving our community's natural resources and rural heritage

President's Message

Many thanks to all of the individuals and families who gave money and/or time to the New Hartford Land Trust (NHLT) during 2010 and to date in 2011. Your contributions make it possible for us to fulfill our land preservation and stewardship mission!

If you have not yet sent your 2011 gift to NHLT, please complete the form on the back page and mail it with your check. We hope you will consider increasing your support as our annual expenses are rising and we have significant acquisition and property cleanup costs associated with our new Alfred Sabolcik parcel (see article on page 3).

We are also grateful for this additional support in 2010:

For grants to support our work:

Land Trust Alliance/CT Land Conservation Council
Challenge Fund
New Hartford Community Connections

For professional services:

Betsy Corrigan, Consulting Biologist
David M. Cusick, Attorney and Partner
Howd, Lavieri & Finch, LLP
Eileen Fielding, Farmington River Watershed Association
Sean Hayden, Northwest Conservation District
William R. Scoville, CPA LLC

For the 2010 Earth Day Cleanup:

Cub Scouts Pack 19
Foothills Delery
Friends of Brodie Park
Hoffmann Hardware
New Hartford Conservation Commission
NewHartfordPlus.com
Radwick's Coffee & Sandwich
Renaissance Farm
Subway

For Land Trust Alliance Conference support:

Farmington River Coordinating Committee

Your Land Trust undertakes what is an awesome challenge: to protect and steward lands in perpetuity. Please help us meet this responsibility and invest in our work to protect New Hartford's rural heritage and natural resources.

Sincerely,

Madeline McClave, President



Photo courtesy of David Leff

NHLT Annual Meeting and Lecture Sunday, March 6th at 4 p.m.

Please join us at the Town Hall Senior Center on Sunday, March 6th at 4:00 p.m. for the New Hartford Land Trust (NHLT) Annual Meeting. It will include an update on NHLT activity and a presentation on 'Woodland Ecology and Management'. Thomas Worthley, a forest expert and Assistant Extension Professor at University of Connecticut, will give a slide lecture on rationales for managing forests and assistance available in Connecticut to private landowners for woodland protection, management and stewardship. Worthley will also talk about insect pests that are currently causing or anticipated to cause significant changes or problems in Connecticut forests. There will be an opportunity to ask questions after the presentation.

After discussing the basic ecological principles of forests, Worthley will talk about how these principles can be applied to enhance and optimize forest-based benefits from our woodlands. He will also tell us about the educational and technical assistance available for private organizations such as land trusts and for individual property owners to create and implement forest management plans.

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Biologist Betsy Corrigan with participants at NHLT's 2010 invasive plant identification walk

Invasive Plants are Here! Help Eradicate Them

Invasive plants are changing our woods, meadows and wetlands at an alarming pace. These plants are non-native species with aggressive growth patterns that outcompete and displace our native plants. Once our native plants are lost our native wildlife and insects, dependent on native plants, are deprived of their food sources.

Because these invasive plants can spread quickly across the landscape and are much harder to eliminate than prevent, we hope that area residents will become aware of the problems they pose and help 'nip them in the bud' as they appear on your own property or along the roadsides in your neighborhood. In each issue of the NHLT newsletter, we will highlight one such plant to help you identify and eliminate it.

In 2010, NHLT sponsored a winter slide lecture about native and invasive plants. Thanks to a wonderful donation of time and expertise from Consulting Biologist Betsy Corrigan, we also offered a follow-up invasive plant identification walk in September. Many of our property stewards, interested landowners and other residents participated and learned about what defines a plant as 'invasive' in Connecticut, how to identify them on the ground, and the best ways to eradicate the worst plant offenders in our community. We hope to offer another invasive plant ID walk in 2011. Please e-mail us at newhartfordlandtrust@yahoo.com to receive our e-news notifications about upcoming programs.

Please see page three for information about the work NHLT volunteers are doing out in the field on our newest property, the Alfred Sabolcik parcel, on eliminating invasive shrubs and replacing them with natives.

Find the list of CT invasive plants, photos, publications, legislation and more on the CT Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG) web site at www.hort.uconn.edu/cipwg/.

Spotlight on Garlic Mustard

Garlic Mustard is spreading throughout New Hartford and is one of the easiest invasives to eradicate. Since a single plant can produce thousands of seeds and these remain viable for five years or more, early eradication is crucial.

Hand pulling or cutting stems during the flowering stage are the preferred methods for getting rid of infestations. When hand pulling, grasp the stem and pull out the entire plant. Then tamp down the exposed soil to prevent germination of seeds left in the soil. When cutting use a scythe, weed whip, or power brush cutter to cut the stems at ground level. Cutting before the plant flowers may cause re-sprouting. If seed pods are present, the pulled or cut plants must be bagged and disposed to prevent further germination.

For more information, visit the Invasive Plant Atlas of New England website at www.ipane.org

'Garlic mustard poses a severe threat to native plants and animals in forest communities in much of the eastern and midwestern U.S.'

PCA Alien Plant Working Group



Plant in bloom



Plant with seed pods

To contact us:

newhartfordlandtrust@yahoo.com

860-626-0301



Victory! Board members Karen Meares and Lynn Charest triumph over rampant and invasive Barberry and Multiflora Rose at the NHLT's new Alfred Sabolcik property. Removal of invasives and planting of native shrubs along the stream as well as warm season grasses in an old sand and gravel pit area on the property are some of the NHLT activities occurring with the support of a USDA/NRCS Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) grant. Return and mark the membership form on back page here or e-mail us if you would like to join the volunteer work crews.

NHLT Goal: \$100,000 Campaign for Alfred Sabolcik Property

Just one year ago, the property bequeathed to the NHLT by Alfred Sabolcik was transferred to the Land Trust. Purchased by his parents in 1917, Alfred lived there all his life (1928-2009) and he and his father kept dairy cows until the 1960's. The NHLT is honored that Alfred entrusted his family lands to us. Now, we need your help to raise \$100,000 to pay off the mortgage he owed on the property, clean it up and prepare it for public access. Our aim is to open it for hiking by early 2012.

Please come to the NHLT Annual Meeting (see page one) or contact us at newhartfordlandtrust@yahoo.com or 860-626-0301 to learn more about this project. Several gatherings will be hosted by NHLT friends this spring so we can present our plans for the property to interested folks. Please let us know if you would like to join us.

Alfred never married or had children and his three brothers all predeceased him. He decided to accomplish his goal to preserve his beloved family lands by leaving the residue of his estate to the NHLT. As he told a reporter for the Republican American in 2007, "I hate to see it go to houses." The parcel contains open areas formerly used for grazing which are now partially covered with invasives, an old sand and gravel operation with attendant cleanup issues, lovely woodlands, and two streams that come together on the property and feed into the Nepaug River. It is an important part of the Nepaug watershed and the agricultural history of New Hartford.

After performing the necessary environmental and other due diligence, the Land Trust Board voted to accept the property and we hope to finish preparing it for public access by 2012 if the necessary funds can be raised. Volunteers began eradicating the invasives in the old borrow pit last fall (see photo and caption here) and other cleanup work will begin in earnest this spring. The \$100,000 project budget includes a mortgage note of \$50,000 plus costs to survey, assess, clean up, restore, insure and manage the property. We are grateful for grants from New Hartford Community Connections and the federal Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) at the NRCS/USDA. Please consider making a generous donation to help us fund this important project!



View of the old sand and gravel pit area that will become warm season grassland habitat on the NHLT's Alfred Sabolcik property

Annual Meeting *(continued from pg.1)*

If you are an NHLT steward, someone who loves to walk in the woods and wants to know more about forests, a property owner who has questions about how to manage the trees out back, or you are just plain curious about woodlands and forestry, this program is for you!

Worthley's statewide responsibilities include forest stewardship, sustainable forest management, and silviculture on non-industrial private forestland. He worked in the forest products industry prior to joining University of Connecticut and received B.S. and M.S. Forestry degrees from the University of Maine.

Prior to the forest lecture, there will be a brief update on NHLT activities and our annual election of Board members. All current members can vote in the election. If you have not joined yet this year, please send in your check soon. A membership form is at the back of this newsletter.

Come out on a late winter Sunday afternoon to hear a fascinating presentation, see great slides, learn about what's happening with the Land Trust, have some refreshments, and chat with neighbors and friends!



Photo Courtesy of NewHartfordPlus.com

New Hartford Gothic? Volunteers Honor Earth Day's 40th Birthday

More than 60 volunteers cleaned up NHLT and Town open space properties last spring to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Earth Day. This year's annual cleanup will be in early May and will include planting at NHLT's Sabolcik property. Sign up to receive NHLT's e-news for more information on programs and events. Event organizers shown here: Town Conservation Commission Chair Alison Murdock, former and current NHLT Board members Cindy Bohan, Eloise Farmer, Tammy Casey (lead organizer) and Madeline McClave, and Conservation Commission member Paul Mahoney.

Got Vernal Pools?

The Farmington River Watershed Association (FRWA) is engaged in an effort to locate vernal pools in New Hartford and some other towns in their service area. Begun several years ago, the probable locations of these 'temporary woodland ponds' were identified using aerial data. Now their consultant is beginning the effort to verify the pools' existence on the ground.

The best time to find these pools is in March and early April when amphibians move from the forests to breed in the pools. According to Betsy Corrigan, a Consulting Biologist who is working on this phase of the vernal pool project for FRWA, "These self-contained depressions, typically filling up in fall and drying up by mid-summer, are essential breeding habitat for species such as the wood frog, spotted salamanders, and marbled salamander. The annual migration that these species undertake back to the pools in which they were born – sometimes up to a quarter mile away – is a biological phenomenon."

Landowners whose property has been identified as a possible site of a vernal pool may receive a call from Betsy as she surveys New Hartford. She will look for the presence of indicator species and the general physical characteristics of a pool. She will also give you advice on how to protect your pool. If you think you may have a vernal pool on your land and want to learn more about it or if you are interested in helping with this FRWA project, please e-mail NHLT at newhartfordlandtrust@yahoo.com or call 860-626-0301. For more information about vernal pools, visit www.vernalpool.org. This FRWA vernal pool project is supported by Wild and Scenic River funding from the Farmington River Coordinating Committee.

No Dumping! Help Maintain Land Trust and Town Open Space Properties

That 'empty' parcel near your home, belongs to someone! Please respect the property rights of the New Hartford Land Trust (NHLT) and other entities by disposing of your yard waste properly. Dumping or tree-cutting on land that is not yours is illegal! Please also help us educate others about this.

Leaves, grass clippings, branches and other yard waste cannot be placed on NHLT or town-owned properties or along roadsides. Residents must keep their yard waste on their own property or pay to dispose of it properly offsite. State law grants restoration costs, quintuple damages, legal fees and punitive damages for tree-cutting and other encroachments on private or publicly owned preserved open space.

E-mail us to volunteer for the annual cleanup!



Invasives Along the Farmington

Betsy Corrigan, a consulting biologist working in the field on invasive plant inventories, mapping, prevention, eradication and control, is currently assisting the Farmington River Coordinating Committee (FRCC) by mapping and addressing invasives along the river in covered towns including New Hartford.

After completing most of the mapping, Betsy enlisted help last summer from New Hartford's FRCC Representative and Conservation Commission Chair, Alison Murdock. Members of the Town Conservation Commission and the NHLT assisted Betsy and FRCC Intern Tiffany Caisse in burning areas infested with Japanese Stiltgrass on a local business property next to the river. In New Jersey, this plant has already threatened to prevent forest regeneration in areas that are heavily infested.

Now, Betsy hopes to follow up the FRCC invasive plant survey and mapping by reaching out to homeowners to help them identify and manage these invasives in their own river-front yards as nuisances and for habitat improvement. This effort will help improve native habitat here and downstream because the flowing water and other vectors can carry seeds and plants so far. Understanding the most effective ways to prevent and eradicate the invasives is also important so that efforts to eliminate them don't create even more favorable conditions for their buried seeds to germinate in the future. NHLT will assist FRCC in organizing outdoor educational sessions for riverside landowners to meet with Betsy so she can provide information and technical assistance.

If you are interested in attending one of these workshops or for more information, please e-mail the NHLT at newhartfordlandtrust@yahoo.com or call Alison at 860-496-4642.

We welcome your time, energy and talent! There are many ways to help the NHLT.

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



NHLT goes strategic! Consultant Connie Manes and Board member, Tom Klebart, present results at one of the NHLT Board Strategic Planning sessions last summer.

NHLT Approves Strategic Plan

Over the past year, the NHLT Board has worked with consultant Connie Manes of Kent to complete an organizational assessment and perform strategic planning. As a result, NHLT's Land Conservation and Standards and Practices Committees have amended and created land stewardship and acquisition and governance policies and procedures needed to comply with the national land trust guidelines set forth by the Land Trust Alliance (LTA).

We are now revising the NHLT Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation to bring them up to date. Our goal is to present these revisions for approval by the NHLT membership at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 6th.

In addition to identifying specific policies and procedures that needed to be revised or developed, some other important highlights of the NHLT Strategic Plan are: to strengthen and expand working committees, to create new outreach materials and strategies, to hone acquisition priorities and criteria, and to develop tools for Board evaluation and expansion.

The NHLT would not have been able to accomplish this work without the generous support of the Land Trust Alliance and the CT Land Conservation Council. Their challenge grant of nearly \$8,000 paid for the consultant time and expertise to facilitate and support the assessment, planning and policy development accomplished over the past year. Thank you!



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

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NHLT Upcoming Walks and Talks

Mark Your Calendars!

Sunday, March 6 at 4 p.m.

*NHLT Annual Meeting and Slide Lecture
'Forest Ecology and Management'*

Wednesday, April 6 at 7 p.m.

*Slide Lecture by Margery Winters
Changing Land, Changing Animals*
Co-sponsored with NH Historical Society

Early May

Annual Earth Day Cleanup
Co-sponsored with Conservation Commission

Saturday, June 4 at 9:30 a.m.

CT Trails Day Hike at Jones Mountain

Postal Patron

A Work in Progress: Alfred Sabolcik Property

At right, NHLT Board Members begin a site walk at the property bequeathed to us by Alfred Sabolcik. Please join us at our Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 6th or at another upcoming event to learn about the project and how you can help. Please see the article on page three for more information about what is needed to prepare the property for public access.



Photo courtesy of George Durstin



New Hartford Land Trust 2011 Membership Form

☐ Yes! I support the permanent preservation of key open space, farmland and forests in New Hartford.
Sign me up as a member of the New Hartford Land Trust for 2011 at the level noted below.

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

☐ I will also support the 'Campaign for the Alfred Sabolcik Property' 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:

☐ Spring Cleanup ☐ Fundraising Event ☐ Trail Maintenance ☐ Property Stewardship

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

www.newhartfordlandtrust.org