



# The Preservationist

www.hartlandlandtrust.org P.O. Box 183 Riverton, CT 06065 Spring 2013

## HARTLAND LAND TRUST

### Charlie's Letter Read by Emma Kell

On a crisp October day Emma Kell represented her grandfather Charlie Bassett at the ribbon cutting of HLT's first donated property, which includes the site of her mother's wedding. Charlie died November 17, 2012, but his intentions for the preservation of his favorite place will live on.

*My grandfather, the Reverend Mr. Edward D. Bassett, bought this land in 1901. He was a Methodist minister, and as such moved about from parsonage to parsonage, never having a true home of his own. He purchased this old farm of approximately 35 acres hoping to establish here a permanent summer home for his family. His plan worked. Since that time Hartland has been the summer gathering place for generations of our family and friends. As a child, I would walk through the woods, identify all sorts of wildflowers and mushrooms, play in the brook, pick berries, and run the stone walls. My brother and I were charged with hauling water from the Big Spring - a spring that never ran dry. In the evening, the family would sit around the kerosene lamp at the table while my mother read stories aloud. Many important family events have happened here, including my daughter's wedding, which was held in the lower meadow. Six generations of Bassetts and two generations of Kells have loved this, our spiritual home. For reasons of distance and poor health, neither my brother nor I could be with you this afternoon. Yet I'm sure I speak for Bob as well as myself when I say that this is a most happy occasion for us. We can now be assured that our beloved piece of Hartland will be protected forever in its natural state, and that in the future others will be able to enjoy it as well.*

**Charles E. Bassett**  
October 6, 2012

*"We need the tonic of wildness."  
-- Henry David Thoreau*

### HLT'S Mission Statement

To endeavor to maintain the rural character of our area for present and future generations by protecting its diverse natural resources through the conservation and stewardship of significant lands. To engage in and promote the scientific study of and education regarding natural resources. To use all properties held or controlled by the Land Trust and the net earnings thereof for the benefit of the general public and for charitable, educational, recreational, conservation, scientific and historical purposes.

### Annual Forum: Bobcats and Cougars



Photo by Harald Bordewieck

Please join us at our Annual Forum June 7, 7 p.m. at the Hartland School to welcome back **Jason Hawley**, DEEP Wildlife Furbearer Technician for a presentation on Bobcats and Cougars. Jason was the first presenter at our Speaker Series that started with Black Bears in September 2009. He served as an HLT Director in 2010. Having grown up in Hartland, Jason knows our forests well and their inhabitants. He will discuss the cougar that dispersed to Connecticut from South Dakota, our current bobcat population, bobcats vs the historic cougar population and the cougar controversy.

Donations gratefully accepted. Refreshments served! Door Prizes!

### Calendar of Events

**HLT'S Annual Forum** at the Hartland School.

Topic: **Bobcats and Cougars** Friday, June 7, 2013, 7-8:30 p.m.

**Speaker Series 2013** 7:30 p. m. at Town Hall / Hartland School  
Free but donations gratefully accepted. Refreshments!

September 23, 2013 **"BATS"** Gerri Griswold, Director of Administration and Development White Memorial Conservation Center, wildlife rehabilitator and educator, as well as the morning voice of traffic on WTIC AM and WZMX FM.

November 25, 2013 **"GALAPAGOS"** Chris Fisher. Through an evening of photography and science, an exploration of life in the islands, how they formed and how they arrived where they are today. What makes them so special that they draw people from all over the world?

#### HLT Officers:

Sue Murray,  
President

Alana Bordewieck,  
Vice President

Susan Pearson,  
Secretary

Rebecca Huntley  
Treasurer

#### HLT Directors:

Kris Anderson

JoAnne Bannister

Carol Blouin

Neil Gilpin

Fred Jones

Joyce Mueller

Lorri Wood

Mark Ziarnik

Wade Cole, *ex officio*

## President's Message from Sue Murray

Dear Friends and Members,

Hartland Land Trust, with its mission to conserve and steward significant lands, is an intrinsic partner with many diverse groups in town who aim to preserve the rural character of Hartland.

Our parcel selection and protection are primarily based on natural resources, development capacity and benefits to the community. We feel very strongly land conservation and waterway protection are intimately connected as I witnessed last May at Riverside Park in Hartford with the signing of the National Blueways System by Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar designating the Connecticut River and its watersheds the first National Blueway. We work closely with area watershed organizations and national river systems e.g. National Parks Wild & Scenic River System, Farmington River Watershed Association with goals for community integration of their land and water stewardship efforts.

Land trusts ensure perpetual conservation and management of lands. Government policies can be undone, water companies can modify approach, a neighbor's promise can come and go, but land trusts endure and deliver permanence. Our conservation ethic is of utmost importance to us. With your support Hartland Land Trust will last to ensure that this little strip of earth we call home be protected forever. Become a member or renew your membership now (please see form on back page).

Here are just a few of our accomplishments for the year:

- ✿ Book gifts to Hartland School and Town libraries
- ✿ Fundraiser at Flatbread Pizza of Canton
- ✿ Speaker Series – Live Birds of Prey & Ravens, Coyotes, Wild Turkeys
- ✿ Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at Bassett Kell Preserve, West Hartland
- ✿ Salmon-in-Schools Stocking Program with Hartland School

We look forward to another successful year in fulfilling our mission and continuing our work to sustain the values treasured by our community.

**Sue**

“Conservation is humanity caring for the future.”  
*Nancy Newhall*

## Reminder!

March to November please take in bird feeders, suet stations, and secure garbage and animal feed, so neighboring bears do not become a nuisance.



## ✿ Land Acquisition & Stewardship Committee Update

HLT is pleased to announce that the Pasquariello property has been preserved under the stewardship of Audubon CT. It lies next to the Bassett Kell Preserve, property under our aegis creating a green corridor.

We are always seeking land donations to increase protected lands held by the Hartland Land Trust.

The Hartland Land Trust is a member of:  
The Land Trust Alliance (LTA),  
Connecticut Land Conservation Council (CLCC),  
Housatonic Valley Association (HVA) / Greenprint

Partners:

Farmington River Coordinating Committee (FRCC),  
Sandy Brook Conservation Corridor (SBCC),  
Audubon Sharon



*Scott Heth, Audubon Sharon and HLT President Sue Murray at the Bassett/ Kell kiosk*

The Hartland Land Trust, incorporated October 2006, is a not-for-profit, 501(3)(c) organization. All officers and directors are volunteers.

"Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts."

*Rachel Carson, (1907-1964) environmentalist*



## Deer Carol,

We used to have so many Bumblebees visit our garden. What happened to them?

## *Barely Buzzing in Barkhamsted*

## Dear Barely Buzzing in Barkhamsted,

Just like the Honeybee, the Bumblebee population is under threat. There can be several causes: primarily, pesticide use, habitat loss which leads to a lack of preferred flowers or nesting sites and disease infiltration from managed bees.

Currently over 20 Bumblebee species inhabit the eastern United States. These native bees play a crucial role in pollination as they visit 2-10x more flowers than the non-native Honeybee and will work in cool, wet conditions. Bumblebees are generalists and therefore enjoy a wide variety of blooms such as milkweed, goldenrod, thistle, dandelion, sweet clovers, chives, rhododendron, aster and bee balm and will happily pollinate crops such as tomatoes, blueberries, apples, cucumbers and beans. The length of the bee's tongue determines its preferred flower, so offering a variety of blooms will attract different species to your yard. Bumblebees nest underground, on the ground surface or in hollow logs and trees. Offering quiet areas where they can nest undisturbed is vitally important. Their colonies are small, usually about 50 bees, so leave a patch of tall grass, a small pile of discarded hay or leaves, or how about an old log with an attractive cavity. With help, your beloved Bumblebees will once again find your yard a safe place to live and work.

“Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves.”

**John Muir**

**Rachael Manzer**, a Hartland resident and teacher at Annie Fisher STEM School in Hartford, was one of seven teachers selected to train for sub-orbital space flight. Rachael told us that the teachers are going into space to perform experiments planned by students in the classroom, encouraging students to become interested in science, technology, engineering and math.

Rachael had been in training exercises for two years at the National Test Pilot School in the Mojave Desert and NASA Ames Research Center for, among other things, negative and zero gravity, wind tunnel skydiving, and hyperbaric chambers. Commercial spaceports are now being built around the US and the world. New flights will provide unprecedented and lower cost access to space for experiments and research, as well as for space tourism.

**Scott Heth** of Audubon Sharon wowed our Annual Forum audience with Live Birds of Prey and Ravens. The American kestrel, a member of the falcon family, lives in tree holes and around meadows, and eats small rodents and grasshoppers. Red tailed hawks live here year round and can often be seen perched above roads and highways waiting to spot their prey of large rodents. Common northern ravens are highly vocal, with the ability to make up to thirty different sounds, including whistling and mimicking human voices. They have a life span of 15-20 years in the wild, nesting in cliffs and rocks. Eastern screech owls don't really screech! They make a trilling sound, like whistling and gargling at the same time, as well as a whinnying sound. Screech owls pant when nervous, have whisker-like feeler feathers for night feeding on moths, and have great hearing. The barred owl is named for the barring on its breast. Its call seems to say, “who, who, who cooks for you?” With fixed eyes, the barred turns its head up to 270 degrees for peripheral sight, and has such good hearing that it can find rodents under the snow.

Coyotes, a non-native species to Connecticut who arrived in the 1950's, are considered an invasive, exotic species, according to **Paul Rego** of CT DEEP. Wildlife specialists theorize that coyotes filled an opening left by the removal of native timber wolves and cougars. Females average 30-35 lbs, and males 35-50 lbs, but their heavy coats make them appear larger. Coyotes of the northeast weigh 5-10 lbs more than western coyotes due to interbreeding with Algonquin wolves during the coyote's eastward expansion. Their social structure revolves around an adult pair with pups defending an approximately 10 square mile home range territory. 2,800 coyotes are estimated to be in Connecticut today.

**Michael Gregonis** of CT DEEP performed turkey talk for us with gobble and box calls, which sounded like the real thing! Colonial clearing of forests caused the demise of native turkeys in CT by the early 1800's. Today sixty percent of Connecticut is forested, setting the stage for successful reintroduction of the birds starting in 1975, with a current total of 35-40,000 turkeys statewide. Wild turkeys fly at over 50 mph, can swim, have excellent hearing and eyesight and roost in trees at night. They are omnivores, eating plants, worms, insects, seeds, berries, acorns and nuts. A turkey hatchling is called a poult, and a juvenile bird a jake.

In collaboration with HLT, Mrs. Costolnick's 6th grade science class at Hartland School has engaged in the Salmon-in-Schools project operated by the Connecticut River Salmon Association (CRSA). Sue Murray did much of the legwork in researching the program and bridging Deb Costolnick and Dick Bell, of the CRSA in working out details, feasibility and logistics of the program as well as coordination with the school administration.

Early October Deb Costolnick, along with HLT directors Joyce Mueller and Alana Bordewieck, attended an orientation for the project. Joyce Mueller donated materials for the insulation of the fish tank. In December CRSA liaison Tom Stanton delivered the eggs. Recording data and adjusting tank temperatures daily throughout the rearing stage, the pupils have been monitoring the development of the eggs into alevin and then fry. Bruce Williams and Stephen Gephard of CT DEEP Inland Fisheries Division were most helpful in providing extensive information on local stocking sites. The project will culminate in release of the fish fry at People's State Forest in late April.

According to Stephen Gephard, Senior Fishery Biologist CT DEEP, although the decades-long restoration has been deemed unachievable, efforts will continue to maintain a genetic legacy population for bio-diversity, education, research and angling. The CT River strain of salmon, distinct from the original Penobscot River source, is becoming unique as the most southern and considered a sentinel species for North Atlantic waters. Follow the progress and photos of this fascinating undertaking at Mrs. Costolnick's page:

<https://sites.google.com/site/hartlandmiddleschoolscience/Home/atlantic-salmon-in-schools-project>

## Updates

### ✦ Outreach & Education Committee

Thank you for your enthusiastic response and attendance at our Speaker Series! We have offered 18 speakers since our first Forum speaker in 2007 and three educational hikes. In the past Tom Dyer generously sponsored the Cougar presentation at the 2011 Forum. We express our gratitude to Susan Pearson and Hank Prussing, sponsors of Bats with Gerri Griswold coming in September 2013. You can help the series continue by making a donation at the presentation, becoming a member or sponsoring/co-sponsoring a speaker.

✦ Visit our website for an update as of December 2, 2012 from our Tunxis Forester David Irvin on the Emerald Ash Borer. [www.hartlandlandtrust.org](http://www.hartlandlandtrust.org)

✦ The new rep for Hartland on The Farmington River Coordinating Committee (FRCC) is **Dan Bowler**. He takes the place of Fred Jones who served for many years.

### ✦ Membership & Fundraising Committee

HLT held a benefit at **Flatbread** in the Canton Shoppes Feb. 19, 2013. The evening was a success! We extend a very warm thank you to Flatbread and our friends and members of HLT who donated fabulous items for our door prizes. Thanks to all who came out to support HLT and the beauty of Hartland.

Spring is a time of renewal in nature...and for the HLT. Renew your membership for 2013. If you are not a member, now is a great time to join!