



# The Preservationist

## Celebrate Earth Day

by *Tracking Wild Things - Guided Hike Sunday April 26, 2009 1-3 PM*



Please join the **Hartland Land Trust** on an **Earth Day celebration** hike tracking animals. Tom Dyer, **Wilderness School** Director and HLT director, will lead the two-hour hike. Plan to meet at the Wilderness School, 240 North Hollow Road, Route 20, East Hartland, CT. Please park in the Wilderness School parking lot located directly across from Hurricane Brook road access. Participants should wear hiking boots or work boots and dress in layers according to the weather (rain shell, jacket, sweater, shirt, under shirt). The hike will be less than one mile. We will make many stops along the way to check out the tracks and signs of the animals that inhabit our town. **The event is limited to 36 participants.** Please sign up by **April 23** by contacting: Tom Dyer at 653-1400, 653-8059 or [Tom.Dyer@ct.gov](mailto:Tom.Dyer@ct.gov).

### Calendar of Events

**Earth Day** April 22, 2009

**Tracking Walk**, with Tom Dyer, April 26, 2009, 1p.m. to 3 p.m.

**Green Day of Sharing** at the Hartland School May 1, 2009, 10 a.m. to noon

**Deadline for entry forms** for "Wonders of Hartland" Exhibit May 5, 2009

**Hartland Historical Society May Membership Meeting**, May 15, 2009, 7 p.m. Town Hall Topic: Genealogy

**Deadline for submitting Photos and Artwork** to Exhibit May 28, 2009

**"Wonders of Hartland" Photo and Art Exhibit** Hartland School June 1 - June 12, 2009

**HLT Annual Forum**, at the Hartland School  
Guest speaker: Gary Melnysyn, conservationist, wildlife photographer and author Friday, June 12, 2009, 7- 8:30 p.m.

### OUR MISSION

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 management of significant lands. Engaging in and



promoting the scientific study of and net earnings thereof for the benefit of the general public and for charitable, educational, recreational, conservation, scientific and historical purposes.



**Calling on all Photographers and Artists!  
HLT's Second Annual Photo and Art Exhibit**

The 2nd Annual Hartland Land Trust Photo and Art Exhibit **"Wonders of Hartland"** will run from June 1, 2009 through June 12, 2009. This exhibit will display visual art from the members of the community that have been inspired by Hartland's outstanding landscapes and wildlife. Photos and artwork may include the following subjects: Wild life- stone walls- scenic beauty- water /rivers and streams- recreation- history /culture Photographers and artists of all ages and abilities are invited to participate and may enter up to three pieces of work. Photographers and artists do not have to be residents of Hartland, however, ALL IMAGES MUST BE OF HARTLAND. **Entry forms** with further info are available at the **Hartland School, Town Hall, Town Library, Riverton General Store** or **on line** at [www.hartlandlandtrust.org](http://www.hartlandlandtrust.org). To enter, **return forms by May 5, 2009**. Photos and art (ready to hang with wire attached) may be **submitted the week of May 25th with a deadline of May 28**.

**What is a Land Trust?**

Land trusts are organizations directly involved in protecting land for its natural, recreational, scenic, historical, or agricultural value. Land trusts may purchase or accept donations of land or of conservation easements, manage land owned by others, or advise landowners about how to preserve their land.

*Please join us at our Annual Forum*

June 12, 2009  
7-8:30 p.m.  
Hartland Elementary School



Guest Speaker: Gary Melnysyn Wildlife Photographer Presents:

*Ten Tips to Successful Wildlife Photography*

Gary Melnysyn owner of Fiddlehead Foto is certified as a Master Wildlife Conservationist and a Master Naturalist from the University of Florida. Gary has conducted eco-tours, taught conservation classes and lectured on wildlife photography and conservation issues. Please visit <http://fiddleheadfoto.com> for more information on Gary's programs and photos.

**Land Trust Members Assist with Audubon's Leopold Sanctuary**

By Scott Heth, Director, Audubon Sharon

On a cold November 22<sup>nd</sup> day, several members of the Hartland Land Trust met Mike Dudek and Scott Heth of Audubon to do habitat management work at Audubon's Edith Leopold Sanctuary on Rengerman Hill Road. This sanctuary consists of 38 acres of diverse habitat where plans are being developed to create a trail system and educational kiosk for community use.



The first step was to start removing invasive plant species, including Japanese Barberry, Asiatic Bittersweet and Multiflora Rose. Hartland Land Trust members were a great help. Bringing equipment, protective gear and a lot of energy, land trust volunteers tackled a large growth of Multiflora Rose on the banks of "Boulder Pond". By the time the day was done, after much effort and many scratches, most of the south shore of the small pond was cleared. As if that was not enough, other tasks that day included removing a small shed near the pond and clearing brush from the orchard.

Edith Leopold was a great lover of nature and an environmental advocate. She cherished her property and spent a lot of time working on it. Audubon is pleased to be able to continue this legacy. We greatly appreciate the ongoing help and support of the Hartland Land Trust.

**Green Day of Sharing**

The Hartland Elementary School's Annual Day of Sharing will feature green activities this year. Visit or participate on Friday, May 1, 2009 from 10:00 to 12:00 to celebrate hobbies, crafts or interests that embrace nature, the environment or awareness of the earth: knitting, weaving, landscape painting, growing plants from seed, making honey, cheese or soap, baking bread, hiking, sailing, rollerblading, stargazing or anything else you can think of. If you engage in any such activity or one that promotes alternative energy e.g. bike to work, use a push mower or supports recycling materials please contact Ronnie Alicata at [VMA567@gmail.com](mailto:VMA567@gmail.com) or Christy Ferro at [jferro10@yahoo.com](mailto:jferro10@yahoo.com)



**A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Greetings,

The Hartland Land Trust remains focused on its mission to preserve the rural character of our town, and is poised to assist landowners with their land planning decisions. Since the last printing of this newsletter, HLT has been hard at work building our organization and weaving our presence into the fabric of the community. Here is a short list of some of our most recent accomplishments:

- Held our first “Directors’ Retreat” and created a business plan with near and long-term goals.
- Recognized Greg Sottile with a volunteer award for his contributions to our organization as moderator of the retreat
- Assisted the First Congregational Church and the Boy Scouts in a town wide **“Earth Day Clean-Up Walk”**
- Offered at our second **“Open Forum”** last June a presentation by Robert Thorson, author of *Stone by Stone*, enjoyed by over 60 community members and guests
- Displayed over 20 pieces of art and photographs from community members in the first **“Wonders of Hartland”** photo and art exhibit
- Donated a signed copy of the book, *Stone Wall Secrets* by Robert Thorson to the Hartland Elementary School library
- Shared a booth with the Hartland Library at the Fireman’s Carnival
- Welcomed Tom Dyer, Director of the Wilderness School as our newest director
- Became a member of the **Land Trust Alliance** (LTA), a national organization whose mission is to assist local land trusts
- Worked with the **Audubon Society** on its East Hartland property, removing invasive plants around the pond and chipping brush

The Hartland Land Trust meets **every fourth Monday at 7 P.M. at the Town Hall**. Our meetings are posted and open to the public. All are welcome to attend. We invite you to join us in our efforts and activities.

Sincerely,  
Fred Jones, President

HLT Membership Committee



**Hartland 10-Year Plan of Conservation and Development by Gregory Sottile**

On February 23, 2009, the Town of Hartland Planning and Zoning Commission voted to adopt the Town’s state-mandated 10-Year Plan of Conservation and Development. This plan articulates a vision for the community, serves as a resource for a variety of socio-demographic and natural resource information, and will be used to guide Hartland’s planning decisions. Formulation of the plan involved significant community input: an ad hoc committee of dedicated residents, two community input meetings and a town-wide survey. While rich in history and natural beauty, Hartland also faces significant challenges as it attempts to maintain its rural character, a desire strongly expressed by many in the community. The plan recommends four overarching objectives with a total of 27 strategies one of which is to support the Hartland Land Trust. The four objectives are:

- 1.) Preserve and protect Hartland’s rural character
- 2.) Guide and manage conservation and development
- 3.) Facilitate social interaction
- 4.) Modify the scope of municipal services to address existing or anticipated needs

The plan also includes implementation and monitoring recommendations to ensure that residents are informed of progress toward these objectives and their related strategies.

The plan can be found on the town website at [www.munic.state.ct.us/HARTLAND/hartland.htm](http://www.munic.state.ct.us/HARTLAND/hartland.htm)

**Mountain Spring by Carol Blouin**

Wood stacked high from icy woes,  
Chippies scamper through the rows.  
Acorns nestled twixt the piles,  
Tis spring now, yet winter beguiles.



**BEAR LUNCH** by Carol Blouin



One of the greatest gifts Hartland offers is bountiful peace and solitude. There is no greater joy than having spent an early spring morning fruitfully laboring in the out-of-doors and then enjoying an uninterrupted noontime meal basking in the warm sunshine. Upon finding my favorite perch, I laid out my noon repast, serenaded by a twittering

assortment of avian crooners gleefully flitting from tree to tree, giddy with mating rituals. The fields and woodland edges were a cacophony of movement and sound intermingled with an urgent sense of duty. I too was focused, with filling my empty stomach and then moving onto the plethora of chores demanding my attention. Settling into my lunch, I sensed that I was being watched. Looking about, I laid eyes on my uninvited dinner companion. Not more than 10 feet away peering curiously through the greening lilac and viburnum, just over the lichen encrusted stone-wall sat a rather portly fellow eyeballing my noontime fare. A leathery nose wiggled taking in the aroma of my feast, while his beseeching liquid black eyes fixed a bead upon my person. Not wishing to be rude, yet unwilling to share my victuals, Remembering to back away slowly, I skedaddled to the barn in a rather urgent and direct manner. All the while this bear simply watched as if he were a patron at the zoo watching the humans at feeding time. The show over, the patron lifted its bulk from his place of repose, then loped noiselessly to his next opportunity for food.

*For Carol's tips on how to keep bears away from your yard, visit our website.*

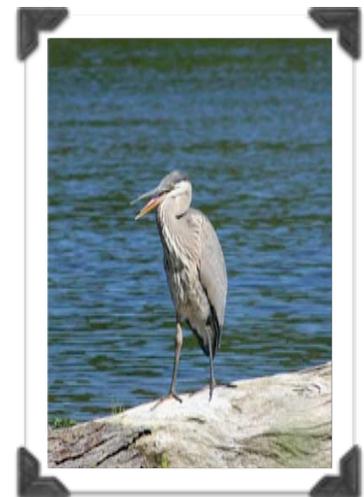
**The BEAVER SWAMP** by Nicki Hall

West Hartland is full of swamps... beaver swamps to be exact. Historically, many of these areas were once flat riparian forest. Beaver inhabitation changed the landscape over time. Dammed streams created basins of still water drowning affected trees and allowing for the invasion of more water-tolerant shrubs and grasses. Although beaver swamps may decrease the commercial

value of a forest gained from harvesting trees, they at the same time increase the amount of valuable natural habitat for a variety of species. The shallow waters produce aquatic foods for fish, birds and small mammals. The old snags of the dead trees become important nesting areas for birds.

Not too far from my house, I have one favorite swamp, which I visit periodically throughout the year. Each season has its own unique qualities. In winter, the marsh is quiet and still. If it has been cold, I can walk out on the ice between the mounded grass tussocks to check out the beaver houses and to look for signs of recent activity. The spring and early summer marsh is full of sound. The chorus of birds, magnolia and yellow warblers, eastern kingbird and especially the red-winged blackbirds, sing out from early dawn to dusk. I have a little peninsula on which I sit to look out over the three or four acre site. Although I have not kept an accurate record of my sightings there, I have witnessed some wonderful events. Most recently, the greatest excitement has been watching a Great Blue Heron's nest. It is set high in the crotch of a snag in the middle of the swamp. The nest is large and shaped like a flat platform. Small sticks comprise the main building material with moss, pine needles and leaf debris forming the lining. This nest had three young birds in mid-July all of which fledged later that summer. Typical Great Blue Heron nests often have 4 eggs, laid in early spring. The chicks hatch after 28 days and usually fledge after 60 days. Typically, the survival rate is two for a brood. Great Blues eat a variety of foods.

Fish comprise the bulk of their diet but they will also eat crabs, frogs, snakes and salamanders. This is the second year of a brood in the marsh, reutilizing the same nesting spot. It is a treat to be able to see close-hand the daily comings and goings of such a magnificent and wild creature. It also serves as a reminder to me of the importance of maintaining protection over these few pristine areas remaining in our state. I will be watching again this spring for the Great Blue Heron's return.



**Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook  
Wild and Scenic Study**

Over the past year, Wild and Scenic has made considerable progress in our study and continues to move forward to our goal of designation. The outreach study programs received encouraging support at municipal meetings with each of our ten towns of Avon, Bloomfield, Burlington, Canton, East Granby, Farmington, Granby, Hartland, Simsbury, and Windsor. Here at home, we met in November 2008 at the Hartland Selectmen's meeting with representative members from Planning and Zoning, Inland Wetlands and Conservation Commission. Our informative library display is traveling throughout the study towns and is scheduled in Hartland after the spring 2009 re-opening of our Library/Community Center. The five major research projects, Archaeology study, Municipal Policy and Regulation Review, Biodiversity/Vernal Pool study, Recreational/Economic study, and GIS Mapping are near completion. The studies document adequate river protection in study towns and substantiate the significance of our defined Outstanding Resource Values (ORVs): Geology, Water Quality, Biodiversity, Cultural Landscape, and Recreation.

In February, our own Hartland Land Trust hosted an open forum for the Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Study power point presentation, personalized with slides of Hartland, references to Paul Crunden's *Journal*, Stanley Ransom's *History of Hartland*, and great interactive group discussion of the region. The corridor in Hartland was of great interest to the group. The defined study area is a ¼ mile corridor along the river and brook. Hartland's corridors are associated with both East and West Branches of the Salmon Brook. The East Branch corridor is in our extreme northeast corner, although the actual brook is not. The corridor located in the vicinity of Peck Orchard Road and Rt. 189 is just under a mile long. The West Branch corridor is in the southeast corner of Hartland, impressively the main source of the waterway. It flows through approximately 2-1/2 miles in Hartland, starting east of Pine Street on Sunset Road running across to South Rd (Rt. 179) over Dalene Road/Pedersen Road, across Hartland Blvd (Rt. 20), converging with Wright Brook and crossing the town line into Granby. Water quality, a particularly significant ORV, is sustained by keeping the area forested with tree cover. Over 80% of Hartland is forested, including the study corridor and proves most beneficial to the health of these waterways.

We will soon begin writing the advisory Management Plan. On the municipal level, a Ten Town Summit is planned for this spring to provide common ground for town committees and commissions to work together for river/brook protection, opportunities for improvements and town input into the advisory Management Plan. Early on, the Management and Planning Subcommittee discussed the idea of merging land trust involvement within the plan. Since then, preliminary research and exploration looks promising for incorporation of land trusts in conservation related areas. With proper coordination, land trust integration in the plan has strong potential to be a valuable model with opportunities for exceptional regional conservation while providing resources to land trusts such as training and stewardship.

The Wild and Scenic Study committee appreciates your continued interest in our progress and thanks you for your support and commitment to our study and future designation. For more info:

[www.lowerfarmingtonriver.org/](http://www.lowerfarmingtonriver.org/)  
[www.salmonbrookwildandscenic.org](http://www.salmonbrookwildandscenic.org)



Everybody needs beauty as well as bread,  
Places to play in and pray in,  
Where nature may heal and give strength  
To body and soul alike.  
John Muir



*Ways in which I would like to help*

- Trail Project
- Stone Wall
- Discovery Project
- Computer Work
- Speaker
- Photo /Art Exhibit
- Audubon Project
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

For more information  
Please call: 379-5868



## 2009 Hartland Land Trust Membership Form

*Working for the preservation and enjoyment of open space in our community*

Yes! I agree with what you are doing. Please sign me up!

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\*CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Daytime Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening: \_\_\_\_\_

Send newsletters electronically to: (email) \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Class:**    New Member    Renewal

Individual \$15    Family \$25    Friend \$50    Sponsor \$100    Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to "Hartland Land Trust" and mail to: Hartland Land Trust  
P.O. Box 183  
Riverton, CT 06065

*Thank you for your support! All contributions are tax deductible.*

return address

**Hartland  
Land Trust  
Officers**

Fred Jones, President  
Neil Gilpin, Vice President  
Alana Bordewieck, Secretary  
JoAnne Bannister, Treasurer

**Directors**

Kris Anderson  
Gillian Bears  
Carol Blouin  
Gail DiMaggio  
Kathy Dunn  
Tom Dyer  
Rebecca Huntley  
Joyce Mueller  
Susan Murray  
June Shew  
Lorri Wood  
Wade Cole, ex officio

Addressee Name  
4321 First Street  
Anytown, State 54321

