

Annual Forum: Mostly Owls



Photo by: Joe Alicata

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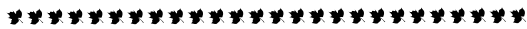
Amanda Lukingbeal

Carole Vincent

Wade Cole, ex officio

Please join us for HLT's Annual Forum Friday, June 7 at 7:00 pm in the Hartland School, 30 South Road, East Hartland. This year's offering will be "Mostly Owls", presented by Audubon Sharon staff. Various species of live owls and hawks will accompany staff to demonstrate their beauty, power and connection with the natural world. Similarities and differences between these amazing birds of prey will be discussed. Several props will also be on hand for viewing. Through this program, the audience will understand why raptors and their environment should continue to be protected and respected.

No charge for admission or refreshments. Generous donations have supported the cost of this event; your contribution will allow HLT to continue to offer its programs free of charge.



Connecticut Trails Day

HIKE TO THE RESERVOIR'S EDGE

If you've ever been curious to see what the Barkhamsted Reservoir looks like from the water-level, please consider joining leaders **Steve and Pam Emmons** on Saturday, June 1 for HLT's 2019 CT Trails Day Hike. Since the 1930's when the farmland of Hartland Hollow was flooded to provide Hartford with drinking water, this picturesque and pristine body of water has divided our town in two and access to the surrounding land has been restricted to protect water quality. The Metropolitan District has graciously provided permission to HLT to offer this rare opportunity to get as close as possible to the reservoir and the old settlement of Hartland Hollow. We will meet at the MDC gate at the end of Walnut Hill Road, near the intersection of Pine Street, at 9:00 am. We will walk down to the water's edge, then turn south on the road that hugs the water for about a mile, then return to our starting point. Total distance is approximately 4 miles and the climb back up Walnut Hill Road is fairly steep. Please bring water, bug spray/sun-screen and a snack



TRAIL DAY 2018

if you would like, but please leave your dog at home. Steady rain will cancel. Pre-registration recommended by calling Steve Emmons at 860 205-8313.



A Clear Windshield Does not a Clear Future See

by Amanda Lukingbeal

One memory I have from my youth growing up in the 1970's and 80's was the absolute filth bestowed upon a windshield in summer during a night time drive on either highway or back road. Bugs, moths, insects, beetles, what have you, were unceremoniously slaughtered in just a short drive, and those gas-station squeegee buckets were utilized at every stop for a gas fill in those days.

Nowadays? Do you notice how much cleaner your windshield stays, even on muggy summer nights? While it might be nice for an unobstructed driving view, the loss of insect species is nothing short of alarming. One estimate is that since 1974, approximately 45% of insect species have vanished.

Currently in the United States, 85% of the property is privately owned, therefore, can be looked upon as an opportunity to help

our native critters survive. With every yard, there presents a chance to provide the native food source and habitat for their survival. Imagine less lawn to mow, and native flowers tumbling under the weight of happy pollinators. Imagine a garden left as is over winter time, to provide shelter and cover for over-wintering butterflies and pollinators.

Hartland Land Trust is excited to announce we will be installing a **Native Pollinator Garden** at Hartland School this spring. Our goal is to teach the importance of bugs, birds, bees, and butterflies to our natural world. When we help native species thrive, through promoting a natural landscape which provides them with a food source as well as habitat, we are truly, as Prof. Doug Tallamy says in his book of the same name, Bringing Nature Home.



President's Message from Mark Ziarnik

"Conservation means the wise use of the earth and its resources for the lasting good of men." Gifford Pinchot

Hello fellow Hartlanders and friends.

In October 2016 HLT marked our 10th anniversary by co-hosting a celebration with our friends at the Wilderness School and the Hartland Historical Society. That was a big deal for us! Ten years of our educational Speaker Series, informative and fun hikes, support for Hartland School activities, helping landowners seeking to conserve their undeveloped properties, and more – all with the aim of helping to maintain the rural character of our town and made possible by you. Thank you!

This past year HLT has turned our attention to what goals we would like to achieve by the time we reach our 20th anniversary in 2026. After considerable work and drawing on HLT's Mission Statement, we have defined a vision of where we want to be headed. I would like to share it with you.

HLT Key Vision Elements for 2026

1. Keep existing wild lands and woodlands in Hartland, including our significant network of wetlands and waterways, as committed open space.

Comment: Hartland is the most forested town in the state of CT, much of it already designated as Committed Open Space managed by the state and MDC. HLT does not want to see any of that protection erode.

2. Showcase best practices in excellent stewardship of Hartland Land Trust properties.

Comment: In addition to routine land stewardship tasks this category also includes activities such as trail building and maintenance, and creating informative and educational signage for HLT and other preserves.

3. Identify lands of significant conservation value.

Comment: Since our earliest days HLT has prioritized the appreciation and protection of watershed lands. HLT is working to create an inventory of lands important to protecting the environment and maintaining the rural character of our town. This tool will help us to better support the property owners and the community at large.

4. Promote landowner and community awareness, education and engagement.

Comment: Successfully maintaining the rural character of our town requires community-wide appreciation, support and involvement.

5. Further working relationships with local and regional conservation partners.

Comment: Examples include local private landowners, Hartland Town Government, the state, the Metropolitan District Commission, Audubon, the New England Forestry Foundation, the Land Trust Alliance, the Litchfield Hills Greenprint Collaborative, the Connecticut Land Conservation Council, the Farmington River Coordinating Committee, the Farmington River Watershed Association, neighboring land trusts, and other Hartland organizations with a common interest.

6. Secure organizational sustainability.

Comment: This includes topics such as board development, volunteer recruitment, training, fundraising, and building conservation and stewardship endowments.

While we have made good headway on many of these elements, this year we are working on a strategic plan that will bring all of them to reality in the coming years leading up to our 20th anniversary.

You – our members, donors, and volunteers – are essential to making it possible. Thank you so very much for your past support. If you'd like to get involved, we'd love to hear from you. Contact information is on our website at hartlandlandtrust.org.

Mark Ziarnik

President, Hartland Land Trust



Updates

✿ Welcome new directors **John Harrity and Amanda Lukingbeal!**

✿ HLT will assist for the seventh year in the Salmon-in-Schools project.

✿ New signboards—new look. Still us! The May 2018 hail storm pummeled our signboards.

✿ This year due to scheduling issues, in lieu of co-sponsoring an Earth Day assembly at the school, HLT will sponsor a Butterfly Garden on school grounds (see article on page 1)

✿ HLT Book gifts to:

Hartland School Library. *Green Green: A Community Gardening Story* by Baldev and Marie Lamba

Hartland Town Library. *Reading the Forested Landscape: A Natural History of New England* and *Forest Forensics: a Field Guide to Reading the Forested Landscape*

both by Tom Wessels and recommended by CT Forest Fires speaker Jerry Milne



Hats Off To:

Hayes Sweet Pea Farm and *Granville Store* for donating cheese for our September

Wildlife Photos, Wine and Cheese Social

Tim Kendrick for volunteer stewardship of the Beach Preserve

Neil Gilpin for volunteer stewardship of the Basset-Kell Preserve

Steve and Pam Emmons CT Trails Day guides for leading the way on our hikes

Robinson & Cole for their *pro bono* support of our conservation efforts



Sixth Hartland Photo Calendar 2020

Calling all photographers! Please submit **maximum of (4)** photos of flora, fauna or landscapes. All photos must be taken in Hartland and submitted digitally at the highest resolution by **July 20, 2019** to HLTphotocalendar@gmail.com.

Please include **photographer's name** and identify **location**.

Photos may be chosen for either the calendar or our note cards.

Once again thanks go to **Traci Vincent** for assisting

Director Carole Vincent in this project!

Questions? Call Carole at 860-653-4004 or email

HLTphotocalendar@gmail.com.

HLT Speaker Events by Alana Bordewieck

"A picture is worth a thousand words"

Our June 2018 Annual Forum speaker **Jake Harton** on *Moosin' Around* presented not only intriguing photographs of moose, deer and black bear, but also a remarkable collection of racks, antler sheds—160 total!-- and a skull. Moose have the fastest growing bone on earth. Blood vessels in the velvet nourish growth; the moose eats the shed velvet, so that when it drops an antler in May, it can grow a new one by August.

Although very large and tall, moose are elusive and hard to catch up with to photograph safely. Jake shared his tracking chart of moose photo locations. Moose are especially difficult to see at night as their eyes do not reflect in car headlights the way those of deer do.



Jake displays his "sheds"

Our first *Wildlife and Wine* social in 2017 with Cheryl Anderson's extraordinary photos and informative commentary was so well-met, we hosted a second one the end of September 2018 when **Cheryl** and **moose-tracker Jake** joined us along with **Sandy Lisella** and **George Ducro** to present striking wildlife and scenic photos and the stories behind them.

Despite snow storm Wayne, a hardy group gathered to hear **Timothy Batchelor**, Fire Control Officer for Western CT under the DEEP Forestry program, and **Jerry Milne**, State Forester from the Pleasant Valley office, present on *Connecticut Forest Fires Past & Present*.

Trees have always been a part of Tim's life from cutting firewood on the farm to tree and land clearing as a professional logger. His 35 years in the fire service includes time spent in our western states. He told us the most fire starts occur in SW Colorado from lightning strikes. The 2018 Paradise fire in California, however, was caused by a wind event that took down power lines destroying 18,000 structures.

Jerry told of pre-colonial times when Native Americans set fires to improve line of sight for hunting, create fields, and encourage blueberries. In the 1800 and 1900's wildfires were rampant due to sparks from coal or wood fired trains, charcoal production, and the chestnut blight that created fuel on the ground. 1000 acres burned annually.

Recently in 2016-2017, drought induced two CT fires: Cornwall's late summer to autumn Flat Rock Fire, the longest burning and largest fire, and Kent's Shagticoke Mountain Fire which spread over 200 acres. The Flat Rock Fire burned for two months doubling in size going underground in the Wyantenock State Forest. An underground fire in drought is particularly difficult because the fighters must dig down to the roots as the upper level of woodland soil normally soaked by autumn rains is dry. A deliberate backburn of 100 acres was set to control the fire. Altogether close to 400 acres burned. 2018 the prescribed burn in West Hartland by DEEP Forestry Division encourages growth of grasslands, a critical habitat for migratory birds such as the Meadowlark, Bobolink, and Savannah Sparrow, all of which are listed State Species of Special Concern in Connecticut. One CT tree, the pitch pine, actually needs fire to open its cones for the seeds to drop and grow.

Most of CT has older forest ca 90-130 years old thus lacking very young forest. Grassland is even more limited, as most abandoned farmland is either developed or allowed to revert to forest.

The Forestry Program seeks to remove trees weakened by disease or invasives before they become accelerants. It also trains fire departments, foresters and park personnel as fire fighting is necessarily a cooperative effort. The local Volunteer Fire Department is in charge of its area, but is also the initial responder to attack fire on State land. The State in turn supplements manpower, provides off road equipment that a town may not own, and informs volunteers of wild land knowledge.

Although we may imagine firefighters rushing to the scene, before fighting a wild fire, the forester in charge must assess the fire to determine accessibility of the area—how to get in and how to get out--, the weather forecast, seasonal conditions, water sources, equipment and manpower available.



Conservation and Stewardship Fund

"We must strive to touch the land gently and care for it as true stewards... for those who follow us... may see that our mark on the land was one of respect and love." Robert B. Oetting (1934-1990), wildlife researcher

The Fund was first established June 2013 in memory of Gib Anderson, a longtime supporter of our organization and former Chairman of the Hartland Conservation Commission. If you would like to help the fund grow, you may give in the following ways:

- outright donation
- in honor of a living supporter of conservation
- in memory of someone who has died

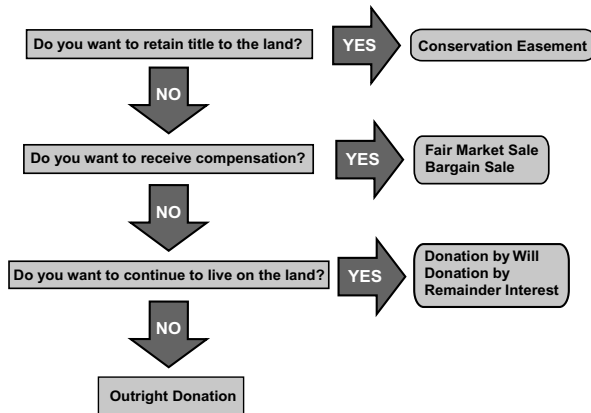
If you choose to recognize someone, please indicate the person's name along with your donation on the enclosed envelope under Conservation and Stewardship Fund or under Join/Donate on our website.

As of this writing 22 people have been recognized by donations in their names:

<i>Gib Anderson</i>	<i>Joe Kane</i>	<i>Gregory Tarbox</i>
<i>Bill Murray Sr.</i>	<i>Sue Murray</i>	<i>Howard Stambler</i>
<i>Robert Norcross</i>	<i>Neil Mueller</i>	<i>Joyce Mueller</i>
<i>John E. Ransom</i>	<i>Russ & Polly Hayes</i>	<i>Charles Bassett</i>
<i>Neil & Deb Gilpin</i>	<i>Bruce Bailey</i>	<i>Nelson Zymler</i>
<i>Leonard C. Ransom</i>	<i>Heidi Murray Senland</i>	<i>Franklin Clement</i>
<i>Susan Pearson</i>	<i>Paul Eseppi</i>	<i>Cam Irwin</i>
	<i>Charles & Lois Beach</i>	



LAND OWNER DECISION TREE



Deer Carol,

How do owls find their prey at night when it's cloudy and completely dark?

Sleepless in Simsbury



Dear Sleepless in Simsbury,

Although owls have excellent sight in low light, they also hunt successfully in complete darkness. These expert hunters listen for sounds by using their specially adapted ears. Owl ear openings are unusually shaped, larger on top than on the bottom. This adaptation allows the owl to identify sounds horizontally and vertically. So on those nights when it's totally dark, owls use their hearing to zero in on the sounds of a nearby meal which could be a fat bug, mouse, skunk or even a goose.

Carol Blouin is a local writer, orchardist and Master Wildlife Conservationist.



Give to Hartland Land Trust at No Cost to You
USE AMAZON SMILE! IT'S EASY TO DO! Here's how:

1. Sign on to your Amazon.com account and click onto the AmazonSmile menu.
2. Sign up for AmazonSmile and pick Hartland Land Trust Inc as your charitable organization.
3. Bookmark your AmazonSmile account & use that to sign onto Amazon.
4. AmazonSmile will have all the information from your Amazon account.
5. When you buy through AmazonSmile – Hartland Land Trust gets a donation! **Support HLT – Use AMAZONSMILE!**

Calendar of Events 2019

- ✿ **April 22 Earth Day**
- ✿ **June 1 CT Trails Day** MDC Barkhamsted Reservoir at water-level. Meet at MDC Gate at end of Walnut Hill near intersection with Pine Street East Hartland at **9 a. m.** 4 mi. guided hike partly on a road; return climb fairly steep
- ✿ **June 7 HLT Annual Forum** Mostly Owls with live owls and hawk from Audubon Sharon at Hartland School, 30 South Road, **7:00 p.m.**
- ✿ **June 17-23 National Pollinator Week.** Refrain from chemical pesticide. Plant native plants to flower from spring through fall: wild geranium and highbush blueberry for early season; swamp milkweed and New Jersey tea for mid-season; New England aster and wrinkleleaf goldenrod for late season
- ✿ **July 20 Deadline** for submissions for photo calendar 2020 and note cards to: HLTphotocalendar@gmail.com **N.B. All pictures must be taken in Hartland**
- ✿ **September Speaker or Social event TBD**
- ✿ **December 10 Seventh Annual HLT Fundraiser at "Flatbread Pizza"** in the Canton Shoppes **5-9 p.m.**

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



HARTLAND
LAND TRUST

P.O. Box 12
East Hartland, CT 06027

www.hartlandlandtrust.org
www.facebook.com/HartlandLandTrust

ENVELOPE ENCLOSED WITH
MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION