



Annual Report 2022

October 2021 through September 2022

Land Conservation and Stewardship

- On the Mill District Nature Preserve (MDNP), HLT volunteers cleared and blazed Blue and Red Loop Trails and constructed bog bridges, two of which were built in partnership with CT State DCF's Wilderness School staff and volunteers. Blue Trail was showcased on June, 2022 CT Trails Day hike to great acclaim!
- MDNP Conservation and Management Plan completed by ecologist Harry White.
- At the Bassett-Kell and Beach Preserves, annual monitoring was completed. Storm-damaged trails reopened on the Beach Preserve after volunteers clearly marked areas near boundaries.
- Ecologist John Anderson led team of HLT volunteers in phragmites mitigation in a fen on the Bassett-Kell Preserve; this will be an ongoing project.
- "No Motorized Vehicles" and "Entering Private Property" signage posted on MDNP and Beach Preserve trails. ATV damage has been observed on MDNP trails.
- Initiated use of a trail volunteer Liability Waiver form.

Community Outreach and Education

- Return to live educational events with programs by Jay Kaplan on butterflies, DEEP Wildlife Specialist Jason Hawley on his bobcat research and the showing of **Green Fire** film about the life of Aldo Leopold, whose niece Edith Leopold was a long-term Hartland resident. East Hartland Volunteer Fire Department and Bethany Lutheran Brethren Church graciously offered their facilities while our usual venue Hartland School continued to be closed to outside groups due to the pandemic.
- Hartland School's Salmon-in-Schools program resumed with HLT support. HLT volunteer met with the school's middle school science teacher to plan other cooperative programs.
- Staffed HLT booth at the Friends of American Legion & Peoples' State Forest Earth Day event.
- Staffed Fire Department Carnival booth (shared with Lower Farmington and Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Committee) and marched in parade July 2022.
- "Welcome Project", joint effort of Hartland Historical Society, Hartland Lions' Club and HLT, delivered 66 welcome packets to new Hartland residents who moved here from 2019-2021; this project will be ongoing.
- Voted to join the **Follow the Forest** multi-state initiative and underwent Wildlife Corridor assessment training. This initiative supports connective forests to allow free movement of wildlife. HLT will be reaching out this year to engage "Citizen Scientists" in this effort.
- Conducted CT Trails Day hike to christen the new MDNP Blue trail.
- Planned replanting of the Pollinator Garden at Hartland School to reduce invasives.

Collaboration with Conservation Organizations/Conference and Workshop Participation

- HLT Co-Presidents continued to participate in planning meetings on the possible formation of a Farmington Valley Regional Conservation Partnership.
- Attended CT Land Conservation Council's Annual Conference Plenary session.
- Voted to support Housatonic Valley Association/Litchfield Greenprints' Follow the Forest initiative.

Board and Organizational Development

- Held several in-person Board meetings while continuing to meet primarily on Zoom.
- Transitioned to a co-Presidency model; Amanda Lukingbeal assumed Secretary role.
- Began annual reviews of HLT policies.
- Webmaster Jane Jones transitioned storage of HLT organizational documents on password-protected Board section of HLT website, saving HLT expense of Dropbox storage fees.

Fundraising

- For the second year, conducted successful end-of-year Annual Appeal.
- Offered new sales item: moose tote bags as well as moose T-shirts and photo notecards.
- Held 8th Annual Flatbread fundraiser.
- Continued participation in AmazonSmile program.
- Hartland photo calendars on hold at this time.

Public Communication/Social Media

- Board member team of Jane Jones, Amanda Lukingbeal and Susan Pearson updated HLT website, assured timely posts on HLT Facebook page and shared news via Mail Chimp e-mail announcements.
- 15th edition of newsletter, *The Preservationist*, published and mailed to every Hartland resident as well as HLT members, donors and partner organizations.

Regional Membership/Partner Organizations

- Land Trust Alliance
- CT Land Conservation Council
- Housatonic Valley Association/Litchfield Greenprints
- Sharon Audubon Center
- Farmington River Coordinating Committee
- Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Committee
- Horace B. Clark Woods Advisory Committee
- State of CT Department of Children and Families' Wilderness School

Many thanks to our dedicated Board members and trail volunteers for your hard work and to the Hartland community for your support! We couldn't do all this without our team!

