

The Preservationist

www.hartlandlandtrust.org P.O. Box 12 East Hartland, CT 06027 Spring 2014
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HARTLAND LAND TRUST

Annual Forum: Meet the North American Porcupine

Please join us at our Annual Forum June 6, 7 p.m. at Hartland School to welcome back Gerri Griswold and to meet the porcupine: a large, solitary rodent commonly found in New England including Connecticut. Elusive and mostly nocturnal, where can it be found during the day? What does it eat? How many quills does it have? Can it shoot them from afar? Find out more from CT DEEP Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator Gerri Griswold and an un-releasable Quill Pig for an hour-long program. She will address the natural history of one of Connecticut's most fascinating species and the world's third largest rodent!



- HLT Officers:**
 Sue Murray, *President*
 Alana Bordewieck, *Vice President*
 Susan Pearson, *Secretary*
 Rebecca Huntley, *Treasurer*
- HLT Directors:**
 Kris Anderson
 Fred Jones
 Joyce Mueller
 Lorri Wood
 Mark Ziarnik
 Wade Cole, *ex officio*

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



Hartland Photo Calendar 2015

Many of you have admired the beautiful photographs of Hartland at past Forum Art Exhibits and at local photographers' web pages. We are putting together a photo calendar for 2015. Each month's page will feature the flora, fauna or landscapes of Hartland along with dates for local meetings and events and interesting nature facts. You may contribute no more than four (4) photos for selection. All photos must have been taken in Hartland and submitted digitally at your camera's highest resolution by July 15, 2014 to hartlandlandtrustpictures@cox.net. Please include photographer's name. Look for information on our website and facebook page about the sale of the calendars at HLT events and elsewhere. Kudos and thanks go to HLT member Carole Vincent and her daughter Traci Vincent for assisting HLT director Kris Anderson in this project! Questions, call Carole at 860-653-4004.

Daffodil Plantings

*"A host of golden daffodils beneath the trees
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze." Wm. Wordsworth*

Charlie Bassett loved daffodils and undertook a project in his retirement from 35 years of teaching to plant thousands of them. In honor of Charlie and in gratitude for the generosity of the Bassett-Kell families that have donated 22 acres of their land in West Hartland to HLT for its preservation, we will be planting 200 daffodils on the land he loved so much. Shemin Nurseries of Windsor, CT will donate bulbs and Maureen Watson of East Hartland has offered clumps for transplanting. If you would like to help with the plantings, please contact Alana Bordewieck (860-653-2899; hbordewieck@snet.net)

CT Trails Day

HLT will represent Hartland by sponsoring a hike for CT Trails Day, an effort by the CT Forest and Park Association (CFPA) to include every CT town in an outdoor activity. Our 1.5 mile hike will be at Falls Brook Trail, off Route 20 West, with Hartland resident and HLT volunteer, Steve Emmons on Saturday, June 7 from 9 a.m. to 11a.m. Please bring water, sunscreen, insect repellent and dress for a hike. Please no pets. No rain date.

*"I only went out for a walk, and finally concluded to stay out till sundown, for going out, I found was really going in." - from John of the mountains:
The Unpublished Journals of John Muir*

President's Message from Sue Murray

Dear Friends,

Hartland Land Trust (HLT) in its 8th year remains an all-volunteer staff with an enthusiastic board and members. We have added an important coverage to our nonprofit organization: Directors and Officers Liability insurance. Further housekeeping includes internal financial controls, effective record keeping, and secure electronic storage on the web-based "Cloud".

We recently established a dedicated "Land Conservation Fund" from memorial donations for Gib Anderson (see article ---). For your convenience we now have a PayPal account at our website and facebook page for donations and membership. To connect with community and partners please visit our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/HartlandLandTrust. Join and post your thoughts, photos and stories and check our website, www.hartlandlandtrust.org, for events, news and details on the 2015 Hartland Photo calendar.

Our guest speaker series has been a huge success enjoyed by the good company of many and inspires our book gifts to the school and town libraries. Our 2nd year in the Salmon-in-School partnership project is a true collaboration with the school's science program, exciting and educating kids. To see more, visit, <https://sites.google.com/site/hartlandmiddleschoolscience/Home/salmon-in-schools-program-2013-2014>

We engage on regional, state and national levels with attendance at the following:

- ✦ a roundtable discussion with Senator Chris Murphy on national and local conservation issues
- ✦ Simsbury Land Trust workshop on record keeping and retention policy
- ✦ Farmington Watershed Directors' Summit in Granby, CT
- ✦ Annual Connecticut Land Conservation Council (CLCC)
- ✦ Conference at Wesleyan University highlighting the "Economic Benefits of Open Space"
- ✦ Land Trust Alliance Annual Conference in Providence, RI.

Closer to home with a grant from FRCC, we have been collaborating with FRWA and the Conservation Commission on an on-going analysis of properties.

Clean water is primary to Hartland's existence. We continue working closely with watershed groups, such as the Sandy Brook Conservation Corridor Project for which Fred Jones is the HLT rep, and the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Study Committee, which after many years finally has a bill in the Congressional Senate. Hartland's extensive protected open space and future land conservation is intrinsically connected to keeping water naturally clean and fundamental to our rural character.

Committed to working for our community's wishes, we are heartened that several property owners have made inquiries how they might conserve their land according to specific needs and individual wishes of the families. Over the next year we would like to expand our services to the community and listen to the ideas of municipal and civic groups on conservation.

Thank you for your past support and in advance for your continued participation.

Sue

Land Conservation Fund

Would you like to remember or honor someone who loved the natural beauty of Hartland? From generous donations given to HLT in memory of Gib Anderson (1949-2013), we have started a special Land Conservation Fund. He was a longtime supporter of our organization and former Chairman of the Hartland Conservation Commission. If you would like to help the fund grow through an outright donation or by contributing in memory of someone who has died or in recognition of a living supporter of conservation on Earth Day, a birthday or a special anniversary, please indicate the person's name and fund along with your donation on the new membership/donation form enclosed.

"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



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.



DEER CAROL,

Why do I often see porcupines eating snow on the side of my road in late winter?

Careful in Colebrook

Dear Careful in Colebrook,

Porcupines crave salt. In the summer they eat a generous amount of aquatic plants that satisfy their needs, but in winter, with a diet consisting mostly of bark and hemlock needles, their craving for salt intensifies. As winter temperatures moderate, porcupines can be seen wandering away from their dens in search of salt, trying to satisfy this intense craving. This is why you discover them eating your roadside snowbanks, a rich source of winter salt. Snow banks are not the only place these little critters can find salt; they have also been known to gnaw on wooden siding or tool handles, or any other wooden item with traces of salt residue.

Carol Blouin, a Master Wildlife Conservationist, lives in Hartland. Wildlife questions for Deer Carol may be forwarded to the HLT Facebook page: www.facebook.com/HartlandLandTrust.

Speaker Series by Rebecca Huntley

"There are moments when the heart is generous, and then it knows that for better or worse our lives are woven together here, one with another and with the place and all the living things."

Wendell Berry

Jason Hawley, DEEP Fur Bearer Technician and Hartland native, brought our Annual Forum audience a fascinating look at The Wild Cats of Connecticut: Bobcats and Cougars. These cats are a frequent topic of conversation in our area, and Jason brought many facts and fallacies to light. Prior to European arrival and settlement, the Northeast was home to the Eastern cougar, also called the catamount, puma, or mountain lion. Considered a threat to live-stock, cougars were widely hunted and killed, until the population was decimated. The last known Eastern cougar was killed in 1908; in 2012 the species was declared extinct by the federal government. Cougars currently seen in the Northeast are thought to be transient visitors from other parts of North America, or released captive cougars of South American origin. CT female cougars weigh from 70-100 lbs., males 130-170 lbs., averaging 7-8 feet long from the tip of the nose to the black tip of the tail. Two to four kittens are born every other year feeding primarily on whitetail deer. Jason reports that our bobcat is often mistaken for the cougar in sightings sent to the DEEP. Bobcats were also hunted and killed in the past, with CT towns paying a bounty of \$5 each from 1935 to 1971. The species has recovered here in large part due to the return of our CT habitat, in which they play an important role. Female bobcats weigh 15-25 lbs.; males 20-35 lbs., average 28 to 37 inches long and have a short, white-tipped bob tail. They are solid tawny-brown on the back, spotted underneath, with prominent cheek and ear tufts. Bobcats breed in February and March; one to four kittens are born in April or May. Their primary food sources are squirrel, cottontail rabbits, and whitetail deer.

Gerri Griswold is a Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator and Educator, as well as Director of Administration and Development at White Memorial Conservation Center. Gerri shared many amusing and gregarious tales of bats accumulated over 21 years of bat rescue and rehabilitation. How fortunate orphan bat pups are to be cuddled and hand fed goat milk by Gerri! Of the 1,200 species of bats on our planet, CT is home to many. They must live near water for the breeding insects they feed upon, and are found everywhere except extremely hot or cold areas. Bats are very smart mammals, see in black and white and use sonar to navigate and feed. Eight species of microbats live in CT. Of the hibernating species, the most commonly found Big Brown bat is mellow, biting in self-defense only. With a 10" wingspan, it is a crop protector, whose job is to eat insects at the rate of 1,200 moths per hour. The Little Brown bat has been adversely affected by White Nose Syndrome since 2006. Its tiny 3" body has a 6.5" wingspan, eating 1,200 mosquitoes an hour. Found in the center of our state are the Northern Long Ear, the Indiana, and the very rare Tri-Color, which is thought to be almost extinct. Our migratory species of Silver Haired, Red, and Hoary bats live in trees; the Red in maples, and the Hoary in conifers.

Chris Fisher, Photographer and retired Science Teacher, took us on a fascinating and beautiful pictorial tour of the Galapagos Islands. The islands, located 700 miles off the west coast of South America, belong to Ecuador and are home to about 30,000 people. Within 36,000 square miles of ocean are found 16 major volcanic islands and thousands of tiny islands, making up 3,000

square miles of islands. Each has a different type of rock and sand due to volcanic activity. The three major ocean currents play a large role in how life survives here, bringing nutrients to the sea life and up the many species of the food chain, including Sally Light Foot Crabs, Iguanas, Lizards, Tortoises, Finches, Boobies, Frigates, Flamingos, Cormorants, Penguins, and Sea Lions. Ocean currents also determine the individual climate on each of the islands. In 1835 Charles Darwin found the Galapagos a unique natural laboratory in which to study his theory of evolution through natural selection. The Galapagos are home to the largest tortoises in the world, at 900 lbs. and 6 feet wide, living up to 100 years. The Charles Darwin Science Research Center includes a tortoise research center, as well as a bird banding station.



Memorial Planting
by Alana Bordewieck

"A society grows great when old men plant trees in whose shade they know they shall never sit."
Greek proverb.



The morning of November 8, 2013 snowflakes flurried followed by cold, blustery winds in the afternoon when four HLT members met to plant a tree near the gate to the Bassett-Kell Preserve in memory of Gib Anderson. Imperial Nursery of Granby, CT donated an amelanchier grandiflora, Autumn Brilliance multi-stem Serviceberry or Shadbush, a hybrid that will grow up to 20 feet tall and wide, bearing white flowers in the spring and purple fruit beloved by wildlife. The etymology of the Serviceberry indicates the mountain roads had become passable, so itinerant preachers could once again hold services; the branches forced into flower could adorn the altars. The ground had thawed enough, as well, to bury the winter deceased and hold a service. In New England Shadbush or Shadblow refers to the shad runs that start with the blossoming of the tree.

True to Hartland soil we hit a stone or two as Director Fred Jones and member Harald Bordewieck dug the hole for the tree. Directors Rebecca Huntley (Gib's widow) and Alana Bordewieck carried water and mulch to protect the tree for the winter. Fred read the first stanza of Odell Shepard's "The Grave of Thoreau":

"Brown earth, blue sky and solitude
Three things he loved, three things he wooed
Lifelong; and now no rhyme can tell
How ultimately all is well
With his wild heart that worshiped God's
Epiphany in crumbling sods
And like an oak brought all its worth
Back to the kindly mother earth."

After Alana closed with the proverb, the gate creaked in the wind. "Gib approves," Rebecca reflected.

If I Am a Member of HLT...

Do I have to attend meetings?

No. Although our meetings are open to the public and directors attend monthly (except for July, August and December), members are not required to attend meetings.

What can I do as a member?

Send in your membership, renew or donate what your wallet can spare.

Attend our events open to all and drop something in the Donation Jars.

Take a turn manning our Booth at the Firemen's Carnival.

Bake something for our Baked Goods Booth

at the Blues Fest.

Help plant daffodils at Bassett-Kell on Planting Day.

Assist one of our committees according to

interest and skills:

Membership & Fundraising (M & F)

Chair Lorri Wood,

Land Acquisition & Stewardship (LA & S)

Chair Mark Ziarnik,

Outreach & Education (O & E)

Chair Fred Jones

Send us your ideas for conservation, fundraisers, speakers, and events.

Sponsor or co-sponsor a speaker.

Calendar of Events 2014

- ✦ **June 6 HLT Annual Forum June 6, Porcupines** with Gerri Griswold, Hartland School, 7:00 p.m. Thank you sponsors Mark and Penny Ziarnik!
- ✦ **June 7 CT Trails Day Walk**, Falls Brook Trail off Rte 20 W with Steve Emmons, 9 a.m.-11 a.m. Dress appropriately including sturdy shoes; bring water, insect repellent and sunscreen. Please no pets. No rain date.
- ✦ **July 15 Deadline** for submissions for Photo Calendar 2015 to hartlandlandtrustpictures@cox.net
N.B. All pictures must be taken in Hartland
- ✦ **September 22, Speaker Series: The History of Fishes in Connecticut** by CT State Fisheries Biologist EJ Machowski. Also, Salmon-in-Schools with Deb Costolnick, 7:30 p.m. at the Hartland School.
- ✦ **October 21, Second Annual HLT Fundraiser at Flatbread Pizza**, 5-9 p.m. Canton, CT, **Door Prizes!**

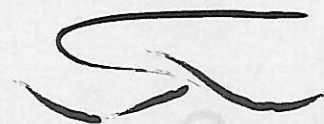
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ENVELOPE ENCLOSED WITH
MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

www.hartlandlandtrust.org
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HARTLAND
LAND TRUST



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

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