



# THE Spruce

## SPRING 2011 NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 2276 ▪ Huntington Station ▪ Shelton, Connecticut 06484

## Scout Builds New Picnic Area

David Walsh completed his Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project entitled "Far Mill River Picnic Area".



David's project involved the planning and building of a picnic area on Trust land that abuts the banks of the Far Mill River. Located off Commerce Drive, the parcel is across from Enterprise Drive. It features a walking path down to a picnic area next to the river. Four log benches were built, stained and installed. Woodchips obtained from clearing away the trees and brush, were used by David, and placed underneath the benches.

David's project benefits residents of Shelton, the office workers across the street, and the fishermen (and fisherwomen) that frequent the area. It gives them a great spot to eat lunch, and or enjoy a good view of the Far Mill River Dam, or to fish. A new kiosk was built and installed next to the entrance on Commerce Drive across from the Italian restaurant. All together, it presents a very inviting getaway.





### NOTICE

#### New Land Monitor Chairman

Hank Lauriat is retiring from the position as Chairman of Land Trust Monitors. Bob Liddel will succeed Hank as Chairman of Land Trust Monitors.

Hank has been a dedicated chairman for the past 15 years, and will surely be missed in the position that he and his wife, Jacke served so well, and with such dedication. He and Jacke will remain on the Trust's Board of Directors. He was always able to help any land monitor in any given situation, no matter how big or small.

Bob Liddel has been with the SLCT for almost 15 years, and is a monitor himself at parcel 2 (see page 4). We welcome Bob in his new role at the SLCT. Monitors, please email a warm hello to Bob, and if possible include a report to Bob at: [rliddel@aol.com](mailto:rliddel@aol.com).

David's project was supported by a number of individuals who donated wood, and/or equipment. Among the donors were: Phillip Jones, Fred Rottjer, John Walsh, Tom Symski and Gary Duhaime. A number of "helpers" also assisted David with various phase of construction, which amounted to 122 man hours of labor.

The Shelton Land Conservation Trust thanks David for making the Trust parcel and Shelton more beautiful! Congratulations on a job well done.

# SLCT History: Lane Street Property

It was thirty-one years ago this year, when Guila G. Hawley deeded 17 acres off of Lane Street. The following is a reprint of the original Evening Sentinel Article that ran on Sat. Jan 5, 1980. It is interesting to note that back then, the Trust had 67 acres, compared to the 365 acres it holds today with 199 members Strong.

## 17 acres given to Shelton Land Trust

By John J. Cook

Huntington – Seventeen acres of farmland off Lane Street bordering Means Brook has been deeded by Guila G. Hawley of 190 Huntington St., to the Shelton Land Conservation Trust Inc.

Determined to keep the land in its natural state, Miss Hawley declined lucrative offers by developers until deeding it to the trust.

She loves the land and has always been a part of it, she said.

She attributed her vigorous health to living off the land.

A special arrangement between Miss Hawley and the trust to allow a farmer, Rudolph Hudak to continue farming the land for corn has been negotiated.

In an interview Thursday at the Hawley residence, built in 1805, by John Judson and acquired in 1835 by Laura Hawley, widow of Joseph Hawley, great-great grandparents, Miss Hawley reflected on her recent gifts of land.

### Family roots

She was asked why she gave the land and said “basically, it was a matter of sentiment. It is a beautiful land and my family has there roots deeply here.”

Her family was one of the original settlers of Huntington in the late 1600s.

Said Miss Hawley, “I just can’t bare to see this land buried under parking lots, ect. It’s too beautiful. It should remain open for the enjoyment of other people.”

Miss Hawley said, “I have had every kind of offer you could think of for the land ever since the land boom started after

World War II in Huntington.”

She said, “I have watched other pieces of property being engulfed by the greed and lack of proper care for the land that was taken.”

Miss Hawley has been a member of the board of directors of the Shelton Land Trust since it was incorporated in 1969.

Asked why she first wanted to serve in this organization, she replied, “Because I thought it might be a possible hope to save something that was left.”

She said she gave this land on condition that the land still could be used and added, “in the first place, it is an advantage to the Land Trust to save land given under these conditions because part of their problem is maintenance of property they acquire.”

### Surging Ahead

The other reason, she said, “because I would just like people to know it is possible to give land to this organization like the Land Trust under various conditions that I gave.

She said it is a gift and has a condition that if the Land Trust should ever cease to exist, it will revert to the Nature Conservatory.

According to William A. Yeoman, Land Trust member, “The Shelton Land Conservation Trust Inc. is surging ahead in the acquisition and preservation of land for open space purposes in Shelton. The Trust has more than doubled its property since a year ago to this date.”

To date, the Trust owns some 67 acres of land. Many of the land tracts have trails and can be used for wildlife studies.

All will be preserved for public use. About five acres are wetlands. Yeoman said the wetlands perform a certain function to any land mass because it acts

as a sponge for floods and provides a home for infinite amounts of wildlife.

### Not Competitive

A Land Trust adds another tool for use in the town’s efforts to save open space and natural resources, and in no way does a Trust interfere with city-appointed boards or commissions. Yeoman said its programs are not competitive, but are complementary.

He said Trust members do not and legally cannot attempt to influence legislation concerning conservation on any level, city, state or federal, nor can they, as a group, become involved in political issues or campaigns.

The politics of conservation is the task of the Shelton Conservation Commission. The Trust’s purpose only is to acquire land to keep it in it’s natural state, and to conduct educational programs as they are able, Yeoman said.

It’s income comes from donations and membership dues. There are currently 35 active members in the organization, which is seeking new members.

Membership costs \$2 per year, junior membership is \$1, family membership (which includes all children under 18 years of age) is \$5 a year, life membership, \$200 and honorary membership elected by the board of directors.

A total of 11 parcels have been donated to the Trust so far and 1979 saw the most parcels being donated.

Anyone interested in giving land to the trust can call Robert Stockmal at 929-1377 or Yeoman at 929-1653.

Information can be obtained by writing Shelton Land Conservation Trust Inc., Post Office Box 2276, Huntington Station, Shelton, 06484.

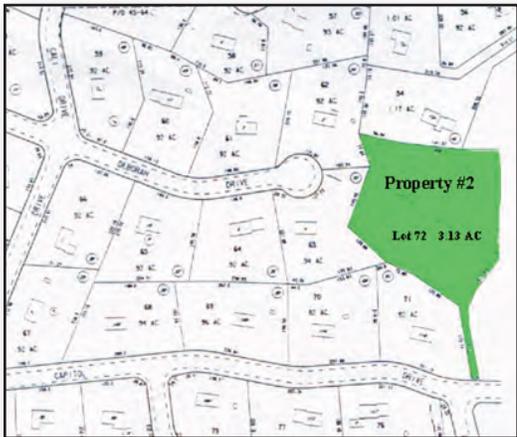


Guila G. Hawley of 190 Huntington St., Huntington (left), hands a deed for 17 acres to Robert Stockmal (right), vice chairman of the Shelton Land Conservation Trust Inc. The land has been in Miss Hawley’s family since 1835. Watching are William A. Yeoman (second from left) and Shirley Viadella (second from right), members of the commission.

## Getting to know our parcels: Shelton Land Conservation Trust Parcel #2

This Parcel is known as the “End of Deborah Drive” Parcel and was acquired by Quit Claim Deed from the City of Shelton on August 22, 1973. Located in Huntington, this 3.13 acre parcel is in the Residential “R-1” Zone, and has an appraised value of \$80,600 according to the City Assessor. The Assessor lists the address as 0 Isinglass Road, even though the deed locates the property as being on Meadowlark Drive where it becomes Capitol Drive.

While SLCT records refer to Deborah Drive, there is no legal access from there. The parcel has a 15’ Right of Way located on the northerly side of Meadowlark Drive, between No. 37 Meadowlark Drive and No. 118 Capitol Drive. This roughly 170’ long access is undefined with no apparent path or trail. This parcel may be accessed through the adjoining parcel to the north, which is SLCT Parcel #3. Located on Huntington Circle between houses No. 19 and No. 27, SLCT Parcel #3 is a designated “Open Space” parcel that was acquired September 16, 1975 from B.I.D. Inc., and is part of “Huntington Wood” Section One. Together both of these Parcels constitute over 5 Acres of open space.



As with most of Open Space, these parcels are not suitable for building, due to the rugged topography, and the brook that crosses Parcel #2. The unnamed watercourse flows southeast from elevation 366’ at Deborah Drive to elevation 353’ at the easterly side before continuing across Meadowlark Drive and into the large wetland area on the City owned parcel known as “Capewell Park”. The brook takes the runoff from Deborah Drive as well as the surrounding properties.



## Trusting Landscape: Backpacking from Mexico to Canada on the Pacific Crest Trail

*2,650 miles. 5 months. 3 seasons. 4 pairs of shoes. 19 lost pounds.  
1 blister. Dozens of states of mind....*

Anne O'Regan will be joining us on April 13th, at the annual Shelton Land Trust Meeting, to tell us, via story and slides, about her journey from Mexico to Canada taken from April to September of 2010 on the Pacific Crest Trail. The PCT travels through seven National Parks, twenty-four National Forests, and thirty-three Wilderness Areas. It crosses sixty major mountain passes, and skirts by over a thousand lakes. From deserts, to the High Sierras, to rain forests in Washington, the hike brought her through six of the seven eco-zones in North America. On average the trail sees a completion rate of around 300 thru-hikers per year.

O'Regan is a Boston native now living in Shelton. Refreshments will be provided. Please plan to attend, as all are welcome!



## Save the Date!

The 2011 Connecticut Land Conservation Conference will be held Saturday, April 30th, at Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT.

The conference was expanded in 2009 with a new venue, which allowed for a greater number of workshop offerings, and was the biggest and most successful conference to date. This year will improve on that model, with hopes to engage a larger and broader audience. The improved venue should attract not only land trust representatives, but also individuals involved with town commissions, garden clubs, and grass root advocacy groups.

The conference will offer 24 workshops, 8 each, in one morning and two afternoon sessions. The workshops will be preceded by a keynote speaker in the morning. The workshops are about 1.5 hours in length, with up to 45 people attending each. Both basic and advanced training will be available.

This year's conference will be designed around a general theme of collaboration and partnerships.

A theme that is likely to be integrated into each workshop topic. Other categories likely to be covered at the conference (but not limited to):

- Advocacy
- Stewardship (monitoring, land management, baseline reports)
- Organizational Capacity Development
- Fundraising
- Outreach, Education and Communications
- Leadership (board and staff)
- Land Conservation Transactions

More information on the conference and the final schedule of events will be available in early 2011. Check <http://www.ctconservation.org/2011ctlandconservationconference> for more updates.



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## Shelton Land Conservation Trust, Inc.

P.O. Box 2276 • Huntington Station • Shelton, Connecticut 06484

### *President*

Joseph Welsh

### *Vice Presidents*

Philip Jones  
Edward McCreery

### *Secretary*

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Pat Gajdosik  
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Evelyn Healy  
Hank Lauriat  
Jackie Lauriat  
Robert Liddel  
Bruce Nichols  
Margaret Paulson  
Joseph Palmucci  
Donald Pendagast  
Robert Wnek

### *Member Emeritus*

Robert Stockmal  
Lise Olsen

### **2011 General Meetings:**

Mar. 16, 7 pm

April 13 -ANNUAL MEETING at  
Plumb Library

May 11, 7 pm

June 8, 7 pm

August 11 annual picnic -  
details to follow

Sept. 14, 7 pm

Nov. 9, 7 pm

Additional meetings to be announced. All general meetings will take place at the Shelton Community Center at 7pm.

To be better informed about Land Trust activities and local conservation issues, why not join the Trust's email alert list? To be added, simply send an email to [slctjoew@sbcglobal.net](mailto:slctjoew@sbcglobal.net)

