



THE Spruce

FALL 2012 NEWSLETTER

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

State's annual Migratory Bird Conservation Stamp artistic competition begins

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) is once again encouraging artists to enter their waterfowl artwork in the next Migratory Bird Conservation Stamp Art Contest.

The winning entry will be featured on the 2014 Connecticut Migratory Bird Conservation Stamp. The inaugural contest in 2012 was won by wildlife artist Richard Clifton, whose depiction of three wood ducks was chosen from among 18 entries from artists across the country – from Oregon to Georgia, as well as 11 from Connecticut. Mr. Clifton's painting now graces the 2013 Connecticut Migratory Bird Conservation Stamp.

"The Connecticut Migratory Bird Conservation Stamp Program is a great example of how conservation works – concerned citizens paying into a program that was formed to protect and enhance vital habitat," said DEEP Deputy Commissioner Susan Whalen. "By state law, funds generated from the sale of Connecticut Duck Stamps can only be used for the development, management, preservation, conservation, acquisition, purchase, and maintenance of waterfowl habitat and wetlands, as well as the purchase and acquisition of recreational rights or interests relating to migratory birds."

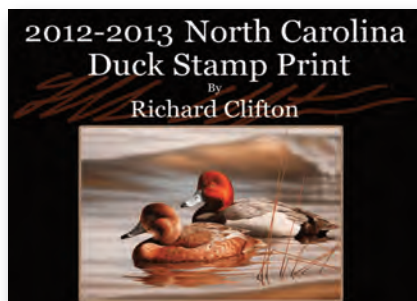
Contest Details: The contest is open to all artists (including Junior Duck Stamp artists), regardless of residence, age, or experience. Artwork may be in any full-color medium, including acrylic, oil, colored pencil, and watercolor. Images that include a Connecticut scene or landmark are preferred. Entries will be judged on originality, artistic composition, anatomical accuracy, general rendering, and suitability for reproduction.

Entries must be received in person or postmarked on or before March 15, 2013, to be eligible. Entries should be sent to:

CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
Attn: Migratory Game Bird Program
391 Route 32

North Franklin, CT 06254

Full contest rules, judging criteria, and an official entry certificate are available on the DEEP web site at www.ct.gov/deep/ctduckstamp or by calling the DEEP Wildlife Division's Franklin office at 860-642-7239.



Measures in Place to Contain Destructive Emerald Ash Borer

New Haven County Quarantine and Regulations on Moving Firewood in Effect

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) and the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) announced today that measures are now in place to regulate the movement of wood products within, into and out of Connecticut in an effort to contain the spread of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), a destructive invasive beetle.

CAES Director Louis A. Magnarelli and DEEP Commissioner Daniel C. Esty said a quarantine has been established that regulates the movement of ash logs, ash materials, ash nursery stock and hardwood firewood from within New Haven County to any area outside of that county. The quarantine applies to that part of the state because EAB has been detected in several towns in New Haven County and is intended to mirror a federal quarantine to be imposed on New Haven County within the next four-to-six weeks.

In addition, Magnarelli and Esty said emergency regulations have now taken effect regulating the movement of firewood from out-of-state into Connecticut or within Connecticut. These regulations were put in place to ensure that EAB and other invasive insects are not carried into Connecticut, or spread throughout New England, through the shipment of firewood.

Detailed information about the quarantine and the emergency firewood regulations can be found at www.ct.gov/deep/eab or www.ct.gov/caes

"Anyone involved in the transport of firewood and other wood products

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Measures in Place continued...

should contact CAES for the information they need to conduct their business operations," Magnarelli said. "We can help determine which of their wood products can be moved within our state or into or out of Connecticut, and what type of documentation would be required to do so."

Magnarelli also said, "CAES will regulate the movement of wood products in a fashion that strikes the appropriate balance between slowing the spread of this destructive pest and allowing the wood-products industry continue to operate."

"We are moving aggressively to protect our trees and the beauty of Connecticut's forests, parks, communities and neighborhoods," Esty said. "The quarantine and emergency firewood regulations are strong steps designed to limit the spread of EAB."

In addition, Esty said, "We will provide CAES with continued support to help educate the public and the wood products industry to help everyone comply with the regulatory framework we have put in place to address the threat of EAB."

The New Haven County quarantine was imposed Thursday by Magnarelli following a public hearing in Prospect Wednesday night.

The emergency firewood regulations also took effect Thursday, after having been sent to the General Assembly's Regulations Review Committee and then filed with the Office of the Secretary of the State.

Background on EAB

With the detection of EAB in several New Haven County communities last month, Connecticut becomes the 16th state in the nation to experience this invasive beetle. EAB had previously been detected in several counties of neighboring New York State.

The EAB specifically targets ash trees, eventually causing the death of these trees. Ash trees are an important tree species throughout Connecticut – serving as a source of economic revenue for the forest products industry and also as an ecologically significant critical habitat for wildlife and as an urban landscape tree.

Efforts to address EAB are focused on slowing or preventing the spread of the insect into new areas while managing and reducing its numbers in places where it is already found.



Speaking About Farmland...

At the Shelton Land Conservation Trust's 43rd Annual Meeting held this past April, the Trust was fortunate to have Jennifer McTiernan, Project Coordinator, UCONN Cooperative Extension System from Farmland Connections Service as a Guest Speaker.

Jennifer's topic was: Land Trust for Farming, - A project of UCONN in partnership with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and American Farmland Trust.

Regarding Farmland Protection in Connecticut, Jennifer pointed out that, "Conservation efforts across the state have protected thousands of acres of farmland and open space from unwanted sprawl. The last reported figures in 2008 indicated that municipalities owned 78,000 acres, and land trusts owned 58,000 acres of protected open space, some of which was farmland.* Another 47,000 acres of farmland owned by farmers, and individual landowners have been permanently protected through easements donated, or purchased by a combination of state, municipal and land trust entities."

The mission of American Farmland Trust is to save the land that sustains us by protecting America's farm and ranch lands, promoting environmentally sound farming practices, and ensuring an economically sustainable future for farmers and ranchers.

The University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension System (CES) provides practical learning resources to address complex preservation issues encountered by families, communities, agriculture, business and industry. CES is part of a nationwide educational network, through the University of Connecticut College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

A question and answer session followed Jennifer's presentation, at which point many issues were discussed by farmers and land owners in the audience.

* Unfortunately, there is no way to quantify the exact amount of farmland included in open space preservation estimates.



1958 FERGUSON TRACTOR RESTORATION PROCEEDING

The main parts and attachments have been fully painted including the rear wheel rims with the replacement tires. The machined engine head was reattached allowing us to start to reassemble the engine. That in turn allowed us to finish stripping the frame this weekend in preparation for painting it. The brakes were disassembled and found to be in good order. So we sand blasted the hubs too in preparation for painting. When the frame is painted, we can really start to put it all back together. We've turned the corner and it feels good to be going back uphill.

The Land Trust continues to seek donations to cover the cost of the replacement parts, both old and new, the cost of the blasting and the cost of the painting. Donations may be made to the Shelton Land Trust (attention Tractor restoration Fund) and mailed to:

Shelton Land Conservation Trust
PO Box 2276 Huntington Station
Shelton, CT 06484

A Big Thank You to all who have contributed!

WHIP 2005, the end.

Eight years ago we were awarded funding through USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service, Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program, or WHIP for short. This source was brought to our attention from an Iroquois grant we received to combat the invasive plant situation at Nicholdale. First came the heavy equipment to clear out the invasives in the field areas of the old farm (about 3.5 acres of the targeted 20.5 acre area). The invasives included plants such as Multiflora Rose, Autumn Olive, Burning Bush, and Oriental Bittersweet. Then that acreage was re-seeded with a native pasture mix. This clearing and re-seeding phase was the start of a practice referred to as early successional habitat management and development.

In each of the next several years, our mowing contractor cut the fields in mid to late fall (long after the nesting season) in hopes of benefiting the species that we were ultimately improving habitat for. Time sure does pass by in the blink of an eye, and suddenly we find ourselves in the last year of our contract. As the representative from the USDA said

it is, "Bittersweet" that we are at the end of the program. To which Trust President Joe Welsh laughed, and said, "bittersweet that troublesome vine." It was a great funding opportunity, and each year we successfully satisfied the mowing requirement.

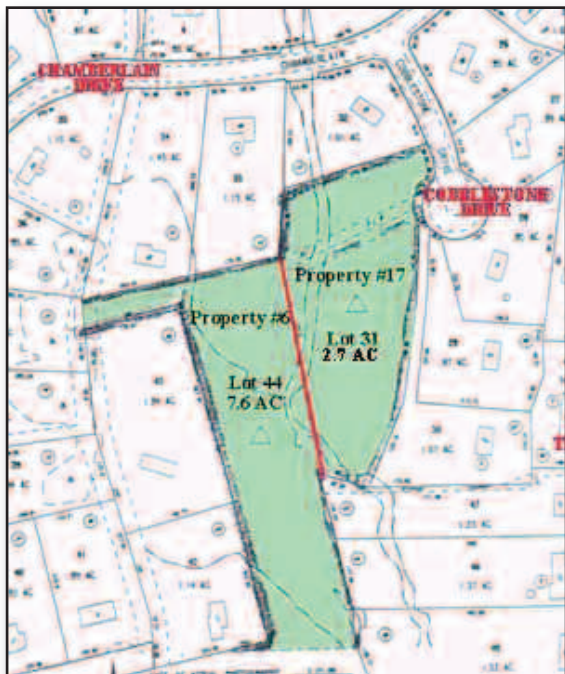
So what do we do now? As part of the WHIP contract, we agreed that the property would be maintained in a similar manner for a few years after the payment portion of the contract was over. Unfortunately, the WHIP funding is no longer available, and there are no other funding programs that apply under the current Farm Bill. Our intention is to continue the work initiated through the WHIP program. To do so, the Trust hopes to raise the funds to have our contractor take care of the annual mowing. Alternatively, we can plan to mow the fields one by one with the '58 Ferguson, if volunteers, and time permits. We've also discussed leasing the area for farmland, or as a possible community garden.

No matter the outcome, the Trust is sincerely appreciative to all who helped along the way with funding, guidance, and fieldwork. Well done to all!

Getting to know our parcels:

Shelton Land Conservation Trust

Parcels #6 and #17



The City of Shelton has labeled both of these parcels LT 20, even though they are separate, and were acquired from different grantors. Parcel No. 6 is located at the end of Tulip Lane, which is a short cul de sac off Chamberlain Drive. The adjoining Parcel No.17 is located off Cobblestone Drive, which is another dead end street around the corner, off Chamberlain Drive. Parcel No. 6, was deeded to the Shelton Land Conservation Trust, Inc. by Louise A. Chamberlain in October of 1978 and Parcel No. 17 was deeded to the trust by the City of Shelton in January of 1986. Both parcels are part of the Subdivision known as 'Field Stone Acres'. Parcel No. 6 is part of Section Five, while Parcel 17 is part of Section Four.

The two parcels are divided by Means Brook. The Tulip Lane parcel contains two smaller watercourses, which feed the brook. Each parcel must be

accessed from either street and crossing the brook is not advisable. The land off Cobblestone Drive contains a 20' wide Storm Drain Easement which handles the runoff from the neighboring streets. Being 2.7 Acres, Parcel No.17 does not have any long trails, but does offer access to the brook. Parcel No.6 is over 7 Acres, and Means Brook borders the property on both the South and the East. There is a Water Company Easement along the westerly side of the property. Both parcels are almost entirely designated as Wetlands by the City Wetlands Agency. These Parcels serve as important pieces of the Shelton Land Conservation Trust, and in the protection of wetlands and Means Brook.

We're on FACEBOOK!



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Shelton Land Conservation Trust, Inc.

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

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Have you paid your 2012 dues yet?

2012 General Meetings:

Next meeting: 11/15

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

