



THE Spruce

FALL 2014 NEWSLETTER

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

A New Bench at Nicholdale

On the weekend of Mother's Day 2014, the family of Esther Resnik gathered at Nicholdale Farm to dedicate a granite bench in Esther's memory. The bench is located at the southeast corner of the first open field south of Nicholdale brook, and offers wonderful views of the sunsets over Christmas Tree Hill at the Jones Family Farm to the west.

The mother of Land Trust board member Bruce Nichols, Esther lived on the farm in the late 1940s when she was first married to Stanley Nichols. At that time, Nicholdale was a working dairy. In recent years, Esther was a generous, and regular supporter of the Shelton Land Conservation Trust, and had visited the property regularly. A number of donations in her memory were made to SLCT after her death in November of 2013.

A poem composed by her daughter Dale Robertson is engraved on the top of the bench and captures the spirit of Nicholdale:

A place for all
For all to be
To be in nature
In nature free



DEEP Begins Fall Trout Stocking

Trout Parks and TMA's among the areas being stocked.

Low stream flows may delay stocking of some areas.

Connecticut's Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) today announced that its 2014 autumn trout stockings have begun. From now through mid October, DEEP is releasing 30,000

trophy and adult sized trout into selected waters throughout the state. Among the areas scheduled to be stocked this fall are twenty-three lakes and ponds, fifteen rivers and streams that include twelve of the Trout Management Areas (TMA), and eight Trout Parks.

Trout Parks are managed to enhance fishing opportunities for families and novice anglers and are easily accessible with picnic areas and other amenities nearby. "Our Trout Parks are great places for family fishing outings," said Susan Whalen, Deputy Commissioner of DEEP. "A family can get outdoors before winter sets in and enjoy a fine day of fishing and picnicking in these special areas."

Anglers are advised that the current dry weather conditions may cause a number

of changes in this fall's stocking schedule. Despite some recent rains and a relatively cool summer, flows are well below typical levels for this time of the year in many of the state's rivers and streams, especially in eastern Connecticut, and environmental conditions in some lakes and ponds are unsuitable for stocking at this time.

"Water levels have been too low to permit releasing trout into some of the rivers and streams currently scheduled for stocking. We've already had to make a number of changes to stocking schedules, postponing the stocking of some rivers and streams and moving up the scheduled stockings of those lakes and ponds with suitable

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One Hand Washes The Other

At the September meeting, Board Member Pat Gadosik shows the attending members the “Hand Washing Station” that she constructed for the Nichodale campsite. Pat explained that, “A bar of soap can be inserted into an old nylon, and suspended from the tri-pod.” A golf tee at the base of each water jug is simply removed to begin the hand-washing process.



DEEP Continued

conditions,” said Peter Aarrestad, Director of DEEP’s Inland Fisheries Division. “Whether flows remain low or return to normal, we’ll post updates on the status of trout stocking in the Weekly Fishing Report, and on our website and Facebook page.”

Approximately 30,000 adult trout will be released this fall, of which 14,000 are trophy size brown trout (all greater than 12 inches in length). The remaining 16,000 adults are standard size (9-10 inch) rainbow trout.

In addition, the Farmington River TMA also received its annual Labor Day stocking of 2,000 large brown trout (12 inches and larger fish) just prior to the Labor Day weekend. These fish were stocked into the sections of the Farmington River Trout Management Area from the Goodwin (Hogback) Dam to the old bridge abutments just below “Whittemore pool” (Barkhamsted), and from the Route 219 bridge (New Hartford) to the Route 177 bridge (Unionville).

Among the other Trout Management Areas (TMA) being stocked this fall are the two areas on the Housatonic River. A total of 9,000 trout (1,000 large brown trout, 5,000 rainbow trout, 3,000 “yearling” brown trout) will be released into the Housatonic River TMA and the Bull’s Bridge TMA will be stocked with 500 brown trout and 2,000 “yearling” trout. The large brown trout are intended

to augment the population of holdover trout in the river this fall, while the rainbow trout and “yearling” browns (5-7 inch fish) should enhance the holdover population for next spring.

In addition to the 5,000 “yearling” trout stocked into the Housatonic River, another 28,000 will be stocked into eight rivers and streams scattered throughout the state. These fish are expected to grow and holdover, providing additional angling opportunities in late fall, winter and especially next spring; and in several cases, to also enhance wild trout populations.

Fishing in all sixteen Trout Management Areas during the fall is catch-and-release only. Trout Parks have a two-fish per day creel limit. Regulations vary on many of the other waters being stocked this fall. The DEEP advises anglers to check fishing regulations in the 2014 Connecticut Angler’s Guide, found online at www.ct.gov/deep/anglersguide. Print versions of the guides are available from many Town Clerks and bait & tackle stores, or by contacting DEEP’s Inland Fisheries Division (860-424-FISH).

Additional fishing and fisheries related information, including the Weekly Fishing Report, can be found on the DEEP Fisheries web pages at www.ct.gov/deep/fishing and on the Fisheries and Wildlife Facebook page at www.facebook.com/CTFishandWildlife. This fall, anglers will find updates on DEEP’s broodstock Atlantic salmon stockings and the fall trout stockings in

the Weekly Fishing Report, on the Fisheries webpage and on the Fisheries and Wildlife Facebook page.

Areas that are scheduled to be stocked with large brown trout and/or adult rainbow trout this fall (2014):

TROUT PARKS (two trout per day limit):

Black Rock Pond, Mohegan Park Pond, Wharton Brook, (Allen Brook Pond), Chatfield Hollow, (Schreeder Pond), Natchaug River, Wolfe Park, (Great Hollow Pond), Day Pond, Valley Falls, Park Pond.

TROUT MANAGEMENT AREAS (TMA, all catch-and-release only during the fall & winter):

Bulls Bridge TMA, (Housatonic River), Mianus River TMA, Saugatuck River TMA, Farmington River TMA, (West Branch Farmington & Farmington rivers to Unionville), Mill River TMA (Fairfield), Sleeping Giant TMA (Mill River-Hamden), Hammonasset River TMA, Moosup River TMA, Willimantic River TMA, Housatonic River TMA, Salmon River TMA, Yantic River TMA,



The Do's & Don'ts of Composting

At its June 2014 meeting Trust members and guests learned much about the how's and why's, and do's and don'ts of composting from master gardener Libby Root. As Libby explained in her presentation, "Composting is the controlled microbial decomposition of organic matter (such as food and yard waste), by bacteria, and other micro-organisms, in the presence of oxygen and water."



Controlled composting helps accelerate the process, resulting in a rich material that can then be used to add nutrients to, and improve the structure of your garden soil. In addition, the composted matter makes your plants more disease resistant. It also has the added benefit of decreasing the garden and kitchen waste going to the landfill, or into the waste stream.

The collected waste can simply be piled in an out-of-the-way location. If preferred, a simple cage or bin can be constructed (See pics [Marge, can you pull a couple of images off the web?]). Alternatively, a plastic bin or tumbler can be purchased from a local garden center, or on-line supplier.

Although most everything will decay over time, not everything should be added to your compost pile – there's Good compost matter, and BAD compost matter. Good compost matter includes material such as: Straw; Shredded newspaper, wood, or bark; Pine needles; Sawdust; Coffee and tea grounds; Dead-headed flowers; And of

course if available, manure (cow, horse, or chicken).

Bad composting material includes items such as: Dairy products (milk, butter, yogurt, etc.), Meat, fish scraps, Fats, oils, salad dressings; Diseased plant materials; Coal, wood, or charcoal ashes; Glossy colored magazines and newspapers; Pesticide and/or herbicide treated grass and plant materials; and Invasive weeds.

So, if you're a flower, and/or vegetable gardener, and you haven't already done so, consider starting a compost pile. You'll be surprised at the results!

For more detailed information about composting, consult the references listed below.

The Rodale Book of Composting, Deborah L. Martin & Grace Gershuny, Editors (Rodale Press)

The Complete Compost Gardening Guide, Barbara Pleasant & Deborah L. Martin (Storey Publishing)

Let it Rot, Stu Campbell (Storey Publishing, 3rd edition)

Soil & Composting, Nancy J. Ondra (Taylor's Weekend Gardening Guides)

<http://www.soiltest.uconn.edu/documents/compostingbasics.pdf>

Calling All Web Browsers

We often post great pictures, and current event information on our website www.sheltonlandtrust.org, and on our "Facebook" page. If you want to keep informed on the latest happenings or to just enjoy the photos, check the websites out every other day, or so. Coming soon: Some great fall pictures, and a time-lapse video, courtesy of Board member Bruce Nichols.

YOUR HANDY DANDY
GUIDE TO COMPOSTING

YES!

NO!

RULES OF THUMB

- KEEP YOUR COMPOST COVERED TO KEEP ANIMALS AND FLYING BUGS AWAY
- KEEP YOUR COMPOST MOIST AND WARM TO KEEP IT DECOMPOSING
- A LAYER OF GRASS, LEAVES, OR PAPER ON TOP WILL CUT DOWN ON SMELLS
- THE SMALLER THE PIECES, THE QUICKER IT WILL BECOME COMPOST

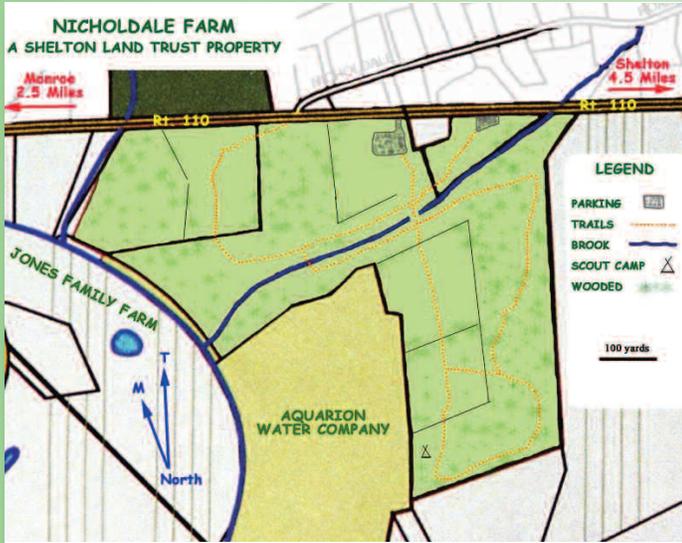
Oktoberfest and Work Party

On Saturday, October 11, Land Trust volunteers will meet at Nicholdale to remove some very old barbed-wire fencing that is now posing a hazard along some of the hiking trails.

When the issue was brought up at the Trust's last meeting, it was suggested that following the brief work session from 10 a.m. to noon, members might also enjoy an Oktoberfest outing.

The idea met with enthusiastic approval, and plans were set in motion for soup, chili, sandwiches, and anything else that folks would like to bring and share. If the idea appeals to you, and you'd like to participate, please RSVP Marge Estok at 203 929-3726.

If you'd like to participate in the work session, prior to lunch, heavy work gloves are recommended and if you own a pair of wire cutters, please do bring it along. We're looking forward to a "fun" outing, and removing a hazard as well. We hope you'll feel the same, and join us.



We're on FACEBOOK!



Please "like" our page and you can keep informed about upcoming events and Land Trust news. Search Shelton Land Trust.

Shelton Land Conservation Trust, Inc.

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**Have you paid
your 2014 dues
yet?**

2014 General Meetings:

Oct 8

Nov 12

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

