



THE Spruce

Spring 2015 NEWSLETTER

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

The Shelton Land Trust is Going to the Birds!

More accurately, the birds are coming to our annual meeting on Wednesday April 8 at 7 pm at the Plum Memorial Library in Shelton. Frank Gallo from the Coastal Center at Milford Point will be presenting a program "Birds and their Habitats." It promises to be a great program offered by a true expert on Connecticut birds. Please join us on the 8th and bring your friends. This program also includes information about the conservation challenges that different types of birds face within their distinct habitats, as well as delving into the impact of invasive species. This presentation topic will target land trusts, touching on the challenges they face trying to maintain their properties, especially in terms of smaller parks.

The Presenter is Frank Gallo:

Associate Director, Milford Point Coastal Center. Frank is a leading expert on where to find birds in Connecticut. Through his birding tours, lectures, and classes he has inspired countless birders to discover and appreciate the region's rich bird life. Frank has worked for the Connecticut Audubon Society since 2005. Previously, he served at the New Canaan Nature Center as director of public programs and director of eco-travel and field studies, and before that with the New Haven Parks Department. Currently, he is a member of the Connecticut Avian Rare Records Committee, and is federally licensed as a master bird bander. He is a past president of the New Haven Bird Club.

A superb birder, he has led birding expeditions throughout North America and abroad, including New Zealand, South Africa, Peru, Venezuela, Costa Rica, Trinidad and Tobago, Guatemala, Mexico, and Spain. Annually he is the bird team leader for the Forman School Rain Forest Project, guiding high school students from Litchfield in bird research projects in Costa Rica. Frank is the author of two highly successful children's nature books, *Bird Calls* and *Night Sounds*, has recently completed work on a bird finding guide to Connecticut and Coastal Rhode Island, and is a published freelance photographer and lecturer. He holds a bachelor's degree in biology with a specialization in ornithology from Southern Connecticut State College, and in 2003, he received the Connecticut Outdoor Environmental Education Association's Outdoor Environmental Educator of the Year Award.



THE great Give®
MAY 5-6, 2015
A 36-hour, online-giving event
on giveGreater.org



The Community Foundation
for Greater New Haven



As we gear up for the sixth annual giveGreater.org® community giving event, The Great Give® 2015 this May, we invite you to donate to the land trust and SLCT will receive matching funds.

The Great Give® starts 8:00 am on May 5th and ends at 8:00 pm on May 6th. It will once again encourage giving with \$170,000 in local matching funds and prizes!

To Donate visit

<https://www.thegreatgive.org/#npo/shelton-land-conservation-trust> on May 5th or 6th! If everyone donates 10 dollars, we have a potential of receiving \$5000! So please wont you consider donating?



SLCT Thanks A Community's Response

The Shelton Land Conservation Trust would like to thank the many neighbors, friends, and concerned citizens who attended the November 18th planning and zoning public hearing in opposition to the Pond Meadow PDD proposal. About 20 people spoke on the "outright abuse" of the PDD process, including the town of Trumbull, Shelton's city engineer, the Shelton Conservation Commission, the Shelton Land Conservation Trust, and others.

The Pond Meadow proposal would have built 4 buildings housing 20 condos on 2.1 acres in a R-1 zone located next to Bushinsky Arboretum, with each unit facing the arboretum, and no access to Route 8 unless they pulled a "U-EE" on Bridgeport Ave or Huntington Street.

Imagine the traffic congestion 20 plus cars would make at the intersection of Huntington Street and Bridgeport Avenue. That was one point made for the opposition, and many more points of contention were voiced like decreasing property values, traffic safety, density, and environmental impact, especially on wetlands and wildlife.

About a week later the developer bowed out, and withdrew his application stating that the opposition became "too emotional" and said we had "the Bambi syndrome".

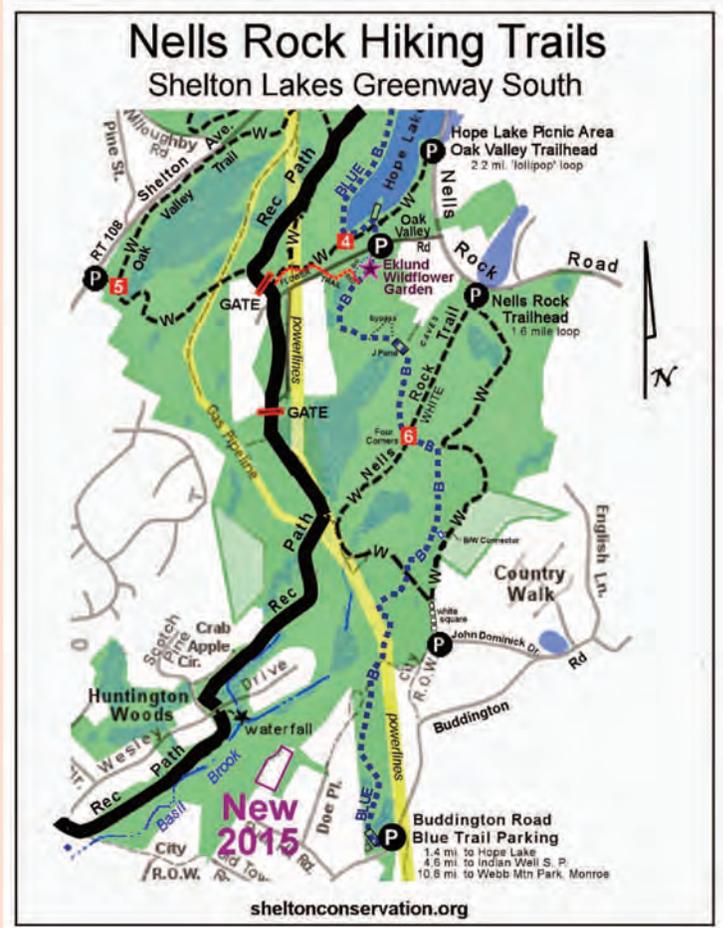


New Open Space off Buck Hill Road

The Board of Aldermen approved the purchase of two acres of land in the Shelton Lakes Greenway located between Buck Hill Road, Doe Place, and Wesley Drive in January. The Rec Path and the Paugussett Trail are nearby. The map below shows the location of the property in relation to the trails.

The property was offered for sale by the owners Theodore and Nina Shevzov, who are splitting their four-acre property in order to sell the back two acres as open space. The sale price of \$75,000 was based on the per-acre price of the abutting Dikovsky open space purchased a few years ago. The new open space is surrounded by pre-existing open space on three sides.

This is the third strategic open space purchase along this part of the greenway belt in the past few years. The first was the Dikovsky acquisition, which included a broad valley overlooked by the Rec Path. Last year the City purchased the Kassheimer property, known for a set of impressive cliffs just north of the Rec Path.



Consider Planting an American Elm Tree This Year

Many of us remember how painful it was for our communities to witness the tragedy that recurred throughout the eastern states during the 1950's, 1960's, and 1970's. Many remember watching helplessly as countless main streets, parks, historic sites, and neighborhoods that had been so handsomely graced with fine elms were transformed within a few years into barren, urban-looking landscapes devoid of trees, the result of a frighteningly efficient epidemic that had appeared suddenly. We can imagine the profound dismay of the citizens of Portland and New Haven as each "City of Elms" was transformed rapidly into a "City of Firewood," necessitating almost phenomenal removal expenses. Some may recall marveling at the futility of the "cut and burn campaigns" which were initiated to halt the spread of an epidemic that was killing trees literally by the millions each year.

The cause of this pervasive syndrome of wilt and dieback was a parasitic fungus. The spores of the fungus were being deposited into the vascular systems of healthy elm trees through twig-crotch feeding wounds chewed by elm bark beetles, the carriers of the disease. Once in contact with the inner bark, the spores germinated into rapidly growing fungal threads which invaded the entire vascular systems, clogging them and preventing the transport of water and nutrients to the hosts' crowns, thereby killing the trees in a manner not unlike that of the chestnut blight. Unlike the chestnut blight, however, the elm pathogen proved efficient at destroying the root systems of its hosts, preventing them from sending up new shoots, and it even was observed to spread to adjacent trees through natural grafts between their roots.

A native of Asia, the fungus first had

appeared in North America in 1930 in Cleveland, Ohio, having found its way into the continent by the same means as the chestnut blight - through the accidental import of infected logs from a related species. The parasite was no stranger in Europe, where it similarly

have a resistance to Dutch elm disease. We wish everyone would consider planting a tree this year for our children.

The American Elm can grow to heights of 100 feet or more, with a trunk averaging around 4 feet in diameter. It



had appeared earlier in the century and where its pervasive devastation of a number of European elm species, including the esteemed Dutch elm hybrids which had lined many streets, had given rise to its now-familiar name, "Dutch elm disease."

The American Elm *Ulmus americana* cultivar 'Valley Forge' was raised by the Agricultural Research Service in Maryland. The tree was released to wholesale nurseries without patent restrictions by the U. S. National Arboretum in 1995 after proving to

is a deciduous tree, creating a long spreading canopy, and self-pollinating flowers. American Elm normally will reach reproductive maturity at around 15 years of age.

Trees are available from Willis Orchard Company from now till April 1st. You can follow the link below or call toll-free 1-866-586-6283!

Prices start at \$6.95!

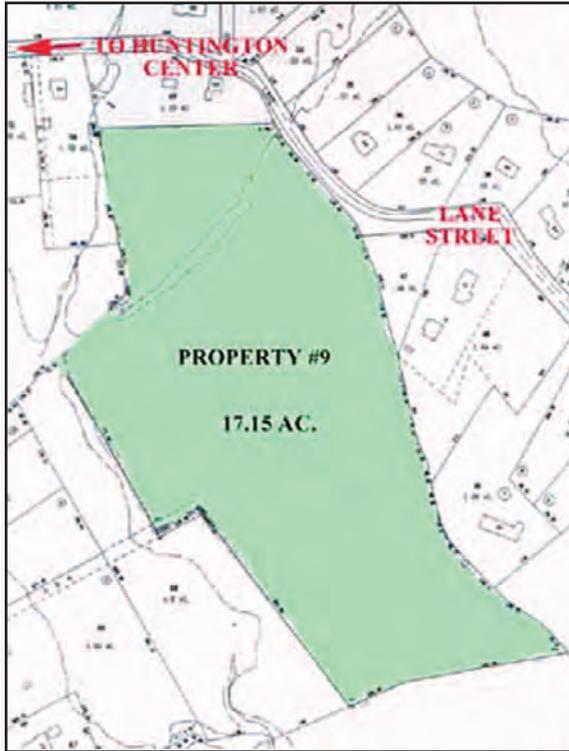
To order :

https://www.willisorchards.com/product/american-elm-tree?gclid=CNyTubj0qsQCFW4Q7AodUBcAnw#.VQXFIGZAF_s

Getting to Know Our Parcels:

Shelton Land Conservation Trust

Parcel #9



The City of Shelton has labeled this parcel LT 10, and the Land Trust knows it as Parcel #9. It is located off Lane Street. The parcel is 17.15 acres and known as “The Lane Street Parcel” or the “Guila G. Hawley Parcel”, and is depicted on Map number 1533 in the Shelton Land Records. Guila G. Hawley granted this Parcel to the Shelton Land Trust on December 28, 1979.

Access to the parcel is from Lane Street either from the Recreation Path or from an entrance further down the street. This entrance has a cable to keep out unwanted motor vehicles, but when removed, allows access for Rudy Hudak, to hay the field.

The Recreation Path runs from Lane Street, through City Open Space Parcel OS 100, which is adjacent to another Land Trust Parcel No. 37 or LT 30. The path is on top of a wooden walkway, constructed with the help of SLCT volunteers and The Shelton Trails Committee. It then continues

through the parcel along the westerly edge of the field. The Recreation Path then continues through three more Open Space Parcels OS 90.01, 90.02 and 90.03, then back on to Lane Street, and continuing North for 4.1 Miles and ending at Pine Lake Reservoir #2.

This Parcel is one of the Land Trust's premiere pieces of property which is essential for the Recreation Path while also providing a field habitat for native wildlife.

Would you like to become a land monitor? It's easy and rewarding. Just send a quick email to Bob Liddel:

rliddel@aol.com

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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2015 General Meetings

2nd Wednesday of the month.

April 8 (Annual Meeting at Plum Library)

May 13

June 10

Aug 15

Sept 9

Oct 14

Nov 11

All general meetings will take place at the

Shelton Community Center

41 Church St.

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

