



THE Spruce

Fall 2015 NEWSLETTER

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

What Is Accreditation?

Land trust accreditation is a mark of distinction, showing that a land trust meets high standards for land conservation. It sends a message to landowners and supporters: "Invest in us. We are a strong, effective organization you can trust to conserve your land trust forever."

Accreditation demonstrates that a land trust has successfully implemented Land Trust Standards and Practices. Accredited land trusts range from all-volunteer organizations to national groups and protect more than 75% of all land and easements held by land trusts in America. Accreditation is a voluntary program administered by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission.

Accreditation is a catalyst for improvement, which results in faster, better, stronger conservation. The accreditation seal offers the assurance that a land trust can keep the promise of perpetuity and that it is worthy of the public trust. So, accreditation strengthens both individual land trusts and America's land conservation movement.

Benefits for Land Trust

- Donors want to give to effective, well-run organizations. Accreditation assures them that your land trust is a good investment.

- Landowners want to know that a land trust will be able to carry out their conservation vision. Accreditation shows that you have what it takes.

- Funders often set strict requirements for grant recipients, and two-thirds of accredited land trusts say accreditation makes it easier to meet these requirements.

- Almost all land trusts improve their policies and programs as they apply for accreditation — with 96% of accredited land trusts saying that the process made them stronger.

- A stronger organization is less risky to insure. So accredited land trusts can get discounts on insurance, among other perks.



Urban Green and Community Gardens Grant Program

DEEP is accepting applications through February 2, 2016

Grants under the Urban Green and Community Gardens Grant Program will be awarded to distressed municipalities and targeted investment communities to develop or enhance urban open space for public enjoyment and/or environmental education. The promotion of open space in an urban setting may include but it may not be limited to the development of a community garden or reclaiming and enhancing existing open space to allow public use.

Awards are given to those projects that demonstrate the highest ability to benefit urban communities in close proximity to population centers.

Grants are made for the purchase of land that is:

1. Valuable for recreation, forestry, fishing, conservation of wildlife or natural resources;
2. A prime natural feature of the state's landscape habitat for native plant or animal species listed as threatened, endangered or of special concern;
3. A relatively undisturbed outstanding example of an uncommon native ecological community;
4. Important for enhancing and conserving water quality;
5. Valuable for preserving local agricultural heritage;
6. Or eligible to be classified as Class I or Class II watershed land.

Careful attention should be given to the criteria previously listed and to:

1. Protection of land adjacent to and complementary to existing open space, preserved agricultural land or Class I or Class II water company land;
2. Proximity to urban areas;
3. Land vulnerable to development;
4. Consistency with the State's Plan of Conservation and Development;

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Partings:

Philip Hubbell Jones Jr. 1918 - 2015

Philip Hubbell Jones, Jr., Vice President of The Shelton Land Conservation Trust, age 96, of Shelton, died peacefully August 10 at home



surrounded by his loving family. Born October 16, 1918 at Griffin Hospital in Derby, he lived his entire life on the Jones Family Farms, founded by his great grandfather. He never retired, inspiring and mentoring his children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and a wide circle of family and friends with his interest in trees, history, collecting and land stewardship. He lived his life with intention, wanting to leave a legacy of improving the lives of family, land, and community. Philip was continually pursuing his passion for lifelong learning through an insatiable interest in collecting stamps, books, historic letters and paper ephemera, especially as it related to the lives of ordinary people. Throughout his life he volunteered tirelessly with myriad groups that exemplify the scope of his interests. These included UConn 4-H, Scouting, Shelton Land Conservation Trust, Plumb Memorial Library, Connecticut Forest and Park Association, Fairfield County Farm Bureau, Connecticut Christmas Tree Growers Association, National Christmas Tree Association and its journal, The Institute for American Indian Studies in Washington, CT, The National Manuscript Society, The Ephemera Society of America, Shelton History Center, Monroe Historical Society, Monroe Cemetery Association and the Huntington Congregational Church. He served two terms (1948-1952) in the Connecticut House of Representatives. In many of these organizations he served in a leadership capacity, often participating in the founding of the organization. He walked two miles to the White Hills School until the advent of the horse-drawn school bus. Because the country needed food during World War II, he was asked to stay on the farm. With encouragement from his grandfather he had begun planting evergreen trees in the late 1930s. By the late 1940s he realized people were eager to cut their own Christmas trees and with his wife Elisabeth created a beloved tradition for generations of families to harvest their own trees at the Jones Tree Farm. Philip delighted as his son, grandson and their spouses added new agricultural endeavors which evolved to the current Jones Family Farms. Into his early 90s he could often be found at his sawmill sawing lumber from trees he'd planted in his youth. We will all miss him.

Robert Carreau

It is with great sadness that the SLCT has received the resignation letter of one of our most dedicated board of directors, Robert Carreau. Bob doesn't remember the exact date he joined the Shelton Land Conservation Trust but said "as I recall, it was sometime in the mid to late 90's. Bill Yeoman, one of the Trust's original founding members and officers, asked me to Join to assist the Trust with communications and publicity. Learning about the mission and goals of the Trust, I was pleased to join, and help in any way that I could."

Early on, Bob realized that a membership database did not exist, and that one would be essential if we were going to be able to mail out any type of communications. From various lists and other sources he compiled essential membership data, and setup an Excel spreadsheet file from which we could extract label files, and sort member data depending on our needs. He also setup a similar file for all the land holdings, so we could easily look up acquisition dates, parcel size, etc.

Bob continued, "In those early days, I felt it was important for each of the Board Members to have a binder containing a list of all of the Trust's officers, and Board Members with their phone numbers and home addresses. I included in that binder a copy of the Trust's 501c Letter, its By-Laws, a list of land holdings, and a copy of each of the deeds with a map of each parcel.

Through my employer at that time, I was able to utilize the talents of a graphics artist to develop and produce the Trust Logo, it's stationary head, a Land Trust Brochure, and of course a newsletter format. I took over editorial responsibility for the newsletter, and have contributed a number of articles over the years.

Within the last couple of years, I've taken on the additional responsibility of the membership email "Alert" function, notifying members of important events or activities that they would otherwise not know about via the periodic newsletter."

His in-depth article writing has, and will become a legacy of the Shelton Land Conservation Trust. Bob, with his wife Gissele, is retiring to South Carolina to be near his daughter.



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5. Lands with multiple values such as water supply protection and recreation, or forest preservation and fishing access.

Linkages between open spaces are an important consideration as are multi-town projects such as greenways. Cooperative efforts should be fostered between towns, land conservation organizations and local community groups. Preference will be given to open space acquisitions that comply with local and regional open space or conservation and development plans.

Land acquired will be preserved in perpetuity:

1. Predominately in its natural scenic and open condition;
2. For the protection or provision of potable water;
3. or for agriculture.

A permanent conservation easement will be provided to the State to ensure that the property remains in a natural and open condition for the conservation, open space, agriculture, green space or water supply purpose for which it was acquired. The easement will include a requirement that the property be made available to the general public for appropriate recreational purposes. Where development rights will be purchased and where general public access would be disruptive of agricultural activity, an exception to the provision for public recreational access may be made, at the discretion of the Commissioner. Where development rights are to be purchased, the State of Connecticut will become an equal holder of those rights as a substitute for the easement.

For more information, please visit:

http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2706&q=323834&deepNav_GID=1641#Urban



Eagle Project: Blue Bird Houses

Boy Scout Troop 101's Charles Manger is proposing an Eagle Scout project which would enhance 3 SLCT properties. He is proposing building 7 or 8 bluebird houses for the Nicoldale property, Lane Street property, and Bushinsky Arboretum. "The houses need to be placed 125 feet apart, and the holes have to be 5ft off the ground" Charles was explaining. They will be made out of cedar, and be mounted on PVC poles to deter any animals from climbing up. Charles has a 1 year time frame for this project, because there is alot involved with earning eagle scout. Most scouts that have earned it wind up putting in over 100 hours into their project.



Native Oak Tree Donated To Shelton Land Conservation Trust By Olde Ripton Garden Club

Recently The Olde Ripton Garden Club donated a native Pin Oak Tree to The Shelton Land Conservation Trust. The Land Trust planted the tree together with the Garden Club next to the nature trail on their Lane Street open space.

The Federated Garden Club of CT assisted the Olde Ripton Garden Club in the purchase of the tree. Their program "Growing Together" is attempting to plant a native oak tree in every community in the State where there is a member garden club. The purpose is to help communities work in harmony to preserve our native pollinators such as bees and butterflies by providing the food that they eat which will ultimately benefit our ecosystem.

Oak trees are our state and national tree and they live hundreds of years.

They are well suited to New England landscapes and are the perfect wildlife plant, supporting over 517 species of moths and butterflies. Without these insects we lose our native birds. Seventy percent of our native forests along the Eastern seaboard are gone.

The Shelton Land Conservation Trust was chosen as a partner in the program since they are dedicated to preserving and protecting open space in the community. The 17-acre Lane Street parcel was donated to the

Trust by Guila G. Hawley, a long-time Shelton resident in 1980. Ms. Hawley donated the land because she was determined to keep the land in its natural state declining lucrative offers by developers until deeding it to the Trust.

For more information about the Shelton Land Conservation Trust please visit their website at www.sheltonlandtrust.org. Information regarding the Olde Ripton Garden Club is available at www.olderiptongardenclub.org

Getting to Know Our Parcels: Lane Street

Shelton Land Conservation Trust

Parcel #10 and 30

Description:

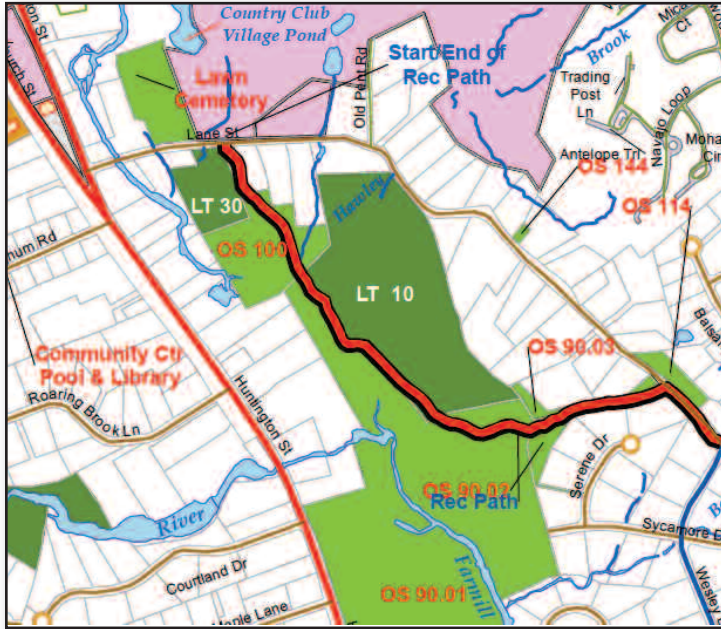
A certain piece or parcel of land situated in the City of Shelton, County of Fairfield and State of Connecticut and being more particularly described on a certain map

entitled "Map of Land owned by Guila G. Hawley, Lane Street, Shelton, Connecticut Scale: 1"=50', November 24, 1978" which map was recorded on the Shelton Land Records on November 29, 1978 in Volume 28, Page 1533 of the Map Books.

Miss Hawley 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 their 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." Thirty five years later, it is still farmed, a spot for all types of wildlife, and a gem of beauty for all to enjoy as part of the Shelton Lakes Rec Path. A cherished gift we are entrusted to protect, I am sure Guila is looking down at us with a smile.

Lot 30 is 2.75 acres. Combined with the city's open space, these lots make a great greenway for the Shelton Rec paths. On September 20 at noon an oak tree was planted at our Lane Street property with the help of and thanks to a donation from the Olde Ripton Garden Club.



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.

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

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Joseph Welsh

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Edward McCreery

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- Marge Estok
- Pat Gajdosik
- Hank Lauriat
- Jackie Lauriat
- Robert Liddel
- Bruce Nichols
- Margaret Paulson
- Donald Pendagast

Have you paid your 2015 dues yet?

**2015 General Meetings
2nd Wednesday of the month.**

Oct 14

Nov 11

All general meetings will take place at the

Shelton Community Center

41 Church St.

Shelton, CT 04484

Call (203) 450-1371 for details not listed here.

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

