



THE Spruce

SPRING 2016 NEWSLETTER

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



Announcing the SLCT Annual Meeting

The Shelton Land Conservation Trust will hold its 2016 Annual Meeting on April 20th from 7 to 9 pm at the Plumb Memorial Library - 65 Wooster St, Shelton, CT.

The featured speaker will be Mary Ellen Lemay, Coordinator for the Fairfield County Regional Conservation Partnership (FCRCP). Lemay will be speaking about FCRCP's vision for "regional conservation" - a shared approach to protecting and connecting the natural landscape across Fairfield County and beyond. The project seeks to create thriving communities that celebrate local open spaces and share a commitment to their protection, preservation, and connection.

FCRCP brings together organizations with a common conservation goal of benefiting people and wildlife on a regional basis. Connecting the landscape via open space and greenways adds to the quality of conservation efforts across town boundaries. Lemay will share information about The Hudson to Housatonic (H2H) Conservation Initiative, a new inter-state collaboration of more than two dozen local and regional conservation organizations and municipal partners in southwestern Connecticut and Westchester and southeastern Putnam Counties in New York.

Come learn more about FCRCP and see how local land trusts can contribute to the realization of an expanded regional conservation goal.

A New Bench at Nicholdale Farm

A week before Christmas 2015 a new granite bench was placed at our Nicholdale Farm parcel. The bench is a donation from the Nichols family and in memory of Paul Nichols, brother of board member Bruce Nichols. The bench is located along Nicholdale brook near the eastern most scout bridge. It is shaded by an apple tree and overlooks a small pool fed by a rocky water slide. An anonymous quote, "I am most alive among the trees." is engraved on its surface. Paul died in 2010.

As a child and young man, Paul spent time on the farm where his love of nature and the outdoors was nurtured. As an adult he lived a rural lifestyle in a log home he built for himself outside of Ithaca, NY. Paul owned and managed a hundred acres of forest near

Watkins Glen. He was a woodsman and in the last years of his life had operated a Wood-Mizer sawmill similar to that run for many years by Phil Jones, one of the land trust's founding members. Paul was also an offbeat artist and crafted "wood people" from oddly shaped tree branches that he dressed in discarded clothing.

If you are in the area, stop by Nicholdale and enjoy the serene location of the new bench. From the main parking lot, walk south along the access path. Before reaching the brook turn left and follow the north bank about 100 yards to the scout bridge. The bench is waiting for you there. Take a seat and enjoy being "most alive among the trees."



Partings:

Lise (Christensen) Olsen, age 83

Lise (Christensen) Olsen, age 83, died peacefully in her sleep, in her home on December 29th. Excellent home care provided by her son Christian, Connecticut Hospice and the support of her other children made this request possible. In accordance to Lise's wishes, there will be no services and her ashes will be scattered upon the ocean.

Family survivors living in Connecticut include: Lise's children: Charlotte (Kevin) Kearney, Christian Olsen, Lisbeth (Eric) Condo and Karsten Olsen; three granddaughters: Kristen, Julia and Olivia; a brother, Leif (Bodel) Christensen; and a sister-in-law, Kirsten "Kitty" Olsen; a sister-in-law, Solveig "Blondie" Christensen of Denmark, and a sister-in-law, Bodil Drescher Olsen of New York. There are many nieces and nephews and numerous grandnephews and grandnieces.

Lise was predeceased by her parents Lauritz and Louise (Bischoff) Christensen, brother Lorentz Christensen, sister Lillian Gebbel, son-in-law Joseph "Joe" Sullivan and nephews Peter Gebbel and William "Billy" Olsen.

Lise stated that of all her accomplishments, she was most proud of raising her children to be good people who stood up for what they believed in.

As a young woman, Lise left her life in Denmark embarking on a journey of a lifetime. She spent time in England as a nanny, practiced her English and met her dear friend Kirsten Hockaday, who still resides in England. After becoming a registered nurse in 1957, she eagerly became part of a Danish Nurse exchange

program and worked in the emergency room of Cook County Hospital in Chicago, IL. While here in the US she was able to connect with her childhood friend Bodil Drescher who had married, moved to Larchmont, NY and had an eligible brother-in-law, who proved irresistible! They married and started a family, and in 1965 purchased a house in the "country." Directions to their new home included following the dirt road and taking a left after the cows! In this Shelton home, Lise spent the next 50 years of her life and raised her family.

Lise is best known for her thick Danish accent and direct personality. She was employed as a Registered Nurse and Director of In-Service Training, and Infection Control Nurse at Gardner Heights (formerly Long Hill Convalescent Home) in Shelton from 1973 – 1989. During this time she developed and implemented alternative charting which streamlined charting for all the nursing staff and brought forth the teachings of Elisabeth Kübler-Ross on Death and Dying to all the staff. Lise also worked as a Floor Nurse at Griffin Hospital from 1989 until her retirement in 2000 and acted as Nurse Consultant at Cornerstone Children Center in Trumbull (Lisbeth's center) for many years

Lise was most proud of starting what is known today as the Shelton Land Conservation Trust. Her interest in conserving the land for future generations started in 1968. She decided something needed to be done in Shelton while there was still land to be preserved. Lise knew she would need help getting

this endeavor going and met with then Senator "Doc" Gunther, who also professed a great interest in conservation. At her request in early 1969, "Doc" spoke at a League of Women's Voters meeting and again at a Long Hill School PTA meeting, both times stressing the importance of conservation and so it began and the Shelton Conservation Commission was created shortly thereafter. The momentum created by Lise and "Doc" Gunther, led to the formation of the Shelton Land Conservation Trust. Lise was proud to be an active member of this forward thinking group of people until just a few years ago when health issues severely curtailed her ability to participate.

Memorial donations can be made in her memory to the Shelton Land Conservation Trust (PO Box 2276 Huntington Station, Shelton CT 06484). If you live in Shelton, please consider joining the Land Trust to honor her memory and make a difference in your community.

(Credit: Shelton Herald - Jan. 25, 2016)



As we gear up for the sixth annual giveGreater.org® community giving event, The Great Give® 2016 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 3th and ends at 8:00 pm on May 4th. It will once again encourage giving with \$170,000 in local matching funds and prizes!

To Donate visit <https://www.thegreatgive.org/#np/shelton-land-conservation-trust> on May 3th or 4th! If everyone donates 10 dollars, we have a potential of receiving \$5000! So please wont you consider donating?

Clean Sweep at Bushinsky 2pm April 23rd

The 9th annual Clean Sweep will be held the entire week of Earth Day, April 22, 2016.

Begins: Saturday, April 16

Ends: Sunday, April 24

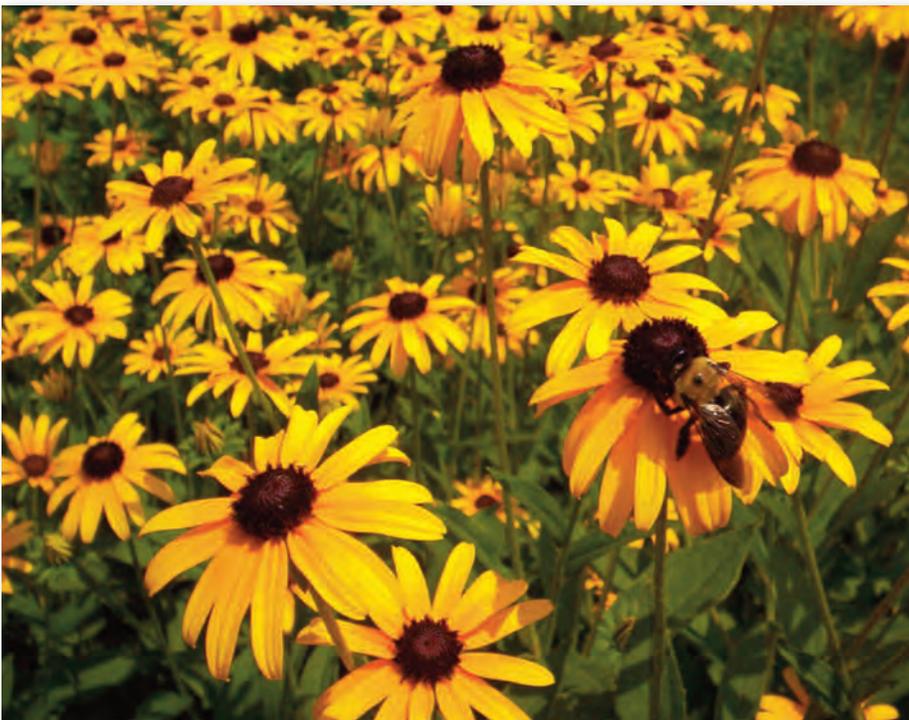
SLCT will participate in the clean sweep on April 23rd, at Bushinsky Arboretum.

Since acquiring the property we have made several improvements to enhance it. We have been working with master gardeners to add plants and annual mowing of the paths and trails. Keep an eye out for the "Orange Coneflower" (*Rudbeckia fulgida* 'Goldsturm') the City of Shelton's official flower that will be growing on the property. Recently the Olde Ripton Garden Club requested the City adopt the plant as its official flower. The Board of Alderman made this designation official at their February Meeting. The Club is encouraging residents and businesses to grow this flower in their gardens and around the City.

It is the Club's desire that you consider planting the *Rudbeckia fulgida* 'Goldsturm' as well as other native species of flowers, trees and shrubs in your own gardens this coming spring.

Rudbeckia fulgida 'Goldsturm' is a large, daisy-like flower named for its orange-tinged petals in keeping with Shelton School's colors. It is easy to grow and can be grown in containers or naturalized in meadows and planted freely around homes. The Orange Coneflower, also known as "Black-Eyed Susan", is a native plant that will grow readily in our area and it is a perennial assuring that it will return to our gardens year after year. It is attractive to birds, bees and many pollinators that are needed for our gardens to thrive; it blooms from midsummer through the fall; and provides a long season of color.

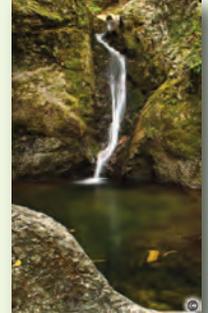
The Club will offer the plant for sale at its May 14th Annual Plant Sale, come rain or shine, at St. Paul's Church parking lot across from the Huntington Green. All proceeds will go to the purchase of City Flowers that will be planted in the gardens maintained by the Club at many locations throughout Shelton including the Libraries, the Green, and the Community Center where the focus this summer will be on developing pollinator gardens in our community.



News From The Field

There are over 15 miles of trails in Shelton, from the handicapped - accessible Shelton Lakes Recreation Path to the challenging Paugussett "Blue Dot" Trail.

Recently on February 28th, we had a great time hiking part of the Blue Dot Trail. We met at 11:45 a.m. to hike at 12:00 p.m. at Indian Well State Park, 45 Indian



Well Road, Shelton, for this 7-mile moderate-paced loop hike along the Paugussett Trail and adjacent loop trails featuring Housatonic River views, and a trip to Indian Well (a waterfall). It was somewhat challenging but well worth the splendid scenery and awesome views. We returned along the park road, finishing with a walk along the waterfront. The pace was moderate, and the terrain involved some climbing. One steep hill near the start was challenging for the dogs. Traction devices and hiking poles were helpful for a few for the steep sections.

Welcome Lynn Todd Reid! Our Newest Board Member

We are so pleased to have Lynn Todd Reid as our newest member. She brings with her a lot of enthusiasm and dedication, who knows what will happen! Lynn grew up in Devon, and she raised 3 kids and was a super mom. After the kids grew up, her husband passed also, and it was a tough go, but her love and dedication to all living creatures got her through. And it's with this same dedication and love of all life, that she found the land trust, and it was an obvious good fit. Lynn would like to reach out to the public and involve them in outdoor activities like hiking and field trips. Her ultimate goal of leaving this earth in better shape than we found it and influencing future generations to do the same is coming true.

Getting to Know Our Parcels: End of Barbara Drive

Shelton Land Conservation Trust

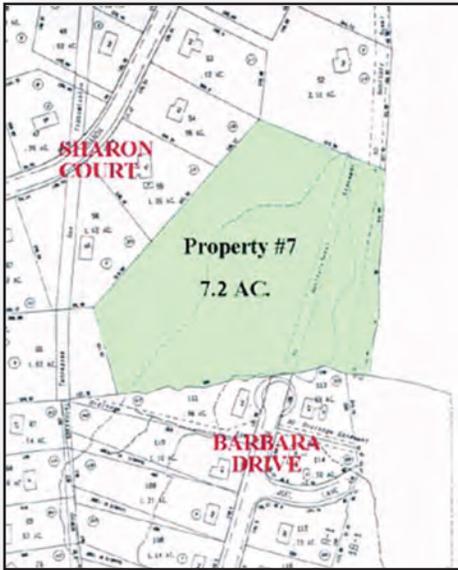
PROPERTY #7

End of Barbara Drive

Acquired in 1979 - 7.2 Acres

Description:

All that certain piece or parcel of land situated in the City of Shelton, County of Fairfield and State of Connecticut, containing 7.2 acres, plus or minus,



designated "open space" on a map entitled, "Ivy lane Estates, Inc., Shelton, Connecticut, March 17, 1978, revised through June 13, 1978" being more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at the Southeast corner of land owned by now or formerly Shelton Land Conservation TRUST, Inc. Thence proceeding Westerly along land owned by now or formerly of M. & C. Wieziolowski, Barbara Drive, and land owned by J. & A. Wipneca, each in part, 590 feet, plus or minus.

Thence proceeding Northerly, Northeasterly and Southeasterly through land of Ivy Lane Wstates, Inc., the following courses: N 00-33' -10" W a distance of 224.97 feet; N 56-03' -45" E a distance of 611.88 feet; S 53-52' - 45 E a distance of 319.30 feet.

Thence proceeding Southwesterly along land owned by now or formerly Shelton

Land Conservation Trust, Inc., W. F. Healey and H. Gazer, and Shelton Land Conservation Trust, Inc., each in part, 520 feet, plus or minus, to point and place beginning.

Subject to a 30 foot sanitary easement to the City of Shelton along the Easterly boundary of the herein described parcel.

I've walked the parcels coming from SLCT Lot 12, and its a good hike. Lots of wildlife abounds and it's peaceful and untouched.

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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Hank Lauriat

Jackie Lauriat

Robert Liddel

Bruce Nichols

Margaret Paulson

Donald Pendagast

Lynn Todd Reid

2016 General Meetings

2nd Wednesday of the month.

**Annual Meeting April 20th at
Plumb Memorial Library**

May 11

June 8

July 13

August 10

September 14

October 12

November 9

December 14

**All general meetings will take
place at the**

**Shelton Community Center
41 Church St.
Shelton, CT 04484**

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

