



MANCHESTER LAND CONSERVATION TRUST
FOUNDED 1972

Spring 2024

Terra Firma

Newsletter of the Manchester Land Conservation Trust | 860-643-1823
20 Hartford Road, Manchester, CT 06040
Email: Info@ManchesterLandTrust.org
Preserving 586 acres of open-space land

Website: www.manchesterlandtrust.org | Facebook: www.facebook.com/Manchesterlandtrust

Plan to come – Annual dinner & meeting at Georgina’s

Friday, May 24 at 5:30 p.m., a festive evening for members and friends. Invitation and details on page 3. **MEMBERS**, please review the bylaws posted on the home page of the website (link above) before the meeting, when we will vote whether to accept. *Photo below*: the 2023 annual dinner, with speaker Jane Seymour, wildlife biologist, and steward of the Belding Wildlife Management Area in Vernon.



Membership news

Our membership: 379, including 192 life members. Note that some members are couples, so this represents well over 475 members. Please consider upgrading to life membership, or giving a donation/membership in honor of a friend’s birthday. *Membership year:*

October 1 to September 30
Annual: Corporate \$200
 Sustaining \$100
 Individual \$25
 Family \$50
 Life membership \$500
Single or couple, same address

Mail checks to 20 Hartford Road, Manchester, CT

What’s happening?

[Sign up for free e-news](#)

FREE e-news: Stay informed! If you’re not receiving our monthly e-newsletter in your email inbox, subscribe via the red rectangle (see image above right) on our home page www.manchesterlandtrust.org.

Find events on the Land Trust’s webpage and Facebook page, as well as Manchester Matters, the Town’s e-newsletter. The Journal Inquirer and Hartford Courant usually include our events in their Thursday editions.

Upcoming events: • April 20, Earth Day cleanup; volunteers needed
• May 17-25, giant fundraising tag sale at Bush Hill; details on page 3
• June 1 and 2, CT Trails Days, 3 hikes • July 27, Cheney Railroad history walk, south to north • August 18, Cheney Railroad history walk, north to south • November 30, Highland Park ramble.

Our story trail added more pages, so we can choose longer books. Thanks to volunteer Sandra Lok for managing this popular attraction at 330 Bush Hill Road. *At right*, a young visitor from East Lyme, photo by volunteer Gail Gretzmacher.



Walk. Road. Explore.
Story trail at our farm
330 Bush Hill Rd., Manchester, CT
Welcome! Explore the land story trail with children on your own, or watch newspapers and social media for group events. Come again — the book is always for free! (Bring your own water, snacks, or other necessities.)
Directions: Starting here at the color barn, walk along the dirt road to the junction where the trail begins. From that junction, follow the trail.
Each post with story pages is numbered and marked with an arrow. Follow the arrows. If you have time, explore the Trust’s many miles of trails.

The story trail is made possible by the Land Trust's support from the Manchester Public Library and the Manchester Library and Friends Association. Thank you! See other life trails on how to contribute.

Board of Directors 2023-24

Dermot Jones
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860-643-1823

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Jack Bowden

Editor Susan Barlow
info@manchesterlandtrust.org

Photos below • Blueberry blossoms, Risley, Aug. 2023.
• Picnic, Bush Hill, July 2023, host: Dick Borden • Fog, Risley, Dec. 2023



Dear Land Trust Members and Friends:

The Trust is in its 52nd year, always relying on volunteers to manage its properties and continue its work to promote the preservation and conservation of natural resources. I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to all the volunteers who help the Trust achieve its mission.

Since our last annual newsletter, life member and benefactor • Eleanor Rhodes has allowed the Trust first access to purchase two acres of her Box Mountain Rd. property in Vernon; and • Purdy Nature Trail, a 14-acre parcel in Manchester, which the Trust managed for years, was finally donated to the Trust in July 2023. These properties and our nearly 600 acres will continue to need your help. The Trust is looking for volunteers, stewards, and Board members to participate in this worthy enterprise. Can a volunteer office manager step forward to work two or three days a week on administrative tasks? Pleasant conditions, and congenial co-volunteers.

Enjoy the Trust Lands. — Dermot Jones, 860-995-1912

dermot.jones@manchesterlandtrust.org



Dermot Jones
Land Trust President

Volunteers and visitors

Photos at right, Clockwise from top left
• Urban Lodge fundraiser, Sept. 2023; Max Dougan donated \$5,300 to the Trust from this Beer & BBQ event. Thank you, Max!
• Earth Day 2023 cleanup at Path to Wellness and Center Springs.
• VP Frank Belknap at work on the rail trail.
• Visitors from far and wide at the Trust's Salter's Pond guided walk.
• Toshiko Uchino at the pollinator garden, Riverpoint, East Hartford; Eagle Scout candidate Ray Darling built benches for the garden in 2023.



You are invited!

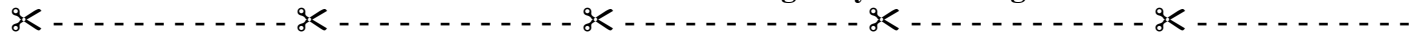
Annual dinner & meeting -- Friday, May 24, 2024

At Georgina's Restaurant, 275 Boston Turnpike, Bolton, CT 06043
• 5:30 p.m.: Social time, cash bar. • 6:00 p.m.: Buffet dinner: vegetarian, chicken, and fish entrées, vegetables, dessert,. • 7:00 p.m.: Annual meeting & election of board members • 7:15 p.m.: Jack Swatt, President of the Connecticut Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation, will present an illustrated talk: The American Chestnut and Chestnut Bark Disease (a.k.a. "The Blight"). Jack works with our volunteers establishing experimental Chestnut plantations at Bush Hill.



Name of each guest, print clearly! We need your check & reservation by TUESDAY, MAY 7

Your telephone number _____ Email _____
Members @ \$45 each _____. Non-members @ \$48 each _____. Children 12 & under @ \$27.00 ____ Total enclosed _____. Check # _____ Return this portion with check, payable to Manchester Land Trust, 20 Hartford Road, Manchester CT 06040. Write DINNER on outside of envelope. Sorry, no refunds. Questions: phone Terry Parla at 860-643-1823 or email info@manchesterlandtrust.org
Or, register & pay online with a credit card on the Join/Donate page at: www.manchesterlandtrust.org
Note: Scroll down to the orange PayPal rectangle.



Legendary tag sale

It's big, it's good for the environment.
Friday, May 17 to Saturday, May 25 from 10:00 to 3:00 each day. Always free admission. At the former cider barn, 330 Bush Hill Road, Manchester. The tag sale raises funds to benefit the Trust and its land-preservation work. Thanks to generous donations from throughout the area, we sell loads of books, tools, golf clubs, dishes, artwork and frames, curiosities, furniture, machinery, household and sports items, near-antiques, glassware, toys, tablecloths, music CDs, DVDs, holiday décor, and items both useful and

decorative. Questions or to volunteer, call Terry at 860-643-1823.

Pictured, volunteers David Feist, Diane Lucas, Susan Malo.



Manchester Land Conservation Trust Inc.
20 Hartford Road
Manchester, CT 06040



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Website: www.manchesterlandtrust.org
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Scan this QR
code with your
smart phone to go
to our website.

YOU, our Land Trust members, are making a positive impact on the planet. You are supporting conservation of habitat for animal and plant life in the local area. Your financial donations fund the Story Trail, property maintenance, insurance, printing, etc. Thank you for your support through your membership, donations (including honoring a friend's birthday, and memorial donations), volunteer work, and sharing our Facebook posts with friends and neighbors. We couldn't do this important work without you.

Public welcome to our Board meetings — at 7:00 p.m. the third Thursday of January, February, March, April, June, September, October, and November, at our offices, 20 Hartford Road, Manchester or via Zoom. At our business meetings, we make decisions and assign tasks. Please let us know if you plan to attend: info@manchesterlandtrust.org.

The Land Trust in the wider world — The Trust participates in state-wide conferences and regional workshops, where we learn and share ideas to improve our work to protect water, air, and habitat. We also work with conservation commissions and other local land trusts, this year including a June 2 collaboration with East Hartford town staffer Sean Dwyer.

How to send a *Photo of Month* picture — Celebrate our Land Trust properties with your photographs! Submit high-resolution photos to info@manchesterlandtrust.org and include name, date of photo, location (one of our Land Trust Properties) and what you like about that particular property. *Pictured at right:* Paul Ofria's winning photo of Salter's Pond, July 2023. *Additional award winners* this past year: Cynthia Barlow, Frank Belknap, John Bolduc, Ed Ciolkosz, Jean DiBenedetto, Gene DeJoannis, Bill Doak, Ellen Dougan, Dermot Jones, Brad Palmer, Dennis Schain.

