



MANCHESTER LAND CONSERVATION TRUST  
FOUNDED 1972

## Spring 2022

### Terra Firma

Newsletter of the Manchester Land Conservation Trust | Info: 860-643-1823  
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**1972-2022** — *half a century of preservation and fostering an appreciation of the outdoors.* This year we celebrate you, our members, and all that the Land Trust has accomplished, including preserving over 600 acres of open space property. We celebrate our founders, and the 1,400 members over the decades who donated time, talent, and generous financial gifts.

## Anniversary dinner at Georgina's

*Friday, April 22 at 5:30 p.m.*, a festive evening for members, friends, and acquaintances. See invitation on page 5. Must RSVP by April 8.

## Annual meeting and picnic at Bush Hill

*Sunday, July 17*, from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. Annual meeting at the pavilion and orchard. Park at 330 Bush Hill Road, Manchester and walk to the pavilion. Bring a picnic lunch. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be served; donations accepted. RSVP to ensure we have a quorum of members: Phone Terry 860-643-1823 or email us at [info@manchesterlandtrust.org](mailto:info@manchesterlandtrust.org). We'll picnic first and then meet to hear annual reports, elect directors. Rain or shine. Optional walk to the farm pond after the meeting. Thanks to Dick and Rita Borden for hosting.

## See you on the trails

During the pandemic, our properties have provided the public a getaway into nature, peacefulness, and fresh air. Check out our guided hikes on page 7.

## ❖ ❖ ❖ Then and now ❖ ❖ ❖

1974—Gould Parklet 0.1-acre, 149 Lakewood Circle North, Manchester



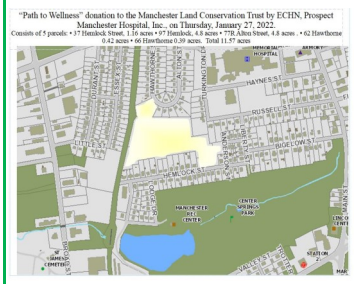
1986—Risley Pond, this portion about 104 acres, 366 Lake Street, Vernon. Now 155 acres.



2015-2021—Bush Hill & Lombardo farms & prior acreage. Now 177.5 acres, Bush Hill Rd., Manch.



2022—5 parcels near the hospital, 11.57 acres given by ECHN, Hemlock St., Manch.



\*"Path to Wellness" donation to the Manchester Land Conservation Trust by ECHN, Prospect Manchester Hospital, Inc. on Thursday, January 27, 2022  
Consists of 5 parcels: • 17 Hemlock Street, 1.16 acres • 97 Hamden St., 4.8 acres • 778 Albany Street, 4.4 acres • 62 Hawthorne St., 0.62 acres • 60 Southdown Street, 0.59 acres. Total 11.57 acres.

❖ ❖ ❖ **50 years of history** ❖ ❖ ❖



In April 1972, the Manchester Land Conservation Trust was founded to “conserve valuable open space land and historical property in Manchester and provide an opportunity for persons to donate property to a group which will preserve it.” Both The Manchester Evening Herald (see article at left, April 15, 1972) and The Hartford Courant covered the Trust’s founding and first meeting. The Trust’s



first major project was to advocate for the purchase of Case Mountain by the Town of Manchester, a project that was a struggle, and was opposed by some residents.

←Pictured are Terry Parla and Douglas Smith, M.D., officers elected Treasurer and President, respectively, who continued to serve for many decades. Other officers: Harry S. Maidment, Vice President, Frerick W. Spaulding, D.M.D., Secretary. Board members: Robert Fuller, Walter S. Fuss, Attorney John S. Papa, Rev. Clifford O. Simpson, and William Sleith. Several medical doctors were charter members of the Trust — advocating for clean air and open spaces for the health of the public. The Trust recruited charter members, asking for a \$25 or more donation. A membership drive that fall would recruit town resident members at \$5 annually. Children under 18 could join for \$2 annually.



←This artistic brochure is on heavy card stock, and publicized the Trust for many years. It was printed for the newly organized Manchester Land Conservation Trust, describing the benefits and purposes of a land trust. Contact information (about 1973) was through the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, where staff answered the phone and accepted postal mail for the Trust. The Trust held its meetings in members’ homes, including the Adelaide Road home of Doctor Alexander Marsh and Gertrude Marsh – she designed this quarter-fold brochure, and he took the photographs for it. (They also donated the pond at Porter Street/ Adelaide Road to the Trust.)

The Chamber of Commerce eventually moved to rental space at 20 Hartford Road, and continued to allow the Trust to use its phone number and mailing address, a much-appreciated service!

During the 1970s and 1980s, the Trust organized well-attended slide shows and lectures for the public at various locations, including the East Catholic High School auditorium. Annual meetings, often held at Manchester Country Club, invited speakers on land preservation, nature photography, native plants, geology, etc. The Trust rented a conference room at the Manchester Historical Society, 175 Pine Street, from 2005 to 2013, using the space for document storage and meetings.



←In October 2013, we began renting space from South Methodist Church at 20 Hartford Road, in the same building as our friends, the Chamber of Commerce, although they no longer answer the phone for us! Our rental space at 20 Harford Road, in the former Frank Cheney, Jr., mansion, provides meeting and office space with computer, copy machine, map cabinets, and document storage space. Today, our documents are increasingly stored online. Pictured at 20 Hartford Road in October 2014 are board members Terry Parla, Richard Griffiths, Bill Doak, and Helen Robbins; Land Trust friend, Judi Smith, who arranged for the rug donation by Glastonbury Carpet; director Malcolm Barlow; member Gary Robbins; technology consultant, Jack Bowden.







❖ ❖ ❖ **We love our volunteers** ❖ ❖ ❖



Dan Pons, recently elected a Board Member, volunteers at our newly acquired Lombardo property. In this February 2022 photo by Bush Hill Preserve steward, Brad Palmer, Dan is working on a bulldozer donated to the Land Trust. Brad notes that Dan “is mechanically inclined.”



Stephen Gagnon, Eagle Scout candidate from Troop 27 in Manchester, worked on this 50-foot bridge at Salter’s Pond in October, 2021, with help from fellow Scouts, parents, and Land Trust stewardship chair Jeff Sullivan. The public and our neighbors at the Salter’s loop trail, Northfield Green Condominiums, chipped in \$3000 for the materials. Jeff notes these other Eagle projects: • Conor Mulligan, Troop 123, trail at Barlow Park, Hillstown Road, January 2022, and • Ian Cameron, Troop 25, improvements at Salter’s Pond, March 2022.



Volunteers created a rock garden near the Story Trail at Bush Hill Preserve. October 2021 photo by volunteer Jean DiBenedetto, who also took part in the project. Check it out — starting at 330 Bush Hill Road, walk along the farm road, past the pavilion, past our neighbor’s goat farm, and the new garden is on the left as you start up the hill toward the Story Trail. The volunteers planted perennials.



VP and Volunteer Frank Belknap, pictured with his wife, Barbara, removed invasive plants at our 21.24-acre Pavan Preserve, 421 Bush Hill Road, Manchester. The Connecticut Audubon Society, which funded our March 2020 purchase of the property, stipulated that the Trust create an invasive-plant-removal plan. Frank formulated a three-year plan, starting with removal of Japanese Barberry in Year One. Frank consulted with UConn, which demonstrated that this plant, besides being an invasive, attracts deer ticks. Almost all the Barberry was removed, thereby making way for native plants, which are necessary for bird populations. To visit: Bush Hill Rd. to Garnet Dr., left on Winthrop Dr. to cul-de-sac. Park and follow trail.





MANCHESTER LAND CONSERVATION TRUST  
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# 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner

## On Earth Day, Friday, April 22, 2022

**At Georgina's Restaurant, 275 Boston Turnpike, Bolton, CT 06043**

\$40.00 for members; \$45 for non-members; \$21.60 for children 12 and under

♦ **5:30 p.m.:** Social time, cash bar. **6:00 p.m.:** Buffet dinner, featuring: vegetarian, chicken, and pork entrées, vegetables, dessert. ♦ **7:15 p.m.:** Reflecting on our 50<sup>th</sup> birthday, and Frederick Law Olmsted's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday; Olmsted (born 1822 in Hartford; died 1903 in Belmont, MA), "founder of American landscape architecture."



Susan Fiedler will present *Reflections on Frederick Law Olmsted's 200th Birthday*, noting Olmsted's "inspiration to all who strive to protect open spaces, promote environmental justice, and improve quality of life." Susan has over 30 years' experience in landscape architect in private, public, and non-profit sectors, and is currently employed by the CT Department of Transportation's Highway Design Unit. She is an advocate of civic horticulture, ecologic restoration, and landscape stewardship. Her interest in Fredrick Law Olmsted features his life in Connecticut, journey towards his profession, and the landscapes which inspired it. Susan's research includes Olmsted's travels from Hartford to the shoreline, his efforts at scientific farming, and his roaming in Europe and America. "The rich culture and varied scenery of Connecticut influenced how Olmsted perceived the world. Olmsted's strong sense of purpose compelled those around him in the mid-1800s to reform and make big plans."



❖ Name of each guest, print clearly! ❖ Mail to Land Trust DINNER, 20 Hartford Road., Manchester, CT 06040. **Due to our contract with Georgina's, we need your check & reservation by FRIDAY, APRIL 8**

Your telephone number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Members @ \$40 each \_\_\_\_ Non-members @ \$45 each \_\_\_\_ Children 12 & under @ \$21.60 \_\_\_\_  
**Total enclosed** \_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_ *I can't attend, but am sending a donation to the Land Trust*

Return this portion with check. Please write **DINNER** on outside of envelope. Sorry, no refunds. **Questions:** phone Terry Parla at 860-643-1823 or [info@manchesterlandtrust.org](mailto:info@manchesterlandtrust.org)

**Or, register & pay online with a credit card at: [www.manchesterlandtrust.org](http://www.manchesterlandtrust.org) Note, click the "other" button and enter "Dinner" in the *Additional Information* box.**



News from . . .



Dermot Jones  
Land Trust President  
dermot.jones@manchesterlandtrust.org  
860-995-1912

**Board of Directors 2021-22**

Dermot Jones  
*President*

Frank Belknap  
*Vice President*

Lincoln E. LeFebvre  
*Treasurer*

William Doak  
*Recording Secretary*

•

Malcolm Barlow

Dick Borden

Ginger Jackson

Rob Lewis

Colin McNamara

Kwasi Ntem-Mensah

Theresa Parla

*Membership Chair*

860-643-1823

Daniel Pons

Helen Robbins

*Liaison, conservation commission*

Richard Sellman

Jeff Sullivan

*Stewardship Chair*

••••

*Technical Advisor*

Jack Bowden

*Webmaster, newsletter editor* Susan Barlow

info@manchesterlandtrust.org



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Dear Land Trust Members and Friends:

As your new President — elected in July 2021 — I am grateful for the support of our growing membership, and our successes in acquiring over 600 acres of open space for the benefit of our local communities. I worked for the Department of Public Health for 35 years, and I know that clean water and air are of great benefit to our health. I have had a long standing interest in the environment beyond my working career. I was a board member of the Inland Wetlands/Conservation Commission in the town of South Windsor, before moving to Vernon in 2007. As a board member and Treasurer, beginning in 2017, I arranged for the Trust’s acquisition of a 2.44-acre parcel of land in Vernon near Risley Park.

**Our 50th anniversary** — Since our founding in 1972 as a grass-roots conservation group, we have benefited from the work and support of over 1,400 members and directors, some from before my joining the organization — the legendary Doug Smith, M.D., the inspirational Sue and Cliff Pierce, the environmental warrior Fred Spaulding, and some I have worked with — past President Malcolm Barlow, Terry Parla and her energetic family, and so many more. In 2022, we celebrate their contributions and dedicate the organization to its mission, stated in 1972, to “conserve valuable open space land and historical property in Manchester and provide an opportunity for persons to donate property to a group which will preserve it.” Since then we have expanded our mission to include publicizing and advocating for land preservation, through our guided walks, trail creation, signage, social media, and encouragement of enthusiasm for the outdoors. We have also expanded beyond Manchester, with property in five neighboring communities.

**Volunteers** — you are the backbone of the Land Trust, and we salute you for all your hard work over the years. Feedback from our members and friends says your work is very much appreciated. Members can support us in so many ways — including financial donations — and there is no obligation to put in hours and hours of work, but if you are interested in volunteering out on the properties or at the tag sale, etc., please contact me or Stewardship Chair Jeff Sullivan. See contact info in box on left.

**Future plans** — The Land Trust is working on stewardship recruitment and education, with an eye to improving our properties, including providing access and signage to the public, reducing invasive plants, and being good neighbors. We may be setting up some work parties in the months ahead. Contact us at [info@manchesterlandtrust.org](mailto:info@manchesterlandtrust.org) to spend some productive hours outdoors. Or phone Terry Parla, 860-643-1823. We are also continuing to work on the Land Trust Alliance accreditation project, which involves establishing best practices, agreeing on policies, monitoring our properties to prevent encroachment, and keeping track of our 600+ acres.

**50th anniversary dinner** — Our annual dinner is a highlight of the Land Trust year. Please consider attending, even if you haven’t in the past. It will be an opportunity to meet others who value preservation. See details on page 5 of this newsletter. Also note, annual meeting and picnic, July 17. See page 1. — *Dermot Jones, President*

Photos from the 2021 dinner, left to right • Photo 1. Guest Nancy Wall, new VP Frank Belknap and his wife, Barbara, new Pres. Dermot Jones. • Photo 2. Figuring out the slide show, Terry Parla, Malcolm and Susan Barlow • Photo 3. Telling a joke, Mayor Jay Moran, with members of the Ntem-Mensah family.







Manchester Land Conservation Trust Inc.  
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Manchester, CT 06040

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

**Free email newsletter** — We hope you are receiving our monthly e-newsletter with events and Land Trust activities. Sign up via: [www.manchesterlandtrust.org](http://www.manchesterlandtrust.org) — look for the red rectangle that says *Sign Up For Free E-News*. If you subscribed but are not receiving it, check spam and/or send a message to the e-newsletter editor at [info@manchesterlandtrust.org](mailto:info@manchesterlandtrust.org).

**How to send a Photo of Month picture** — Celebrate our Land Trust properties with your photographs! Submit high-resolution photos to [info@manchesterlandtrust.org](mailto:info@manchesterlandtrust.org) and include your name, date of photo, location (one of our Land Trust Properties) and what you like about that particular property.

**Protecting the environment** — The Trust works to protect water, air, and habitat, for animal and plant life in the Trust's natural surroundings. On parcels of sufficient size, the Trust supports passive recreation: hiking, biking, snowshoeing, fishing, bird watching, and other outdoor activities. You, our members and supporters, make this happen. *Pictured at right*, Visitors having a pizza picnic at our Case Parklet, Spring Street, Manchester.



**Public welcome to our Board meetings** — at 7:00 p.m. the third Thursday of January, February, March, April, June, September, October, November, December, at our rented 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](mailto:info@manchesterlandtrust.org).



**Volunteers at the Cheney rail trail** — *Pictured at left*, September 2008, cleaning up along the trail. The historic South Manchester Railroad operated from 1869 into the 1980s. Although this photo is nearly 14 years old, trail cleanups continue and Doug MacGillvary, at far right in photo, is still volunteering at Trust properties, especially at the Risley trails, where he is the steward. The rail trail, expanded with the Town's purchase of the southern end, now spans its entire historic length, and has parklets along the way, as well as a stunning view of Center Springs Park.