

Terra Firma



**News from The Manchester Land Conservation Trust
Preserving Open Space in Manchester, East Harford, Vernon, Bolton and Andover**

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Inside this issue:

<i>Letter from the President</i>	2
<i>Upcoming Hikes</i>	3
<i>Membership Report</i>	5
<i>Property List</i>	6
<i>Park Improvements</i>	7
<i>Eagle Project</i>	8
<i>MLCT Grants At Work</i>	9
<i>Annual Meeting Invite</i>	10
<i>Botti Farm Update</i>	13
<i>Bylaw Changes</i>	14-15

The Manchester Land Conservation Trust (MLCT) is a non-profit, tax-exempt, publicly supported corporation dedicated to the acquisition, preservation, and maintenance of open space lands and water resources in Manchester and surrounding towns.

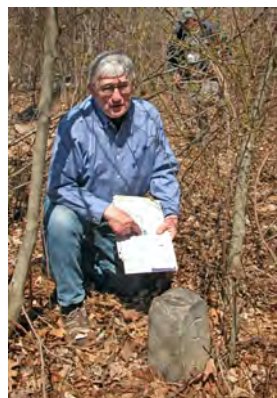
Join us on one of our many nature hikes, or explore our many trails and parks on your own.

Help us preserve and maintain open space lands in the Greater Manchester area. Read about our efforts to save the Botti Farm on page 13



Left:
Hike on Cheney Rail Trail.
Photo by Bill Doak.

Below:
Hikers at Risley Park.
Photo by Cynthia Barlow



Left:
MLCT President Malcolm Barlow at Botti Farm.
Photo by Bill Doak





Malcolm Barlow
MLCT President

Update from the President

Dear Land Trust Members and Friends:

Critical to my personal sense of well-being is the satisfaction I receive every time I drive by one of the Trust's victories. Our victories include the 351.1 acres in two dozen parks we own and maintain in Andover, Bolton, East Hartford, Manchester, and Vernon. They include the 20-acre easement we have at Purdy Nature Park, and the miles of trails we have created and maintain, such as the Cheney Rail Trail, the Barry Scanlon Loop Trail at Salter's Pond, and the Blue Trails at Risley Park. The Trust also supported (even agitated for) preserving open-space lands at Case Mountain and Wickham Park.

Just by existing, our Land Trust performs well for the environment every day – we accomplish a great deal by protecting our many parks as open space for the benefit of every member of our community.

If you look at the work of your Land Trust this way, you must then share in the satisfaction I feel. Our work is wonderful. And we do not go backwards. We do our best to add to the preserved open spaces every day.

In the last year, Eleanore Rhodes of Vernon donated to us another 13 acres of her lands on Box Mountain. Her gift not only helps protect those 13 acres of deep woodlands, it also evens out the eastern boundaries of our Risley Park, now well in excess of 150 acres in Vernon and Bolton. Also, it expands the Risley trail system. Eleanore had donated 15 acres of her Box Mountain land to the Trust in 1997. Risley Park is a better place due to her generosity. Thank you, Eleanore Rhodes!

In 2013, we also purchased 13 acres of wooded land in Bolton, the former Risley orchard. This expands Risley Park on the south side of the dam. A huge thanks to Lisa Hageman for the days and weeks she spent gathering the documents and writing the successful grant request for funds from the State of Connecticut for this strategic purchase. We also thank the many individual donors who sent in checks for Orchard costs. We are in the process of determining how best to manage this land.

The latest venture by the Trust to add to our victories is our contract to acquire the Botti Farm on the south side of Bush Hill Road in Manchester and Glastonbury. With much community support, the Trust has applied to the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) for a grant to fund the project. We are seeking other funds as well. If successful, we will add 62 acres of woodlands and farmland to our acreage – this property connects with our existing Manning Ferris Park. By purchasing the Botti Farm, we will protect prime land from development in a corner of Manchester near East Hartford that has seen much development in the last 25 years. Also, we will be encouraging farming.

When we win a victory and save open space, the land remains green forever. Join me in this great feeling of satisfaction. Continue to support your Land Trust – talk it up, attend our annual dinner meeting, come hiking with us, join me in thanking our donors and all our volunteers.

Sincerely,

Malcolm F. Barlow

Malcolm F. Barlow

"When we win a victory and save open space, the land remains green forever."

Board of Directors

2014

Malcolm Barlow,
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Nelson DeBarros

William Doak

Glenn Law

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The Land Trust Invites you to FREE Hikes

Bring Your Friends, Family, & Neighbors

By Susan Barlow

Come hiking on May 31 and June 28! Your Land Trust leads free hikes and history walks on our properties throughout the year. Enjoy the beauty of nature while hearing about the features of each property – its habitat, history, and inhabitants. Extreme weather cancels, but we go out in light rain. Our hikers are a hardy bunch, and sometimes come more than once to hikes at the Cheney railroad (four in 2013) and at Case Mountain (two in 2013). So far in 2014, we led two Cheney railroad hikes and one Salter's Pond walk (see photos).

tional parking is available along Amy Drive. Questions may be directed to hike leaders Susan and Cynthia Barlow, 860-643-9776. Risley Park is the Trust's largest parcel of protected land. The views from the ridge lend themselves to "photo ops," so bring a camera if you want. Co-sponsored by the Manchester Land Conservation Trust and Connecticut Forest & Park Association's family hike program, but open to all, including singles. Details on the Events page of our web site, www.manchesterlandtrust.org. No dogs, please.

We have a special walk on **Saturday, May 31**, at 1:00 pm, a free 3.3-mile hike to learn about the soil at our Risley Park in Vernon. Conservation scientist Kip Koleskinkas will join us on

Plan to come for a Cheney Railroad hike on **Saturday, June 28** at 1:00 p.m., starting north of the railroad tracks at 2 Main Street, Manchester. Hikers will have an easy, but bumpy, walk along the former railroad, built in 1869 to connect the Cheney silk mills to the main rail line in the North End. At 2.5 miles, it was the shortest private freight-and-passenger railroad in the United States. We will hike along the one-mile portion owned by the Manchester Land Conservation Trust and, depending on the weather, on to Center Springs Park, which will take about two hours round trip. Meet at the North End of Main Street in Manchester, on the north (right) side of the railroad tracks north of Farr's Sporting Goods, 2 Main Street, Manchester, CT 06042.



this walk in conjunction with his talk at the annual dinner May 28 (see separate article about the dinner in this newsletter). Hikers should be somewhat athletic – we will encounter a steep climb, rocky terrain, and some wet spots. Hikers should wear sturdy shoes or boots, bring water and a snack, and expect to be on the trail for two or more hours. Park in the Lake Street lot across from Amy Drive on the north side of Risley Pond; addi-



Park at the nearby shopping plaza or Eighth Utilities District office building (please do not park in Farr's parking lot). A special favor will be given to children who attend the hike, co-sponsored by the Connecticut Forest & Park Association's family hike program, and open to all, including singles. Extreme weather cancels. No dogs, please.



These hikes are all free. As additional hikes are scheduled, they will be added to the Events page of our web site www.manchesterlandtrust.org.

Pictures: Top left, a snowy hike on the Cheney railroad. Bottom left, geology walk at Case Mountain. Top right, hikers complete the loop trail at Salter's Pond.

Maintenance Update—April 2014

by Susan Barlow

Want to help?

If you have some free time and would like to come and work, just give a call to Doug MacGillvary at (860) 649-0477. He is always happy to have additional volunteers join his group.

Last fall, volunteers created this new parklet at the Middle Turnpike West entrance to the Cheney rail trail. The Glastonbury Home Depot store provided eight arborvitae trees and the materials to construct a forty-foot long concrete-block retaining wall. Three volunteers from the store, Zac Mirecki, Greg Balut, and Mike Glogowski, worked on the project along with Land Trust volunteers. This project included setting up the wall, planting trees, spreading topsoil, and planting grass. Other improvements over the past few years have included an eight-foot wide processed-stone multi-purpose path, signage, pet-waste stations, metal gates, and extensive tree work, funded in part by the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, H. Louise Ruddell Charitable Fund, Manchester Road Race Committee, Rails to Trails Conservancy, and SBM Charitable Foundation. Boy Scouts have also contributed major improvements along the trail, as well as on other Trust properties. Come see this parklet on our next railtrail walk, June 28, or take a look the next time you drive down Middle Turnpike. Special credit goes to VP and Stewardship Chair Doug MacGillvary for organizing this project.



Thank You!

A very special Thank You! to the many individuals, groups and organizations who volunteer their time, efforts and money to help us to do what we do. Without your generosity, the task of preserving and conserving open space in the Manchester area would be impossible.

The MLCT was formed in 1972 to “Engage in and otherwise promote for the benefit of the general public, the preservation and conservation of natural resources of the Town of Manchester, including water resources, swamps, woodland, and open spaces, and the plant and animal life therein, and unique scenic, natural sites and historic sites...and to use all property held or controlled...for the benefit of all the inhabitants of the Town of Manchester and exclusively for the conservational, recreational, educational, scientific and historic purposes”

We appreciate those who assist us in our mission.

Membership Report

by Terry Parla—Membership Chair



Why be a member of MLCT? One just has to look at the list of land saved by the trust for future generations to know that your money goes farther with the MLCT than it would with any other group. We have a dedicated Board of Directors and volunteers that help us in our goal of preserving open space. We have no paid personnel. Why not ask your friends to join, tell them of the wonderful work that is being done for the future. We need our members to be advocates for our work.

Your donations keep us going, keep us dreaming, keep us aiming for preservation. Please think this year about becoming a Life member. Give memberships to your children and grandchildren. It is for them that we work so hard to preserve. Help us help them.

Consider Giving a Gift Membership To a Friend! 2014



Renew Today

If you forgot to renew your membership last year, please do so today. Or if you received a tax refund from the IRS recently, please consider donating a portion of it to MLCT to help preserve the few open spaces we have left in the area. Remember, all donations are tax deductible as we are a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation.

If you have questions on membership and donations, please call Terry Parla, the membership chair at (860)643-1823

MLCT Membership Categories

Membership year is Oct 1 to Sept 30	Price
<input type="checkbox"/> LIFE MEMBER	\$ 200
<input type="checkbox"/> Annual Corporate	\$ 100
<input type="checkbox"/> Annual Sustaining	\$ 25
<input type="checkbox"/> Annual Regular (Individual/Family)	\$ 10
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional Donation Amount	\$ _____

Total: _____

Please make checks payable to: MLCT and mail to the address listed below.

Name

Address

E-mail

Phone



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

MLCT Property List

The Land Trust currently owns over 351.1 acres of protected open space land in Andover, Bolton, East Hartford, Manchester and Vernon

Stewards Needed

Please call
 Doug MacGillvary at
 (860)649-0477
 or send an e-mail to
info@manchesterlandtrust.org
 and let us know what
 property you would like
 to help protect.

Location	Address	Acres	Steward
Manchester			
Gould Parklet	149 Lakewood Circle	0.3	Len Parla
Marsh Pond	Corner of Porter & Adelaide	2.2	Mike Desautels
Griswold Park	75 Hills Street	3.0	
Spring St.	599 Spring Street, rear	1.0	Mal & Susan Barlow
Spring St., rear 637	637 Spring Street, rear	1.0	Mal & Susan Barlow
Spring St.	Spring Street, opp Tam Rd	1.0	Mal Barlow
Case Parklet, trailhead	670 Spring Street	1.0	Susan & Ron Beach
Upper Case Pond	Birch Mountain Road	7.6	James Boutot
Salter's Pond	Lydall Street	9.0	Michael Westfall
Lydall Woods	Lydall Street	30.0	Joann Haddock
Fairway Park	111 Gerald Drive	4.8	Russ & Dawn Beers
Yules Park, Birch Mt. Rd.	389 Birch Mountain Road	2.0	Bill Graver
Buckland Hills	88, 271, 427 and 429 Buckland Hills Drive	27.3	
Manning-Ferris	130 Bush Hill Road, rear	13.0	
House Park	175 Greenwood Drive	6.0	
Alpine Parklet	26 Alpine Street	0.5	
Cheney Rail Trial	Between W. Middle Tpke. And Hilliard Street	5.7	Mark Connors
Miller Pond	Bush Hill Road	3.0	Bob Buckland
Buckland Pond	Corner of Bush Hill Road and Hillstown Road	9.0	Bob Buckland
Barlow Park	970 Hillstown, rear	5.0	Susan McLain & Bruce Miller
Jarvis Parklet	897 Center Street, rear	0.5	Nancy Webb & Stephen Went
Chambers Parklet	93 Westland Street	0.2	Doug MacGillvary
Harry James Park	Access from Torpey Rd, EH	0.7	Craig Johnson
Purdy Nature Park (easement)			
Ansaldi Park	Spring Street	2.0	Mark Kravontka
Other Towns			
Risley Park	Lake Street, Vernon & Bolton	142.3	
Mary Jane Williams Park	272 Long Hill Street, EH	40.0	Jim Powell
Riverpoint Park	235-237 East River Drive	1.0	Prescille Yamamoto
Reed Park	Long Hill Road, Andover	32	Michael Einseidel
Total acres		351.1	

THE MANCHESTER LAND CONSERVATION TRUST BEGAN IN 1972 TO: "ENGAGE IN AND OTHERWISE PROMOTE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC, THE PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES...INCLUDING WATER RESOURCES, SWAMPS, WOODLAND, AND OPEN SPACES, AND THE PLANT AND ANIMAL LIFE THEREIN, AND UNIQUE SCENIC, NATURAL SITES, AND HISTORIC SITES..."

Park Improvements

by Douglas MacGillvary

Generous grants from the Manchester Road Race Committee and the H. Louise Ruddell Charitable Trust allowed the Manchester Land Conservation Trust to make numerous improvements on the Historic Cheney Rail Trail this past year. The Trust's portion of the trail begins at Middle Turnpike West and follows the



path of the old South Manchester Railroad to the existing rail line in the north end of town, a distance of nearly a mile.

One of our main goals was to implement a tree management program. The woods that border the trail had suffered from years of neglect. Extensive tree removal, trimming and chipping have resulted in a much safer environment for trail users.

More than seven hundred feet of dirt trail was upgraded to an eight foot wide process stone multi use path. A gated entrance to the trail at Hilliard St.

was installed. The intent is to restrict any vehicular traffic and discourage any illegal dumping. We now have gates at all of the street crossings along the trail. Painted crosswalks with handicap aprons were installed by the Town. Three beautiful signs now mark the trail at Middle Turnpike, Woodland and Hilliard Streets. Much needed maintenance equipment was purchased. This included a walk behind trimmer, a chainsaw and a back pack blower. A second pet waste station was placed on the trail at the Middle Turnpike entrance. Neighborhood dog owners are finding the trail to be a wonderful place to exercise Fido. Invasive plants such as Japanese knotweed are being



brought under control and replaced with a forsythia hedge and various other plantings.



The Historic Cheney Rail Trail is in keeping with the Trust's goal to always keep our properties open for passive recreation, not just for the present generation, but for all the future generations. Without concerned groups such as the Manchester Road Race Committee, the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, SBM Charitable Foundation and the Woodland Gardens Condominium Association, the Trust would not be able to accomplish such a goal.

Land Trust Eagle Project

by Justin Pedneault

My name is Justin Pedneault and I have been a member of the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 25, for over five years. As I advanced in rank I learned more and more about the outdoors, earning badges to signify my experience and knowledge. All these badges work towards the highest rank awarded by the Boy Scouts of America, the Eagle Scout Award/Rank (used interchangeably). Throughout my five years it was always my goal to achieve Eagle Scout, as it was for all the other boy



The staging area with material for two bridges

scouts in my troop. As I completed my last required badges I faced my final task of achieving Eagle Scout, organizing a service project.

At first I had many ideas for my service project. I knew I wanted to design and build something that would contribute to the environment in some way. I decided to contact the Manchester Land Conservation Trust via their website hoping for some good ideas. What I received was right on target, a proposal to construct two hiking trail bridges along the yellow trail at Risley Pond in Vernon, one of the Land Trust's properties. Thoroughly interested, I arranged to meet with Doug MacGillvary to inspect the project sites (February 2013). Throughout the Spring and Summer I fundraised through my family, close friends, and troop members to raise approximately \$1,400 needed to complete the project.

By Fall I had raised the funds needed and began work towards breaking ground on the bridges. After ordering and transporting the concrete and form

tubes, ground was broken on Sunday, October 6th with the digging and pouring of 8 piers (in the pouring rain). Once the piers were set and cured, I ordered the lumber and necessary hardware. Lowe's of Manchester sold me all the materials at cost – a huge contribution towards my project.

What started as a concept for two bridges began to take shape. Work on the bridges took place in the garage/shop at my grandmother's house in East Hartford, working with my uncle, a contractor with access to tools. After a few weeks, the wood was all measured, cut, and assembled, then disassembled, packaged and prepared to be transported to the woods.

With the help of a dump truck and trailer from Giola Corporation of Manchester, the assembled sixteen-foot railings and other lumber were transported and unloaded at Risley Dam on Sunday, November 24th (one of the coldest days this season). I was extremely grateful for the help of many volunteers. The large bridge pieces and hardware were tediously wheel barrowed across the dam and carried out to the worksites. At each site volunteers were lining up the wood, drilling, and building the bridges. After a full day's work, both bridges were assembled, although large steps remained to get up onto the walkway.

Following Doug's suggestion, I started preparations to add ramps to both bridges. After design time with my uncle, I ordered more materials (Lowe's at cost once again). I measured and cut the pieces, and the ramps were installed on Thursday, December 26th (the best

weather day on this project), making it an easy walk across both streams. The project needed two final boards for completion. Early Saturday, December 28th I attached the last two deck boards, and was pleased to let Doug know the bridges were now officially completed.



Walking a pre-built railing in from Lake St

I plan to apply for my Eagle Scout Board of Review in the next few weeks. I would like to thank Doug MacGillvary, the Manchester Land Conservation Trust, Leo Tardiff, my family and friends, Lowe's of Manchester, and everyone who volunteered their time to help me achieve my project.

To see photos of the bridges or to contact me, please check out my website about the Eagle Project: www.risleypondbridges.weebly.com.



This bridge replaces the stepping stone crossing to the right

MLCT Grants

by Doug MacGilvary

We closed on the purchase of the Risley Apple orchard in May, 2013. Total price was \$160,000. The Connecticut State Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) provided an Open Space Watershed Land Acquisition (OSWA) grant of \$80,000, while the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving (HFPG) provided a grant of \$60,000. Private donations were received to cover the balance of \$20,000 plus another \$10,000 for various expenses (2 Yellow Book appraisals, surveys, etc.). HFPG put out a press release noting the success of this project and others last summer.

The Manchester Land Trust people were most grateful to all who contributed. Without the HFPG grant the purchase could not have occurred. I drove by the Risley Park (nearly 150 acres total) with the Orchard site by the roadway. At this time of year with the leaves off the trees, you can see well into the 13-acres of the orchard. It is rich with flora and fauna of all kinds. Lydall Brook flows from the Risley Reservoir into the orchard property before it passes under Lake Street and downstream to the Lydall Reservoir, Salters Pond, and eventually Union Pond. No houses will be built on it.

Nelson DeBarros, our newest board member, has been exploring a grant for transforming the orchard site into a heaven of local woodlands – some trails and open spaces among native trees and plants. Part of the grant funds will go into removal of the invasive plants.

By the way, the Land Trust has signed a contract to purchase the 60-acre Botti Farm in the south end of

Manchester for a total of \$915,000. Again we are seeking grants from the DEEP OSWA grant program, the HFPG and a variety of public and private sources. The Botti Farm property is most exciting to us. The property still has a large barn, orchards and fields. The Land Trust has owned a neighboring parcel of 13 acres of beautiful woodlands we call the Manning-Ferris Park. The addition of the Botti Farm would make a total park of about 73 acres. We look forward to your contributions to complete this purchase.

Addition to Risley Park



The Land Trust succeeded in buying the Risley Orchard, a 13-acre parcel west of Risley Pond. This photo shows the dam -- to the right is the orchard acreage. Thank you to all who contributed!

What is the Manchester Land Conservation Trust?

The Trust is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization with a board of directors, officers, committees, and several hundred members. The Trust accepts donations of undeveloped land as gifts or as conservation easements from individuals or businesses. It is also glad to receive money or securities for the purchase of areas which are not likely to otherwise be preserved. We own many acres of land in the towns of Manchester, Andover, Bolton, East Hartford, and Vernon (see page 6 for a list of our properties). We maintain this land for passive recreation (no buildings or lighting) and we lead free hikes on the land (see Upcoming Events on the back page).

As a private, nonprofit corporation, the Trust can assist potential land donors and work with them on a transfer for the conservation of the land in its natural state. The Trust can assist with the services needed for transfer including assessment, surveying, and legal counsel, but we also welcome donations that include with a financial gift for these services.

The Manchester Land Conservation Trust
Invites You to the

Annual Meeting and Dinner

**** Wednesday, May 28, 2014 ****



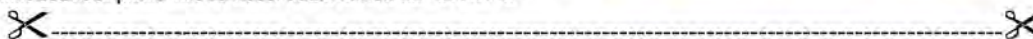
At The Arbors, 403 West Center Street, Manchester, CT 06040
5:45 p.m.: Gather in the auditorium, lower level, find seats with your conservationist friends old and new! • **6:00 p.m.:** Buffet dinner
• **7:15 p.m.:** Business meeting • **7:30 p.m.:** Conservation scientist Kip Kolesinskas

Menu: Salad, main dishes, rolls, dessert, coffee and tea.

Business meeting and speaker:

After the annual reports, we will elect board members and conduct other Land Trust business. Then, conservation scientist and Manchester resident Kip Kolesinskas will present a talk on environmental and farm issues. Kip works in the New England office of the American Farmland Trust. It's OK to come for the program if you don't want to attend the dinner.

In conjunction with this "indoor" talk, Kip will join us on our walk at Risley Park on Saturday, May 31 at 1:00 p.m., starting at the parking lot off Lake St., Vernon, near the intersection with Amy Drive. Kip will bring a spade and auger to show some of the different soils at Risley, where the land has been farmed over the years. Visit <http://www.manchesterlandtrust.org/events.html> for hike details or phone hike co-leader Susan Barlow 860-643-9776.



❖ Name of each guest. Please print clearly for our place cards ❖

Your telephone number _____ E-mail _____

Home address _____

Total Number of People ____ @ \$17.00 each = \$ _____ enclosed

I can't attend, but please accept my donation to the Land Trust (any amount appreciated). _____

Return this portion with check payable to **Manchester Land Conservation Trust** by May 23 to: Manchester Land Conservation Trust, c/o Barlow & Murphy, 172 East Center St., Manchester, CT 06040. Please write **DINNER** on the outside of the envelope! Thank you.

For info, e-mail Susan Barlow sbarlow627@aol.com or phone her at 860-643-9776.

The Manchester Land Conservation Trust began in 1972 to: "Engage in and otherwise promote for the benefit of the general public, the preservation and conservation of natural resources...including water resources, swamps, woodland, and open spaces, and the plant and animal life therein, and unique scenic, natural sites, and historic sites..."



Place cards from the 2013 annual dinner.

Annual Dinner Meeting—May 28, 2014, The Arbors Land Trust Dinner and Talk by Conservation Scientist Kip Kolesinskas

The Manchester Conservation Land Trust will hold its annual dinner meeting on Wednesday, May 28 at 5:45 p.m. at The Arbors, 403 West Center Street, Manchester. We'll gather in the auditorium, lower level, with a buffet dinner at 6:00 p.m., at \$17.00 each. After a short business meeting and election of board members, Consulting Conservation Scientist Kip Kolesinskas will present an illustrated lecture about conservation. Kip is a recognized regional and national speaker on soils and land-use planning, farmland protection, climate change adaptation, farmland access, and wetlands. Checks for dinner should be made payable to the Manchester Land Conservation Trust and mailed to the Trust, c/o Barlow & Murphy, 172 East Center St., Manchester, CT 06040. Please write "Dinner" on the envelope. Questions may be directed to Susan Barlow at 860-643-9776. The Land Trust was founded in 1972, and owns 336 acres of open space land in

Manchester, East Hartford, Bolton, Vernon, and Andover. More info and a printable invitation are on the events page of the Trust's web site www.manchesterlandtrust.org



Kip Kolesinskas, conservation scientist, will speak at the annual dinner and meeting of the Land Trust.

Volunteers Needed

We need volunteers for committees, website maintenance and for future board openings.

We are especially interested in increasing the diversity of our board to better serve the Greater Manchester area.

Please consider volunteering your time to help improve the Land Trust.

Call us at 860-646-4081

MLCT On The Move!

The Manchester Land Conservation Trust moved into its new office in October 2013. The office is on the second floor of the former Frank Cheney, Jr., mansion at 20 Hartford Road, owned by the South Methodist Church.

Members and directors here celebrate the beautiful rugs provided as a gift from

Glastonbury Carpet and Judi Smith.

Pictured, left to right, just after putting the carpet in place: Terry Parla, Rich Griffiths, Bill Doak, Helen Robbins, Judi Smith, Malcolm Barlow, Gary Robbins, and Jack Bowden. Photo by Susan Barlow.



Meetings

The public is invited to our Board meetings on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm.

The Board of Directors generally meets at 7:00 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month at 20 Hartford Road.

Our office is located there in the mansion at the corner of Main Street and Hartford Road (upstairs from the Manchester Chamber of Commerce).

Board meetings are usually held nine times per year, in January, February, March, April, June, September, October, November, and December.

The public is invited to attend board meetings.

Please contact Membership Chair Terry Parla at 860-643-1823 to confirm the time and location of meeting.

Exploring...



Ice Skating on Marsh Pond. Photo by Susan Barlow



Railroad walk. Photo by Doug MacGillvary



Group shot of the Botti Family and MLCT Board members. Photo by Bill Doak



Botti Farm. Photo by Doug MacGillvary

Botti Farm Hike

The Botti Family has been farming in the Hillstown section of Manchester, Glastonbury and East Hartford for three generations. On Saturday, April 19 owners Steve and Linda Botti hosted a tour of their farm off Bush Hill Road for members of the Manchester Land Conservation Trust.

Steve Botti described the many varieties of apples his farm grew, starting with Lodis, Jonamac, Honey Crisps, Mcouns and Idareds and Winesaps, storing each in an apple cellar and then in the large refrigerated room in the 3,000-square-foot barn by the road. Families could visit and watch through the front window as a mechanical cider press lifted the apples up to the grinder, the pulp dropping into a stainless steel square basket and then out onto the canvas-covered wood slatted racks. Once stacked up the racks were then squeezed by the hydraulic press manufactured in Cos Cob, Connecticut; the juice drawn off by a hose into the bottling side of the wall.

The Botti's planted hundreds of peaches, pears and cherries with different varieties in sections of the farm. Steve's grandfather had grapevines along the south-facing side of Bush Hill, and he has old photos showing the vineyard extending from the west side of the Botti home up to the 326-foot top of Bush Hill. As our small group stood at the edge of the woods near the crest of Bush Hill, and looked east, it was easy to imagine how much pride Mr. Botti felt as he looked down on the bounty nature gave as buds emerged in a warm April afternoon on his land.



To the north several beautiful new roads and large homes have been built, their bare earth back yards backing onto the Botti Farm woodland. We descended

down to the back of the Botti farm, where rows of cherry trees lined the woods with peaches on

the right, to a swampy spot past a deer stand. In wet mud were dozens of deer tracks, apparently not getting the memo that danger lie in wait. Steve said he grants requests to many who just want to sit and photograph whatever wildlife happens to pass by. Our tour navigated past three deer stands Saturday, two to the east and one on the west. We turned toward Glastonbury along a path Steve Botti created through a thick stand of thorns. It was explained that the thorns were planted at one time as a "natural fence" to contain cows on the Botti Farm; but coming into bloom we were in a thicket 100 yards deep. Some Biblical passage calls thorns "The King of the Trees" and that is where we trod the weekend of Easter. Springs emerged from the lower field and formed a wetland to cross. Steve Botti pointed out a granite town line marker, an "M" carved on the north side for Manchester, the "G" on the Glastonbury side.

Steve related with a laugh how his father would go to a town meeting and threaten to pull the marker up and move it north when he didn't agree with the town. But the marker predates the farm and was set after Manchester became a separate town from East Hartford in 1823.

Steve took the group north through rows of the newer apple trees, peaches and pears now largely abandoned, many entangled with poison ivy vines. Down along the power company right-of-way Botti and the dogs lead us, with detours around the swampy areas. The rocks underfoot are smooth, rounded riverbed variety, and the large wet area beneath the crackling power lines and an abandoned car drains to the southwest where it forms a small brook babbling through a mossy glade of larger stones left by the glacial moraines typical to New England. A row of cedar trees marks the southern line of the property in Glastonbury with remnants of barbed wire from when the adjacent property was a horse farm, Steve explained.

The Botti Farm sits on three fingers of drumlins running north-south from Bush Hill. Steven said his father occasionally came across an arrowhead up along the southern flank of Bush Hill where the vineyards were

By Bill Doak

planted in the sandier soils. Indeed Bush Hill also has a lot of red sand that can be seen where it was excavated for the housing development to the north. Steve used the sand to fill in the site of the cider barn by the road, and added his father once went down 40 feet into the hill above the vineyard and it was all sand. But apple-sized glacial granite rocks seem to predominate the orchard area of the farm, with the occasional schist and a pink quartzite rock left along the property line.

The three hour walk ended back at the Botti



home where all muddy hikers - and two dogs in need of a bath - relaxed on the deck enjoying iced tea, lemon water and sweet chocolate and icing "magic cookies" baked by Linda Botti. On the walk to his home Steve

pointed out where his blueberry bushes were, a spot now overgrown and loaded with songbirds. Keeping the nets, as with keeping the orchard, had just proven to be too much for Steve.

It is clear that his family farm still has a strong hold on Steve Botti. Every corner of it evokes a childhood and life memory for him. For the Botti's and now the Manchester Land Conservation Trust, who they approached to keep the family farm intact, keeping the beauty of the woods and hillside is preferable to the alternative: Bulldozers leveling Bush Hill for building lots. That is what happened to all the surrounding farms in Hillstown, the neighbors Steve Botti knew well now only a memory.

The opportunity has presented itself. Such farmland is vanishing, and along with it, the rich, local resource it provided to all. That resource can be preserved now if the state comes though. If so, Steve and Linda can pick the fruit of the next crop they harvest in what has already been a fruitful life indeed.

What's In A Name?

The Land Trust directors have been discussing a change in our name from the Manchester Land Conservation Trust, Inc. They decided to solicit opinions from Trust members.

Therefore, if anyone has an opinion on our name, and what it might be, please let us know. You can e-mail the web site at www.Manchesterlandtrust.org, or e-mail Malcolm Barlow at mfbarlow@barlow-com.

Know that our name has not changed since our creation in 1972. Many members have grown fond of the name and for what it stands. The Trust has been a champion for open spaces in our communi-

ty. The Trust owns outright over two dozen parks on more than 350 acres in the Towns of Andover, Bolton, East Hartford, Manchester, and Vernon. We have plaques at many of our parks in bronze which have our full name.

However, critics of the name make several points. First it appears to limit the Trust to Manchester, and does not reflect our parks in the other four towns. More than half of our acreage is outside Manchester. Risley Park is now over 150 acres. Risley Park is partly in Vernon and partly in Bolton.

Next, the name is too long. In 1972 we might have needed

“conservation” in our title. Today people are quicker to accept that “land trust” alone is enough to tell people who we are. How about a shorter name?

The most recently suggested name change was from Manchester Land Conservation Trust, Inc. to Greater Manchester Land Trust, Inc. The word “conservation” was cut out, and “greater” was added. It is still a long name, but it carries a more accurate and easily grasped message.

Let us know what you think. The directors want to know.

Time for a new name?

The Manchester Land Conservation Trust now has holdings in the towns of Manchester, Andover, North Andover, Vernon, Bolton and East Hartford. If the Botti Farm purchase is completed, we will also have 6 acres in Glastonbury. A pie chart (<http://www.manchesterlandtrust.org/properties.html>) reveals that less than 40 percent of our properties are in Manchester. Some also feel that a new name reflecting the fact that our holdings are regional might be a more accurate depiction of who we are as a Trust - and perhaps may be a better marketing tool for attracting new members from all our Land Trust communities. After debate and passionate discussion, the Board opted to conduct a informal, non-binding survey of our membership at the 2014 annual meeting. We still hold the existing name - which is on all of our plaques and signage as well as deeds - in high regard and remain deeply committed to Manchester as well as the founding precepts of Land Conservation and Trust - paramount to who we are as proud MLCT members. How do you feel?

Membership Opinion Survey

- Please keep the name **Manchester Land Conservation Trust**.
- Please change the name to an alternative.

We welcome your thoughts: _____

_____.

Your name (optional): _____
Mail to the MLCT, 20 Hartford Road, Manchester CT 06040; email us at info@manchesterlandtrust.org, or Trust or deposit in the survey box at the door.

Bylaw Changes Proposed

The Trust directors have been considering changes to the Bylaws since the last change was approved June 5, 1980. That's nearly 34 years ago. Are we in the land of steady habits?!

Recent changes discussed are the following:

1. Change the corporate name to Greater Manchester Land Trust, Inc.
2. Change Article III on governance from the present 9-member board of directors, two elected in staggered years for four years each, the 9th member a delegate from the Manchester Conservation Commission, to the following:

ARTICLE III—**Directors.**

General Powers

The property, affairs and activities of the trust shall be managed by a Board of Directors consisting of not fewer than nine (9) and not more than fifteen (15) persons, as may be determined from time to time by the Board of Directors. Directors shall be regular members of the trust. The Board of Directors may and shall exercise all of the powers of the trust except such as are by law, by the Certificate of Incorporation, or by these Bylaws expressly conferred upon or reserved to the members.

Election of Directors

The trust members shall elect all Directors at the annual meetings. Terms are for two years and until his/her successor is elected and qualified. Terms shall be staggered so that approximately one half of

the Directorships will be elected at each annual meeting. The term of a trustee who ceases to be a Regular Member of the trust shall immediately terminate.

Vacancies

In the case of any vacancy in the Board of Directors, the Board may elect a successor to hold office until the next annual meeting. Vacancies may be by death, resignation, disqualification, or because a trustee fails to attend three consecutive meetings without excuse.

Meetings

The Board of Directors shall meet at least semi-annually, and, in addition, the Board of Directors shall meet upon call by the President or upon written request filed with the Secretary by any two (2) or more Directors. The Secretary shall give to each director reasonable notice of the time and place of each meeting of the Board of Directors. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the Board of Directors. There shall be no vote by proxy.

Action without meeting.

The Board of Directors may consider actions to be taken between regularly scheduled and special meetings. Discourse may be by mail, e-mail, facsimile, or other means of communication that effectively puts every Director on notice of the actions under consideration. The Board of Directors may take action by the same means of communication so long as each trustee signs a consent describing the action taken or to be taken and delivers it to the corporation. Actions taken under this section is the act of the Board of Directors when one or more consents signed by all the Directors are delivered to the corporation. A consent signed under this section has the effect of action tak-

en at a meeting of the Board of Directors and may be described as such in any document. The Secretary shall file the signed copies of such actions with the minutes of the trust. (Reference: Connecticut General Statutes Section 33-1064. Action without meeting.)

Meeting Sites

Meetings shall be held at such place or places as the Board of Directors may from time to time by resolution designate; or, in the absence of such designation, at the principal office of the trust.

Quorum.

A majority of the board of Directors then in office shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the board. However, if less than a majority of the Directors is present at any meeting, a majority of the Directors present may adjourn the meeting from time to time without further notice.

These changes can be voted upon by the membership at our Annual Meeting at the Arbors on Wednesday May 28, dinner at 6 p.m. and business meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Bylaw changes must be approved by the membership. However, please note that the Board of Directors voted 7-2 on March 20 in favor of the two-year terms. Also, the directors voted unanimously in favor of a more flexible board membership of between 9 and 15 directors.

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Check us out on the web at

www.manchesterlandtrust.org



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

Visit us at www.ManchesterLandTrust.org

Your Land Trust web site has information on all our properties, as well as listings of activities, online membership renewal, and a new link to a Pinterest account, where you can see additional Land Trust photos. In the "flyers" section, we have a downloadable self-guiding map of the Cheney rail trail.

The Trust works to protect water resources, habitat, and animal, bird, 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 healthful outdoor activities. We welcome members and supporters. Join online (see menu at left) and come hiking with us!

This web site includes information about the land we own, our activities, history, and upcoming events. If you are interested in donating land, please contact the Trust's President, Malcolm F. Barlow, at 860-646-4081, or Director Terry Parla at 860-643-1823. We welcome the opportunity to provide information to potential donors about the benefits of giving land to the Trust.