



## *We Saved Another Piece of the Old Cheney Railroad*

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Your Land Trust is pleased to announce that we succeeded in adding a missing link to the Trust's historic Cheney railroad property in the North End of Manchester. Our success was due to a wonderful response from members and friends far and near, as well as from the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the SBM Charitable Foundation. In addition, we used a gift from the late Truman Cowles, a well known North End resident, to complete the funds needed. With this generous support, we met the fundraising goal by the end of 2008, per the contract with Brian Daigle, who formerly owned the property at 44 Hilliard Street.

The benefits of this important purchase were remarked upon by several people on our most recent hike – the trail now is a “straight shot” without the detour along Hilliard, Main, and Chapel Streets, so that hikers can continue from Farr’s Sporting

Goods all the way to Middle Turnpike. The roadside turnout can also provide room for a trail kiosk with maps, and possible parking for a small school bus, bikes or cars. We plan to honor Truman Cowles among others at this site.

Although the .7-acre parcel seems small in size, it was a business-zoned piece with frontage on Hilliard Street, so it was especially important to save it from commercial development. If a building were placed there, we would not have been able to afford to purchase it.

The trail, like so many around the country, is popular with walkers, hikers, bird-watchers, and people going to the Whiton Library and businesses in the shopping plaza at the corner of Main and North Main Streets.

The old *South Manchester Railroad*, as the Cheney Brothers

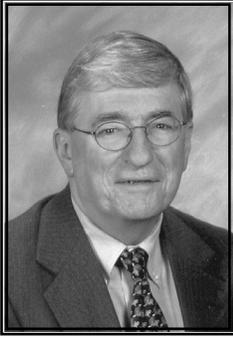
silk mills to northern Manchester. Built in 1869 with Cheney family funds, the railroad linked the silk mills to the main line, at that time known as the “Providence, Hartford, and Fishkill Railroad,” which ran through the North End. At 2.25 miles, it was the shortest freight-and-passenger railroad in the United States, but the longest private railroad. According to headlines in the *Hartford Courant* on September 30, 1923, it was the “Only Line in Country Owned Entirely by One Family,” and the “Number of Stockholders at a Time Never More Than Seven.” Fares charged were “4-1/4 cents per mile on regular fares and 1-3/4 cents to commuters.” The average fare was about 2 cents per mile. The last passenger trip was in 1933, but freight trains still used these rails into the 1980s.

The Land Trust leads hikes on the railroad several times a year. Please join us on our next Cheney rail walk – Saturday, June 27 at 1 p.m., starting at 2 Main Street, Manchester. Please park at the Eighth District office or at the strip mall north of the railroad tracks. No dogs, please. We will have a small favor for children who come on the walk. Heavy rain cancels.

The Land Trust now owns the entire 5.7 acre stretch of the Cheney Rail Trail from West Middle Turnpike to North Main Street



Hardy hikers on the Cheney Rail Trail Winter 2008. Photo by Susan Barlow.



*Malcolm Barlow  
MLCT President*

**Board of Directors  
2009**

**Malcolm Barlow**

President

**Clifford Pierce**

Vice President

**Elaine Law**

Secretary

**Glenn Law**

Treasurer

**Doug MacGillvary**

**Joan Naab**

**Theresa Parla**

**Susan Pierce**

**Helen Robbins**

## *Update from the President*

Dear Land Trust Members:

I am happy to say that 2008 has been another year of growth and improvement for the Manchester Land Conservation Trust. As I complete my fifth year as President of the Trust, I thank all of our members and volunteers for their work and support in preserving open space in our community.

### **Your Board of Directors**

During 2008, the Board of Directors "hit the road" again to survey all our properties, traveling to each site and walking the land. Several neighbors and friends joined us for some of the six Saturday trips in the fall.

Our board members have been very active, attending meetings, applying for grants, improving trails, arranging for the Annual Dinner and sending out mailings and publicity. Doug MacGillvary, who has organized work parties and designed and executed many improvements along our trails, is always looking for help on these land projects. Why not call him at 649-0477 if you have some time to devote?

### **Trust Properties**

In March, 2009, we received a gift of 32+ acres of land in northern Andover, transferred from the disbanding Mohegan Land Trust. This heavily wooded parcel has abundant wildlife, and its neighbor Michael Einseidel has agreed to serve as steward of the property.

In December 2008, we improved our Cheney rail trail property by acquiring a parcel of land on Hilliard Street that opens the trail in an area that we formerly had to detour. The

purchase became a reality with generous individual donations, as well as the legacy of Truman Cowles and grants from Connecticut DEP (thanks to board member Helen Robbins for writing the grant) and the SBM Charitable Foundation. We have led many walks along the railroad bed, including some in the snow and ice, and we always have an enthusiastic crowd. This year, we have given out railroad patches to children who come on the walk. Member Pat Brown donated these vintage Pennsylvania Railroad patches.

We are still trying to obtain written permission from the owner of the railroad to the south of Middle Turnpike, so that we can lead walks all the way to Center Springs Park.

We are pleased to have obtained a temporary license from Northfield Green Condominium Association to cross their land at Salter's Pond, thereby creating a loop trail that goes all the way around the pond.

We gained tax-exempt status on the one-acre property next to the Riverpoint condominiums in East Hartford, near the Connecticut River.

We haven't had any luck selling the commercial lot at #2 Spencer Street, which was a 2007 gift to us. We had hoped to sell it quickly to raise funds for other projects.

See

[www.manchesterlandtrust.org](http://www.manchesterlandtrust.org) for a list of properties, dates of acquisition, and other details of our 335+ acres in the towns of Manchester, East Hartford, Bolton, Vernon, and Andover.

### **Trust Activities – Work and Play**

We conducted several cleanups, with neighbors, members, and friends pitching in. Several energetic and much appreciated volunteers installed boulders and plaques at our properties, displaying the property's name, date of acquisition, and other information.

We conducted eight free hikes since the last newsletter. Some are strenuous, such as the 7-1/2-mile Trails Day hike from Risley Pond to Bolton Notch and back, and others are just a couple of miles. Families, singles, members, and non-members are welcome. Hikes are listed on the web site, but you can also receive hike updates by giving us your e-mail address through the "contact" form on the web site. Come hike with us, and bring your neighbors.

### **Land Trust Appreciation**

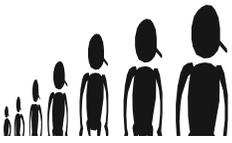
To all our members and friends, THANK YOU for your support - your donations of time, money, and energy. You are investing in our planet - in every bit of green that will stay that way for eternity, thanks to you.

Sincerely,

*Malcolm F. Barlow*

Malcolm F. Barlow

**"THANK YOU for your support - your donations of time, money, and energy. You are investing in our planet "**



## Membership Report *by Terry Parla*

As the membership chairman I feel as if I am always asking people to join the Manchester Land Conservation Trust. I want to explain why. I love this organization and I feel if you knew the group as I do you would love it too. I am one of the old timers having been at the very first meeting in 1972 to organize it. It was an exciting time. Manchester was not as built up as it is now. There was no mall. If you were to hear a name mentioned, you were sure to know that person or someone who knew that person. We were a city with village charm. There was a Main Street where people gathered and there were parks in almost every part of town.

It was when one of these parks was threatened with development that the group got together. We decided we needed a group to accept, maintain and preserve land that will be kept forever in the way the donor wanted it to be. There would be no chance that in years to come someone could change the provisions initially established.

Our board of directors and members are some of the most dedicated. They work on our properties with such enthusiasm. The group gives their all. That's why I think everyone should join. So tell your friends. Ask them to be a part of work that will be here long after we are all gone. All the acres that we have preserved have become the best part of neighborhoods they are in. We have 337 acres in the towns of Andover, Bolton, East Hartford, Manchester, and Vernon.

The membership for this year is 329 family memberships; of these 138 are Life members. We are pleased to welcome our newest life members,

Susanne Shorts

Michael S. Oreilly

Thank you to all who donated to the purchase of the Cheney Rail Line. This is a wonderful addition to our total acreage. It is a great north-south walkway for hikers, walkers or joggers. The rail line now owned by us now goes from West Middle Turnpike to North Main St. Enjoy a leisurely walk; it's just wonderful.

If you forgot to send your dues in you may still do it now. If you have friends who you think should join please ask them. We need your support.

## *Progress at Riverpoint Park*

MLCT was successful in our lawsuit against the town of East Hartford to obtain tax exempt status for our newest parcel in East Hartford, Riverpoint Park. Due to the diligent efforts by our attorney Wil Broneil, the town agreed that this property meets the requirements and definition of "Open Space" and should be tax exempt. This was a very important step in the process of taking this formerly polluted area and making it into a lovely open green space near the

Connecticut River. We have a wonderful steward for the parcel, Precille Yamamoto, who lives in the neighboring condominium building. Precille has a wonderful view of the park each and every day.

We are still working to get the clover to grow and to tame the bushes that are on the edges of the property, but it is a nice green open space that has been saved from any future development.



Photo by Jack Bowden

**Life membership dues help to grow our land acquisition fund. Thank you to all our life members for your support.**

## Maintenance Update by Doug MacGillvary



*A stairway refurbished by volunteers next to the dam at Salter's Pond*

Nearly 600 hours of volunteer efforts went into maintaining Land Trust properties during this past year.

At Riskey Park there were trail and parking lot improvements, erosion problems addressed and the ongoing control of vegetation on the dam. On the portion of the Cheney Rail Trail between West Middle Turnpike and Woodland St. years of accumulated brush and trash have been cleared. The trail has been widened and we look forward to more improvements along the old rail line.

Loop hiking trails are being developed at Salter's Pond and at Buckland Pond. Other properties, such as House Park on Greenwood Drive, Griswold Park on Hills Street and Fairway Park on Gerald Drive all received general cleanups. Also the remains of a shed and associated contents at Buckland Pond are being removed. Memorial boulders were placed at three properties, Barlow Park, Buckland Pond and Upper Case Pond. (see article on next page)



It was a long wait and a tough fight but we accomplished what many said couldn't be done. Here is "Stepping Stone Bridge" over Lydall Brook on the Northfield Green property. All of the lumber used in the bridge construction had been donated by Mr. John Postemski of Willington.

In addition, thanks to several generous donations received in memory of former MLCT member Barry Scanlon, we were able to create and hang some trail signs and lay down some wood chips to create a loop trail around Salter's Pond. Please come and see for yourself by joining us on **Saturday July 25 at 1pm** for a walk with historic commentary.



As you can see, it was a busy year for our small band of volunteers and much was accomplished. We look forward to the task of maintaining and improving the Land Trust properties for everyone to enjoy. If you have some free time and would like to join our maintenance team, just give a call to Doug MacGillvary, 649-0477

### **What is a Steward?**

*A steward is a volunteer who helps take care of one or more of our many properties. Stewards report any issues and help get volunteer work parties together to address any maintenance issues.*

## *Boulders Placed on Several MLCT Parcels*

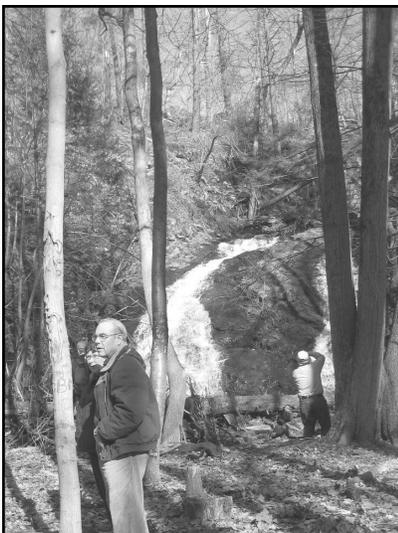
Volunteer Roger Chadwick prepares to set the plaque into a boulder at Barlow Park, our five-acre parcel on the west side of Hillstown Road. Roger and director Doug MacGillvary drilled the boulders to install the engraved plaques at Buckland Pond, Upper Case Pond, and Barlow Park.

The photo to the right shows Roger using a drill powered by a portable generator lent to us by former director Brad Palmer. The delivery of the huge boulders was a big job, led by Doug MacGillvary with assistance from Double J Excavating of Tolland (paid for by our Risley property

neighbor Terry Virkler). The Upper Case Pond boulder was transported through the woods and set in place by Double J, with direction and fine-tuning by Doug and Roger. At Buckland Pond and Barlow Park, we had help from steward Bob Buckland and neighbor John Spencer – John is the farmer who hays the field at Buckland Pond, and he has a tractor.



LEFT: Boulder and plaque in the Case Mountain area, inscribed: “Upper Case Pond, acquired by donations to the Manchester Land Conservation Trust, 2005.” See this boulder yourself on our after-work walk May 22 (details elsewhere in this newsletter).



Hikers at the glen below Bridal Veil Falls on a recent excursion to visit the Wyllys Copper mine. Geoff and MLCT Director Joan Naab in foreground, MLCT member John Spaulding in back right photographing the falls. Photo by Susan Barlow

## *Historic Case Brothers District*

The Highland Park section of Manchester, including several parcels owned by the Manchester Land Conservation Trust, was recently recognized as a historic area, when Connecticut’s Historic Preservation Board approved a nomination of “The Case Brothers Historic District” as a listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Next, the nomination goes to the National Park Service for review and possible approval.

MLCT owns the 7.9-acre Upper Case Pond, the Beach Parklet at the Spring Street trailhead, and parcels along Birch Mountain Brook below Spring Street that provide access to Bridal Veil Falls.

The District, located near exit four off I-384, along Spring Street and Glen Road in the southeast corner of town, includes the town’s 640-acre Case Mountain Recreation Area.

The District is named after the Case Brothers, who lived and worked in the village of Highland Park during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. They built two large mansions on Spring Street near the highway, which are still stunning today.

MLCT leads hikes in the Case Mountain area, which is a popular place for hikers, bikers, and bird-watchers.

## *MLCT Property List*

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

***Stewards  
Needed***

You can spend as little as a couple of hours a year or as much as a couple of hours a month depending on what you want. Please call Cliff Pierce at 646-7447 or send an e-mail to [info@manchesterlandtrust.org](mailto:info@manchesterlandtrust.org) and let us know what property you would like to put your name next to.

Location	Address	Approx. Acres	Steward
<b>Manchester</b>			
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	
Spring St., rear 637	637 Spring Street, rear	1.0	
Spring St.,	Spring Street, opp Tam Rd	1.0	Jay & Susan Stoppelman
Beach Park, trailhead	670 Spring Street	1.0	Malcolm Barlow
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	David Rines
Alpine Parklet	26 Alpine Street	0.5	
Cheney Rail Trail	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	
2 Spencer Street—not Open Space	* See Below	1.0	
<b>Other Towns</b>			
Risley Park	Lake Street, Vernon & Bolton	130.0	Cliff & Susan Pierce
Mary Jane Williams Park	272 Long Hill Street, EH	40.0	
Riverpoint Park	235-237 East River Drive	1.0	Prescille Yamamoto
Newest Parcel—not yet named	Long Hill Road, Andover	32	Michael Einseidel
<b>Total acres</b>		<b>337</b>	

**\* *Property for Sale***

At the end of 2007 we received a donation of a commercially zoned parcel of land located on 2 Spencer Street in Manchester. The board agreed to accept this land with the understanding that it was not appropriate open space and we would put it up for sale. The intention is to use the proceeds from the sale of this property to help pay for other open space parcels that meet our agreed upon criteria.

If anyone is interested in purchasing this parcel, on this heavily traveled road, please contact

**Terry Parla at  
860-643-1823.**

***Newest Donation***

The land trust recently accepted the donation of 32 acres of open space in the town of Andover. This land was formerly owned by the Mohegan Land Trust which is in the process of closing their doors due to a lack of membership and volunteers. They are donating all their land in Hebron, Andover and Bolton to other land trusts, towns and others to help preserve it as open space.

# Don't Miss the Annual Dinner Meeting

The annual dinner meeting will be held on **Thursday May 21, 2009** at the Arbors in Manchester. Prior to the meeting, dinner will be served at **7:15 pm** for a cost of \$15.50 per person. The dinner will include salad, rolls, rice pilaf, vegetable blend and apple pie for dessert. Entrée choices are:

- New England Scrod or
- Chicken Marsala

To reserve your spot for the dinner, please send a check payable to MLCT in the amount of \$15.50 per person and noting your entrée choice no later than May 10th to:

Joan Naab  
188 South Main Street  
Manchester, CT 06040-6544

Following the dinner our guest speaker will be John Scheirer, the award winning author of "Loop Year: 365 Days on the Trail".

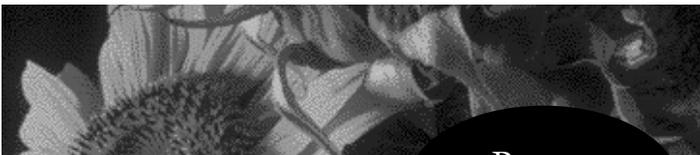
What do you do if you're an amateur adventurer and environmentalist who dreams of hiking the Appalachian Trail or saving the rainforest, but you can't quit your day job or abandon personal commitments? John Sheirer created his own project: From May 17, 2005 to May 16, 2006, he hiked the same trail in Somers, Connecticut, once a day, every day. He chronicled the year in *Loop Year: 365 Days on the Trail*, a book composed of 365-word accounts of his hiking project. Along the

way, Sheirer discovered that an obsession with hiking and caring for the same New England trail every day can be surprisingly adventurous--ranging from blistering heat, flooding rain, whiteout snowstorms, early mornings, dark nights, and everything in between. (Plus there's an unexpected love story and a really cute dog.)

**Please mark your calendars and join us for this inspiring presentation.**



# Consider Giving a Gift Membership To a Friend!



**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 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

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
MANCHESTER, CT  
PERMIT NO. 217

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

Phone: 860-643-1823

E-mail: [info@manchesterlandtrust.org](mailto:info@manchesterlandtrust.org)

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

We're on the web

[www.manchesterlandtrust.org](http://www.manchesterlandtrust.org)



## Won't You do Your Part to Save Open Spaces?

In April 2008 several land trust directors and members joined with "Save the Sound", Radio Disney, the Hockanum River Linear Committee and other area conservation minded groups to clean up the Bigelow Brook area in Manchester.

This brook is the site of a proposed park. The day was glorious and we all had a lot of fun. You would not believe how much trash and garbage was removed from this lovely area. The town even helped out by sending several trucks on Mon-

day to haul away the stash. This is a potentially lovely area of town that has been neglected in recent years. Please watch the papers and check our website for the 2009 clean up and come out and lend a hand. You will have some fun and make a difference.

### Upcoming Hikes

Friday May 22 @ 5:45pm

Sunday June 7 @ 1pm

Saturday June 27 @ 1pm

Saturday July 25 @ 1pm

Details on the website



Director Helen Robbins, Mary Robbins, age 8; Sarah Robbins, age 11; and Claire Duesler, age 12 wearing their new Land Trust T-shirts at the Bigelow Brook Clean up Day in April 2008



Director Susan Pierce selling Land Trust T-Shirts at the Bigelow Brook Clean up Day in April 2008. Additional T-shirts are available at the Manchester Town Hall.