



MANCHESTER LAND CONSERVATION TRUST
FOUNDED 1972

Spring 2019

Terra Firma

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

Website: www.manchesterlandtrust.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Manchesterlandtrust

Celebrating the farm pavilion

On Saturday, July 14, 2018 members, friends, and volunteers gathered at the new open-air pavilion at our 62-acre Bush Hill farm to thank the donors and builders who made the pavilion a reality.

The Land Trust formally thanked the major donors to the pavilion:
Grants: • SBM Charitable Foundation, \$5000 grant • UNICO Foundation, \$500 grant • Private donation, \$200 cash
Goods and services: • Ferretti Construction • Andrew Ansaldo Company • Natural Choice Landscaping • ACE Tree Service • Old School Landscaping • Valley & Aetna Building Products • Harken's Landscape Supply & Garden Center.

Volunteers of astounding energy: Project manager, designer, construction chief Anthony Ferretti and Doug MacGillvary, Brad Palmer, John Hovey, Roger Chadwick, Colin McNamara, Rob Lewis, Gabe Johnson, Michael Chirico, John Parla, Mark Connors, Jerry Botti.

Burning the mortgage: To buy the farm, the Trust had taken out a bridge loan, paid off early due to donor generosity. At the pavilion celebration, there was a symbolic incineration of that mortgage.

Visit any time: for picnicking, reading, and resting after a hike. Park at 330 Bush Hill Road and walk to the right of the old cider barn, and back into the orchard area, bearing right on the dirt road. We plan to host programs for the public at the pavilion.

Before, during, and celebrating: Clockwise from top left, Brad Palmer prepares ground; Roger Chadwick, Doug MacGillvary, Anthony Ferretti; Mark Connors; roofing; Jon Mercier with mortgage; invitation.



Upcoming events

Manchester location unless noted otherwise

- **Annual dinner & meeting**, Tuesday, May 14, 5:30 p.m., at Manchester Country Club, 350 South Main St. *See invitation on page 3*, which includes info on paying via credit card. **\$28** members, **\$30** non-members.
- **Center Springs Park hike** Saturday, June 1, 1:00 p.m., 39 Lodge Drive, one-hour ramble in this 55-acre urban park, with optional side trip to Cheney railroad. Free CT Trails Day event.



- **Risley Park hike**, Sunday, June 2 at 1:00 p.m. 2.5-mile hike, (GPS) 366 Lake Street, Vernon. Rough and steep terrain, and some wet spots. Wear sturdy shoes or boots, bring water. Free CT Trails Day event.
- **GIANT TAG SALE**, June 7 to 15 9:00 to 2:00 each day, 330 Bush Hill Rd. Accepting donations during May. *More info page 5.*
- **Cheney Railroad hike**, Saturday, July 13, 1:00 p.m. Meet on north side of tracks near 2 Main St. for a free 2.5-mile history hike. Flat terrain, moderate pace.

More on the Events page of
[manchesterlandtrust.org](http://www.manchesterlandtrust.org)

Spectacular commitment by our volunteers

“Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation’s compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain loving one another.”

– Erma Bombeck (1927-1996)

We can’t say enough about our amazing Land Trust volunteers. They are on the “job” (without pay!) on our 457 acres of open-space property, along the trails, at meetings and hearings. They work in good weather and challenging weather. In 2018, volunteers cleared downed trees, applied for and received grants to improve drainage on trails and parking areas, mowed grass, shoveled snow, cleared invasive species off apple trees, and led hikes. Volunteers manage tag sales, pay bills, file IRS forms, create policies, raise funds, and work on projects to ensure the perpetuity of the Land Trust and its properties. To volunteer, phone Terry Parla, 860-643-1823 or email info@manchesterlandtrust.org.



Pictured above: bridge across dam spillway at Risley Park, Vernon — 155 acres, our largest property. Roger Chadwick and Doug MacGillvary used recycled lumber and purchased wood to build this.

“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.”

– Anne Frank (1929-1945)



Chief steward and Board member Colin McNamara can find a volunteer job for you! “Our volunteer stewards have been making great progress all around.

Doug MacGillvary (steward at Risley) and his gang have made a part-time job of slashing back all the encroaching brush around the banks of the reservoir, opening up the view and improving the meadow. Salter’s Pond neighbor, Jeff Sullivan and myself spent a day on the ice this winter chopping trees that have grown over the water so that the public can have better views and fishing accessibility. The farmhouse at Bush Hill Preserve has been demolished after almost two years of paperwork, asbestos remediation, etc. Gardening at Riverpoint in East Hartford, rail trail cleanups, lots of hours and hard work. Thanks, stewards!” Interesting fact: Colin is the grandson of founding members Terry and Lenny Parla!



Above: bridge along pond-loop trail at Risley Park, built by Eagle Scout candidate Joe Bouchee. Much appreciated by hikers!



Tag sale volunteers, David Feist, Lenny and Terry Parla. Many hands make light work — call Terry to volunteer for the June 2019 tag sale 860-643-1823.



Above: pouring a solid floor at the red barn on our Bush Hill farm property, October 2018. Big job!



Above: May 2018, new 0.35-mile, orange-blazed trail southwest of Risley dam. The trail loops off the Blue trail and leads to a bench overlooking a small waterfall.



MANCHESTER LAND CONSERVATION TRUST
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You are invited...

Annual Meeting and Dinner ❖ Tuesday, May 14

At the Manchester Country Club, 305 S Main Street, Manchester, CT 06040; plenty of parking, wheelchair accessible. \$28.00 members; \$30 non-members.

5:30 p.m.: Social time, cash bar. **6:00 p.m.:** Buffet dinner. **7:15 p.m.:** Business meeting, including annual reports and election of board members. **7:30 p.m.:** Presentation by Horizon Wings, raptor rehabilitators.

Buffet menu: Features vegetarian, fish, beef entrées, salad, vegetables, rolls, dessert.

Program: Horizon Wings, Raptor Rehabilitation and Education, will bring some of their rehabilitated birds. They'll describe their work and mission: "To rehabilitate birds of prey for release into the wild in order to maintain their population, and to educate the community to enhance awareness of the environment. It is our hope by doing this that we reach people of all ages and create the desire in them to help preserve our natural world."

It's fine to come for the meeting and/or program if you can't attend the dinner. Dinner RSVPs due: May 9.

Mary-Beth Kaeser, founder of Horizon Wings, with a Golden Eagle



Name of each guest. Please print clearly. Please return this portion with your check to **172 East Center St., Manchester, CT 06040**, or hand deliver any weekday, 9 to 5. Please write **DINNER** on the envelope. Or use the Join/Us page online and pay via credit card. www.manchesterlandtrust.org.

Your telephone number _____ E-mail _____

Members @ \$28 each _____. Non-members @ \$30 each _____. • **Total enclosed** _____. Check # _____.

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

Info: email Susan Barlow sbarlow627@aol.com or phone her at 860-643-9776.



News from . . .



Malcolm Barlow
Land Trust President

Board of Directors 2018-9

Att'y Malcolm Barlow
President 860-646-4081

Dick Borden
Vice President

Dermot Jones
Treasurer

William Doak
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Frank Belknap

Ginger Jackson

Rob Lewis

Colin McNamara
Stewardship Chair

Kwasi Ntem-Mensah

Theresa Parla
Membership Chair
860-643-1823

Justin Pedneault

Helen Robbins
*Liaison, conservation
commission*

Janet Tunyina

••••

Technical Advisor
Jack Bowden

*Webmaster, newsletter
editor* Susan Barlow

www.manchesterlandtrust.org



MANCHESTER LAND CONSERVATION TRUST
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Dear Land Trust Members and Friends:

Lombardo farm

The Land Trust has signed a purchase agreement for the 102-acre Lombardo Farm property in the southwest section of Manchester, contiguous to our 62-acre farm on Bush Hill Road. The agreement is contingent on the success of the grant application submitted to the State of Connecticut and currently under review. Our Land Trust Board and the Town of Manchester have been enthusiastic about protecting this property as open space. More news was not available at press time for this newsletter, so keep an eye on our website, Facebook page, and press releases. The State grant would be a matching grant, so we will again be making a serious commitment to fundraising.

Perpetuity

Some of our volunteers and Board members are in their 80s, some in their 20s, and some in between. We are fortunate to have a great mix of dedicated preservationists. Have you thought about serving on the Board? Phone me 860-646-4081 or plan to come to one of our third-Thursday-of-the-month business meetings to find out what goes on, how we keep afloat, and how we make decisions. It's important for our continuity and long-term goals to have a range of ages and interests on the Board!

Our free hikes

It's fun to host our free hikes, and to see participants' enjoyment of Risley, the Cheney rail trail, Case Mountain, Salter's, and Stickney Hill. It's not uncommon to hear, "I've lived here for 40 years and never knew this trail existed." It's especially nice to have young people along on the hikes — our future conservationists.

Connecticut Land Trust Conference

Each March, Land Trusts get together at a conference and benefit from workshops and presentations to enhance our work in the community. This year, seven Board members attended the March 23 conference held at the Wesleyan campus in Middletown, gaining insight and information. This modest expense always reaps rewards in inspiration and community.

Supporting the Land Trust forever: Wills, trusts, life insurance, IRAs, 401ks, annuities, charitable gift annuities, and land

There are many ways that members and friends can make gifts to the Land Trust, including using estate plans and Required Minimum Distributions RMDs (at age 70-1/2) from an IRA. Gifts should be designated to: Manchester Land Conservation Trust, Inc., 20 Hartford Road, Manchester, Connecticut 06040, federal EIN 23-7212665. The Trust has been an IRS-recognized charitable entity since 1972, the year we were founded. A key aspect of the Trust's work is that it has been done since 1972 entirely by volunteers. Financial gifts support our administrative costs: rent for our office, insurance, equipment for managing the preserves, and memberships in state and national land trust organizations.

If you have questions about making a gift to the Land Trust, contact a member of the board. Please check to see if your employer matches gifts! Donors can seek guidance from their attorneys, accountants, and financial advisors. Donors of open space land to the Trust are special people. And their gifts of land can be testaments to the donors in perpetuity.

Malcolm Barlow, President | MBarlow@MalcolmBarlow.com | 860-646-4081



Follow us on
Facebook

Keep up to date on events via our Facebook page.
<https://www.facebook.com/Manchesterlandtrust/>

Gardening at Riverpoint

In late April 2018, volunteers removed invasive plants and worked on a garden at our urban park in East Hartford near the Riverpoint condominiums. Also in 2018, the Town of East Hartford paid the Trust \$16,000 in exchange for expanded rights in the town's river dike system — \$8,000 went to Riverpoint, and the Trust has planned to use some of the \$8,000 for work at the Park, with Conor McNamara in charge of plantings.

Background: This one-acre property was originally donated to the Trust in 2007 by Phoenix Insurance, Shell Oil, and Riverpoint Condos, and was then valued at \$1+ million.



"The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention." — Oscar Wilde

Membership

Our members support us in taking on our many conservation projects! Thank you! Consider giving a membership to a friend. And consider an upgrade to life membership (\$500). Call membership chair Terry Parla 860-643-1823, or renew online with a credit card on the *Join / Donate* page of our website www.manchesterlandtrust.org, where you can also give a gift membership or donation to honor a friend or relative.

Our current membership: 285 memberships, of whom 159 are life members (many members are couples, so this represents about 400 members).

Special thanks to Jack Bowden for creation and management of our membership database.

Terry, April 2019

Membership year:
Oct. 1 to Sept. 30
 Annual: Corporate: \$200
 Sustaining: \$100
 Individual: \$25
 Family: \$50
 Life membership \$500
Single or couple, same address

Tag sale shoppers needed!

Starting June 7, come shop the mountains of books, household items, tools, furniture, artwork, sports and garden equipment, curiosities, toys, music CDs, etc. at 330 Bush Hill Rd., Manchester.

Manchester Land Conservation Trust - protecting open space land in the Manchester region.

GIANT WEEK-LONG

Tag Sale

Fri., June 7 to
Sat., June 15, 2019

9 a.m. to 2 p.m. every day.
 At the Land Trust's older barn
 330 Bush Hill Rd., Manchester 06040

Mountains of items! Books, toys, dollhouses, DVD's, music CD's, tools, artwork, curiosities, furniture, machinery, household and sports items, glassware, blues, & items both useful and decorative.

♦ ♦ ♦ Accepting donations ♦ ♦ ♦

The Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from May 6 to June 2 (except Memorial Day) from 11 to 2 each day; there is a covered bin to the right of the barn (open door, place items inside) or phone for other drop-off times. Text at 860-643-1823. Accepting good, salable items. No clothes, no computers, no TVs, please. Tag sale for the benefit of the Manchester Land Conservation Trust, protecting the natural landscape in the Manchester region, including forests, wetlands, trails, ponds, lakes, wetlands. More at www.manchesterlandtrust.org

Proceeds benefit the Land Trust. Accepting donations Mon., Tues., Fri., & Sat. from May 8 to May 29 (not Memorial Day) from 11 to 2 each day; or use covered bin to right of barn (open door, place items inside). Details and a printable poster on *Events* page of our website www.manchesterlandtrust.org. Put a poster in your car window! Pictured below, volunteers Terry Parla, John Libby, Janet Fox.

Questions? Call Terry 860-643-1823.



New member of our Land Trust board

Frank Belknap, has been involved in outdoor activities since his youth. Starting in high school with hiking sections of the Appalachian Trail, he continues to hike, bike and paddle. A year after moving to Manchester in 1986, Frank started working with the Hockanum River Linear Park Committee to develop and maintain a linear trail along the Hockanum River. He was appointed to the Manchester Conservation Commission 25 years ago. In 2017 he became a member of the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group, and was appointed to the MLCT board in 2018. He graduated from Penn State in 1973 with a Life Sciences degree. He and his wife, Barbara, have two children.



Our properties

Founded in 1972, the Land Trust sought to preserve land in Manchester. Its first acquisition — about one-tenth of an acre on Lakewood Circle — was donated by the Gould family in 1974. In 1975, the Marsh family donated the 0.99-acre pond on Porter St. near their house. Larger properties followed: Salter’s Pond, Risley Park, etc. Members can be proud of the work they have done over the last 47 years, including the benefits to air and water quality from maintaining open spaces! For a full listing, visit the *Properties* page of www.manchesterlandtrust.org.

Manchester	198.80
Vernon	82.67
Bolton	91.00
East Hartford	45.00
Glastonbury	5.00
Andover	35.25
Grand Total	457.72

Rack card at Risley

Our new card at the kiosk near the Risley parking lot welcomes visitors and describes the work of the Land Trust. January 2019 brought some challenges at Risley, with a neighboring property owner’s logging project, but it is in the process of wrapping up as this newsletter goes to press.



land MANCHESTER CONSERVATION TRUST
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Welcomes you to Risley Park

155 acres of open space lands in Vernon and Bolton with pond, trails, benches, and bridges, maintained by the volunteers of the Manchester Land Trust. Be a part of land preservation – join us and volunteer! Find out about our free hikes on our Facebook page or at www.manchesterlandtrust.org

History: The Manchester Land Trust acquired Risley Park beginning in 1996, adding parcels over the years – some of the land donated and some purchased. You'll see stone walls and a

“Photo of the month”

Our first Land Trust “*photo of the month*” is by Dermot Jones of Vernon, who lives near Risley Park, and is the Land Trust’s treasurer, pictured, below right. Dermot says, “I took this photo while walking my dogs at Risley. Spring is here. This is sap running from the broken branch. Marvelous.” (Larger view on our home page www.manchesterlandtrust.org).



Help us celebrate our Land Trust properties with your photographs! Members and friends are invited to submit high-resolution photos for consideration as our featured Land Trust Photo of the Month! No prizes, but gratitude to the photographer, and gratitude for our protected open space lands in the Manchester area.



Send your photographs to photo@manchesterlandtrust.org and include your name, the date of photo, its location (one of our Land Trust Properties) and what you like about that particular property. Board member Kwasi Ntem-Mensah, pictured at right, will review them and make a photo selection on or about the 20th of the month. We will post on our Facebook page and website.

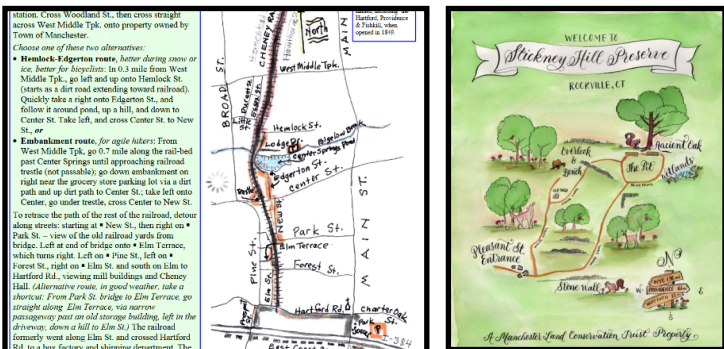


Other photos: Two views of Upper Case Pond, a 7.59-acre property acquired by the Land Trust in 2005. The photographer said, “The Trust’s Case Pond property is very quiet and peaceful, and also quite near the Birch Mountain Road parking lot if you don’t have time for a long hike.”



Trail maps

Come hike the trails—there are self-guiding trail maps in the Maps & Flyers section of our website — from the home page, www.manchesterlandtrust.org, select Maps. Print a map or view on your cell phone as you stroll.



Maps include the Cheney Railroad, Manchester; Stickney Hill, Rockville; Bush Hill Farm trails, Manchester & Glastonbury; and Mary Jane Williams Park in East Hartford. Enjoy a walk on your own or bring a friend or a dog!

Free hikes



About 120 people came out for the March 30, 2019 history hike at Case Mountain. Thanks to Stacey Zackin for this panoramic photo, which shows hikers at the stairs to the old tennis court. The Land Trust owns several properties in the historic Case Brothers National Historic District. Thanks to Catherine Thrall for preserving and donating some wonderful John Knoll photos of this historic area. Those photos are now on our website — from the home page, select *Gallery of Photos* and click on *John Knoll Case Mountain portfolio*. Here's one from about 1920, same steps to the tennis court:



Cheney railroad rambles

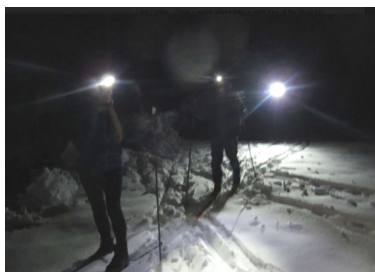
One of our most popular hikes! Our next hike: Saturday, July 13 at 1:00 p.m. Hikers will have an easy, fairly flat, walk. Moderate pace. Details on Events page: manchesterlandtrust.org/events.html.

Informational graphic for the Manchester Land Trust, including a 'TRAIL MAP' legend and contact details: 20 Hartford Road, Manchester, CT 06106, Phone: 860 643 1823, www.manchesterlandtrust.org.



Night skiing

The adventurous were invited to cross-country ski on March 8, 2019 at our Bush Hill property in Manchester. Keep an eye on our Facebook page and website for more events: challenging and tame.



Early June at Risley

Our State flower, the Mountain Laurel, abounds at Risley in late May and early June. Coincidentally, we are leading a Risley hike on Sunday, June 2, starting at 1:00 p.m. (GPS 366 Lake Street, Vernon). Bring water. Rain or shine, but extreme weather cancels. Risley hosts a section of the Shenipsit Trail, part of the Blue Trail system of the Connecticut Forest and Park Association. Steep, rocky terrain. Or hike the trails on your own and view several shades of Mountain Laurel from almost white to dark pink.



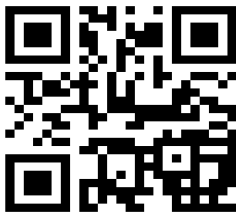
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Website: www.manchesterlandtrust.org
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Scan this QR code with your smart phone to go to our website.

Property helpers sought — Always looking for volunteers to take charge of some snow-shoveling, grass-mowing, or invasive-plant removal. Call Terry Parla 860-643-1823 and she will link you up with a property and a steward.

Property & donations — The Manchester Land Conservation Trust owns 457 acres of land in Manchester, Andover, Bolton, East Hartford, Glastonbury, and Vernon. See our website *Properties* page for details. Pictured at right, a May 27, 2018 hike at our 15.9-acre Stickney Hill property in Rockville. Pictured in back row, fourth and fifth from left: Stickney Hill steward and Board member, **Rob Lewis**, and Board member and Vice President, **Dick Borden**. Keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for upcoming hikes on this and on our other properties.



Protecting the environment — 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 outdoor activities. It's YOU, our members and supporters, who make this happen. Donate via the Join/Donate link on our website www.manchesterlandtrust.org. Interested in donating land? 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.

Board meetings — The Board of Directors meets at 7:00 p.m. on the third Thursday of January, February, March, April, June, September, October, and November at our rented office at 20 Hartford Road, Manchester. These are business meetings in which we make decisions and assign tasks. The public is always welcome. Check the website or phone Terry Parla 860-643-1823 to confirm the meeting time.