



MANCHESTER LAND CONSERVATION TRUST  
FOUNDED 1972

## Spring 2020

### Terra Firma

Newsletter of the Manchester Land Conservation Trust | Info: 860-643-1823  
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Website: [www.manchesterlandtrust.org](http://www.manchesterlandtrust.org) | Facebook: [www.facebook.com/Manchesterlandtrust](http://www.facebook.com/Manchesterlandtrust) | Insta: [@manchesterlandtrust](https://www.instagram.com/manchesterlandtrust)

## Nature amid the pandemic

In our COVID-19 world of social-distancing and quarantine, the Land Trust has provided something valuable to all: open space! Hikers and strollers and bird-watchers find our trails and properties big enough to keep a six-foot distance from others, while still enjoying miles of paths, wildlife, wildflowers, fields, ponds, and trees! Whether a relaxing stroll or a high-powered hike or run, our properties offer the opportunity to get away from some genuine worries, and inhale the fresh air. And it's YOU, our members who support conservation of these natural acres for the public's benefit — providing clean air, clean water, and habitat for plants and animals. *Photo above right: geese at Salter's by Joe Svelnys.*



**Our Photo of the Month** feature shows that lots of nature-lovers are exploring our 489 acres, taking pictures, maybe introducing their kids, grandkids, neighbors to the outdoors. They've enjoyed the benches, bridges, and pavilion built by our volunteers. More info on page 4. **Some of our winners, clockwise from top left,** • Turtle at Bush Hill, June 2019, by life member and steward Doug MacGillvary • Volunteers Doug MacGillvary & Susan Barlow at the Risley meadow, August 2019, by life member, Cynthia Barlow. • Hayride at our farm, October 2019, by board member Colin McNamara • Kevin Jones points out a Land Trust marker at Risley, April 2020, by hiker Vicky Bullock.



## Our events

**Sunday, July 19**, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. annual meeting at the pavilion and orchard on our farm property. Park at 330 Bush Hill Road, Manchester; walk in to the pavilion. Bring a picnic and, if all goes well, hamburgers and hot dogs will be served. RSVPs a MUST: [info@manchesterlandtrust.org](mailto:info@manchesterlandtrust.org) or phone Terry 860-643-1823. Meeting includes annual reports, election of directors, and a talk by beekeeper Bill Hesbach, who will sell local honey. Social distancing rules apply.

**Since our last newsletter**, we conducted 14 hikes, and some day we'll be inviting groups of people again. *Below*, March 2020 photo on



the Cheney railroad, Cowles Park, near Hilliard St., our last pre-quarantine hike. We celebrated the rail trail expansion, with the Town's purchase from Ken Burkamp of the southern end of the railroad and opening of the trestle crossing Center St. The trail now spans the 2-1/2 miles of the original railroad. We welcomed Ken to speak at the railroad walk. He met us at the Park St. bridge and described various walls and buildings in the railroad yards, and what they were used for. A great day for outdoor enthusiasts and preservationists.

News from . . .



Malcolm Barlow  
Land Trust President

**Board of Directors 2019-20**

Att’y Malcolm Barlow  
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Vice President

Dermot Jones  
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••••

Technical Advisor  
Jack Bowden

Webmaster, newsletter  
editor Susan Barlow



MANCHESTER LAND CONSERVATION TRUST  
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Dear Land Trust Members and Friends:

**Land acquisitions** — The Land has recently added these Manchester properties: • 1.64 acres on Round Hill Rd., a gift of Merritt (Mike) Baldwin • 1.4 acres on Lindman St., a gift of Jose Linares • 6.8 acres on Greenwood Dr., purchased, and • 21 acres on Bush Hill Rd., purchased with a grant from the Audubon Foundation, thanks to work by Dermot Jones and Malcolm Barlow. This brings our acreage to 489.26. That is a lot to be proud of, and we thank our members for their support. For more information, see our website: [manchesterlandtrust.org/properties.html](http://manchesterlandtrust.org/properties.html).

**Lombardo farm** — The Land Trust has been trying to buy the 102-acre Lombardo Farm property in the southwest section of Manchester, contiguous to our 62-acre farm on Bush Hill Rd. The good news is that we succeeded in our grant request to the State of Connecticut DEEP. The challenging news, given the \$1,700,000 price, is that the grant would be for \$300,000. While our Land Trust Board and the Town of Manchester have been enthusiastic about protecting this property as open space, fundraising could prove difficult at this time. Our purchase agreement expires December 31, 2020. We’ll keep you informed via our e-newsletter, website, Facebook page, and press releases.

**Why we do what we do** — Here is an unsolicited compliment from a neighbor of our Stickney Hill property in Rockville: “Hello, I live on Pleasant St. near the walking trail! I just wanted to thank you for all that the trail has done to help my family. When we first moved here, I met a member of your awesome Land Trust. We had a great conversation about the different Stickney trails, the history of the area, and permission for my family to use the property. With all that our family has going on, the trail helps us keep going, with a smile every day. My little boy gets so much out of walking the trail — exercise, quiet thinking time, outdoor play for hours, and a way to use up extra energy in a healthy way. The exercise is also great for Mom and our older child. Thank you!” Special thanks to Rob Lewis, steward of this 15-acre property. Self-guiding map available on our website.

**Perpetuity** — Our Trust is a long-term plan. We strive to provide for our future by encouraging volunteers and board members to continue the dedication of our founders, way back in 1972. Have you thought about volunteering? Email [info@manchesterlandtrust](mailto:info@manchesterlandtrust), or phone me 860-646-4081. Our continuity depends on committed preservationists in a range of ages and interests. Since our last annual newsletter, we have added three directors to our board: Fred Kyeremeh, Lincoln E. Lefebvre, and Jeff Sullivan.

**The tag sale** — The tag sales began in 2016, a major fundraiser that brought in much-needed cash. We will miss Lenny Parla (1933-2020), who worked devotedly with his wife, Terry, to organize, manage, and clean up the tag sales. Due to the pandemic, we’re not sure when the cider barn will open again for treasure-shopping, browsing, and socializing. Thank you to all who donated and bought items.

**Supporting the Land Trust forever:** Wills, trusts, life insurance, IRAs, 401ks, annuities, charitable gift annuities, and land — there are many ways you 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., federal EIN 23-7212665. The Trust is an IRS-recognized charitable entity. 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 property management, and memberships in state and national land trust organizations. The trust also has a permanent endowment fund to help meet future needs. In addition to financial gifts, donations of land can be testaments to the donors in perpetuity.

Malcolm Barlow, President | [MBarlow@MalcolmBarlow.com](mailto:MBarlow@MalcolmBarlow.com) | 860-646-4081



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

## Volunteers at work

Our amazing Land Trust volunteers and board members are always monitoring and improving our properties, and working on our accreditation project — accreditation may not sound exciting, since it involves documentation of our plans, records, etc., but to obtain grants, it’s good to put “accredited” next to our name, and we thank project-committee stalwarts Ginger Jackson, Justin Pedneault, and Dermot Jones for their progress! Volunteers also manage tag sales, pay bills, file IRS forms, create policies, raise funds, and work to ensure the perpetuity of the Land Trust and its properties. To volunteer, phone Terry Parla, 860-643-1823, or email [info@manchesterlandtrust.org](mailto:info@manchesterlandtrust.org).

**Photos:** **1.** Chief steward Colin McNamara, who has spearheaded some enormous projects this year, including **2.** Spring of 2019 Salter’s Pond trail and bridge improvements, and **3.** Salter’s cleanup. **4.** November 2019 Risley dam clearing away of brush and trees 25 feet from the base of the dam to maintain clearance so roots don’t affect the dam’s structural integrity; all-day work party included 65 volunteers, plus heavy equipment such as chippers and grubbers **5.** Dam volunteers take a breather at the end of the job. **6.** January 2020 beam-replacement project in the cider barn at our Bush Hill farm. **7.** February 2020 orchard-pruning project at the farm. **8.** May 2020 bridge-ramp replacement project at Salter’s Pond by board member Jeff Sullivan, who completed the project in the rain. **Not pictured:** • January 2020, Stickney Hill cleanup. • April 2020, on-your-own egg hunt at our properties (the eggs held seeds for finders to plant in their gardens).



## Membership increase

Members, thank you for your support! Terry Parla, membership chair, says, please consider giving a membership to a friend, or upgrading to life membership (\$500). You can • mail a check to us: 20 Hartford Rd., Manchester 06040, our rented offices, • email [info@manchesterlandtrust.org](mailto:info@manchesterlandtrust.org) for more info, or • renew online with a credit card on the *Join / Donate* page of our website [www.manchesterlandtrust.org](http://www.manchesterlandtrust.org).

You can also give a gift membership/donation to honor or memorialize a friend or relative.

*Membership year:*

*Oct. 1 to Sept. 30*

Annual:  Corporate: \$200

Sustaining: \$100

Individual: \$25

Family: \$50

Life membership \$500

*Single or couple, same address*

**Our current membership:** 345, including 161 life members, a substantial increase over 2019 (285, with 159 life members). Note that many members are couples, so this represents well over 425 members. The increase includes “tag sale” memberships, granted to shoppers who spent more than \$50 at the cider barn and a December 2019 membership drive at Labyrinth Brewing company, *pictured below*; notice the Land Trust tote bag on right side of picture, a few still available, email [info@manchesterlandtrust.org](mailto:info@manchesterlandtrust.org).



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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 e-mail newsletter** — We hope you are receiving our monthly e-news 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*. Or send an email to [info@manchesterlandtrust.org](mailto:info@manchesterlandtrust.org) with Newsletter in the subject line.

**How to send a Photo of Month picture** — Celebrate our Land Trust properties with your photographs! Submit high-resolution photos to [photo@manchesterlandtrust.org](mailto:photo@manchesterlandtrust.org) and include your name, date of photo, location (one of our Land Trust Properties) and what you like about that particular property. Board member Kwasi Ntem-Mensah will select a photo each month and we'll post on social media.

**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*, a 2019 hike at our 155-acre Risley property in Vernon and Bolton. When pandemic restrictions are lifted, watch for the Trust's free hikes once again!

**Public welcome to our Board meetings** — at 7:00 p.m. the third Thursday of January, February, March, April, June, September, October, November at our rented offices, 20 Hartford Road, Manchester. At our business meetings, we make decisions and assign tasks. We are currently meeting online; contact [info@manchesterlandtrust.org](mailto:info@manchesterlandtrust.org) to attend.

**Down with litter** — *Pictured below left*, member and volunteer Gene DeJoannis at



Salter's Pond, with his cloth bag, grippers, and gloves. Gene and his wife, Diane, comment that in May 2020, "We made a loop around Salter's Pond, where we saw ducks, turtles, geese ... and took out two bags of trash, mostly from the pond itself. Some folks can't seem to resist tossing the detritus of civilization into a body of water. I wish I understood why, but it's a mystery to me. The most common items are whisky bottles, drink cans or bottles, fishing floats, balls for dog play, and assorted paper and plastic trash. Thank goodness for the bins at the pool parking lot. I have been dreaming up motivational signs to deter folks from littering, including, Please Be Kind to Our City; Your Trash Will Not Make it Pretty; Be Kind and Take It With Thee."

