



MANCHESTER LAND CONSERVATION TRUST
FOUNDED 1972

Summer 2021

Terra Firma

Newsletter of the Manchester Land Conservation Trust | Info: 860-643-1823
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Major milestone for the Land Trust

The Land Trust thanks all its donors for their phenomenal generosity! We as a community have raised \$1,700,000 to preserve a corner of Manchester and Glastonbury. This 102 acres will increase our Bush Hill Preserve to 177.55 acres of open space land. Hikers, strollers, bird-watchers, nature lovers, and book lovers now have even more room to roam. These natural acres are open for the public's benefit — providing clean air, clean water, and habitat for plants and animals. There are ponds, meadows, and trees. Whether you want a relaxing stroll or a high-powered hike or run, our properties offer the opportunity to get away from your worries, and inhale the fresh air. Thank you, members, friends, neighbors, and donors who supported this conservation project.

Photo above: We were still fund-raising and social-distancing in April 2021 as neighbors, friends, and potential donors came for an informational walk on the Lombardo property. We held similar walks in November 2020, and February and March 2021.

Annual meeting and picnic

Saturday, July 31, from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. Annual meeting at the pavilion and orchard. Park at 330 Bush Hill Road, Manchester and walk to the pavilion. Bring a picnic lunch. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be served; donations accepted. RSVP so we can make sure we have a quorum of members: Phone Terry 860-643-1823 or email us at info@manchesterlandtrust.org. We'll eat first, celebrate our new acquisition, and meet to hear annual reports and elect directors. Rain or shine. Optional walk to the farm pond after the meeting.

Dinner at the Country Club

Save the date:

Friday, October 15, at 5:30 p.m., a festive evening for members, friends, and acquaintances. See invitation on page 3. All welcome.

Pavilion open

Our pavilion has hosted insulator collectors' meetings and bagpipe rehearsals. There are picnic tables there, amid the apple trees. The public is welcome.



330 Bush Hill Road, Manchester.

We love our volunteers!



Kevin, Karen, and Elizabeth Long worked on a new trail, linking Hills Street with Barnwood Road for a pedestrian route to Buckland Pond. December 2020.



Scouts from Troop 27 pitch in on the Salter's Pond cleanup party, September 2020. Volunteers from the community as well as the Land Trust worked all day.



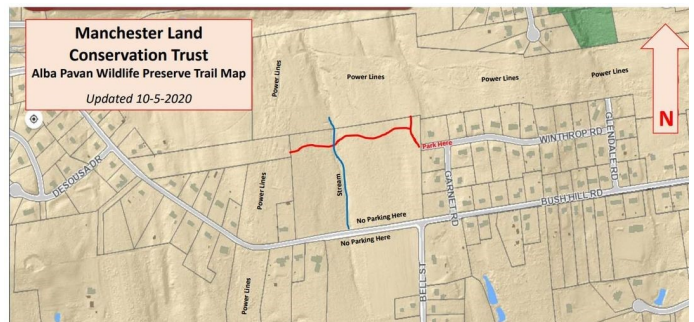
Barn beam replacement project, January 2021. The previous beam was water-damaged and disintegrating.



Barn improvement project, organized by Jeff Sullivan, April 2021. Our cider barn looks better every year.



Cub Scouts and their leader, Marie Keith, place mulch at Frog Corner, Bush Hill Farm, December 2020.



Trail maps: Board member Justin Pedneault created maps for the Pavan, Marsh Pond, Griswold/Hill Street, and Salter's Pond properties this year. These maps are on our website. So helpful to hikers and walkers!
Leaflets: Another volunteer job this year was distribution of Lombardo fundraising leaflets in the Bush Hill / Hillstown neighborhoods. Thank you, Dermot Jones, Jon Mercier, Malcolm Barlow.



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You are invited...

Land Trust Dinner ❖ Friday, October 15

**At the new HOLLOW AT MANCHESTER COUNTRY CLUB
305 South Main St., Manchester, CT 06040**

Plenty of parking; wheelchair accessible. \$46.00 members; \$50 non-members.

• 5:30 p.m.: Social time, cash bar. 6:00 p.m.: Buffet dinner, featuring: vegetarian and chicken entrées, pasta, salad, vegetables, dessert. • 7:15 p.m.: Illustrated Land Trust talk, introductions, recognition of volunteers, some fun during our trivia quiz.



Gretz Pond at former Lombardo farm.

Celebrating our 2021 accomplishments, especially the acquisition of the 102-acre Lombardo property, a feat made possible by generous donors from near and far – members, friends, neighbors, the State of Connecticut, Town of Manchester, Town of Glastonbury, and grant-making organizations: CATIC Foundation, Fields Pond Foundation, Garmany Fund at Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, Hartford Audubon Society, Meshomasic Hiking Club, Summer Hill Foundation.



❖ Name of each guest, print clearly! ❖ Mail to Land Trust DINNER, 20 Hartford Road., Manchester, CT 06040. Due to NEW management at the Country Club, we need your check & reservation by **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7.**

Your telephone number _____ E-mail _____

Members @ \$46 each ____ Non-members @ \$50 each ____ • Total enclosed ____ Check # ____

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

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

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



Celebrating our properties!

Astronomers came to our Bush Hill property December 21, 2020 to see the conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn, a rare celestial event. Bush Hill provides open space without streetlights, for better viewing of the planets and stars.



Chestnut-tree planting, May 16, 2021. The Land Trust assisted the Connecticut Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation in their work of "restoring a population of healthy chestnut trees to the eastern U.S. hardwood forest."



Rabbit at Risley Park, July 6, 2020, photo by Joe Svelnys, one of our photo-of-the-month winners. The Land Trust provides space for wildlife as well as humans.



Turtles on logs at our Salter's Pond property, photo by Tina Craig Wrubel, April 7, 2021. Tina said, "So many turtles out sunning themselves today!" The Land Trust acquired Salter's Pond and adjacent property as gifts: • from Lydall, Inc. in 1980, 8.93 acres, and • from Green Manor Corporation in 1981, 2.29 acres.



Photo at left, Upper Case Pond, December 22, 2020.

Photo at right, Meshomasic Hiking Club at our Bush Hill property, May 8, 2021.



Clockwise from top left: • Stickney Hill cleanup party with President Malcolm Barlow, steward and director Rob Lewis, and Elise and Courtney, our neighbors and volunteers near the property. • Life member Gene DeJoannis at the Cheney railroad, fighting litter. • Upper Case Pond with heron, by Joe Svelnys. • Farmer Gerry Reed haying at the Risley Meadow. • Earth Day 2021 at Case Parklet with Town Troubadour, Bill Ludwig, and event organizer, Susan Barlow. • Manchester's Mayor Moran speaks at Earth Day, Case Parklet. • Mountain Bike Race at Bush Hill hosted by CT Cycling Advancement Program.



News from . . .



Malcolm Barlow
Land Trust President

Board of Directors 2020-21

Att’y Malcolm Barlow
President 860-646-4081

Dermot Jones
Vice President

Lincoln E. Lefebvre
Treasurer

William Doak
Recording Secretary

Frank Belknap

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Membership Chair
860-643-1823

Justin Pedneault

Helen Robbins
Liaison, conservation commission

Jeff Sullivan
Stewardship Chair

•••

Technical Advisor
Jack Bowden

Webmaster, newsletter editor
Susan Barlow



MANCHESTER LAND CONSERVATION TRUST
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Dear Land Trust Members and Friends:

Lombardo Farm — We have breathed a big sigh of relief at our success in buying the 102-acre Lombardo Farm. We can look back at the ups and downs during the more than three years that have gone into this project, from the first discussions and meetings, to the first grant requests, and on to fundraising, door-to-door campaigning, more grant requests, and more paperwork. Over a year of surveys, appraisals, guided walks, and fundraising ultimately helped us meet our goal of \$1,700,000. Every one of our board members contributed, along with members, friends, and many neighbors in Manchester and Glastonbury. Individuals throughout Connecticut, some who have not even visited the property, sent money. Residents of Delaware, Florida, Maryland, and Massachusetts sent funds. We were overwhelmed and buoyed up by news of funds from the State of Connecticut, Town of Manchester, Town of Glastonbury, and grant-making organizations: CATIC Foundation, Fields Pond Foundation, Garmany Fund at Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, Hartford Audubon Society, Meshomasic Hiking Club, and Summer Hill Foundation. In my 18 years as President of the Land Trust, I have not seen this level of community support, and I am thrilled that this acreage will be preserved for the public for generations to come. But it has not been easy. Roller-coaster months of optimism and discouragement filled 2020 and early 2021. But, when the flow of funds began to wane, a new member came forward with a gift of such proportions as to reinvigorate our resolve and fundraising. On Broadway, these donors are called “angels,” an apt term for our donor, too. She prefers to remain anonymous, but perhaps you will see her and her husband some time at the Lombardo property. Then, in early spring 2021, when the going got rough again, we benefited from the advice of Town Director Dennis Schain, and State Representatives Jason Rojas and Jason Doucette. Thank you to all who participated in this project, whether as donors, grant-writers, ambassadors, publicists, officials. It has been a gratifying year — seeing the community pitch in so enthusiastically.

Future plans — The Land Trust board may step away from land acquisition for a while to work on our current properties, including providing access to the public, improving drainage, being good neighbors. Our stewardship chair, Jeff Sullivan, will be setting up some work parties for the fall. Contact us at info@manchesterlandtrust.org to spend some productive hours outdoors. Or phone Terry Parla, 860-643-1823. We are also continuing to work on the Land Trust Alliance accreditation project, which involves establishing best practices, agreeing on policies, monitoring our properties to prevent encroachment, and keeping track of our 591 acres.

Comment from a donor — In March of this year, we received an unsolicited \$15,000 check from Barbara David of Lyme, Connecticut, for the Lombardo purchase. She included a card with this handwritten note: “I am trying to do my part to slow down climate change and feel that purchasing land as open space does so many things toward that end! I want to speak for the birds, wildlife, and plants, who can not speak for themselves. And this Farm is in a perfect location to be used for the people and families of Manchester, a rapidly developing area. They need all the space that is left, protected.”

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, back in 1972. Our continuity depends on committed preservationists in a range of ages and interests. Interested in volunteering? Contact: info@manchesterlandtrust.org.

The tag sale — The tag sales began in 2016. Let’s applaud Terry Parla and all the tag sale volunteers and item-donors for about \$70,000 income over the years.

Supporting the Land Trust forever: Your donations always welcome! Wills, trusts, annuities, life insurance, RMD’s, and land. Questions? Contact me!

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

Story trail in the great outdoors

On Saturday, May 1, the grand opening of the Land Trust’s story trail attracted families and children from Manchester and surrounding towns. The ribbon-cutting for the trail kicked off a half-mile walk to view the story trail pages and hear Manchester librarian Norma Nevers read and sing the story, “Over in the Meadow.” The trail was made possible by • our Land Trust volunteers • support from Manchester Public Library and its wonderful librarians, and • financial donations from the Land Trust, the SBM Charitable Foundation, and individual donors. Special recognition to Sandra Lok, who managed the project, to Doug MacGillvary and Roger Chadwick who set the posts and installed the page holders. Come read, walk, and explore the story trail. Park at 330 Bush Hill Road and walk along the farm road to the pavilion.



Photos, counterclockwise from top: • Ribbon cutting • one of the book’s pages in its frame • Librarian Norma Nevers (with book in hands) reads to our guests.

Tag sale, gigantic

We’re planning another gigantic tag sale at the cider barn, 330 Bush Hill Road, Manchester from Friday, September 17, through Saturday, September 25. We’ll begin accepting donations in September — watch our e-newsletter and local newspapers for details of when to drop off your items. Or phone Terry Parla, tag sale manager and board member, 860-643-1823. Terry also needs volunteers to set up, organize, help during the sale, and clean up afterward.

More members this year

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

www.manchesterlandtrust.org.

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

Our current membership: 392, including 186 life members, a substantial increase over 2020’s 345, with 161 life members. Note that many members are couples, so this represents well over 450 members. The increase includes those who donated to the Lombardo fundraising, including life memberships for those who donated \$500 or more.

We are a membership organization! When the Land Trust applies for grants, our membership numbers are important. Your support through membership helps raise funds and also increases our ability to advocate for open space.

Membership year:

Oct. 1 to Sept. 30

Annual: Corporate: \$200

Sustaining: \$100

Individual: \$25

Family: \$50

Life membership \$500

Single or couple, same address

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

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Phone: 860-643-1823
Email: info@manchesterlandtrust.org
Website: www.manchesterlandtrust.org
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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

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

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

Protecting the environment — The Trust works to protect water, air, and habitat, for animal and plant life in the Trust's natural surroundings. On parcels of sufficient size, the Trust supports passive recreation: hiking, biking, snowshoeing, fishing, bird watching, and other outdoor activities. You, our members and supporters, make this happen. *Pictured at right*, The boulder at Marsh Pond on Porter Street. There's a pleasant urban trail there that leads to Richard Road.



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 or via Zoom. At our business meetings, we make decisions and assign tasks. Please let us know if you plan to attend via Zoom or online: info@manchesterlandtrust.org to attend.



Preservation award for the Cheney rail trail — *Pictured left*, May 19, 2021, Land Trust and Town staff accept an award from the Cheney Brothers National Historic Landmark District Commission for improvements to the historic former South Manchester Railroad, which operated from 1869 into the 1980s. Left to right, Malcolm Barlow for the Land Trust, and for the Town, Rob Topliff, Parks and Recreation Facilities Manager; Jeff LaMalva, Town Engineer; and Scott Clairmont, Field Services Superintendent. The trail now spans its entire historic length, and has parklets along the way, as well as a stunning view of Center Springs Park.