



We Saved the Willow tree at Buckland Pond

You may have seen our news release and flyers back in November and December to raise funds to do some much needed maintenance on the huge Willow tree in front of Buckland Pond. Well, Mother Nature didn't cooperate with our plans for a holiday hayride and silent auction at the site, but we were still able to get enough donations to cover most of the cost quoted by Shamrock Tree Service. The good news is that due to the lack of snow in early winter, they were able to drive the truck out onto the field and complete the job. Please take notice the next time you are driving down Hillstown Road in the south end of Manchester and let us know what you think. (Also, see the before and after pictures on page 4)



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Land Trust Alliance National Rally to be in Hartford, Connecticut

Our corner of Connecticut has a chance to shine to the country and the world in early October 2010 when the Land Trust Alliance holds its National Convention (called Rally) in the Convention Center here in Hartford, Connecticut.

What is Rally? Also known as the National Land Conservation Conference, Rally is the largest land conservation conference in the country attended by land trust staff, volunteers, seasoned professionals, agencies, and others from all 50 states, Canada, South America and beyond. This annual conference offers a dynamic opportunity to meet with colleagues in conservation, advance our skills and work to solve some of our greatest challenges. This four-day program consists of

exciting field trips planned by local conservation groups; high-quality educational sessions presented by prominent, experienced course leaders; inspirational keynote speakers, special events that are sprinkled throughout the program, exhibits and numerous networking opportunities.

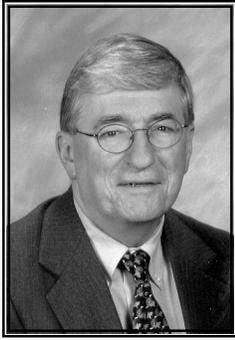
The first Rally was held back in 1985 in Washington DC and had 355 attendees. Last year's rally was held in Portland Oregon with 1,700 attendees, 127 workshops, 31 seminars, 11 featured sessions, 10 field trips and five speakers, all touting the "how" and "why" of protecting private land in America.

This year's event will be

held at the Connecticut Convention Center from October 2-5, 2010 and over 1800 are expected to attend. Since the event is so close to our park along the Connecticut River in East Hartford, we will be hosting a lunchtime hike from the Convention Center across the river to Riverpoint Park which is owned by the trust. This property was formerly part of the oil tank farms that littered the banks of the river in years past. It is now preserved as open space for all to enjoy. What a great opportunity to show off a formerly contaminated piece of land which has been cleaned up and looks lovely.

Anyone interested in learning more about the rally should visit www.lta.org.

The National Spotlight will be on Connecticut in October 2010 when the Land Trust Alliance holds their Annual Rally in Hartford!



Malcolm Barlow
MLCT President

**Board of Directors
2010**

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Update from the President

Dear Land Trust Members:

I am happy to say that the Manchester Land Conservation Trust has had another busy and productive year. As I complete my sixth 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.

Stellar Volunteer Work

During 2009, the Board of Directors thanks stewardship chair Doug MacGillvary many many times for his work organizing work parties, mentoring Boy Scouts, and working with neighbors and friends to improve our properties. When my wife and I were leafleting in the Buckland Pond area to invite neighbors to a hayride fundraiser, we encountered neighbors who spoke highly of the work done at this nine-acre site at the corner of Hillstown and Bush Hill Roads. They wondered who had done it and who owned the property, and we were proud to say the Land Trust.

The board members have been active, conducting the annual all-property inspection, attending meetings, applying for grants, improving trails, arranging for the Annual Dinner and sending out mailings and publicity. This year, membership chair, Terry Parla, suggested that all directors look through their Christmas card list and suggest friends and kin who might join the Land Trust. This little project did well, and we are happy to welcome some new members, including new Life members to the Trust.

Trust Properties

During 2009, we acquired three new parcels of

land and an easement on a fourth parcel:

- The 32-acre Reed Park, on Long Hill Rd in North Andover, received in March from the Mohegan Land Trust, which disbanded. This is a lovely wooded area.
- The 0.2-acre Olive Chambers Parklet at 93 Westland St., Manchester, received in November from the Chambers Family. Although the parcel is small, it can provide an extra bit of green in its suburban landscape.
- The 0.7 Harry James Parklet on Torpey Dr., East Hartford, received in November from Harry James. This parcel is right on the Hockanum River, with access for canoers during the famous springtime Hockanum River Canoe Race.
- A 20-acre easement along Bigelow Brook received in July from the Purdy family. This wooded area runs along Bigelow Brook between West Middle Turnpike (near the Parkade) and Adams St. This easement will allow hikers access to a proposed Greenway along Bigelow Brook.

We are also trying to obtain another portion of the old Cheney railroad – the part that goes behind Shaw's Supermarket on Broad Street, property owned by a company in California. This has been a difficult and slow process. The recently reported sale of Shaw's markets doesn't appear to determine the fate of the railroad property, because the company that owns the land is only renting to Shaw's and other businesses along Broad St.

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. Boy Scouts have enhanced properties with bridges, improved drainage, and birdhouses.

We conducted many free hikes since the last newsletter. Some were strenuous, such as a seven-and-a-half-mile Trails Day hike from Risley Pond to Bolton Notch and back, and others were just a couple of miles. Families, singles, members, and non-members are welcome. Come hike with us, and bring your neighbors.

New Director Needed

We will have an opening to add a new director to the board in May. We would love to have a new addition to our board. We meet on the third Thursday of each month. It would be especially good if we could get a volunteer from East Hartford where we have 2 properties. Please contact me if you are interested in volunteering.

Land Trust Appreciation

To all our members and friends, THANK YOU for your support and 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.

The membership for this year is 339 family memberships; of these 139 are Life members. We are pleased to welcome our newest life members, Richard & Rita Borden; Joseph A Prignano, DDS; Terry & Cynthia Virkler.

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.

Center Memorial Park Threatened

by Fred Spaulding

As Land trustees we are properly upset and outspoken when a dedicated central park is threatened. We are rightfully proud to (a) value the natural open spaces and assets of Manchester, yet, more importantly to (b) legally protect them securely from well-meaning but ill advised predation. We must additionally SPEAK OUT -right NOW to the Directors for the saving of Manchester's Center Memorial Park!

The Library Study proposes a ponderous out of place construction complex extending across the north third of Center Park cutting off parkland views from the north, and the stately buildings of government center from the south plus a pavement program for some thirty cars, portending a year 'round point-source pollution to future park users and cross-street residences as well, effectively ending the former air purifying aspect of the park reservation. How would Frank and Susan Cheney rank our stewardship of their legacy?

While opposing this politically backed Library Expansion scheme we emphasize our love and respect for Mary Cheney Memorial Library as it now is, contributing mightily to Manchester quality of life, realizing and accepting that, like many good works, services and conveniences (especially in its convenient and dignified location) are not unlimited.

However, THIS PROGRAM IS NOW ON THE LAUNCHING PAD ready for lift-off and thus we ask you to join us and attend the DIRECTORS MEETINGS, write to the newspapers, enlist your friends and relatives vocally and through readers comments to STOP this count down! If you can be counted on, please contact us by e-mail at info@manchesterlandtrust.org for specific information as to how you can help.

It's Official—Case Brothers Historic District by Susan Barlow

It's official! The Case Brothers Historic District is on the National Register, having attained approval by the National Park Service in 2009. This district is in the Highland Park section of Manchester, and includes several parcels owned by the Manchester Land Conservation Trust: The 7.9-acre Upper Case Pond, the Case Parklet at the Spring Street trailhead, and parcels along Birch Mountain Brook below Spring Street that provide access to Bridal Veil

Falls.

The Land Trust also leads hikes in this area, including the November hike pictured in the accompanying photograph. 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.



Hikers at the summit of Case Mountain on a chilly November 28, 2009. Photo by member Cynthia Barlow.

Maintenance Update by Doug MacGillvary



The Willow tree at Buckland Pond BEFORE the trimming (photo by Susan Pierce)



The Willow tree at Buckland Pond AFTER the trimming (photo by Doug MacGillvary)

Over 600 hours of volunteer time was spent working on Land Trust properties during 2009. Special attention was directed to Salter's Pond and Buckland Pond. At Salters, the Trust had reached an agreement with the Northfield Condominium Association that allowed us to complete a 3/4 mile loop trail around the pond. To complete the loop, it was necessary to access land owned by the Association. With the agreement in place, a footbridge was constructed over Lydall Brook in April. The trust has received rave reviews from those using the trail. The word must be out because the trail seems to be getting more and more popular.

The nine acre Buckland Pond property, at the corner of Bush Hill Road and Hillstown Road in Manchester, benefited from three Eagle scout projects, United Way Day and Trust volunteers. The scouting projects included two new benches, an 18' footbridge, erosion control improvements at the outflow of the pond, six bluebird houses and several hundred feet of trail improvement. On United Way Day eight volunteers (including four great workers from Mass Mutual) cleaned up and disposed of the remains of a garden shed. Four dump truck loads were taken to the town dump. Other work at Buckland Pond included a wood duck house built by East Harford resident Jim Powell. The Trust hopes to get a small parking area build off Bush Hill Road. Parking seems to be the only thing keeping this beautiful parcel from becoming a popular spot to take a nice walk around the 1/2 mile loop trail.

A key parcel to the Old Cheney Rail line was added with the acquisition of the parcel on Hilliard Street, which was on the cover of our newsletter last year. We are developing this parcel as a trailhead for the linear park. A low fence has been installed to define a parking area. Fifteen evergreens were planted along the easterly boundary to shield a commercial building next door. Four large Oak trees were trimmed and the immediate area has been mowed. An Eagle scout project here included a beautiful picnic table, a bench and some landscaping. A memorial stone honoring Mr. Truman Cowels has been installed. Additional trail improvements in the area will depend on the Town of Manchester addressing the drainage problems that exist in the Woodland Street area.

For the upcoming year, we look forward to upgrading some of our other properties to offer additional opportunities for passive recreation. If you have some free time and would like to join our maintenance team, just give a call to Doug MacGillvary at (860) 649-0477. He is always happy to have additional volunteers join his group.

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.

Eagle Scout Project by Alex Fillimon

The Land Trust made arrangements for a landscaping company to drop off woodchips along the western portion of Buckland Pond and I began work on my project. I led a group of five volunteers to distribute the woodchips along that section of the trail. The volunteers worked for 3 hours that day and were provided with the proper tools, safety precautions, food and water. I managed to get a majority of this portion of the project completed that day and I only needed to stop by the site two more times with small groups of volunteers to spread all the chips.

Two weeks following the woodchip section I began planning and organizing for the bench portion of my project which consisted of building two 80 pound benches and cementing them facing each other on opposite ends of the

pond. I had previously been given the material list which I used with the model of the existing benches to construct computer drawings for the benches at Ai Engineers where I was an intern.

On the arranged day, I led a group of volunteers who constructed the benches in my garage based on the drawings I created. I led them carefully, supervised use of power tools, provided food and drinks, and completed the project in 7 and a half hours. The final part of that day's work consisted of transporting the two benches to Buckland pond, lifting them to the two areas, digging their foundation, and finally cementing them into the ground to prevent vandalism. This was all completed in time for the public to enjoy them in the summer of 2009.



Hikers on the loop trail at Buckland Pond enjoy the pond and one of the new benches built by Alex Fillimon (Photo by Susan Pierce)



Hikers on the loop trail at Buckland Pond enjoy a wintry hike December 26, 2009. On the right of the photo, a new bridge, built by another boy scout, Nate Baranowski of Boy Scout Troop 123. Hikers, left to right, back row: Tara Latawic; Bill Horan, Doug MacGillvary, Malcolm Barlow, Tracy Fyler Malley, and John Weedon. Front row, Laurie Horan and children Liam and Gillian Horan and Sue Pierce. (Photo by Susan Barlow)

The Land Trust thanks Alex and all the Boy Scouts who have volunteered to help with some of the larger projects needed on our properties. In the past 2 years there have been numerous improvements to our properties from dedicated Boy Scouts and their troops that would not have been completed without their assistance. We appreciate their dedication, activism and enthusiasm to help make our properties more enjoyable for all.

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 and let us know what property you would like to put your name next to.

Location	Address	Approx. 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	
Spring St., rear 637	637 Spring Street, rear	1.0	
Spring St.,	Spring Street, opp Tam Rd	1.0	Jay & Susan Stoppelman
Case Parklet, 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	
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	
Chambers Parklet	93 Westland Street	0.2	Doug MacGillvary
Other Towns			
Risley Park	Lake Street, Vernon & Bolton	130.0	Cliff & Susan Pierce
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
Harry James Park	Torpey Rd, EH	0.7	
Total acres		337	



Director Glenn Law enjoys the restful spot and the lovely view (photo by Elaine Law)

2 Spencer Street — Sale Pending

We have reached an agreement with the owner of the neighboring parcel to 2 Spencer Street to purchase the property. You may remember that this was donated to the trust a few years back as a source of future funds not as open space. MLCT has paid the taxes on this parcel since we received it and expect to close in May. This will bring additional funds for future Open Space acquisitions.

Don't Miss the Annual Dinner Meeting

The annual dinner meeting will be held on **Thursday May 20, 2010** at the Arbors in Manchester, 403 West Center Street. Prior to the meeting, dinner will be served at **7:15 pm** for a cost of \$16.00 per person. The dinner will include salad, scalloped potato, vegetable medley, rolls, beverages and strawberry cake for dessert. Entrée choices are:

- Baked Haddock** or
- Chicken Marsala**

To reserve your spot for the dinner, please send a check payable to MLCT in the amount of \$16.00 per person and noting your entrée choice no later than May 13th to:

Joan Naab
188 South Main Street
Manchester, CT 06040

Following the dinner at approximately 8:15pm our guest speaker will be Rachel Mintell, Assistant Biology Professor at Manchester Community College.

Rachel will talk about the partnership between her the Outdoor Club at MCC and the Manchester Land Conservation Trust. She will discuss the use of the land trust properties in her courses and with the MCC Outdoor Club. So far, they have engaged in an ecological assessment of Buckland Pond and will begin one soon on Bigelow Brook and she will give us a sneak peak at what they have found. Please join us for the meeting at 8:15 even if you are unable to attend the dinner.



Please mark your calendars and join us for this interesting presentation.



Consider Giving a Gift Membership To a Friend! 2010



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*

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

Phone: 860-643-1823
E-mail: info@manchesterlandtrust.org
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

We're on the web

www.manchesterlandtrust.org



Don't Miss any Events—Join our e-mail Update List

Over 200 members and friends of the Manchester Land Conservation Trust participate in email updates, which go out once every three or four weeks, mentioning upcoming hikes and other events. If we do not have your email address, or you have not been receiving our occasional emails, and you would like to, please send a note to info@manchesterlandtrust.org.

Upcoming Hikes

Saturday April 24 @ 1pm
Salter's Pond

Sunday June 6 @ 1pm
Risley Park

Details on the website
manchesterlandtrust.org



A great turnout for our September 2009 hike along the Cheney Rail Trail in Manchester. Our next hike on the Rail Trail is Saturday June 26 at 1pm. Hike will start behind Farris at 2 Main Street. For more info please go to the website (photo by Susan Barlow)