



# Terra Firma

News from The Manchester Land Conservation Trust  
Preserving Open Space in Manchester, East Harford, Vernon, Bolton and Andover

Editor: Susan Pierce

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## *Preserving the Land is Mary Jane Williams' Legacy*

*The story behind MLCT's acquisition of M.J. Williams Preserve*

*by Bill Doak*

Every Sunday, John Williams' father, Burnham C. Williams, would take him for a walk on their family's land, pastures and woods along the east side of Long Hill Road. A farmer, Burnham operated a dairy, raised corn, tobacco and potatoes and made extra income by manufacturing wooden roof shingles and shakes in two barns, now gone. Despite those responsibilities, Burnham Williams made sure to take that Sunday walk where he would pass along his knowledge of nature. The graduate of Loomis Chaffee knew the names and call of every bird in the woods.

John Williams and his sister, Mary Jane Williams, skated and played in the fields and ponds and warmed up afterward in the family's home at 285 Long Hill Street, built as a wedding present for John's grandparents Edward and Grace, in 1885. Today, John Williams still lives across the street, at 270 Long Hill in a home built in 1799 using bricks made of clay taken from a pit nearby, and lumber sawn from trees on the land. The clay pit filled with water and formed a pond, once larger than it is today says John, where he and his friends used to skate. The major part of the land is wetlands where Burnham Brook goes through. There is even a patch of quicksand. But a grove of pines stands out. "There is a wonderful pine tree with a carpet

of lady slippers under it. It has one branch that comes out horizontal, and then vertical out across the small brook. I used to sit for hours on that branch," relates the professor. "My father called it 'John's Thinking Tree.' My children called it 'Dad's Thinking Tree.' Now my grandchildren call it 'Papa's Thinking Tree.' It was wonderful to sit there and see the animals, see the birds, watch the wildflowers grow." Along with deer, coyotes and fox, "there is every bird you can imagine," relates John Williams who will turn 85 in July. "Sentimentally, it is a special piece of land. Losing that was one of the hard things."

The Manchester Conservation Land Trust was the beneficiary of the 40-acre parcel on August 25, 1996. The M.J. Williams Preserve is one of the largest holdings of the Trust. Open for passive recreation it sits mostly on the East Hartford side just north of the town's municipal golf course. A portion of the 40-acre parcel extends into Manchester.

Mary Jane Williams, for whom the preserve is named, lived with her father at the Victorian-style home at 285 Long Hill. She also shared her father's appreciation for nature, a farmer's knowledge fueled by being well-read. "My father was a phenomenal bird expert, and he shared every bit of it. We shared those Sunday walks until I

went to college. We'd walk through the pastures and the woods, and my father would point out moss on the trees, show us the leaves turning just right meant a storm was coming or when the animals were acting strange when the atmospheric pressure changed," said John Williams.

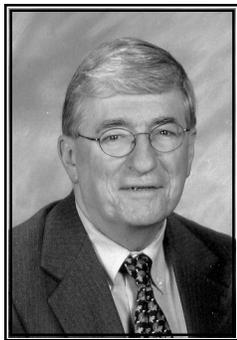
Mary Jane Williams never married, taught piano and worked as a clerk at Culligan, a water softening company located in East Hartford's Meadows district down by the levees. "She was brilliant like my father. She knew all the birds and shared his appreciation for nature," her older brother by three years related.

John Williams recently sold two lots north and south of his house on Long Hill, and just put another 19 acres on the west side of Long Hill up for sale, the most fertile land of the old farmstead. It was a painful decision, he says, necessitated by medical bills. Williams said he and his sister wanted to pass the land on to others to enjoy as open space. "The land teaches you in so many ways. She wanted to pass that on," said her brother.



Prof. John Williams  
photo by Bill Doak

**"There is a wonderful pine tree with a carpet of lady slippers under it. ...Along with deer, coyotes and fox, there is every bird you can imagine."**



*Malcolm Barlow  
MLCT President*

## *Update from the President*

Dear Land Trust Members:

As I complete my eighth year as President, I thank all of our members and volunteers for their work and support in preserving open space in our part of Connecticut. I especially thank each member of the Board of Directors; each one devotes many hours to our mission. Each director attends the monthly meetings (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 7 p.m. at the History Center, corner of Pine and Forest Streets in Manchester – members and public welcome), reviews countless e-mails on the hottest issues, and votes his/her conscience on every resolution. Many directors also perform special tasks such as producing this Terra Firma (Sue Pierce), overseeing all work on our 25+ parks (Doug MacGillvary), writing our minutes faithfully for most of our 40 years of existence (Elaine Law), keeping our funds safe and accounted for (Glenn Law), staying in touch with members (Terry Parla), being our contact with the Conservation Commission and the state Department of Environmental and Energy Protection (Helen Robbins), being our eyes, ears, and voice in East Hartford (Bill Doak), and monitoring our parks (everyone).

Long-time director Clifford Pierce has left our board. Besides serving for years as vice president, Cliff used his CPA skills to complete our annual IRS 990 report – invaluable. Taking Cliff's seat is Richard Griffiths. Rich is president of the Lydall Woods Colonial Village Association. Lydall Woods is surrounded by Land Trust woods and meadows. There are over 160 families living in Lydall Woods, a number of them long-time members of the Trust.

I call every member and friend of the Land Trust a trustee. Other trustees include: Atty. Will Broneill keeps us within the law, and defends us when necessary. Jack Bowden maintains our computers. Susan Barlow does an excellent job getting our message to the people with great publicity. Many stewards of our parks keep an eye on them, and often trim brush, clean up fallen trees, shovel snow from side-walks, and pick up trash. By the way, we enjoy the services of many people who clear trails and pick up trash – anonymously. Thank you, one and all. I am happy to say that the Manchester Land Conservation Trust has had another busy and productive year.

### **Trust Properties**

Every Trust park serves the public, serves the planet, every day of the year. It does so by simply being green, being open space. Some of our parks serve additional purposes. You can figure out how by checking the website and checking out each park. For example, the one-acre Harry James Park on the west shore of the Hockanum River in Manchester along the East Hartford town line has a bench. Anyone can sit on the bench and watch our “old man river” going by. During the annual spring canoe race, which ends at Powder Mill Plaza off Burnside Avenue in East Hartford, bench sitters have the best viewing point.

Several of our larger parks enjoy steady streams of hikers. Salter's Pond on Lydall Brook has the Barry Scanlon Loop Trail. Many neighbors walk this trail around the pond, some of them every day. More people park in the Town's lot by our Salter's Dam and sit on our Terry Parla bench, watch the ducks, talk to the fishermen, and find peace.

Risley Park and its reservoir has 130+ acres in Vernon and Bolton. It has become a major attraction. Our parking lot is at the north end of the meadow overlooking the water; it is often full of the cars of people hiking around the water. Many also walk from there up Box Mountain and into the trail system that leads to places such as Valley Falls Park in Vernon and Bolton Notch.

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

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

We conducted several cleanups, with neighbors, members, and friends pitching in. We conducted many free hikes since the last newsletter. Some were strenuous, such as a Cheney railroad hike in the February snow and ice, and others were easy even for the non-athletic. 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. Families, singles, members, and non-members are welcome. Come hike with us, and bring your neighbors.



**A New Kiosk was installed at Risley Pond Park this year. It was donated by the Connecticut Forest And Park Association**

## *President's Letter continued*

### **Land Trust Future**

All trustees of the Land Trust, including its directors, look to preserve open space land one way or another. Only one of our parks has not been a gift or a purchase resulting in our ownership of the park in fee simple – outright ownership. That one park is our easement over the 20-acre Purdy Nature Park off Adams Street in Manchester. The Purdy Park is still owned by members of the Purdy family, former owners of the Purdy Corporation of Manchester, builders of high-tech parts for helicopters. The Trust has opened up the park at Adams Street. We have run cleanup parties over the last few years. Doug MacGillvary, chief steward, and his crews have cleared trails along Bigelow Brook as it flows through the Purdy Park. Much of the Purdy Park was the bed of the former Hilliard Pond, a water retention system serving the water power needs of the Hilliard Mills downstream. It is beautiful.

I wish to give special thanks to neighbors of the Purdy Park, John Terase and Michelle Metzler of French Road. John and Michelle own land bordering the Purdy Park which lies over the Town's sewer line easement and the road that serves it. They have given the Trust a license to allow hikers to cross their land while walking through the Purdy Park. Thank you, John and Michelle.

The Trust works with anyone and everyone to secure more open spaces for our community and our planet. For example, the Trust was instrumental in the Town of Manchester's acquisition of the Cheney Railroad bed between Center Street and Middle Turnpike – which acquisition had not been completed at the time of this writing, but which was all but certain.

Our Cheney Rail Trail runs from the North End of Manchester by Farr's Store south to Middle Turnpike. Every year it becomes more easily hiked. Every year it becomes more popular. Countless volunteers and Boy Scouts work on improving it. The SBM Charitable Foundation and the Louise Ruddell Trust, managed by the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, have given the Trust cash grants to improve the Trail. Some day the Trail will be a part of the hiking, biking loop from Manchester's north and south ends to the Hop River Trail and Bolton Notch.

Some still doubt this loop trail system will ever be completed. But we work hard with all those partners of ours who believe in this dream. We believe that persistence for a good cause eventually overcomes resistance. The Cheney Rail Trail may be the answer of many in this community who wish for a walking, hiking, biking trail from north to south. No cars or motorcycles. Baby strollers and wheel chairs welcome. Center Springs Park in the middle of the Trail. Relaxed access to shopping and services. Manchester's quality of life greatly enhanced.

### **The Land Trust Mission And Founders**

A guest at a recent meeting of our directors asked us our mission. The answer is in our corporation papers from 1972. "To engage in and otherwise promote for the benefit of the general public the preservation and conservation of natural resources... including water resources, swamps, woodland, natural sites and historic sites...to promote the scientific study of local natural resources...to use all property held...for the conservational, recreational, educational, scientific and historic purposes for which the corporation is formed."

The Trust documents were signed on March 28, 1972 by three wonderful believers in this mission: Dr. Douglas H. Smith, Theresa M. Parla, and Dr. Frederick W. Spaulding.

All three of these Trust founders are alive and well. All three remain steadfast believers in this mission. On behalf of the Trust, I both salute them and thank them.

To ALL our members and friends, all trustees, THANK YOU. You are investing in our planet – in every bit of green that will stay that way for eternity.

Sincerely,

*Malcolm F. Barlow*

Malcolm F. Barlow



Susan Barlow shares her knowledge of Manchester history to hardy hikers during a history hike on the Cheney Rail Trail in February 2012 (photo by Susan Pierce)

## Maintenance Update

by Doug MacGillvary



New trail sign installed next to the handicap accessible ramp on the Cheney rail trail during 2011.

Mother Nature played plenty of tricks on us all this past year. Mountains of snow in the beginning of 2011 dashed any hopes of work parties on Trust properties. Tropical storm Irene in August and then the nor'easter in October were almost knockout punches. The tree damage to the Trust lands was no different than everyone else. It took weeks of clearing just to reopen the few trails that we maintain.

However, some positive things did happen in 2011. The Trust received a \$5,000 grant from the SBM Charitable Foundation for use on the Cheney rail trail. A three-foot high concrete retaining wall had been built across the trail by the previous owner. An existing set of narrow wood steps was replaced with an eight foot wide, thirty foot long ramp. The ramp was constructed at a grade that makes it handicap accessible. Replacing the steps makes it possible for bikers, as well as hikers, to enjoy the trail. With the ramp in place, we hope to upgrade the entire length of the trail. Materials do cost money, but our hard working volunteers make each dollar go much further. Hundreds of hours go into the upkeep of the Trust's properties each year.

Risley Park continues to be extremely popular. The trails are all in good condition. Kiosks were installed at the main parking lot and also at the dam. Trail maps and Park rules have been posted on the new kiosks.

Salter's Pond also continues to be a very popular trust property. The three-quarter-mile hiking trail around the pond is well used. The tree damage from the sudden snow storm in October was cleared as quickly as possible enabling the trail to reopen. The trail is extremely popular with many neighbors.

Purdy Nature Park, off Adams Street, is a work in progress. A lot of good things have happened there since the trust was granted an easement from the Purdy family. The Trust volunteers created a 2000 foot nature trail along the banks of Bigelow Brook. Two benches and an impressive park sign were part of an Eagle scout project by Eric Cross. The benches were placed along the nature trail with very pleasing views of the brook. The Town of Manchester was awarded a grant for the removal of the remains of the old Hilliard Pond dam. The project for the dam removal and brook remediation is in the design stage. There is a very good chance that the project will be completed this year. There was a considerable amount of tree damage along the nature trail and many large trees have fallen into Bigelow Brook. The trust is hoping to receive a grant that will enable us to hire a contractor to clear the fallen trees and debris from the brook. Once cleaned up, one will be able to see what a beautiful area this is and right in the middle of town!

We have accomplished much this past year and look forward to caring for the properties that have been entrusted to the Trust. As Stewardship chairman, I feel that we have done much, but there is so much more to do.



Doug MacGillvary and Eagle Scout Chris Choiniere at Cowles Park trailhead for the Cheney rail trail.

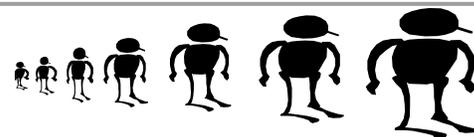
### *Want to help?*

If you have some free time and would like to come and work, just give a call to Doug MacGillvary at (860) 649-0477. He is always happy to have additional volunteers join his group.

Thank you for your support!

## Membership Report

by Terry Parla—membership chair



Membership is at the heart of every organization. Its members give meaning to the reasons for the group. MLCT has been working toward making more and more land available for open space and protecting whatever pieces of property come our way. Through our members and their donations we are able to continue this very important work. So it is once again I ask that you join MLCT in this work by giving your tax deductible donation.

Perhaps this year you might consider increasing your membership to the next level or even joining the ever increasing number of life members. The membership for this year is 328 family memberships; of these 159 are Life members. We are pleased to welcome our newest life members listed in the next column. 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.

As a member, you can take pride in all our properties that you have helped preserve.

### Please join me in welcoming our newest LIFE members

**Catherine M. Turgeon**

**Dianne Bordeaux Lenti**

**Margaret Utting**

**Michael B. Lynch, Jr.**

**and Brenda K. Foley-Lynch**

**Cynthia L. Merrill**

**of Walsh, Merrill & Brousseau, P.C.**

**Jim & Mark Connors**

**of Leese Flooring Supplies, Inc,**

## Help us save the Risley Apple Orchard

The Land Trust has been granted an opportunity to add to Risley Park by purchasing the Risley Apple Orchard located south of the Risley Reservoir dam. The Orchard is 13 acres of beautiful land just east of Lake Street in Bolton, and bordering the Park on its south side. The Orchard land is visible from the top of the dam looking south.

The Land Trust attempted to purchase the parcel from the Risley family descendants over 10 years ago. That effort failed, but not for trying. Today the Trust has a signed agreement with Gladys Hall, now the only member of the family holding title. The agreement calls for the Land Trust to raise the purchase price of \$160,000 by September 30.

Every member and friend of the Trust should know that land trusts are, at best, cash poor and land rich. Our land trust is no exception. Risley Park alone with 130 total acres is valued by the towns of Vernon and Bolton at well over \$1 million. But the Trust does not have \$160,000 cash.

To reach the full purchase price, trustees will be filing applications for grants from government agencies and charitable foundations. We also will need donations from anyone interested in the protection of Risley Park's borders, and interested in protecting this beautiful parcel that had been a fruit orchard for the Risley family farm for many years.

To donate for this purchase, please send your gifts to: Manchester Land Conservation Trust, Inc. at 20 Hartford Road, Manchester, CT 06040. Please mark your check memo line as "Risley Apple Orchard". Since the Trust is a fully compliant IRS 501(c)(3) charitable organization, gifts to the Trust are tax deductible.



## *MLCT Property List*

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

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	Mal & Susan Barlow
Spring St., rear 637	637 Spring Street, rear	1.0	Mal & Susan Barlow
Spring St.	Spring Street, opp Tam Rd	1.0	Mal Barlow
Case Parklet, trailhead	670 Spring Street	1.0	Susan & Ron Beach
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	Nancy Webb & Stephen Went
Chambers Parklet	93 Westland Street	0.2	Doug MacGillvary
Harry James Park	Access from Torpey Rd, EH	0.7	Craig Johnson
Purdy Nature Park (easement)			
<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	Jim Powell
Riverpoint Park	235-237 East River Drive	1.0	Prescille Yamamoto
Reed Park	Long Hill Road, Andover	32	Michael Einseidel
<b>Total acres</b>		<b>337</b>	

### *Stewards Needed*

Please call  
Doug MacGillvary at  
(860)649-0477  
or send an e-mail to  
info@manchesterlandtrust.org  
and let us know what  
property you would like  
to help protect.

### *Volunteer Accountant Needed*

Are you an accountant or tax preparer? Would you like to volunteer some of your time to help the Land Trust? We are looking for someone to prepare our annual IRS 990 form and assist with our budget and financial records. If you would like to help, please contact us at info@manchesterlandtrust.org or call Malcolm Barlow at 860-646-4081.

## Bigelow Brook Greenway Plans

By Susan Barlow

The Town planning department came to the March 15, 2012 Manchester Land Conservation Trust (MLCT) meeting, and presented a slide show of their plans for the Bigelow Brook Greenway in the area of the old Parkade. These plans include building a road from Broad Street to Edgerton Street, thus cutting through the historic Cheney railroad. The MLCT Board of Directors expressed dismay at the destruction of a 600 to 800



foot section of the railroad, a plan which would also cause hikers and bicyclists to travel

*View from Cheney railroad embankment, late winter, 2012. Photo by Susan Barlow*

down and up a slope and to cross a road where cars and trucks would be driving back and forth from Broad Street.

Members of the town committees involved in this plan, six of whom attended the meeting, told our board that the destruction was needed to “daylight the park,” that is, open up Center Springs Park to daylight, by paving a road through to the southern part of the park. MLCT members asked about a bridge, to maintain the trail at the grade it was originally built, but committee members said a bridge

would cost millions of extra dollars. When MLCT asked for their research on this topic, it turned out that the Town’s presentation contained no information or costs on maintaining the railroad at grade, either by using a bridge over the proposed road, or a tunnel for cars to drive under the railroad.

The MLCT Board opposes the idea of destruction of this important and scenic section of the railroad. Board member Bill Doak has already conducted some research showing that a foot-bridge above the proposed road would

not cost millions of dollars, but in the neighborhood of \$300,000 to \$500,000. After the meeting he shared this information with members of the town committee involved in the plan.

Come to a special Awareness Walk on Saturday, April 21 at 1 p.m. starting on the sidewalk under the railroad trestle at Center Street. The terrain is a bit steep and the walking will be strenuous, so be prepared and wear sturdy shoes and old clothes. You can probably find parking in the grocery store lot at the

corner of Center and Broad Streets. Come see the importance of this section, built with such ingenuity and enterprise! The embankment is a feat of engineering and the views from it into Center Springs Park are lovely. The 1869 railroad needs preservation. We can discuss plans on how we can help the Town’s committees and staff understand that need.

**Editor’s Note:** As a member of the MLCT board I want to thank the town planning department and committee members for attending our meeting and presenting the current draft of the plans for the Bigelow Brook Greenway. I understand they are presenting them to various groups in town as well as the general public. It is through this process of exploration and incorporating feedback that I am sure they will be able to make adjustments and changes along the way to the “final” plans. I know that the final project can be a wonderful area of Manchester, accessible to residents and visitors that we all can be proud of. Susan Pierce

**JOIN US FOR A  
RAILROAD  
AWARENESS WALK**

**Saturday April 21st  
at 1pm**

**Meet under the  
railroad trestle on  
Center Street in  
Manchester**

## *Thank you to all our LIFE MEMBERS - (as of March 2012)*

JAMES ARTMAN	JUDITH HESSELBACH	EDWARD & MARGARET PETERSON
ATTY CYNTHIA BARLOW	HOWARD HOLMES	JEFFREY PHELON
EMILY BARLOW	CHARLES HORNPOSTEL	MARYANNE PHELON
ATTY & MRS. MALCOLM BARLOW	DR. & MRS. WELLS JACOBSON	CLIFFORD & SUSAN PIERCE
SUSAN BEACH	MRS. IRMA JACOBSON, JR	KELLY & DEREK PIERCE
ROBERT F. BLANCHARD	MR. & MRS. BERNARD JOHNSON	WILLIAM PODOLNY
DICK & RITA BORDEN	CAROLYN JOHNSON	MS. DEBRA POND
JACK & DIANA BOWDEN	MR. & MRS. RUSSELL JOHNSTON	RAY & CAROL PONTICELLI
MR & MRS. HORACE BROWN JR	CLIFFORD KENYON	DR. & MRS. JOSEPH PRIGNANO
SHIRLEY BUNCE	MS. JEANNE A. KRASSER	ROSEMARY & KEVIN RAINVILLE
AMELIA P. BURNS	MRS. MARILYN LASSOW	CLINTON & GERALD REID
KERI & BRETT CHAPMAN	MRS. & MRS. GLENN LAW	MITCHELL & CINDY REID
MRS. LEO CHARENDOFF	MRS. ROGER LEMELIN	JAMES & SANDRA SMITH-RESONY
ANTHONY CHIRICO	DIANNE BORDEAUX LENTI	ELEANORE RHODES
MR. & MRS. BRUCE CHIRICO	MICHAEL B & BRENDA FOLEY LYNCH JR	MRS. MERION RITTER
MICHAELANGELO CHIRICO	DOUG & JAN MAC GILLVARY	HELEN ROBBINS
NICHOLAS CHIRICO	MR. & MRS. RICHARD MAC KENZIE	MR. & MRS. KERRY RUTLEDGE
OLIVIA CHIRICO	QUENTIN G MANGUN	KAREN SCHAUSTER
VINCENT CHIRICO	MRS. VIRGINA MATTESON	MIKE & TOBY SCHOENEBERGER
PAMELIA CRAPAROTTA	SUSAN L MC CLAIN	DEIRDRE SHAW
TED R CUMMINGS	MR. & MRS. JAMES MC CORMICK	LISA SILKS
MR. & MRS. ROBERT DAHN	BRIAN L MC NAMARA	BETTY SPAULDING
JONATHAN & LINDA DAUBE	COLIN C MC NAMARA	DR. FREDERICK SPAULDING
JACK DAVIS	CONOR MC NAMARA	JOHN SUMMERS
CHRISTOPHER DAY	MARY MC NAMARA	MARK & JAMIE SUMMERS
MRS. JOHN DE QUATTRO	MEGAN MCNAMARA	PHILIP & JOANNE SUSAG
JAMES DELANEY	MR. & MRS. RICHARD MEEHAN	CHARLES SWALLOW
RICHARD DENNISON	JOYCE MELIA	ATTY & MRS. JOSEPH SWEENEY
MRS. AMBROSE DIEHL	DR. & MRS. STANISLAW MILEWSKI	ATTY & MRS. KEN TEDFORD
LOIS JEAN DION-ROBERTS	ANNE & WALTER MILLER	CATHERINE TURGEON
WILLIAM A, DOAK	JACQUELINE MIRTL	MARILYN K. TURNER
MR. & MRS. MATTHEW DONACHIE JR	MRS. CLIFTON MONAGHAN	MARGARET UTTING
CARL & LINDA ECKBLOM	MR. & MRS. PHILIP MORESCHI	TERRY & CYNTHIA VIRKLER
DONALD & TERRI LYNN EMBSER	JUDITH MOZZER	JUDITH WELLES
LOUISE ENGLAND	JOAN & GEOFFREY NAAB	RICHARD WHITEHOUSE
MRS. LUCY FALK	DR. & MRS. PAUL NORMAN	MRS. HERMAN YULES
MS. FAYE M. FERRIS	MR. & MRS. ERIC J OHLUND	
KENNETH FERRY	MR. & MRS. DANIEL O'NEILL	<b>"LIFETIME" BUSINESS SUPPORTERS</b>
RICHARD FIDDLER	LISA P. O'NEILL	BUCKLAND SCHOOL
MR. JOHN FINGUERRA	MR. & MRS. WILLIAM O'NEILL	CIRCLE ASSOCIATES
ATTY & MRS. J. FITZGERALD	MR. DONALD PAINE	FAIRWAY ESTATES
MRS. GRAHAM FULTON	CECILIA PARLA	JOBIN MACHINE, INC
MRS. WALTER FUSS	CHRISTINA PARLA	LEESE FLOORING
MR. GEORGE GARMAN	CHRISTOPHER PARLA	LYDALL, INC
EMMET & DEBRA GEMME	JAMES PARLA	MANCHESTER FIRE DEPT, 8TH UT D
JAMES & KIM GEYER	JOHN PARLA	MANCHESTER LIONS CLUB
SHIRLEY GLENNEY	MR. & MRS. JOHN PARLA	MEEHAN ASSOCIATES
WILLIAM & ANNE GREEN Jr	MR. & MRS. LEONARDO A. PARLA	PEOPLE'S BANK
MR. HAYDEN L. GRISWOLD JR	SARAH PARLA	PURDY CORP
CARL GUSTAFSON	MR. & MRS. LEONARDO PARLA, JR	SBM CHARITABLE FOUNDATION INC
JOANNE HADDOCK	JANE DONOVAN PEACOCK	WATKINS FUNERAL HOME
MRS. SUE HADGE	MR. ARTHUR PENDLETON	WALSH, MERRILL & BROUSSEAU PC
MR. & MRS. GERALD HARDY	LORRAINE PETERMAN	
MRS. DOROTHY HARTZOG	GAIL PETERS	

## 40th Anniversary Hike

**It's our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary! Please join us for a walk to our Case Pond property on Saturday, May 5 at 1 p.m.**

This will be a less-strenuous -than-usual Highland Park walk, so even if you're not athletic, please plan to come! Heavy rain postpones the hike to the next day, Sunday, May 6, 1 p.m. If in doubt, phone hike leader Susan Barlow 860-643-9776

It was in the spring of 1972 that the Land Trust came into existence to: "Engage in and otherwise promote for the benefit of the general public, the preservation and conservation of natural resources of the Town of Manchester, including water resources, swamps, woodland, and open spaces, and the plant and animal life therein, and unique scenic, natural sites and historic sites...and to use all property held or controlled...for the benefit of all the inhabitants of the Town of



Upper Case Pond in spring, as viewed from the historic carriage path. (photo by Susan Barlow)



*Help us celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Manchester Land Conservation Trust Inc.*

Manchester and exclusively for the conservational, recreational, educational, scientific and historic purposes...." From the Certificate of Incorporation on file at the Secretary of the State's Office.

Meet at the kiosk in the parking lot off Birch Mountain Road , a few yards from the intersection of Camp Meeting Road .

## Extension of the Charter Oak Greenway



New benches and bridge along the East Coast Greenway crossing Birch Mountain Brook (photon by Susan Pierce)

Perhaps you noticed all the activity and construction along the side of Route 384 over the past year? Well, a section of the Charter Oak Greenway has been extended from Gardner Street

to just beyond Highland Street. While this isn't part of the land trust property, we thought you would want to know about it. It will eventually be a wonderful part of a loop trail which will connect the Charter Oak Greenway to the Hop River Trail and the Valley Falls Trail at Bolton Notch State Park. The Valley Falls trail takes you from Bolton to Vernon to Manchester. The end of the current stone dust trail in Manchester on Colonial Road may eventually connect to the Cheney Rail Trail in Manchester and some day connect to the Charter Oak Greenway.

The grand plan will make a wonderful loop trail of approximately fifteen miles. While this type of project takes many years and dollars, each portion of completion should be celebrated. For more information on the greenway go to: [eastcoastgreenway.org](http://eastcoastgreenway.org)

**"The grand plan will make a wonderful loop trail of approximately fifteen miles."**

**YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE**  
**40th ANNUAL DINNER MEETING**  
**OF THE**  
**MANCHESTER LAND CONSERVATION TRUST, INC.**  
**THURSDAY, MAY 17, 2012**  
*Dinner promptly at 6:30 P.M.*  
*Annual Meeting and Program at 7:30 p.m.*  
 at Goodwin College - Community Room

**One Riverside Drive, East Hartford**

Please park in the student lot.

(Note: Classes will be in session. Room is on first floor to right of entryway.)

**Guest Speakers: Mark Scheinberg**

*President, Goodwin College, and*

*Todd Andrews, Vice President,*

*College Relations and Advancement, Goodwin College*



*Mr. Mark Scheinberg*  
*President of Goodwin College*

Mr. Scheinberg and Mr. Andrews will discuss the longterm plans of Connecticut's newest college. Located on a beautiful Riverfront campus, Goodwin College has built a reputation as being on the educational forefront offering programs in early childhood education, medical training, nursing, and homeland security to name a few. Guiding its diverse student body of voyagers into a secure career harbor for themselves and their families, Goodwin reclaims lives as it has reclaimed industrial 'brownfields' - former oil tank farms and abandoned industrial sites - now its green campus. With new magnet schools (4) being added, unique to Goodwin is the value it placed in preserving hundreds of acres along the Connecticut River as an outdoor classroom. Come listen and discover why open space around the Goodwin College campus is one key to its vision.

*Buffet Dinner catered by ROMA RESTAURANT will include:*

Chicken and Broccoli, Sausage and Peppers, Eggplant Parmigianino.

Tossed Salad, Bread & Butter, Coffee & Soda.

Dessert - "Land Trust Cake"

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**RESERVATION – *Please respond no later than May 10, 2012.***

Please send your reservation and check for \$17.50 per person, made out to "MLCT", to MCLT, c/o Glenn Law, Treasurer, 20 Hartford Road, Manchester, CT 06040

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Member? Y/N

## Don't Miss the Annual Dinner Meeting

The Manchester Conservation Land Trust will hold its annual meeting Thursday, May 17 at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room of Goodwin College, One Riverside Drive, East Hartford. Featured speaker will be Goodwin College President Mark Scheinberg, leader of a rapidly expanding college, now also home to four magnet schools, operating and planned. The college also controls some 600 acres of open space along both sides of the Connecticut River, incorporating that into both a

secondary school and college-level environmental science-based curriculum. The free speaking program will follow a dinner for members of the Land Trust and guests.

Buffet-style dinner and dessert will be \$17.50. Please complete the coupon on the prior page and mail it with your check payable to "MCLT" to attn: Glenn Law, 20 Hartford Road, Manchester, CT 06040. Questions may be directed to Bill at 860-805-4811.

### Volunteers Needed

**Please consider volunteering your time to help the Land Trust.**

**We need volunteers for committees, website maintenance and for future board openings.**

**If you are interested in helping save the last green spaces in and around Manchester, please contact us and let us know**

**Call us at 860-646-4081**

**Or e-mail us at**

**info@manchesterlandtrust.org**

## Consider Giving a Gift Membership To a Friend! 2012



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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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

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Check us out on the web at  
[www.manchesterlandtrust.org](http://www.manchesterlandtrust.org)

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

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## *Ramp added to Cheney Rail Trail*

Pictured at the ramp on November 8, 2011: left to right, Manchester Land Conservation Trust (MLCT) volunteers Doug MacGillvary, Jacki Mirtl, and Roger Chadwick. On the right is Doreen Downham, Executive Director of the SBM Charitable Foundation, which provided a grant earlier in the year for trail improvements. Volunteer Doug MacGillvary, who managed the ramp project, and who serves as MLCT Vice President and Stewardship Chairperson, thanked the SBM Charitable Foundation for supporting this centrally located trail. "Bicyclists and walkers will have an easier time negotiating the trail with this ramp. We worked with Natural Choice Landscaping of Tolland, CT, to remove the former stairs and bring in the tons of fill required to create a more accessible trail. Natural Choice has the heavy equipment that we volunteers don't have access to. We have been pleased with the results."

### **Upcoming Hikes**

#### **Case Pond Hike**

Saturday, May 5 at 1 p.m

#### **Cheney Rail Trail Hike**

Saturday, May 26 at 1 p.m

#### **Details on the website**

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



Photo by Susan Barlow