



est. 1976

Wallingford Land Trust, Inc.

Box 611 Wallingford, Conn., 06492

Scouts Make Major Contributions to Improve Land Trust Properties

Three young citizens completed their Eagle Scout projects by cleaning and blazing scenic trails on Land Trust preserves. A typical Eagle Scout project requires 250 hours of work by the leader and other scouts in the troop to qualify for Eagle Scout status. The individuals included Chris Martin, who blazed a mile long trail on the West Dayton Hill property with the help of friends, family, and members of Troop 47. The tract is near Country Way and Fox Run Drive.

Graham Page, son of WLT Director Rob Page, led the blazing of a trail along the ridge of West Dayton Hill, which has been named Graham's Trail. Eagle Scout Joe McLaughlin led a team that cleared a trail to the waterfall on the Spruce Glen/ Orchard Glen property. In recognition of their contributions, Chris, Graham, and Joe were made lifetime members of the Wallingford Land Trust. More projects are presently in progress.

Ski and Snowshoe Hotline

If you like to get out of doors in the winter, you want to be part of the cross-country ski and snowshoe hotline. Join us as we play in the snow and explore Wallingford Land Trust and town-owned properties. This is how it works: Enter your email address in the box on the lower right of the ski and snowshoe page on our website. Then watch the weather and your emails. If a storm approaches, and if conditions permit, we'll send you an email that we are getting our gear ready, and we're poised to go. Then, in another email, we'll give you a time, date, and place to meet, and any other special information you may need. We won't give you a lot of notice – usually only about 24 hours to respond, because snow conditions do not stay good for very long. Sometimes we go even before it stops snowing.

You need to:

- (1) have your own equipment;
- (2) dress in layers with no cotton clothing;
- (3) bring water, sunglasses, and a snack..

You should be in good physical condition, and have a strong spirit of adventure. Know your own personal limits. We do not have groomed ski trails; there are hidden obstacles along the way; and varying snow conditions. So, by joining us, you acknowledge and assume the risks of the sport. If interested, visit www.wallingfordlandtrust.org/skисnowshoe.html and enter your email address to be notified of an upcoming event. If you have any questions please call Mike Brodinsky at 284-1131 or Dave Ellis at 269-9779.



December 2007 Newsletter

The mission of the Wallingford Land Trust is to preserve areas of natural habitat and scenic beauty in Wallingford; maintain them as open space; and provide opportunities for passive recreation for use by the public.

Wallingford Land Trust Officers 2007-2008:

Joe Palazzi, President
David Ellis, Vice-President
Mary Heffernon, Treasurer
Ellie Tessmer, Secretary
Andrew Mays, Membership

Directors:

Guy Beach
Carol Borsari
Mike Brodinsky
Joyce Kowalczyk
John Lathrop
Roman Mrozinski
Robert Page
Charles Uznanski
Debby Voelker
Chip Voss

For information, visit our website at:
www.wallingfordlandtrust.org

Opportune Time for Granting Easements, Giving Gifts

The following is reprinted with the permission of Joshua's Trust Conservation and Historic Trust, Inc., Connecticut's largest land trust which has protected more than 3,000 acres of land in the northeastern part of our state. It is headquartered in Mansfield Center.

Congress passed a tax law that helps all of us interested in protecting clean water, natural areas and family farms. The law enhances the federal tax benefits for landowners who donate conservation agreements. The time to act is now because the benefits are available only until the end of 2007, unless extended by Congress.

What Congress did makes the tax law work much better for many modest income landowners who, under the old rules, only got credit for a small portion of the value of their donation. Now, a conservation donor can deduct up to 50 percent of their adjusted gross income in any year (up from 30 percent), and, if most of their income is from farming, ranching or forestry, they can deduct all of their income. Even more important is that if the value of their donation is larger than this, they can continue to use the deduction for up to 15 years (up from 5) after the initial year.

At press time, a bill cosponsored by Third District Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro and CT Congressmen Larsen and Murphy would, if enacted, make the 50 percent of adjusted gross income benefit and the deduction of up to 15 years permanent. It is in committee in both the U.S. House and the Senate. (House Bill 1576 and Senate Bill S469). For up-to-date information, we suggest you contact your tax accountant or call Congresswoman DeLauro's New Haven office at 562-3718. In addition to federal and state tax benefits, potential easement placers should consider the major local property tax savings. When placing an easement on one's property it will be taxed at a farmland rate. Guy Beach placed a conservation restriction on 6.3 acres of his property, which will go to the Wallingford Land Trust at his passing. His tax liability on this land was reduced by 89 percent. No misprint! – a reduction of 89% in local property taxes.

Wallingford Land Trust Properties

<u>PROPERTY</u>	<u>SIZE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
West Dayton Hill *	19 acres	Fox Run, Country Way
Farnum Field	10 acres	Williams Road
Fresh Meadows *	44 acres	Jeremy Woods Drive
Conifer Ridge	6 acres	Conifer Drive (N. Branford)
Briar Ridge	6 acres	Huntington Ridge Road
Shookies Pond	9 acres	Pond Hill Road
Spruce Glen *	51 acres	by foot path via Orchard Glen
Orchard Glen *	17 acres	Barnes Ind. Road North
Riverside Drive *	6 acres	off Country Way
Watrous Woods	6 acres	off Parker Farms
Bridle Lane	18 acres	Bridle Lane, Quigley Road
Fairlawn Drive	16.5 acres	Killen Road; Fairlawn Drive
Balsam Ridge	9.2 acres	Blue Hills Road
Taylor Lane	9.1 acres	Taylor Lane & Maplewood
Zerah N. Beach Easement	6.3 acres	61 Cheshire Road

* considered the best hiking trails

Land Trust in WHIP

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) was authorized under the Farm Security Rural Investment Act of 2002 as a voluntary approach to improving wildlife habitat across our nation. The Wallingford Land Trust has been an active participant. Roman Mrozinski and Ellie Tessmer, who are WLT directors and also serve as administrative staff of the Southwest CT Conservation District, have led the effort which includes completion of a major project on the Orchard Glen preserve. Working in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, they have instituted a multi-year management plan to enhance wildlife habitat with early successional forestry management, which improves foraging for wildlife, and the control of invasive species. A similar program was completed earlier for Wallingford Rod & Gun Club properties.

Sheehan Graduate Awarded Scholarship for Environmental Studies

The Wallingford Land Trust awarded the Lisa Toman Scholarship to Kerri Wolf, a 2007 Sheehan High School graduate. The \$1,000 scholarship is awarded to a student planning to pursue higher education in environmental studies. Kerri is attending the University of Connecticut, majoring in the field of biology. The Lisa Toman Scholarship was created in 2003 by the Wallingford Land Trust to promote and encourage the pursuit of higher education in fields related to improving the environment. The scholarship is in honor of the late Lisa Toman, a Lyman Hall High School teacher who served on the Conservation Commission and was a member of the Wallingford Land Trust. Previous recipients of the award were Margaret Ruggiero and Lindsay Farrell.



Support Your Local Land Trust

Land management and member activities are funded solely through tax deductible memberships, which are open to the public. Annual membership entitles one to voting privileges, newsletters, and invitations to the annual meeting and other activities sponsored by the Wallingford Land Trust. Membership demonstrates a commitment to Wallingford's natural heritage and establishes an interest in preserving habitats within our community.

Please enter my membership in the Wallingford Land Trust.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life (needs no further renewal) \$250.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate \$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing \$ 50.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$20.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Profit Organization \$15.00 |
|--|--|

Name _____

Address _____

Send to: Wallingford Land Trust, Inc., P. O. Box 611, Wallingford, CT 06492



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Falls at Spruce Glen

Local Waterfalls Offer Beauty, Charm

When one thinks of waterfalls one usually thinks of the great falls in the world: Niagara Falls between New York and Ontario; or Victoria Falls between Zambia and Zimbabwe in Africa. But you do not have to travel far to see many other waterfalls. Although none is as spectacular as Niagara Falls, there are many wonderful waterfalls in Connecticut and each fall has its own unique charm.

Most Nutmeggers have heard of Kent Falls in Kent, CT. But did you know that the tallest fall in our state is in Cheshire? Did you also know there is a waterfall in Wallingford and many more in the surrounding towns? Spruce Glen Falls is located in Wallingford on the Wallingford Land Trust Spruce Glen property. This is a wonderful little waterfall you would have never guessed was here. The falls are about 13 feet tall. There is an overhang, which is unusual among Connecticut falls, allowing the water to free-fall. There are also “pot holes” drilled out over the centuries by the brook’s current and small rocks. The falls were formed as Spruce Glen Brook carved out the Glen as

it flowed into the valley toward the Quinnipiac River. Although the falls are next to Route 15, there is no access from there. The nearest public access point is at the end of Barnes Industrial Road North, and about a 1.5 mile hike to the falls. For directions to the falls, please visit www.wallingfordlandtrust.org/properties/spruceorchard/falls.html.

Other waterfalls in our area include: *Roaring Brook Falls in Cheshire (the tallest falls in our state); *Wadsworth Falls (Big and Little) in Middlefield; *Westfield Falls in Middletown; *Wintergreen Falls, Gorge Cascade, and Wolcott Falls, all in Hamden; *Stair Brook Falls in Northford; and *Sperry Falls in Woodbridge.

For information on other Connecticut waterfalls please visit www.ctwaterfalls.com. For more information on the greatest falls in the world see the World Waterfall Database at www.world-waterfalls.com.