



est. 1976  
the Wallingford Land Trust, Inc.  
Box 611 Wallingford, Conn., 06492

February 2009

Newsletter

## Ski and Snowshoe Hotline



If you enjoy the outdoors in winter, you may want to take advantage of our ski and snowshoe hotline. We invite you to play in the snow and explore Wallingford Land Trust and town owned properties. Here's how it works: Enter your email address in the box on the lower right of

our website; then watch the weather forecasts and your emails. If a storm approaches and conditions permit, we will send you an email that we are preparing our gear and are ready to go. Then, in another email, we will give you a date, time, and place to meet, along with any other special information you may need. We won't provide a lot of notice, usually only about 24 hours to respond, because snow conditions can change rapidly. Sometimes we start even before it stops snowing. You need to: have your own equipment; dress in layers with no cotton clothing; bring water, sunglasses and a snack.

You should be in good physical condition, and have a strong spirit of adventure. Know your own personal limitations. We do not have groomed ski trails. There are hidden obstacles along the way and varying conditions. So, by joining us you acknowledge the risks of the sport. If interested, visit: [www.wallingfordlandtrust.org](http://www.wallingfordlandtrust.org) and enter your email address to be notified of an upcoming event. If you have any questions, call David Ellis at 269-9779.

### Land Trust Calendars

In late autumn, Land Trust members created their first Land Trust calendar. The cover and each month displayed photographs taken on our properties. The calendars made lovely holiday gifts for those who appreciate Wallingford's scenic open spaces. In the coming months, take your camera along when you visit Land Trust properties. You never know when a scene of unique beauty will open up before your eyes. Share your photos with us. They may enable us to produce a 2010 calendar with scenes of even greater beauty!



Visit our website at: [www.wallingfordlandtrust.org](http://www.wallingfordlandtrust.org)

*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.*



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## Fresh Meadows Plot Thickens

More Bovine Bones Discovered — by Guy P. Beach

In our July 2008 newsletter, we summarized Wallingford's most bizarre mystery, "The Shoebox Murder". On August 8, 1886, three young men collecting huckleberries north of Gaylord near the Cheshire town line found a shoebox carrying the torso of a man whose arms, legs, and head were skillfully amputated. Authorities were never able to identify the victim, much less the culprit. The secret of his identity lies in an obscure plot in the Center Street Cemetery.

We also related how your author, walking the Land Trust's Fresh Meadows II property in January 2001, after a snowstorm had filled in all the crevices, fell into a feeder stream to the Mill River heart high. Fortunately, WLT colleagues were there to pull yours truly out of what could have been a disastrous experience.

But the main thrust of our story was what Stacia Bernat related shortly before her passing in 2000. She recounted how on several occasions the nearby Schultz family who kept cows would find themselves minus one cow when herding them home at the end of the day. The police could find no evidence that any of their bovine assets had been stolen. Stacia said there was strong suspicion that each vanishing cow had been swallowed up in the area's marshy mire which one could easily call quicksand. The bovines grazed on the west side of Schoolhouse Road which later became the Land Trust's Fresh Meadows preserve.

So guess what? More than half a century later, WLT President David Ellis hiked this property and ran across what appears to be the leg bone of a cow. The latest? David, while hiking Fresh Meadows again recently discovered still more of what appear to be cow bones near the site of his original find. A photo of Dave is shown with his latest discovery. This adds legs to the late Stacia Bernat's account of the long-held suspicion that the Schultz family's cows were swallowed up into the area's marshy mire on what is now Land Trust property.

Recommendation? Stephen King, we invite you to Wallingford.

We can provide you with these and other bizarre episodes which are every bit as surreal as those in your novels.



## WLT Recognizes New Young Distaff Staffers

The Wallingford Land Trust and citizens who take advantage of its properties appreciate the outstanding project work of the Boy Scouts to improving our tracts. Credit scouts Joe McLaughlin, now a member of our Board, Layne Manginelli, Chris Martin, and Graham Page.

Concern for our environment and volunteerism are totally gender blind. Girl Scouts Victoria Farrell and Emily Knight of Troop 60429 worked toward their Silver Award by installing twelve birdhouses on our Three Meadows property. Six were homes in the meadow for wren and six in the woods for chickadees. A post for an information display has been installed and the display itself will have postings in the spring. All work was done by the scouts and their families.

The birdhouses will enhance an already thriving ambient abode for birds. We hope that this spring, we will have nesting birds in their new digs. We invite residents to visit Three Meadows and take the quarter mile walk through the meadow and woods. The entry point is on Bridle Lane. So, Emily and Victoria, we appreciate your good works and congratulate you on earning your Silver Award.



## From Our President

Since our founding in 1976 by a group of public spirited citizens, the Wallingford Land Trust has made a significant contribution to Wallingford's quality of life. This has been achieved through the volunteer efforts of citizens who truly care about Wallingford. We now have some 15 tracts and some 250 acres available to citizens for passive recreation: hiking, birding, skiing, or just plain communing with nature.

If you are already a member, we welcome your continuing interest and hope that you will renew your membership. If you are not a member, we enthusiastically invite you to join us in what we believe is a positive endeavor for our community.

David Ellis



## WLT Scholarship

Every year, the Wallingford Land Trust awards a \$1,000 scholarship to a local high school senior (any school) who plans to pursue higher education in an environmentally related discipline. Past recipients were Justin Wolf, Kerri Wolf, Lindsay Farrell, and Margaret Ruggiero.

The Lisa Toman Environmental Scholarship was initiated in 2003 to encourage and promote the pursuit of higher education in environmental studies. The scholarship honors the memory of Lisa Toman, a local teacher who was a member of the Wallingford Land Trust and the Conservation Commission.

Applications are available at the guidance departments of secondary schools attended by Wallingford residents, and must be submitted to the Wallingford Land Trust by April 1, 2009.

## Support Your Local Land Trust

Land management and member activities are funded primarily 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 fosters the preservation of habitats in our community.

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Please enter my membership in the Wallingford Land Trust.

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

#### Officers 2008-2009

David Ellis, President  
Debby Voelker, Vice-Pres.  
Mary Heffernon, Treasurer  
Ellie Tessmer, Secretary  
Andrew Mays, Membership

#### Directors:

Guy Beach Carol Borsari  
Joyce Kowalczyk John Lathrop  
Joe McLaughlin Robert Page  
Joe Palazzi Ken Ryan  
Scott Trauner Chip Voss

[www.wallingfordlandtrust.org](http://www.wallingfordlandtrust.org)

**SAVE THE  
DATE!**

## ***The Reptiles Are Coming!***

**2009 Wallingford Land Trust Annual Meeting**

**Wednesday, March 25, 7:00 P.M.**

**at the Wallingford Senior Center**

Following a short Land Trust business meeting, biology teacher Joe Rizzo and members of the Hamden High School Reptile Club will offer a program about the care, feeding, and life cycles of their 80 snakes, lizards and turtles — including 12-foot olive pythons and African rock pythons, rainbow boas, and king, corn and milk snakes!

***This program is FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!***