OPEN SPACES

STAMFORD LAND CONSERVATION TRUST, INC.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." — Margaret Mead

SPRING 2010

A Wetlands Primer

Steven Danzer, Ph.D.

WHAT IS A WETLAND?
THE ANSWER DEPENDS ON WHO IS ASKING!

From a scientific point of view, wetlands are, generally speaking, areas in the landscape where water covers the soil, or is near the surface of the soil, for varying periods of time during the year. Wetlands are known as having unique and interesting plants that adapt to the constant waterlogged conditions.

Within the stricter, and much drier (no pun intended), legal perspective of the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) wetlands are "…those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs and similar areas..."

A beautiful North Stamford SLCT parcel—now forever wild!

SO WHAT DOES ALL THAT MEAN?

Both the scientific and Federal definitions of wetlands rely on vegetation, hydrology (water flow), and soil type as indicators. In contrast, there is also a State of Connecticut definition of an "inland wetland" which, unlike the federal definition, relies almost solely upon soil type. This Connecticut definition is the one most commonly used before any municipal regulatory board in our state.

Salt marshes are a different story. Although from a biological perspective they are a type of wetland, in Connecticut they are not considered "inland" wetlands. They are labeled by the State as "tidal wetlands". They are defined in our state not by soil type, but by the type of vegetation present, their elevation, and tidal flow.

Making things a tad more perplexing, the State of Connecticut also recognizes something called a "water

(continued on page 3)

IN THIS ISSUE

President's Letter

Wetland Reflections

Richard Chiaramonte

What is a wetland and why the heck do we care? Hmmm. It's a good question. You'd think a river or a lake would be a wetland, but is it really a watercourse? And what of a salt marsh? Since it's tidal, is it just part of the ocean finding its way into some shoreline bushes, or is it indeed a wetland? Or what in the world is a vernal pool? And might what you think of as your lawn, actually be, at least technically, a wetland?

Well, according to the book I have here, *In Search of Swampland,* by wetland ecologist Ralph W. Tiner, "Wetlands are a diverse collection of areas where a presence of water for extended periods exerts a controlling influence on the plant community, soil properties and animals living in or using them." That's OK, but it's pretty general and doesn't give us much to go on when we're out walking or thinking about wetlands or even both together. It also doesn't tell us just exactly what the State of Connecticut considers a wetland.

To answer these and other damp questions, take a read in this issue of Stamford Land Conservation Trust Chief Steward Steve Danzer's very thorough explanation, as well as our friend Sue Sweeney's piece on "Bringing the Wetlands Home," a guide to wetland plants for your garden.

Spring is the season of nature's happiness. Wildflowers, as well as those not so wild, bloom in a mad rainbow of colors helping us forget the monotone of winter. Emerson said that "the earth laughs in flowers." He, of course, did not mention the mayflies or mosquitoes, but his point is well taken. We have spring flowers, spring cleaning, and even the clocks "spring" ahead. It is growth and forward motion unlike any other time of year. So take some time to go for a walk, look at what spring has to offer. That's right, slow down, stop for a bit if you can, and as they say, smell the roses. It's worth the moment.

(continued from first page)

course" which is regulated similarly, if not exactly, as an inland wetland. A watercourse is simply a body of water such as a pond, lake, stream, pool, spring, or seep. A watercourse may be natural in origin OR it may be artificially created.

ONE COMMON WAY TO DESCRIBE WETLANDS IS TO CLASSIFY THEM ACCORDING TO STRUCTURE OF VEGETATION.

There are several vegetative structural types of wetlands commonly found in our Stamford area. The most common type of wetland is the forested Red Maple swamp, prevalent in North Stamford and also in remnant swaths of woods in central Stamford. Red Maple Swamps tend to have tree cover (usually Red Maple), skunk cabbage, ferns such as Cinnamon fern, and deep mucky muddy soils that get your boots and pants dirty.

A second type of wetland found here is a marsh. Marshes do not have tree cover, and are usually dominated by non-woody plants like Cat Tail (Typha) in the inland areas, or Cordgrass (Spartina) in the tidal marshes adjacent to the Sound.

Other wetlands are in transition between open ponds and forest. Often in the woods there are areas that were formerly ponds but are now filling in with vegetation. The vegetation tends to be shrubby with Alders. These wetlands are known as shrub-scrub wetlands.

There are also wetlands that look like fields, but under closer examination have special wetland grasses such as sedges and rushes, and may have certain flowering plants adapted for moist areas. These wetlands are known as wet meadows.

A final type of wetland is a bog. These are not found locally in Stamford, but perhaps were more commonly found here a few hundred years ago before the colonists started filling the land for farming. Bogs nearest here are in Stratford and in Danbury. Despite their rarity in our region, bogs are fairly common in northern New England. They are often covered with a layer of sphagnum moss. They are fascinating wetlands to get to know as they are the only wetland type in our region that often includes carnivorous plants such as Pitcher Plants and Sun Dews. These plants trap and eat flies and other insects.

WETLANDS ARE IMPORTANT TO THE ENVIRONMENT FOR MANY REASONS.

They serve as natural water purifiers, and store groundwater. They serve as important habitat and provide food and cover to amphibians, reptiles, mammals, and birds. They constitute a significant portion of our remaining open space, harbor an astonishing amount of plant biodiversity, and are home to a few endangered plant and animal species.

In the early 1970's, because wetlands were disappearing at an alarming rate due to urbanization, development, and neglect, the Connecticut State Legislature passed The Wetlands and Watercourses Act. The intent of the Act is to discourage loss of wetlands by acknowledging their environmental value, and to balance development with wetland protection. The Act provides an orderly review process for municipalities to follow to regulate any proposed activities that may impact a wetland. Every city and town in Connecticut has its own set of wetland regulations which basically mirror the state Act.

According to the Act, environmental professionals known as Soil Scientists are tasked with finding and mapping wetland boundaries. The presence of a wetland on your property may (or may not) seem obvious to you, but the only legal and reliable way of establishing the boundary and extent of the wetland area is through soil testing and evaluation by a credentialed Soil Scientist.

(continued on next page)

SO HOW DOES A SOIL SCIENTIST GO ABOUT HIS OR HER WORK?

First, the scientist will review previous federal or statewide mapping to familiarize themselves with the local terrain. Then the scientist will conduct a field investigation to sample the soil types to determine if they meet any of the statewide wetland soil classifications.

The actual process of soil sampling is physically labor intensive. The soil scientist must dig small holes with a special probe and extract the soil from each hole for examination. The scientist will drill as many holes as needed to establish with certainty the presence or absence of the wetland and its boundary. Minimally this will entail a sample actually in the wetland, a sample out of the wetland to use as a reference, and then a series of holes within the transitional area. Sometimes relatively few holes need to be dug. Sometimes many holes are needed.

Then the scientist inspects each soil sample to establish what the ground water levels may be during a typical year. The scientist looks for various clues within the soil such as the color – an indicator of chemical reactions due to the rising and falling of the groundwater table. Other more direct clues may be the actual presence and depth of any groundwater. Indirect clues such as obvious manmade or natural alteration to the soil are investigated as well.

After evaluating all of these clues, the soil scientist decides if this is a wetland soil, and if so, will place survey flags indicating the wetland boundary. A licensed land surveyor may then prepare a map based upon the location of the flags and municipal officials may view the flags during the permit review process.

Some other peculiarities:

- » In inland areas it is not uncommon for wetland soil to be found underneath a lawn with no obvious wetland vegetation. Since inland wetlands are defined in CT strictly by soil type, this lawn may still legally be a wetland.
- » The fringes of many watercourses such as ponds, streams, or lakes may contain wetlands, leading to a combination of methods required to set a boundary.
- » Watercourses (streams, etc.) are defined not only by soil type but also by channel characteristics. In some cases, such as intermittent watercourses (watercourses that do not flow year round) streamside or wetland vegetation may be indicators.
- » Sometimes a tidal marsh (not an inland wetland) may also have a fringe of inland wetlands.

Often a question arises concerning "manmade" wetlands or "manmade" watercourses. Examples of these may be a large hole or a ditch, excavated sometime ago, which now fills up with water. Is it still a wetland according to the State Statute? The answer is: It depends.

IF the soil has become poorly drained, a flood plain, or alluvial over time, then the manmade area IS a wetland. This can happen and often does. Furthermore, IF the manmade area pools or flows water long enough OR errosively enough within the channel, OR if the area has certain plant life, AND the area has a defined depression or channel, then it may be a watercourse, depending on how many of the above criteria have been met. Whew!

If the area provides flood storage, amphibian habitat, water quality purification, habitat for plants or other animals, or any other ecologic or hydrologic function, then the wetland or watercourse may be ecologically important, regardless of the fact that it was manmade.

To summarize and without getting too bogged down (pun intended) by the technical definitions, if you are standing in a muddy area, and you are surrounded by skunk cabbage or other plants that do not grow in the drier sites, and you are sinking, then you are probably in a wetland. The area could be forested (a swamp), non-forested (a marsh), meadow like (wet meadow), shrubby (shrub-scrub swamp), a peat bog, or just a depression (vernal pool or other pool). Or it could be some other type of watercourse. But to confirm the exact boundary according to the Connecticut statutes, a soil scientist must perform the actual investigation.

So the next time you're near what you think might be a wetland, look for the indicators. What you'll find is that wetlands are diverse, fascinating and, all in all, pretty cool.

Dr. Steven Danzer is the Chief Land Steward for the Stamford Land Conservation Trust. He is also a Soil Scientist and a Professional Wetland Scientist in private and municipal practice.

What's the Deal on Vernal Pools?

Steven Danzer, Ph.D.

Vernal pools are depressions in the forest floor that fill up with water in the late fall to early spring and stay hydrated until early summer. They are usually bone dry by late summer and easy to miss unless you happen to see them in the right season. Since the pools dry up they are not hospitable for fish, allowing amphibians such as frogs and salamanders to lay their eggs in the water without being gobbled up. Vernal pools support a number of important, interesting, and sometimes rare and threatened species, such as spotted salamanders, wood frogs, spring peepers, fairy shrimp, and fingernail clams. They are considered among the most important habitats in our region. The duck- like quacking you hear from the pools in the spring actually comes from amorous wood frogs.

Pickerel frog at the Bartlett Arboretum. Photo by Sue Sweeney.

Can you Create a Wetland from Scratch?

Steven Danzer, Ph.D.

Wetlands can be created by humans accidentally OR intentionally. Unintentional wetland creation can occur when surface water or ground water patterns are altered on a site due to development, and mother nature takes over. Wetlands can be constructed intentionally as well, often by land developers to offset other environmental impacts planned for the site. Wetland construction is as much of an art as a science, and its success depends upon a number of factors, including a suitable and sustainable water source, realistic design goals, and proper follow-up.

Bringing the Wetlands Home

Sue Sweeney

Toothwort at the Bartlett Arboretum. Photo by Sue Sweeney.

The undisturbed parts of Stamford's woodland wetlands are full of life. Owls, squirrels and woodpeckers nest in the hollows of red maples, elms, and ashes, while raptors scout for prey from tall snags (standing dead trees). In the shrub layer, at the water's edge and on hummocks in the swampy parts, songbirds feed their children on native insects gleaned from the surrounding vegetation.

At ground level, in the marshy hollows and riparian borders, in spring, you'll find skunk cabbage, spring beauty, toothworts, violets, and marsh marigold. Come summer, tussock sedge, sensitive fern, royal fern, meadow rue, nightshade, cardinal flower, swamp milkweed, blue flag iris, joe-pye weed, and turtlehead compete for space and light with numerous other wetland plants. In early fall, snake root, boneset, asters and goldenrods join the show. Wild bees, wasps and butterflies come for the pollen, while jewel-like dragonflies (and some of the wasps) feast on small insects. Frogs, toads, turtles, salamanders, snakes, muskrats, weasels, minks, raccoons, possums, and even fresh water mussels are part of this thriving interdependent community.

Did you know that you can enjoy many wetland plants, and the birds and butterflies that love them, in your own yard? Many wetland plants will only propagate naturally in mud, so we only see them in the wild in wet places. However, once started, many wetland plants will do fine under ordinary garden conditions. Further, if you have a naturally wet area, or want to start a rain garden to direct run-off from your yard, roof and driveway away from the storm drains, wetland plants are for you. The advantages of wetland plants for the gardener include easy care, a long flowering season and tremendous fall color. You'll also feel good about being part of the "Noah's Ark", saving these plants and the creatures who depend on them from extinction.

(continued on next page)

WETLAND PLANT CULTURE

As a general rule, wetland plants in the garden need either a bit of shade or a bit of moisture, and you can make trade offs. For example, a wetland plant in full sun needs damp roots most of the time but the same plant in part shade gets by with the same water as the average garden plant. One to three inches of organic mulch will keep all garden plants' roots shaded and moist while slowly breaking down to provide nutrients. The edge-of-wetland plants (e.g. blueberries) like acid, moist but well drained soil. The true bog dwellers (e.g. buttonbush and pussy willow) tolerate standing water but not all the time. Our soil is naturally acidic so if you lay off the concentrated fertilizers and use only local, organic compost (e.g. leaf mulch and garden clippings), over time your garden PH should come into line with nature's intentions.

PLANT CHOICE

You can see pictures of our local native plants, plus some of the naturalized and invasive plants at the Connecticut Botanical Society's web site (www.ct-botanical-society.org). In addition, UConn's horticultural data base (www.hort.uconn.edu/Plants) and Earth Tones Natives' catalog (www.earthtonesnatives.com) have useful cultural information by species.

Planting local genotypes is one of the best things you can do for the environment. Local genotypes are native-to-our-area species that are part of our local ecosystem as it has evolved since the last Ice Age. Be wary of plants labeled as "native" which are not from our area (e.g. native to the Rockies or upland northern Connecticut) and of garden cultivars and hybrids derived from native plants. Our local critters often can't utilize these plants so these plants are no more part of our environment than something flown in from China. Worse yet, these "near-natives" can interbreed with our local plants of the same family, killing off our local stock and the creatures dependent on our local stock.

WHEN AND WHERE TO BUY

Early spring, of course, is the time to buy and plant. In our area, reputable sources of local genotypes include the following list. Make sure to tell the seller that you want plants native to your specific area, for example, southern Fairfield County.

» **Pan's Acres Nursery**
PO Box 113 Canterbury, CT 06331
860/546-9376), www.napinc.org;

» **Greenbelt Native Plant Center**
3808 Victory Boulevard, Staten Island, NY 10314
718/370–9044, www.nycgovparks.org/sub_about/parks_divisions/gnpc

» **Earth Tones Native Plant Nursery and Landscapes**
212 Grassy Hill Road, Woodbury, CT 06798
203/263-6626, www.earthtonesnatives.com

» **New England Wild Flower Society at Garden in the Woods**
180 Hemenway Road, Framingham, MA 01701
508/877-7630, www.newfs.org

» **Westchester Community College Native Plant Center**
75 Grasslands Road, Valhalla, NY 10595
914/606-7870, www.nativeplantcenter.org

Some native plants are also available from local nurseries and it's good to support the local nurseries' efforts to sell more natives as well as to support the institutions which have dedicated themselves 100% to native species. However, at the local nurseries, it is easy to be tempted by the showy non-native flowers—think of them as high-sugar dessert and act according. Also, it is easy to get confused about what is actually "native", let alone "local genotype", and some local nurseries' staff may not have the training to help you sort it out.

TOP-PICK SHRUBS

To get started on your wetland garden, since the shrubs are the "bones" of a garden, here's my top pick of our local wetland shrubs for the garden. While all wetland shrubs are wonderful, at least to me; this selection is of some that are easy to obtain and grow, with good wildlife food and some show for you.

BLUEBERRIES belong in every garden, I think, for the outstanding fall foliage alone. Many gardeners also love these petite, slow-growing bushes for the delicate buds, flowers and twigs. Low-bush (Vaccinium angustifolium) and high bush (Vaccinium corymbosum) blueberries can be found through out Stamford's wooded areas. A local subspecies of highbush blueberry, known as "swamp blueberry", actually grows on swamp hummocks. Blueberries don't self-pollinate so buy two plants and you'll get fruit on both. I find that low bush is best with morning sun, and high-bush is better in full sun. Blueberries demand acid, moist but well drained soil so are perfect at the edge of a wet area or a part-shade woodland garden.

CLETHRA *(Clethra alnifolia)* (summer sweet, sweet pepper) is the most versatile of our woodland shrubs—you can find it in anywhere from sunny swamps to shady dry forest. UConn calls it highly useful for late summer fragrant flowers; the butterflies and hummingbirds love it. Like blueberry, clethra stays small and seldom needs pruning.

ELDERBERRY *(Caprifoliaceae sambucus)*, an old-time favorite, is now a trendy "plant for the future" due to the high antioxidant value of the berries. This tall, bushy, tough swamp shrub has fresh green composite leaves, lacy clusters of white flowers, and dark red-purple summer berries that disappear almost before they are ripe. Elderberry roots easily from cuttings and can be easily pruned to height.

ARROWWOOD VIBURNUM *(Viburnum dentatum)* is one of Stamford's two dominate native viburnums; the other being the maple-leaf viburnum (Viburnum acerifolium) which is a small cousin for the deep-shade garden that you'll find in Stamford's up-land woodlands. Arrowwood, a small shrub (to 6 feet), sometimes describes as "dainty", can be found along our streams and in our woodlands, wetlands and gardens. It is a stunning, hardy, ease-care native with clusters of white flowers in late spring, dark blue berries in summer, and lovely fall color. The decorative leaves look pleated and have serrated edges. The fruit is a favorite of robins, mocking birds, orioles, and the like.

SILKY DOGWOOD *(Cornus amomum),* our area's dominate bush-type native dogwood, has small white star-like flowers in spring and clusters of blue berries in summer. The twigs turn deep red in winter. Silky dogwood is often found with arrowwood but can tolerate a bit more shade. It's also a bird-favorite with nice fall color.

WINTERBERRY *(Ilex verticillata)* is the native holly that breaks the rules by shedding its leaves in the winter. This, however, allows an even better view of the bright red late-season berries. Winterberry, an upright spreading shrub that can top 10 feet, is prevalent in the wetter and sunnier parts of wooded areas as well as our red maple swamps. Like all hollies, winterberry has separate male and female plants and the females bear the decorative fruit. Winterberry is a very important source of early winter bird food.

BUTTONBUSH *(Cephalanthus occidentalis)* is a butterfly favorite with round, white flower balls in early summer which turn into decorative brown seed-heads that persist through winter. The medium green leaves are particularly attractive. This dense, bushy shrub needs a bit more water and sun than some of the other wetland shrubs but will reward you for it.

SPICEBUSH *(Lindera benzoin)* likes the part-shade, damp woodland conditions along the edges of our swamps and streams. This shrub has a loose, open form and grows to about 12 feet. It has tiny round buds that burst into delicate early-season flower, providing food for early pollinators. The leaf is a slender oval with a point on both ends. The attractive mid- to late-season red fruit are high in oil, making them particularly valuable to wildlife. Spicebush is related to sassafras; these two members of the Laurel family are the only true spices native to North America. Spicebush hosts its own butterfly—the showy spicebush swallowtail.

SHADBLOW (Serviceberry) *(Amellanchier, sp.)* is a familiar apple relative with white apple-like flowers early in the season in open woods and along riparian borders. The common name "shad" is a reference to the plant blooming when the shad fish runs upstream to breed. The fruit, which look like tiny apples, is munched up as soon as it ripens in summer. Serviceberry is a great choice for part-shade urban and suburban landscaping. The bark of this graceful, multi-trunked small tree has handsome vertical pinstriping.

Wetlands & Watercourses

The Legal Flow: Part 1

Edward O'Hanlan, Esq.

Protection of Connecticut's inland wetlands, streams and rivers began in earnest in 1972 when the General Assembly adopted the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act, which can be found in Chapter 440 of Title 22a in the General Statutes. The Act has been amended from time to time to refine its scope, and today provides for regulation of wetlands and streams, principally by local municipal agencies, subject to the oversight of the Department of Environmental Protection in Hartford.

The Act seeks to strike a balance between recognizing the legitimate expectations inherent in ownership of real property, and protecting a vital natural resource that is especially vulnerable to injury. The Act begins with a "Legislative Finding" of the nature and value of wetlands and streams, the danger posed by unregulated activity in wetlands and streams, and the purpose of the Act to protect them. The effect of such a statement is that it is deemed established, need not ever be proved, and cannot be refuted or denied. This spares parties and the courts the time, effort, and expense of providing scientific expert testimony in cases brought to enforce the Act.

It is remarkable that in the nearly 40 years since the Act was put into law, the Legislative Finding section has not been changed or amended. The provisions stand today as a strong and accurate statement of the vital role that wetlands play in our environment. The Legislative Finding was based then, and the science and research since has since only made it stronger, on accurate and detailed scientific study and observation of how our environment depends on healthy wetlands and streams, and how one cannot isolate, as private ownership tends to do, wetlands and streams.

The Legislative Finding goes like this:

The inland wetlands and watercourse of the State of Connecticut are an indispensible and irreplaceable but fragile natural resource ….[Wetlands] are an interrelated web of nature essential to an adequate supply of surface and underground water; to hydrological stability and control of flooding and erosion; to the recharging and purification of groundwater; and to the existence of many forms of animal, aquatic, and plant life….

The preservation and protection of the wetlands and watercourses from random, unnecessary, undesirable, and unregulated uses, disturbance or destruction is in the public interest and is essential to the health, welfare and safety of the citizens of the state.

From the scientific evidence on which this very strong public policy has been established, the Act provides for local agencies to regulate activities that impact Connecticut's wetlands and streams. The Act sets forth a minimum standard that must be met, but at the same time allows for considerable autonomy within each community for the regulation of activity in or affecting wetlands and streams. Each municipality is required to establish a wetlands agency which must then adopt regulations satisfactory to the DEP. That wetlands agency is the only municipal authority authorized to review applications for activity in wetlands, and its decisions cannot be overruled by a zoning commission, zoning board of appeals, or municipal official.

This article is the first in a series of articles exploring the legal basis for wetlands regulation and protection. Future installments will deal with other aspects of the Act and with significant court decisions that have refined the scope of the Act and its purpose. The Legislative Finding is a very significant and comprehensive statement of purpose by the General Assembly and deserves recognition and thought as the starting point to understanding what is at stake in protecting wetlands. All of us have benefitted since this Legislative Finding was enacted. The General Assembly clearly got it right.

Do you Stew?

Quite possibly the most important responsibility shouldered by the Stamford Land Conservation Trust is the stewardship of the more than 40 pieces of land in Stamford entrusted to us.

Simply put, stewardship is the job of watching over the land. We check for encroachment, dumping, various forms of illegal use, proper signage, etc. Often, we also take photographs for our archive (a beautiful autumnal day is great for this).

If you are interested in helping with stewardship, whether you live near one of our parcels or not, please e-mail us at info@stamfordland.org, with the word "stewardship" in the subject line. We have plenty to do.

What is that Rock in the Road?

The Wildlife Center of Fairfield County

Each Spring, turtles awaken from broomating (hibernation for cold blooded animals) and begin basking in the sun on logs and rocks in ponds. Every May & June, turtles emerge from their aqueous habitat and seek loose, sunny soil in which to lay their eggs. Due to development, this often means crossing roadways. Turtles often choose the same spot every year in which to lay their eggs, so the neighborhood turtle can become a common yearly sight.

There are 13 species of turtles in Connecticut. The ones that are most often seen on roadways are snapping turtles due to their massive size. Painted turtles are also common and harder to spot. To the motorist, a turtle in the road may look like a rock ahead until it starts to move. Being aware that these reptiles are on the move during these months is critical for their survival. Car strikes result in cracked shells which if are not immediately fatal, will lead to infection and a slow fatality.

If you spot a turtle in the road, please do make an attempt to assist it across the street by encouraging it to move in the direction it is heading. DO NOT touch the turtle, especially if it is a snapping turtle. Snapping turtles will bite you and may not let go. The jaws of a snapping turtle can snap a broom handle in half. Other turtles will startle and may urinate, resulting in a possible drop, which endangers their shell. Using a very long branch or stick, you can slide the turtle in the right direction from behind. Often, just making a fuss behind it will encourage it to pick up its pace and get to the side of the road. Every turtle that survives to adulthood in the wild is critical to its species survival. Do not keep wild turtles as pets. Turtles have very specific dietary requirements and can pass salmonella to humans. Helping them stay alive and in the wild where they belong is crucial to their survival.

Once the eggs are successfully laid, the turtle will begin her journey back to its watercourse, typically within 24 hours of the beginning of her journey. These eggs will hatch in September if laid at the right time and the weather is warm enough all summer for proper incubation. If they are laid too late in the season or the weather was cool, they can overwinter and hatch in the Spring. The young will instinctively find their way to the closest watercourse. Some will fall to wild predators, some will fall to human predators and our cars, those lucky enough to make it home will face our roads for years to come.

SLCT Kids' Page

Marina De Luca

Word Search Fun: *Going Green*

LOOK FOR AND THEN CIRCLE THESE WORDS:

animal	long	river
assessment	marshes	saltwater
bogs	mianus	saturation
brackish	mitigation	soils
brook	monitoring	sound
chemistry	noroton	springdale
climate	piping	stamford
freshwater	plants	swamps
grays	pond	topography
haviland	poorhouse	vegetation
hydrology	restoration	
island	rippowam	

H K N D N W M K G E L F D P X S E S Y Y
L A Z O N O O I I R R A Y I X O T P H H
M P V W I O T H A E A D M P M U A M P P
F O M I R T P O S N Y Y C I I N M A A A
M Y N B L R A H R S U G S N N D I W R N
I R G I A A W R G O R S O G U A L S G T
T T N H T A N O U E N V W L X L C C O A
I S O C T O B D S T R I P P O W A M P N
G I L E F N R T E L A D G N I R P S O A
A M R C M W O I R S S S F P T Q D I T L
T E E R A R I E N E Y R I V E R T Y X E
I H Q T A S T H H G K G D D B A I N H C
O C E T L A X S G H L G J R T U Y B A N
N R I A W O R S L I O S A E P I A W U W
U O N T M A G U K X N C G W E T L A N D
N D L T M K K T E F K E D R O F M A T S
A A S T N A L P Y I V U E C B L E H K G
S R M B A S S E S S M E N T Q U N V Z A
N I J N Y E Q H N S S E S U O H R O O P
O F P V L F T X V N U G O E T T Y P S M

While water wends its merry way
Across the fields of grass and clay
And stops to rest for just a nod
To make a gushing quagmire bog
Or pushes into forest wood
To leave a marsh where trees once stood
Now watch the lilies bloom and spring
With flowers gently lingering
But long we know they'll never stay
While water wends its merry way

Mildred Laass

New & Noteworthy

Spring Walk with Carol Levine, botanist

DATE: Saturday, June 5, 2010
TIME: 10:30 to 12 noon
PLACE: Altschul Nature Preserve on Dundee Road, Stamford, CT, latest acquisition of the Stamford Land Conservation Trust

Welcome spring with a nature walk along the trails of a beautiful, but little known 150 acre preserve containing forest and wetlands. This property will soon be transferred from the Nature Conservancy to the Stamford Land Conservation Trust. Carol Levine, botanist, will lead the walk on Saturday, June 5 between 10:30 AM and 12 noon. Please wear good walking or hiking shoes. We suggest that you wear long pants tucked into socks and DEET containing spray applied to clothing for tick prevention. Also bring a small bottle of water. Dogs are welcome if they are leashed.

Carol Levine is an Instructor in field botany at the The New York Botanical Garden, recording secretary for the Torrey Botanical society, program chairman for CBS. She is author of *A Guide to Wildflowers in Winter.*

DIRECTIONS: From the Merritt Parkway, exit 34, proceed north on Long Ridge Road for 2 miles; make a left onto Saw Mill Road; proceed 0.6 miles and make a left onto Dundee Rd; go for 0.5 miles to entrance of the park; park along the street.

COST: free, but places are reserved for the first 25 callers.

Please **RSVP** to Judy Liebeskind, 203-329-9876 or judyliebeskind@optonline.net or to Richard Chiaramonte, 203-329-8098 or rscripto@me.com.

Won't you join us?

STAMFORD LAND CONSERVATION TRUST
P.O. BOX 3247 STAMFORD, CT 06905-0247 | WWW.STAMFORDLAND.ORG | 203.325.1850

Enclosed is my: ❑ Individual Membership $25 ❑ Family Membership $50 ❑ Sponsor $100
❑ Partner $500 ❑ Benefactor $1000 and over ❑ Total Donation $_____

Name _____

❑ Check this box if this is a new address

Address _____
City_____State _____ Zip_____
E-mail_____
I would like to volunteer my services
❑ Land Steward ❑ Land Donation ❑ Other _____

Please send all mail to: Stamford Land Conservation Trust, P.O. Box 3247, Stamford, CT 06905-0247

Contributions to the SLCT are tax deductible.

Stamford Land Conservation Trust, Inc.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Stamford Land Conservation Trust is to seek and accept land through donations or by purchase to hold in perpetuity as open space. The SLCT acts as steward over such lands. It assists governmental and non-governmental organizations to protect and preserve open space.

STAMFORD LAND
CONSERVATION TRUST
P.O. BOX 3247 STAMFORD, CT 06905-0247 | WWW.STAMFORDLAND.ORG | 203.325.1850