

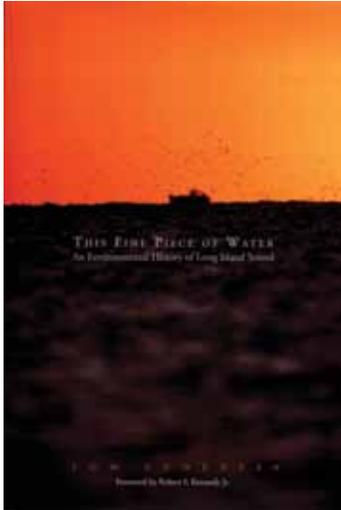
# OPEN SPACES

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

FALL 2011



## SOUND EFFECTS

**THE SLCT POSED SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT THE HEALTH OF THE LONG ISLAND SOUND TO TOM ANDERSEN, ACCLAIMED AUTHOR AND SPEAKER FOR OUR ANNUAL MEETING THIS NOVEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup>**

**SLCT:** Your book, "This Fine Piece of Water—An Environmental History of Long Island Sound" came out in 2004. Has the condition of the sound improved or declined since then?

**TA:** There's been a significant outlay of money on the part of New York City, the states of New York and Connecticut, and the communities in those states to upgrade sewage treatment plants. The work should be finished in four to five years and it seems to have led to short-term improvements. Major long-term improvements will come in a few years when the Westchester County

and New York City plants finish their work. Those are the worst sewage releases right into the heart of the worst area of the sound.

There have also been some achievements in habitat restoration along the sound and sound rivers. A great example is the Mianus River in Cos Cob, where they installed a fish ladder at the dam near Route 1 to help spawning fish get upstream. It's been a tremendous success. A lot of the smaller fish that are food for other fish and birds, like the river herring, are coming back.

**SLCT:** You mentioned the worst area. Where is that?

**TA:** It's roughly from Bridgeport west to the Bronx and Queens, including all of Fairfield County, all of Westchester County, Nassau County and some of Suffolk County.

*(article continues on page 6)*

### DON'T MISS IT!

Enjoy light refreshments and see Tom Andersen speak at our annual meeting.

**WHEN:** 7 p.m. Nov. 16th

**WHERE:**

Stamford Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard, 2nd floor auditorium.

Plentiful parking!

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# PRESIDENT'S LETTER

— Richard Chiaramonte —

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**THE HISTORY OF LAND CONSERVATION IN AMERICA IS OVER 150 YEARS OLD.** From before those wise gentlemen sat around their campfire hard by Wyoming's Madison River and decided to save the land we know today as Yellowstone National Park, right down to the one acre parcel in your neighborhood that provides a little greenspace for you to enjoy, we have valued the preservation of open space.

But preservation is just the beginning. Once a precious parcel of woodland or meadow or wetland is saved, it has to be maintained. That's stewardship. When all the land that can be saved is saved, stewardship goes on. Our work, and the work of all Land Trusts and all protectors of open space, continues forever as stewards of the land we treasure.

Not all that long ago a few more smart folks got together (probably not around a campfire) and decided that the preservation and protection of open space would be better served if the various land trusts springing up around the country got together to form an organization for the good of all. It became the Land Trust Alliance and today represents over 1,700 member Land Trusts. A classic example of the economy of cooperation.

Look in this issue for the excellent story of the Land Trust movement in America. And while you're reading, check out the history of our own Stamford Land Conservation Trust. At 39 years old, we are among the first in the country. If there happened to be an AARP for Land Trusts, we'd be members!

Open space in land is not the only natural resource requiring stewardship. Our oceans also need attention and care. In this issue, take a look at the Q&A with our upcoming Annual Meeting speaker Tom Andersen. Tom's reputation as a great speaker precedes him and his book, "This Fine Piece of Water: An Environmental History of Long Island Sound," relates the tale of that special piece of water right at our front door. He'll tell us all about it at our gathering on Wednesday, November 16 at 7PM at the Stamford Government Center, 2nd floor meeting room. I can't wait.

Thanks as always for your support and *see you at the annual meeting!*

## THIS MEANS YOU!

Like to have snacks and conversation? Who doesn't? Our annual party is always a fun event. Join us at 7 p.m., Wednesday, November 16th at the Stamford Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard. Parking is free.

# LAND TRUSTS AND THE AMERICAN CONSERVATION TRADITION

— Adapted from an article by James N. Levitt\* —

**WHILE LAND TRUSTS IN NORTH AMERICA DATE BACK TO THE MID-1900S IT HAS ONLY BEEN SINCE THE 1960S THAT THEY'VE GAINED A Foothold AS A LOCAL, GRASS-ROOTS MOVEMENT.** Since then, they've been conserving natural areas, supporting local food production, protecting scenic views, and helping to ensure clean water and clean air. They are doing so in urban centers, suburban communities, rural settlements and wildlands, creating lasting benefits that improve the quality of life in America in myriad ways.

The movement has grown rapidly in recent decades. There are now almost 1,700 land trusts in the United States, four times the number nearly 30 years ago when, in 1982, land trusts created the Land Trust Alliance, a national organization that partners with land trusts to accelerate the pace, improve the quality and ensure the permanence of conservation. Local, state and national land trusts by 2005 together protected some 37 million acres of

land, an area about the size of New England. And the land trust community has grown in political stature over time, as well.

Given its impact and growing prominence, it is appropriate to ask where the land trust movement fits into the general conservation movement in North America, a strong movement that stretches back to the earliest days of democratic gover-

nance. Like several other key conservation innovations in American history, the land trust movement's evolution has been marked by complementary public and private benefits; vigorous public debate; the establishment of stable institutional homes and strong leadership; and finally, global impact.

Land conservation efforts in English-speaking North America have, since the 1634 establishment of the Boston Common, often yielded both complementary public and

private benefits. For example, when early Boston's "freemen," or male heads of households, voted in the course of their legendary democratic experiment to tax themselves to raise money to buy open space, they created a place that would provide the community with shared benefits—initially military training grounds, and, in decades to come, a highly valued venue for an evening stroll.

## FAST FACT

More than 5,000 acres of land are developed in the U.S. every day.

In addition, the Common's creators realized that each household would derive private benefit from the protected land, which offered pasturage for each household's cows, providing milk for young families and potential profit to farmers who could sell milk and cheese.

Thomas Jefferson set a similar precedent when in 1773 he purchased the Natural Bridge, a towering rock arch, which he regarded to be a "sublime" feature of the landscape. He brought both his fami-

**1634**

Boston Common established

**1773**

Thomas Jefferson buys Natural Bridge

**1838**

The Trustees of the Public Garden appointed by voluntary Proprietors in Boston

**1860**

Mount Vernon Ladies Association preserves George Washington's historic estate

**1860–1873**

New York's Central Park built under direction of Frederick Law Olmsted

**1864**

President Abraham Lincoln establishes Yosemite as a California State Park

\* The original form of this article was published in the Fall 2007 edition of Saving Land magazine. Adapted with permission from the Land Trust Alliance.

ly and dignitaries to the site during his lifetime, impressing upon them the vast potential of untrammeled western lands. And, in 1815, when asked to sell the property, he declined, pointing out that he held it “in some degree as a public trust,” never wanting to see it “injured, defaced or masked from public view.” Jefferson enunciated a principle that would come to have great import for the land trust movement when he recognized that his private land could yield significant public benefits. Clearly, in the 21st century, every conservation easement that yields a private landowner a federal tax deduction through donation to a land trust must meet the test of providing significant public benefit.

The land conservation innovations that have endured in North America over the past four centuries were typically forged in the fire of vigorous public debate. The Boston Common and Public Garden, for example, have withstood centuries of long and loud argument over their purpose and necessity, surviving to this day vibrant and prized by the city’s residents. During more than a decade of construction in the 1860s and 1870s, New York City’s Central Park was the subject of a contentious

public contest for control between Andrew Haswell Green, president and treasurer of the Central Park Board of Commissioners, and park designer Frederick Law Olmsted. Central Park came out of that stormy period to become one of the best

**DEFINITION: LAND TRUST**

A land trust is a nonprofit organization that, as all or part of its mission, actively works to conserve land by undertaking or assisting in land or conservation easement acquisition, or by its stewardship of such land or easements. (Source: [landtrustalliance.org](http://landtrustalliance.org))

known and widely admired parks in the world. Likewise, the utility of federally protected lands has been the subject of extended debate in the U.S. Congress at several junctures, including a multi-year ideological battle that, in the end, resulted in the creation in Alaska in 1980 of what was at that time the world’s largest system of national parks, forests and wildlife refuges.

In similar fashion, the staying power of land trusts was forcefully tested in the last decade with the congressional debate over the appropriate use of conservation tax

benefits. As noted in the President’s letter of the Land Trust Alliance’s 2005 Annual Report, “remarkably, land trusts emerged from this stronger than ever.” By supporting workable reforms, advancing strong standards and developing a new accreditation program, the Alliance went a considerable distance, “to ensure public trust in land conservation for generations to come.”

Several of the most powerful conservation ideas in American history have required stable institutional homes and distinctive public leadership to facilitate sustained growth. More than a decade after the creation of the first forest reserves by President Benjamin Harrison in 1891, Gifford Pinchot helped to create and became the first chief of the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). Using the bully pulpits of the Forest Service headquarters and the White House, Pinchot and his successor Henry Graves were able to vastly expand protected forestlands in the West and positioned the Service for large forestland acquisitions in the East.

The National Park Service (NPS), created in 1916—more than 40 years after the establishment of the nation’s first National Park at Yellowstone—played a similar role

**1872**

President Ulysses S. Grant establishes Yellowstone as the world’s first National Park

**1891**

President Benjamin Harrison establishes the United States’ first Timberland Reserve, which becomes Shoshone National Forest in northwest Wyoming. Charles Eliot spearheads in Boston the creation of The Trustees of Public Reservations, the world’s first private, tax-exempt, regional land trust

**1903**

President Theodore Roosevelt establishes Pelican Island federal bird reservation

**1905**

U.S. Forest Service established, Gifford Pinchot

under its first two directors, Stephen Mather and Horace Albright, in working for the rapid growth of the National Park System.

Despite its comparatively late start more than 90 years after the 1891 creation of the world's first land trust, the Land Trust Alliance has been able to build a respected institutional presence in Washington. Relying on a voluntary network, it has, like the NPS and the USFS, benefited from the vision and persuasive skills of two of its long-term leaders, Jean Hocker and Rand Wentworth. Propelled by years of annual Land Trust Alliance Rallies and a powerful network of passionate advocates, the Land Trust Alliance is today widely recognized as a potent catalyst for the growth of the land trust idea throughout the nation.

In addition, several key American conservation innovations have jumped across national borders and spread around the globe, most notably the idea of the national park. When President Ulysses S. Grant signed it into existence in 1872, Yellowstone, at about one million acres, was the first and only national park. By the year 2000, there were about one billion acres of national parks worldwide, includ-

ing in virtually every country recognized by the United Nations.

As the leader of today's national movement, the Land Trust Alliance has a wonderful opportunity to continue to spread the word about land trusts, as well as their best practices, internationally. Given the continuing pressure on our global natural heritage, exacerbated by the reality of climate change, continued national and international networking by the Alliance in the coming quarter century is likely to have an ever-greater impact on the global conservation community.

JAMES N. LEVITT is director of the Program on Conservation Innovation at the Harvard Forest and a research associate at the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. He is editor of *From Walden to Wall Street: Frontiers of Conservation Finance*, published in 2005 by Island Press and the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy.

For more on the Land Trust Alliance, which publishes a magazine for members, *Saving Land*, visit [www.landtrustalliance.org](http://www.landtrustalliance.org)



Photo by Sue Sweeney

## 1916

U.S. National Park Service established, Stephen Mather first director

## 1964

President Lyndon Johnson creates National Wilderness Preservation System

## 1982

Land Trust Alliance founded (originally called Land Trust Exchange) following Kingsbury Browne's Lincoln Institute conference in Cambridge, Massachusetts

## 2011

The national park and land trust ideas, as well as several other American conservation innovations, continue to spread around the world



**SLCT:** Is the sewage upgrade improving oxygen levels there, which were a concern when you wrote your book?

**TA:** It is. Improving oxygen levels helps restore that part of the sound as a viable fish and wildlife habitat in the summer. With no oxygen, fish and marine life can't live there. The nitrogen removal is leading to gradual improvement.

**SLCT:** What are some signs of improvement? There were in the sound recently—any relationship?

**TA:** It's hard to tell, but looking at it in the best light, there probably is. Dolphins only come into the sound if there's ample fish. So all these

things we were just talking about—the habitat improvement of the rivers and marshes, improvement in the concentrations of dissolved oxygen—may be leading to more kinds of fish that dolphins like. It's a positive sign.

Another positive sign is that about 30 years ago there were five active osprey nests on the entire sound. Ospreys were almost wiped out because of DDT. So we stopped using DDT and we started building nesting platforms and improving the quality of the water, so there are more fish. Now there are more than 500 active nests on the sound. Ospreys are a good indicator species. They're high on the food chain and they don't come back unless the habitat is good.

**SLCT:** You've written a lot about Broadwater [a proposed floating natural gas terminal on the sound]. Is that over?

**TA:** Yes. Broadwater still has the right to appeal, but there's no indi-

cation they're going to do that. Even if they did appeal, it's hard to imagine they'd get the approval.

**SLCT:** On the face of it, it just sounded like an awful idea, a half-mile long floating plant.

**TA:** It's one of those things where you say, what the heck were they thinking, that they could do that and people would accept it? Luckily almost everybody was critical of it.

**SLCT:** Are there any other big issues right now that are a concern?

**TA:** Actually there's a good movement going on now. Soundkeeper Terry Backer in Norwalk has been working for years to change the cooling systems at the power plants on the sound. Now they draw in water from the sound, almost a billion gallons a day. Anything else that's drawn in gets killed. It's either caught in filtering screens or essentially cooked and discharged back into sound. Soundkeeper is working to get them to use a closed system where the same water is circulated.



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## YOU'RE INVITED!

Join the fun at the Stamford Land Conservation Trust Annual Meeting, Wednesday, 7 p.m., November 16th at the Stamford Government Center at 888 Washington Boulevard in the 2nd floor meeting room. Author Tom Andersen (see his Q&A [this page](#)) will speak about the environmental history of the Long Island Sound and efforts to restore vital habitats. And did we mention the free refreshments and plentiful parking?

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One of the plants in Port Jefferson, after [Backer] brought legal action, came to an agreement to reduce fish mortality by 85 to 90 percent. There are plants in Norwalk, Bridgeport, the New Haven Sound, and Northport, Long Island. It's a big issue. You're killing millions of fish every day. If that were to stop it would have a great effect on fish life and the balance in the sound.

**SLCT:** What can the individual citizen do to help the health of the sound?

**TA:** One of the most important things is to support non-profit organizations working on sound issues. Some good ones are Save the Sound, Soundkeeper, Soundwaters, and the Long Island-based Citizens Campaign for the Environment. One of the most important things communities and individuals can do is work to preserve land as much as possible. Development inevitably leads to pollution, and the only sure

way to prevent it is to preserve land permanently. Another thing you can do is to make sure elected officials know that the sound is a priority. All the sewage improvements take tax money. If we want a clean and vital sound, we have to pay. An EPA study showed that the sound contributes \$9 billion to the economies of New York and Connecticut, but only if it continues to be clean.

**SLCT:** What will you talk about on November 16th at our annual meeting?

**TA:** I have interesting stories about the first European voyage of discovery on the sound, about the rise of the industrial era and the oyster industry in the 1800s, especially in Connecticut, which caused some serious problems. Then I'll talk about what's been done for the last 10 to 15 years and the prospects for improvement over the next decade. My title is "What is Long Island Sound for?" and I try to show how for centuries the Long Island Sound has been exploited for economic gain, to the detriment of the sound. Over the last two centuries it's been a place to dump our waste for free. Long Island Sound was, 10 to 15 years ago, in desperate shape. It's only now starting to look up because we've changed our attitude about what the sound is for.

**SLCT:** So there's hope?

**TA:** I think there is. I go back and forth. Right now, I'm relatively optimistic.

**City news:** In 2010 8.2 tons of clothing went into Stamford Goodwill/Big Brother containers, plus 1.45 tons of fluorescent bulbs and batteries, and 6.53 tons of car batteries were recycled, saving taxpayers \$17,500 in waste removal costs.

## DEFINITION: CONSERVATION EASEMENT

The most traditional tool for conserving private land, a conservation easement or conservation restriction is a legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust or government agency that permanently limits uses of the land in order to protect its conservation values. It allows landowners to continue to own and use their land, and they can also sell it or pass it on to heirs. Conservation easements offer great flexibility. An easement on property containing rare wildlife habitat might prohibit any development, for example, while an easement on a farm might allow continued farming and the addition of agricultural structures. An easement may apply to all or a portion of the property, and need not require public access. (Source: [landtrustalliance.org](http://landtrustalliance.org))

# 40 YEARS OF SAVING OPEN SPACE

## STAMFORD LAND CONSERVATION TRUST HISTORY

— Tara Gravel —



Photo by Sue Sweeney

**HOW DO YOU GO FROM NOTHING—FROM AN IDEA—TO MORE THAN 400 SOLID ACRES BANKED FOR POSTERITY?** More than 400 acres forever wild, giving back to Stamford residents in cleaner air, cleaner water, open space and biodiversity? First, you start with the notion that open space is worth preserving on a local level—a novelty when the Stamford Land Conservation Trust was founded in 1972.

Despite the existence of national parks and organizations dedicated to preservation, such as the Nature Conservancy, there were few local trusts when Booth Hemingway, a member of the city's Board of Representatives, got this one started in Stamford.

An activist at heart, Hemingway resigned from the Board and teamed up with conservation-minded friends including Richard

Calhoun, the owner of a large estate on Davenport Ridge Road, and Roberts Fish, a founding member of the Conservation Commission of Stamford. The Conservation Commission eventually became the city's Environmental Protection Board, and that was the impetus behind the creation of the Land Trust. Hemingway donated the initial one-acre parcel of land, which is now part of the Land Trust's 14.3-acre Rock Spring Gorge preserve.

In its early decades, the trust fought for recognition. Current board chairperson emerita and former president Percy Lee Langstaff remembers attending every government meeting in town, "Just so they would know we existed. We'd tell them our purpose was saving open space and that the community doesn't have that much open space."

Judy Liebeskind, another long-

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### BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW...

The original land trusts had less-than-noble origins. Around since Roman times, land trusts were used in England during the reign of King Henry VIII to hide land ownership so that the true owner could avoid military duty. In 19th century Chicago, politicians used them to cover-up their ownership of land slated for skyscraper development.

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time board member and current treasurer concurs, "When we started we were like the old lady in the tennis shoes; we didn't get much respect. It was not a very popular concept, saving land or even protecting wildlife. Even the [Stamford] Board of Reps said, 'What are you doing taking property off the tax rolls?'"

Because there really was no precedent for such an organization, one of the biggest hurdles was obtain-

ing non-profit or 501 (c) (3) status. When it was granted in 1972, a Board of Trustees became necessary. Hemingway knew women had to be a part, so he asked Langstaff and two other women active in the community, Joan Jobson and Katrina Mygatt, to join.

When Hemingway moved to Maine in the early 1980s, Robert Redniss, an environmental planner and community activist, took over as president and gave the board a regular meeting place in his office at 22 First Street. Later his son Rick became instrumental in helping the trust acquire land; he knew Stamford well, which properties were up for sale or development, which had parcels, such as wetlands, that, if donated to the trust, would benefit the landowner in lower taxes.

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### A GIFT TO THE FUTURE

The donation of land for conservation purposes is one of the best legacies you can leave to future generations. And there are many different ways to donate, including something called a Remainder Interest, where you continue to live on and use the property. For the details on the different types of land donations, see our web site, [stamfordland.org](http://stamfordland.org)

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The early board members worked hard to grow the organization parcel by parcel. By the mid-80s, “we had 35 acres, a tiny board [5 members], and no money, but a firm belief in trying to save the land and keep it open in this community,” says Langstaff.

Langstaff began her 24-year tenure in 1985 after retiring as President of the League of Women Voters of Connecticut. Langstaff helped the trust continue its mission to acquire, by gift or easement, as much open space as possible. She also worked hard to create a diverse board; today there are 19 members ranging from community activists to scientists and attorneys. In Langstaff’s time, the board worked with other local groups to save the 85-acre Blake-Colman property, now overseen by the state, as well as the 90-acre Treetops, the fabled estate of torch singer Libby Holman. With the help of many donations of all sizes in the 2000s, including by the Nature Conservancy and the Altschul family, the land trust grew to more than 400 acres.

“Just like Stamford used to be sleepy town and now it’s jumping, our organization reflects that,” says Liebeskind. “The cause is popular and we get plenty of support from the community.”

Richard Chiamonte, an avowed environmentalist (“tree hugger and proud of it,” he says) now heads the organization, which, in the face of increased development, works harder than ever to preserve Stamford’s open spaces.

“Those who came before me did an amazing and difficult job getting the idea of the preservation of open space into the mainstream of Stamford thinking,” Chiamonte says. “My job is simply to continue and advance that legacy.”

### PLEASE JOIN US! OUR ANNUAL PARTY IS HERE!

We’re not just serving refreshments at our annual meeting, we’re also serving up a wonderful discussion by author Tom Andersen, an expert on the environmental history of the Long Island Sound from pre-Colonial days to the present. Not only is the Sound a beautiful source of recreation and home to many species of marine wildlife and birds, it provides \$9 billion in industry for the region. Author of *This Fine Piece of Water—An Environmental History of Long Island Sound*, Andersen will cover the ways humans have impacted the Sound over the past two centuries, from the 18th century oyster industry and industrialization, to modern day power plants, sewage treatment plants, and—most important, because there’s plenty of hope for the future—efforts to restore vital habitats and wildlife.

#### WHEN:

Wednesday, November 16th  
at 7 p.m.

#### WHERE:

Stamford Government Center,  
888 Washington Boulevard,  
main 2nd floor meeting room.  
*Plenty of parking available!*

# FLORA FILES

## THREE NATIVE TREES FOR FALL COLOR

— Sue Sweeney —

**WHEN NEW ENGLANDERS THINK OF AUTUMN COLOR, WE FIRST THINK OF OUR GLORIOUS SUGAR MAPLES;** then our fiery swamp maples; butternut hickories, ashes and birches; dignified oaks; and coppery beeches, all set off by the deep green of our white pines. Some think of the sweet gums with their brilliant color and star-shaped leaves or the American basswood (linden) with its tall, straight shape and sunny yellow fall color. Here are three more native trees with great fall color that do not get enough attention.

The tupelo, a stunning, tall, native tree, goes by many names—black tupelo, black gum, sour gum, and pepperidge. The range of names indicates the tree's wide regional spread. The Latin is *Nyssa sylvatica*, roughly translating into woodland water nymph. "Tupelo" itself is said to mean "swamp tree" in a Native American dialect.

This dogwood relative is a great, versatile specimen shade tree for the street or yard. It can also survive in wetlands, though, the subspecies known as swamp tupelo does best there. Wherever you put it, give it mostly sun and get a fairly young tree as the older ones don't transplant well.

Tall and straight with branches at right angles, tupelo has an attractive shape all year, giving it major

ornamental value. Its glossy, leathery green foliage in summer is followed by brilliant early fall color (bright red with hints of yellow, orange and purple).



*Tupelo fall foliage. Photo by Sue Sweeney*

The late spring flowers might seem unremarkable to us, but not to our native bee pollinators; tupelo is a major honey tree. Likewise, the dark-colored early fall berries on the female trees attract a wide range of songbirds. And tupelo leaves feed the caterpillars of several spectacular moths and butterflies including the Luna moth, Cecropia moth, and giant swallowtail butterfly.

In the medium-sized urban tree category, I'd add the hop hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*), which grows 25 to 40 feet and turns a nice yellow-brown or orange in the fall. It is a tough, shade-tolerant tree that can take urban street pollution and abuse—one has thrived for years on Bedford Street across from the Avon Theater. Hop hornbeam, a birch relative, has attractive catkins in spring and, in the fall, nutlets in decorative clusters. The nutlets provide winter wildlife food.

Lastly, the American hornbeam or ironwood (*Carpinus caroliniana*) is a petite, graceful understory tree that gets about 20 to 30 feet tall and has yellow to copper fall foliage. It's known for its smooth gray, sinewy trunk. Like its cousin the hop hornbeam, it has catkins in spring and nutlets in fall that are good wildlife food. In addition, the leaves serve as a host plant for caterpillars of several butterflies, including tiger swallowtails.

# LEAF DETECTIVE

LEARNING YOUR TREES IS ELEMENTARY!

Bring your SLCT newsletter on a hike with you and see how many of these leaves you can find, then color in the leaves and veins below!

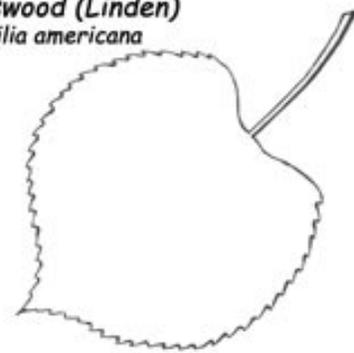


**Maple (Red)**  
*Acer rubrum*

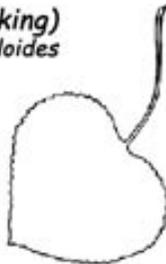


**Maple (Sugar)**  
*Acer saccharum*

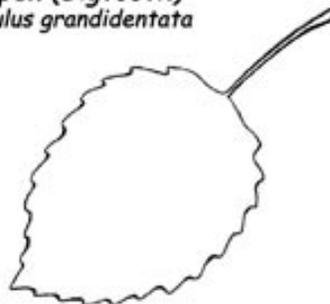
**Basswood (Linden)**  
*Tilia americana*



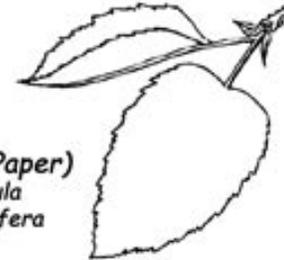
**Aspen (Quaking)**  
*Populus tremuloides*



**Aspen (Bigtooth)**  
*Populus grandidentata*



**Birch (Paper)**  
*Betula papyrifera*



**Oak (White)**  
*Quercus alba*



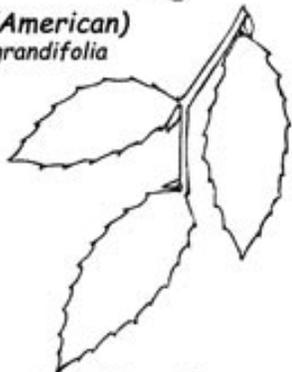
**Oak (Red)**  
*Quercus rubra*



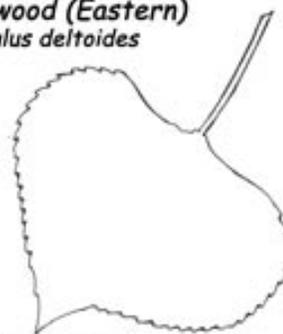
**Sycamore (American)**  
*Platanus occidentalis*



**Beech (American)**  
*Fagus grandifolia*



**Cottonwood (Eastern)**  
*Populus deltoides*



**Poplar (Balsam)**  
*Populus balsamifera*



From Sheri Amsel, "Tree Activities." Leaf Shapes - Deciduous Tree Identification. Exploring Nature Educational Resource. © 2005 - 2011. October 18, 2011. <http://exploringnature.org/db/detail.php?dbID=26&detID=2297>

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

**HISTORY OF THE LAND TRUST  
WORD SEARCH**

ACQUISITION	DEFORESTATION	JOHN MUIR	PRESERVATION
ACRES	DONATIONS	LANDOWNERS	RICHARD NIXON
BIODIVERSITY	EASEMENT	LANDTRUSTS	SOCIAL MOVEMENT
BUILT ENVIRONMENT	ENVIRONMENTAL	MISSION	SOIL CONSERVATION
CHARLESELIOT	FISHERIES	NATURAL RESOURCE	STEWARDSHIP
COMMUNITY	FUTURE	NATURAL WONDERS	SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY
CONSERVATION MOVEMENT	GENERATIONS	NATURE CONSERVATION	SUSTAINABLE YIELD
CONSERVED	GEORGE PERKINS MARSH	NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION	THEODORE ROOSEVELT
	GIFFORD PINCHOT	OVERPOPULATION	VOLUNTEERS
	HABITAT	PERPETUITY	WATER
	HENRY DAVID THOREAU	POLITICAL	WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

# MAKE YUMMY APPLE CIDER CUPCAKES!\*

BEWARE: THEY'RE SO GOOD YOU MIGHT NOT WANT TO SHARE!



## INGREDIENTS

**1/2 cup unsalted butter**

(leave out to soften until it is at cool room temperature)

**1 2/3 cup all-purpose flour**

**2 teaspoons baking powder**

**1 teaspoon cinnamon**

**1/2 teaspoon table salt**

**1 cup apple cider**

**2/3 cup sugar**

**2 eggs**

Start by either greasing a 12-cup muffin tin or use muffin-cup liners. Preheat the oven to 350° F.

Measure 1 2/3 cup all-purpose flour in a medium bowl. Add 2 teaspoons of baking powder, 1 teaspoon of cinnamon and 1/2 teaspoon of table salt.

Whisk to combine the dry ingredients and set aside.

Measure 1 cup of apple cider and set aside.

Place the 1/2 cup of softened butter into the bowl of an electric mixer.

Add 2/3 cup sugar.

\*from jamielyn@iheartnaptime "Apple Cider Cupcakes"

© October 18, 2011 <http://www.iheartnaptime.net/2011/10/apple-desserts/>

Cream together the butter and sugar until fluffy. With the mixer running, add 2 eggs (one at a time). Reduce the mixer speed to low and add in about 1/3 of the reserved flour mixture, and then add 1/2 of the apple cider. Repeat these two steps, mixing in the remaining flour mixture and cider, ending with the flour.

Fill the prepared cupcake tin with the batter.

Bake the cupcakes at 350° F for about 20 minutes, until a toothpick inserted in the center of a cupcake comes out clean.

Use a paring knife or skewer to remove the warm cupcakes from the tin and cool completely on a rack.

## CIDER CREAM CHEESE FROSTING

(Adapted from Epicurious.com)

## INGREDIENTS

**1 cup apple cider**

**4 oz cream cheese, softened but still cool**

**1 to 2 cups powdered sugar**

**A pinch of salt**

Put the apple cider in a small pan and bring to a boil over high heat. Continue to boil until the cider is reduced to about 2 tablespoons (it will be slightly syrupy). Set aside to cool completely.

With an electric mixer, beat together cooled reduced cider, cream cheese, salt, and 1 cup of the powdered sugar. Add enough additional powdered sugar for desired frosting texture.

# CRITTER FILES

## RIVER OTTERS

— Tara Gravel —

Photo by Lisa Monachelli



**CHILDREN WON'T BE THE ONLY ONES SLEDDING, SLIDING AND PLAYING IN THE SNOW IN STAMFORD THIS WINTER.** If you live near a river, lake, stream or marsh you might get lucky and spot a river otter enjoying some winter sports.

“They’re more common in our area than people think,” says Lisa Monachelli, Senior Environmental Educator with the Stamford Museum & Nature Center. “They’re playful and smart, so like any average five or six year old, they have to be entertained.... They love playing and sliding on their bellies on the snow and ice.”

While otters are nocturnal most of the year, they’re active during the day in winter, and their dark brown

coats stand out against the scenery. Their coats are also as durable, warm and waterproof—probably even more so—than anything made by humans. Combined with a thick layer of fat, that keeps them swimming, fishing and hunting for food in freezing temperatures. Their range extends up to 50 miles in their search for crawfish, shellfish, fish, earthworms, snakes, turtles and even small mammals and birds.

Because of their cute faces, curious natures and madcap antics, “a lot of people can relate to them and like them,” says Monachelli. “It’s a reminder for us to keep the water quality up. We share the planet with some neat critters.”

## OTTER FACTS\*

**SCIENTIFIC NAME:** *Lutra Canadensis*

**RANGE:** Canada, the Northwest, upper Great Lakes area, New England, and the Atlantic and Gulf Coast states

**HOME RANGE:** Otters stay in one place for just a few of days at a time and it can take two weeks to a month for them to cover their 50-mile range.

**SIZE:** 36 to 50 inches long (the tail alone reaches 12 to 18 inches); 12 to 25 pounds.

**LIFESPAN:** About 15 years

**MATING SEASON:** March to April, with a litter of one to five pups born 10-12 months later due to delayed implantation of fertilized egg

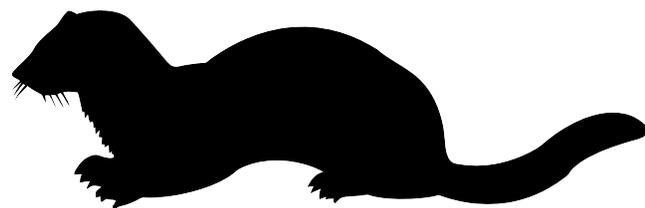
**HOME:** Abandoned bank burrows of muskrats or beavers, hollow logs and tree bases

**DIET:** fish, frogs, crayfish, shellfish, aquatic insects, earthworms, snakes, turtles, salamanders, and small birds and mammals

**PREDATORS:** Coyotes, bobcats, foxes, and owls

**EVEN BETTER THAN MICHAEL PHELPS:**

Otters can stay underwater for up to 4 minutes, dive to 60 feet, reach a speed of 7 miles per hour and swim a quarter of a mile under water...



\*Info from the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection. Visit [www.ct.gov/dep](http://www.ct.gov/dep) to learn more about otters and other local critters.

# NEW & NOTEWORTHY

## DOLPHINS IN THE SOUND?

That's right—dolphins were spotted in the sound this summer. Author Tom Andersen says they were there “on porpoise.” Come find out why when he talks at our annual meeting, Wednesday, November 16th, 7 p.m. at the Stamford Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard, 2nd floor meeting room. Parking is free.

## RECYCLING NEWS

In case you missed the news, Stamford's recycling centers now offer a free electronic recycling program. WeRecycle! picks up the electronics and takes them to its recycling facility at no cost to the city. This diverted 217.6 tons of electronics out of Stamford's waste stream in the past year, according to Dan Colleluori, Stamford's Supervisor of Solid Waste & Recycling. You can drop off computers, monitors, TVs, VCRs, DVD players, cell

phones, copiers/fax machines, printers, radios, stereos, small electronics, inks/toners, batteries (including alkaline, rechargeable, lithium ion & car batteries), compact fluorescent light bulbs and fluorescent lamps. See [cityofstamford.org](http://cityofstamford.org) for more information.

## HISTORY OF HIGH RIDGE

Live in 06903 and wonder what it was like centuries ago? Visit the Stamford Historical Society's exhibit, “P.O. High Ridge Connecticut,” which opened September 22. The exhibit traces “the development of the High Ridge community from its first settlement as an agrarian village in the late 1700s to the present.” Photos as well as baskets, tools, agricultural artifacts, and the original post office letterbox will show what life was like before you could pick up Starbucks and Cosi on your way north. Visit [stamfordhistory.org](http://stamfordhistory.org) for more information.

### Won't you join us?



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 \_\_\_\_\_

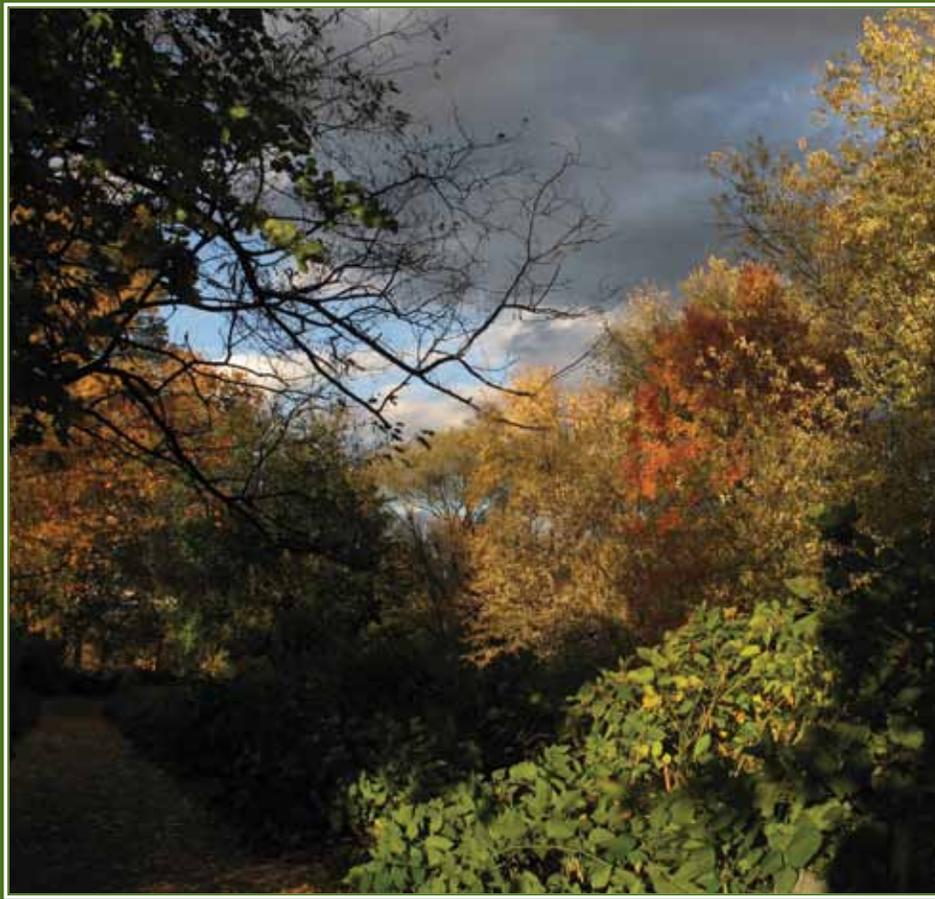
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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.**

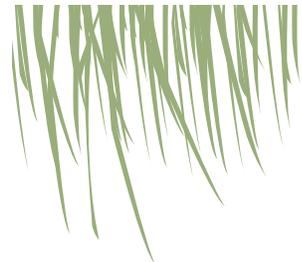
**MISSION STATEMENT**

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.

*Autumn treescape  
Photo by Sue Sweeney*

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