

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 2021

SAVING THE WOODS



The Stamford Land Trust has an opportunity to purchase 64 woodland acres contiguous to our Helen Altschul Preserve. Help us preserve this open space. [LEARN MORE INSIDE!](#)

USING NATIVE PLANTS TO FIGHT INVASIVE SPECIES

SAVE THE DATE | OCTOBER 20 | SLCT ANNUAL MEETING | 6:30 PM

President's Letter	2	Plants to Fight Invasive Species.....	4	SLCT Land Stewardship.....	6
Save The Woods!	3	SLCT Annual Meeting.....	5	Kids' Corner	7



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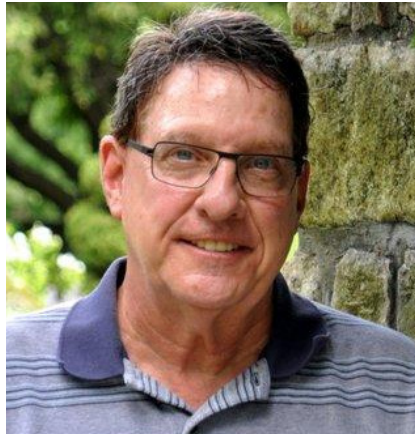
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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

“Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul.” ~John Muir



Harry Day, Stamford Land
Conservation Trust President

Dear Friends of SLCT,

As we look forward to celebrating our Golden Anniversary in 2022, we're excited to be amid one of our most rewarding and productive periods since the Stamford Land Conservation Trust was founded.

As noted on the cover of this newsletter, SLCT is in the process of trying to acquire 64 acres from two members of the Altschul family. The successful completion of this acquisition is important on multiple levels. It cements the long-term relationship between the Altschul family, the Stamford Land Conservation Trust and the City of Stamford. Stamford is fortunate to be the beneficiary of the family's passion for conservation and open space. The successful completion of the acquisition will result in 245 acres of contiguous open space that is available for the Stamford community to enjoy. Covid certainly taught us

the importance of having open space for passive recreation; it's good for our emotional as well as physical health. Lastly, since the 64-acres sit squarely in the Mianus River Watershed, ensuring they are protected from development also protects the long-term health of our ecosystem.

While the significance of this acquisition cannot be overstated, it's not the only thing we've been working on. The late Kathryn Graham, a longtime friend of SLCT and another member of the Altschul family, remembered SLCT with an easement of 24-acres on Riverbank Road. In addition, we're negotiating on several other parcels to bring under SLCT stewardship. With luck, the momentum will continue.

On behalf of the board, I'd like to thank you for your ongoing support. Please consider donating today to help make the 64-acre acquisition a reality. It really is an investment in your community.

And please come to the SLCT Annual Meeting on October 20th. Our guest speaker will be sharing information on how we can use native plants to fight the spread of invasive species. We're planning an in-person meeting, with Covid protocols in place. Be sure to RSVP on our website so we can let you know if that changes to a ZOOM meeting. In the interim, enjoy our preserves!!

Best wishes for a Happy and Healthy fall,

~Harry Day, President

SAVE THE WOODS!

SLCT has a once in a lifetime opportunity to preserve 64 acres of woodlands, minutes from downtown Stamford.



The Stamford Land Conservation Trust is raising funds to purchase 64 acres from the Altschul family for approximately \$3M. Located on Den and Riverbank Road, the 64 acres are adjacent to the 164-acre Helen Altschul Preserve — SLCT's crown jewel and largest preserve. Although the two properties were listed for sale for just under \$4 million, the family has agreed to sell them to SLCT for \$3 million, well below market price.

Together with nearby Newman Mills Park and a 21-acre parcel of conservation land on June Road, the acquisition of the 64 acres would result in a combined open space area of 245 acres! Preserving this open space in its natural state for residents of Stamford to have access to and enjoy would be a major achievement for SLCT and the community at large. If SLCT cannot raise the funds required to complete this purchase, the property will be sold to developers.

SLCT has made significant progress toward raising the \$3M; Stamford resident Richard Freedman has pledged \$1 million and SLCT President Harry Day is contributing \$200,000. SLCT also has commitments in hand from several of community leaders and non-profits. In addition, Mayor Martin requested and received approval from the city's boards for a \$1 million allocation from the City of Stamford.

Even with the significant contributions outlined above, SLCT still has a shortfall of approximately \$550,000 needed to close the gap and complete the purchase.

How can you help?

Please consider donating! Every contribution, no matter the size, helps get us closer to the purchase price.

For more information about the properties and their importance to the community, please email info@stamfordland.com.

Donations by check can be mailed to:

Stamford Land Conservation Trust
22 First Street
Stamford, CT 06905

Donating online is easy. Go to www.stamfordland.org and use the Donate Button.

To ensure your donation is used for the protection of this forest land, please include "64 acres" on your check or online donation.

Let's Do This Together!

USING NATIVE PLANTS TO FIGHT INVASIVE SPECIES

DO YOU KNOW WHAT PLANTS ARE GROWING IN YOUR BACK YARD? CHANCES ARE, ALONG WITH YOUR FAVORITE FLOWERING PLANTS AND SHRUBS, YOUR YARD IS ALSO HOME TO NON-NATIVE INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES.

What are non-native plant species?

Non-native invasive species are aggressive plants that have made their way into our landscape, either by being planted intentionally or by attaching themselves to people or products that have passed through. There are currently over 100 non-native species in Connecticut and counting!

Unfortunately, non-native invasive species thrive in our waterways, backyards, and woodland environment, and with no native enemies they can spread unchecked. They crowd out native species, kill trees and overrun gardens, native woodlands, and wetlands. This, in turn, endangers animal species that depend on native plants to survive. Bottomline, non-native plants can endanger entire ecosystems.

What can we do to stop non-native plants from spreading?

It is important to remove non-native plants as soon as you identify them. Just as important is planting native species to replace them. In the right conditions, native plants will flourish, providing nourishment and shelter to native insects, birds, and animals.



LEARN ALL ABOUT HOW TO USE NATIVE PLANTS TO FIGHT INVASIVE SPECIES AT OUR ANNUAL MEETING ON OCTOBER 20TH, 2021, FROM 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM.

Our guest lecturer is Peter Picone, an experienced wildlife biologist who has worked with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) for over 30 years. Peter is a past chair of the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group and has been implementing ecological restoration and enhancement practices with his family at Charter Oak Tree Farm.

Peter will tell us how to identify non-native plants, the best means to eradicate them, and which natives are the best to plant to fight the most prevalent invasive species. His knowledge and practical experience will inform us about what we can do to make a difference.

SLCT Annual Meeting

WHEN: Wednesday, October 20, 2021

WHERE: Knobloch Family Farmhouse Education Center
at Stamford Museum & Nature Center:
151 Scofieldtown Road
Ample parking available.

TIME: 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

COVID-19 safety protocols will be followed. Please wear a mask.

For more information or to RSVP please see www.stamfordland.org



SLCT LAND STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION

At Stamford Land Conservation Trust we are committed to being good stewards of the preserves in our care. That means clearing debris, maintaining our property lines, removing non-native plants, and planting native alternatives.

We depend on volunteers to help us steward our properties and host volunteer events throughout the year, with groups big and small, on our preserves around Stamford.



2021 SPRING-SUMMER EVENTS

Keller-Williams Corporate Volunteer Event

Over 50 volunteers from Keller-Williams joined us on May 13th at the Helen Altschul Preserve to clear trails, remove invasive plant species, and plant native wildflowers such as yarrow, beebalm, and black-eyed susans.

Chestnut Planting

The Stamford Land Conservation Trust is working with the American Chestnut Foundation to bring the iconic American chestnut tree back to Stamford. On May 14th we planted six chestnut trees, four saplings and two from seeds. Three were planted on the Helen Altschul Preserve and three on our Birchmeadow Preserve. We're happy to report the two planted from seed have germinated and all six saplings are alive and growing!

Removing Invasives and Planting Natives

On June 6th we worked alongside volunteers to remove knotweed on our property on Woods End Road. We also planted native flowers including milkweed and sneezeweed.

We returned to the Woods End property in August to remove additional knotweed before it drops seed to prevent it from spreading. We are beginning to make inroads as the knotweed is not as robust and the native wildflowers are taking hold. Perhaps most exciting, the property is starting to attract pollinators!

Get Involved!

If you would like to volunteer for an event, or become a property steward, please email us at info@stamfordland.org or send a message through our website: www.stamfordland.org.

STAMFORD LAND CONSERVATION TRUST CONTACTS

Email: info@stamfordland.org
Phone: 203-578-7258

Website: www.StamfordLand.org
Address: 22 First Street, Stamford CT

KIDS' CORNER



Take a Fall Color Hike!

Make the most out of the gorgeous fall colors by taking the kids on a fall color hike! Give them a printout of the colors of the rainbow (or use paint sample cards) and have them find leaves and other items that match each color: Red, orange, green, yellow, and brown are easy, but can they find something purple? What about black and white? A color hike is a great way to entertain and occupy kids while hiking through the woods or a local park. Don't have time for a long hike? You can do this anywhere – even in your own backyard..



FUN FALL WORD SEARCH

Find each of the fall words hidden below.

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

WORDS TO FIND:

pumpkin	harvest
yellow	apples
scarecrow	hayride
autumn	red
leaves	Thanksgiving
sunflower	football
acorns	orange
corn	



Find more printables for children at [scholastic.com/parents/activities-and-printables](https://www.scholastic.com/parents/activities-and-printables) 

STAMFORD LAND CONSERVATION TRUST

22 FIRST STREET, STAMFORD, CT 06905-0247



SAVE THE WOODS!

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We need your help to do it!
Learn more on Page 3