



Eastern Bluebirds spring into action. Photos courtesy of Julie Stuart.

Spring News from the Southbury Land Trust

Dear Members and Friends,

Whew! That was a rough winter! Not all bad though, because we had many opportunities to snowshoe and cross-country ski at Platt Farm and other Land Trust properties. But now it's spring - time to enjoy the warmer weather and look for wild flowers in the fields and woods. It's been proven by yet another scientific study that getting outdoors is excellent for your mental as well as physical health. Take a look on Page 2 for some beautiful Land Trust hiking trails.

In addition to the arrival of spring, we have another bit of good news: We received a grant from the Connecticut Land Conservation Council to help pay for an in-depth study of 921 acres of Southbury Training School property on which we'll be holding a conservation easement. The study will help us understand the wide variety of agricultural and natural resources on the land and plan for its long-term sustainable care.

I also want to tell you about a very special event we're planning... The Southbury Land Trust is hosting an exciting, first-time event called "A Taste of Spring". This will be a Wine & Beer Tasting gathering that will be held on Friday evening, May 29th from 5 PM to 7:30 PM at the Heritage Hotel, 522 Heritage Road in Southbury. A selection of wine and beer will be served by local vineyards and breweries. All proceeds from the event will go to the Southbury Land Trust. We want to thank The Heritage Hotel for their sponsorship of this event!



Yale School of Management students LucyAnn Murray and Evan Beinecke visit with Tom Crider, SLT President and Regina Badura, Stewardship Director, to discuss a management plan/market analysis of Southbury Farmlands.

We would love to have you and your family and friends attend. The event is open to all lovers of good wines and brews. Both experts and novices are welcome. Tickets at \$25.00 per person will include free tastings, one glass of beer or wine of your choice, hors d'oeuvres and soft drinks, accompanied by live background music.

If you have questions or would like to purchase tickets, you may reach our Administrative Director, Julie Stuart, by phone at 203-264-4441 or by email at jstuart@southburylandtrust.org.

We look forward to hearing from you and hope to see you on May 29th!

With sincere thanks,

Tom Crider, *President*



Visit SLT's Trails!

The Southbury Land Trust offers residents and guests a number of wonderful places to hike. With spring fever afoot, why not hit the local trails and enjoy some fresh air! The following preserves have trails open to the public:

1. Fox Hollow Preserve	200 Sleepy Hill Road	23 acres
2. Ivers Nature Preserve	600 West Purchase Road	74 acres
3. Harry and Dorothy Bassett Preserve	350 Turrill Brook Drive	112 acres
4. Koons Nature Preserve*	195 Spruce Brook Road	39 acres
5. Phillips/Lovdal Farm Preserve	400 Sanford Road / 530 Hulls Hill Road	155 acres
6. Platt Farm Preserve	465 Flood Bridge Road	109 acres

* temporarily closed

Download Our Trail Maps at www.southburylandtrust.org

Karen Huber Receives Special Award

The Southbury Land Trust Board of Trustees presented a Special Recognition Award to Karen Huber honoring her service to the organization during her 14 years as Executive Director. The Award states that it is given in recognition of "her outstanding service as the Executive Director of the Southbury Land Trust from 2001-2014 during which time her skills and dedication contributed significantly to the growth of the organization and the fulfillment of its mission."

Land Trust President Tom Crider said "Karen was our first staff member, joining at a time when we were involved in preserving several significant Southbury farms and other open space properties. She has been an exceptionally skilled and diligent Executive Director. Much of the Land Trust's success during her tenure, is directly linked to her leadership and hard work."



Karen Huber, former Executive Director and Tom Crider, current SLT President

A Legacy Gift For SLT's FUTURE



Please consider including a bequest to the Southbury Land Trust in your will. It's one of the simplest and most effective ways to support the preservation of open space for generations to come. A wonderful legacy! We'll gladly supply the wording you need to insert in your document. Just give us a call at 203-264-4441. Or ask your attorney to call us. Give the gift that lasts!



Southbury Land Trust *at a glance*

- Founded in **1978**
- **2,007** protected acres
- Own **46** Preserved Properties
- Hold conservation easements on **24** Properties
- Maintain **15** Hiking Trails covering **14.7** miles for public use
- Currently have **389** annual memberships (and always welcome more)

Our Mission: To preserve farmland, open spaces and other natural resources for the benefit of present and future residents of Southbury

Please Join Us

Spring Hike for singles

Saturday, April 25th at 1:30 PM

*Phillips Farm Preserve located at
400 Sanford Road, Southbury*

Join area singles for an approximately 1 hour guided hike on the beautiful Phillips Farm Preserve. Please wear sturdy shoes and bring water. For those interested, following the hike we will meet at the Black Hog Brewery in Oxford to try out some local brews. Snacks at the brewery will be provided by the Land Trust.

*Check out the Black Hog at
www.blackhogbrewing.com*



For more information contact the SLT office at 203-264-4441 or email jstuart@southburylandtrust.org

THANK YOU

The 2014 Membership Drive yielded some terrific results. We currently have 389 contributors and have brought in over \$25,000. Your contribution allows us to continue our important work to preserve farmland, open spaces and other natural resources for the benefit of present and future residents of Southbury.

Please contact us if you are interested in volunteering. Opportunities are available in the office or in the field. Regina Badura, our Stewardship Director, will be busy this spring cleaning up trails after a tough winter. Many hands make for light work!

We Appreciate Your Generosity!



Please Donate to SLT

To donate go to: www.givelocalccf.org

Hosted on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 5-6th, by the Connecticut Community Foundation, Give Local Greater Waterbury & Litchfield Hills is a 36-hour online community giving event. Give Local gives donors a chance to come together and lend their support to the nonprofit organizations that work every day to make our community stronger.

Donations to the Southbury Land Trust will provide funds to protect your environment and your quality of life.

As a bonus, every dollar donated from 7 a.m. on May 5th to 7 p.m. on May 6th will be enhanced with bonus funds provided by the Connecticut Community Foundation and Give Local sponsors. Your donation can help us win cash prizes during the event as well!



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SOUTHBURY LAND TRUST

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You Are Invited

2015 Annual Meeting

Sunday, May 3rd at 2 PM
Southbury Public Library
in the Kingsley Room

Learn what the Land Trust has accomplished over the last year and our plans for the future. A special presentation will be given by a DEEP biologist who will talk about the New England Cottontail. Refreshments and lite bites will be served.



About the New England Cottontail

*Come learn about this
rare rabbit and what we
can all do to help restore
this species*

The New England cottontail lives in parts of New England and New York state. The range of this once-common rabbit has shrunk and its population has dwindled over the last 50 years, so that today this unique native mammal needs our help to survive. The most critical threat to the cottontail is a loss of habitat – places where rabbits can find food, rear young, and escape predators. Development has taken much of the land once inhabited by cottontails and other wildlife. And thousands of acres that used to be young forest (ideal cottontail habitat) have grown up into middle-aged and older woods, where rabbits don't generally live.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A *Taste of* Spring

WINE & BEER TASTING
HORS D' OEUVRES - MUSIC - SILENT AUCTION

Friday, May 29th 5 PM - 7:30 PM
at the Heritage Hotel
Tickets: \$25.00
All proceeds support the
Southbury Land Trust

*Open to all lovers
of good wines and brews.
Just bring your enthusiasm!*

SPONSORED BY
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Taste of Spring Committee

<i>Regina Badura</i>	<i>Ginny Middleton</i>
<i>Donna Civitello</i>	<i>Rita Mosca</i>
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<i>Lainie Jedlinsky</i>	<i>Julie Stuart</i>

