



The Balance Sheet

Cheshire Land Trust

cheshirelandtrust.org

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August 2010

Preserving Land as a Living Resource Since 1969

JOIN US AT THE FALL FESTIVAL & MARKETPLACE

CLT is expanding its presence at Cheshire's premiere fall event, the **Fall Festival and Marketplace**. We have secured 3 booths at the Fall Festival which will be held at Bartlem Park Saturday September 11, 2010 10- 5. (Chamber sponsored fireworks display will take place later that evening)

We will highlight 1) Ives Farm & farmland protection, 2) CLT activities including hiking, bird watching & stewardship and 3) membership. We have invited **Horizon Wings** to put on a show at the event. This organization rescues birds of prey that have been injured in the wild. They will do an hour show with rescued birds of prey in the gazebo.

They will then bring some birds to our booth and show them individually as people come by. We hope that will attract children and families to our booth to learn more about the birds and get better acquainted with the Land Trust.

More About Horizon Wings

Horizon Wings was formed in 2001 by Mary-Beth Kaeser and her husband Alan Nordell. They are a non-profit organization for the rehabilitation of Raptors. Mary-Beth has been a Wildlife Rehabilitator since 1985. Alan has had a life long interest in raptors, and has



been involved with the Bald Eagle Study Group in CT for many years.

“The mission at Horizon Wings is to rehabilitate Birds of Prey for release into the wild in order to maintain their

populations and to educate the community to enhance awareness of the environment. It is our hope by doing this that we reach people of all ages and creates the desire in them to help preserve our natural world.”

IVES FARM GRIND

by Jeanné Chesanow

A Land Trust work crew started cleaning out the Ives hay barn on June 27 this year. It proved to be a journey into the history of farming, as illustrated by the many farm tools and machines we found. Among the machines was a **LETZ grinder**. For many years Edward Ives used this grinder, manufactured by the Letz Company, to grind corn to feed to his dairy cows.

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IVES FARM GRIND

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We know that because inside the grinder, along with a set of new grinder plates, we found a brown-stained, folded up typed letter dated December 6, 1961 to the Letz Company from Edward Ives, 1585 Cheshire Street, Cheshire, Conn.

The Letz Mfg. Co.
Crown Point, Indiana
Att: Mr. Leslie J. Reeder

Gentlemen:

In October you sent me a set of feedgrinder plates, No. A187-188. While I was using these plates for the first time, one of the plates literally fell apart inside the grinder. Have been using this grinder since 1917 and have ground hundreds of bushels of corn and other feed with it, but this is the first time I have had this experience, so am quite certain that the metal must have been defective.

Am returning the broken parts for your inspection. The other plate was damaged also by the broken parts as I was unable to shut down the tractor quickly enough. If possible, I would greatly appreciate your sending me a replacement set, no charge,

Very truly yours,

(signature of : *Edward A. Ives*)

EAI: b

We presume the "b" was Betty, who probably typed the letter and we assume that the new grinder plates were the replacements that the Letz people sent. Edward would have been 16 if he was grinding corn in 1917. At that time, Howard Ives, Edward's father owned the farm and probably purchased this faithful, hardworking grinder. The grinding wheels still turn; if cleaned up this grinder would probably grind corn for another 50 years or so!

OF POSTS AND BEAMS

IVES BARN RAISING

BARN RESTORATION GRANT AWARDED

The Trust will soon be receiving bids for the restoration and



reconstruction of the Ives Farm hay barn. CLT was awarded a matching grant from the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism in May. The design work is done and we are hoping to see the restoration underway late fall.

The project will include roofing, siding replacement and general rehabilitation of the barn. The final cost is not yet known but the grant application estimated its costs including design work to be \$98,000. CLT will be reimbursed up to 50% of the cost up to \$48,650.

The design standards call for replicating original construction techniques and materials. Where possible we will reuse all of the valuable timber from the barn but as our readers know much has fallen victim to the march of time. Recent word that the town-owned Lassen/Boulder Knoll barn was slated to be razed got the attention of Bob Davis. He suggested there might be recyclable posts, beams and timbers that could be used in the Ives Barn rehabilitation. Bob, Jeanné, and Janice Yusza drove across town to see the BK barn. Jeanné Chesnow poked a camera into a hole in the barn and saw some sound posts. Mayor Tim Slocum thought it a plausible plan. CLT President Sam Waldo wrote a letter to town manager Michael Milone advocating this salvaging. The town manager liked the idea as did Jerry Sitko, Director of Economic Development.

Joe Michaelangelo, the Town Engineer was asked to allow Oscar Santo Domingo, the structural engineer for the Ives Barn project, into the BK barn see what was what.

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OF POSTS AND BEAMS

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Based on their findings the Town of Cheshire will plan to salvage the following material from the Boulder Knoll Barn demolition.

1. 200 lineal feet of the 7" x 10" center beams, which serve as the ceiling beams for the first floor (and support the second floor decking). Where practical, we will also get the "two by" bottom plate which is attached to the beams.
2. 19 of the first floor columns which measure approximately 7' x 7" x 10".

The recycled materials have been marked with white paint. They will be separated these from the remainder of the demo material. CLT will have to arrange to remove the timbers from town property for reuse at Ives. The town must put the demo project out to bid but it is expected that the work will be done by early fall.

We are looking to members, friends and businesses to help us with this vital project but the donated Bones of Boulder Knoll have offered real structural support at no cost. We a grateful to all and we look forward to our members for their ongoing financial support of this project. Stay tuned.

The Ives Farm Committee

Jeanné Chesanow, Larry Piviroto, David Schrumm,
Tim Slocum, Kevin Wetmore & Jim Mertz

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

(WE HAVE TO INCLUDE AN ENVELOPE WITH EACH MAILING FOR POSTAGE WEIGHT UNIFORMITY. DON'T PAY TWICE...PASS A MEMBERSHIP ENVELOPE ALONG TO A FRIEND)

Grow with us and help us grow. It's time to renew your membership if you haven't done so already. The membership year is from 4/1/10 to 3/31/11. Your Donations are tax deductible. The Cheshire Land Trust actively manages 25 properties and 5 conservation easements totaling 530 acres. Membership dues and contributions provide for management of these properties.

PRESIDENT'S FORUM

We are well into our 41st year, but the organization is buzzing with renewed energy and enthusiasm.

As we've mentioned in past Balance Sheets, CLT was awarded a grant from the Connecticut Land Trust Challenge Fund earlier this year. Those funds enabled us to



hire the consulting firm of Holt, Wexler & Farnum to work with us in refining our mission and vision statements and in developing a strategy for charting CLT's direction in the future. At its May 2010 meeting CTL's Board approved the plan and began to implement its provisions.

Our top priorities over the next 5 years are to:

- Strengthen the Board of Directors
- Engage our Members and Volunteers
- Strengthen and Streamline Stewardship of CLT Properties
- Preserve Ives Farm

We have already begun to enhance our committee structure, working toward achieving the specific goals and objectives outlined in the Strategic Plan. Although we anticipate a measured and gradual move toward enhancing these committees, we are extremely gratified at the response from our membership –from helping with the stewardship of the properties in our care to assisting with putting together our booth and display at this year's Fall Festival.

Furthering our goal to preserve Ives Farm, we have also received a matching grant from the CT Commission on Culture & Tourism for renovation of the barn at the Farm. We are excited about being able to restore this historic structure back to full use as an operating barn and to provide Cheshire with yet another example of its heritage. After the restoration work is completed, we will also be

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PRESIDENT'S FORUM

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working with various community groups to develop and offer educational programs revolving around Ives Farm and its history.

CLT has had a longstanding relationship with Yale's School of Forestry & Environmental Studies, providing opportunities for students in the program to utilize CLT properties as case studies for various projects.

Most recently, Ms. Sarah Fierce, a 2010 candidate for an Environmental Management Masters, developed a "Community Outreach Planning Guide" for CLT. This guide, which used CLT's Fresh Meadows Preserve as its example site, is intended to assist land trusts "in planning and organizing a community outreach activity, centered on a specific property." We are excited about the prospect of integrating the guide into our outreach and stewardship activities. More importantly, we look forward to using the guide to provide increased opportunities for our community to enjoy CLT properties.

As I write this, it seems as if I'm reporting on a full year's activities when, in fact it has been only five months since our annual meeting and election of new officers. The pace is fast but the responsibility the Cheshire Land Trust has been given to preserve and protect Cheshire's natural resources and its scenic and historic sites drives us all. We are grateful for all who have participated with us and welcome all who want to join with us going forward.

Samuel S. Waldo, President

Calendar of Events & Happenings

September 11th Saturday 10 AM – 5PM
Chamber of Commerce Festival at Bartlem Park. Look for the enlarged Land Trust booth. We will be signing up new members and offering information on the Trust, what we're doing and how you can help.

September 18-19 Saturday- Sunday 10 AM – 5PM
Visit the 126th annual Cheshire Grange Community Fair featuring agricultural & home making exhibits, live animals, famous Roast Beef Dinner and auction.

October - Weekends throughout October visit Ives Farm.

Support local farming with your purchase of locally grown produce. Take part in all the family fun including hay rides.

Membership News

New Life Member
Clare Leake

New Members
Kathy Bidwell-Gray & family
John & Margery Halleran
Paul Calaluce
Marge Bykowski



Board of Directors

John Hilzinger joined the governing board in May. He filled the vacancy of retired director Bob Davis whose term expires 2012

Note: The CLT Governing Board meets monthly, usually the 3rd Thursday, at Elim Park Conference Room. Meetings are at 7:00 PM. If you would like to attend, contact Janice Yusza, Executive Director at 272-9491 PKD405@aol.com.

TO OUR READERS

The first edition of **The Balance Sheet** was published in the winter of 1973. This year marks 38 for the newsletter. Today CLT news is also updated on our website, cheshirelandtrust.org. The Balance Sheet has been edited by Tim Slocum since 1989.

Visit cheshirelandtrust.org for the latest Land Trust news and information. The site is currently being updated and improved. Look for our new look this fall.

FOR UPCOMING CHESHIRE LAND TRUST EVENTS
Visit the [Calendar](http://www.cheshirelandtrust.org) section at www.cheshirelandtrust.org