



The Balance Sheet

Cheshire Land Trust cheshirelandtrust.org Vol. 37, No. 2 August 2009
Preserving Land as a Living Resource Since 1969

“ART IN GOOD TASTE” AT IVES FARM

Join us **August 29, 2009** as we celebrate CLT’s 40th Anniversary with an Open Air Art & Wine Festival at Ives Farm - 1585 Cheshire Street 4:00 – 8:00 PM.

Staged in the open fields of Ives Farm, against the backdrop of the setting sun, Cheshire Land Trust presents an Art Exhibit and Sale, showcasing talented local artists and artisans.

local musicians; the perfect ambiance for a memorable summer evening.

Tickets: \$40 or \$75 for two. All proceeds will benefit restoration projects at Ives Farm.

Tickets are available at RW Hine Hardware, Bagelicious, Cheshire Frame & Art, HFM Interiors, Ives Farm or call 203-272-9491 / email PKD405@aol.com

THE RESTORATION OF IVES FARM

By Janice O’Neill Yusza
Executive Director

The Land Trust has had the privilege of preserving Ives Farm since 2006. Maintaining and managing the Ives farming tradition comes with great costs and responsibilities. Although some funds were bequeathed to CLT for the farming operation substantial structural repairs to the house, barns and sheds are now necessary.

We are striving to preserve the farm and restore the buildings so the Cheshire community can know and experience the rich living history of the farm. Over \$30,000 has already been spent on necessary improvements to the house. Further, to ensure the smaller sheds and hay barn can be used for continued operations, as much as \$100,000 will be needed for their rehabilitation.

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Artwork will be on display under the shelter of working greenhouses. The farm, with its planted crop fields, historic barns, antique farming tools, and hiking trails will be open for all to enjoy.

Also offered will be a Wine Tasting. Fine wines provided by regional distributors will each be paired with a variety of foods ideally suited to accompany the wine.

Along with the art, the wine and delicious food there will be delightful musical entertainment by

IVES RESTORATION CAMPAIGN

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We applied for a grant of \$27,000 from the State of Connecticut but budget shortfalls due to a tough economy have eliminated those funds. We now need to raise at least \$100,000 from community sources.

We are looking to our town's people and businesses to help us with this vital project. As you can see repairs to the hay barn should take place as soon as possible.



Hay There...Lets get this fixed now!

With generous response to this appeal we will be able to restore the barn and ensure this 140 year old farming tradition continues well into the next one hundred years. We now launching the Ives Farm Restoration Campaign and we are hopeful it will be supported by our local business community this summer and fall.

We are also be sponsoring a number of programs at Ives Farm to raise public interest in the restoration campaign including an Open Air Art & Wine Festival, "Art in Good Taste" (see story page 1) and weekends events throughout October during Tim Casey's annual Ives Farm Fall.

The Ives Farm Committee

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

Ives Farm Timeline

The Cheshire Land Trust acquires Ives Farm in August 2006 by bequest of Betty Ives. The land has been farmed continuously since 1730.

Tim Casey enters 3 year lease with CLT to manage and operate Ives Farm.

On November 7, 2007 the Connecticut Historic Preservation Council votes to place the Bradley-Ives Farm on the CT Register of Historic Places, making it eligible for state funds for the rehabilitation and/or restoration of the farmhouse, sheds, barns, and windmill.

Summer-Fall 2007 – Graduate students of the Yale School of Forestry form Mosaic Consulting to develop a management plan for Ives-Pelz Farm including the house and other structures on the property. The report is delivered in 2008.

Connecticut Land Trust Challenge Fund Award

By Janice O'Neill Yusza
Executive Director

This spring the Land Trust Alliance and the Connecticut Land Conservation Council announced a new program, the Connecticut Land Trust Challenge Fund. The Challenge Fund provides technical assistance support services to enhance the capacity of Connecticut land trusts. The goal of the Challenge Fund is to build long-term strength and effectiveness of land conservation organizations in Connecticut and to advance land trust efforts to implement Land Trust Standards and Practices.

CLT applied for and was awarded \$7,500 from the CT Land Trust Challenge Fund. The grant will be used to develop a 3 year strategic plan, incorporating planned property acquisition, fundraising, community outreach and stewardship management.

This award illustrates the confidence both the LTA and CLCC place in the strength of our organization. It also ensures we continue to improve our governance and enhance our capacity for operating as an effective and ethically sound organization.

The Genesis of Landscape Architecture

BROOKSVALE FARM PRESERVE

By Tim Slocum

As a young boy growing up in the “Brooksvale” section of Cheshire, I was truly impressed by the magnificence of the expansive hayfields and the stonewalled “McKee – Thayer” estate along South Brooksvale Road. Its grandeur then and now still amazes.

In 1992 Jeanne McKee was speaking to a Land Trust gathering that was honoring her family for protecting their property with a conservation easement to CLT. Among the many notables mentioned in her distinguished family tree was **Frederick Law Olmsted**, the father of American Landscape Architecture.



Jean McKee is a descendant of Thomas Brooks, the distant relative who in 1705 settled “Brooksvale”. (Named for the 3 brooks crossing their property) He is distinguished for naming our town Cheshire after his ancestral home county back in England.

On June 21st a film crew visited the bucolic Brooksvale farm to meet Jean McKee and learn a bit more about Olmsted’s connection to this place. Their documentary film, “**The Olmsted Legacy**”, is being produced over the summer in the various places Olmsted was most influenced by and where he was to have forever influenced those places with his parks and landscapes that celebrated scenery.

He is best known as the designer of Central Park (1857), Brooklyn’s Prospect Park as well as major parks in Buffalo, Louisville and elsewhere. Olmsted founded his own firm in 1883 in Brookline, Massachusetts and conceived Boston’s “Emerald Necklace” of green spaces. Among his many other projects, he played a major role in the 1870s redesign of the U.S. Capitol grounds and in the design of the 1893 Chicago World’s Fair. Olmsted

retired in 1895 and his firm was taken over by his son, Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. (Dissolved in 1980)

Olmsted’s Cheshire connection began as a very young 9-yearold boy who set out with his 6-yearold brother from Hartford to visit his aunt in Cheshire. **They walked!** His endeavor was rewarded with a stay at the farm which was to inspire his appreciation of the landscape there with its rolling hills, glens and trout streams. From the greatest to the least distinguished among us we are all somehow influenced by our earliest experiences.

As a journalist, the young Olmsted traveled in Europe and around America. He was an observer and sometime critic of man but he was always most comfortable absorbing what was around him. His love of the land and its inherent benefits for all led him to a celebrated career in landscape architecture and the enduring legacy he has left America today. And make no mistake, those rolling hills and tree lined stone fences that form one of the most scenic vistas in Cheshire were recalled and replicated in many of the greatest public parks in America.

Drive by or better yet stroll by Brooksvale Farm Preserve today. You can almost hear Olmsted’s words as your eyes set upon the splendid pastoral scenery before you.

“The enjoyment of scenery employs the mind without fatigue and yet exercises it; tranquilizes it and yet enlivens it; and thus, through the influence of the mind over the body gives the effect of refreshing rest and reinvigoration to the whole system.”

Frederick Law Olmsted - Born: 1822 Birthplace: Hartford, Connecticut Died: August 28, 1903 Best known as: The designer of Central Park

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

Grow with us and help us grow. It's time to renew your membership. The membership year is from 4/1/09 to 3/31/10. Your Donations are tax deductible. The Cheshire Land Trust actively manages 25 properties and 4 conservation easements totaling 525 acres. Membership dues and contributions provide for management of these properties.

Volunteers Needed

We need your help 8/29 at Ives Farm to make "Art in Good Taste" a successful event for all.

We need help with set up, guiding and hosting duties...and yes for the clean up too.

Please contact: David Schrumm, 272-2689; Kristina Blackwell, 271-0827; Tim Slocum 272-3529; Kevin Wetmore, 272-3766



Calendar of Events & Happenings

September 12th Saturday 10 AM – 5PM

Chamber of Commerce Festival at Bartlem Park. Look for the 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 19 -20 Saturday- Sunday 10 AM – 5PM

The 125th 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.

Note: The CLT Governing Board meets monthly, usually the 3rd Thursday, at Elim Park Conference Room. Meetings are at 7:30 PM. If you would like to attend, contact Kevin Wetmore at 272-3766

TO OUR READERS

The first edition of **The Balance Sheet** was published in the winter of 1973. The one sheet format was mailed 2 to 3 times a year. This year marks 37 for the newsletter. Today CLT news is also constantly updated on our website, cheshirelandtrust.org. The Balance Sheet has been edited by Tim Slocum since 1989.

CLT CELEBRATES ITS FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY

Residents lining Route 10 were able to see CLT's impressive float this year at the Memorial Day Parade. A reproduction of a barn was created by board member, Larry Piviroto and assembled by members for the event. Tim Casey provided the transportation.



CLT'S MEMORIAL DAY PARADE FLOAT

Visit cheshirelandtrust.org for the latest Land Trust news and information. The site is constantly updated and improved to assist our members, fellow residents and potential donors.

FOR UPCOMING CHESHIRE LAND TRUST EVENTS

Visit the Calendar section at www.cheshirelandtrust.org

CLT MEMBER COUPON

If you missed the strawberry picking this spring you must Visit Ives Farm today for the BEST Cheshire grown Sweet Corn. Try the tomatoes, peppers, squash and flowers. We will have plenty of pumpkins in the fall. Cut out the coupon for extra savings.

10% OFF

A Purchase of
Produce at
Ives Farm



Fresh Sweet Corn - Peppers - Tomatoes & More
Coupon Valid through October 2009