
The Balance Sheet

Cheshire Land Trust cheshirelandtrust.org Vol. 42, No. 1 March 2014
Preserving Land as a Living Resource Since 1969

Annual Meeting

Cheshire Land Trust's 45th Annual Meeting will be held **Thursday, March 27th at Cheshire Town Hall**. Join us for light refreshments at 6:30 PM followed by the business meeting and the election of the 2014 governing board at 7:00 PM. This year's program will feature Cheshire's own Charles Dimmick, a respected geologist and educator. He will talk about Cheshire's many eons of earth history (**See story on page 2**) For information on the event please contact Janice Bryden 250-8817 or Dave Schrumm 272-2689.

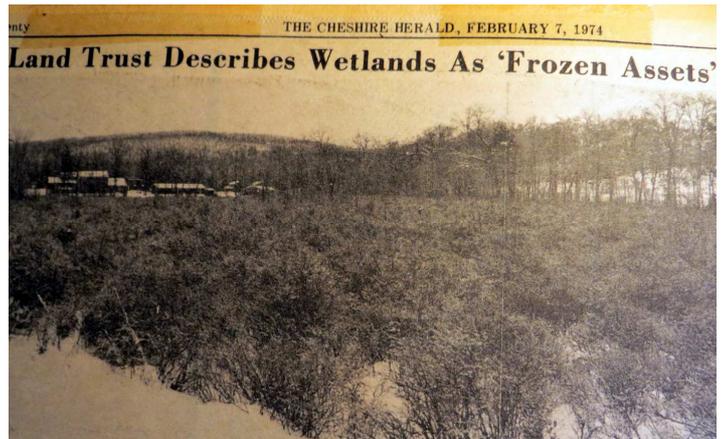
Frozen Assets

By Jeanné R. Stewart Chesanow

STRATHMORE...AN OPEN AND NATURAL STATE

One of the Land Trust's early acquisitions was the Strathmore Preserve, seven acres of shrub-scrub wetland at the corner of Rustic Lane and Oak Avenue. This early photo shows the snow-covered parcel in 1974, as seen from Oak Avenue looking west to the traprock ridge. Most of the shrubs covering this preserve are blueberries. Houses are clearly seen along the western edge of the property, and even the ridge looks less forested as shown here forty years ago. Dr. Albert Worrell of the Land Trust was quoted in the text accompanying the photo.

"A recent storm dramatizes the role of Cheshire's wetlands in conserving the natural resources of the town...they add beauty and contrast to the landscape...they preserve vistas and long views - views that are so easily lost to urban development."



Early Cheshire Herald photo Strathmore Woods

Today the vistas are gone, not because of development, but probably as a result of natural succession. The blueberries thrive and the area remains wet for most of the year, but many trees (not predicted) have sprung up, blocking most of the view of the ridge. Neighbors of this preserve have in fact complained that their vistas across the wetland are now obscured and have asked the Land Trust to cut down the offending trees.

All over New England, swamps, farm ponds, and beaver ponds have become wet woodlands.

Continued page 2

Inside This Issue

- 1** Annual Meeting & Program
 - 2** New Leadership Slate
 - 3** President's Letter
 - 4** 2013 Financial Statement
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Frozen Assets

Continued from page 1

They are on their way to being forests, showing that human actions are not the only forces at work on the landscape.

This changing wetland's other benefits and protections remain; parts of Dr. Worrell's quote hold true. *"Held in perpetuity by the Cheshire Land Trust for the benefit of all the people, (wetlands) are a permanent town asset. In times of flood, they hold back water and store it for times of drought. They help native wildlife thrive for our continuing enjoyment by providing food, shelter and nesting sites for birds and animals."* But one of his other predictions missed the mark. *"These seven acres"*, he said referring to this parcel, *"are going to remain frozen in a natural state for all time."* While it is true that the seven acres do remain in a natural state, it is not a static, unchanging, "frozen" state. Rather than "ever changing throughout the year" as the article states, this preserve (like all our lands) will be changing throughout time, sometimes in foreseeable ways, and sometimes in unpredictable ways.

This is an excerpt from a book in progress *Glaciers to Greenhouses: The Changing Landscape of Cheshire, CT*. © 2014 Jeanné R, Stewart Chesanow, Cheshire Town Historian

Strathmore Preserve is a wetland wildlife sanctuary. It was donated by Richard Fiske – Ravenswood Properties in 1970...CLT's second acquisition.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Grow with us and help us grow. It's time to renew your membership. The membership year is from 4/1/14 to 3/31/15. Your Donations are tax deductible. The Cheshire Land Trust actively manages 25 properties and 9 conservation easements totaling 568 acres. Your membership dues and contributions provide for management of these properties.

Guest Speaker & Program News

Charles Dimmick

HOW DID CHESHIRE BECOME CHESHIRE?

How did Cheshire's "western wall" along Mountain Road come to be? Why is the northern part of Cheshire so flat and the soil so rich for agriculture? Why did West Peak *aka* Meriden Mountain and Sleeping Giant sprout from the surrounding flat land? Why was Cheshire chosen as the route for the canal from New Haven to Massachusetts?

Find the answers at the Cheshire Land Trust's Annual Meeting on March 27th at Town Hall at 7:00 pm. Our guest speaker will be Cheshire's own Charles Dimmick. Charles is a Professor of Geology Emeritus, having retired from Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) in 2005 after 40 years of teaching. He is a Certified Professional Geologist, and served for three years as national editor for the American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG) and three years as President of the Northeast Section of AIPG. He also did consulting work in environmental geology, engineering geology, and hydrogeology from 1974 through 2010 for towns, developers, and citizen's groups. He has been a member of the Cheshire Wetlands Commission since 1974, and is currently Treasurer of the Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions. He received degrees from Colorado School of Mines, University of Florida, and Tulane University. Dr. Dimmick is also an active parishioner of St. Peter's Episcopal Church, an officer of Cheshire Grange (Patrons of Husbandry) and active in committees of the Connecticut State Grange and of the Association of Connecticut Fairs. He also serves as parliamentarian of the Faculty Senate of CCSU.

His knowledge of the geological history of Connecticut in general and our town in particular is remarkable. Don't miss this opportunity to learn how Cheshire came to be!

President's Letter

Spring is in the air! If I believe it, it will come, right? While there is a foot of poor man's fertilizer on the ground, the days are getting longer, the sun is getting stronger and the bird activity in my yard has most certainly increased; all signs that we are



approaching the end of winter's hold. It's hard to believe that we're already into the third month of 2014. I know I've officially turned into my parents, because I often talk about time "flying by," children growing up too fast (especially mine) and not having enough hours in the day. Speaking of time flying by, the Cheshire Land Trust (CLT) is celebrating its 45th birthday this year. Forty-five years is a long time, but since personally having marked a half century last year, I'm calling the CLT 45 years young! And it's a good thing because there's a lot of work to be done in preserving the open spaces and historic places of our town.

2013 was a busy year. In March, at our annual meeting, we recognized the Leavenworth & Knickerbocker families who entered into an agreement for a conservation restriction on their Leavenworth Farm property. The agreement protects the land from residential development now and in the future. Thirty-eight of acres of the 42 acre farm are protected by this agreement and bringing us to almost 570 acres of land under our care for monitoring and maintenance. We hosted a number of hikes for both the novice, and more adventurous hiker and educational talks throughout the year. But by far, this year's biggest effort was the raising of a

new American Country Barns timber frame barn at Ives Farm. Volunteers led by Directors, Jim Mertz and Dave Schrumm donated their time to complete trim work, paint the barn, landscape the exterior and recondition stone walls. They also worked to carefully preserve chestnut beams from the original barn and seal the new concrete floor. In August, we christened the barn, holding our monthly Board meeting there, and on October 5th, the barn and farm were open to the public for "A Day on The Farm." It was an outstanding day with exhibitors and free food donated by **Bagelicious** and **Bishop Farms**. **T&D Growers** provided hay rides and a bounce house free of charge, as well as complimentary hot dogs and hamburgers. Fun was had by all, especially the kids!

In November, we embarked on something for the adults with a "Pint Night" fund raiser hosted by our friends at the **Denali** Cheshire store. The evening benefitted the Cheshire Land Trust, as well as our friends from the Quinnipiac River Watershed Association and the Quinnipiac Valley Audubon Society. Over 100 visitors attended and enjoyed food donated by **Pop's Pizza**, beer, wine and chances to win a number of raffle prizes. While there, many took advantage of the opportunity to pick up an early holiday present or two. A great time was had by all! It brings a smile to my face to think of all we've accomplished this year; all of it made possible with the volunteer efforts of our members and directors and the support of local businesses who have donated goods and services to us. As a non-profit, non-governmental organization, membership support is the driving force behind our successes. This newsletter contains an envelope for those who want to join the Land Trust or renew their membership. We aspire to involve our membership in the care of CLT properties and hope that you will consider fiscal support of our endeavors, but also physical support. Presently, there is a great need for volunteers to support

stewardship of our properties. There is a variety of work to be done, from easy to technical.

To help, contact Mark at mkasinskas@me.com, or Rick at rickssin@cox.net, or leave a message at 203.806.5165. Individuals, families, scout groups, church groups, student groups, senior groups, and civic groups are all welcome! I invite you to join us for our Annual Meeting on March 27, 2014. Come see what we're all about. We'd love to hear your ideas on how the Land Trust can serve you better. The meeting will take place in Council Chambers on the second floor at Cheshire Town Hall. Following a brief meeting we'll enjoy hearing guest speaker, Dr. Charles Dimmick, Professor of Geology at Central Connecticut State University. Can't make it on the 27th? Our regular meetings are scheduled at 7pm on the third Thursday of every month and are open to all members and the public. We'd be happy to see you. No need to wait for a meeting, though. You can drop me a line anytime at janice.bryden@snet.net or give me a call at 203.250.8817.

Janice Bryden, President

Trails Day Event Sunday June 8th

Come explore the Cheshire Land Trust's 33-acre Fresh Meadows Wildlife Preserve off of Cook Hill Road as part of Trails Day 2014. Meet at 10 AM. This hike will wind along 1 mile of mostly level trails through early-successional forest, cedars, and meadow areas. Hike leader Rick Marinaro will describe the history of this great parcel and some of the CLT's management activities. While at Fresh Meadows, there's always a chance to see several meadowland bird species, and wildflowers change throughout the seasons. This is an easy and enjoyable hike for all ages!

Meet at the Fresh Meadows parking area along Cook Hill Road, between Corliss Lane and Fenn Road. Park on Fenn Road if the CLT lot is full.

See more Info about hiking trails at Fresh Meadows and other CLT properties at www.cheshirelandtrust.org/hiking.htm.

IVES FARM NEWS



Eat Local – Buy Local

2014 COMMUNITY SHARED AGRICULTURE

Joe and Michael Arisco of **T&D Growers** have been managing farming operations at Ives Farm for three years.

Again this year, T&D Growers invites you to take advantage of their Community Shared Agriculture Program at Ives Farm. Your support of this program ensures you a bountiful harvest of locally grown fruit and vegetables from local growers for a twenty week period beginning June 20th through October 31st. By supporting local growers you are helping to keep Ives Farm a growing enterprise for future generations.

A full share (feeds a family of 6 or more) is \$600.00 for the season. Half Shares (feeds up to a family of 4) is \$300.00. Pick up is every Friday during this period at Ives Farms. Pick up hours are between 11:00 AM and 4:00 PM.

Some Vegetables that will be included are Summer Squashes, Peppers, Beets, Eggplant, Turnips, Cabbages, Tomatoes, Lettuces, Corn and Herbs just to name a few. Reserve your shares by calling T&D Growers, 2035 Scott Road, Cheshire – Tel. 203-271-0113. www.tanddgrowers.com

To keep up-to-date with the Cheshire Land Trust about hikes, events, and other news, join our email list (signup at www.cheshirelandtrust.org) and follow us on Twitter at @CheshireLT.

Election of Officers & Directors

The slate of officers and directors will be placed in nomination at the annual meeting of the Cheshire Land Trust March 27th. Four officers and three directors are up for election. Officers serve one-year terms and Directors serve three-year terms. Nominees are listed in bold type.

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

President	Janice Bryden
Vice President	Sam Waldo
Treasurer	David Schrumm
Secretary	Amy Casavina Hall
Jim Mertz	2014-2017
Rick Marinaro	2014-2017
Mark Kasinskas	2014-2017
John Hilzinger	2013-2016
David Mercugliano	2013-2016
Kevin Wetmore	2013-2016
Art Crooker	2012-2015
Eleanor DeVane	2012-2015
Tim Slocum	2012-2015



NEW SLIDESHOW PRESENTATION
Cheshire Land Trust - Preserving
Land as a Living Resource for 45
Years

The Cheshire Land Trust's Mark Kasinskas has prepared a new 1-hour slideshow presentation to promote the CLT, its properties, and its stewardship activities, and hopefully attract a few new members and stewardship volunteers along the way.

Entitled "*Cheshire Land Trust: Preserving land as a living resource for 45 years*", the presentation features photos and maps that showcase CLT's marquee properties, neighborhood parcels, easements, and stewardship activities. Together, these properties that have come under the CLT's care over the past 45 years contain a mix of forests and fields, recreational areas, working farms, and nature preserves.

This program is currently being offered free of charge to groups within the Cheshire community. Please watch local papers or sign up for the CLT's

email list (at www.cheshirelandtrust.org) to learn about upcoming public presentations of this great new CLT program. To schedule a presentation for your group, contact Mark at 203-599-5165 or mkasinskas@me.com.

Calendar of Events & Happenings

March 27th Thursday, 7 – 9:00 PM CLT Annual Membership Meeting, Cheshire Town Hall - Council Chambers.

June 8th Saturday 10 AM - Connecticut Trails Day – Join CLT for a hike through CLT's Fresh Meadows Sanctuary.

Note: The CLT Governing Board meets monthly, 3rd Thursday, at the CLT office 1030 S. Main St. Meetings are at 7:00. If you would like to attend, contact Tim Slocum at 272-3529

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS

The important work we do at CLT needs volunteers to help with the managements and stewardship of our preserves. If you are a retiree, still employed or a student and you have some extra time to devote a day or two out of a month or calendar year to help please call Dave Schrumm 203-272-2689 or Jim Mertz 203-271-1642

Membership News

In 2013 membership year we had 122 renewed memberships, 5 new memberships and two new life memberships; Janice Bryden & Eli Drazen.

We acknowledge with sadness the passing of the following longtime members: Jo Kowalski and Kristen Slocum.

TO OUR READERS

The Balance Sheet has been published twice a year since 1973. CLT news is also updated on our website, cheshirelandtrust.org. and with periodic email blasts to members throughout the year. The Balance Sheet has been edited by Tim Slocum since 1989.

A Glimpse of More Frozen Assets

By Tim Slocum

The last three winters have provided our youngsters with something to remember and tell their grandchildren someday...*how winters used to be*. Many of us have probably embellished the winters of our youth but this generation truly has something to talk about. When was there a winter with a three foot snow storm followed by a winter with 6 storms in February and more snow than that “awful winter before? And that’s two winters after the winter of 2011 which was bone chilling, snow laden and roof crushing. Maybe I’m getting old but I can’t recall when Broad Brook Reservoir was frozen over well into March either.

Here’s a look at some of winter’s frozen assets.



Broad Brook Reservoir March 8th



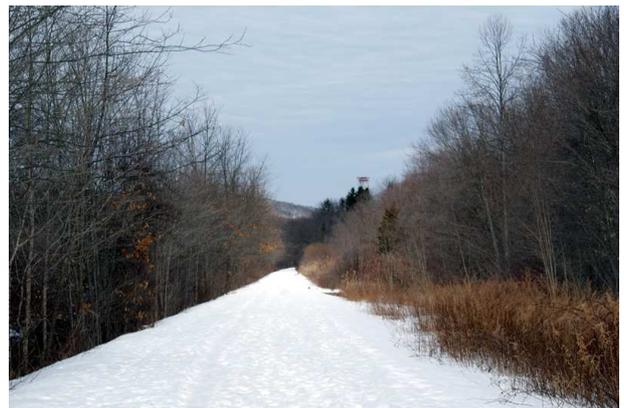
Ives Farm March 8th



Quinnipiac River at East Johnson Ave. March 8th



Frozen wetlands at the base of Prospect Ridge March 8th



Cheshire's Linear Trail & CLT wetland property March 8th

