

Fall 2012

WLCT TIDINGS

P. O. Box 1124, Westbrook, CT 06498 (860) 399-5224 email: WestbrookLCT@yahoo.com



The Westbrook Land Conservation Trust Newsletter

President's Message

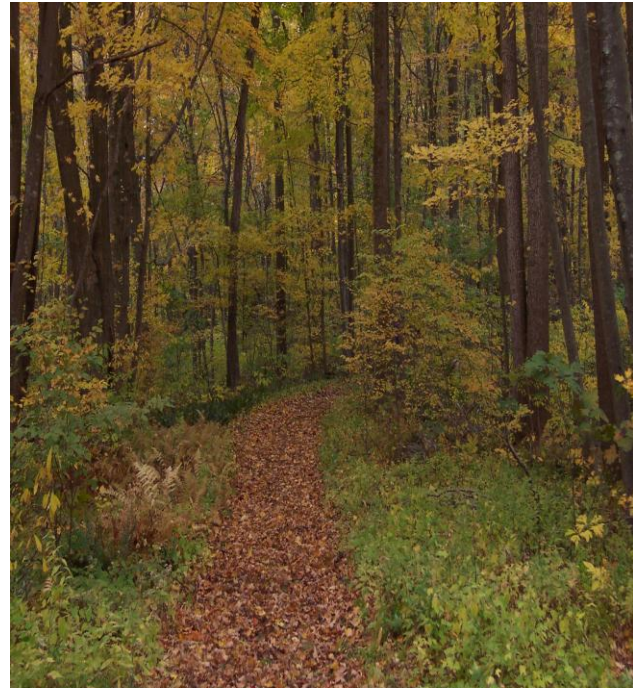
Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As the seasons are changing, people head outdoors to enjoy the beautiful New England fall colors, and prepare for the winter ahead. The WLCT has been working all year long maintaining our properties including property clean ups and trail walks. We are lucky to have two new board members join us, Carole Ketelsen, Membership chair and Sarah Litevich, Secretary. We hope that you will join us in upcoming activities, and continue your support by being a WLCT member. Your support helps to keep the open space for all to enjoy for generations to come.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristin Elliott Leas

Westbrook Land Conservation Trust, President



Land Parcel Spotlight: *Barn Way*

In an effort to increase awareness of the WLCT land holdings, this regularly featured segment of the newsletter will highlight one of our thirty land parcels.

The WLCT Barn Way parcel covers 2.47 acres of tidal wetland and is located south of Route 1, between the Post Office and Oxford Academy. This parcel borders the 7-acre Salt Island Overlook open space, which the Westbrook Conservation Commission is currently restoring to a coastal forest habitat. Over the past two summers, the Conservation Commission has removed invasive and non-native species from these parcels and is now working on a management and planting plan. When complete, the overlook will include trails with interpretive signs. Barn Way will certainly enhance this scenic and environmentally significant overlook.



Town Planner Speaks About Local Greenways at Open House

This year's open house featured Westbrook town planner, Meg Parulis, who spoke about the Menunketusuck Greenway (see map insert). The idea of this greenway is to create a corridor of open space in Westbrook, starting at Stewart B. McKinney Wildlife Refuge in the south and connecting to Cockaponsett State Forest in the north, where it will link to the Menunketusuck-Cockaponsett Regional Greenway. Significant existing open space along the greenway includes town-owned Horse Hill Woods and Chapman Mill Pond, Redwing Foundation private open space, and WLCT open space. This greenway is part of

Westbrook's Plan of Development and will help to guide the town's future land use and acquisition. Ultimately, the Menunketusuck Greenway could be part of a continuous trail that connects Westbrook to the 220-mile New England Scenic Trail that stretches from Guilford, CT to Mount Monadnock in southern New Hampshire. Recently both the Menunketusuck Greenway and the Menunketusuck-Cockaponsett Regional Greenway were accepted as designated greenways by the CT DEEP, increasing the town's eligibility for state funding.

Fairy shrimp, wood frogs, and mole salamanders are obligate species to what type of habitat?

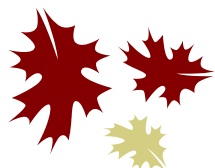
Hint: An example of this habitat can be found on our Pond Meadow Split parcel

Answer: Please see page 4.



WLCT Welcomes New Board Members

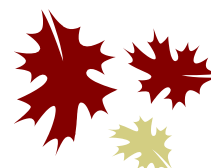
The WLCT Board of Directors is excited to welcome two new board members; Sarah Litevich is our new secretary, and Carole Ketelsen is filling the membership chair position. Sarah has worked in bio-medical research and is currently pursuing a degree in wildlife biology with plans to work in environmental education. Carole has fostered her life-long love of nature through travel and reading and has served on the Westbrook Planning Commission. Both can rely on a depth of experience to help the WLCT continue to fulfill its mission in new and energizing ways. With the additions of these board members, all of the board positions are filled, and we look forward to working with a strong and vibrant board.



Help us maintain our open space- please join us for our

Fall Clean-Up

Sunday, October 14th- Meet at the town hall at 1pm.



WLCT Supports Oxford Academy's Sugaring Project

In recognition of Oxford Academy's continued support of the WLCT, we were pleased to award \$250 to Oxford to support its maple sugaring project. Science teachers, Brian Kellerman and John Dietrich, started the project two years ago to provide an interactive approach for students to study biology. Students involved with the project helped with the identification of sugar maple trees on Oxford's campus and the entire sugaring process from tapping the trees to boiling down the sap. During this process, students studied factors affecting sap flow-rate including



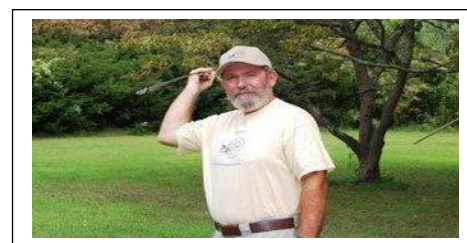
temperature, wind, and tree location. Over two gallons of syrup have been produced annually, and the syrup was enjoyed by Oxford students and faculty in the school's dining hall.

Headmaster, Phil

Coccioala stated, "In an age where many people are completely removed from the food production process, we think it's important for students to see first-hand the time and effort that goes into getting food on to grocery store shelves. We hope that seeing this will garner a deeper appreciation for the environment." Money from the WLCT grant will go toward the purchase of an evaporator to improve Oxford's boiling capabilities.

Annual Meeting Features CT Archaeology Road Show

Last year's Annual Meeting featured local historians Gary Nolf and Don Rankin and their CT Archaeology Road Show. Gary shared his collection of local artifacts while Don talked about how the geology of CT shaped developing civilizations in our region. Gary also provided examples of the atlatl, a device used to propel a spear that pre-dates the bow and arrow, an invention introduced in this area sometime between 2000 to 1500 BC.



Gary Nolf, holding an Atlatl

Save the Date

Tuesday, November 6 at 7pm
Annual Meeting

Coverts Project: Forestry & Wildlife Stewardship

Westbrook Mulvey Municipal Center

Sunday, January 27 at 1pm
Open House

at the home of
Mark Leas & Kristin Elliott Leas

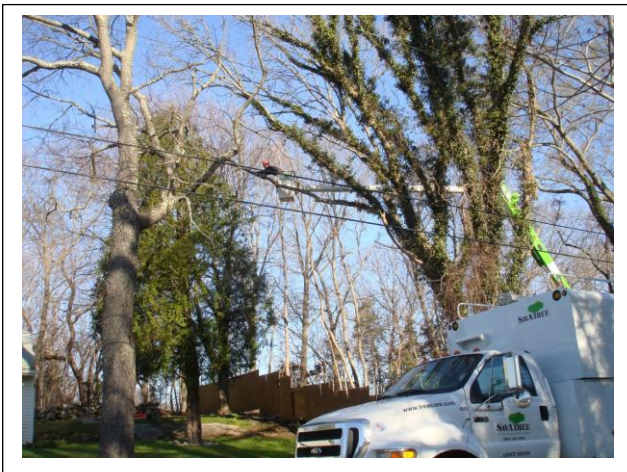
WLCT Acquires New Property

This summer the WLCT received its 30th land parcel, a gift from Linda and Gary Nolf of 0.83 acres of tidal marsh land located west of Norris Ave. and south of I-95 on the Patchogue River. Coastal development has caused significant loss of tidal marshes, so we are pleased to play a role in the conservation of this important environment that protects our oceans and serves as a habitat for a diversity of species. This recent acquisition brings our total holdings up to 139.57 acres in addition to 51.0 acres of conservation easement.

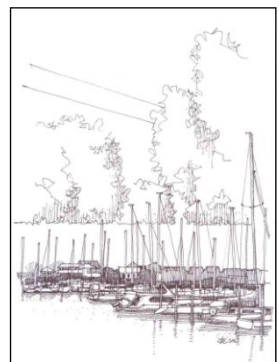
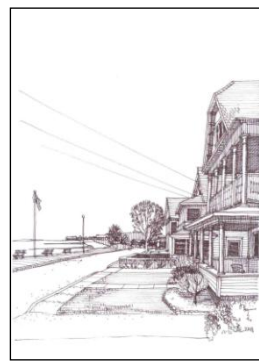
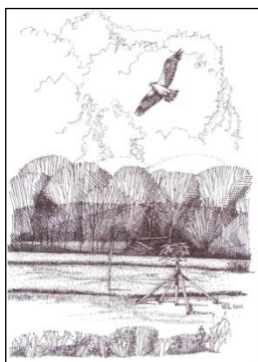
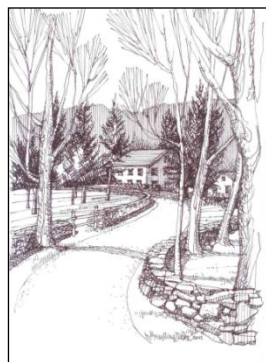
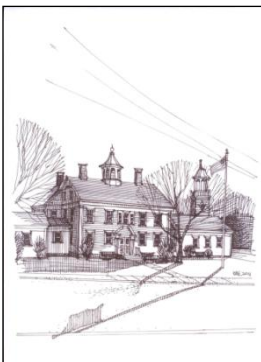
SAVATREE Volunteers Remove Fallen Tree from WLCT Property



Through the coordinating efforts of WLCT Property Manager, John Doane, SAVATREE, a tree and shrub care company in Old Saybrook, generously volunteered their service to remove a danger tree from the WLCT's Westbrook Heights property. The WLCT greatly appreciates the efforts of SAVATREE, including Manager Jim Kiely, Arborist Michael Febbroriello, Foreman Jim Saunders, Top Climber Bow Regan, and Ground Person Dave Gleza. Their hard work helped to keep this much traveled property open for use.



Fundraiser: Note Cards, Featuring Scenes from Westbrook



Note card packages include 12 cards and envelopes. Each card features a different scene of Westbrook, the five shown here, plus seven others, drawn by Tom Elliott. Notecards are available with a gift of \$10. All proceeds will benefit the WLCT. If interested, e-mail us at WestbrookLCT@yahoo.com or call 860-399-5224.

Answer from page 2: Each of those species depends upon a Vernal Pool (a pool that fills after the snow melts and is dry for part of the year) for some part of their life cycle.

Greetings Neighbor,

Once upon a time, long, long ago, far, far away in a cement city, I grew up. The only birds I saw were pigeons, sparrows, and mallards. If we went to Brighton Beach, I saw seagulls. I was starved for greenery, so my mother took me to Prospect Park frequently and had me take a vegetable growing course in the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens. It wasn't enough. Eventually, after extensive travelling my family chose to move here to Westbrook, CT.

Through the foresight of N.Y. ancestors, parks and beaches were preserved for future generations to enjoy.

Help us Westbrook residents do the same for our children and grandchildren. Your gift of *money, land* and/or *time* will help us take care of the land we own, educate the public about the need for green space, and preserve the rural nature of our town!

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Carole Ketelsen

Membership Chairperson



Westbrook Land Conservation Trust Membership Form

P. O. Box 1124, Westbrook, CT 06498

(860) 399-5224

email: WestbrookLCT@yahoo.com

Names: (Please list all family members)

- _____ Individual \$15.00/year
- _____ Family \$25.00/year
- _____ Patron \$50.00/year
- _____ Donor \$100.00/year
- _____ Life Membership \$300.00
- _____ Additional contribution
for land acquisitions

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

WLCT has gone "GREEN." By providing your email address, members will receive notification of special activities including nature walks, property clean ups and a newsletter highlighting annual accomplishments.

Please make checks payable to "Westbrook Land Conservation Trust"
 Dues and contributions are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

circle one

- Yes No Please contact me about volunteer opportunities.
- Yes No Please contact me about neighborhood stewardship.
- Yes No Please have a director call me to discuss land acquisitions.

WLCT Scholarship Recipient: Alex Tragakes

The 2012 WLCT scholarship was awarded to Westbrook High School's graduating senior, Alex Tragakes. Alex was a member of the WHS's Environmental Club, and he is an Eagle Scout and is active with the Bushy Hill Nature Center. As an Eagle Scout, he was one of the first two scouts in his troop to complete training and receive certification for Leave No Trace, an environmental initiative in Boy Scouts to educate scouters how to maintain and preserve their environment. At Bushy Hill, he has been a camper, an assistant counselor, and worked as counselor this summer. He completed a four level teenager survival program based on the learning of primitive and aboriginal survival skills, with the final year culminating in a week-long simulated survival experience. He was one of the recipients of the 2011 Young Naturalist Award for completing this program with excellence. Next year, he will be attending Keene State College, majoring in Sustainable Product Design and Innovation. The WLCT is pleased to award our scholarship to such a deserving student.



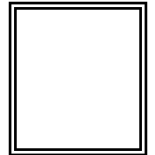
Pic: Alex standing on his Eagle Scout project, a bridge he constructed for Bushy Hill

WLCT Mission Statement: *The Westbrook Land Conservation Trust acquires, preserves, and actively stewards its own real property, including wetlands and woodlands, to conserve natural resources and to promote the scientific, educational, and passive recreational uses of open space, all for the benefit of the public. In addition, the Trust supports the town of Westbrook in its endeavors to conserve and educate the public regarding the value of its natural environment.*

Board of Directors: • Kristin Elliott Leas, *President*; • Barbara Helander, *Vice President*; • Sarah Litevich, *Secretary*; • Kate Gilstad, *Treasurer*; • Tom Elliott and John Doane, *Properties*; • Sandy Towle, *Publicity*; • Carole Ketelson, *Membership* • Sarah Greaves, *Counsel*



Westbrook Land Conservation Trust
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**Please Support
 Our Efforts NOW!!**