

# OPEN SPACES

STAMFORD LAND CONSERVATION TRUST, INC.



*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." — Margaret Mead*

FALL 2010

## Pressure on Our Forests

Jeffrey S. Ward

Viewed across the landscape, the forests covering our hillsides and valleys seem as though they have always been there. A different story emerges, however, when you walk along a trail and discover evidence of human impact on the land from earlier generations: overgrown stone walls, a charcoal mound, or a sunken cellar. The resilient Connecticut forest has undergone dramatic changes over the past 400 years including large-scale land clearing for agriculture, wildfire, hurricanes, and repeated harvesting.

In Connecticut, as in many northeastern forests, we are at the beginning of a second major change in forest composition during the past 100 years. Since the loss of American chestnut in the early 1900s, the Connecticut forest has been dominated by oak. Today, our forest is gradually converting from oak to other species, especially maple, birch, and beech. As with the shift from chestnut to oak forests at the beginning of the century, the emergence of a forest dominated by northern hardwoods will alter the economic, ecological, and aesthetic values of our forest. The consequences of these changes will last well into the 21st century.

The value of the forest to Connecticut is much more than the timber and other forest products. First and foremost, forests protect watersheds, aquifers and groundwater supplies that provide the bulk of our cleandrinking water. Trees can also provide air pollution control, acting

*(continued on page 4)*



*Native white pine at sunset. Photo by Sue Sweeney.*

### ATTENTION EVERYONE FOR MILES AROUND!

The 2010 Annual Meeting of the Stamford Land Conservation Trust will be held at the Stamford Museum and Nature Center on Tuesday, November 16 at 6:30 p.m. Our very special speaker this year is AMEY MARRELLA, COMMISSIONER OF THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. Look inside this issue for her biography and then come hear her speak.

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## President's Letter

Richard Chiaramonte



Many years ago I had the good fortune to spend a few days at a Zen monastery in California. We were there to help build a new kitchen from local river stone for the resident students. The Roshi (the Zen Master) suggested we live with the students and keep their schedule (which included the work) while we were there. Each morning, after the 4 a.m. call and a cup of hot tea, we walked quietly to the Zendo (the student's house of prayer) for an hour of meditation and some words of

wisdom from the Roshi. What I still recall is the day he asked the students if they could enter a room and change nothing, move nothing, leave the room exactly as they found it. He asked us (we soon realized that for the 6 days we were there we too were students) if we were aware of the habit we all have of altering our environment, and asked us to consider the possibility that most of the time the little (or large) adjustments we make are unnecessary and merely changes, not improvements.

The Roshi's point, of course, was that humankind has a propensity to want to alter whatever we get our hands on. And he was wondering (he often expressed his thoughts in terms of his own curiosity, as if we were all exploring these things together) if that was always necessary and if it might not be a good idea to consider whatever we're doing before we do it. For me, that was a point well taken.

Why I tell you this story is evident. When the Stamford Land Conservation Trust, or any of the other 1500 Land Trusts across the country, preserves and protects open space, it does so by defending that open space against man's inclination to alter it, as well as nature's sometimes counter productive efforts to make changes of its own.

To get a better picture of this, I refer you to the excellent article by Jeffrey Ward, Chief Scientist and Station Forester of the State of Connecticut Agricultural Station in New Haven, about our local forests and the kinds of pressures they are under. Apparently, these days it's not so easy to be a forest!

Keeping with the forest theme, please take a read of our friend Sue Sweeney's piece on the Norway Maple (it gets mixed reviews), as well as her very informative list of Under Appreciated Trees. I never before thought of a tree as Under Appreciated, but Sue's list clears that up right away.

And don't skip Harriet Gayle's article about our recent "Walk In the Woods" with Carol Levine, or Heather Bernatchez's remarkable up close and personal experience with local Red Tail Hawks. The photos are amazing!

So if you are fortunate enough to have a forest nearby, or can get to one, you know what to do. Go for a walk in it, enjoy it as the leaves make their annual turn, look for, and listen for, the wildlife it houses, and then leave it alone to be the forest it was meant to be.

Thanks, as always, for your support and  
SEE YOU AT THE ANNUAL MEETING!

## Commissioner Amey Marrella

### A Short Biography of the Guest Speaker at Our SLCT 2010 ANNUAL MEETING

Amey Marrella is the Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the state agency with primary responsibility for protecting Connecticut's environment, natural resources and wildlife and for maintaining Connecticut's state parks and forests. She was named to that position by Governor Rell in September of 2009.

Mrs. Marrella previously served as the DEP's Deputy Commissioner for environmental quality, having been appointed to that position by the Governor in April of 2006.

As Commissioner, Mrs. Marrella is continuing the work of modernizing DEP so it can better serve the needs of Connecticut in the 21st century and play a more proactive role in shaping the environmental agenda of the state.

To accomplish this goal she is focused on important environmental priorities—such as improving the quality of the state's air and waters, protecting Long Island Sound, reinvigorating the state park system and implementing strategies and recommendations included in Connecticut's innovative Climate Change Action Plan.

Mrs. Marrella brings to DEP the unique perspective of a former local elected official. Just prior to joining DEP, Mrs. Marrella served for five years as the First Selectman of the Town of Woodbridge. Before seeking elected office, she served as an Attorney Advisor for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, helping to develop regulations to implement the 1990 Clean Air Act.

Mrs. Marrella serves on a variety of state and interstate boards on behalf of DEP, including the Connecticut Transportation Strategy Board (TSB) and the interstate Ozone Transport Commission.

Mrs. Marrella is a graduate of Williams College and Harvard Law School.

### The where and the when of it

We always have a great time at our Annual Meeting. Join us and have a great time too! It's being held at the Stamford Museum and Nature Center on Tuesday, November 16 at 6:30 p.m.



Hardwood forest at the Bartlett Arboretum. Photo by Sue Sweeney.

## Best Picks for the Yard

Under-appreciated trees  
and shrubs from our local forests

—  
Sue Sweeney

### MEDIUM TO TALL TREES

Shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*)  
Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*)  
Tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifer*)  
Black gum, tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica*)  
Hop hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*)  
American basswood (*Tilia Americana*)

### SMALL TREES & LARGE SHRUBS (under 30 feet)

Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*)  
Ironwood (*Carpinus caroliniana*)  
Witchhazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*)  
Smooth sumac (*Rhus glabra*)  
Black haw (*Viburnum prunifolium*)

### EVERGREENS

American holly (*Ilex opaca*)  
Sweetbay (*Magnolia virginiana*)

(continued from first page)

as giant filters to remove dust, particulates, and some airborne chemicals. In addition, trees cool our environment in the summer by recycling water and reflecting sunlight. Forests contribute to the character of Connecticut add to our enjoyment during throughout the year.

There are four inter-related challenges to maintaining a healthy forested landscape in southern Connecticut: fragmentation, invasive plants, alien pests, and coping with deer.

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#### FRAGMENTATION

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Loss of forested open space to residential and commercial development is a major issue across the country, including Fairfield County. Population movement from urban centers into less developed suburbs puts increased pressure on the fewer remaining forested parcels. As noted above, forests play an important role in protecting water quality, wetlands, habitat diversity, and the aesthetic sense of place that is Stamford. Community leaders can capitalize on the values of forests to advocate efforts to delineate and protect existing forests and natural areas.

In our steadily suburbanizing region, privately held land can be subject to change in ownership and use at any time. Changes in use and ownership can affect all members of the community and should be planned, or at least anticipated, in order to minimize the impact to both human and forest communities. Through a detailed inventory and analysis of natural resources in a community, local planners can obtain the data they need to make effective, high-quality plans for conserva-

tion and development that will guide future growth. The key to effective planning is to identify areas most suited to development and direct growth to those areas, while concurrently identifying and implementing protection strategies for key natural resource features.

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#### INVASIVE PLANTS

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Controlling non-native invasive plants increases the number of native wildflowers blooming in the spring, and as important, can reduce the risk of exposure to Lyme disease for hikers and pets wandering through our forests. Research by Scott Williams at The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) has found that areas infested with Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*) have nine times more blacklegged (aka deer) ticks infected with the spirochete *Borrelia burgdorferi*, the causal agent of Lyme disease, than adjacent forests with native shrubs. Eradication of barberry infestations in our forests reduces this risk by nearly 60%. Over the past four years we have developed non-chemical and reduced chemical techniques to effectively control barberry.

Other invasive plants in our forests include burning-bush (*Euonymus alatus*), Oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*), garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), and Japanese stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*). While there are all-too-many large infestations of invasive species; smaller, recent infestations provide an opportunity for local community groups to obtain the experience and confidence to successfully tackle invasive plant control throughout Stamford. Controlling small infestations prevents them from gradually expanding into harder to control large infestations.



Red maple wetlands at the Bartlett Arboretum. Photo by Sue Sweeney.

## ALIEN PESTS

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Alien pests (insects and diseases) have been changing the character of our forests since the arrival of chestnut blight in the early 1900s, Dutch elm disease in the mid-1900s, and hemlock woolly adelgid in the late 1900s. Vigilance and early detection can help limit the damage that could be caused by two invaders that are just across the border in New York. Asian longhorned beetle (ALB—*Anoplophora glabripennis*) attacks a wide number of trees species, but is especially attracted to maple, while emerald ash borer (EAB—*Agrilus planipennis*) feeds exclusively on ash. More information can be found at [www.beetlebusters.info](http://www.beetlebusters.info) for ALB and [www.emeraldashborer.info](http://www.emeraldashborer.info) for EAB.

The ALB infestation in Worcester, MA went undetected for ten years and has resulted in the removal of at least 18,000 trees. Early detection would have dramatically reduced this loss of street and forest trees. Most first detections of these alien pests have been made by concerned citizens. If you think you have either species, take a digital photo or capture the insect in a glass jar and contact us at [CAES.StateEntomologist@CT.gov](mailto:CAES.StateEntomologist@CT.gov) or 203-974-8474. The unfortunate reality is that these, and perhaps other, alien pests will arrive in Connecticut. Early detection will help us to possibly eliminate (ALB) or slow the spread (EAB) of alien pests.

## COPING WITH DEER

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One hundred years ago, white-tailed deer were hunted close to extinction; now they are regular visitors in our flower gardens and are commonly spotted on woodland walks. The suburban quilt of forest and manicured landscapes are ideal habitat for deer. The forests provide areas for concealed rest; our lawns and gardens provide a buffet dining experience.

Forests damaged by deer over-browsing can be recognized by the lack of native shrubs, seedling and sapling trees, and the absence of forest floor plants including wild flowers, grasses and sedges. The consequences of over browsing can be dramatic, often visible by the development of a distinct “browse line.” The loss of the forest understory also impacts ground and shrub nesting birds. In addition, our research at CAES found that deer browsing not only negatively impacts native wildflowers by browsing leaves and destroying flowers and seeds, but indirectly by transporting seeds of fifty-one species not native to Connecticut—including multiflora rose, honeysuckle, Japanese stiltgrass, autumn olive, wineberry, and petunia.



*Fallen acorns and leaves from a native red oak. Photo by Sue Sweeney.*

## AND SO WE KNOW

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Our forests have undergone continuous changes over the centuries. Our charge as stewards of today's forests is to find and implement practicable solutions for maintaining healthy and vibrant forests for future generations.

*Jeffrey S. Ward is the Chief Scientist for the Connecticut State Department of Forestry & Horticulture at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven. He can be contacted via phone at 203-947-8495 or by e-mail at [jeffrey.ward@ct.gov](mailto:jeffrey.ward@ct.gov)*

### Did you know?

Our State Commissioner of Environmental Protection, Amey Marrella, will be speaking at our Annual Meeting on November 16 at the Stamford Museum and Nature Center at 6:30 p.m. DON'T MISS IT!

# A Walk in the Woods

Harriet Gayle

Carol Levine, a botanist and instructor at the New York Botanical Garden, recently led a walk along the trails of the Stamford Land Conservation Trust's latest acquisition, a beautiful, but little known nature preserve in North Stamford.

Upon first entering the preserve, one is struck by an old stone wall, seemingly built through woodlands. But when this wall was constructed, perhaps 200 years ago, the land was cleared of vegetation and used as pasturage, as the hilly terrain made it unsuitable for farmland. The stones used to construct the wall were carried in from further north by the glacier. In contrast, looming over the landscape, are huge outcroppings of the original bedrock.

Another highlight of the surroundings, and also a vestige of an earlier time, are the remains of majestic chestnut trees, strewn throughout the acreage. Once the lords of the forests, by 1940 mature American chestnut trees were virtually wiped out by an exotic fungus. The lethal disease, living in imported Japanese chestnut trees, attacked the native trees, which lacked immunity to the blight. Walking along the path, one can recognize the distinctive roots of the many fallen chestnut trunks. The partially decomposed roots are star-shaped, with long, pointed prongs, arranged in a somewhat circular pattern. Dead for about

70 years, the trunks and roots have not yet fully disintegrated, confirming the long-lasting strength and rot resistance of the chestnut.

Just off the trail, growing on the trunk of a hop hornbeam tree, is a huge, bulbous, woody clump called a burl. For protection, the tree developed special cells, which surrounded and contained a disease invader, thus

keeping it from infecting the entire tree. Beautiful bowls, known as burl bowls, were once carved from these bulging growths.

All year round, many Christmas ferns adorn the property. This hardy evergreen plant brings welcome greenery to the barren woods in winter. Pluck a leaflet from this fern frond and you will see that it resembles a tiny Christmas stocking. Fresh fiddleheads appear in spring, unfurling into lush, new fronds.

Originally owned

by the Altschul family, this 146 acre property was donated to The Nature Conservancy in 1975. The Conservancy has now transferred this large tract to the SLCT. With the recent addition of this lovely preserve, the Land Trust now has stewardship over a total of 400 acres in 52 different parcels, all protected from development.

How fortunate we are to have these special landscapes, which serve to renew our spirits and protect the wild and natural beauty of our city.



*Carol Levine leading a guided nature walk. Photo by Rich Chiamonte.*

DON'T FORGET THE SLCT ANNUAL MEETING,  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16 AT 6:30 P.M. AT THE STAMFORD MUSEUM AND NATURE CENTER.

## Woodchuck (*Marmota monax*)



Photo by Sue Sweeney.

*How much wood would a woodchuck chuck  
If a woodchuck could chuck wood?*

Now that's a nice child's riddle, but the wood chucking ability of the animal in question is not the problem. The problem is,

the woodchuck, cute as he is and no matter how much wood he may be able to chuck, will make his elaborately tunneled home in your yard and eat up a good portion of your plants.

So here, just about straight from our own Connecticut DEP, is a little bit about the furry creature:

### HABITAT:

Woodland edges, thickets and fields.

### WEIGHT:

5 to 10 pounds.

### LENGTH:

16 to 20 inches, and a 6-inch tail. Males are slightly larger than females.

### FOOD:

Succulent plants such as clover, alfalfa, garden vegetables and grasses. They will also eat tree leaves, buds and fruits.

### IDENTIFICATION:

Woodchucks are stocky mammals, with short, strong legs and a short, bushy, almost flattened tail. Their fur ranges from light to dark brown, with lighter guard hairs, giving them a frosted appearance. The ears can close over the ear openings to keep out debris while underground. The feet are dark brown to black; the front feet have long, curved claws for digging burrows.

Range: The woodchuck's range extends from eastern Alaska, through much of Canada, into eastern United States south to northern Georgia. Woodchucks are common throughout Connecticut.

### HISTORY IN CONNECTICUT:

Before the early settlers arrived in this country, most of Connecticut was forested land. Woodchucks lived in the scattered forest openings. As land was cleared for farms and houses, this highly adaptable animal also found suitable habitat in the fields and along the forest edge. The new habitat actually provided a more reliable source of

food and the woodchuck is more abundant now than it was during Colonial times.

### INTERESTING FACTS:

» Classified as rodents, woodchucks, or groundhogs, are related to mice, squirrels, porcupines and beavers. The begin to hibernate for winter in late October.

» Woodchucks emit a shrill whistle when alarmed, followed by a chattering "tchuck, tchuck" sound.

» Woodchucks are excellent diggers; they dig both simple and complex burrow systems, the depth and length depending on the type of soil. Most burrows are 25 to 30 feet long and from two to five feet deep, with at least two entrances. The main entrance is often the most conspicuous, with a large mound of freshly dug dirt nearby. The other, less visible entrances are used for escape purposes. A nesting chamber for sleeping and raising the young is found at the end of the main tunnel; a separate toilet chamber helps keep the burrow clean. Woodchucks may have two burrows: a winter den, in a wooded area, and also a summer den, in open flat or gently rolling areas.

**So what do you do if you don't find the little fur ball adorable?** If the woodchuck absolutely cannot stay on your property, humane eviction is the best option. Trapping and /or relocating woodchucks is inhumane, as these animals are prey species that create an elaborate tunnel system in which to live. Their survival is doubtful. Instead of putting them in a foreign place with no cover and no known food source, it is better to slowly evict them. Also, by making your property undesirable, it limits the chances that another woodchuck may move in next season. Keep in mind that woodchuck dens offer cover for other species as well, small rodents, amphibians and foxes.

Humane deterrents for woodchucks are as follows:

- » Remove any plantings/cover from around their den hole to create a sense of insecurity.
- » Mylar balloons staked into the ground in the area of the woodchuck's den that will move and trigger the prey response of the woodchuck.
- » Staked beach balls on a string can have the same effect.
- » Plastic owls may help, but they need to be moved daily.
- » Place a small bowl with a pine sol soaked rag in it at the entrance of the woodchuck den. Do not block the entranceway. Replace with fresh pine sol after a rain or every few days.

# Death by Norway Maple

Sue Sweeney

The Norway maple, along with its Crimson King and Crimson Queen cultivars, has three effective ways of destroying your lawn: dense summer shade, a smothering blanket of mushy fall leaves, and a choking network of surface roots. There are mosses that will survive this onslaught, so treasure them. The common blue violet (the one that grows wild in your lawn) can also survive in the dry shade under a mature Norway maple but not much else does.

The prolific Norway maple seedlings also wreck havoc in the yard and surrounding garden. In the garden, the Norway has a fourth method of destruction: it leafs out earlier than our native plants, thus shading out ephemeral spring wildflowers and the like which depend on having a month or so of sun before our native trees left out.

No one doubts that Norway maples are beautiful: delicate lime-green flowers in spring, handsome leaves in summer, butter yellow, or sometimes red or orange in fall, graceful branches and trunks for the winter. The Norway maples hold their leaves longer in the fall than our native maples, providing late-season yellow accents for bare tree branches and winter evergreens. However, to quote our New England ancestors, “handsome is as handsome does.”

Norway maples aren’t so bad in Norway because it’s too cold for them in most of the country (or at least it used to be) but these maples have become one of the most widespread trees in Europe, besides being a major pest in North America.

If you don’t care much for lawns or spring garden flowers, Norway maples wouldn’t be so bad except for their winged seeds (called “samaras”) that float off into our woodlands and wreck havoc there. What kills your lawn is also harming our forests. The invasive Norway maples threaten our native hardwoods and whatever

woodland wildflowers that the deer haven’t eaten. Despite the efforts of the volunteers and paid staff who care for Stamford’s conservation areas, Norway maple saplings are a constant, reoccurring problem.

Norways were introduced to North America in the late 1700’s. George Washington is said to have bought two from a Philadelphia importer. They became widespread around World War II when many were planted to replace the American elms stricken by the Dutch Elm disease. It seemed like a good idea at the time because Norway maples are one of the faster growing hardwoods that do well as street trees (handle pollution, live a long

time, have strong branches). The problems didn’t show up until decades later when the mature trees and their grown-up, escaped descendants proved themselves to be a menace to lawn and forest alike.

However, many, Norway maples had already been planted along streets and in yards. Years later, the average home owner sees the trees

gracing the neighbor’s yard and thinks: “nice tree, but why don’t they take better care of their lawn? They should put lime on the moss and re-seed under the tree.” The same person goes hiking in the woods and wonders about the lack of wildflowers. The Norway maple’s culpability becomes clear only when it’s pointed out.



Norway maple seed (samaras). Photo by Sue Sweeney.

## Free food, great company!

Another important enticement to attend the SLCT Annual Meeting at the Stamford Museum and Nature Center on Tuesday, November 16 at 6:30 p.m.—refreshments will be served!



*Photo series by Heather Bernatchez.*

## It's a Hawk!

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**Heather Bernatchez**

As a neighbor of a Stamford Land Conservation Trust preserve, I was privileged to witness the introduction of two juvenile red tailed hawks into our neighborhood this year. The proud parents have set up their nest on the SLCT preserve every year for at least three years now. In 2009, they had three offspring, this year two. Of course, all of the SLCT preserves serve as nesting sites for all kinds of wildlife. I have been honored to watch this particular majestic pair in action for a few consecutive years and witness first hand their activities while rearing their young. I'd love to share.

A friend of mine and direct adjacent neighbor to the preserve, began the spring season noticing the movement of the hawks back and forth over her property. The hawks were clearly bringing their prey back to their nest and their young. Around early June, the juvenile voices were clearly heard. The adults have a piercing long whistle they deliver while in the air. The young beg for food with their short screeching, never ending and relentless calls. This behavior continued most of the summer around my neighborhood.

One summer day I spotted a juvenile perched on the electrical wires by another neighbor's driveway. The day

before, my daughter noticed five baby woodchucks in the same driveway. So here began the hunting lesson. I pulled over, grabbed my camera and took the pictures here. As "Junior" was sitting on the wire, a parent flew right by, swooped down to the driveway and back up into the woods. "Junior" watched and about five minutes later did the same. When the little hawk landed on the driveway, I saw a woodchuck bolt back into its den. Woodchuck -1 Red tail - 0. Back up to the wire again he went again to watch. The picture on the right demonstrates why I'm happy not to be a woodchuck!

In the few recent weeks of early fall, those begging calls stopped and the skies went silent. Their occasional shadow across the lawn or silhouette in the sky the only evidence they are still around. The juveniles can now hunt for themselves. I'm not sure when the juveniles leave to find their own territory, but I'm back to seeing only two in the sky whenever I hear those long piercing whistles.

The preservation of open space coupled with the human creation of woodchuck habitat along the woodlands edge supports the natural circle of life quite well. It's a nice example of how we can peacefully co-exist for the betterment of everyone, wildlife included.

# SLCT Kids' Page

Marina De Luca

## Word Search Fun: *In the Forest*

LOOK FOR AND THEN CIRCLE THESE WORDS:

- |                  |                     |              |
|------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| aspect           | epicormic branching | pruning      |
| berries          |                     | Pulaski      |
| bird             | fern                | rings        |
| blaze            | fork                | rock         |
| blow down        | fungus              | sapling      |
| bole             | girdling            | scaletstick  |
| buck             | growth              | seed         |
| caliper          | growth rings        | silviculture |
| clinometer       | hypometer           | snag         |
| co-dominant tree | insects             | soil         |
| cone             | McLeod              | stand        |
| conifer          | moss                | sweep        |
| crook            | overstory           | tree         |
| dominant trees   | pine                | water        |
| ecotone          | pod                 | wolftree     |

A M O G F D H Q S X I P S O N P I B E S  
 C L I N O M E T E R G L I O S D R L E G  
 F A W N E W R J Y U E F X R N P M A R N  
 S S O M M G N I N U R P T C E P S A T I  
 U X X I K S A L U P P L K L A I N Y T R  
 G N I H C N A R B C I M R O C I P E N H  
 B R L S S T S P R B D B H R H O R G A T  
 I N O T I E E E S E L E N P T V E N N W  
 R P A C S L L S E E P A E A W E C I I O  
 D N H J K F V O C R I I Z S O R O L M R  
 D S G N I R H I B A T R L E R S T P O G  
 N W O D W O L B C H L T R A G T O A D M  
 G I R D L I N G W U E E N E C O N S O C  
 R E T E M O S P Y H L E S A B R E D C L  
 I N S E C T S J T C K T R T N Y E T R E  
 F U N G U S W R L O O S U T I I S N S O  
 F F O R K I E A N N O W B R F C M N I D  
 E P I A H E C P T E R E U D E L K O A P  
 R C O N I F E R O E C E C O Z X O Q D G  
 N J G J U P P F V V R P K P A R G W K D

## Forest Scavenger Hunt

We at the SLCT know that a scavenger hunt is a great way explore the great outdoors! It is just the right temperature, the leaves are falling and it's a great time to be outside before it gets to cold! By going on a scavenger hunt in your local forest area, your family can gain knowledge of the natural ecosystems that surround you. Scavenger Hunts are not only entertaining, but they are perfect for enhancing team building skills, family comradery and upping your eco knowledge. So please join us this fall and combine the beauty of nature with the thrill of competition by participating in some outdoor hunts. Here is one to get you and your family started! ***(Hint: make this a photo scavenger hunt and you can keep the memories forever and reduce your footprint on the forest! Enjoy!)***

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> insects           | <input type="checkbox"/> fern                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> wild flowers      | <input type="checkbox"/> wild animal(s)                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> blade of grass    | <input type="checkbox"/> nut                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> clouds            | <input type="checkbox"/> soil                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> tree              | <input type="checkbox"/> an animal's home in the ground |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a leaf on ground  | <input type="checkbox"/> an animal's home in the trees  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> water             | <input type="checkbox"/> feather                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> pine cone         | <input type="checkbox"/> bird                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> berries           | <input type="checkbox"/> fungus on a tree               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> seeds or seed pod | <input type="checkbox"/> animal tracks                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> rock              | <input type="checkbox"/> spider web                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> moss              |   |

## New & Noteworthy

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### Keeping it Green

If you'd prefer to receive this Amazing Newsletter electronically (as in a PDF sent via e-mail) rather than the colorful and tactile paper version, please let us know—e-mail [news@stamfordland.org](mailto:news@stamfordland.org)

### Who is Amey Marrella?

Well, you can read her bio on page 3 and then come to the Stamford Land Conservation Trust's Annual Meeting at the Stamford Museum and Nature Center on Tuesday, November 16 at 6:30 p.m. to hear her speak. Then you'll know something more about her and a LOT more about the state of the environment in the State of Connecticut.

### Stewardship: What *you* can do

Quite possibly the most important responsibility shouldered by the Stamford Land Conservation Trust is the stewardship of the more than 40 pieces of land in Stamford entrusted to us.

Simply put, stewardship is the job of watching over the land. We check for encroachment, dumping, various forms of illegal use, proper signage, etc. Often, we also take photographs for our archive (a beautiful autumnal day is great for this).

If you are interested in helping with stewardship, whether you live near one of our parcels or not, please e-mail us at [info@stamfordland.org](mailto:info@stamfordland.org), with the word "stewardship" in the subject line. We have plenty to do.

### *Won't you join us?*

## STAMFORD LAND CONSERVATION TRUST

P.O. BOX 3247 STAMFORD, CT 06905-0247 | [WWW.STAMFORDLAND.ORG](http://WWW.STAMFORDLAND.ORG) | 203.325.1850



Enclosed is my:  Individual Membership \$25  Family Membership \$50  Sponsor \$100  
 Partner \$500  Benefactor \$1000 and over  Total Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Check this box if this is a new address

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to volunteer my services

Land Steward  Land Donation  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please send all mail to: Stamford Land Conservation Trust, P.O. Box 3247, Stamford, CT 06905-0247

*Contributions to the SLCT are tax deductible.*



## **Stamford Land Conservation Trust, Inc.**

### **Mission Statement**

The mission of the Stamford Land Conservation Trust is to seek and accept land through donations or by purchase to hold in perpetuity as open space. The SLCT acts as steward over such lands. It assists governmental and non-governmental organizations to protect and preserve open space.

*Juevenile red tail hawk.*

*Photo by Heather Bernatchez.*

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