

In Hartland, we are so fortunate to reside where vast open space allows us to experience and enjoy the wonders of natural resources everyday, right at our doorstep, in the place we live. Our land trust works hard and long to preserve the rural character of Hartland for present and future generations, because in reality, it is not only our purpose but very close to our hearts. We help Audubon in Hartland with invasive plant cleanup, soon with trails, and two of our directors, Fred Jones and Neil Gilpin, built the kiosk at the Edith Leopold Sanctuary. Outreach to community and the Hartland School continues with book donations to both libraries and with plans to assist in the Salmon-In-Schools Program next year. Our Mill Street parcel conserves 22 acres forever for the benefit of the community in fulfilling our mission and the donors' Basset/Kells wishes of "preserving our corner of West Hartland". Perhaps Hartland's most significant natural resource is our people. We ask you to join us in keeping Hartland, Hartland: the place we call home.

"When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect." Aldo Leopold

Annual Forum and Art Exhibit 2012

Please come to our Annual Forum **June 8, 7:30 p.m. at Hartland School Gym** to welcome back **Scott Heth** and his **Live Birds of Prey Plus Ravens!** Scott, director of Audubon Sharon and the property on Rengerman Hill Road, will expand his well-received presentation of 2010 to include information on ravens that have returned to our area.

Photographs and artwork "**Wonders of Hartland**" will be exhibited that evening as well. Exhibition forms can be downloaded from our website or retrieved from the town hall, the Library and the Riverton Store. Please submit your framed pieces to the Selectman's Office the week of May 21st. Let's emphasize the "Art" in Hartland!

Donations gratefully accepted. Refreshments served! We look forward to seeing you there!



Scott Heth displays a Turkey Vulture



Reminder!

March to November please take in bird feeders, suet stations, and secure garbage and animal feed, so neighboring bears do not become a nuisance.



Calendar of Events

Earth Day with Rachael Manzer, Teachers in Space Program, April 23, 2012, 7:30 p.m. Hartland Town Hall

Letterboxing with David Irvin, Tunxis Forester, May 6, 2012, 1 p.m. presentation (45 minutes) at the Wilderness School with optional hike to letter box to follow (1-2 miles round trip). Be advised terrain may be slippery down slope to box. Bring a stamp if you wish but not required. For more info go to www.ct.gov/deep and search Tunxis Letterboxing Clues or contact David. Irvin@ct.gov

Wonders of Hartland Photo and Art Exhibit Hartland School May 25-June 8, 2012

HLT'S Annual Forum at the Hartland School. Back by popular demand!! Guest Speaker Scott Heth of Audubon Sharon, Topic: Live Birds of Prey Plus Ravens, Friday, June 8, 2012, 7-8:30 p.m.

Speaker Series 2012-2013

Free but donations gratefully accepted. Refreshments provided.

September 24, 2012 **Coyote** Paul Rego, CT DEEP Wildlife Biologist, Hartland Town Hall, 7:30 p.m.

November 26, 2012 **Wild Turkeys** Michael Gregonis, State Turkey Biologist, Hartland Town Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Look for announcements on our signboards, website and newspapers for Events and Topics TBA for:

February 25, 2013

April 22, 2013 **Earth Day**

Annual Forum June 7, 2013

Speaker Series by Rebecca Huntley

"Wilderness is not a luxury but a necessity of the human spirit."
Edward Abbey

2011 brought a third year of interesting speakers to the Hartland Land Trust Speaker Series. As Hartland residents, we are blessed to live amidst such incredible biodiversity. Each speaker brought valuable and interesting information to help us enjoy, appreciate and conserve all that we hold dear.

Peter Picone, Wildlife Biologist with the CT DEEP, taught us about **Managing Invasive Non-native Plants**, "The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly". We learned that, as landowners, we are all habitat managers. When choosing plants for landscaping, we should plant what grows naturally in our area, providing shelter, food, and water for local wildlife. They need the cover of thicket and meadow environments, which are now in very short supply. Overhanging branches keep brook water cool for trout and keep banks from drying out. Adding a diversity of native plants improves seasonal food and cover for songbirds, hummingbirds and butterflies. Plant a variety of species for a variety of wildlife.

Our Annual Forum brought a large, inquisitive audience to hear about the cougar. **Christopher Spatz**, President of The Cougar Rewilding Foundation, told us about the correlation between the disappearance of the Eastern Cougar and the deleterious change to our ecosystem. Cougars, as predators, regulate ecosystems by moving grazing populations around to allow for the re-growth of the natural forest understory. Without a natural predator, deer populations increase and graze native vegetation to the ground, allowing invasive species of plants and trees to take over. We learned that cougars weigh from 80 to 200 pounds and live an average of 10 years. Adult cougars leave a 3" pad print without an X in the center without claw marks. Cougars do not growl; their vocalizations include chirping like birds and screaming "like someone being murdered".

We enjoyed hearing about Bald Eagles from **Ken Etheridge** of the Great Meadows Conservation Trust. Ken shared facts, figures, and humorous stories from bald eagle research throughout the State of CT, along with photos of bald eagles, up close and personal. The first documented bald eagle nest in CT since the D.D.T. era of the 1950's was at Barkhamsted Reservoir in 1992. The 2010 bald eagle survey recorded a total of 108 eagles, with 67 adults and 41 immatures. Presently, 111 bald eagles have been leg banded in the state. For years, the data have consistently shown that they do not travel far, either as adults or immatures. This is probably one of the factors contributing to our healthy and expanding breeding population.

Dr. William Bentley of Salmon Brook Associates spoke about Global Forestry. U.S. forestry benefited enormously from India's early pioneering efforts. Professional forestry began at Cornell University in 1898 and at Yale University in 1900. Gifford Pinchot, a Simsbury native and Yale graduate, was the first American to be trained as a forester. When Pinchot became Chief of the U.S. Forest Service, he used India's forestry model for colonization of the American West. The U.S. has 250 million acres of wilderness in national parks and non-commercial forestlands, as well as 210 million acres of wilderness under private ownership, and 44 million acres on the edge of growing urban areas, subject to sale and development. The critical issues in global forestry today are climate change and deforestation, with just 26% of the world remaining as natural forest. China is the current world leader in the effort of reforestation.

Updates

◆ On our Website

New postings from our Tunxis forester, David Irvin! Please visit our website at www.hartlandlandtrust.org and click on News for trail closings and projects

◆ Membership and Fundraising from Lorri Wood

HLT is winding down the sale of the very popular Hartland moose t-shirts. Children sizes remain with the exception of Medium. Don't miss this opportunity to have the young members of Hartland sporting their own moose t-shirt. Shirts were originally priced at \$15, now at the bargain price of \$8 (including tax). If you are interested in purchasing a shirt, contact Joanne Bannister 860-379-7970 or Lorri Wood 860-653-3330.

HLT is still selling wooden Hartland signs created by our own Kris Anderson for \$25 each, including tax; all proceeds go to benefit the mission of the Hartland Land Trust. We will be offering the signs at the Carnival at the HLT booth, or you can contact Kris Anderson directly at 860-930-2342.

◆ Designation in Progress

The Lower Farmington River & Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic study committee continues to meet awaiting the upcoming Congressional passage for federal designation. The Management Plan published and distributed is also available at www.lowerfarmingtonriver.org. We encourage you to read the non-regulatory, advisory document: a beautiful plan filled with valuable information, recommendations and maps providing guidance for protection and enhancement of the Outstanding Resource Values (ORVs) of the two waterways. The Land Trust Integration section (LTI) illustrates the importance of land conservation in river protection. For more info contact Hartland Rep, Sue Murray at suemur@sbcbglobal.net



Dear Carol,

Every morning I wake up to find my lawn is riddled with an assortment of cone-shaped holes three or four inches wide and deep. What's going on? Holed up in Hartland

Dear Holed up in Hartland,

Since the holes appear in the morning, it is most likely a skunk. The appearance of these holes is annoying, but this striped critter is helping your lawn stay healthy and green. Under the cover of darkness, your resident skunk scours your lawn and digs up turf killing grubs. If left unchecked these grubs will mature and munch away at your lawn's root system eventually killing the grass. Consider the skunk your own personal lawn doctor, alerting you to a lawn killer. Please avoid using toxic chemicals; natural options work well and will not harm your wildlife, family, or pets. When the grubs are taken care of, Mr. Skunk will move on to another grub-filled lawn. Check with your local hardware store for non-toxic options.