Scout Builds New Picnic Area

David Walsh completed his Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project entitled “Far Mill River Picnic Area”.

David’s project involved the planning and building of a picnic area on Trust land that abuts the banks of the Far Mill River. Located off Commerce Drive, the parcel is across from Enterprise Drive. It features a walking path down to a picnic area next to the river. Four log benches were built, stained and installed. Woodchips obtained from clearing away the trees and brush, were used by David, and placed underneath the benches.

David’s project benefits residents of Shelton, the office workers across the street, and the fishermen (and fisherwomen) that frequent the area. It gives them a great spot to eat lunch, and enjoy a good view of the Far Mill River Dam, or to fish. A new kiosk was built and installed next to the entrance on Commerce Drive across from the Italian restaurant. All together, it presents a very inviting getaway.

David’s project was supported by a number of individuals who donated wood, and/or equipment. Among the donors were: Phillip Jones, Fred Rottjer, John Walsh, Tom Symski and Gary Duhaime. A number of “helpers” also assisted David with various phase of construction, which amounted to 122 man hours of labor.

The Shelton Land Conservation Trust thanks David for making the Trust parcel and Shelton more beautiful! Congratulations on a job well done.
ever since the land boom started after

kind of offer you could think of for the land

open for the enjoyment of other people.”

It’s too beautiful. It should remain

see this land buried under parking lots,

settlers of Huntington in the late 1600s.

family has there roots deeply here.”

Sentiment. It is a beautiful land and my

and said “basically, it was a matter of

Family roots

She was asked why she gave the land

SLCT History:
Lane Street Property

It was thirty-one years ago this year,

when Guila G. Hawley deeded 17 acres off

of Lane Street. The following is a reprint of

the original Evening Sentinel Article that ran on Sat. Jan 5, 1980. It is

interesting to note that back then, the

Trust had 67 acres, compared to the 365

acres it holds today with 199 members

Strong.

17 acres given to Shelton Land Trust

By John J. Cook

Huntington – Seventeen acres of farmland

off Lane Street bordering Means Brook

has been deeded by Guila G. Hawley of

190 Huntington St., to the Shelton Land

Conservation Trust Inc.

Determined to keep the land in its

natural state, Miss Hawley declined

lucrative offers by developers until

deeding it to the trust.

She loves the land and has always

been a part of it, she said.

She attributed her vigorous health to

living off the land.

A special arrangement between Miss

Hawley and the trust to allow a farmer,

Rudolph Hudak to continue farming the

land for corn has been negotiated.

In an interview Thursday at the

Hawley residence, built in 1805, by John

Judson and acquired in 1835 by Laura

Hawley, widow of Joseph Hawley, great-
great grandparents, Miss Hawley

reflected on her recent gifts of land.

Surging Ahead

The other reason, she said, “because I

would just like people to know it is possible
to give land to this organization like the Land Trust under various

conditions that I gave.

She said it is a gift and has a condition that if the Land Trust should

ever cease to exist, it will revert to the Nature Conservatory.

According to William A. Yeoman,

Land Trust member, “The Shelton Land

Conservation Trust Inc. is surging ahead

in the acquisition and preservation of land

for open space purposes in Shelton. The

Trust has more than doubled its property

since a year ago to this date.”

To date, the Trust owns some 67 acres

of land. Many of the land tracts have trails and can be used for wildlife studies.

All will be preserved for public use. About five acres are wetlands. Yeoman

said the wetlands perform a certain function to any land mass because it acts

as a sponge for floods and provides a home for infinite amounts of wildlife.

Not Competitive

A Land Trust adds another tool for use in the town’s efforts to save open

space and natural resources, and in no way does a Trust interfere with city-

appointed boards or commissions. Yeoman said its programs are not competitive, but are complementary.

He said Trust members do not and legally cannot attempt to influence legislation concerning conservation on any

level, city, state or federal, nor can they, as a group, become involved in political issues or campaigns.

The politics of conservation is the task of the Shelton Conservation Commission. The Trust’s purpose only is to acquire land to keep it in it’s natural state, and to conduct educational programs as they are able, Yeoman said.

It’s income comes from donations and membership dues. There are currently 35 active members in the organization, which is seeking new members.

Membership costs $2 per year, junior membership is $1, family membership (which includes all children under 18 years of age) is $5 a year, life membership, $200 and honorary membership elected by the board of directors.

A total of 11 parcels have been donated to the Trust so far and 1979 saw the most parcels being donated.

Anyone interested in giving land to the trust can call Robert Stockmal at 929-1377 or Yeoman at 929-1653.

Information can be obtained by writing Shelton Land Conservation Trust Inc., Post Office Box 2276, Huntington

Station, Shelton, 06484.
Trusting Landscape: Backpacking from Mexico to Canada on the Pacific Crest Trail

2,650 miles. 5 months. 3 seasons. 4 pairs of shoes. 19 lost pounds. 1 blister. Dozens of states of mind....

Anne O’Regan will be joining us on April 13th, at the annual Shelton Land Trust Meeting, to tell us, via story and slides, about her journey from Mexico to Canada taken from April to September of 2010 on the Pacific Crest Trail. The PCT travels through seven National Parks, twenty-four National Forests, and thirty-three Wilderness Areas. It crosses sixty major mountain passes, and skirts by over a thousand lakes. From deserts, to the High Sierras, to rain forests in Washington, the hike brought her through six of the seven eco-zones in North America. On average the trail sees a completion rate of around 300 thru-hikers per year.

O’Regan is a Boston native now living in Shelton. Refreshments will be provided. Please plan to attend, as all are welcome!

Getting to know our parcels:
Shelton Land Conservation Trust
Parcel #2

This Parcel is known as the “End of Deborah Drive” Parcel and was acquired by Quit Claim Deed from the City of Shelton on August 22, 1973. Located in Huntington, this 3.13 acre parcel is in the Residential “R-1” Zone, and has an appraised value of $80,600 according to the City Assessor. The Assessor lists the address as 0 Isinglass Road, even though the deed locates the property as being on Meadowlark Drive where it becomes Capitol Drive.

While SLCT records refer to Deborah Drive, there is no legal access from there. The parcel has a 15’ Right of Way located on the northerly side of Meadowlark Drive, between No. 37 Meadowlark Drive and No. 118 Capitol Drive. This roughly 170’ long access is undefined with no apparent path or trail. This parcel may be accessed through the adjoining parcel to the north, which is SLCT Parcel #3. Located on Huntington Circle between houses No. 19 and No. 27, SLCT Parcel #3 is a designated “Open Space” parcel that was acquired September 16, 1975 from B.I.D. Inc., and is part of “Huntington Wood” Section One. Together both of these Parcels constitute over 5 Acres of open space.

As with most of Open Space, these parcels are not suitable for building, due to the rugged topography, and the brook that crosses Parcel #2. The unnamed watercourse flows southeast from elevation 366’ at Deborah Drive to elevation 353’ at the easterly side before continuing across Meadowlark Drive and into the large wetland area on the City owned parcel known as “Capewell Park”. The brook takes the runoff from Deborah Drive as well as the surrounding properties.
Save the Date!

The 2011 Connecticut Land Conservation Conference will be held Saturday, April 30th, at Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT.

The conference was expanded in 2009 with a new venue, which allowed for a greater number of workshop offerings, and was the biggest and most successful conference to date. This year will improve on that model, with hopes to engage a larger and broader audience. The improved venue should attract not only land trust representatives, but also individuals involved with town commissions, garden clubs, and grass root advocacy groups.

The conference will offer 24 workshops, 8 each, in one morning and two afternoon sessions. The workshops will be preceded by a keynote speaker in the morning. The workshops are about 1.5 hours in length, with up to 45 people attending each. Both basic and advanced training will be available.

This year’s conference will be designed around a general theme of collaboration and partnerships.

A theme that is likely to be integrated into each workshop topic. Other categories likely to be covered at the conference (but not limited to):

- Advocacy
- Stewardship (monitoring, land management, baseline reports)
- Organizational Capacity Development
- Fundraising
- Outreach, Education and Communications
- Leadership (board and staff)
- Land Conservation Transactions


We’re on FACEBOOK!
Please “like” our page and you can keep informed about upcoming events and Land Trust news. Search Shelton Land Trust.

Shelton Land Conservation Trust, Inc.
P.O. Box 2276 • Huntington Station • Shelton, Connecticut 06484

President
Joseph Welsh

Vice Presidents
Philip Jones
Edward McCreery

Secretary
Mary Jane Liddel

Treasurer
Paul Uhrynowski

Board Members
Marybeth Banks
Robert Carreau
Marge Estok
Pat Gajdosik
Rudy Gajdosik
Evelyn Healy
Hank Lauriat
Jackie Lauriat
Robert Liddel
Bruce Nichols
Margaret Paulson
Joseph Palmucci
Donald Pendagast
Robert Wnek

Member Emeritus
Robert Stockmal
Lise Olsen

2011 General Meetings:

Mar. 16, 7 pm
April 13 -ANNUAL MEETING at
Plumb Library
May 11, 7 pm
June 8, 7 pm
August 11 annual picnic -
details to follow
Sept. 14, 7 pm
Nov. 9, 7 pm

Additional meetings to be announced. All general meetings will take place at the Shelton Community Center at 7pm.

To be better informed about Land Trust activities and local conservation issues, why not join the Trust’s email alert list? To be added, simply send an email to slctjoew@sbcglobal.net