

ONE OF MANY CLT WINTER HIKES, THIS ONE IS AT FRESH MEADOWS WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

# THE Balance Sheet

Cheshire Land Trust

MARCH 2018

## STEWARDSHIP – OUR PROMISE

by Joy VanderLek

It doesn't matter how a parcel of land comes to the Cheshire Land Trust. The bottom line is that once given, we then have an obligation. It's a promise to conserve and steward the land that is in our care.

This is where monitors and stewards come into play. Each one is a volunteer and each one is extremely valuable to land trusts.

**Monitors:** Assigned to a specific parcel of land, a monitor acts as the eyes and ears of the land trust.

They walk the property at least once a year, checking on boundary markers (have they moved, are they missing, etc.).

They also walk the property making notes along the way on items of concern, such as illegal dumping, a fallen tree on a trail or erosion problems. The monitor writes a report, and sends it to the land trust board.

**Stewards:** These volunteers may also double as a monitor of a property, but stewards are essentially the "go-to people" to make things right when something needs doing at the property.

### A Steward's Bag of Tricks

The skills stewards carry with them vary from person to person and property to property.

Stewards may work alone, or work in groups as small as two or as large as a dozen for a scheduled workday or a big project.

All skills are welcome. Here are just a few items stewards might volunteer to handle:

- **Cut back invasive shrubs**
- **Blaze trails**
- **Remove fallen branches**
- **Fix benches**
- **Pick up trash**
- **Mow and trim**
- **Cut and clear downed trees**
- **Build trails / bridges**
- **Paint**
- **Plant trees**
- **Put up new trail signs**



### Welcome New Stewards|Monitors

CLT has almost 600 acres and 30+ properties in our care. We welcome Alan and Nate, Nick, Katie, Tim-Robert, Tim, Pam and Scott and look forward to working with each of you. .



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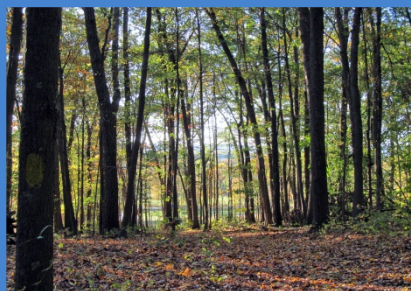
### Fun and Adventure

Steward Nick Motmans checks coordinates to mark survey pin. Stewards and monitors are all ages, and they bring many different skill-sets to the volunteer team — all needed and appreciated.

# Cheshire Land Trust

## Annual Meeting — March 22nd

### Cheshire Town Hall Chambers



"TREES, THE WOODS AND YOU"

6:30 pm *Light repast*  
7:00 pm *Short business meeting*  
7:25 pm

*Featured speaker, Eric Hansen*

*Trees, the Woods, and You -  
How trees impact our lives*

**Forester Eric Hansen** is our speaker for the 49th Cheshire Land Trust Annual Meeting, on Thursday, March 22nd, in Cheshire Town Hall Chambers.

Hansen has a B.S. in Forestry from UMass Amherst and is a CT Certified Forester, a Massachusetts Licensed Forester, and a USDA-NRCS Technical Service Provider.

Eric knows Trees.

Hansen has been with Ferrucci & Walicki, LLC Forestry and Land Management Consultants in Middlefield, since 2012, and is currently the managing partner.

Prior to F&W, Eric worked as a County Forester in Vermont, and, also worked for the U.S. Forest Service in Vermont and New Hampshire, the Metropolitan District Commission in Connecticut and the CT DEEP Division of Forestry.

Eric is a member of the Society of American Foresters and served on the executive committee from 2013-2015.

Eric is passionate about learning about and helping others understand some of the complex interactions of people, the woods, and the creatures that depend on each other.



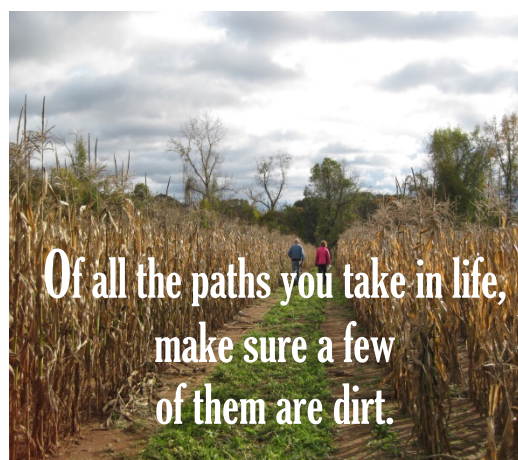
#### OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

**President**  
**Vice President**  
**Treasurer**  
**Secretary**

**Joy VanderLek**  
**Open**  
**David Schrumm**  
**Kristi Fleischmann**

Matt Abdifar	2018 – 2021
Tim Slocum	2018 – 2021
Mark Hall	2018 – 2021
Jim Mertz	2017 – 2020
Rick Marinaro	2017 - 2020

Open	2017 – 2020
John Hilzinger	2016 - 2019
Karen Schnitzer	2016 - 2019
Randy Solomon	2016 - 2019



CLT is looking to its membership to fill open Board positions.  
What skills and enthusiasm can you bring?

Please contact us at [CheshireLandTrust@gmail.com](mailto:CheshireLandTrust@gmail.com) or 203-806-0258



# A Calendar Year with CLT

Karen Schnitzer, CLT board member

As I write this, it is a rainy and raw day in the midst of Winter. The sky is gray, the breeze has a bite to it, and yet, the air is rich with the promise and smell of Spring.

I am sitting here looking at my photographs from the past year with CLT.

I recall several hikes, in different seasons. A year ago, I was out hiking at Ives Farm. We walked down to the river and looked at the tracks in the snow. There were deer tracks, maybe coyote, and a few we could not identify. The sky was a rich beautiful blue. The air was crisp and clean.

In April, we took a wildflower hike at Roaring Brook with CLT member Sigrun Gadwa. The variety of wildflowers found was delightful. Canada Mayflower, Spicebush, Red Trillium, Bloodroot, Trout Lily and more bedazzled us with their delicate charms. The woods, so green and damp, so full of the promise of Spring to come, so very welcome after a snowy winter.

In June, I co-led a hike with the Cheshire Environmental Commission on CT Trails Day. While our two groups are not affiliated, CLT is a private non-profit conservation group, our goals on open space align. We are happy to work with them for the benefit of the residents.

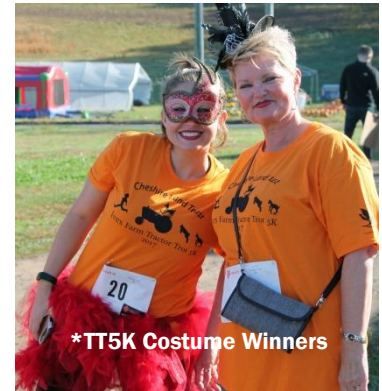
About twenty of us hiked the town-owned Dedominicus open space property looking for migrating birds and wildflowers. The forest was thick with green foliage by then.

A few months later, there was a stroll through Fresh Meadows, where we found Monarch Butterflies and caterpillars.

Later in the season, back at Ives Farm, we had the #Opt-Out, Black Friday Hike. We crunched through the lower field, finding turkey and coyote tracks, discussing invasive plants with help from master gardener Walter Brockett (Peter's Rock Association) and having a friendly hike among friends.

And, CLT hosted other events, too. On July 9<sup>th</sup>, we had a very different event. About a dozen artists of varying genres took to the stage, making wonderful music at Ives Farm. What a nice afternoon it was, with so many people enjoying the weather, the music and the beautiful expanse of field and sky.

In September, we held our annual "Day at Ives Farm" with more than 1,000 visitors. There was face painting, pony rides and farm animals, letter boxing, food and music. Our second annual Ives Farm Tractor Trot 5K Walk & Run was in October, and turned out to be a great success and a lot of fun.



I also remember the stewardship work parties behind the trail walks and big events. When and where possible, several of us would meet, unpack tools from our cars and head out into the woods and fields.

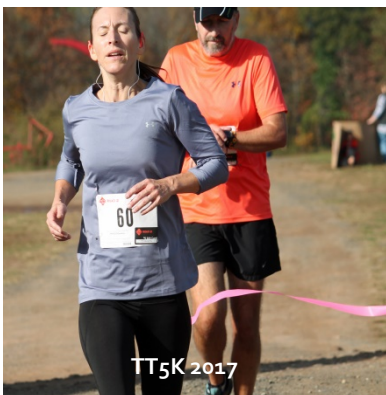
We'd spend a few hours making the trails passable, and improving the environment by cutting down invasive plants. Sometimes it was sunny and warm, sometimes it was cold, but the work still needed to be done.

Did we consider it work? No, actually, I think we considered it fun or exercise, or service, but certainly not drudgery. Why? Because we were outside with our friends, working and enjoying the spring, summer or fall, and above all, enjoying the land.

Last year was a wonderful year, and this year should be even better. We would be honored if you would join us on the journey.



\*Photos of TT5K – John Marchand



## Q-RIVER TRAIL &amp; CLT

**Did you know?**

**Cheshire Land Trust is the largest private owner of Quinnipiac River frontage in Cheshire?**

CLT is on the working group of the Q-River Trail. Once the dams were taken down on the Q, we've worked with federal, state and local groups, to create a recreation alternative for the public to canoe and kayak on the Q.

Joy VanderLek and Karen Schnitzer are on the group, working alongside the following:  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife  
CT DEEP  
Quinnipiac River Watershed Association  
Southington and Meriden Land Trusts,  
Quinnipiac Valley Audubon Society |  
(Riverbound Farm Sanctuary)  
Towns of Meriden, Cheshire and Southington  
Cheshire Environmental Commission

**The Q-River Trail Grand Celebration & Flotilla,** will be held on CT Trails Day, on **Sunday, June 3, 2018,** at QRWA Headquarters, Oregon Road, at Hanover Pond from 10-4 p.m.

**HIGHLIGHTS :**

- Music
- Games
- Speakers
- Decorate Your Vessel Flotilla
- Food
- Afternoon Guided Canoe Tours from Cheshire and Southington



**Quinn the Q-River Otter**  
Mascot of the new Q-River Trail

**Artist: Karen Schnitzer**  
CLT Board

Show your support for conservation in your town  
*...Become a member!*

**Become a member today, or renew your membership. It's easy!**

Use Paypal at [CheshireLandTrust.org](http://CheshireLandTrust.org) or use the convenient envelope in this newsletter.



Cheshire Land Trust

Open spaces provide habitat for wildlife, protection for our water supply, and countless benefits to the community.

Cheshire's pristine wetlands, greenways, farmland and open spaces must never be taken for granted.

Join in our mission to preserve the town's natural character and beauty.

Membership offers you the opportunity to make a difference.



Cheshire Land Trust

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