



NORWALK LAND TRUST *News*

norwalklandtrust.org

Spring 2011

SAVE THE DATE: For An Evening With Lucie Arnaz! October 29, 2011

It's an evening of great local food ... and of listening to the best in old style theatrical club act, with a free take-home CD you'll enjoy for years to come. Put simply, it's a terrific evening of very fine music for a really good cause.



It's *An Evening With Lucie Arnaz*, the latest in Norwalk Land Trust's tradition of innovative special events to benefit a very special local resource.

An Evening With Lucie Arnaz is on tap for an October 29, 2011 concert at City Hall. The daughter of Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz, Lucie has received numerous awards and honors for her work since appearing in a recurring role on the hit television program, "The Lucy Show." The Emmy award-winning stage and television star Lucie Arnaz will present an exciting cabaret show filled with song standards of yesterday and today.

Among other things, *An Evening With Lucie Arnaz* guests will receive a souvenir folio, in lieu of the traditional ad journal, which will include Lucie's latest CD. "It's going to be a unique evening that takes advantage of a Fairfield County's musical talent and really goes to show all the wonderful things available right in our back yard," says event chair Lorraine Dowdy.

This event is sure to be a sell out! To reserve your space now, tickets can be purchased online at norwalklandtrust.org. More information on An Evening With Lucie Arnaz, on becoming an event sponsor or to advertise in the Folio Collection (journal) is also available by visiting NLT's website or email event@norwalklandtrust.org.

The very fine cause behind *An Evening With Lucie Arnaz* is, of course, the Norwalk Land Trust education initiatives. The Norwalk Land Trust is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of open space in Norwalk. The Land Trust recognizes the need to have a balance between nature and development. It acquires and preserves land to protect nature and to benefit Norwalk's present and future generations. Today there are approximately 100 acres being held by the Norwalk Land Trust, including the three-acre Hoyt Island.

It's time for An Evening With Lucie Arnaz. Be a part of it! 🍀

PITCH IN: River Cleanup

By John Moeling, Vice President

On Saturday, April 16 -- just before Earth Day -- Norwalk Land Trust and the Norwalk River Watershed Association partner a BIG cleanup between the Route 136 and Route 95 bridges -- both onshore and in the River. We gather by the Aquarium pavilion, opposite the north entrance, starting at 9:30AM. Come on down!

Kayakers (dry suits required; the water is still dangerously cold in April) can park and put-in at Veteran's Park. Canoeists will help the kayakers collect trash and debris from the high-water-mark along the riverbank, and then ferry it to shore. Landlubber volunteers will collect, separate and dispose of the material. We think we can retrieve 100% of accumulated floating debris! A historic occasion, indeed.



Enthusiastic cooperation and leadership from The Small Boat Shop in South Norwalk, combined with offers to help from Save The Sound, the Neighborhood Improvement section of Norwalk's Redevelopment Agency, and others, make this a very promising venture.

The Norwalk Land Trust's 27 properties include several streams and brooks which feed the Norwalk, Five Mile and other rivers, in addition to replenishing aquifers and providing wildlife habitat. Active stewardship's essential (and costly; please remember to renew your membership or send a contribution). Partnering with NRWA helps get the job done.

See you on the 16th! 🍀

—What's Inside?—

President's Message.....	2
New Acquisition.....	2
Kayak Tour.....	2
New Youth Stewardship Program.....	2
Volunteers Make The Difference.....	3
Potpourri.....	3
Join Us.....	4

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



D. Seeley Hubbard

This has been an exciting year for the Norwalk Land Trust. After 4 1/2 years we were able to complete the \$4,500,000 campaign to purchase and complete the Farm Creek Preserve. This campaign was nationally recognized in Forbes Magazine in June and the city of Norwalk put the campaign over the top with a grant from the city's Open Space Fund for \$155,000 by the unanimous vote of the Common Council on September 28, 2010. There were many pieces that came together for this success story: Chuck Schoendorf, a concerned Norwalk resident, who purchased the property and held it until the Land Trust could raise the necessary funds to purchase it; Pete Scull, the Chairman of the Campaign for Farm Creek, who organized and chaired weekly meetings for four and one half years; the Conservation Fund, a nationally recognized preservationist charity, who loaned the Land Trust \$2,000,000 at below market rates and with liberal repayment terms; and, there were over 1000 local contributors who donated over \$3,500,000 and the public grants from the state, the city and the Sixth Taxing District who provided the remaining \$1,000,000.

However, the most important piece of this success story was the individuals of the Campaign for Farm Creek and the Board of the Land Trust. Without their dedication and tireless devotion to the cause, it never would have happened. The City of Norwalk will forever be blessed with this natural treasure preserved.

Coming off this great achievement, The Board of the Norwalk Land Trust eagerly intends to keep the momentum going. While we do not anticipate any immediate campaigns such as Farm Creek, the Board is moving enthusiastically toward improving the stewardship of our properties, increasing and expanding our education programs for the schools; creating nature tours, bird watching and other events on our properties. In addition the Land Trust will actively seek partnerships with neighborhood associations and environmental groups to further our mission and goals. The city has approached us to preserve and protect city owned land through conservation easements and for the Land Trust to mitigate and steward such properties for the benefits of the adjoining neighbors and the residents of Norwalk.

For all of you members, we thank you for your support. We invite you to visit our properties, participate in our events and give us your input as to how the Board of Directors can do a better job. We need volunteers and welcome your participation in all our activities. Visit our website and tour all our properties, look at our calendar and familiarize yourself with our activities. www.norwalklandtrust.org. We encourage you to become active in this dynamic organization.

Finally I want to thank all of you for your support and all that we have accomplished. We could not have done it without you. 🍃

D. Seeley Hubbard
President.

NEW ACQUISITION: BETTS BROOK

In December, NLT added its 27th property -- 12-1/2 Allen Road, an important segment of Betts Brook, which feeds the Norwalk River, forms the property's western border. Nearly an acre of mixed woods, meadow and wetlands was donated to the Trust by Frederick Canevari and Venke Vey Canevari and the Betts Brook portion, running along the western edge of the property, detours around Woods Pond and spreads out in the marshy woods below. More and more of Norwalk Land Trust's properties are bringing important watercourses into the Trust's stewardship. "Already we steward portions of Village Creek, Five Mile River, Stony Brook which feeds the Saugatuck, and Betts Brook," says Stewardship Chairman John Moeling. In addition, the waters and wetlands provide important habitats and subsurface water collection to replenish Norwalk's aquifers." 🍃

SUMMER COASTAL KAYAK TOUR

On Saturday, June 4 at 1PM, join the Norwalk Land Trust for "Creek to Creek", a guided tour of NLT sites from Village Creek to Farm Creek. Paddling's easy and all can participate (though a \$20 per boat fee lets us replenish the stewardship budget!). To sign up email Ken Whitman at kmw6703@gmail.com

We gather at Village Creek (end of Dock Road in South Norwalk) where a parking shuttle will be provided. The put-in is available courtesy of the Village Creek Homeowners Ass'n (thank you!); put-in at their small beach across from NLT's Hoyt Island property. Water and trail snacks available. Paddle past Wilson Point and Bell Island to NLT's Farm Creek Nature Preserve where we disembark for a brief meet and tour.

Those without watercraft may rent vessels through Down Under Kayaking in Rowayton (email Kim Beaumont at downunderkayaking@yahoo.com) or through the Small Boat Shop in SoNo (call Rick at 854-5223 or email info@thesmallboatshop.com).

Join us! Have fun! Wear a hat! 🍃



NEW: YOUTH STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

For two years, NLT directors have worked with City elementary-school teachers to present classroom information on the values to Norwalk of open, protected space in the City. Fourth grade kids from more than half our schools have been brought to NLT's Farm Creek Nature Preserve for personal tours of the shoreline habitat. Now Norwalk Land Trust is introducing a new program directed to teens.

The Young Stewards Program will host small groups of 13 to 17-year-olds who are interested in hands-on learning about the environment coupled with actual stewardship tasks like removal of invasive plants and vines, clearing of trails and watercourse, and planting of native species. The Land Trust provides instruction and supervision in cooperation with adult representatives of N.E.O.N. All tools and materials are supplied by NLT and "graduates" receive certificates of completion. Watch the NLT website for more info. 🍃

VOLUNTEERS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

By Marny Smith, President Emeritus

The spirit of volunteerism has been strong during our four year Campaign for Farm Creek Preserve. In fact, we never could have succeeded without many volunteers, their pro bono hours and in-kind gifts.



With 27 properties and approximately 100 acres of land under our care, the Norwalk Land Trust continually needs volunteers to achieve our mission of preserving land in its natural state for the benefit of future generations in Norwalk. We have a hard working board of directors, but the key to doing an even better job is finding volunteers who share our commitment and are willing to give a piece of their time and talent.

Our needs come in five categories:

Stewardship (out of doors, some heavy duty):

- Clean-ups, building trails, pruning, raking leaves, removing invasives
- Work with 'Young Stewards' volunteers

Education:

During the school year, we offer guided walks around the Farm Creek Preserve with a target ratio of one guide to six children. Material covered compliments the Norwalk Schools' 4th grade science curriculum, and occurs April through June and, September through November. We provide training.

- Field trip guide for school children
- Nature walks for adults on NLT properties with nature expert

Events:

We need help with coordinating and staffing events. Familiarity with Norwalk Land Trust helps, but NLT board member(s) are present as well.

These are some of our upcoming events:

- NLT booth at Tree Festival, Live Green CT, etc.
- Norwalk River Clean-up - April 16
- Kayak event - June 4
- Annual meeting
- An Evening With Lucie Arnaz – Oct. 29

Administrative (indoors):

No special skills needed for some tasks, computer and filing experience a plus for others:

- Help with mailings (newsletters, membership)
- Develop/update NLT property neighbor lists
- Help with fundraising tasks
- Telephone/email to alert neighbors of cleanups, meetings and other NLT events

Special Skills:

- Graphic artist to design/produce posters, postcard mailers, brochure, PowerPoint presentations, etc.
- Writers for newsletter articles and news releases
- Expertise in a natural science – flora and fauna, marine biology, forestry, natural history
- Landscape maintenance

In the Special Skills category for example, **Emma Levine**, a graduating senior at Sacred Heart University, produced a video of our 4th grade school program and Discovery Day at Farm Creek for her class in Video Outreach. **Joe Alicastro**, her professor, gave his time to directing and polishing Emma's work.

Ryan Mange, a certified arborist with Almstead Tree and Shrub Care Co., is identifying the trees on the Farm Creek Preserve for future labeling. He will do an inventory of trees and other significant vegetation on the Hart Peninsula, the section of the Preserve restricted to wildlife.

Bob Kuchta, recently retired from the Stamford school system, made birdhouses to sell at Discovery Day and donated the proceeds to NLT's Farm Creek Campaign. Bob is also one of our field trip volunteers and re-mounted our Farm Creek sign.

Ryan, Emma, Joe, and Bob came to us with an idea that would help NLT and we gladly found a way for them to use their skills. We hope there are others among our members and readers who have interests and skills that dovetail with NLT needs. We welcome your inquiries info@norwalklandtrust.org.



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Roger Willcox

Potpourri



Alex Miklave accomplished his Eagle Scout requirements with his trail built in October over NLT's Big West Cedar property... more Scout involvement is under way... the Yale

School of Forestry will generate a graduate-level initiative among NLT properties. Northeast Utilities, through CL&P, donates \$2,500 to NLT to fund major construction-debris cleanup.

Upcoming Spring Clean Up



Volunteers are needed for spring cleaning at the following properties:

April 23 9:30am -- Farm Creek

Location: 34 Sammis Street

Bring your leaf rake. NLT will provide paper leaf bags and gloves.

April 30 9:30am -- Farm Creek

Location: between McKinley and Sammis St. bridge – (meet @ 50 Roton Ave)

Friends of Farm Creek will provide coffee and gloves for volunteers.

May 14 9:30am -- Nursery Street

Nursery Street and New Canaan Avenue

For additional spring clean-up schedule visit norwalklandtrust.org.

Happy Birthday Norwalk Land Trust...now in its 38th year!



Norwalk Land Trust News is published twice a year by Norwalk Land Trust.

For more information about NLT, please email us info@norwalklandtrust.org

Lorraine Dowdey
Editor

Join Us



Being a member of the Norwalk Land Trust has its benefits.
Your support means continued preservation of our precious
open spaces for today and years to come!

Our Mission...

The Norwalk Land Trust seeks to balance nature and development by acquiring land and preserving it in its natural state for the benefit of Norwalk residents and future generations.

Please join the Norwalk Land Trust for 2011
You are supporting continuing preservation of Norwalk open spaces! **Thank You**

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____

Phone (____) _____

Norwalk Land Trust does not share member information
All membership contributions are tax deductible

Please check all that interest you:

I would like to volunteer for: Stewardship Education Events Administration Fundraising/Grants

I have special skills _____

Use my email address to send me electronic newsletters and communications: YES NO

Please clip and mail to: Norwalk Land Trust, PO Box 34, Norwalk CT 06853

For Corporate membership, please email info@norwalklandtrust.org or visit our website norwalklandtrust.org.

2011 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

- \$30 Individual
- \$50 Family
- \$100-\$249 Supporting
- \$250-\$999 Steward
- \$1,000+ Leadership
- Other
- Matching gift form enclosed

Amount enclosed \$_____ to Norwalk Land Trust
or from my PayPal account \$_____ to
...<norwalklt@optonline.net>