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Madison Land Conservation Trust

FALL 2013

The Women's Club of Madison helps build better trails

THE WOMEN'S CLUB OF MADISON has chosen to fund two important MLCT projects during the next two years. These projects will enhance the public safety and enjoyment of MLCT trails through better signage, improved parking and a new footbridge. The Women's Club members expressed excitement about these projects which promote land conservation. They were also impressed to learn that much of the work will be done by volunteers.

The major source of the Women's Club funds come from the Club's Garden Tour, which takes place each June. They expect to send these funds to the MLCT in the Summer of 2014 or early Fall 2014.

The first project is the purchase of new trailhead signs made of durable, weather-resistant materials. The current signs are old and difficult to see at best. Many are carved from wood that has deteriorated and faded over the years. Even those that are still in good condition blend in all too well with the woodlands surrounding them.

Clearly marked trails are essential to the safety and enjoyment of everyone using them and also encourages more people to discover our trails. Work on the project began this summer.

Used in conjunction with our improved on-line map availability, hikers will find it much easier to locate the trails. Hiking the trails of the MLCT is the most frequent manner in which the public utilizes our land, therefore this funding from the Madison Women's Club will benefit our community in a direct and substantial way.

The total cost of this project is estimated to be \$2,015.

Project number two will involve our Bauermeister property on Summerhill Road near the intersection of Route 80. In order to make this area more welcoming to the public we will be grading and adding gravel to the parking area. We will be constructing a trail bridge over a water crossing to increase safety and convenience. A number of "interpretive signs" to high-



Eric Alletzhauser installing one of the new trail signs.

light important land features, such as beaver activity, will also be added. The total estimated cost of these improvements is \$3,000.

The MLCT Board would like to thank the Women's Club of Madison for its generous support. We hope to see them on the trails!

TAKE A HIKE WITH US!

OCTOBER 13, 6:45 P.M.

AUTUMN MOONLIGHT WALK

Bring a flashlight and join us for an evening stroll on the Garvan Trail at the Surf Club. As always, a bagpiper will lead the way. After the walk, refreshments will be served in the Surf Club building, and members of the Astronomical Society of New Haven will set up telescopes for viewing the moon, planets and stars in the night-time sky.

NOVEMBER 3, 1:00 P.M.

SHEPHERDS TRAIL HIKE

This trail is one of our most demanding, with several short, steep sections and rocky areas that can be slippery when wet or icy. We'll encounter a variety of ecosystems from lowland wetland swamps, woodlands and small meadows to upland forests and rocky, exposed outcrops. The hike yields spectacular views at the summit. This hike is not suitable for dogs or very young children. The trailhead is on Shepherds Trail.

TRAIL MAPS AND DIRECTIONS

are available on the MLCT website. Dogs are welcome on a leash, except as noted above. Hikes will be cancelled in case of inclement weather. Check the MLCT website or Facebook page for updates.

Now you can make online donations to the Land Trust

The membership page on the Land Trust's website now allows you to join, renew your membership, make a memorial donation or give a friend or loved one a gift membership.

Your contributions make everything the Land Trust does possible, from purchasing land and taking care of it to building trails for everyone to enjoy. **Please renew today!**

www.madisonlandtrust.org.

Generous donors support the mission of the Land Trust

EARLY THIS SPRING Frank and Lois Flaherty, long-time Madison residents, demonstrated the depth of their commitment to the Madison Land Conservation Trust with a gift of \$25,000, to be used at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

Frank and Lois's interest in the Land Trust began seven years ago when they started to participate in hikes organized and lead by Joan O'Neill. After meeting Joan and learning more about the organization, Frank was inspired to join the Board where he has served since 2008. During that time the Board has grown in many ways, acquiring numerous important pieces of land, constantly improving existing trails and facilities and organizing a growing list of well-attended events. He is proud of all the organization does.

Although Frank can no longer be as active a member of the Board as he once was, he and his wife wanted to show their continuing commitment to the MLCT with their contribution.

Frank and Lois have lived in Madison for 37 years. Both their children, Maureen and Scott, graduated from Daniel Hand High School. They enjoy being active in the

Nonstop support since 2007

LENNY & JOE'S FISH TALE contributed the proceeds from their Magical Carousel to the Land Trust again this year. Each year the Land Trust has been the recipient of all the proceeds from the carousel for one day in the



The Flaherty family—Frank, Lois, Scott and Maureen—are all supporters of the Madison Land Trust.

Madison community and participate in a number of community organizations.

He and Lois would like to encourage other community members to be generous in their support of the Land Trust. They have put no stipulation on how their gift is to be used, leaving it up to the discretion of the Board members. Frank stated, "They can choose to use it for whatever is needed. We have a great Board and people who donate a lot of time and effort. We can rely on them to do the right thing."

Thank you, Frank and Lois, for this most generous donation.

summer. Since 2007 contributions to the Land Trust from the Magical Carousel have been more than \$3,500.

The Trust is honored to be one of the recipients of proceeds from this much-loved shoreline institution.

The Bauer Trust helps MLCT reach a long-sought goal

FOR MANY YEARS board members and volunteers have talked about and wished for the ability to make online donations to the Land Trust through the website. Unfortunately, it was always beyond our reach technically and financially to implement a secure and robust donation form. Thanks to a generous grant from the Bauer Trust, all that has changed.

At the end of July, the Land Trust website went live with a new set of donation forms. Working with Tom Lindquist of Visually Impacted (visuallyimpacted.com) in Madison, the membership committee added forms for membership, renewal, gift memberships, donations and memorial gifts. Now memberships can be set up and renewed through the website quickly and securely with an improved form and payment via Paypal.

The grant also allowed the Trust to improve overall site security, to build a mobile version of the site for viewing on phones and tablets and to add an improved picture gallery tool.

In addition to these improvements, the Land Trust website now has detailed location information for our trails built into the website. The Trails page has a new interactive map with a pin for each trail. Click on a trail's pin to find directions and a link to the trail map and trailheads. A detailed description of each trail, flora, fauna and points of historical interest are all available on the website. And, it's all viewable on a smartphone while you're out hiking!

Visit the website to find information about upcoming hikes and events: www.madisonlandtrust.org.

MLCT waterfalls featured in guide to Connecticut waterfalls

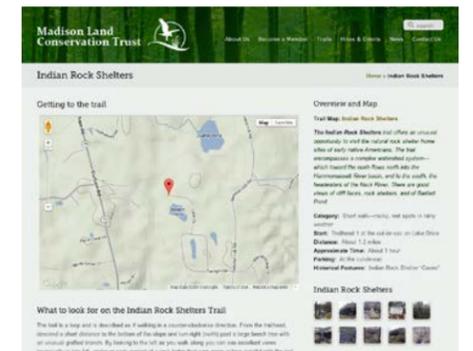
MLCT waterfalls have been featured in a new guide to Connecticut waterfalls by Russell Dunn with photography by Christy Butler. Dunn reached out to MLCT president Mike Maloney for information on several lovely falls that can be reached from the Trust's trails. The trails are the **Indian Rock Shelter Trail**, the **Neck River Uplands Trail**, the **Ironwoods Preserve Trail** and the **Papermill Trail**. The guide is richly illustrated with photographs and antique postcards. It provides directions and descriptions as well as historical and stratigraphic information on each location.

This guide will not only get you there, but provide fascinating information about our State's historical reliance on waterpower and about its mills, dams and sluices. Dunn is a New York State-licensed hiking guide and author of five additional waterfall guides to the Adirondack, Catskill and Hudson Valley regions as well as numerous hiking guides. The guide is published by the Countryman Press and is available at RJ Julia for \$18.95.

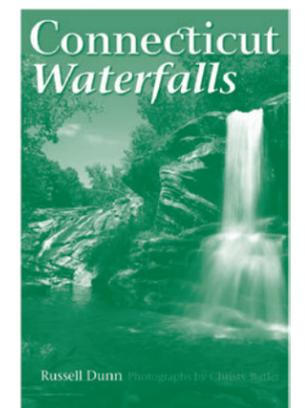
For maps and directions to the MLCT trails, visit our website at: madisonlandtrust.org.



An interactive map shows all the MLCT trails in town with links to directions and descriptions.



Individual location maps for each trail showing trailheads and directions are now available on the Land Trust website.



Connecticut Waterfalls by Russell Dunn is available in paperback from RJ Julia.

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Madison Land
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Please join us for our Annual Meeting

Changing Climate, Changing Landscapes

Weather events over the past three years have highlighted changes in weather patterns and the intensity of storm events in our area that have been verified by analysis of historical data. These changes are affecting ecosystems from the depths of Long Island Sound to the lawns in suburban landscapes to the forests in our remaining wild areas by stressing native species and encouraging the spread of invasive species. Come learn how to identify signs of these changes and what adjustments can be made to landscaping practices to reduce their impact.

Wednesday, November 13

7:00 p.m.

Memorial Town Hall



Heather Crawford
Environmental Educator,
Madison Conservation
Commission, Chair