



THE LAY *of* THE LAND

SPRING 2014

Madison Land Conservation Trust



We're celebrating *and we hope you will, too!*

Please join us for some of the events we have planned to celebrate 50 years of conservation in Madison.

SINCE ITS FOUNDING IN 1964, the Madison Land Conservation Trust has enjoyed a long history of generous support from the Madison community. We are proud to be one of the oldest land trusts in the U.S. and Connecticut. This year, we're celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Land Trust and the people who have made the organization a success. That means you, our members and supporters.

Throughout its history, the Land Trust has operated almost entirely as a volunteer organization. The board has been made up of town residents who generously donate their time to keep the Trust moving forward in its mission of local conservation. And, year after year, our members and friends both near and far donate

generously to support the work of the Trust.

In truth, none of the accomplishments of the last 50 years would have been possible without your support. It is truly gratifying to know that there are so many people in Madison who believe in the work of the Trust and add their efforts and contributions to the long history of people who have made the Trust a success.

We have been fortunate to inherit the Land Trust and to be able to see its impact all around us. And we are excited to work with you to continue to build the Land Trust's legacy for future generations.

This anniversary year, we'd like to be able to personally thank as many of you as possible for your many contributions to the Trust. Please join us

at one of the special events we have planned for the coming year such as:

- An exciting series of **guided hikes** lead by local experts
- An **end of summer celebration of 50 years... and counting.** Food, cocktails, old and new friends at the Surf Club on September 6
- A **special lecture, workshop and hike** lead by Tom Wessels
- A **Trail Hike Challenge** for folks completing a series of hikes

Please take a look inside the *Lay of the Land* to find out more about ways you can participate in our 50th Anniversary Celebration. I look forward to celebrating with you and *thank you* for 50 years of support.

Mike Maloney, President

The 50th Anniversary Trail Hike Challenge

To celebrate the Land Trust's 50th anniversary, we're hosting a trail hike challenge. You can participate by hiking a set number of trails during 2014 to receive a special gift. The Challenge includes a combination of guided and self-guided hikes on Land Trust trails. You can participate at 2 levels:

ADVENTURERS Hike 14 trails and receive an MLCT hat
EXPLORERS Hike all 22 MLCT trails and receive a hat plus a special gift

Prizes will be awarded at the Autumn Moonlight Walk in October.

To participate, download a Challenge Card on the Land Trust website to keep track of the trails you hike, or join us on a guided hike and pick up your card from the hike leader. On each trail you hike, find the hidden stamp (find clues for the stamps at madisonlandtrust.org) and stamp your Challenge Card for that trail. Bring your completed card to the award ceremony in October and celebrate your accomplishment.

We look forward to seeing you on the trail!



2014 Guided Hikes

FEBRUARY 2 AT 1:00 PM
Groundhog Day Hike with Mike Maloney

Indian Rock Shelters Trail

An annual favorite, this year 30 harty hikers joined Mike for a trip to the Indian Rock Shelters on an unseasonably warm day. Alas, the groundhog saw his shadow and as predicted, more winter was in store!

MARCH 9 AT 1:00 PM
Treasure Hunt Hike with Susan Donoghue & Mary Elliott
Neck River Trail

WANTED: The Green Fox, for stealing the Spade of Arborea from deep beneath Madison's Memorial Town Hall! Help us capture her, recover the spade and save Madison's woods and streams. **REWARD:** Any additional trail treasures hidden by the Green Fox are yours, should you find them!

Although the hunt is geared toward elementary-aged children, hikers of all ages are welcome. Wear sturdy boots and bring your sense of adventure!

APRIL 27 AT 1:00 PM
Local History Hike with Warner Lord & Joan O'Neill
Ironwoods Preserve

Join Madison historian and former Land Trust board member **Warner Lord** for a hike on the Ironwoods Preserve. Learn about the people who mined iron out of the local bogs, how they did it and what the iron was used for. **Joan O'Neill** will be joining us before the hike to add her history of the property and how the Land Trust came to own it. Don't miss this rare opportunity to hear about Madison's history from two people who possess a gold mine of information.

MAY 10 AT 8:00 AM
Spring Birding with Mike DiGiorgio
Papermill Trail

Come join nationally recognized wildlife artist and birder Mike DiGiorgio for a spring nature walk with an emphasis on birds. Mike will point out migrant songbirds, waterfowl, and anything else we come across, such as mammals, plants, fungus and insects. Binoculars recommended. Since we'll be locating birds with their calls, this will be a quiet hike. No dogs, please.

MAY 25 AT 1:00 PM
Spring Wildflowers with Michael Donoghue
Neck River Uplands North Trail

Nothing beats botanizing in the spring! Come discover spring wildflowers and other fascinating plants on the Neck River Uplands Trail South with Yale botanist and Madison resident Michael Donoghue.

JUNE 8 AT 1:00 PM
Hunting for Amphibians with Dave Skelly & Kealoha Freidenburg
Blinshed Loop

Join Yale ecologists Kealoha Freidenburg and David Skelly on CT Trails Day to search for frogs, toads, salamanders and newts. The trail features extensive wetlands and old logging roads through the woods. Please wear boots and bring a dip net if you have one. The hike will run rain or shine.

SEPTEMBER 21 AT 3:00 PM
Marsh Walk with Julie Ainsworth
Ox Pasture Trail

Salt marshes are one of the most productive ecosystems on earth. Discover how plants and animals are adapted to

survive in this ever-changing environment. Also, learn about research into the nesting behavior of diamondback terrapins, the only turtle species to live in the brackish waters of tidal marshes. Boots and long pants are a must for walking on the marsh. No dogs please.

OCTOBER 5 AT 7:00 PM
Autumn Moonlight Walk
Garvan Trail

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 prizes will be awarded for the Trail Hike Challenge. Members of the Astronomical Society of New Haven will set up telescopes on the deck for viewing the moon, planets and stars in the night-time sky.

NOVEMBER 8 AT 9:00 AM
Forest Forensics with Tom Wessels
Summer Hill Trail

This hike is the second of a two-part program that will begin with Tom Wessels' keynote presentation at the MLCT Annual Meeting. Wessels is the author of *Reading the Forested Landscape, A Natural History of New England*.

The following morning, Tom will lead a hike on the MLCT's Summer Hill trail. He will introduce us to the science of forest forensics, interpreting the landscape by taking a closer look at the arrangements of plants, landforms, and historical relics. Using evidence such as the shapes of trees, scars on their trunks, the pattern of decay in stumps, the construction of stone walls, and the lay of the land, we will learn to unravel the complex stories etched into our forested landscape.



MLCT 2014 Annual Meeting

Friday, November 7
7:00 pm
Memorial Town Hall
Featuring Tom Wessels

As a special event to celebrate the Land Trust's 50th anniversary, we're inviting you to hear Tom Wessels speak at our annual meeting followed by a workshop and hike with him the next day (see the Nov 8 hike description). Don't miss this opportunity to hear Wessels talk and to accompany him into the woods.

Tom Wessels is a terrestrial ecologist and a professor at Antioch University New England in the Department of Environmental Studies, where he founded a master's program in conservation biology. He is the author of three books and is an active environmentalist.



Finding History

For 50 years the management of the Trust has been handed from one generation of volunteers to the next—each successive board safeguarding not only the Trust's land but also its values and mission. As we look back, we realize that the history of the Trust is locked up in people's memory and not written down anywhere. We need your help to capture some of our history!

If you have stories or photos or both from the Trust's history, we want to see them. Please share what you know so that we can share it with everyone.

Send your stories and photos to us at info@madisonlandtrust.org.

Looking for former Land Trusters

Maybe once you or someone you know was actively involved with the Trust before moving away or moving on to other interests. You might be gone but you're not forgotten! We don't want to leave anyone out and would like to reconnect with as many of you as possible. If you know a former member who has moved away, please send us contact information so we can invite them to participate in the celebrations this year.

Send your contact information to us at info@madisonlandtrust.org.

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Madison Land Conservation Trust

SAVE THE DATE

Celebration by the Sound

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH

JOIN OLD AND NEW FRIENDS FOR FOOD & COCKTAILS AS WE

Celebrate **50** years