



Hunt For Wild Food with "Wildman" Steve Brill

Join us for a special event at Roaring Brook Nature Center on Saturday, June 7 for a special lecture and walk with Wildman Steve Brill. The event will take place at Roaring Brook Nature Center, 70 Gracey Road, Canton.

Hundreds of overlooked edible and medicinal wild herbs, greens, berries, nuts, seeds, roots, and mushrooms grow wild in natural areas throughout our region. People often destroy these renewable species as "weeds," but they've nourished and healed human beings for thousands of years.

This event is co-sponsored by Simsbury Land Trust, Canton Land Trust and Roaring Brook Nature Center. See page 3 for event details. The fee for the lecture and walk is \$5.00 per person. RSVP's are required to Roaring Brook Nature Center at 693-0263 as soon as possible.

Planned Giving Brochure Available

In recent years the Simsbury Land Trust has been fortunate to receive land or the money to purchase land through a number of bequests. These gifts have all been gratefully accepted and put to good use. The Simsbury Land Trust's new Planned Giving brochure provides basic information about ways you can include the Simsbury Land Trust in your estate planning. It also provides information about The Legacy Society.

For additional information on including the Simsbury Land Trust in your will, contact the office at 651-8773.



2007: A Year of Important Progress

The Master's School:

A primary goal of the Simsbury Land Trust has been to establish a protected natural corridor along the trap rock ridge in the northwest corner of the Town, including the ridgeline itself and meaningful portions of its east and west slopes. Over the past two dozen years the SLT has acquired six ridge sites totaling 160 acres (four gifts and two purchases). The Town of Simsbury has acquired a similar amount of acreage. This assemblage includes a popular hiking trail maintained by the SLT and a significant mix of the natural features that define a trap rock ridge. In March, 2007, the SLT completed the purchase of 75 acres of excess land from The Master's School. Combining The Master's School parcel with the 350 acres already owned by the SLT and the Town, there is now a continuous natural corridor along this ridge from Westledge Road to McLean Game Refuge.



Tulmeadow Farm:

Another main goal of the SLT is to help the Town preserve its few remaining fields, the agricultural soils beneath them (some of the most highly productive soil types in the US) and the scenic vistas they provide. It accomplishes this by acquiring permanent conservation easements from local farms. Over the past several years the SLT

has purchased an easement protecting the 110 acre Rosedale Farms and an easement protecting 167 acres of the 260 acre Tulmeadow Farm. By year end 2007, the SLT had assembled the funds to purchase an easement on the remaining 20 acres of Tulmeadow fields, including the triangle at West Mountain Road and Sugar Loaf Cut. (The SLT is currently working to obtain another easement to protect the final portion of this farm, the 73 acre woodlot.)

Ongoing Donations of Land:

Although we talk a lot about the large purchases, a critical element in determining whether or not the Simsbury Land Trust succeeds in meeting its long term goals is the many individuals who have chosen to donate land to the SLT. Over the years, over 20 sites have been donated outright. During 2007, the SLT received a bequest of wetland and wooded pasture from Alice Irene Welden, and it has been working

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Are you a member of the Simsbury Land Trust?

Our members are the key to our success. Money raised through memberships provides financial support for operations, land acquisition, stewardship and other needs. A high level of membership demonstrates strong community support for our mission when we seek grant funding for our projects

Last year 857 Simsbury residents sent in annual membership donations to the Simsbury Land Trust...providing us with more than \$80,000 critical operating funds. Were you one of them?

It is time to join or renew your membership for 2008

Membership in the Simsbury Land Trust runs from January through December. A membership envelope has been included in this issue of *Landlines* to make joining or renewing simple. Or, you can now renew or join online by credit card through our new website, www.simsburylandtrust.org.

If you are unsure if you are a member or don't know if you have renewed for 2008, please call Trish Hazelwood at 651-8773 or go online to our new website and click on membership. A listing of those members who have joined or renewed for 2008 can be found there. Please join or renew today!

*Thank you for your
continued support!*

FEATURED PHOTOGRAPHER

Rick Warters

Rick, his wife Kristi, and two daughters moved to West Simsbury in 2000. Rick notes, "The open space was an important part of our decision to come to Simsbury."

Photography has always been an interest, but really took off with the advent of digital. Rick has been taking pictures for the SLT for the last several years. "You'll find me weekend mornings along the western ridges of the Farmington Valley year around. The properties are diverse and spectacular. It's amazing what we've got in our own backyards."

Volunteer photographers are an important resource for the SLT. Many of them entered the photography contest and became volunteers. Their work is featured in all of our publications. We hope you appreciate their work as much as we do. Many thanks to all of our photographers!

Rick is the featured photographer for this quarter on our website, www.simsburylandtrust.org, and a gallery of his work can be found there.



2007: A Year of Important Progress

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with two other individuals who wish to donate conservation easements on hillside property.

Of the funds assembled for the 2007 purchases, the SLT worked hard to seek out funding sources from outside the town and it is very grateful for those parties and the ongoing assistance from the Town of Simsbury. But none of these funds would have been available if the individual members of the

SLT, 857 families in 2007, did not provide a large portion of the acquisition dollars. For the 2007 projects noted above, just over 33% came from the Connecticut DEP Open Space and Watershed Acquisition Program, 30% from the federal Natural Resource Conservation Service-Farm and Ranchland Protection Program, 8% from the Town of Simsbury and a critically important \$605,000 from individuals.

**The Simsbury Land Trust sincerely thanks
each of these participants.**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

You can now register for a hike online at www.simsburylandtrust.org

Family Hike

Flamig Farm

Sat., March 1, 2008 • 3:30–6:30 p.m.

Members Free

Non member \$10 per person,
\$25 per family

Join us for a family hike! Meet in Flamig Farm's event room. We'll divide into two groups, beginner and advanced. One group will take a short hike on a slower pace. The second group will have a slightly longer route and a faster pace. For those not wishing to walk, a hayride will leave at 4:30. The groups will cross the street and head through the woods to Tulmeadow Farm. At 5:00 or 5:30, we will regroup in the Flamig Farm event room for a light meal of soup, sandwiches, hot chocolate, coffee and dessert. This event is suitable for ages 10 and over.

Space on the hayride is available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Members are free, non members are \$10 per person, \$25 per family. Space is limited, so RSVPs (and prepayment for non members) are required by February 25. Call 651-8773 to reserve your space!

**Simsbury Land Trust
Annual Membership Dinner
Hop Meadow Country Club
Tues., April 8, 2008
6:00 – 9:00 p.m.**

**\$35.00 for members,
\$40.00 for non members**

Join us for our Annual Membership Dinner. Special guest speaker will be Tom Worthley, Forrester and Extension Educator in Residence from the UCONN Extension Service. His talk, "Stewardship Options and Opportunities on Protected Land" will discuss the public benefit and value of conserved land, and building upon the success of land conservation projects to further additional conservation goals in the community. There will be specific discussion on management and conservation of the Tulmeadow woodlot, the next property to be preserved by the Campaign for Simsbury. Invitations will be sent to members in early March. Non members can RSVP online, or by calling the office at 651-8773.

Amphibian and Bird Watching Hike Great Pond State Park

Sun., April 13, 2008 • 2:00 p.m.

Join Jay Kaplan from Roaring Brook Nature Center for an amphibian and bird watching hike at Great Pond State Park. Please wear appropriate shoes for a wet trail, and bring along binoculars for bird watching if you have them. RSVPs are requested to 651-8773 by April 6.

**Hunt for Wild Food with
"Wildman" Steve Brill
Roaring Brook Nature Center
70 Gracey Road, Canton, CT
Saturday, June 7, 2008**

10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Lecture

12:30 – 1:30 p.m. Walk

\$5.00 per person

RSVP with prepayment is required by calling Roaring Brook Nature Center at 693-0263, space is limited.

(See related article on page 1.)



Volunteer Work Day!

Saturday, May 3, 2008 • 8:30 a.m.

**Meet at the parking area at
60 Westledge Rd.**

Activities are trail building and invasive plant removal. Bring work gloves and drinking water. Bring bow saws and loppers if you have them. We will supply other tools. You should be home for a late lunch. *Rain date: same time Saturday May 17.* Questions? Call Don Rieger at 658-7317.

Volunteer Work Day!

Saturday, June 7, 2008 • 8:30 a.m.

**Meet at the parking area at
60 Westledge Road.**

Teams will fan out to various SLT properties for miscellaneous upkeep. Bring bow saws and loppers if you have them. We will supply other tools. You should be home for a late lunch. *Rain date: same time Saturday June 14.* Questions? Call Don Rieger at 658-7317.

FEATURED WINTER WALK **The Ketchin Quarry**

Location On the east side of Quarry Road just north of Pharos Farm, park on the expanded shoulder of the road (marked by Simsbury Land Trust sign). Walk 30 feet up to a narrow landing to view the vertical stone ledges outlining the quarried area. Do not proceed into the quarry or attempt to climb the walls because of the danger of poor footing, vertical drops, and rock slides.

Distance 0.25 miles

Description Dating back at least to the early 1800s, this quarry was part of a nearby farm and provided stone for various small projects such as foundations, wells, and fences. In the early 1890s William Ketchin and his father, two of the area's best known masons, purchased the quarry and made it into a sizable commercial venture. Over the next 25 years, stone from this quarry was used to build many of the Ensign Bickford buildings as well as the current Webster Bank, the Methodist Church, Central School, The Belden School (current Town Hall) and the Tariffville Fire Station, among others. Today the Simsbury Land Trust owns the quarry. Watch for informational signs along the way.



SIMSBURY LAND TRUST

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Annual Photography Contest Deadline for Entries Extended to February 29, 2008!

Grab your camera and take a hike! Join over 50 other SLT members and students and submit an entry (or three) to our annual photography contest. Last year over 75 entries were submitted by Simsbury Land Trust members. The rules are simple, and there is no entry fee. All photos must be taken on an SLT property or at an Simsbury Land Trust sponsored event. The contest is open to all members of the Simsbury Land Trust (students do not need to be members.)

Visit www.simsburylandtrust.org for details.

Join online at www.simsburylandtrust.org!

Wild & Scenic Study for Lower Farmington River

By Sally Rieger, SLT Trustee

In 1994, 14 miles of the Upper Farmington River — stretching from Colebrook to Canton — were added to the National Wild & Scenic Rivers System with an act of Congress. In late 2006, Congress authorized a Study Committee to evaluate whether the Lower Farmington River — stretching from Canton to the confluence with the Connecticut River in Windsor — and Salmon Brook should be eligible for the same Wild & Scenic consideration.

To be designated as “Wild & Scenic”, a river must have at least one regionally or nationally outstanding resource value (ORV). Given the remarkable and diverse resources of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook, the volunteer Study Committee with representatives from 10 Farmington Valley towns, the CT DEP, The Stanley Works, and the National Park Service has identified 5 ORV areas: Geology, Water Quality, Biodiversity, the Cultural Landscape

and Recreation. Each of these areas has many very special aspects. For example, did you know that Olympic whitewater kayak trials have been held in the Tariffville Gorge, or that 10,000 years ago Native Americans used an area near the Farmington River in Windsor as a trading site? Because of the importance of resources like these, the Study Committee wants the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook to be considered for the strong protection that the Wild & Scenic designation provides.

If the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook were designated “Wild & Scenic”, there would be a steady stream of funding for local river work to implement an advisory management and conservation plan to be created through the Study. On the Upper Farmington, funding has been used for



river bank stabilization, invasive plant removal, water quality monitoring, and educational kiosks. Under the Wild & Scenic designation, private landowners would continue to be the primary stewards of their properties, and towns would continue to be the regulators of land use along the river. There would be no federal land ownership as a result of the Wild & Scenic designation.

To learn more about the Wild & Scenic Study or to learn how you can help, visit our websites, www.lowerfarmingtonriver.org or www.salmonbrookwildandscenic.org or call Sally Rieger, Study Committee Chairman and Simsbury Land Trust Trustee at 658-7317.