

Killingworth Land Conservation Trust's
Conservation Chronicles



December 2023

We saved 24 acres this year and protected 82 more



This year, we closed on the Greer/Duffy property adding 24 acres of open space and created a 75 acre conglomerate of open space called the “Keystone Preserve”. The preserve has hiking trails, a sensory interpretive nature trail and an observation platform. The parking area is east of the traffic circle off Route 80 between #237 and #243.



Busy Neighbors: We've had some busy neighbors on our Winkel Pond property. Beavers built up the dam of the pond with mud and sticks raising the water level. To the left is a picture of the flooded trail near the dam. Then as if the beavers didn't have enough flooded territory, they started damming up a portion east/below Winkel Pond between the trail for Keystone Preserve. At this time, the trail into Keystone Preserve is flooded out. We are

actively monitoring the beavers and will let you know when the trail is dry enough for hiking.

Have you ever heard of a conservation easement?

Info from landtrustalliance.org

A conservation easement is a voluntary legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust that permanently limits uses of the land in order to protect its conservation values. Landowners retain many of their rights, including the right to own and use the land, sell it and pass it on to their heirs. Yes, you can still cut firewood, hunt, and farm the property. A conservation easement is dissimilar to a deed restriction. Many people try to restrict use on their

property for future use in a deed, however deeds leave no designated "enforcer" of the restriction. It is important to assign an entity like the land trust to monitor the restrictions set forth on your property. There also may be significant tax incentives. *Conservation easements are great tools for estate planning* if you do not want to see your land be developed. It's a good resource to have and it's never too early to start planning. It's better to have these conversations with descendants now so that they understand your wishes. Please contact us through our website to start a conversation.

This year, resident and landowner Tom Lentz placed 82 acres of his property on Schnoor Road into a conservation easement restricting development and preserving open space. Tom's foresight ensures his property will be undeveloped for generations to come. If you too want to see your property kept open for generations to come, please contact us through our website to start a conversation.

Website: killingworthlandconservationtrust.org

Cranberry Update: Unfortunately, due to the drought in the summer of 2022, many of the vines shriveled up. So we are waiting for the plants to rebound and grow back. It may take a few years until we have the harvest like we used to have but we are optimistic.



Nature Center Director Wanted: We are seeking a director/teacher for our Platt Nature Center programs in the summer of 2024. The director/teacher would be responsible for developing curriculum and organizing 3 weeks of summer programs. This is a paid position.



What's happening in 2024

We are in an agreement to purchase 13 acres of open space from the Connecticut Water Company very soon. The property is off Paper Mill Road and Green Hill Road and has frontage on the Hammonasset River. We also have a few conservation easement plans that are in the works of being finished as well. An exciting announcement is that we hope to repair and reopen the north end of the Hammonasset Trail that runs parallel with the Hammonasset River from Bar Gate Trail to Route 80.



Fall Meeting Report: This November, we invited Kyle Testerman, a biologist from the DEEP's furbearer program to speak about Black Bears. One highlight that we learned is that black bears remain

active throughout the winter and will target easy food sources like trash, bird seed, or livestock. So please make sure to be wise about feeding birds and secure trash cans and livestock pens. The meeting had about 30 attendants and was well received.

Support the Land Trust

Lastly, as we approach the end of 2023, please remember the Land Trust for last minute tax deductions. We are a 501c3 organization meaning your donation is tax deductible. We appreciate your continued support and know that your donation goes towards land conservation efforts in Killingworth.

We accept **PayPal** on our website.



Visit us at killingworthlandconservationtrust.org