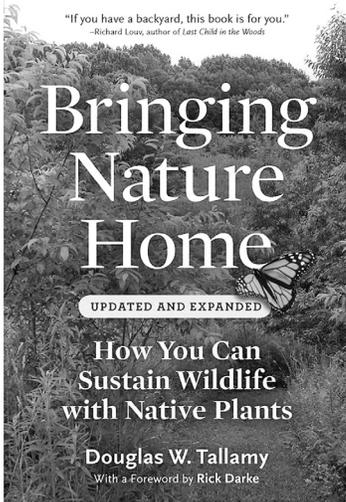


# Killingworth Land Conservation Trust

## Spring Newsletter 2017

Dedicated to the Preservation of Killingworth's Open Space

P.O. Box 825, Killingworth, CT 06419 • [www.killingworthlandconservationtrust.org](http://www.killingworthlandconservationtrust.org)



## “Bringing Nature Home”

**FREE film at HKMS Auditorium - Friday, May 26th at 7PM**

The Killingworth Land Trust is proud to present the documentary film on Hometown Habitat, *Stories of Bringing Nature Home*, based on the book “Bringing Nature Home” by renowned entomologist Dr. Douglas Tallamy whose research, books and lectures about the use of non-native plants in landscaping sound the alarm about habitat and species loss.

Did you know that native plants, once established, do not require the use of chemicals such as herbicides and pesticides to maintain their beauty? Or that they don't require extra watering from our precious supply of potable water? Did you know that our native pollinators and birds generally prefer native plants for nectaring and seed?

For two years, producer/director Catherine Zimmerman and film crew traveled the country to visit hometown habitat heroes and film their inspiring stories of community commitment to conservation landscaping.

Zimmerman shares these success stories and works in-progress that re-awaken and re-define our relationship with nature. The message will inspire you – all of us have the

power to support habitat for wildlife and bring natural beauty to our patch of the Earth. The goal will energize you – to build a new army of habitat heroes and make natural landscaping the new landscaping norm.

For more information: <https://themeadowproject.com/hometown-habitat/>

Our Land Trust usually conducts a brief Annual Meeting during our spring program. In consideration of the importance of this film our brief Annual Meeting was held on May 2, 2017. Three Directors whose terms were expiring were re-elected: Mindy Crouse-Artus, Bruce Dodson and Les Riblet. See Also: [www.killingworthlandconservationtrust.org](http://www.killingworthlandconservationtrust.org)  
By Heather Greenaway, Director

## IMPORTANT LAND DONATION - Our Land Trust now owns over 1,000 acres!

Mary Dessert of Northford, CT, has made a generous donation of six acres of land near our Cranberry Bog in the Pond Meadow Natural Area of Killingworth. The donation was made in memory of Mary's sister Carrie Agnes Dessert who passed away on September 15, 2013.

Mary purchased the land in December 1986 and planned to build a home at this secluded location. Her decision to donate the property to our Land Trust is very welcome since the wooded property includes wetlands and a small pond which are important water sources for the oldest section of the bog in the Pond Meadow Natural Area.

This donation brings the total acreage of land owned by our Land Trust to just over 1,003 acres. We protect an

additional 181 acres in Killingworth through permanent conservation easements.

Our Land Trust has completely updated our land records. A summary may be found on our website (go to “Our Properties and Trails” and “Owned Property Summary” or “Easement Summary”). Information is listed for our 112 owned properties and 11 conservation easements including: grantor, location, name or description, number of acres, assessor map and lot designation, land record volume and page, map number and date of acquisition. All relevant documents are on file in the land records vault at our Town Clerk's office.

By Bruce Dodson, President

## Help us Protect Killingworth's Open Space. Become a Member Of KLCT Today!

The Killingworth Land Conservation Trust is a private, non-profit organization which owns over 1,000 protected acres in town and protects over 180 additional acres through conservation easements. KLCT oversees the Platt Nature Center Summer Program at our building on Roast Meat Hill Road, invites the public to our Annual Cranberry Harvest, and

developed and maintains trails in town including the trails at Parmelee Farm and Welter Woods.

KLCT is the principle organization protecting the rural character of Killingworth and deserves your support. Please make use of the enclosed membership envelope and help us continue our work.

# KLCT Visionary – Sue Davenport

Sue Davenport made Killingworth her home in 1977 – 40 years ago. Sue is very proud of her two sons and their wives, Dan and Marie and Ryan and Katie and her four lovely grandchildren Ciara (9), Sinead (5), Daniel (9), and Ava (7). In summertime, Sue resides in Oyster Bay, Rhode Island.

Sue always has a smile on her face and an energy to which people are drawn. When she decides on a goal, she relentlessly pursues it, looking at all angles to accomplish the task. I first met Sue when she, as President of the Land Trust, asked me to join the board. I was struck by her vibrancy, energy and her positive can-do attitude. She loves the outdoors and often combines horse riding and travel, having ridden across parts of numerous countries including Argentina, Australia, New Zealand, France and Kenya. I remember asking her about the big game in Africa and whether she was concerned about being on a tasty horse? Sue replied, 'Mindy, as I told my sons, I don't have to be riding the fastest horse, I just have to be faster than the slowest horse!' I continue to be impressed with Sue's bravery and her sense of humor. Sue is all about living in the moment and living each moment to the fullest.



Sue Davenport with her miniature horse, Lovey Dovey and horse, Déjà Vue.

Although Sue has worn many hats she is first and foremost an artist, specializing in landscape painting and pottery. She earned her B.A. in Art at the College of Mt. St. Vincent and later earned her M.A. of Fine Arts at Wesleyan University. Her son, Dan, remembers traveling around to craft shows where Sue would sell her pottery, especially her vegetable steamers. She also had signs around town directing people to her home where she displayed and sold her pottery. She later became a real estate agent in Killingworth and then went on to work in the family business, Davenport Associates, which distributes heating and plumbing piping.

Sue spends a lot of her time enjoying and caring for her horse, Déjà Vue and miniature horse, Lovey Dovey whom she rescued years ago. Ranger, her lab mix, shares the home with one more family member, Milo the cat. Sue regularly rides Deja throughout the trails in Killingworth. In spending so much of her life in the outdoors, she couldn't help but be drawn to her involvement in preserving Killingworth's open space. In 1998 Sue set up the Town Open Space Committee. She was the first chairperson and over her 13-year tenure her initiative and tenacity were crucial to the committee's success in securing open space for the town.

Sue recognizes the importance to wildlife and the environment of preserving contiguous parcels to maintain wildlife corridors. In joining the Land Trust in 2000, Sue was instrumental in the purchase of the town's Cranberry Bog in 2001. Under Sue's Land Trust Presidency (2009-2015) we also acquired the 57-acre parcel owned by the Welter family. This acquisition created a continuous 450 acre greenway from Route 148 to Platt Nature Center.

While Sue is most proud of the work she accomplished on the Land Trust Committee, she was also one of the founders of The Killingworth Foundation, serving as an officer during her two terms – 1 year as Co-president, 1 year as Vice President and 6 years as Secretary. In addition, Sue was a member of the Planning & Zoning Commission for 8 years (elected two terms).

Throughout Sue Davenport's 40 years as a Killingworth resident, her forward thinking ideas on land conservation and her follow through to that end have surely and positively impacted the town we call home. We at the Land Trust are thankful for Sue's generous contribution of her time, energy and financial support to our town's growth and development. *By Mindy Crouse-Artus, Secretary*



## Killingworth Land Conservation Trust Board of Directors

Bruce Dodson, **President**

Andy Annino, **Vice President**

Les Riblet, **Treasurer**

Mindy Crouse-Artus, **Secretary**

Robert Broach, **Past President**

Marilyn Campbell, **Conservation Commission**

Stuart Clark, **Trails Chairman**

Sue Davenport, **Past President**

Heather Greenaway, **Membership**

David Gumbart, **PMNA Chairman**

Chip Morgan, **Land Management**

Jason Nemergut, **Land Management**

Geoff Picard, **Land Management, Webmaster**

Lisa Eriksen, **PNC Treasurer**

Sue Gumbart, **Newsletter**

Judy Lentz, **PNC Program Director**

Attorney Mike Wells, **Legal**

# Platt Nature Center Begins Fifth Decade

Platt Nature Center (PNC) will launch its forty-first Summer Program this June 2017. Over the past forty years an estimated 3,500 young registrants have enjoyed the opportunity to learn more about the world around them.

PNC was established thanks to the commitment of two remarkable women: Marion Platt and Elizabeth Hird. Marion, fondly known as “Platter”, lived in “Brooks Place” directly across from PNC on Roast Meat Hill Road, and donated the PNC building and 9 acres of land to the Land Trust in November, 1974.

Both Marion and Elizabeth were great philanthropists. In addition to donating PNC to the Land Trust, Marion also donated the land for Irene Sheldon Park. Elizabeth supported many Land Trust projects and a bequest from her estate provided a large part of the funds needed to purchase the 57-acre Welter Woods property.

The PNC Summer Program began in June, 1977 with the first Summer Director Martha Hawkins. Judy Lentz worked as her assistant and would go on to become the Summer Director for most of the next forty years.

In addition to Martha Hawkins and Judy Lentz, teachers have included: Mike Armstrong, Carol Boyd, Rob Clark, Jeanmarie Foisie, Allison Guinness, Nancy Hart, Betsy Himmelman, Jerry Huebner, Marcy Klattenberg, Jan Mark, Laurie Martin, Pam Meier, Dave Merrill, Christina Mullally, Rebecca Rodbourn, Becky Smith, Judy Smith, John Sodergren, Clay Taylor, Trin Walton and Sue Whitehead.

We are delighted that Betsy Himmelman and Pam Meier are returning for this summer’s program (see box on last page).

PNC is home to our Land Trust (our office is upstairs), and houses a significant display of mounted animals and birds collected in Killingworth. We also have a herbarium which includes over three hundred specimens of plants found in Killingworth. The herbarium is said to contain the second largest collection of native plant specimens in Connecticut, second only to Yale University.

A brief summary of our summer program is located on the back page. A full description is available at: [www.killingworthlandconservationtrust.org](http://www.killingworthlandconservationtrust.org)

By Bruce Dodson, President

## New Trail Maps at Parmelee Farms and Welter Woods



Andy Annino, VP, clears dead trees along trails at Parmelee Farms and Welter Woods.

Over the past eight years our Land Trust has developed 8.49 miles of well-used hiking trails at Parmelee Farm and Welter Woods.

With the help of Peg Scofield of PurpleDog Web Productions, we now have full color 14” x 24” vinyl trail maps posted at eleven major intersections along the trails. The trail map is on our website at [www.killingworthlandconservationtrust.org](http://www.killingworthlandconservationtrust.org) (go to “Our Properties & Trails” and look under “Parmelee Farm”).

In the January 29, 2017 Hartford Courant, Peter Marteka commented on his return to Parmelee Farm and wrote “...perhaps the most impressive change [was] the additions to the trail system where visitors, instead of hiking a few miles, can now hike for miles and miles through the wilderness.” And “Since my last visit, the trust has added the [57] acre Welter property to the south and received permission to blaze trails across land owned by the First

Congregational Church of Madison. The Parmelee Farm now connects with the Platt Nature Center, the home of the Land Trust.” He added “The trails are well-marked by blazes...At each trail junction is a large combination satellite/trail map that shows visitors where they are. It’s basically impossible to get lost along the trails.”

Our land trust continues to manage and maintain this trail system and plans to work on trails on other land trust properties this summer.

By Bruce Dodson, President



## KLCT UPCOMING EVENTS

**Fri., May 26<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM**  
Movie: *Hometown Habitat*  
HKMS Auditorium

**June 26<sup>th</sup> through July 21<sup>st</sup>**  
Platt Nature Center Summer Program

**Sat., August 12<sup>th</sup>, 11AM - 1PM**  
Trail Walks – Parmelee Farm

**Sat., September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1PM**  
Trail Walks – Parmelee Farm

**Sat., October 7<sup>th</sup>, 9AM–1PM**  
Annual Cranberry Harvest

**Thurs., November 16<sup>th</sup>, 7PM**  
*Water Babies* by William Hurt  
Killingworth Firehouse

The Platt Nature Center is pleased to present our 2017 Summer Program featuring fun and fascinating children's programs - something different and exciting every day for pre-K to 6<sup>th</sup> graders! Our teaching staff is eager to share their knowledge of and enthusiasm for the world of nature we all enjoy. This year's program runs June 26<sup>th</sup> to July 21<sup>st</sup>.

## PLATT NATURE CENTER 2017 TEACHING STAFF

**Betsy Himmelman** is an art teacher in the H-K School District. She is a long-time naturalist and joins the PNC staff for her 22<sup>nd</sup> summer.

**Pam Meier** is an environmental educator, artist and wildlife rehabilitator specializing in turtles. She is the Director of The POND project (now in its 11<sup>th</sup> year) and the POND Project II, after-school programs for middle school naturalists in Madison. Pam joins us for her second year.

# 2017 PLATT NATURE CENTER REGISTRATION FORM

One Student per application. Make copies if necessary.  
Register online at [www.killingworthlandconservationtrust.org](http://www.killingworthlandconservationtrust.org)

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
 Session: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent email 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent email 2: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell1: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell2: \_\_\_\_\_

### ONE STUDENT PER APPLICATION / MAKE COPY IF NECESSARY

SESSION	GRADE	DATE	TIME	FEE
KNEE HIGH NATURE	Pre-K	6/26 - 6/30	9 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.	\$100
STOP LOOK AND LISTEN	1 and 2	6/26 - 6/30	12 p.m. - 3 p.m.	\$125
LET'S FIND OUT	3 and 4	7/10 - 7/14	9 a.m. - 2 p.m.	\$200
ADVENTURE RANGERS	5 & 6	7/17 - 7/21	9 a.m. - 2 p.m.	\$200

**Make check payable to PNC**. Send with this form to: Platt Nature Center, P.O. Box 825, Killingworth CT 06419.

**ENROLLMENT IS LIMITED.** Classes fill early. A postcard confirming enrollment will be sent. We will notify you if a program is full.

I give permission for my child's picture to appear on the Land Trust website and Facebook:  Yes  No

I give my child permission to participate in the Platt Nature Center Summer Program:

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Child: \_\_\_\_\_

**Remember: NO Flip Flops.**

Visit our website: [www.killingworthlandconservationtrust.org](http://www.killingworthlandconservationtrust.org)  
and Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/plattnaturecenter](http://www.facebook.com/plattnaturecenter)

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Platt Nature Center  
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