



COLCHESTER LAND TRUST
ANNUAL REPORT 2018





our mission

The purpose of the Colchester Land Trust is to protect the beauty and natural diversity of our area by preserving significant land and scenic areas for present and future generations.

our goals

TO PRESERVE OPEN SPACE

TO SERVE AS A RECIPIENT
of donations, including land

TO ORGANIZE EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES
that foster appreciation and understanding of the environment

TO MANAGE AND MONITOR LAND TRUST PROPERTIES

TO CONTINUALLY IMPROVE
the effectiveness and involvement of the board and volunteers

TO SERVE COLCHESTER CITIZENS
as an information resource center for landowners

TO WORK WITH FARMERS

colchesterlandtrust.org

thank you

Thanks to all of our supporters. With your help we have:

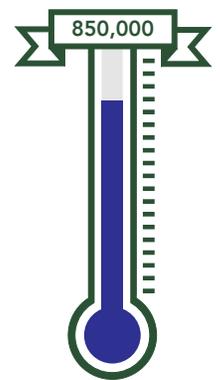
REACHED 85% OF OUR GOAL OF RAISING \$850,000
TO PRESERVE 200 ACRES OF FOREST AND FARMLAND.

We have \$115,000 left to raise.

EXCEEDED OUR \$30,000 CHALLENGE GRANT BY \$5,000

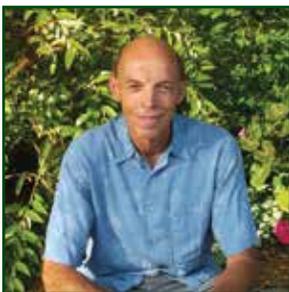
BEGUN THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR
BULKELEY HILL PRESERVE EDUCATIONAL FACILITY

PROVIDED HIKES, KAYAKING, BIKE RIDES & HOE DOWNS



special thanks

Thank you to Andy George for his incredible dedication to the Colchester Land Trust as our President and leader for the past eight years.



Andy George, Colchester Land Trust president, 2010-2018



2010 Earth Day clean up crew on the CLT Gateway Property.



Trail crew on Bulkeley Hill Preserve.



Fundraising Committee (L to R): Kevin Byrne, John Barnowski, Cathy Shea, Lisa Hageman, Andy George.



why open space matters



Your Colchester Land Trust works diligently to conserve, preserve and enhance our local community. With your help, we accomplish this in a number of ways, the primary of which is preserving open space.

Open space is not only a productive and picturesque farm or a quiet forest. It can be a Butterfly Garden or StoryWalk®. Conserved open space provides many natural services, many of which would cost tax dollars to provide. For instance, there is now ample evidence that increased hydrologic variability and change in climate has and will continue to have a profound impact on the water sector through the hydrologic cycle, water availability, water demand, and water allocation at the global, regional, basin, and local levels. Open space contributes to a viable hydrology.

Open space also maintains wildlife habitats for indigenous flora and fauna. The wildlife around you is not simply cute critters and fragrant flowers! All the elements of our environment belong here. They are part of the complex ecosystem that sustains life, including human life. Without the insects, the amphibians, the rodents and the larger mammals, that ecosystem would fall out of balance, to the detriment of all.

The unseen fungi and micro bacterial colonies that absorb and return nutrients to the soil help to sustain plant life. Animals eat the plant life as well as other animals, sustaining processes that also invigorate the soil, contributing to cycles that benefit the land.

All of these players are necessary aspects of the one world that we inhabit. A truly important benefit is pollination: bees and other pollinators are essential to all kinds of crops and other vegetation. One small example: "Migrating insects ... provide crucial ecosystem services. They pollinate crops and wild plants and gobble agricultural pests." Such insect activities are everywhere, including Colchester, Connecticut.





Colchester forests, such as in the Bulkeley Hill Preserve, comprise primarily trees that annually lose their leaves as cold weather approaches. In the fall, the trees remove chlorophyll from the leaves, providing us with a spectacular range of color before they fall to the ground. The leaves then decompose to provide rich nutrients, creating a very fertile soil and sustaining plant life.



Salmon River near Day Pond State Park and Comstock Bridge. CLT's Gateway Property is nearby. Natural systems provide services such as carbon storage, nutrient cycling, water and air purification, and maintenance of wildlife habitat. Open spaces also give us social and cultural benefits such as recreation, traditional resource uses, and spiritually satisfying environments.



The eastern box turtle is probably the most familiar of the eight species of turtles found in Connecticut's landscape (seen here at CLT's Gateway Property). This terrestrial turtle inhabits a variety of habitats, including woodlands, field edges, thickets, marshes, bogs, and stream banks. They are omnivores, with a diet that includes fruits, nuts, twigs, mushrooms, insects, snails and salamanders. The main threats in Connecticut are loss and fragmentation of habitat due to deforestation and spreading suburban development.



Unlike plants, mushrooms cannot synthesize their own food from the sun's energy. They lack chlorophyll – the substance which permits plants to use sunlight to form sugars from the water and carbon dioxide in the air. Most of the mushrooms growing on the forest floor are intimately linked to trees by symbiosis: the mushroom helps the tree extract minerals and water from the soil; in exchange, the tree supplies the mushroom with sugar compounds (carbohydrates).

“A nation that destroys its soils destroys itself. Forests are the lungs of our land, purifying the air and giving fresh strength to our people.”

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT



Butterfly Garden at Ruby and Elizabeth Cohen Woodlands. Butterflies are more than attractive. Searching for nectar they help pollinate plants, ensuring seeds for future generations. They are part of the food chain, serving as prey for many birds and small mammals. But that food chain also includes us!



Ah, a beautiful Connecticut lake (Red Cedar Lake, in this case). In addition to offering an invigorating paddle, such lakes are home to muskrat and other wildlife: fish, fowl, and mammal. The open lands around such lakes help ensure the health of the water and the health of the wildlife. Healthy waterways serve us all.



The 130-acre Bulkeley Hill Preserve is shaping up. Volunteers have flagged and cleared approximately one and a half miles of hiking trails. A parking lot is being designed and should be built and open to the public later this year. Further improvements will include trail blazes, interpretive plaques and an overlook for observing the pond and its denizens.



Larger mammals capture our attention, but they depend on the integrity of the entire ecosystem. Depending on the season, they eat grasses and other herbaceous flowering plants; acorn and apples. In the winter, they survive on twigs and buds from a wide variety of hardwood trees and leaves from conifers such as white pine and hemlock. Disrupting any of these plant sources impacts a wide range of animal life.

“Nothing is more priceless and more worthy of preservation than the rich array of animal life with which our country has been blessed. It is a many-faceted treasure, of value to scholars, scientists, and nature lovers alike, and it forms a vital part of the heritage we all share as Americans.”

RICHARD NIXON



Land need not be preserved in its pristine state. Farms are also open space and provide many of the same benefits as forests and meadows. Your Land Trust owns an easement on Tangletree Farm, along Route 16, near Lebanon. This farm sits atop some of the best farmland soils in the area as well as an important aquifer. As a working farm, it offers a splendid vista as folks enter or leave Colchester.



It has been noted that the state of Connecticut is losing many of its forest songbirds and that we are losing forested land to development. These two things are very closely related. Healthy forests, open meadows, and bird boxes (as shown here at Babcock Pond Wildlife Management Area) provide multiple benefits to our environment.



Muskrets are semi-aquatic and live in marshes, streams, rivers, lakes and shallow ponds (such as Babcock Pond). They don't store food, but forage vegetation through the winter and will sometimes feed from winter food stockpiles gathered by beavers. Typical diet in the wild consists of aquatic plants: cattails, rushes and water-lilies are favorites. They have been known to eat freshwater crustaceans, frogs and some fish at times. Of course, a healthy muskrat habitat depends on open space, including ponds and lakes. But, the intricate relations of all facets of the environment are minutely critical to every indigenous species of plant and animal.



In addition to preserving the environment, there are ways to enhance it. Community support for the Land Trust helped fund this Bacon Academy science class project to build a bridge over Sherman Brook, adjacent to the school. The project and the bridge engage students in understanding and appreciating the natural environment. This picture is from a CLT Discover Colchester hike, where we explored the Sherman Brook nature trail.

“One of the first conditions of happiness is that the link between man and nature shall not be broken.”

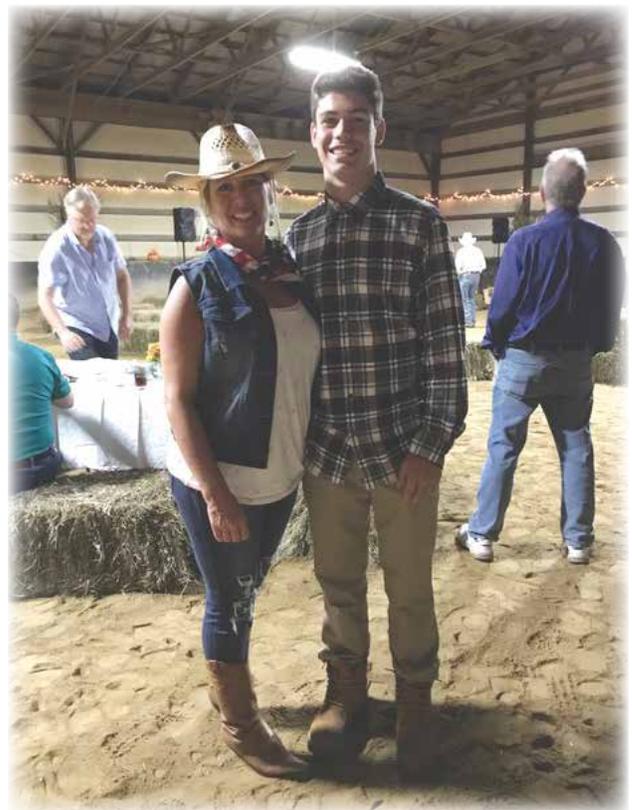
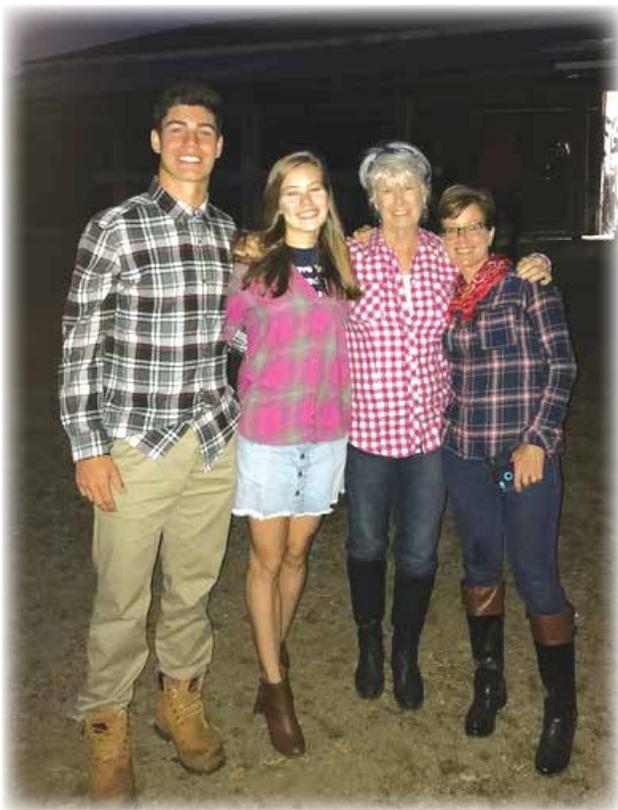
LEO TOLSTOY



community outreach

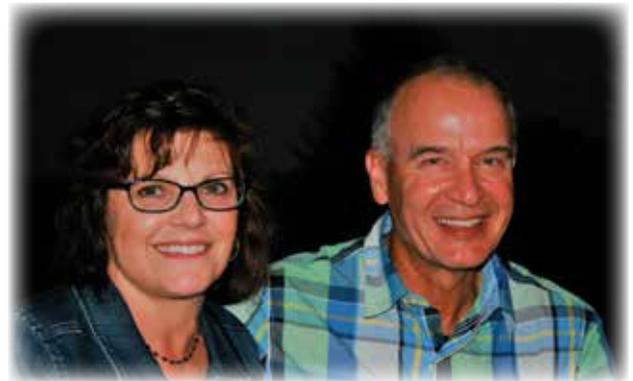
TANGLTREE FARM HOE DOWN

Close to forty cowboys, cowgirls and horses enjoyed a beautiful night at Tangletree Farm at our first ever Hoe Down, featuring the Seat of Your Pants Band! An evening hayride was guided by Bob and Gary Keefe, with riders hearing about the proud history of the farm that is now preserved forever.



"The ultimate test of man's conscience may be his willingness to sacrifice something today for future generations whose words of thanks will not be heard."

GAYLORD NELSON

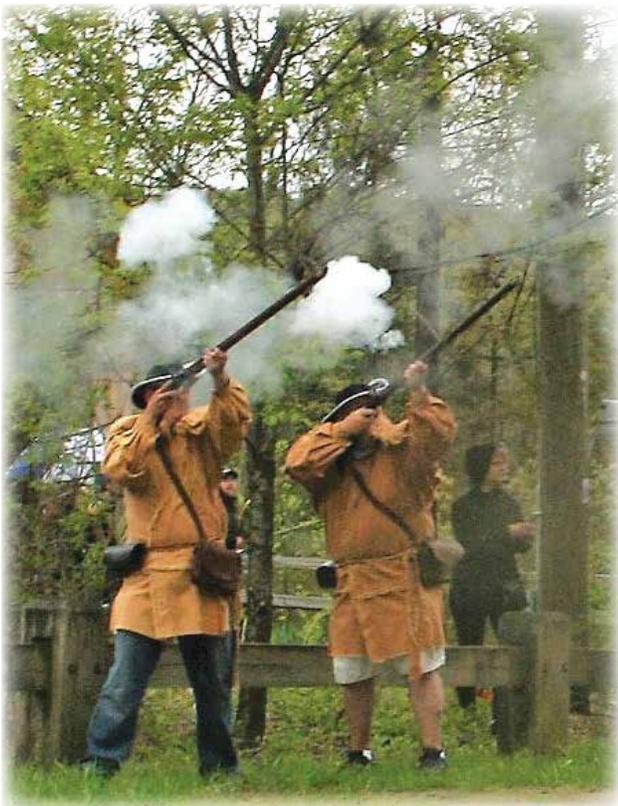




THE SALMON RIVER RUN

The 12th annual Salmon River Run saw over 230 runners and our largest group of hikers for the second 2.5 mile Riverbank Ramble. Once again dicey weather was predicted but held off until most of the runners finished the race. As a true testament to the best race food around, racers and hikers stood in the pouring rain for the famous brisket made by the locally famous Coal-Tuckee BBQ Co., Cato Corner Cheese, Cold Spring Farm salad and much more!

Many thanks to all participants who dropped off used sneakers. It was our best year yet with 139 pairs of shoes donated to Soles for Souls, who since 2006 have distributed 30 million pairs of shoes in 127 countries! We continue to strive to be as environmentally conscious as possible, minimizing our waste and impact each year!





CLT SCHOLARSHIP

As part of our mission, CLT recognizes educational activities that foster appreciation and understanding of the environment and encourage conservation of natural resources. One way we accomplish this is to award a \$1,000 scholarship to a Bacon Academy senior. The applicant must be pursuing a bachelor's degree or higher level of education in a field of science related to preservation of undeveloped land, natural resources, or biological species and has demonstrated that interest through excellent academic performance and service to the community. After careful review of four applicants, the Scholarship Committee selected Joan Tremblay for the 2018 award.



Congratulations to Joan and her parents, Tom and Mary Tremblay!

ANNUAL MEETING

On Thursday, June 7, The Colchester Land Trust held its annual meeting. About 35 Land Trust members and friends attended this informal meeting. Highlights of this year's event included our 2018 scholarship winner and special guest, Robert Thorson.



Guest speaker professor Robert Thorson described the local geology to us on a short walk of our Bulkeley Hill Preserve. The meeting opened with a presentation by this award-winning author, professor, and columnist, whose most recent book, *A Guide to Walden Pond*, explores the history, nature, landscape and literature of an iconic American place. Thorson is in cap and beard, background of picture, describing the rock outcropping behind.

STORY WALK

The StoryWalk® is an innovative and delightful way for children and adults to enjoy reading and the outdoors at the same time. A story unfolds along the trail as individual pages from a children's picture book are placed along the path inviting families to read and interact with the book.

Since 2016, the Cragin Memorial Library, Collaborative for Colchester's Children's (C3), Colchester Garden Club, Colchester Land Trust and the Community Wildlife Habitat of Colchester have partnered to provide a StoryWalk® experience in Colchester. In 2017, a new permanent StoryWalk® Trail was completed as an Eagle Scout project by Jack Boyden, Boy Scout Troop 72. Jack researched, fundraised and installed the 20 durable stations of powder-coated aluminum picture book frames and posts with the help of his troop as well as partner members.

Colchester Land Trust board member Cathy Shea was instrumental in starting the StoryWalk® as well as in establishing this new, beautiful permanent installation at Ruby and Elizabeth Cohen Woodlands. The Collaborative for Colchester's Children was so grateful for this addition for young children in town that their



Happy with a job well done: (l to r) Katherine Kosiba, Jack Boyden, Kate Byroade and Cathy Shea

Volunteer of the Year awards were given to Cathy Shea, Jack Boyden, and Katherine Kosiba (Colchester Garden Club) for their tireless efforts. This may be the finest StoryWalk® in the nation. A visit is a must! Colchester's StoryWalk® was the Eagle Scout project of Jack Boyden.



meet the board



Danny Albert

Danny and his family moved to Colchester from New Britain nine years ago. He has been associated with the Colchester Land Trust for the past eight years and has been a board member for the past seven years, contributing his time generously in pursuit of CLT goals. He was born on a working farm in northern Maine and often would assist his parents during harvest season. As a youth, he earned Eagle Scout honors. He attributes his passion for the outdoors to this early farming experience. In addition to farms and the outdoors in general, he enjoys camping and hiking. He has climbed Mt. Washington several times and hiked several other mountains in New York, Maine and Massachusetts. Danny and his wife have one daughter.



Kevin Byrne

Kevin, and his wife Deb, moved to Colchester just after getting married in 1989. He has volunteered for the Colchester Land Trust for 2 years and just joined the board in June. He grew up in Niantic and spent his childhood around the water and woods in the area. He enjoys hiking and camping so much that he has climbed Mt Washington and Mt Monadnock numerous times.

CURRENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

Co-Presidents: Cathy Shea and Lisa Hageman*

Treasurer: Steve Marcoux

Secretary: John Barnowski

Danny Albert, Maureen Noonan, Kevin Byrne, Cindy Praisner*,
Leslie Curtis*, Andrea Stannard, David Levine

We are grateful to all past officers and directors for their contributions to the Colchester Land Trust:

Andy George – Past President, Ceil Bogush – Past Vice-President*, Joan Hageman – Past Secretary*,
John Trusler – Past Secretary, Michele McCormick – Past Secretary, Chuck Toal – Past Vice President

Board of Directors: Laura Butterfield*, John Henley*†, Elizabeth MacAlister*, Barry Ford, Laura Evans,
Will Hochholzer, Helene Hochholzer, Marty Podskoch, Chris Bourque, Diana Giles†, Peter Dane

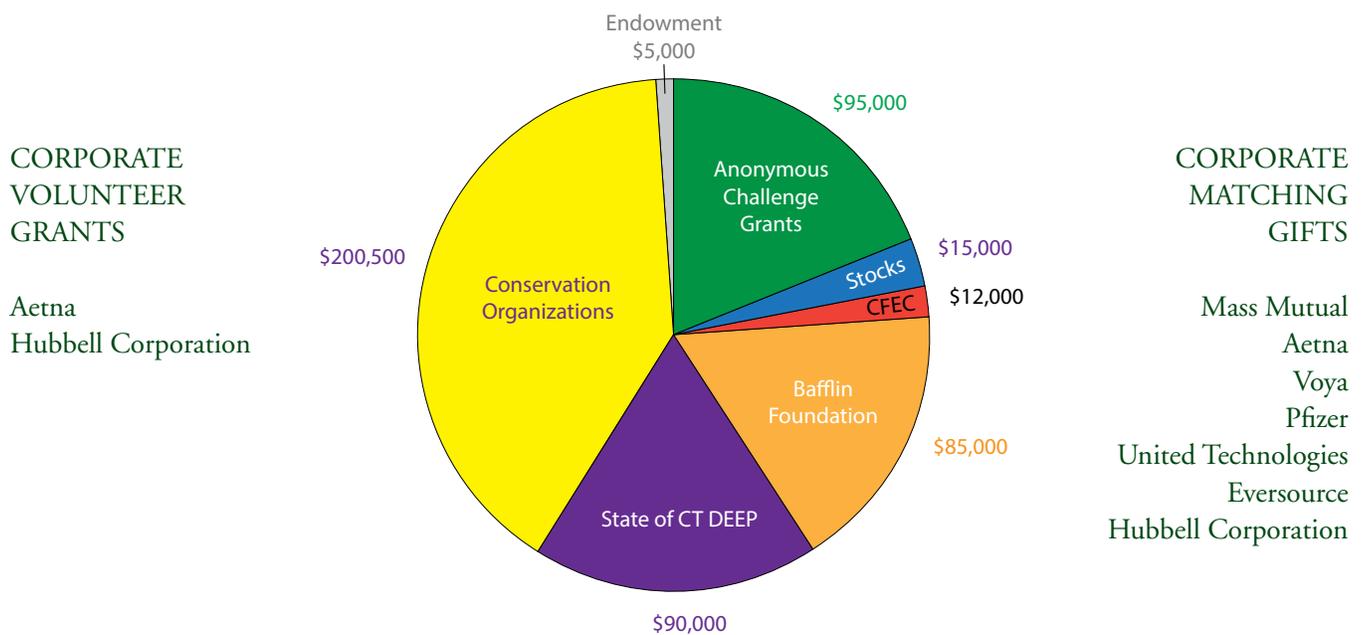
* Founding member † Deceased

grants, awards, securities

AN ENDOWMENT, CHALLENGE GRANT, AND MATCHING GIFTS – A BOOST TO CLT’S FINANCES

A \$5,000 endowment from board member Leslie Curtis and her husband Tim has enabled the Colchester Land Trust has enabled us to establish a fund with the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut (CFECT). CFECT is headquartered in New London and serves as a hub for meaningful philanthropy for 42 communities in Eastern Connecticut. One of their goals is to strengthen local nonprofits and help them fulfill their important missions. Since CLT has a promise to preserve land in perpetuity, an endowment is an important way to insure that funds will be available for the long haul. Such an initial endowment is intended to encourage other people who believe in the mission of the CLT to make charitable donations to grow the Colchester Land Trust fund at CFECT. Donations of any amount can be made to the fund:

www.cfect.org.



CORPORATE VOLUNTEER GRANTS
Aetna
Hubbell Corporation

CORPORATE MATCHING GIFTS
Mass Mutual
Aetna
Voya
Pfizer
United Technologies
Eversource
Hubbell Corporation



Community Foundation
of Eastern Connecticut



Tremain Foundation



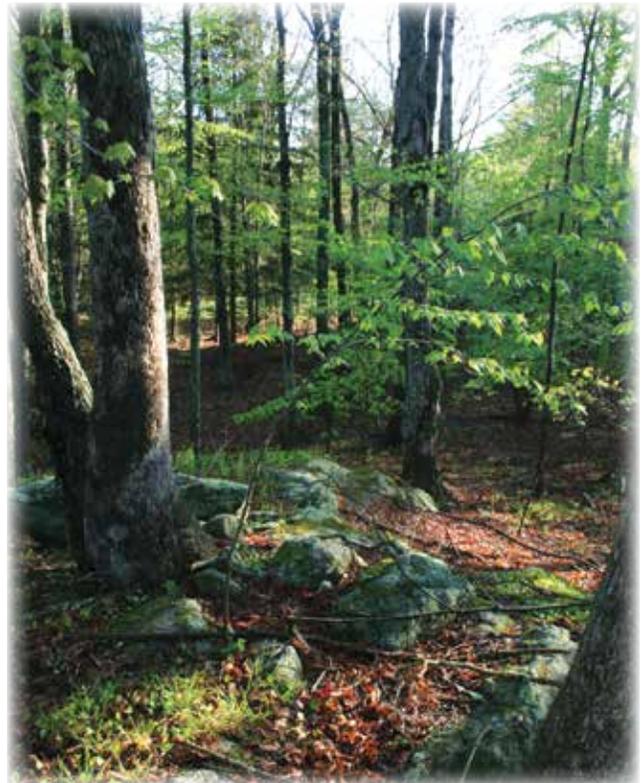
treasurer's report

After purchasing land and an easement in 2016 and 2017, the Colchester Land Trust devoted its efforts to raising money and paying off debt.

- Our members and donors contributed \$93,000 during 2017. As a result, CLT was able to pay off the 115-acre Bulkeley Hill Preserve loan in April 2017.
- In May, 2017, CLT purchased an easement on 68 acres at Tangletree Farm for \$353,000. This property can only be used for agricultural purposes into perpetuity. This purchase was funded by a \$175,000 grant from The Natural Resources Conservation Service and a \$176,500 loan from The Conservation Fund. We have since paid down \$62,000 in principal on that loan with a balance of \$114,500.
- CLT's major fundraising event, the Salmon River Road Race generated \$10,000 in gross revenue. In addition to generating revenue, this event raised additional awareness of CLT and its mission of protecting land in Colchester. Other fundraising events included Winterbrau (raised \$4,000), an art sale (raised \$2,000) and the Fall Hoedown (raised \$3,000).

As of June 1, 2018, CLT has land and easements with a cost of \$835,000, cash and unrestricted investments of \$51,000 and a note payable of \$114,500. The Colchester Land Trust's 2018 year to date financials are presented here. 2017 financial statements were compiled by Guilmartin, DiPiro & Sokolowski LLC of Middletown, CT. This is the fifth year that CLT has had its financial statements compiled by outside professionals. The Board of CLT is committed to transparency and earning the trust of its donors, members and supporters.

Steve Marcoux
Treasurer



Bulkeley Hill Preserve

Statement of Financial Position as of June 15, 2018

	<u>Jun 15, 18</u>	<u>Jun 15, 17</u>		<u>Jun 15, 18</u>	<u>Jun 15, 17</u>
ASSETS					
Current Assets			Long Term Liabilities		
Checking/Savings			Note payable-Tangletree-TCF	114,486.47	176,500.00
Checking - Savings Institute	18,570.65	31,596.23	Total Long Term Liabilities	114,486.47	176,500.00
Money Market- Edward Jones	2,350.03	7,195.29			
Simply Smart Money Market-SI	7,933.30	7,925.38	Total Liabilities	134,960.06	176,500.00
Total Checking/Savings	28,853.98	46,716.90			
Total Current Assets	28,853.98	46,716.90	Equity		
Other Assets			Board Designated		
Marketable Securities			Contingency Reserve	1,000.00	1,000.00
Vanguard Funds - Admiral	39,007.04	35,880.81	Defense Fund	50,000.00	50,000.00
Vanguard Funds - STAR	38,738.84	34,488.22	Land Acquisition Fund	71,011.48	71,011.48
Total Marketable Securities	77,745.88	70,369.03	Operating Reserve	8,568.00	8,568.00
Other Investments			Stewardship Fund	8,208.71	8,208.71
CFECT Investments	5,394.89	0.00	Total Board Designated	138,788.19	138,788.19
Total Other Investments	5,394.89	0.00	Temp. Restricted Net Assets		
Real Property			Stewardship	987.97	987.97
Easement- Bulkeley Hill Rd	1.00	1.00	Total Temp. Restricted Net Assets	987.97	987.97
Easement- Palakewitz	1.00	1.00	Unrestricted Net Assets	650,079.98	376,950.20
Easement- Usher Swamp	1.00	1.00	Net Income	22,191.06	258,872.08
Easement-Tangletree Farm	386,400.65	386,400.65	Total Equity	812,047.20	775,598.44
Land - Bulkeley Hill	206,990.86	206,990.86			
Land - Gateway	191,618.00	191,618.00	TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	947,007.26	952,098.44
Land - McDonald Road	50,000.00	50,000.00			
Total Real Property	835,012.51	835,012.51			
Total Other Assets	918,153.28	905,381.54			
TOTAL ASSETS	947,007.26	952,098.44			
LIABILITIES & EQUITY					
Liabilities					
Current Liabilities					
Other Current Liabilities					
Accrued Expenses	400.88	0.00			
Unearned or Deferred Revenue	20,072.71	0.00			
Total Other Current Liabilities	20,473.59	0.00			
Total Current Liabilities	20,473.59	0.00			

“Like music and art, love of nature is a common language that can transcend political or social boundaries.

- JIMMY CARTER

Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual January 1 through June 15, 2018

	<u>Jan 1 - Jun 15, 18</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Campaign Income-TR		
Land Acquisition	9,671.28	33,000.00
Stewardship	0.00	20,073.00
Total Campaign Income-TR	<u>9,671.28</u>	<u>53,073.00</u>
Campaign Income-UR		
Membership Renewal Drive	10,449.48	4,314.72
Total Campaign Income-UR	<u>10,449.48</u>	<u>4,314.72</u>
Event Income		
Salmon River Road Race	11,237.20	10,834.70
WinterBrau fundraiser	0.00	2,000.00
Total Event Income	<u>11,237.20</u>	<u>12,834.70</u>
Investment Income	36.60	27.50
Investments		
Dividend, Interest (Securities)	201.92	300.00
Total Investments	<u>201.92</u>	<u>300.00</u>
Total Income	<u>31,596.48</u>	<u>70,549.92</u>
Gross Profit	31,596.48	70,549.92
Expense		
Bank Service Charges		
Credit Card Fees	298.22	229.15
Bank Service Charges - Other	0.00	10.00
Total Bank Service Charges	<u>298.22</u>	<u>239.15</u>
Event Expenses		
Booth Events	120.25	0.00
Discover Colchester Hikes	237.50	0.00
LTA Rally Events	0.00	1,000.00
Salmon River Road Race	5,005.60	5,500.00
Winterbrau expenses	0.00	500.00
Total Event Expenses	<u>5,363.35</u>	<u>7,000.00</u>
Facilities and Equipment		
Mortgage Interest	0.00	1,875.00
Real Estate, Personal Prop Tax	80.00	0.00
Total Facilities and Equipment	<u>80.00</u>	<u>1,875.00</u>

Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual January 1 through June 15, 2018

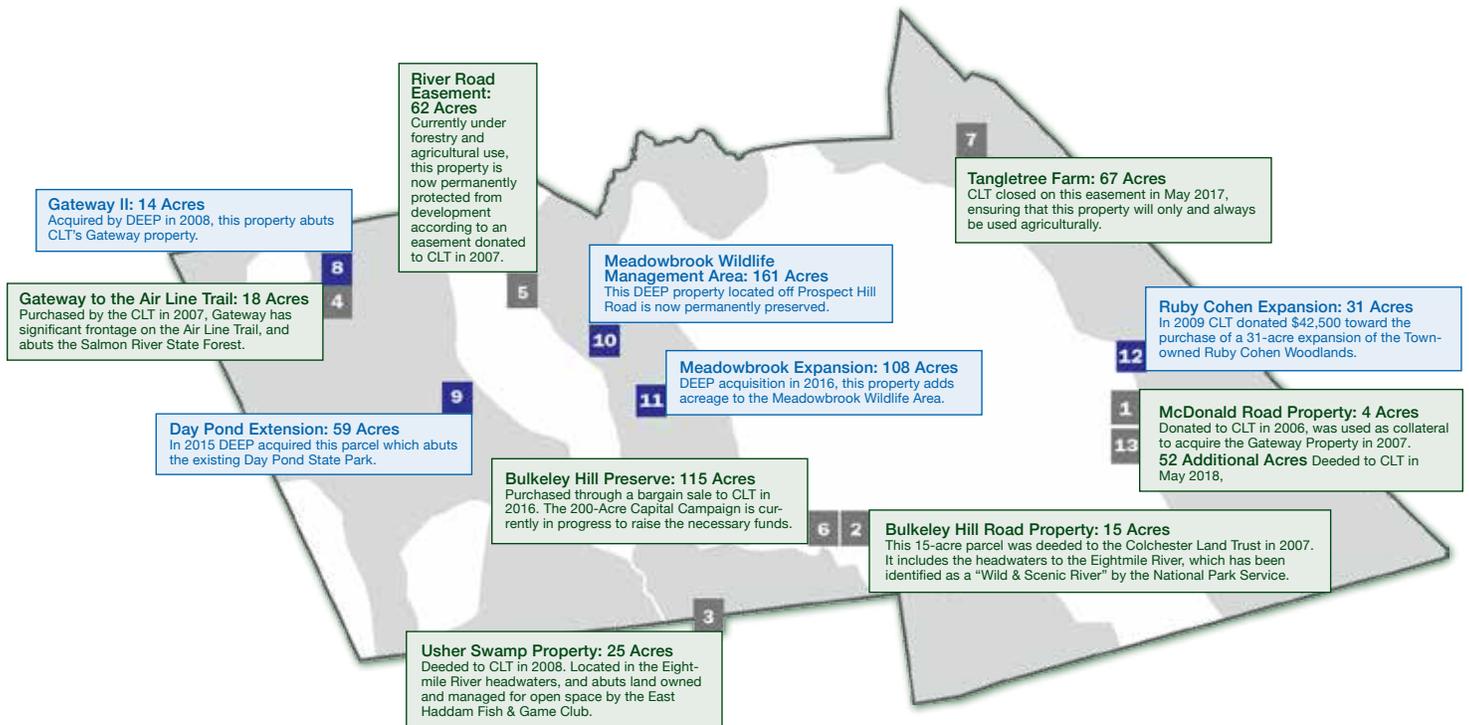
	Jan 1 - Jun 15, 18	Budget
Insurance-Conservation	364.00	300.00
Insurance - Liability, D and O	1,121.00	525.00
Memberships and Dues	1,045.00	0.00
Miscellaneous		
Internet Services	59.85	75.00
Total Miscellaneous	59.85	75.00
 Operations		
Postage, Mailing Service	178.40	687.50
Printing and Copying	200.00	916.64
Total Operations	378.40	1,604.14
 Other Types of Expenses		
Advertising Expenses	0.00	100.00
Staff Development	65.00	150.00
Total Other Types of Expenses	65.00	250.00
 Stewardship Costs	0.00	20,073.00
Total Expense	8,774.82	31,941.29
 Net Ordinary Income	22,821.66	38,608.63
 Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
Unrealized Gains and Losses	-630.60	0.00
Total Other Income	-630.60	0.00
 Net Other Income	-630.60	0.00
 Net Income	22,191.06	38,608.63

“The conservation of natural resources is the fundamental problem.
Unless we solve that problem, it will avail us little to solve all others.”

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

732 acres preserved in Colchester!

Through collaboration with the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), NRCS, and the Town of Colchester, 732 acres of beautiful lands have been protected in Colchester. In each case, CLT had a hand in the project and often served as liaison for the landowner to navigate through the often complex process of land protection.



IN FACT, for every dollar of tax revenue generated by residential development here in Colchester, there is an actual cost of \$1.14 in residential services.

By comparison, open space, farm land, and commercial development cost taxpayers just 18 cents for every tax dollar collected.

PO Box 93 Colchester, CT 06415



visit us at www.colchesterlandtrust.org