



## Eagle Scout Projects on MLT Preserves

East Hampton Troop 8 is producing a bumper crop of Eagle Scout candidates this year, and some have elected to perform their Eagle Project on MLT properties.

The Sellew Preserve in East Hampton is well-endowed with scenery, natural history and biological diversity. The property bounds the south side of the Airline Trail from the Bishop's Rock Cut to the Rapallo Viaduct. A network of blazed hiking trails extends over all parts of the property, but they see little traffic because the land has always been fairly inaccessible. That problem was addressed in May of this year when Troop 8's Alex Long completed construction of a footbridge across Flat Brook, connecting the Airline Trail to an old wood road that runs through the center of the trail system.

Alex began his project in November 2008 by constructing wooden piers bedded on fieldstone and crushed rock. The bridge sections were formed of timber trusses with overlapping treads. By early spring the bridge was completed, and Alex finished the project by constructing steps descending from the Airline Trail and a Signboard at the bottom of the wood road. Since then the bridge has been regularly used by Airline Trail walkers who are delighted to learn that a wide range of trails and vistas are available on the other side.

*Think Globally – Act Locally*



*Eric Harper, third from right, with his volunteers*

The Palmer / Taylor Preserve in Portland includes over 100 acres of rolling hills, open pastures, scenic vistas, mill sites and other historical artifacts. The property includes the wide meadow on the north side of Route 66, admired daily by thousands of commuters. The Preserve has an extensive trail system which offers loop hikes of up to five miles in length, across some of the most scenic terrain in Middlesex County. While access is simple, informing the public about this resource was a problem until Troop 8's Eric Harper constructed and installed a large and colorful signboard along side Route 66.

Eric constructed the signboard over the previous winter and spring and installed it in June.

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The Middlesex Land Trust Inc. is a non-profit organization whose mission is to preserve open space in northern Middlesex County (Durham, Middlefield, Middletown, Cromwell, Portland and East Hampton)

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The Middlesex Land Trust, Inc  
deKoven House Community Center  
27 Washington Street  
Middletown, CT 06457  
860-343-7537  
info@middlesexlandtrust.org  
www.middlesexlandtrust.org

Fall 2009 Contributors:  
Editing/Layout/Design: Jim McHutchison  
Articles: John LeShane, Stuart Winquist

## The Chairman's Corner

Dear MLT Members,

Dreams, a common vision and persistence. That is what lies at the core of the success of The Middlesex Land Trust. The dreams come from many people, who dream of the possibility to protect places they love and share them with others. The Kruger Farm Preserve dedication was the celebration of the success of an MLT project that fits into a dream to protect a larger landscape around the Salmon River and Pine Brook. This summer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service bought the adjacent Johnson property from The Nature Conservancy and the Town of Haddam, establishing their first foothold in the Salmon River Unit of the Silvio O. Conte National Wildlife Refuge. The late Charles D. Master's put in the corner stone when he and his wife Anna Ruth, along with Eric Sandin, put their 127 acre property, which is adjacent to what is now our Pine Brook Falls preserve, under the U.S. Forest Service, Forest Legacy Program. There is now an effort afoot to place the former Connecticut Yankee site and surrounding 582 acres into conservation with a public/private effort. While we are not directly involved in the Connecticut Yankee Land Conservation Project, we strongly endorse the common vision.

We continue to steward what we have protected. Over the years, we have been fortunate to associate Boy Scouts who plan and carry out service projects in their community on their journey towards earning their Eagle Award. This year, two of our preserves have been the focus of Eagle Projects. The Palmer-Taylor Preserve in Portland got a beautiful sign that raises the visibility of the MLT and the accessibility of this large preserve, through the efforts of Eric Harper. Alex Long and his volunteers connected our East Hampton Sellev Preserve with the Airline Trail by building a bridge across the intervening brook. Another Eagle Scout, Mike Kowalczyk, returned to his 2006 project, a bridge on the Christopher Brook Preserve, to reposition bridges that had been washed out.

Dreams to preserve natural areas we love. A common vision binds us together. Persistence to continually build on that common vision. It is what has made the MLT what we are today.

As always, thank you for your support.



Stuart Winquist

## Annual Meeting and Dedication

April 25th saw a good sized crowd gathered in Haddam Neck for a short Annual Meeting and dedication of the Kruger Farm Preserve. The morning that greeted us was cool and foggy, but we were soon glad we had the shade of the large event tent, set up in the hayfield of our newest preserve.

**The Annual Meeting** is a short business meeting to report on the past year. Art Johnson was re-elected to the board for another 3 years, and David Brown was re-elected to the board for another year. Many of our board members and volunteers were recognized, in particular, retiring board members Gay Smith, Alan Hurst and Jane Brawerman. Gay Smith was stepping down after 2 years on the board, but during her tenure helped see through to completion the publishing of Prudence and T.J. Palmer's book, "Letters to Harry". The Palmer's generously left their lands and estate to the MLT, and finishing their book for them was important to us. Alan Hurst, joined the board Sept 11, 1995, and served as Chairman from 1997-2002 and again in 2007. His notable accomplishments included heading up our first independent purchases: the Sellew Preserve in East Hampton and the small addition to Taylor Brook in Portland. He was also very active as a spokesman for the Trust, recruiting volunteers and active in our stewardship parties over his 14 years of service. Jane joined the board May 31, 1990. She left her first mark on the Winter 1992 newsletter and significantly contributed to nearly 30 newsletters during her tenure, writing articles, editing and layout.

**The dedication of the Kruger Farm Preserve** marked the culmination of nearly three years of effort. It was a large effort and the MLT had a lot of people to thank. Donors large and small (over 85 individuals and entities); volunteers; the professionals, town and state officials we worked with during the process; the seller, John Kruger; the Town of Haddam, who donated \$40,000 towards

the purchase; and the State of Connecticut who provided \$219,000 in an Open Space Matching Grant. Wayne Ruddy, Chairman of the Haddam Board of Finance, represented the Town and spoke a few words on the town's behalf. We were fortunate to have the support of so many on this project. It was truly a community effort. It was a chance to meet some new neighbors, hear some stories and congratulate each other on a job well done. Jim McHutchison, vice-chairman of the Kruger Farm Preservation Project, was given special recognition and thanked for his tremendous efforts on not only this preserve, but his role in facilitating the preservation of Pine Brook Falls Preserve and the adjacent Johnson Preserve. He was critical to this effort and he was presented with a framed pic-



*John Kruger, (center) and attendees in the tent*

ture of the preserve's front hayfield, with the barn and new preserve sign in the foreground.

**Following the dedication**, John LeShane led a crew of interested folks down through our preserve and into the Pine Brook valley (an area now part of U.S. Fish & Wildlife's Silvio O. Conte Refuge). John's cross country trek followed old woods roads, brooks, and sometimes imaginary

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## Stewardship Committee Continues To Build Trails.

With the work parties scheduled for this fall, the land trust has several trails in the making. Approximately 2 miles of trails are flagged from blazing on the John Kruger preserve on Haddam Neck. While some of the preserve has been logged in the recent past, enough of it, particularly along the small watercourses is still untouched. The trails are planned to accentuate these water features. The small streams are not running much now but in the spring and late fall they should be.

The trails are being designed to accentuate the sights and the sounds of the brooks. Jim McHutchison of the Haddam Neck Spirit was kind enough to volunteer to mow the trail from the barn thru the powerlines to where the woodland trail begins. With a work party scheduled at 9AM on October 24th, we should have a nice trail loop cut out for the public by November.

In other trail projects, we have done our first trail cutting of the 12-acre Roy Collins preserve in Portland. This trail is ribboned and can be followed by adventuresome folks. Access is from Isinglass Hill road just east of the junction with Thompson Hill Road.

The last trail project that is partially completed is on the 40-acre Pine Brook Falls Preserve off Sexton Hill Road in East Hampton. There are two loops. The one on the west side of the brook is completed, marked with ribbon, but awaiting blazes. The loop on the east side is partially completed and not yet ready for public use.

All told, we will have added almost 5 miles to our trail system in 2009!

Respectfully submitted,

John LeShane, Stewardship co-chairman

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*(Continued from page 1)*

the signboard displays, in text and symbols large enough to be read by passing motorists, where trailheads are located and safe parking is available on Middle Haddam Road. MLT is very proud and happy to provide public access to this wonderful property, and with the visible reminder to local residents that we are working hard to preserve this and other such notable landscapes.

### Following the dedication,

*(Continued from page 3)*

trails as his tour took in some of the massive dam and mill ruins on Pine Brook, a picturesque falls on the brook flowing from our preserve, and a landscape breathing a sigh of relief under its newly protected status. It was a beautiful day and the perfect culmination of a successful project.



*Pine Brook Falls at High Water*



*Down stream from Pine Brook Falls*



*New Bridge at the Sellew Preserve*



*Alex Long at the new Bridge*

### An Interesting Fact:

The Roy Huse Collins Nature Preserve in Portland, (featured in the prior newsletter), which was donated by Roy and Jeff Sarra, and Nancy Comeau this spring, was part of a parcel originally purchased by their grandfather of the same name, who was a wildlife artist and illustrator. He had the pond dug so he could observe ducks, the subject of some of his paintings. He is a listed artist at [www.askart.com](http://www.askart.com).

## 2009 MIDDLESEX LAND TRUST MEMBERSHIP FORM

YES – I would like to help protect open space in Northern Middlesex County in 2009!

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Renewal       New Membership

- Individual Membership.....\$20
- Sustaining Membership .....\$35
- Patron Membership .....\$100
- Guarantor Membership.....\$250
- Benefactor Membership .....\$500
- Endower Membership.....\$750
- Life Membership.....\$1000+

I would like to:

- give an additional donation for: Land Acquisition \$\_\_\_\_\_ Land Stewardship \$\_\_\_\_\_
- donate appreciated stock
- learn more about donating land or conservation easements.
- donate time for stewardship, fundraising or office work: please specify \_\_\_\_\_
- give a gift membership: : Name\_\_\_\_\_ Address\_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to **The Middlesex Land Trust** and mail to:  
deKoven House, 27 Washington Street, Middletown, CT 06457

The Middlesex Land Trust is a 501(c)(3) organization so your dues and contributions are tax deductible  
*Don't forget your employer's matching gift form! Thank you for your support!*

# CONNECTICUT YANKEE CONSERVATION PROJECT

There is now an effort underway to secure the former Connecticut Yankee nuclear power plant site. This extraordinary natural resource which consists of 582 acres and 3 miles of river frontage, sits on the peninsula between the Salmon River and the Connecticut River, just down the road from our new Kruger Farm Preserve, and across the Salmon River from the Machimoodus State Park.

The Connecticut Yankee Land Conservation Project is an independent project consisting of a 5 person advisory committee and an executive director, Melissa Spear, formerly President of the Connecticut Chapter of the Trust for Public Lands. She is working with the conservation community, both government and non-government organizations, on the national, state and local levels to coordinate their efforts and facilitate communication with

Connecticut Yankee.

The CY Land Conservation Project is seeking financial support to cover projected expenses of \$70,000, including a \$20,000 commercial appraisal of the property required by any organization committing funds to this project. If you are interested in supporting this important effort, tax-deductible donations may be made to "The Middlesex County Community Foundation" which is a 501(c)(3) public charity, mail to "Connecticut Yankee Project, c/o Stanford Brainerd, 282 Quarry Hill Rd., Haddam Neck, CT 06424." Mark the memo line "Connecticut Yankee Project (mlt)"

**The Middlesex Land Trust strongly endorses this effort.** As you consider contributing, remember, the length of the list of contributors in itself is an important statement of local support.

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