



Remembering Nancy Kissinger



Nancy at the KLT Benefit, 2019

Dear friend,,

This month the Kent Land Trust and all of Kent lost a dear friend when Nancy Kissinger passed away peacefully at her South Kent home.

Nancy was a devoted and generous supporter of KLT and its work. She served as honorary chair of our Annual Benefit party for many years, always thanking the guests and urging them to continue their support. Here are a few of our favorite photos of her at the Benefits over the years.



Nancy in 2016 with President Emeritus Bill Arnold and Benefit Chair Steve Vaughn



In 2018 with President Jane Klein, Host Bob Avian, & Benefit Chair Steve Vaughn



Nancy at KLT Benefit in 2014

Nancy's interest in conservation and wildlife was genuine. With assistance and support from KLT director Laurie Doss, she hosted a thriving purple martin colony at her home.

For many years she visited Bill Arnold's farm in June to see the ground-nesting bobolinks in his farm fields. She also occasionally helped monitor nesting bluebirds and tree swallows and their offspring. Always a bit nervously - concerned about the nestling's fragility.



Nancy in 2011 with tree swallow eggs

She truly loved Kent and her home here. She and Henry were also devoted supporters of many other local organizations including the Kent Volunteer Fire Department, Kent Memorial Library and Kent Historical Society. She leaves many friends and admirers, all of us immensely grateful to have known her.

2026 Annual Benefit - Saturday, September 26th in Kent Hollow

Join us in carrying forward Nancy's legacy at KLT's Annual Benefit upcoming Saturday, September 26th from 5 to 7 pm!



This year's cocktail party is graciously hosted by Michelle and Ron Saltz at their beautiful Kent Hollow home and flower farm.

Michelle and Ron's stewardship of Anderson Acres Farm perfectly demonstrates how conservation and careful management harmonize with working agricultural land and serene residential grounds.

Explore winding paths through abundant gardens and whimsical outdoor rooms. The farm's barns, greenhouses, and softly rolling fields are nestled within more than one thousand acres of connected conservation land.

RSVPs are requested by September 5th - please reserve your place today. Tickets may be purchased online at www.kentlandtrust.org/fall-benefit-2026. We look forward to seeing you there!



Forests Love Birds Love Forests

On August 13th KLT welcomed renowned forest ecologist Ethan Tapper to Kent's Town Hall, where he called for our active intervention to encourage tree diversity and health, remove aggressive invasive plants and pests, and observe and help counteract the detrimental impacts of past neglect.

The program is part of KLT's work to support and join private landowners in stewarding the Macedonia Forest Block Important Bird Area, which covers 22,500 acres in northwest Kent and southern Sharon and provides exceptional habitat for forest-interior birds like Wood Thrush and Cerulean Warbler. Throughout his presentation Ethan circled back to his love of birds, and to the benefits of forest diversity for birds reliant on specific tree and plant communities for shelter, nesting, and food.



KLT's Stewardship Associate Zach Orluk said "Ethan's presentation was a great opportunity to learn from someone who deeply understands forests and the ecosystems surrounding them. In addition to the new information, it reaffirmed concepts I've been taught that can sometimes be hard to believe. He reminded us that New England's forests are not normal - never in history have the forests looked the way they do today. Never has there been an event like the settlement and clearing of nearly every inch of land for agriculture and grazing. We are living through our forests' first recovery: Most of our forests are only 80 to 100 years old. The forests that came before them had been developing for roughly 10,000 years, since the last Ice Age, before colonization.

Ethan reminded us that because of this, our forests may not serve wildlife as well as they could. He pointed out that using tools that may seem counterintuitive, like herbicide and cutting trees, can be exactly what a forest needs to serve wildlife more effectively. While this wasn't the first time I've heard this, it's important to hear it again and again, as it can contradict our natural expectations.

I also appreciated Ethan noting that Kent is a "very birdy place." I hope everyone in Kent can take great pride in that."



KLT Program Manager Melissa Cherniske said "Some of my favorite moments from Ethan Tapper's visit happened before the lecture even began. As we gathered outside Kent Town Hall, Ethan sat on the tailgate of his truck, collecting his thoughts and chatting with us. In the middle of our conversation, he suddenly paused, looked up, and said, "Chimney Swift." I took the opportunity to tell him about the wonderful work Laurie Doss has done in Kent and our purple martin colonies. Like Nancy Kissinger, Ethan has a soft spot for these aerial insectivores - "That's my favorite bird!" he exclaimed.

The moment was a perfect introduction to the evening that followed. Ethan spoke about the importance of truly paying attention to the places we inhabit—about how every place has its own specific sound, if we take the time to listen.

As we walked him back to his truck at the end of the evening, he suddenly stopped and looked around in surprise: "You have cicadas?" He was genuinely delighted to discover them, explaining that they don't have them where he lives in Vermont.

Before he drove away, our conversation turned once again to purple martins. I gave him directions to the Kent Center School gourds, knowing most of our martins had already begun their journey south for the season. I asked if he might consider returning to Kent in July for a day of banding. His response was immediate: "You can count on it."

The next day, we were greeted on our social channels by a [reel from Ethan about purple martins](#) with a lovely KLT shout-out. It once again reminded me that conservation is not just about protecting land—it is about curiosity, connection, paying attention, and sharing enthusiasm for the remarkable natural world right outside our doors."

If you missed Ethan's talk, you can watch the program [here on the Town of Kent's YouTube Channel](#) (the sound improves significantly about 5 minutes in). Or read about it in [this article from the Kent Dispatch](#).

Go Ahead - Plant a Tree



Source: www.nrpa.org

KLT's program partners at Ethan's talk included the Town's [Parks and Recreation Department](#) and the [Conservation Commission](#). For the Conservation Commission, the program fit very well with its [Tree Incentive Program](#), currently offering grant funding to support the purchase and planting of native trees along streets in the Village Center.

Over the last twenty years, the Conservation Commission has sponsored the planting of over 65 trees in the Village, the Kent Center School campus, and in the Flanders Historic District. The Incentive Program aims to fill canopy gaps left by the loss of large shade trees. Funding is made

possible through the Kuga Fund, started decades ago with a generous donation by Japanese citizen Shunichi Kuga to honor Kent resident and Arbor Day advocate Birdsey Grant Northrop.

More information, application materials, and a wealth of resources on tree planting are available within the Commission's [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#). Applications are due by September 15th.

This Thursday!

Just two concerts remain in our popular "Town to Trust" music series. And while the weather hasn't been a great sandbox player, we've perfected our process for moving inside to the Community House. So - rain or shine mark your Thursday calendar for this week's [Kenn Morr Band](#), and next Thursday's [Dean Snellbeck & BluesyLand Band](#). Pack a picnic, camp chairs, and your dancing sandals - we'll meet you there!

A poster for the 2026 Town to Trust Music Series. The background is a gradient of blue and purple with musical notes and a piano keyboard at the bottom. The text is white and yellow.

**2026
Town to Trust
MUSIC SERIES**

PRESENTED BY:
KENT PARKS AND RECREATION, KENT LAND TRUST, AND KENT LIONS CLUB

**THURSDAYS FROM MID JULY
THROUGH MID SEPTEMBER**

5:30 - 7:00 PM

Kent Town Hall
7.23 Joint Chiefs
7.30 Isabelle Rose & Friends
8.6 Fiddlers Three w/Ellen Carlson
8.13 The Regulators

Kent Land Trust Field
8.20 Wanda Houston and the HBH Band
8.27 5-Day Knight
9.3 Kenn Morr Band
9.10 Dean Snellbeck & BluesyLand Band

**PLEASE SUPPORT THE KENT FOOD
BANK BY BRINGING A NON-PERISHABLE
ITEM OR MONETARY DONATION FOR
COLLECTION AT THE EVENT.**

**FOR UPDATES AND MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CHECK THE KENT LAND TRUST
FACEBOOK AND WEBSITE WWW.KENTLANDTRUST.ORG AND PHONE 860-592-0011**

Hiking In History

An Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area Hike

Two hundred fifty years ago, Bulls Bridge played an important role as part of an industry that earned small towns in the CT, NY, and MA highlands the title of "The Arsenal of the Revolution." Its geographic location and its proximity to the South Kent Ore Bed made it an obvious place for getting valuable ore and forged iron across the Housatonic River to the Hudson. Bulls Bridge also conveyed Revolutionary VIPs such as General George Washington.

Join us and leaders of the [Kent Historical Society](#) and [Kent Parks and Recreation Department](#) at this [Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area Heritage Hike](#). We'll walk back in history across the bridge and down the bank of the river on the Appalachian Trail to the beautiful junction of the Housatonic and Ten Mile Rivers at a place called Schaghticoke. Register at bit.ly/KLTactivities.

HIKING IN HISTORY

BULLS BRIDGE EDITION

Step back in time as you explore the landscape of the Bulls Bridge scenic area, where history and scenery came together along the trail. Join us for a guided walk that uncovers the legends and natural beauty of the iconic Kent landmark and the area surrounding it.

Sunday, September 20th
10:00 AM

<https://bit.ly/KLTactivities>
info@kentlandtrust.org or 860-927-1003

Free and open to the public.
Registration is required to communicate parking and weather-related changes.

SCAN THIS QR CODE FOR REGISTRATION



BULLS BRIDGE
KENT, CONNECTICUT

The Bulls Bridge Scenic Area is located at the junction of Route 7 and Bulls Bridge Road.

This hike is just under 3 miles and of moderate difficulty.

The preserve map can be found at:
<https://bit.ly/bullsbridgemap>

Please wear sturdy footwear, bring a water bottle, and your curiosity.



[Visit our website to donate online](#)

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