



Seeing Green? Before you get too Envious...

Dear Connie,

Happy Spring! Suddenly we're eager for more time outdoors. We rejoice in the festive traditions of spring holidays, but also in simple pleasures like picking up the backyard, brushing off deck chairs, and visiting area farms for eggs and the earliest veggies and fruit.

But then - there are not-so-nice seasonal markers: ticks are out, and so is the importunate new growth of invasive plants. That green tinge to the forest understory stops looking so smart when one realizes it's a monoculture of Japanese barberry, multiflora rose, or winged euonymus. Invasive plants interfere with our native ecosystem's plants, animals, soils, and water - often in harmful, even fatal ways.

The Kent Land Trust is working to restore habitat on our nature preserves in response to the interrelated trifecta of threats from climate impacts, human disturbance and invasive plants. It feels daunting, yet hopeful, to make incremental improvements and see how nature rebounds.

Below, [read KLT Guest Correspondent Alison Robey's observations and helpful guide](#) to learn how to begin dealing with invasives on your own property. Get involved, if you'd like, by [volunteering with us on April 20th](#) in celebration of Earth Day - more info below.

Or are you looking for another, generally-less-physical and more light-hearted way to contribute? Add your observations to one of the world's largest community science projects - [eBird](#) - data from which helps organizations like KLT tailor land protection and management strategies to the species on their land. Hearing Spring's increase in birdsong, we got inspired to polish up our Merlin and eBird skills. [Join us April 18th at 45 on Main](#) for a group tutorial to get hands-on help before you go out on your own.

While we sadly had to cancel our Winter Tree Identification program (twice, ouch!) we're still so charmed by the wonder of trees. You too? Plan on joining Kent's Environmental Book Club to discuss Peter Wohlleben's [The Hidden Life of Trees](#), or/and attend Kent Tree Warden Bruce

Bennett's talk at the Kent Memorial Library during Kent's Spring Fest on May 4th.

Before that, participate in the annual [Kent Town Clean Up](#) to beautify our country roads! Bring the kids to the [Kent Conservation Commission's program on composting](#) at the Kent Memorial Library!

There are so many ways to be engaged in the environmental needs of Kent's community. In the weeks to come we'll focus in on beneficial landscaping practices including gardening with native plants to promote pollinator health. Together, let's reclaim Spring Green as a color to admire and nurture within this beautiful environment we share!

Connie Manes, Executive Director

The Most Identifiable Time(s) of the Year

Alison Robey



March and April bring with them many things: the first tantalizing 60-degree afternoons; the inevitable spillover of every stream, pond, and river into our increasingly muddy pathways, driveways, and yards; and, happily, the first springtime hints of green. Daffodil leaves shoot upward. Crocus petals unfurl. Snowdrops burst into bloom.

I am always ecstatic to find these first hints of the warming season, the harbingers of flower-filled gardens, easier outdoor access, and all things green, green, green. That ecstasy is, however, tinged with a bit of guilt when I remember what exactly I'm looking at: daffodils from Asia; crocuses from the Middle East; snowdrops from Europe. In short, plants that originated very far from Connecticut – and, as such, plants that have very little to offer our native ecosystem's birds, bugs, and overall biodiversity.

[Read on](#) as Alison explains the impact of such plants and what to do about it, along with a helpful guide to help you identify and eliminate our local worst offenders.

Tackle Invasives with Earth Day Volunteers



COME ONE COME ALL EARTH DAY STEWARDSHIP RESTORATION WORKDAY And e-Bird blitz

Join us at the Claire Murphy Riverwalk where we have been actively restoring the habitat of the waterfowl by removing invasive plants and replacing them with beneficial natives

Saturday, April 20th
9:00 AM

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

<https://bit.ly/KLTactivities>
info@kentlandtrust.org or 860-488-9185

*This activity is for ages 10 and up.

See information on our companion eBird tutorial on
April 18th at 6PM at 45 on Main

KLT's Claire Murphy Riverwalk is at 170 Kent Road.

Also the site of Marble Valley Farm and the Kent Land Trust office.

The preserve map can be found at:
<https://www.kentlandtrust.org/clare-murphy-riverwalk>



Please wear sturdy, waterproof footwear, and weather appropriate clothes, and bring a water bottle, pruners, loppers, and your curiosity.

Brush Up Your eBirding!



eBird Tutorial

The **Cornell** Lab
of Ornithology



29:13 0.4mi 9

Auto selected 43,181, 46,325

Hide

By species based on 2000 observations in 2020/2021 only

species name/code

Downy Woodpecker

1 House Wren

2 Gray Catbird

4 Song Sparrow

2 Swamp Sparrow

1 Baltimore Oriole

4 Common Nighthawk

1 Northern Oriole

2 Red-eyed Vireo

Join us at 45 on Main to learn how technology and nature can collide to make the chorus in the forest and your yard come alive!

**Thursday, April 18th
6:00 PM at 45 on Main**

Registration is required

<https://bit.ly/KLTactivities>

info@kentlandtrust.org or 860-488-9185

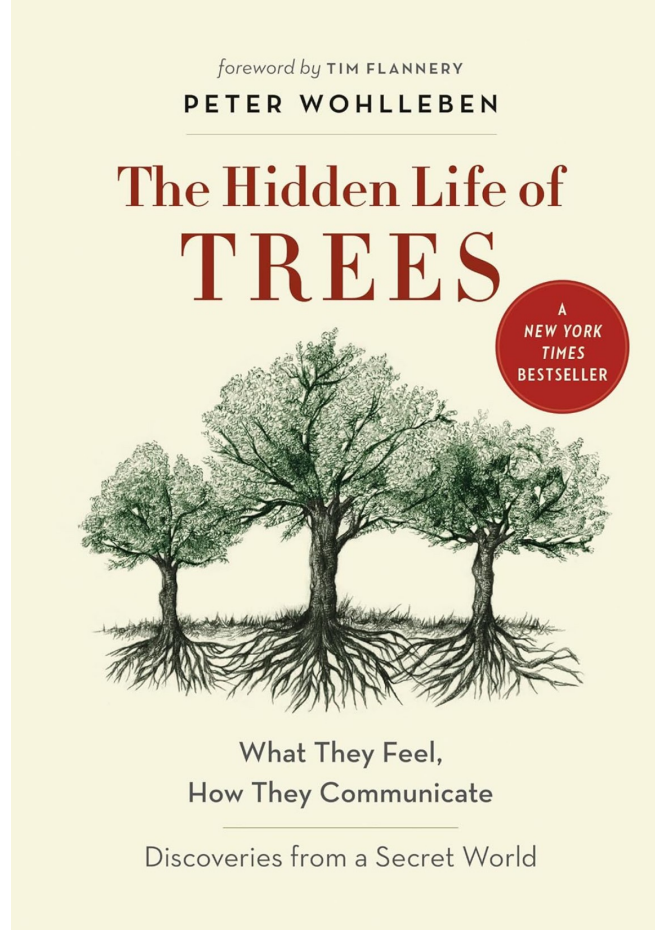
This a great opportunity to learn about eBird or just brush up on your skills.



See information on our companion eBird blitz and Stewardship day on April 22nd at 10AM at the Claire Murphy Riverwalk

Co- hosted by 45 on Main
Please bring your curiosity and share this invitation with a friend!

Next Kent Environmental Book Group



Date: May 13th 4pm
Location: TBD closer to the date
For more information, email Deb Schlee: deb.schlee@icloud.com

Update: Wildlife Crossings



2024 brought a series of "Big Nights", and with that repetition a huge increase in public knowledge of its meaning (ICYMI: not a Stanley Tucci movie, [here's Alison's article from last month](#)). Hopefully the awareness results in lessened traffic and careful, slower driving on roads with major crossing activity. While some community members let us know about crossing hotspots, our information remains very incomplete. If you observed crossing amphibians during the first rainy nights of Spring, please let us know where and what you saw. KLT will continue our efforts to identify and map Kent's high-volume crossings for further awareness in 2025.

Meanwhile, we can be mindful that terrestrial crossings happen year-round for many local species, and that slowing down and remaining aware helps prevent wildlife mortality and decrease harm to drivers and vehicles. Consider contributing to the research studying wildlife crossings in our area by sending your observations to the Housatonic Valley Association's Follow the Forest Initiative. A [simple form](#) helps you do this. Watch the latest [short film about Follow the Forest's wildlife connectivity vision](#) and discover your place within it.

Become a Member!

Within our cherished community the Kent Land Trust safeguards an ecosystem which in turn supports us all, at the most basic level: integrity of the air we breathe and water we drink. We envision a community where treasured landscapes are protected for today and the future. Where diverse living things continue in healthy coexistence, supported through the challenges of a changing environment. And where iconic outdoor spaces inspire people to connect. We promise assiduous focus on Kent's distinct needs even as we join colleagues doing the same throughout our region and beyond. Your membership each year directly advances this vision.

Thank you most sincerely for your generous support!

[Visit our website to donate
online](#)



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