



March Greetings!

Dear Friend,

Last-gasp snowfalls notwithstanding, Spring is on its way.

March is a time to notice the constant awakenings around us - the footprints of wildlife, buds poking out from tree branches and the ground - hikers lacing up their mud-boots - enjoying the changing temps and sunlight!

Join us this month to celebrate the birds and the trees, with two programs on Sunday, March 19th: First, join Mike Benjamin, Clark Gifford and Darrell Cherniske for a hike at the Audrey and Robert Tobin Preserve to learn more about the trees that call our forests home. Later that afternoon, join Laurie Doss virtually to discuss the charismatic Purple Martin, how efforts here in Kent helped boost inland populations and what more is needed now. Details on both programs are below and [on our website](#).

New this month - We're pleased to introduce KLT's 2023 guest correspondent, Alison Robey. In her first article for KLT Alison explores the practice (and joy!) of tree identification, making a solid case for joining us on March 19th - or just getting outside in your backyard woods!

Should her article inspire you to read more, we've included tree-related book suggestions - [email us](#) with your additional faves!



Alison, btw, was one of KLT's first student interns, back in 2017 while an undergraduate at Williams College. We're thrilled that she and so many other KLT interns have chosen to pursue careers in conservation. Fostering the environmental curiosity and courage of young people is a primary goal of our Kelly Alisha Tobin Internship program.

We're currently considering applicants for this summer's paid internships for high school, college, and graduate students. Interested to know more? [Email Mike Benjamin](#) for more information and to apply!



Winter Tree Whispering Walk

Tree identifications and forest observations

Join Kent School science teacher Mike Benjamin and KLT staff for a guided walk focused on identifying trees in winter.

Sunday, March 19th

10:00 AM

Registration is required to communicate weather-related changes.

bit.ly/registerforhike

info@kentlandtrust.org or 860-488-9185



KLT's Tobin Preserve. Drive slowly to the top of Dugan Road, turn right, and proceed to the parking at the end of the Preserve's access road.

The preserve map can be found at:
<https://www.kentlandtrust.org/anchor-page-for-tobin-preserve>

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

[Register and join us!](#) or [Email with your questions!](#)



It Takes a Village...

Raising the Roof for Purple Martins!

Join Laurie Doss, Science Department Chair at the Marvelwood School and Kent Land Trust Board member to learn how you can get involved.



Sunday, March 19th 4:00 PM

The program will run for about 90 minutes

bit.ly/KLTactivities

info@kentlandtrust.org or 860.488.9185

Registration is required to receive the Zoom link.



Participants will learn how their volunteer efforts can make a difference to help martin populations which are entirely dependent upon humans and artificial housing. We will discover some of the concerns that have materialized regarding populations in the northwest corner and ways these concerns can be addressed.

[Register and join us!](#) or [Email with your questions!](#)

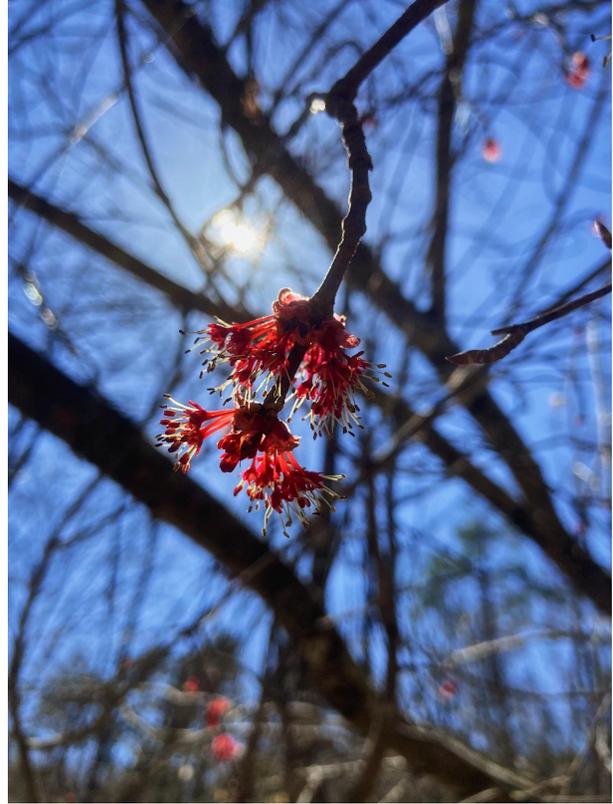
A Case For Getting To Know Your Trees

Alison Robey, Kent Land Trust Correspondent

When I tell you that I first caught my boyfriend's attention with my tree identification skills, it's barely an exaggeration. We were out for an autumn hike with a group of fellow graduate students when he started pointing out a charming assortment of birds through the branches: the bright crest of a cheeping Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, the fluttering hops of a migrating Blackpoll Warbler, and the long, banded tail of a soaring American Kestrel. Not to be outdone, but lacking in his superpowers of bird identification, I repaid his observations with

a glimpse at the magic to be found in the branches themselves.

[Read more about the enchantments Alison saw in the woods](#) and why she loves sharing the practice of observing trees.



About our correspondent, Alison Robey



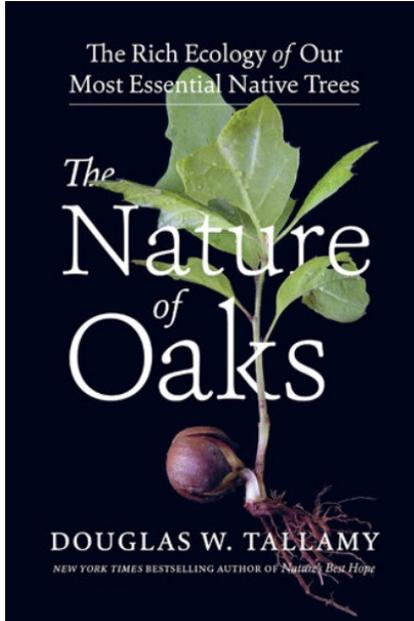
Alison grew up in Kent and is currently pursuing her PhD in Ecology & Evolutionary Biology at Yale University. She holds a BA in Environmental Studies & Mathematics from Williams College. A former intern in conservation and community outreach at the Kent Land Trust, Alison additionally developed her love for the natural world through work with the Central Park Conservancy and Camp Brookwoods & Deer Run.

We love the way Alison's writing resonates with our wonder and strong sense of place while connecting this inner, personal knowledge to science within Kent and far beyond. We're excited to showcase Alison's writings as a regular feature this year, [let us know what you think!](#)

For Further Reading

Looking for more? If you haven't already, dip into [The Nature of Oaks](#), by Douglas Tallamy, a professor in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware. So appropriate to our current focus on the seasonal change, *The Nature of Oaks* reveals what is going on in oak trees month by month. From woodpeckers who collect and store hundreds of acorns for sustenance to the beauty of jewel caterpillars, Tallamy illuminates and celebrates the wonders that occur right in our own backyards.

You might recall we were fortunate to have Professor Tallamy deliver a program for KLT in January 2022. If you missed or want



to check back on what you learned, you can [view the recording on our YouTube channel here](#).

More inclined towards fiction? Try [The Overstory](#), by Richard Powers (2019 Pulitzer Prize), about nine Americans whose unique life experiences with trees bring them together to push back on the destruction of forests. One of the characters was inspired by forest ecologist Suzanne Simard ([Finding the Mother Tree](#) - now there's your next NF read...).

Forcing Forsythia: an easy Nature Activity (you'll see what we did here)

In anticipation of Spring, it's nice to have something fresh and bright in one's home.

Forsythia, one of northwest CT's earliest (and ubiquitous) flowering plants...is not native to this area and unfortunately provides no benefit to the insects and birds who need early flowering/fruitletting species in these first months. Replace that shrub with Spicebush, native plant advocates would say! Spicebush is a host plant for swallowtail butterflies.



On the upside - you won't be removing important food for natives if you cut forsythia branches to force their blooms indoors. Maybe you'll do this as a last farewell as you *ixnay* this sometimes-invasive shrub? Simply lop off a few branches and stick them in a vase with water. Within 48 hours you'll be enjoying a splash of yellow during these final winter days.

[Learn more about native plantscaping and the Pollinator Pathway](#)

Seeking Interested Students! - Kelly Alisha Tobin Internship

Each summer, KLT offers paid internships honoring Kelly Alisha Tobin. The conservation-focused program fosters personal and professional growth through hands-on work experiences not typically available in an academic setting.

We: provide project guidance, access to over 1,500 acres of protected lands, and a wide range of opportunities involving land stewardship, ecological restoration, field research, grant writing, community programming, and more!

You: provide energy and enthusiasm, creativity, a growth mindset, and the willingness to pitch in and collaborate with our small, dedicated team of conservation professionals. The internship runs for 8-10 weeks from approximately mid-May through early August. [Email us](#) to learn more and apply!



Renew Your Membership Today!

Each year, we ask you to renew your membership in the Kent Land Trust. We are so grateful for your support, which enables us to serve Kent's community and our precious environment.

Your help has never been more important as we work together to sustain rural farms, protect our rivers, woods, and wildlife, and make nature and trails available for all people to enjoy. Our Board and Staff invite your membership with heartfelt hope that you will join this important and rewarding work.

Thank You!



[Visit our website to donate online](#)

