



Dear Connie,

One of my favorite springtime harbingers is not bluebirds or salamanders but gathering with conservationists from across the state at the annual [Connecticut Land Conservation Conference](#). It was there, Saturday before last, that I heard Dudley Edmondson, whose professional photography, filmmaking, and writing inspire a deep connection and respect for nature.

But also...consider salamanders: my earliest "conservation" memories include looking under rocks behind my house to find red-backed salamanders and big beetles. Alison Robey too, judging by her article this month. Both of us today continuing to make care for the environment a central focus of our professional and personal lives...

*What got you to notice nature?*

Dudley used his keynote address to amplify the voices of young American Black and Brown scientists and activists working to bring about positive environmental change - emerging leaders he features in his newly-released book [People the Planet Needs Now - Voices for Justice, Science and a Future of Promise](#).

He made an impassioned case for engaging diverse communities, families, and youth in enjoying the outdoors, while reminding us that it's not necessary to travel to the ends of the Earth to engage with nature - we can touch dirt, watch insects, hear birds right outside of our homes.

It reinforced my lived experience and reaffirmed KLT's commitment to provide access, information, and opportunities to participate. To explore what links us to our environment and what we all can do - whether that be through studying and sustaining bird populations, learning about trees and the changing demographic of our forests, restoring habitat impacted by non-native species, or gearing up for the season's first farmers market (May 23rd!).

Read below for March highlights and upcoming events. Follow our social accounts and tag us in yours. We look forward to seeing you and welcome your observations and input!

*Connie Manes, Executive Director*

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## **Salamander March!**

*Alison Robey*



*"On warm, wet nights, they begin to appear as if from nowhere: wet toes digging through the leaf litter, long tails wriggling, wide eyes peering into the dark. They come from safe havens under bark, logs, and leaves; they dig out of winter burrows, freshly thawed from the winter's ice; they make their way, one small step at a time, towards the water."*

In true IYKYK fashion, KLT correspondent Alison Robey describes the excitement of "Big Night", the annual amphibian bacchanalia that in truth is usually more than one night, perhaps some bigger than others. Those in the know bump the heat and open the windows to experience the vibrant symphony of frogs peeping and quacking. The joy is tempered, however, by awareness of the risks these delicate creatures face including from busy roads and the warming climate.

[Read Alison's celebration of Kent's amazing amphibians](#) and the human connections and hope they inspire!

[Let us know](#) if you have observed migration activity - we are collecting information about high-volume crossing places to determine the need for spring signage or other efforts to reduce mortality.

## Upcoming Events and Opportunities

### Tree ID with Mike Benjamin



# SPRING 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 spring.

**Sunday, April 6th**

**1PM**

Registration is required to communicate weather-related changes.

[bit.ly/KLActivities](https://bit.ly/KLActivities)

[info@kentlandtrust.org](mailto:info@kentlandtrust.org) or 860-488-9185

## KLT's East Kent Hamlet Nature Preserve

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



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

True...We all can't wait for the leaves! However, during leaf-off is a terrific time to practice tree identification using knowledge of bark and growth habits. In these last days of bare branches join us in an engaging walk through the East Kent Hamlet Preserve with Kent Science teacher Mike Benjamin.

Click image to register or [just Click Here!](#)

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**Celebrate Earth Day with Habitat Stewardship**



# 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 19th**  
**9:00 AM**

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

**<https://bit.ly/KLTactivities>**  
**[info@kentlandtrust.org](mailto:info@kentlandtrust.org) or 860-488-9185**

\*This activity is for ages 10 and up.



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

Also the site of Conundrum Farm and the Kent Land Trust office.

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



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

Click image to join our stewardship crew for Earth Day or just [click here!](#)

Looking for additional ways to help on Earth Day? Support the Kent Conservation Commission's Town Roadside Cleanup running the entire month of April. Pick up when it works for you - bags and gloves are provided by the Kent Chamber of Commerce. [Information and registration here!](#)

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**ICYMI: Part 1 of Special Training  
For Volunteer Monitors of CT's Inland Purple Martin Colonies**



Did you know that east of the Rocky Mountains purple martins are entirely dependent on human-provided housing? Luckily, they are a charismatic species with their acrobatic flight patterns and cheerful chattering, and humans have rallied to support their sustainability.

Recently, Marvelwood School Science Chair and KLT Board Member Laurie Doss provided an in-depth look at how she and other volunteer champions have boosted the viability of Connecticut's inland purple martin colonies. More people are needed, however, to support this important work by collecting data to track population trends and inform research and management activities.

This first part of a two-part training series provides instruction on how to distinguish purple martin nests, eggs, and nestlings from those of other birds that might commandeer purple martin housing. You'll also learn to recognize the development stages of purple martin nestlings and how to determine their age.

The second training will be a field session in May, onsite at a purple martin colony where we can practice recording data. Watch this eNews and KLT's social accounts for more details or get in touch with us if you are interested in attending!

[Watch "It Takes a Village: Banding Together for Purple Martins"](#)

Stay tuned for coming features on KLT's bird-focused work at the Claire Murphy Riverwalk, within the Macedonia Forest Block Important Bird Area, and throughout Kent. Meantime, brush up on your [eBird](#) skills and contribute to the data collected at our [Hotspots](#)!

## Are you a member?

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. Our role is daunting, but compelling. 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 sincerely for your generous support!*



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online](#)

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