



Dear Friend,

Look, just look at our greening world - isn't it lovely now, in this April Earth Day week!

In this eNews, I invite you to join us in celebrating seasonal renewal, from welcomes to workdays to history and botany to considering the intricate dance of conservation and change - and not least through the region's popular fundraiser Give Local, which this year holds special meaning for KLT as part of a monumental project to bring exceptional new recreational resources to our area. Read on for more on all these...

Wishing you the joy that springs from curiosity and awe of nature!
Connie Manes, Executive Director

Welcome Zach Orluk!



Zach and Scout at home

KLT is thrilled to introduce our newest staff member, Zach Orluk! Zach started working with KLT late last year and in April joined us full-time as Stewardship Associate. A native of Granby CT, Zach brings considerable experience to this role including through his Biology degree from Hamilton College, work experience as Forest Crew Leader at McLean Game Refuge and as an Adventure Trip Leader in Alaska with Apogee Adventures.

As part of KLT's collaborative partnership with the Warren Land Trust, Zach will be splitting his time each week working three days in Kent, and two days in Warren. One of his projects includes the ongoing stewardship and management of KLT and WLT preserves in the Lake Waramaug Watershed - about which more below.

We're so excited to have Zach on our Team!

Your Help is Needed - Give Local!



Together with our partners at the [Warren Land Trust](#), we've embarked on an exciting project to develop a comprehensive, connected and integrated trail network across three nature preserves

spanning more than 1000 acres of conserved land in the Lake Waramaug Watershed.

These include the Kent Land Trust's East Kent Hamlet Nature Preserve, the Warren Land Trust's Cunningham Nature Preserve, and the Warren Land Trust's new Mountain Lake Preserve.

With generous support from the State of CT, this ambitious work will include public input and communications to ensure we meet the needs of visitors. Our trail design will offer diverse opportunities from a scenic lakeside stroll to more rugged routes traversing striking rock formations, historic landmarks, peaceful woodlands, and sweeping meadows.

We are joining WLT in this week's [Give Local](#), a two-day, regional fundraising event hosted for the past 14 years by the Connecticut Community Foundation. Your contributions on [April 21st and 22nd](#) towards our challenge goal of \$20,000 are the key to unlock an impressive 4x match! Every dollar you donate will return five to this transformative initiative for our Kent and Warren communities! [Click here to make your contribution](#) starting at 7am on Tuesday the 21st - thank you!

Preservation

Alison Robey, Kent Land Trust Correspondent



Photo credit: Darrell Cherniske

"For anyone who calls Kent home, entering the valley is marked by the realignment of the horizon into its most familiar shape: the sloping summits of Kent Mountain, Segar Mountain, and Bull Mountain to the East, the sharper ridges of Caleb's Peak, Fuller Mountain, and Mount Algo to the West, and the gentle nameless hills undulating over the surrounding landscape, dotted with farms and neighborhoods, all slanting inevitably down towards the Housatonic River.

The smaller, man-made landmarks often feel deceptively like just as permanent a component of the landscape: the faded covered bridges at Kent Falls and Bull's Bridge Dam; the gray obelisk watching over our central intersection; the crumbling stone walls marking the borders of forgotten pastures in the forest; the old wooden barn standing watch between Route 7 and the Kent Greenhouse on one side, Kent Center School and the river on the other."

As Alison observes, there is something uniquely arresting and transformative about the landmarks we encounter approaching Kent via Route 7. The community members serving as the Kent Land

Trust's earliest directors and members knew this as they worked hard to protect the fields and hillsides between the Farm and town which now form the Southern Gateway Preserve.

Yet no landscape conserved or not, remains static - the grand "*interplay of succession and human interaction is ongoing*". [Read Alison's meditation](#) on this aspect of human existence using the perspective of spring ephemerals within a post-agricultural landscape, to discover why (however incongruous it may seem) preservation is the enabler of change.

Saying Farewell - Sentinel Barn



Photo credit: Kelli Darrin

Sadly, but not surprisingly given its age and exposure to the elements, the Sentinel Barn - also known as the Casey Barn - located just South of Kent's Village Center on the west side of Route 7, has reached an advanced state of dilapidation and unsteadiness. Over the years KLT has conserved the underlying land we've replaced the roof and twice shored up its structural integrity. Unfortunately it is not possible to do more to keep it standing.

Working with local contractors we will salvage its historic beams for commemoration and reuse in a manner yet to be determined. We expect to disassemble it in the second part of May.

We know so many of you have cherished photos of this Kent icon and invite you to share them with us in [this Google Drive folder](#). Alternatively please send your photos and written memories to admin@kentlandtrust.org.



Kent's Scouts pay their respects during their recent service outing to clean out bluebird nestboxes on the Southern Gateway



Photo credit: Bobby Love

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

Last Call - Earth Day Volunteer Event This Saturday

Celebrate Earth Day with KLT as we continue our multi-year effort to improve habitat and visitor experiences along the Claire Murphy Riverwalk (accessible from Conundrum Farm). We see more and diverse waterfowl and wildlife here than ever before thanks to the work of KLT's staff and many volunteer hands.

Our path has been newly resurfaced thanks to Will Gawel and crew. And this year we'll be planting new native trees and perennials in addition to removing invasive plants. Scan the QR code below to join the party or just [click here!](#)



COME ONE COME ALL EARTH DAY STEWARDSHIP RESTORATION WORKDAY And TREE PLANTING

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

Saturday, April 25th
9:00 AM

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

<https://bit.ly/KLActivities>
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.

**Join Our Next Volunteer Stewardship Day - May 16th in
East Kent Hamlet Nature Preserve**



VOLUNTEER WORKDAY

EAST KENT HAMLET NATURE PRESERVE

Join Stewardship Manager Angus Gracey to learn about and help accomplish our meadow restoration project. We will be planting plugs and removing invasive species.

Saturday, May 16th
9 AM -11 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.

Funded through a a Climate Smart Farming Agriculture and Forestry grant from Connecticut Land Conservation Council, to restore early successional habitat.

REGISTER HERE



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

Please bring if you have them: shovels, buckets, pruners, gloves, and a garden knife.
Extra equipment will be available. Dress in long pants and long sleeves.

Can't make it this Saturday, but love to learn and get your hands in the dirt? Join KLT in the East Kent Hamlet Nature Preserve to continue a multi-year restoration of its central, meadow habitat. Stewardship Manager Angus Gracey will discuss his transformative work in the meadow and lead the group in this next phase of native plantings. Register using the QR code above or [click here!](#)

May 2nd - America 250 Hike at Bull's Bridge

Join KLT, the Kent Historical Society, and Kent Park & Recreation for a hike at Bull's Bridge. Enjoy new insights on this popular Kent attraction and component of the Appalachian Trail. Register using the QR code or link below (or just [click here!](#))

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.

Saturday, May 2nd
2:00 PM

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

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

SCAN THIS QR CODE FOR REGISTRATION



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.

May 7th - Native Plants Walk at the Avian Preserve with Connecticut Botanical Society

The Connecticut Botanical Society has generously supported KLT's habitat restoration work at the Claire Murphy Riverwalk (site of our Earth Day volunteer event this Saturday). Together, our organizations now invite you to KLT's Avian Preserve, where we have collected seed for the native plant plugs grown for our restoration projects. At this time of year the Avian Preserve is resplendent with spring ephemerals and new native growth.

On this true "field" trip to the Avian meadow, we'll identify and learn about native species from CBS's trained botanists and KLT staff. Register using the QR code or link below or just [click here!](#)



CONNECTICUT BOTANICAL SOCIETY FIELD TRIP

JOIN US AT THE AVIAN PRESERVE

with members of the Connecticut Botanical Society and KLT Staff to learn about identifying native plants in an early successional habitat. The field trip will allow participants to move slowly through Avian meadow, learning about and identifying native species from trained botanists and KLT staff.

**Thursday, May 7th
9 AM -11 AM**

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

Free and open to the public.

Registration is required to communicate weather related changes.

A map to the preserve can be found at:
<https://www.kentlandtrust.org/anchor-page-for-avian-preserve>
15 North Kent Road, Kent, CT 06757

REGISTER HERE



Please wear sturdy footwear and bring a water bottle.

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!



[Visit our website to donate online](#)

Kent Land Trust | PO Box 888 | Kent, CT 06757 US

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