



Winchester Land Trust

June 2016 Newsletter

Earth Day 2016 – “Taming the Dreaded Invasive Species”

Multiflora Rose. Bittersweet. Japanese Knotweed. Burning Bush. What are these unwanted plants doing in Connecticut and hence on Winchester Land Trust (WLT) property? How do we get rid of them?

Unfortunately, there are many ways invasive species can spread. Birds are one of the most common means of spreading unwanted seed in all kinds of locations. Some species can spread through their runner roots (rhizomes) or via wind-blown seeds. Because these species often come from other countries, there are no predators to eat or compete with them. As a result, these strains are often found in newly disturbed areas including places where trees have been felled or along roadways where brush is cut back and there is plenty of sunshine.

WLT and many volunteers are steadily working to reduce the number of invasive species on our properties. Volunteers cut the invasives back and try to keep the areas mowed, often returning to cut new plants which always grow back in the spring.

WLT thanks the Snyder family for their ongoing work on the Crossroad.

Also, we thank CJ Kolek and the Leger family for taming the bittersweet at Hurlbut Fields and



Roxanne "the invasive species guru" Franconi explains how to cut Oriental bittersweet, seen on the tree behind her.



On the left, Augustus Pac cutting multiflora rose. On the right, Cassius "Cash" Pac is ready for a morning of cutting invasives.

the Pac family for their stewardship of the WLT Marshall Street property. Finally, we extend special thanks to Roxanne, “the Invasive Species Guru” Franconi, who has volunteered at several events, including Earth Day April 23, 2016. We appreciate everyone’s hard work!

What can you do to help? You could volunteer at one of WLT’s invasive species workshop/removal days. Or, if you are planting trees or shrubs at home, buy native specimens. Native plants provide food and habitat to birds and insects such as bees and butterflies.

Identifying and removing invasives is challenging but rewarding work. Please contact us if you would like to help.

Wildlife Outside Your Window!

Winchester Land Trust (WLT) sponsored an exciting, informative and interactive presentation by White Memorial Conservation Center at the Beardsley and Memorial Library on Friday, June 17, 2016. Education Director of White Memorial, Carrie Szved, guided more than 30 children and 20 adults through a menagerie of animals who live right here in the northwest corner of Connecticut. Everyone was amazed to meet Navar, a rescued red-tailed hawk. The children were encouraged to gently shake claws with a 20-plus, year-old eastern box turtle and to carefully stroke a spotted salamander! Carrie spoke about the great variety of animals in this area, including the porcupine, bobcat, snakes and the five-lined skink. Carrie’s program encouraged everyone to explore the WLT open spaces and to respect the wildlife we encounter.



Top right - Carrie Szved, from the White Memorial Conservation Center, with Navar; left - Rocky, the eastern box turtle, ready to meet presentation attendees; bottom right - Navar, the rescued red tail hawk.

A Trails Day Walk on the Ruez Trail

On a sunny Saturday on June 4, the Winchester Land Trust (WLT) hosted a Connecticut Trails Day event. A dozen people walked the Ruez Trail in Winchester. The group met on the green in Winchester Center, and then walked down the Old Waterbury Turnpike to the Ruez Trail. The Ruez Trail is located on a 26-acre property that was donated by the Ruez family in 2012. This property borders another 200 acres that the Winchester Land Trust already owns.



The hike started off on a rather steep incline through a variety of hardwoods. A quarter mile of the way up, the group met at a large erratic, a boulder left by a glacier long ago. The hikers rested, and took photographs. Shortly thereafter, the hikers found themselves at the top of the trail in a hemlock forest. The trail continued down through ravines and ferns, with a soundtrack of birds accompanying the group.

Finally, the trail looped to the beginning and everyone ended up where they began. A walk back up the Old Waterbury Turnpike brought the hikers back to the Winchester Center Green. A wonderful time was had by all.



*Top, walking along the Old Waterbury Turnpike.
Bottom, CT Trails Day - Ruez Trailhead*

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Stay in touch with the Winchester Land Trust

Winchester Land Trust's Facebook page is the best way to see the latest information regarding events such as our recent hike on the Ruez Trail. Our website is

www.winchesterlandtrust.org. You can email us at winchesterlandtrust@yahoo.com

or call us at 860.379.9622. We receive our

"snail mail" at P.O. Box 10, Winchester Center, CT 06094.



**The WLT Annual Meeting will be August 28, 2016, at 4:00 p.m.
at the gazebo on the Winchester Center green.**

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