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Northwest Connecticut  
Land Conservancy



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**August Newsletter**

## UPCOMING EVENTS



**Mount Tom Nature Walk**  
August 21  
RSVP to [events@ctland.org](mailto:events@ctland.org)



**Housatonic Heritage Hike**  
October 2  
RSVP to [events@ctland.org](mailto:events@ctland.org)

## Notes From the Field: Mallory Trail Expansion

The trail expansion at Sherman's **Mallory Preserve** continues with the help of local teens Dana Mckechnie (Sherman), Kira Feser (Holmes, NY), Tim Bensema (New Milford), Nick Chiarito (New Milford), and Tyler Pilch (New Milford) who did an incredible job in hot summer weather building the steepest sections of the new trail by hand.

This trail at **Mallory Preserve** required constructing stone steps to ensure the trail will not erode in poor weather. NCLC partnered with **Greenagers**, a nonprofit that provides employment and volunteer opportunities for teens and young adults in the fields of conservation, sustainable farming, and environmental leadership. Greenagers, led by Elia Del Molino, hired Dana, Kira, Tim, Nick, and Tyler, whose work was



funded by a generous gift from Grace Schneckenburger Parker, who donated the land for the preserve. Our Greenagers team, with shovels, rakes, picks, crowbars, sweat and elbow grease, spent a month digging, hauling, and setting boulders for future hikers. NCLC volunteers Bruce Price and James Wistman, and NCLC intern (and James' son) Noah Wistman, are finishing the flatter sections of the new "lollipop" loop.

This new trail should be open for visitors this fall. We'll have to celebrate with a hike when its finished. Hope to see you there.



## American Kestrel Nesting Box Update

**American kestrels** are the smallest falcons in North America, earning the nickname "sparrow hawk" for their small size and feisty spirit.

NCLC is thankful for volunteer Art Gingert and his passion for these charismatic birds. Since 2011, Art has banded kestrel nestlings at the

nesting boxes he has installed at seven NCLC conservation lands. This year we have nesting pairs at Litchfield's **Hauser Preserve**, Sherman's **Hadlow Preserve**, and Whipporwill Farm in Salisbury.

Between 1966 and 2017 the American kestrel population declined by about 51 percent according to the **North American Breeding Bird Survey**. Habitat loss, including of nesting sites and hunting grounds, is likely playing a role in this steep decline. **What will help kestrels thrive?** Protecting land from development, maintaining open meadow habitat for them to hunt, and thoughtfully placing nesting boxes to replace the dead trees lost to clearing or windstorms.



## **We're Hiring: Join the NCLC Team**

We are hiring a Program Administrator. The Program Administrator works with the Executive Director and other staff to support NCLC's administrative, financial, and communication needs. This is an equal opportunity, part-time, non-exempt position located in Kent, CT. **Please click here to read the full job description.** Send inquiries to **[work@ctland.org](mailto:work@ctland.org)**.





NCLC Staff on a hike at the **Hauser Preserve**, in Litchfield.

Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy is a nonprofit regional land trust and the largest land trust in the state. As a guardian of natural and working lands, public recreation areas, and drinking water resources, NCLC permanently protects 12,500 acres (and growing) of vast, connected natural areas in Litchfield and northern Fairfield Counties.

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**Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy**

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