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**Northwest Connecticut
Land Conservancy**



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December Newsletter

Dear Friend of NCLC,

It is difficult to believe that we are at the end of another year. 2022 has been wonderfully busy and we have much to report.



First, we celebrate the protection of our **48th working farm in Northwest**

Connecticut. Connecticut's farms rank in the top three for land most at risk in the country. Each farm saved is a significant victory made possible by our members.

This month, we also recognize several individuals that make NCLC's conservation work possible. Three of our most devoted, dedicated Directors are moving to Emeritus status. We would not be where we are without their years of extraordinary, voluntary service to the board.

In other people-related news, we are excited to introduce you to the Chair of NCLC's Brookfield Council and tell you about new additions to our staff team. You can read about our most recent hires here or come and meet them in person at **Meet Your Greens at Litchfield Distillery on January 11!**

All of our efforts to protect land in Northwest Connecticut, this month and throughout the year, depend on your generosity. I hope you will take time before December 31 to **renew your support**, as we continue to protect land and water for you, for wildlife, forever.

Sincerely,

Catherine M. Rawson
Executive Director



NCLC Conserves 48th Working Farm

Along the border between New Milford and Washington, 103 acres are now permanently protected as forest and farmland, thanks to the vision and commitment of its owner, Ramanan Raghavendran, who donated the land to create the Chapin Ramanan Farm. [Read More.](#)

Volunteers Recognized at Annual Meeting



NCLC's annual meeting and holiday party was a time to celebrate volunteers, partnerships, and share conservation goals for the region. More than 60 members from NCLC and land trusts throughout the region gathered at the Kent Community House on December 4 and enjoyed refreshments and good conversation. [Read More.](#)

Volunteer Spotlight

Lou Memoli is the former president of Brookfield Open Space Legacy, Inc (BOSLI), the current chair of NCLC's Brookfield Council, and a lifelong supporter of the environment. This month we asked Lou to share more about the role volunteering and the environment have played in his life.



Q: How did you become interested in the environment?

Lou: I have been an environmental enthusiast for most of my life. I've enjoyed hiking, biking, fishing, wildlife photography, and hunting (although I stopped hunting over 40 years ago). When I attended college as a biology major, all my electives were in the environmental sciences

(ecology, field biology, geology) - I even participated in the first Earth Day celebration. I consider myself an environmental scientist but not in the way most people might think. As a health physicist I studied the effects of radioactive contaminants in the environment and their effects on biological systems...pathways much like those of pesticides and other toxins. **Read More.**

2022 Directors Emeriti



Kirsten Peckerman



Linda Allard



Lennie Lillis

In 2022, three NCLC Board members were elected as directors emeriti in recognition of their extraordinary service, leadership, and commitment to conservation. Their work on behalf of Northwest Connecticut's natural and working lands has created a legacy that will benefit future generations. We are so grateful for their service. **Read More.**

Welcome Katy Kinsolving and Zach Adams

We are delighted to welcome two new staff members. Katy Kinsolving joined as our new director of philanthropy and Zach Adams joined as our public lands manager.



Katy Kinsolving is NCLC's new director of philanthropy. Formerly, she was the capital campaign manager at Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies in Millbrook, New York. Katy is a co-founder of C-Change Conversations, a non-partisan climate change education organization with national reach.



Zach Adams is NCLC's new public lands manager. Zach most recently worked for Mass Audubon as a teacher naturalist. He also served as president of the Lenox Land Trust, an all-volunteer land trust in Lenox, MA. Zach has spent much of his professional career within the Housatonic River watershed where he is dedicated to connecting people with nature.

Support Farmers, Shop Local

The holiday season is upon us! We are fortunate to live in an area with locally-grown and produced food, gifts, and decorations to help make celebrations special. **Since 1965, NCLC has protected 48 working farms and many sell directly to customers online.** Here are three farms to help you plan your celebrations. Stay tuned for our upcoming local farm guide.



Mayapple Hill Farm

Sells grass-fed lamb, pastured pork, and fresh eggs raised on the Smyrski Farm Preserve in New Milford. Mayapple also sells soap, yarn, felt, and other woolen goods.



Bella Alpacas

Stay toasty and warm this winter in alpaca mittens, hats, and socks. For those looking to gift an experience, Bella Alpacas offers farm tours.



Stuart Family Farm

Stuart Family Farm raises 100 percent grass-fed, beef in Bridgewater and on the Smyrski Farm Preserve in New Milford. They also raise pork and poultry.

Upcoming Event



MEET YOUR GREENS

NEW DATE
JANUARY 11
5:00 - 7:00 pm

**Litchfield
Distillery**

**569 Bantam Road
Litchfield, CT**

Light Refreshments will be provided.

*Co-sponsored by Litchfield Land Trust, Ripley Waterfowl Conservancy,
Rivers Alliance of Connecticut, and White Memorial Conservation Center.*



**Northwest Connecticut
Land Conservancy**

PROTECTING LAND AND WATER FOR PEOPLE, FOR WILDLIFE, FOREVER.



Job Opportunities

NCLC is hiring and we hope you will join our team. NCLC welcomes people of all backgrounds, identities, and beliefs to join us in achieving our mission to protect the lands and waters of Northwest Connecticut forever. **To apply for an open position, please visit our Job Opportunities page.**

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 13,000 acres (and growing) of vast, connected natural areas in Litchfield and northern Fairfield Counties.

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OUR TRAILS



Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy

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