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Northwest Connecticut  
Land Conservancy



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**June Newsletter**

Dear Friend of NCLC,

Early this past Sunday, I stood on the boardwalk at NCLC's **Wimisink Preserve** in Sherman with 12 fellow early risers for a bird walk. **We spent the morning listening to the chorus of wildlife and watching more than 35 species of birds.** Within minutes we spotted Kingfisher, Cedar waxwing, Green heron, Great blue heron, Red-winged blackbird, **and bird species listed as threatened and endangered here in Connecticut.**



The **Wimisink Preserve** lies within a larger geologic area known as the Marble Valley that runs along the western edge of Connecticut's Northwest Hills. This unique geology supports calcareous wetlands, areas rich in calcium carbonate, that are less acidic than the surrounding uplands. These wetlands, in turn, support numerous rare and endangered plant and animal species that have evolved to thrive in this singular environment.

With the support of our members, NCLC prioritizes conserving Connecticut's exceptional natural lands and waters like the **Wimisink Preserve**. **And we enjoy experiencing those places with you!**

**This weekend NCLC has two additional guided hikes as part of Connecticut Trails Day.** Our free, public events are great opportunities to meet fellow outdoor enthusiasts and enjoy time in nature. **I hope you will join us, and enjoy spending time on the land you have helped to conserve.**

With gratitude,

*Catherine*



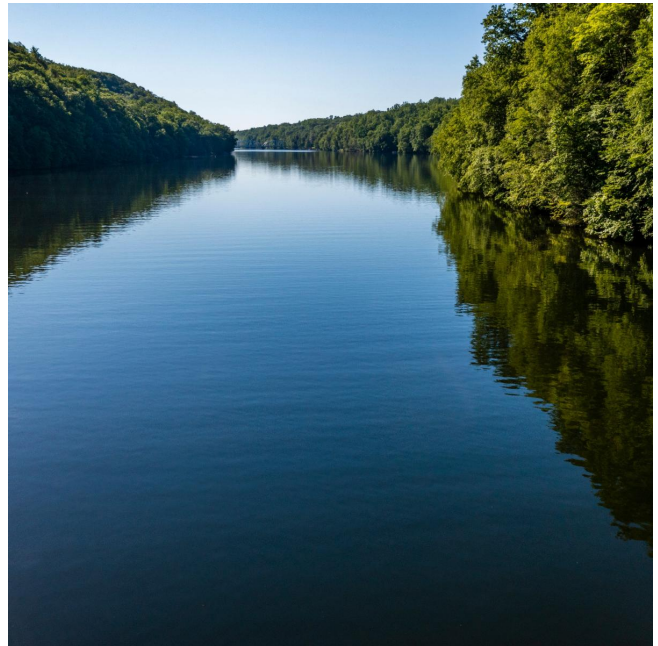
Catherine M. Rawson  
Executive Director



## Upcoming Events



**June 4**  
**CT Trails Day**  
**Mallory Preserve**  
Sherman



**June 5**  
**CT Trails Day**  
**Birch Rocks Preserve**  
Brookfield

# Tory's Cave

## A Refuge for Rare Bats



Until 2008, the **little brown bat** was one of the most common bat species in Connecticut. However, the introduction of *Pseudogymnoascus destructans*, the fungus that causes White-nose Syndrome, has decimated bat populations throughout the Northeast. As a result, the little brown bat is now a state-listed Endangered Species.

Our research at NCLC's Tory's Cave Preserve with the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) has documented two species of Endangered bats, including little brown bats, and the possible presence of a third species listed as Threatened. These bat species rely on the cave as a hibernaculum to overwinter. NCLC partners with state biologists to record bat vocalizations as they emerge from hibernation. These audio recordings are then used to identify the species present. **You can read more about our efforts to protect bat habitat here.**

## Green Drinks



After a long hiatus, Green Drinks is back! Join NCLC, Kent Land Trust, and Warren Land Trust for Green Drinks at Kent Falls Brewing on Thursday, June 30. This casual happy hour gathering of friends and neighbors is open to everyone. [Click here for more details.](#)



## Volunteer Spotlight

Volunteers are critical to land conservation and safe public recreation. NCLC is so grateful to our volunteers for helping steward these special places. If you are interested in volunteering, email [volunteer@ctland.org](mailto:volunteer@ctland.org) to learn more.



Thank you, Tucker, for your hard work on this kiosk! Tucker Butts, of Sherman pictured here with his father, Bill Butts, completed this kiosk project for his Eagle Scout project. In addition to this kiosk, Eagle Scouts from New Milford and



Teamwork makes the dream work! Thank you to our dedicated volunteers for installing a new bridge at the Birch Rocks Preserve in Brookfield.

Brookfield built two additional new kiosks this year.

Want to see this bridge in person?

**Join NCLC at Birch Rocks on June 5 for our Trails Day hike.**

## Event Recordings

Click below to watch recordings of our recent events. You can also visit our website for **all of our videos.**



**Video Recording:  
How Your Yard Can Help Birds**



**Video Recording:  
Wildlife Cameras 101**





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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**Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy**

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