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Northwest Connecticut
Land Conservancy



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June Newsletter

Dear Catherine,

It's officially summer, and as usual, we have many events lined up to celebrate the natural beauty of our region, from trail hikes to picnics to festive fundraisers. Tickets to our annual **Midsummer Party for Conservation** are selling quickly. If you are interested in attending this magical evening, I encourage you to buy your tickets now before we sell out.

The work of conservation is full of surprises, such as the exciting news that NCLC has confirmed the re-appearance of a native plant species called Indian paintbrush, which we thought may have vanished from New England. Our staff members also participated in a program to bring back the majestic American chestnut tree, a species of enormous native trees that once covered the east coast from Georgia to Michigan. Unfortunately, we balance these successes with news that another species -- the **American kestrel** -- is facing a serious decline in numbers. NCLC has kestrel boxes at many of our public preserves in an effort to reverse this trend.

Whether you are interested in protecting endangered species, finding new trails to hike, or meeting up with others interested in nature, I encourage you to read on and discover all that NCLC is doing to protect the places you love.

I look forward to seeing you outdoors this summer!



Catherine M. Rawson
Executive Director



Found! Indian Paintbrush



Indian paintbrush is a flowering herb that once grew in every New England state, except Vermont. **By 2001, this strikingly beautiful species was gone from all of New England except for four locations in**

Connecticut. Since that time, reports of Indian paintbrush have dwindled further. **This month, NCLC confirmed that Indian paintbrush is still growing in Connecticut at one of its conserved properties. Safeguarding rare plants and animals such as Indian paintbrush is only possible thanks to the enduring support of our members.**

Indian paintbrush is hemiparasitic, which means it produces energy through photosynthesis, as well as by tapping the roots of neighboring host plants for nutrients. In turn, Indian paintbrush is a critical host plant for many species and is especially adapted for hummingbird pollination. It is a reminder of the dependence of all species on one another.

Indian paintbrush has vivid scarlet bracts, which appear to have been dipped in paint and nearly hide its small, greenish flowers. In Connecticut, this native plant typically flowers from late May to the middle of June.

Hope for the Lost Giants of the Eastern Forests



The American chestnut has been called "the redwood of East," because of its grand size. It's annual bounty of chestnuts also fed people and animals, and were a staple for holiday celebrations. However, at the turn of the 20th century, an invasive disease called chestnut blight swept through the forests of the Eastern United States and decimated billions of majestic 100-foot tall

American chestnut trees, fundamentally changing eastern American forests from Georgia to Michigan.

In recent years, scientists have been working on a variety of experiments to reintroduce a blight-resistant chestnut tree to Eastern forests. One such experimental plot has its home in our region. On property owned by NCLC and Rock Cobble Farm, a small orchard of American chestnut trees was planted by the American Chestnut Society. This month, NCLC staff participated in the process of inoculating these trees with the blight virus. The goal is to identify which of the trees is able to resist the virus.

Upcoming Events



**Bird Watch and Hike at Hauser
Nature Preserve**
July 15
Litchfield

[Register Here](#)

A promotional poster for the 'Meet Your Greens' event. The background is a scenic view of a river flowing through a valley with rolling hills. The text is overlaid on a green and blue background. The Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy logo is in the top right corner.

**MEET
YOUR
GREENS**
JULY 20
5:00 - 7:00 pm
Hopkins
Vineyard
25 Hopkins Rd,
Warren

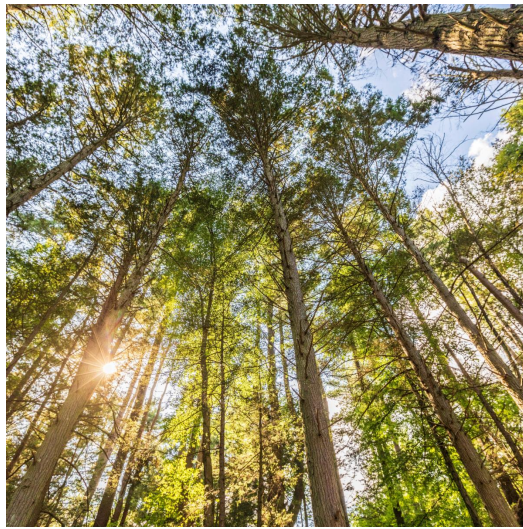
Light Refreshments will be provided.

*Co-hosted by
The Kent Land Trust, Steep Rock Association,
and Warren Land Trust*

This casual event is free, open to the public, and an excellent opportunity to get to know others working or volunteering in the conservation field.

Meet Your Greens
July 20
Warren

[Learn More](#)



**Explore the Forests of the
Mount Tom Preserve**

August 5
New Milford

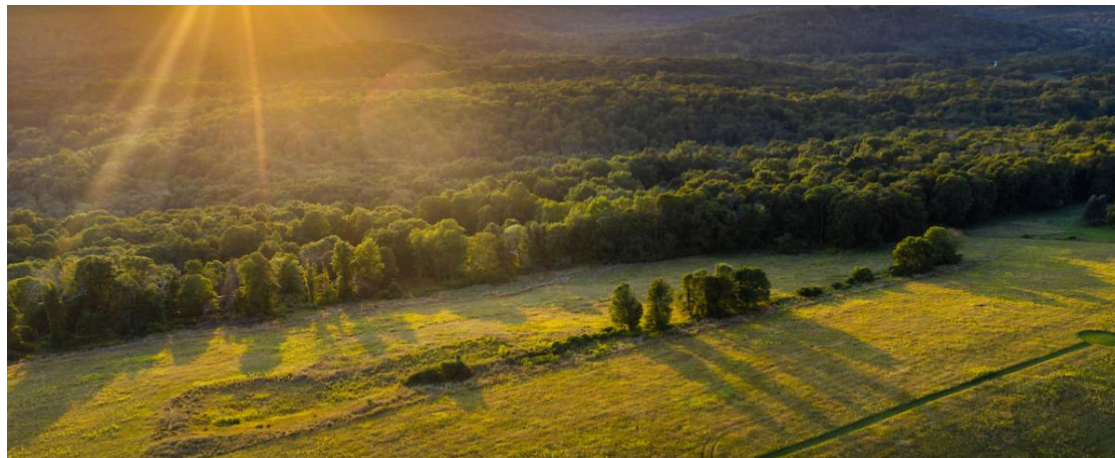
[Register Here](#)



**Midsummer Party for
Conservation**

August 12
Bridgewater

[Purchase Ticket](#)



Save the Date



We have a new date! Mark your calendars, the NCLC Annual Picnic will be **Saturday, September 30** at the Hadlow Preserve in Sherman from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm. This picnic is free, family-friendly, and an opportunity to soak up the beautiful views. We hope to see you there.

On the Trails for CT Trails Day

Another Trails Day is in the books! This year's hikers at the Birch Rocks Preserve in Brookfield were delighted to see a patch of showy orchids. Have you visited Birch Rocks? Its rolling trails will take you through hardwood forests, over bridges, and along the shores of Lake Lillinonah. Plan your trip to the **Birch Rocks Preserve**.



Spring Fling Fun



When people come together to share their connection with the environment, great things happen! At this year's Spring Fling, the Sherman community celebrated the vital role that local communities and individuals play in conservation. It was terrific to see so many friends and neighbors. Thank you for your support of the lands and waters of Sherman and beyond.



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 13,200 acres (and growing) of vast, connected natural areas in Litchfield and northern Fairfield Counties.

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GET INVOLVED

OUR TRAILS

Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy

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