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Northwest Connecticut  
Land Conservancy



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

## April Newsletter

Dear Catherine,

I am delighted to announce that Hiram Williams, NCLC's former President, has been honored as a **Conservation Hero by the Connecticut Land Conservation Council**. Hiram's unwavering dedication to environmental stewardship and his tireless efforts in championing conservation initiatives have made a significant impact on our region. His leadership and passion inspire us all to continue striving for a more sustainable future. Congratulations, Hiram, on this well-deserved recognition!

Trees are in full bud and snow is falling, signs that the climate is changing in New England. To help farmers address the challenges of our changing weather patterns, NCLC offers both **climate-smart assessments** and

**climate-smart implementation grants** to land trusts, farmers, municipalities, and other farmland owners in the region. I encourage you to **find out more** about applying for these grants.

The upcoming solar eclipse is yet another reminder of the power and beauty of nature. If you plan to view the eclipse on April 8th, please remember to protect your eyes by wearing safety glasses. NCLC's **Hadlow Preserve** in Sherman, **Hauser Preserve** in Litchfield, and **Cobble Brook Vista** in Kent, all offer wide open spaces for best eclipse viewing. Spring is also a time of joyful sounds. Head to the **Towner Hill Preserve**, **Mallory Preserve**, **Mount Tom Preserve**, or **Wimisink Preserve** to experience a veritable chorus of spring peepers, birds, and other wildlife.

A gentle reminder that **Give Local**, the online fundraising program in our region, begins on April 24th. As a regular reader of this newsletter, you know that we have been busy conserving extraordinary parcels of land -- from Colebrook in the north to Brookfield in the south. Our work is made possible by you -- our members. I hope you will consider a gift through the Give Local campaign, a program of the Connecticut Community Foundation.

Finally, we are hiring! I urge you to look at these **job opportunities**. We are searching for talented, dedicated professionals to help us protect more of the natural beauty of Northwest Connecticut. Please get contact us if you or someone you know is interested.

Warm regards,



Catherine M. Rawson  
Executive Director



**NCLC Board Member Recognized as**

# Conservation Hero

Hiram Williams, NCLC's former board president, was awarded the **Conservation Hero** award at this year's CLCC conference in recognition of his extraordinary service to land conservation in Connecticut. Fortunately for NCLC, Hiram continues to serve as a board member, providing wise advice and context on the complex issues of land conservation in Connecticut.



Hiram joined the board in 2005 and became president in 2010. He guided Weantinoge (as it was then known) through two mergers with Brookfield Open Space Legacy in 2019 and Naromi Land Trust in 2020, to create NCLC. Under Hiram's extraordinary service as president, NCLC's landholdings grew by over 4,500 acres. Hiram also dedicated his time and energy to building an effective team, including both board and staff, that is prepared to guide NCLC through the challenge of perpetuity.

Hiram stepped down as president in 2023 but continues to serve on the NCLC board, sharing his insights and institutional knowledge. Hiram now serves as chair of NCLC's acquisition and stewardship committee. During his time as committee chair, NCLC significantly accelerated the pace of acquisitions through innovative strategies and increased the pursuit of land purchases. Most recently, he helped lead the discussion, and ultimate agreement to preserve 5,300 acres of water company supply lands in northern Connecticut. Hiram was deeply involved in the work that led to the Memorandum of Understanding with the water company and consistently made himself available for consultation on this unique acquisition project.

**You can read more about NCLC's board of directors and community advisory councils on our website [here](#).**

***We're Hiring!***  
**Summer Land Stewards**



Do you know a young conservationist? Each year NCLC welcomes summer Land Stewards for a paid 10-week program to advance their education and career opportunities in conservation. Our Land Stewards care for our public nature preserves and working farms, provide stewardship support to partner land trusts, and participate in educational, technological, and scientific trainings and activities. NCLC's paid summer internships are made possible by the Memorial Fund for Elizabeth de Lambert. Elizabeth was a dedicated board member of Brookfield Open Space Legacy, Inc., and a strong advocate for connecting young people to the natural world. Our special thanks go to the de Lambert family for making our summer intern program possible! **[Click here for more information.](#)**

## **Apply Now to NCLC's *Building Resiliency on Northwest Connecticut Farmland* Agriculture Grant Program**

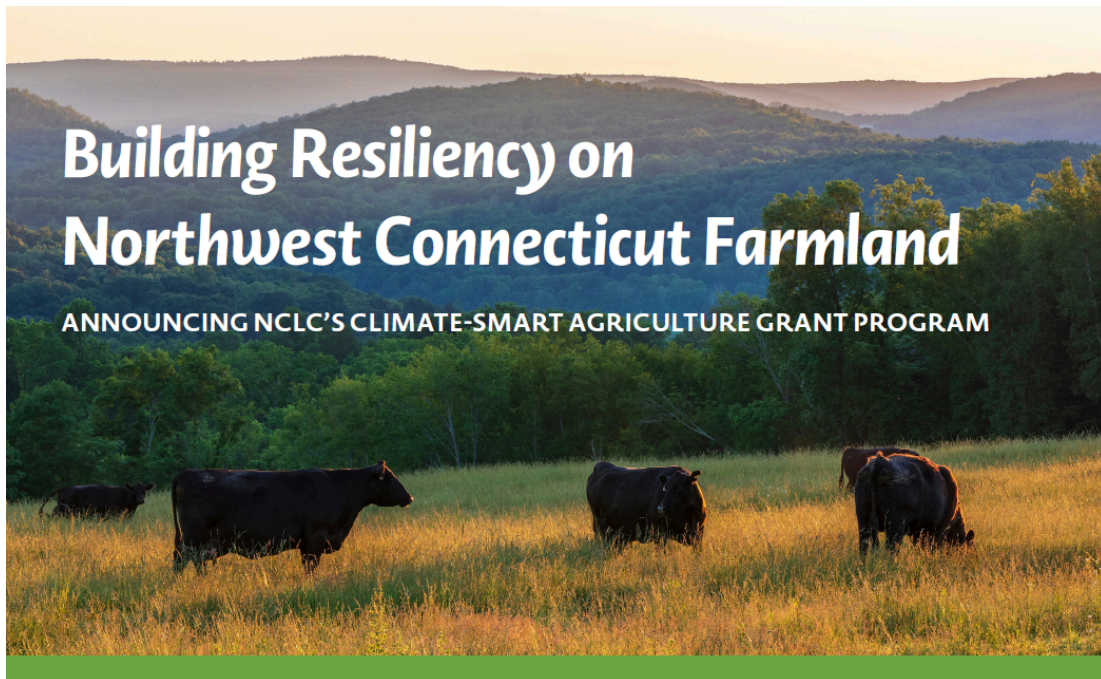
NCLC is pleased to announce the **Building Resiliency on Northwest Connecticut Farmland grant program**, made possible through a generous grant from the Connecticut Department of Agriculture's Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry (CSAF) program. The following individuals and entities are eligible for funding:

- Agricultural producers and agricultural cooperatives
- Land trusts
- Municipalities
- Non-profit organizations

NCLC is now accepting applications for **climate-smart agricultural assessments** and the **implementation of climate-smart solutions** on farms in Northwest Connecticut.

For more information on the assessment program, view the information session recording, slides, and FAQs **[here](#)**.

For more information on the implementation program, view the information session recording, slides, and FAQs are [here](#).



## Upcoming Events

**Give Local**, the annual, online fundraising campaign for non-profit organizations in Northwest Connecticut, is **Wednesday, April 24 and Thursday, April 25**.

With all that is going on in the world, it is a salve to do something positive to make our corner a better place. We hope you consider a gift to NCLC to protect the land, for you, for wildlife, for ever.





**Woodbury Earth Day**

Saturday, April 20

10 AM to 3 PM



**Meet Your Greens**

Thursday, April 25

5 PM to 7 PM



**Smyrski Farm Bird Walk**

Saturday, May 4

7 AM to 9 AM



**New Office Open House**

Thursday, May 9

4 PM to 6 PM



**Meet Your Greens**

Thursday, May 30



**CT Trails Day**

Saturday, June 1

## Stewardship Spotlight

### Spring in 360 Surround Sound

Click here to enjoy the sounds of spring at the **Mallory Preserve** in Sherman. Plan a visit to take in this special seasonal soundtrack.



## ***We're Hiring!*** **Join the NCLC Team and Save the Land You Love**

NCLC is growing and we are actively seeking to fill two full-time and two part-time positions: **Senior Land Protection Specialist**, **Communications Manager**, and two **Summer Land Stewards**. NCLC is an equal opportunity employer and we welcome 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. As a guardian of natural and working lands, public recreation areas, and drinking water resources, NCLC permanently protects 13,300 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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