

**North Stonington Citizens Land Alliance**  
PO Box 327, North Stonington, CT 06359  
*We Invite You to Join Us!*

Name-----

Address-----

Town, state, zip-----

Telephone-----

E-mail-----

Yearly Dues, \$15.00 each person-----

Open Land Fund \$-----

Contribution \$-----

NSCLA, non-profit 501-C-3 since 1987. All contributions are tax deductible. We receive and appreciate matching grants.

Telephone: 860-599-5517

Email: [landallianceinc@gmail.com](mailto:landallianceinc@gmail.com)

WEB [www.nslandalliance.org](http://www.nslandalliance.org) or [landalliance.org](http://landalliance.org)

**North Stonington**  
C · I · T · I · Z · E · N · S  
**Land Alliance**

PO Box 327, North Stonington CT 06359

**PLEASE ACCEPT AN  
EVERGREEN SEEDLING  
FROM  
THE LAND ALLIANCE  
EARTH DAY, APRIL 22  
AT  
WHEELER LIBRARY  
APRIL 22, 23 ,24**

*(We purchase and pick up the bareroot seedlings from Eastern Connecticut Conservation District group as we have in the past, their plants are indigenous to Connecticut, enjoy!)*

*Board Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month, September through June at the Elementary School and July and August at members' homes.*

*Board Members: Madeline Jeffery, William Hixson, Belinda Learned, Elizabeth Perkowski, Helen Lauterio, Julie Lanier*

Members: CT Land Conservation Commission (CLCC)  
Watershed Watch Program, University of Rhode Island

### ***Land Alliance Mission***

*... Conservation and maintenance of North Stonington's rural character  
... Preservation of North Stonington's natural resources, water courses, farmlands, as well as our scenic rural and historic sites  
... Care of open lands with a balance of agriculture, housing, and businesses  
... land for conservation and preservation to be acquired and to be held in trust  
... to be advocates for educational and scientific studies that guide and support the group's mission*

Non Profit  
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## **North Stonington Citizens Land Alliance NewsBrief**

**March 2014**

**The Land Alliance** continues to pay attention to North Stonington's natural environment, its rural attributes, open lands, archeology, and history; we see them co-mingling and in harmony in many ways.

Our 501-c-3 charitable non-profit status allows land preservation opportunities for both private owners and the business community.

Let us know if you have any questions or thoughts about a land conservation issue, we will be glad to sit down and talk about your ideas and to help find answers both to the possibilities and problems around your land questions.

860-599-5517 or  
Email: [landallianceinc@gmail.com](mailto:landallianceinc@gmail.com)

### **Thoughts: North Stonington Town and Its Own Land**

It is a reality to many of us that the town of North Stonington itself has taken a fresh turn in not only wanting but in seeking open lands for its townspeople.

For a long, long time, what we heard about open land was that "the state had enough of it in town and that we didn't need anymore."

It is good for townspeople to have town recreation fields and camping sites and places to walk and jog. It is good to have community places to bicycle and ride horses and swim and hold town events.

Town Lands are open and susceptible to changes from referenda as years pass, some changes for the good, some not.

For a long time, Land Trust lands have been and will continue to be vital players. There probably is no such thing as forever when talking about land protection, but Land Trusts, history in town shows, hold on tight to their mission to hold and protect as written in their deeds and have a committed and serious core of members.

### **Land Alliance In the Field, Deeds and Cameras, Work Boots and Survey Tape in Hand Wyassup Preserve**

This 45 acre preserve is in (3) sections, not far from Wyassup Lake's lakefront, mostly wooded, some wetlands, some nice boulders and stone walls. Land Alliance Preserve signs have been going up where necessary and will continue being placed.

**Wyassup east**, 10 acres, opens along Wyassup Road, Its longest boundary is down the center of Wyassup Brook with State land on the other side. It has interesting possibilities for a small foot path.

**Wyassup central:** a 10 acre preserve, wooded, with its north boundary along the southern line of Armstrong Pentway, a non-town-owned 50' wide road lined mostly houses that have lake frontage. Land Alliance has brought in the original 1987 surveyors to relocate the eight original cement Pentway markers, to add a series of rebars missing from a recent survey, and to add new curve markers for boundary clarity. There is an elegant stone wall, interesting wetlands and hilly terrain.

**Wyassup west:** a 25-acre preserve, with its opening along Wyassup Lake Road. It has good and natural possibilities for relocating or creating fresh trails that might link with other properties. Hopefully this Spring will find us out there with compass, camera, and tape. A grand ledge and rock outcroppings will soon be investigated. Homeowners in this area are lucky to be encircled by all these preserved hilly areas of open and protected land.

**"Lakes are a reflection of the lands that drain into them."  
NE Chapter of North American  
Lake Management Society**

### ***Edwina's Preserve***

This preserve is diagonally across the Lower Trail of our Fowler Grindstone Preserve. It holds the neighborhood uniqueness together, creating the junction between Fowler and Grindstone Hill Roads. We have begun to place small boundary signs here. There is a nice dry hill section along a stone wall, with wetland along the road frontage. It is a nice addition to Fowler Grindstone. This part of North Stonington is rich in history and holds onto a sense of forest privacy.

## Wait Until You See This

Bruce Fellman, North Stonington's naturalist, journalist and photographer, has put together an elegant WEB site! Check it out.

Diary entries from Bruce's notebook uses words and full color photographs together as one. A contemplative beauty spills over the pages, thoughtful and personal, with a feeling for the images he seeks on his North Stonington walks.

Bruce's diary is only one small and intimate connection with the artwork. There are 3,000 slides of birds, trees, insects, plants, bucolic scenes, brooks and ponds—all taken close up during different times of the year. Bruce's work is unassuming in its own special way; it preserves the town's natural beauty without the burden of dealing with the deeds and public hearings and surveys.

To open this WEB site: on your computer, click on: <http://brucefellman.zenfolio.com>.

## NS Passes 2013 Plan of Conservation & Development

After two Public Hearings held at Wheeler Library, and Planning and Zoning's approving vote of 4-0 in December 2013, North Stonington now has a new Plan of Conservation and Development 2013 (POCD) that also includes a separate section for The Plan of Conservation Lands (POCL.)

It has been described as, "North Stonington's long-range Comprehensive Plan, with recommended goals and objectives serving as the town's strategic plan for the future and are in turn supported by the zoning and subdivision regulations, town ordinances, and actual land use decisions."

The POCD was conceived, organized and written mostly by Juliet Leeming, NS planner and zoning officer. The POCL is a freshly updated plan written with William Ricker, NS Conservation Commission. Both plans were produced over a period of two years and were completed on time to meet the State's time frame.

There was a Steering Committee composed of members from Town Hall Commissions and Committees as well as several persons from outside the Commissions. Madeline Jeffery assumed a membership role for NS Citizens Land Alliance.

Legally the ultimate and final choices and decisions fell to Planning and Zoning to make. They worked from page after page of notes and text written and rewritten and submitted by committee members into that one final proof that was approved.

The POCD is in full color and its text is surrounded by photographs, fold-out maps, graphs, and charts. A separate 13-page Action Plan has been drawn up for immediate use, with working lists of items for possible work groups both in and outside of Town Hall. The (4) categories are:

- : Enhancing Community
- : Growing the Economy
- : Preserving the Environment and Rural Character
- : Increasing Housing Choices and Affordability

A paper copy of the Plan can be found for study at Town Hall and at Wheeler Library.

For an online copy: click your computer to: [northstoningtontownhall.gov](http://northstoningtontownhall.gov) then click on Planning & Zoning then click on Plan of Conservation & Development

As time passes, it will be of great interest to the people who helped with the plan (and to the people who did not help, as well) to take part in the processes of trying to turn what had begun as written words on paper into possibilities of becoming reality for North Stonington.

**"Did You Remember To Turn Off The Lights?"** (Does anybody say that anymore, probably not.)

We talk about wanting to protect earth's natural resources. Sky is right there, too. We are connected to both.

"The Natural Night is a disappearing resource,"\*  
Indoors, we can learn to turn off the lights we really don't need. Outdoors, we can learn to direct the light we do use onto the subject itself and not uselessly up into the night. Just these 2 considerations alone will help hold onto our part of the sky.

\*The Internatkiional Dark-Sky Association

## Full Moons and Their Natrually Bright Nights

Turn off all the lights in the house, run around outside and soak up the stunning, moonlit panorama! Here is a list of well-known Native American Full Moon names:

January 16	Wolf Moon
February 14	Snow Moon
March 16	Worm Moon
April 15	Pink Moon
May 14	Flower Moon
June 13	Strawberry Moon
July 12	Buck Moon
August 10	Sturgeon Moon
September 9	Harvest Moon
October 8	Hunter's Moon
November 6	Beaver Moon
December 6	Cold Moon

## **North Stonington: Full of Beautiful Mosses: Is there a person in town who has a moss Garden to visit?**



**Photo taken: moss in North Stonington, November 2013**

It was brilliantly green when everything else around was brown and grey and beige. It shown with a silken sheen like a jewel, soft to the touch like a sheep's wooly ear. There are 14, 500 species of known mosses in the world, from sea level to great heights. We believe that this photograph is one of the Dicranum species in Connecticut. It grows in tufts and in moist forest areas and on dry soil.



**Photo taken: the same clump of moss, Feburary 2014, ermerging after three and one half months deep in a snow bank plowed 4 times.**

It has continued to emerge, green, moist. from its wintery cover. Mosses are not parasites, taking their nourishment and water through their leaves and growing on trees and rocks There are moss farms that grow and sell many varieties of moss for gardeners.

## 3 Road Side Conundrums

1.

There are things we know-- WE KNOW-- that are not good for our environment, example: using salt on the roads to combat ice and freezing snow on driveways, sidewalks, and pathways.

**And Yet!** Forget trying to drive somewhere without salt having been spread on all that ice and snow for weeks and weeks. Without the salt and gravel, there was no way most of us were going anywhere, snow tires, four-wheel drive or not, and, here we have to say it, environment or not?

*We want safe winter roads, even though it means using salt—even less salt-- so serious a water, plant, and soil pollutant. Can there be a different answer to salt?*

2.

All along our town and state roads, we have had to watch as hundreds of trees and shrubs have been chopped, mangled, topped, and felled to keep overhead wires cleared, done, we have been told, to help us keep our power during storms, hurricanes, and high winds. Certain roads really took a hit, others, interestingly, less so.

**And Yet!** We go through the storms, hoping desperately that the power will stay on! It pretty much has stayed on these past few months. Was it all that tree trimming and thinning that did it, or was it weeks of definitely less high winds? Was it some of each? It depends whom you ask.

*We cannot have the lives we do today without electricity coming into our homes and we also don't want our roadside trees to go. What are some of the steps to have both?*

3.

Q: What is the environmental threat that Mt. Everest\* in Nepal and the farm fields of Solothurn, Switzerland\* and North Stonington, Connecticut have in common? It is called litter; junk thrown along their paths and roadways; plastic pieces, food wrappers, aluminum cans, glass bottles, foam pieces, cigarette butts, bottle caps, torn mattresses and straws!

**And Yet!** We encourage the enjoyment of being along our different yet beautiful lands. We need to find practical answers to who does litter and why. We need to increase our personal trash pick-up focus so that it includes the entire length of our personal land holding along the road. Perhaps we need to increase our personal responsibility to keep a whole roadway clean in a systemized way. Mt Everest now requires that each climber take out more than he brought in; Solothurn, Switzerland,— with its orderly Swiss reputation— and other areas there, have a concerted, beginning anti-litter campaign."

\*New York Times, Nov 5, 2013