



Coexisting with Beavers in Mendell's Folly

Because beavers play an important role in creating healthy wetlands that support many plants and animals, the Bethany Land Trust has worked to successfully coexist with them at Mendell's Folly, a property made even more special by their presence. Several years ago, when beaver activity threatened to flood hiking trails, the Land Trust hired Diane Honer, a Certified Beaver Wetland Professional, to install a pond leveler system that has kept water off the trails while allowing the beavers to remain.

More recently, the beavers have constructed several new dams, and the Trail Crew has removed some of them because rising water was threatening trails, a bridge, and neighboring properties. Ms. Honer has once again been retained to help guide our ongoing coexistence efforts, and we are closely monitoring the situation with the assistance of nearby neighbors. If you notice flooding on the trails, please notify the Land Trust by email BethanyLandTrustCT@gmail.com or by submitting a Trail Condition Report through our website at <https://bethanylandtrust.org/trail-condition-report-form/>

Loop Trail Hall of Fame First International Member

While visiting the United States, Su Zhao of Jinan, China became the first international member of the Land Trust's Loop Trail Hall of Fame. On June 29th and 30th, she and Paul Stabach of Woodbridge completed hiking the Southern Blue Loop and the Northern Green Loop Trails and submitted photos of their hikes to become eligible. For their efforts, Su and Paul each received a Land Trust tee shirt, a Hall of Fame enamel pin, and have been highlighted on both our Facebook page and the Land Trust website.

The Land Trust invites hikers of all interests to enjoy our many trails but have decided to feature those who've completed two of our longer trails. For full membership criteria, visit our website.

August Bethany Bog Hike: Sunday, August 16th, 1-3 P.M.

Join us as we walk the trails of Veteran's Park up to the Bethany Bog. Formerly known as Lebanon Swamp, the Bethany Bog, is situated on 62 acres of land owned by Yale University and some private parcels. In the 1800s, a landowner kept a sailboat on a large area of open water in the swamp. Eventually, plants such as sphagnum moss colonized the water, built up organic matter (peat), and eventually converted the pond into today's land-based bog.

To register: contact Bob Harrison by August 14th via cell at 203-506-5888 or bjh51box@gmail.com

Parking: We will meet in the Veterans Park parking lot at 265 Beacon Road (Route 42) in Bethany at 1:00 PM.

Bob Harrison, Bethany Land Trust Trails Chair