

ANNUAL REPORT

A newsletter published by the **Darien Land Trust**, an independent, non-profit organization



Fall
2014

Our Mission

The DLT permanently preserves and restores open space, providing the community with environmentally rich habitats, scenic vistas, opportunities for educational experiences and the quiet enjoyment of nature.

Tiger Swallowtail in Brendan's Meadows

A Tribute To Our Supporters And Volunteers

From Chris Filmer, President

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

My three years are up and I am writing my last letter to you as President of the Darien Land Trust (DLT). I have been a trustee for 18 years and am still filled with enthusiasm for the Mission (see box above), which your support has allowed us to accomplish.

Your generosity has enabled us to add 53 acres to our portfolio since the year 2000.

It costs approximately \$140,000 a year to run the Darien Land Trust. And it takes the combined efforts of 23 volunteer trustees to be effective. These efforts include raising funds, fiscal control & compliance, taking care of over 200 acres, acquiring more land, shining our light on the community that supports us and finding new board members who will give us their best.

We are fortunate to have really talented people leading our six committees: Development, Finance, Stewardship, Land Review, Outreach & Nominating.

I hope you will attend our Annual Meeting at the Wee Burn Club on November 16 at 5:00pm and meet our team. They will include our Executive Director Shirley Nichols who coordinates everything and keeps us focused, also our "Volunteer of the year" Thad Hall and incoming President Flip Huffard.

At the meeting I will give a slide presentation, which will capture some of our past accomplishments, and future plans. I think you will enjoy seeing some familiar faces, places and events as well as some before & after shots and beautiful wild life photographs.

We will be handing over the reins to a new generation, now literate in the ways of land conservation, and I am confident that the DLT will be in good hands.

Chris Filmer

YEARS ENDED JUNE 30 2014 AND 2013

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES**REVENUE AND SUPPORT:**

Membership	\$148,688	\$135,895
Investment Income, Including Unrealized Gains (Losses)	19,119	22,538
Contributions and Grants	28,833	15,373
Contribution for Land Acquisition	—	1,950,000

Total Revenue and Support

2014	2013
\$196,640	\$2,123,806

EXPENSES:

Program Services	\$112,805	\$116,371
Management and General	16,289	15,837
Fundraising	12,666	14,831

Total Expenses

\$141,760	\$147,039
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Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets

\$54,880	\$1,976,767
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Net Assets—Beginning of Year

\$26,270,989	\$24,294,222
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Net Assets—End of Year

\$26,325,869	\$26,270,989
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BALANCE SHEET**2014****2013****ASSETS****CURRENT ASSETS:**

Cash and Equivalents	\$684,481	\$652,015
Investments	1,006,443	993,275
Pledges Receivable	—	5,000
Other Current Assets	1,544	1,528

Total Current Assets

\$1,692,468	\$1,651,818
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Restricted Cash

20,194

—

Land & Conservation Easements

24,629,634

24,629,634

Total Assets

\$26,342,296	\$26,281,452
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LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**LIABILITIES:**

Accounts Payable	4,390	2,596
Accrued Liabilities	12,037	7,867

Total Liabilities

16,427	10,463
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NET ASSETS:

Unrestricted	\$1,676,041	\$1,641,355
Other Net Assets	20,194	—
Land & Conservation Easements	24,629,634	24,629,634

Total Net Assets

\$26,325,869	\$26,270,989
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Total Liabilities and Net Assets

\$26,342,296	\$26,281,452
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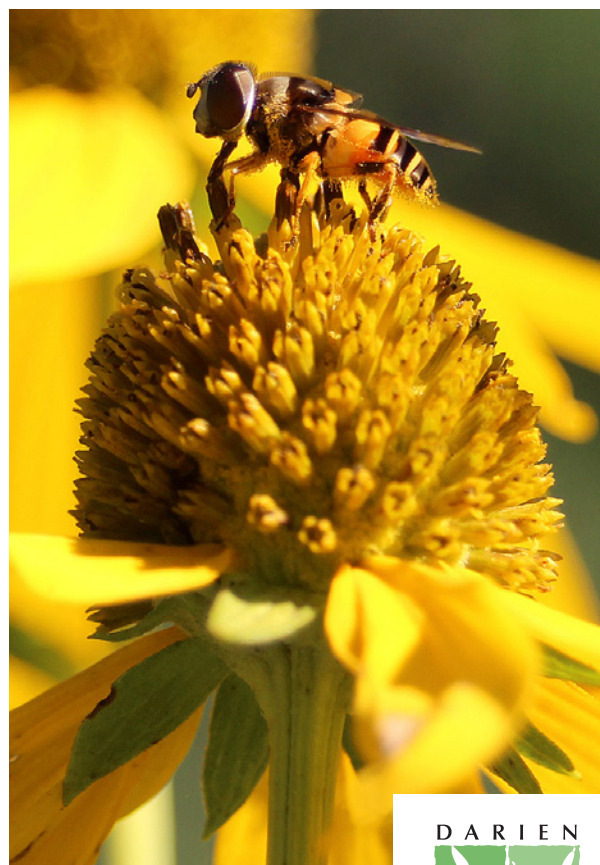


Photo taken in Mather Meadows
by Chris Bosak, copyright 2014

D A R I E N



LAND TRUST

Darien Land Trust Donor List 2013-2014

This annual report serves to recognize and thank the donors to our 2013-2014 Annual Campaign.

We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of this list and apologize for any inadvertent errors or omissions.

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IN HONOR OF KAREN CALBY

Lisa and Peter Thoren

IN HONOR OF KAYE RAMSDEN

Kimberly Greene



Unsung Heroes

At the Darien Land Trust we consider it a privilege to be stewards of our open spaces. Beyond our working Board of 23 Trustees and an Executive Director, achieving our mission each year requires that we rely on many other volunteers whose contributions go largely unsung. So, it is our great pleasure to thank some of them here.

This year we escaped the ravages of a major storm, though our properties bore the natural wear and tear of multiple deep snowfalls. When spring arrived we began the cleanup process to make the trails safe and navigable on our open access properties. For this, many of our volunteers joined in with the Friends of Selleck's Woods at Dunlap/Selleck's Woods. To name just a few, Kevin Papuga combed the woods twice a week to clean up litter and debris. Barnaby Taylor and Gill Kernan regularly lent their skillful hands to maintenance projects, like the deer fences we installed to protect native plants. And Eddie Drach generously made all the beautiful signs that guide visitors along the paths.

Our Outreach Committee was especially busy this year creating projects that enlightened and educated our community. We hosted two movies at the Darien Library and co-sponsored a lecture with the Tree Conservancy of Darien. We also held our second Celebration of the Woods in Dunlap/Selleck's Woods, the success of which owed much to Nina Miller who once again built Fairy Houses, Bill van Loan who



Den Frelinghuysen working hard in the woods with a chainsaw.

manned the butterfly garden, and Larry Flynn who headed up the bird exhibit.

We are fortunate to have attentive and involved neighbors who, as always, kept a careful watch on our open spaces throughout the year. Kim O'Keefe, one such neighbor, went above and beyond at our Olson Woods preserve. Whether it was a special clean-up day, watering new plantings or pitching in on our neighborhood family night with S'mores and a flashlight hike, Kim was always there to help.

We must mention, too, our many local businesses that supported our fundraising and awareness efforts. Special thanks go out to Nielsen's Florist who once again hosted a St Patrick's Day party and Leary's Liquor Cabinet who provided beverages.

Without the ongoing and generous help from our volunteers—the unsung heroes of the Darien Land Trust—we would be unable to achieve our mission year on year.



Arick Barsch and his amphibians at the Celebration of the Woods Family Day.



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IN THIS ISSUE: Annual Report, Unsung Heroes, Annual Meeting and more!

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**Fall
2014**

JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING

Open Space in Darien – Reflections and Moving Forward

Please join us for our Annual Meeting at 5pm on Sunday, November 16th at the Wee Burn Country Club.

This year we will be saying farewell to four valued Trustees: Ron D'Andrea, Gordon Hough, Kaye Ramsden, and Eileen Smith who have all contributed their time and energy to the Town's open spaces. Prior to the presentation, the election of officers and the nomination of new Trustees, Andy Cavanna, Tony Murray and Elizabeth Svedlund will take place.

The annual meeting is open to all and we hope everyone will join us again this year to receive the reflections of Chris Filmer on his time as DLT President and our mission going forward.



DLT President Chris Filmer will be passing the torch to Vice President Flip Huffard.