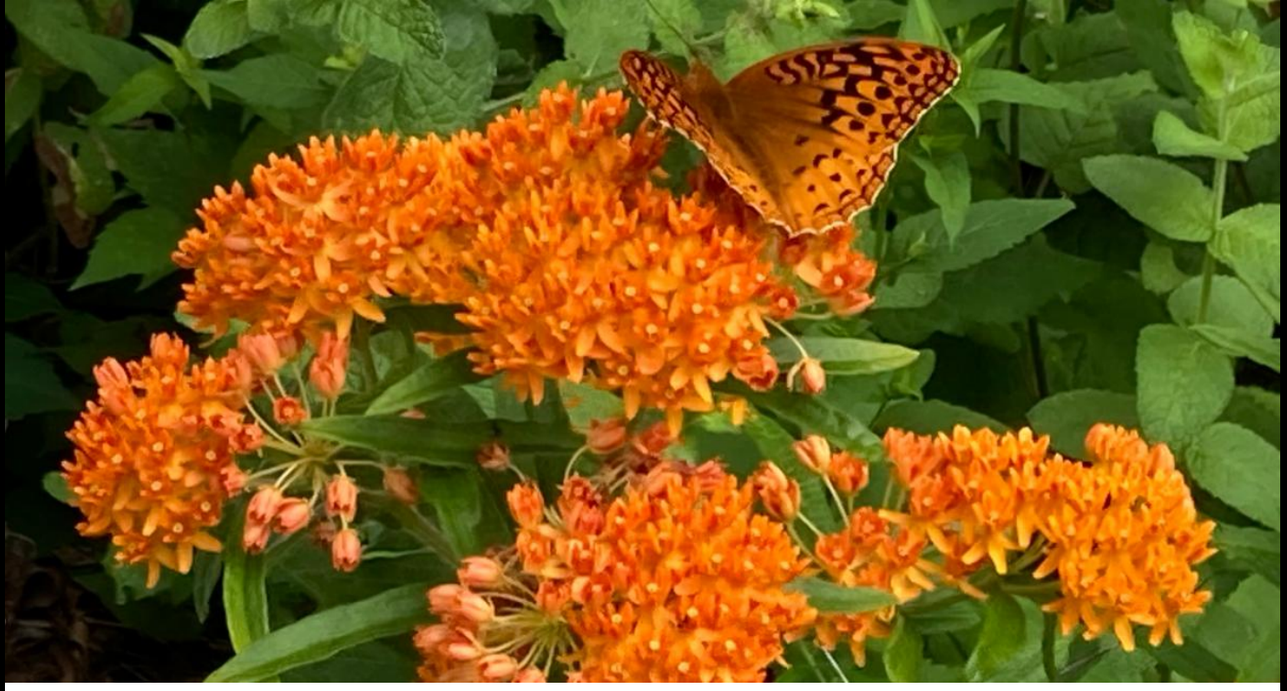

Photo: Great Spangled Fritillary on Butterfly Weed by Jim Sirch

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HLCT Fall 2025 Newsletter

Greetings!

Fall is a great time to take a hike or enjoy a reflective moment at one of your land trust's local properties - like Rocky Top Preserve (59 Rocky Top Road), Wolcott Falls (19 Timberwood Trail) or Johnson's Pond (277 Thornton Street). Land doesn't protect itself. Over the years, your dedicated, all-volunteer land trust has preserved these and other land parcels for the enjoyment of the public and to protect wildlife. We hope you enjoy reading about our latest accomplishments. Thank you for being a member and helping to preserve green spaces right here in Hamden.

Welcome to Your Newsletter

We've been busy making some bold changes. To better serve our members and reflect our passion for sustainability, we've taken our HLCT Newsletter digital. We hope you enjoy reading about what's in store for your land trust in the weeks and months ahead. We've been busy establishing plantings at our latest parcel Jepp Brook Preserve. We're also planning educational walks and other events. Why not come out and join one of our volunteer stewardship parties this fall? We'd love to see you.

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Helping to Make Hamden Greener for All

Pollinator Plants

Fall is a great time to plant for pollinators. Many local nurseries have native perennial pollinator plants on sale. Check out some of our favorites below. At this year's CAES plant science day, your land trust joined forces with the Connecticut Pollinator Pathway to give out free seeds for starting your own pollinator plants next season. We're also partnering with the Hamden Public Library to provide native pollinator planting workshops later this year. Save the date now for one of these three workshops led by HLCT Board Member Jim Sirch. Learn how to grow your own native pollinator plants the easy way. Registration through the library is required and will be available in November. l

Winter sowing workshops

Brundage Library: Wednesday, December 3, 6-7:45 p.m.

Whitneyville Library: Thursday, December 4, 6-7:45 p.m.

Miller Library: Saturday, December 6, 2-4 p.m.

And if you missed this year's CAES Plant Science Day at Lockwood Farm in Hamden, put it on your calendar for next year. It's a big deal. Each year, hundreds of people from across Connecticut converge on Lockwood Farm to visit nearly 100 exhibitors, hear talks, and learn more about issues like rewilding your yard, protecting trees, lantern flies, and more. It's been held on the first Wednesday of August every year since 1910 right here in Hamden.

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A Pollution Success Story

The Hamden Town Center Park Stormwater Retention Project is the largest of its kind in New England. Installed by Save the Sound in cooperation with the Town of Hamden, and a grant from the CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection, it features a section that was planted by your land trust with the help of a generous grant from the Claire C. Bennitt Watershed Fund of the Regional Water Authority.

Take advantage of two opportunities to learn more about this remarkable installation. The first is a Hamden Pubic Library walk-thru event on Saturday, September 20 from 1-2pm. **Registration is required**. HLCT Board Member Jim Sirch will lead a walk around the site, sharing his knowledge about the Connecticut native plants in your land trust's portion of the project. This is the first in a series of seasonal walks sponsored by the library. Meet at the lower end of the Hamden Middle School parking lot at 2623 Dixwell Avenue. Rain date is Sunday, September 21, same time.

The second event combines a presentation and site walk on September 27 from 1-3pm with HLCT Board Member Jim Sirch and Save the Sound Watersheds Project Manager Nicole Davis. This two-part presentation is designed to help the public better understand how the project, filled with hundreds of Connecticut native plants, works to infiltrate polluted stormwater runoff from Dixwell Avenue to make Town Center Park safer for children and families. Meet at the Hamden Public Library program room on the first floor. Rain date is Sunday, September 28, same time.

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Family Event: Bird and Build

Join us for a nature walk co-led by your land trust and the Hamden High School Bird Club followed by building a bird feeder at the Eli Whitney Museum. This family-friendly event takes place on Saturday, October 11: Nature Walk starts at 10am; Bird Feeder Build - Drop in between 11am and 3pm.

At the Eli Whitney Museum, 915 Whitney Avenue, in Hamden. Hosted by the HLCT, Eli Whitney Museum and the Hamden High School Bird Club.

Photo: Black-capped Chickadee by Paul Danese

You Make a Difference!

Sometimes the challenges of our environment are so large, it feels as if nothing we do can make a difference. But that's not really true. You make a difference just by being a member of your local land trust right here at home. Not yet a member? Join us and be part of a caring group of individuals who help keep Hamden green and healthy.

When you support open space protection in Hamden, you give a gift to families now and generations to come. With your help, your land trust preserves and stewards open space parcels, leads nature hikes, offers educational presentations on native plants and wildlife, collaborates with sister organizations like the Pollinator Pathway and Save the Sound, and much more. Together, we can accomplish a lot!

Join Us

Contact Us

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