

The Southbury Land Trust's mission is to preserve farmland, open spaces and other natural resources for the benefit of present and future residents of Southbury.

Saving The Hemlocks At Platt Farm Preserve

Last Thursday, we released over 800 beetles to address the infestation of the hemlock wooly adelgid that we found in abundance on our hemlock trees along the river trail at Platt Farm Preserve (see photo below). Researchers have been rearing and releasing these tiny predatory beetles called *Sasajiscymnus tsugae* into forests to control these pests who are threatening the survival of the eastern hemlocks.

With the help of Dr. Carole Cheah, a research entomologist at the Valley Laboratory, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in Windsor, and some volunteers, we assessed the infestation of the wooly adelgid. Dr. Cheah suggested we act quickly and advised us on how to acquire and release the beetles. This was a significant investment for the SLT but was an ecologically prudent way to save these precious and important trees. Anyone who would like information about this process, please contact Regina Badura, Director of Stewardship at stewardship@southburylandtrust.org.



CT Trails Day Hikes June 5th & June 6th

The Southbury Land Trust is partnering with the CT Forest and Park Association to offer two hikes as part of the 2021 CT Trails Day celebration. Both hikes will be at Kettletown State Park located at 1400 Georges Hill Road in Southbury. Pre-registration is required. For details and to sign up go to: <https://www.ctwoodlands.org/ct-trails-weekend/events-2021> . To learn more about Kettletown State Park click here: <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/State->



A Spring Day At Platt Farm

For over 100 years, Southbury was primarily a farming community. Fortunately, some of those roots have remained. Platt Farm on Spruce Brook Road is a 9th generation working dairy farm that has been operating since 1773. They have a herd of 130 dairy cows ranging from newborn calves to milking cows. They sell their milk to the Agrimark/Cabot Coop. They also seasonally sell hay, manure and firewood. The Platt's also farm land at nearby Southbury Farms. You can reach the farm at: (203) 217-4618 or e-mail: benplatt80@yahoo.com.



Annual Meeting Follow Up

Thank you to those who joined our annual meeting in May. We hope and anticipate that by next year we can do a gathering in person in our familiar format. Our topics this year included 2020 Highlights and SLT Farmland Preservation. For those who missed the zoom meeting and would like the information go to: <https://www.southburylandtrust.org/events-1>

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