

## Preserve Clean Up Continues

We have continued to make progress on re-opening our preserves. Platt Farm, Phillips/Lovdal, Bassett and Ivers Preserves are all open and available for hiking and passive recreation. We have finished clearing about 1/3 of the Koons Preserve with more work scheduled for this weekend. The Fox Hollow Preserve (accessed off of Sleepy Hollow Road), will be next. This preserve was hit particularly hard by the May 2018 tornado, but we do anticipate the clean up to be complete in July or early August. We really appreciate all of the volunteer help and patience by those who enjoy these preserves.



*Spruce Brook that flows along our Koons Preserve.*

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## Trails Day Hike

We were blessed with a gorgeous day for our Trails Day Hike, held on June 2nd. About 24 hikers enjoyed two hours walking through both the Bassett and Ivers Preserves. The highlights included numerous stone walls, fern lined pathways and streams flowing throughout both properties. We saw several painted turtles, salamanders and various small critters. Perhaps most interesting were the lady slippers spotted at the start of the hike (see photo and article below). Thank you to the CT Forest and Park Association for promoting the various hikes held throughout Connecticut.





*Hikers on CT Trails Day at the Bassett Preserve*

## **Pink Lady's Slipper Seen In Abundance This Spring**

Stumble upon a patch of wild lady slipper orchids, and the feeling is pure delight. The delicate, yet intricate beauty of the native wildflower slipper orchids is stunning. These flowers take many years to go from seed to mature plants. In order to survive and reproduce, pink lady's slipper interacts with a fungus in the soil from the *Rhizoctonia* genus. The seeds require threads of the fungus to break open the seed and attach them to it. The fungus will pass on food and nutrients to the pink lady's slipper seed. When the lady's slipper plant is older and producing most of its own nutrients, the fungus will extract nutrients from the orchid roots. Pink lady's slippers can live to be twenty years old or more. The pink lady's slipper is the provincial flower of Prince Edward Island, Canada and the state wildflower of New Hampshire.



*Pink Lady's Slipper seen at Bassett Preserve on June 2nd*

## Annual Meeting Focused on Local Farming

Our Southbury Farms farmers shared some terrific information at our Annual Meeting in May regarding their products and practices at Southbury Farms. Southbury Farms is a 921 acre parcel now owned by the State of Connecticut. The Southbury Land Trust was granted a conservation easement on the land to protect the property from development and preserve it as farmland. Thanks to Chris Hannan, Sara Blersch, Dan Slywka, Jim Wargo, and Ben and Ed Platt, for their informative presentations. We are planning to have an event in September so that residents can see (hopefully via a hay ride) what is being produced. See save the date below.



Southbury Land Trust | 203-264-4441 | [www.southburylandtrust.org](http://www.southburylandtrust.org)

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