



Dear Connie,

I hope your year is off to an optimistic start!

Here at the Kent Land Trust we've dubbed 2025 the year of the Troubadour. By this we mean it is our sincere intention and promise, as we learn more about how climate change and other threats are impacting Kent's ecosystem, not just to take action to protect the landscape but to engage you in the discussion.

We may not (or may!) do this with song or with poetry, but regardless will do it with passion, wonder, honesty, empathy, and humility.

Join us each month as we explore environmental issues throughout the seasons, share tips and reading/viewing recommendations, highlight Kent's excellent trails, and alert you to community programs and events.

We're so glad to be in this together with you.

Connie Manes, Executive Director

This Month's Features:

Guest Correspondent Alison Robey's go-tos for climate and environmental news

KLT Grant News

Northwest CT Affordable Housing + Conservation Collaboration

Kelly Alisha Tobin Internship announcement - Join Us this Summer!

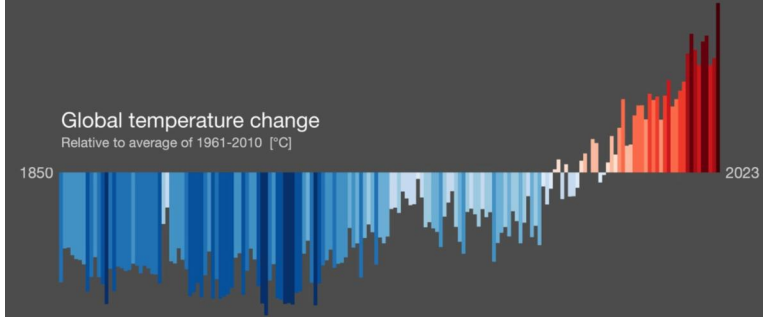
Monthly Trail Highlights - Cross Country Skiing and Snowshoeing

Upcoming Events

- 2/06 Dams 101
- 2/12 KCS Chocolate Fest
- 2/19 Presidents Day Hike
- 2/26 Teen Take Back the Hike

Climate News in a Warming World

Alison Robey



"Tuning in" to news about climate change is "more complicated than just turning on the news", writes KLT Correspondent Alison Robey. "There is so much climate misinformation out there, because climate change is complicated and because there are many parties who benefit from us feeling apathetic about it, hopeless about our individual actions making a difference, or angry at each other for believing or not believing in climate change in the first place."

But avoiding climate news "is a big part of why more isn't being done to address it" - and by tuning out we each own a bit of the responsibility for this. So where does a doctoral student of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Yale University turn for climate information that is "true, comprehensive, easy to understand, and relevant – without being biased, misleading, or overwhelming?"

[Read on](#) for Alison's compelling challenge to us to engage and make informed choices, and for her excellent short-list of recommended credible sources.

KLT receives multi-year grant for climate-smart land stewardship

We are excited to announce our receipt of a generous grant from the Connecticut Land Conservation Council to conduct restoration of early successional habitat in the East Kent Hamlet Nature Preserve! The three-year project involves careful eradication of invasive plant species, introduction of ecotypical native plants grown from seeds harvested from healthy habitats on other KLT preserves, and establishing easy and pleasing ways for visitors to learn about the ongoing transformation.



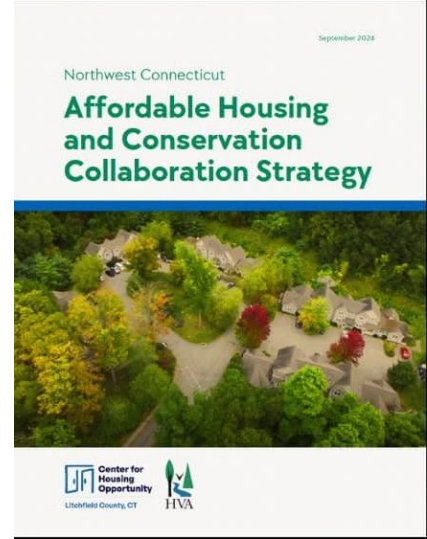
[Learn more about the project and how you can get involved](#)

Collaborating for Community Sustainability

Over the course of 2024, KLT joined colleagues from eight northwest Connecticut towns who work as advocates for conservation and affordable housing. Our hope was to develop a common understanding of our organizations' goals and priorities, and identify ways we might work together in alignment. Our consensus that

healthy communities need both affordable housing and conserved land helped lead to the publication of the Northwest Connecticut Affordable Housing and Conservation Collaboration Strategy, which presents our work and suggests strategies and tools for moving forward together.

[Visit the project webpage to read the report](#)



Calling Interested Students: Kelly Alisha Tobin Internship - Summer 2025



Love the outdoors? Passionate about the environment? Eager to make a difference this summer while building professional skills?

Each summer, the Kent Land Trust offers a paid college internship honoring Kelly Alisha Tobin. This conservation-focused program fosters personal and professional growth through hands-on experience not typically available in an academic setting. The Summer 2025 Kelly Alisha Tobin Internship will run for 8-10 weeks, 25 hours per week, from approximately mid-May through early August. [Learn more and apply here!](#)

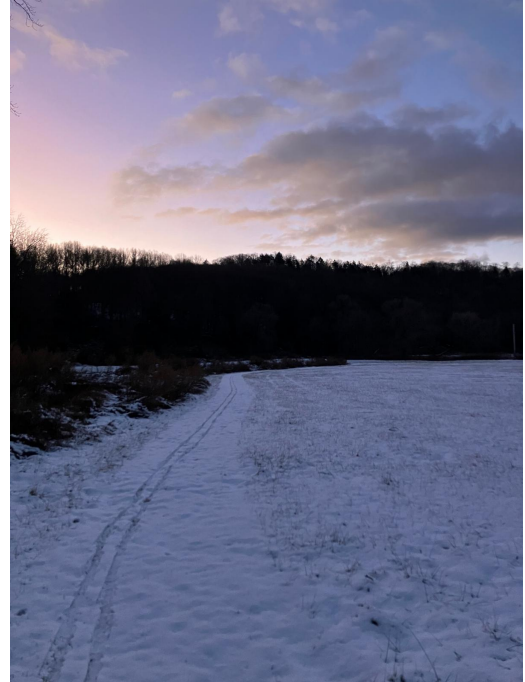
January's Highlighted Hikes: Cross-Country Skiing and Snowshoeing

Winter presents a special time to get out on Kent's trails in a new way. Will we get another "big snow"? Who knows - there are still some months yet when a white wonderland is possible.

If you like cross-country skiing and snowshoeing, you'll find some of the best places in Kent at [Pond Mountain Natural Area](#), KLT's [Avian Preserve](#), and a newly groomed track encircling the Farmers Market field

(shown on right at sunrise, courtesy of KLT Land Manager Don Lawson).

Interested in joining a group for these wintertime sports? Just over the Kent line, the Warren Land Trust is betting on a few inches for snowshoeing in the [Cunningham Nature Preserve](#) on February 22nd and March 8th (both Saturdays). More info and sign up at info@warrenlandtrust.org. Detour into East Kent Hamlet Nature Preserve if you want to extend your adventure!



Upcoming Events

Featured Program:

Join Kent's Conservation Commission for a Special Meeting on Thursday, February 6th, when civil engineer Lariab Afzaal from Connecticut's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection will provide insight into the State's dam safety regulations and the maintenance practices and regulatory compliance procedures which may become more rigorous as weather patterns change. The zoom link is in the flyer at right and will also be available on the Town's [website](#).

Presidents Day Hike – Winter Animal Tracking
Monday, February 17th
10:00 AM
Iron Mountain Preserve

Join us on a moderate “lollipop

Teen "Take Back the Hike" in Skiff Mountain South Preserve
Wednesday, February 26th
9am

Teens, join us for an inclusive hike to raise awareness about

Kent Center School
28th Annual Chocolate Fest
Wednesday, February 12th
Kent Center School
3:30 - 5:30

Where else but at this annual

loop” hike (just under 3 miles) to explore and learn about signs of wildlife left behind in winter.

This family-friendly event is free and includes light refreshments at the end!

Registration is required to stay updated on weather related changes: [Sign up here!](#)

domestic violence in the Northwest Corner. This moderate hike (under 3 miles) will include a discussion afterward.

Registration is required to stay updated on weather changes: [Register here](#)

Kent community favorite can you hand-select a plate of delicious chocolate and sweets to support the Kent Center School Scholarship Fund, which does so much for our town's youth!

It's a fine social time for families and friends - KLT will be there with cozy merch and a fun activity to accompany the munching and dishing. Email info@kcssf.org with questions.

Become a Member!

Within our cherished community the Kent Land Trust safeguards an ecosystem which in turn supports us all, at the most basic level: integrity of the air we breathe and water we drink. We envision a community where treasured landscapes are protected for today and the future. Where diverse living things continue in healthy coexistence, supported through the challenges of a changing environment. And where iconic outdoor spaces inspire people to connect. Our role is daunting, but compelling. We promise assiduous focus on Kent's distinct needs even as we join colleagues doing the same throughout our region and beyond. Your membership each year directly advances this vision.

Thank you most sincerely for your generous support!

[Visit our website to donate online](#)



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