



### **Land Trust Heroes: The Nuckols Family Donates 20 Acres to GLT**

In the 1950s, when private swimming pools and central air conditioning were rare, people from across the Farmington Valley would come to West Granby -- the country -- to cool off on hot summer days. A favorite spot for doing so was on Simsbury Road in West Granby, on property recently donated by Bob Nuckols to the Granby Land Trust.

The property, which abuts the McLean Game Refuge, is a beautiful parcel of land. The Salmon Brook weaves through it, and at its heart there is a sharp bend in the brook, bounded by a steep cliff. Here, the water can get deep enough for swimming.

Bob and his wife, Dottie, discovered the property one day when they were hiking at McLean Game Refuge. The Nuckols and their three sons, William, David and Paul, began to spend much of their leisure time there.

When Dottie, who was a real estate agent, learned that the property was for sale, she and Bob quickly took a loan and bought it. They sold some of the property so they could pay back their loan, but they retained ownership of 20 acres -- including the swimming hole. Their family began spending more time there than ever.

Bob had fond memories of lying in the sun, on a big flat rock, with his feet dangling in the water while he read a book. "I practically lived down there on the weekends," he said.

In recent years, Bob was no longer able to walk the property; and while his sons visit when they are in the area, they have built their own lives in other communities. As a founding member and one-time board member of the Granby Land Trust, Bob well knew about the good work the Land Trust does to manage and care for its properties. And, knowing how magnificent this property is, he could not bear the thought of one person owning it and keeping it to themselves.

"It's just a very beautiful place where people can come and sit and enjoy themselves," said Bob. "I didn't think it should have a house on it. Everyone should be able to enjoy it."

In early 2012, Bob donated the land to the Granby Land Trust. By conserving this piece of land,

which is bordered by preserved property on three sides, Bob ensured the protection of an important wildlife corridor; helped safeguard an important stretch of the Salmon Brook; and, most importantly, did what he and his family most wanted: preserved one of Granby's beautiful, natural settings for the enjoyment of all, forever.

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