



## Naromi Land Trust, Inc.

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### Highlights of 2011

- **Hikes:** We have held activities of all kinds from January to November on Naromi preserves and neighboring locations: snowshoeing and skiing events at Hadlow Fields in the record snows of last winter; the now annual spring Frog Frolic, a hike to the vernal pool nestled in the double hilltop at the Towner Hill Preserve to bear witness to the chorus of wood frogs; bird hikes at the Strauss/Giddings/Wimisink Preserves; CT Trails Day at Great Hollow; and in summer Naromi held its first (wildly over-subscribed) paddling trip on the nearby Great Swamp; and other hikes at the Mallory and Herrick Preserves. Hiking the Naromi trails is consistently the best way to enjoy the natural beauty of Sherman.



- **Volunteer Workdays:** Naromi Board members and volunteers have dedicated their time on several workdays throughout the spring, summer and fall, helping to clear brush, eradicate invasive plants, cut new trails, design, construct, and install trail signs, do landscape planting at Babbling Brook Farm, and more.

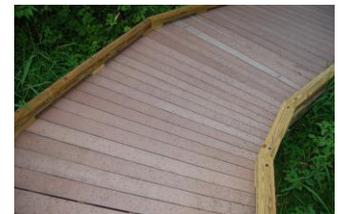


- **eNewsletter:** Naromi continues to publish a monthly eNewsletter with notices about hikes, workdays, and other events, as well as educational articles on conservation issues, plants, and animals. Be sure to include your email address with your membership contribution to get onto the distribution list.

- **Babbling Brook Farm Culverts:** With funding from the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP), a program of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Naromi has been working to restore the streambanks of Babbling Brook. This effort is part of Naromi's multi-year revitalization of Babbling Brook Farm. The project began with removal of invasives and other debris in 2009 and continued this

year with mowing, and now removal of two failing culverts and replacement of a third. The new culvert design will help prevent erosion and keep high water within the floodplain.

- **Wimisink Boardwalk:** Naromi has been awarded a grant from the Housatonic River Basin Natural Resources Restoration Project to build a boardwalk for education, including wildlife and plant study/observation, and passive recreation for anyone and everyone. The grant is administered by CT DEEP, US Fish & Wildlife Service and NOAA. We plan to hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony when the boardwalk is ready for enjoyment, in the fall of 2012.



- **Annual Meeting in July:** The Naromi community gathered on July 8<sup>th</sup> at the Lake Mauweehoo Clubhouse to see and learn about turtles as a part of CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection's Year of the Turtle and to celebrate Naromi's accomplishments. Naromi held its Annual Business meeting with a summary of activities during the past year. Elected to three year terms on the Board of Directors were Chris Jellen, Liz Mard, Bill McGoldrick, and Chris Theodoros. Naromi thanked our dedicated core of volunteers for all the work that they do.

- **Annual Fall Picnic:** Many pieces came together to give Naromi another wonderful and successful picnic at Hadlow Fields: perfect weather with enough breeze for good kite flying, good food, and about 125 folks of all ages. The turtles that came to the Annual Meeting made another appearance and got to graze on grass and wander throughout the day's events. There were many kites in the sky, and the fall view towards the Massachusetts hills was spectacular.



## Activities Planned for 2012

- **Outside:** Naromi will continue our popular program of monthly hikes and other outdoor excursions to our preserves and neighboring conservation properties for Shermanites and friends from the region.
- **Work:** Naromi will work with volunteers to expand our trail system, cutting new trails, and re-routing sections of trails located in areas too wet, eroded or steep. We also need plenty of volunteer help with proper stewardship in the wake of Storms Irene and Alfred. There have been significant impacts to Naromi preserves.
- **Community:** Naromi will establish Facebook and Twitter communities to help Naromi stay in touch with our Sherman community and vice versa.
- **Reflect:** Naromi plans to expand outreach into our community, and to our members in particular, for input to help Naromi improve its programs and services as we carry out our Mission.
- **Access:** Naromi will provide a handicapped-accessible boardwalk along the edge of the Wimisink Swamp Preserve with complete funding from the Housatonic River Basin Natural Resources Restoration Project. A project 6 years in the making!
- **Conservation:** Naromi will continue to work with both private and public partners to pursue the preservation of additional notable tracts of open space and farmland in Sherman.

Call our office (860) 354-0260 or visit our website [www.naromi.org](http://www.naromi.org) for more information about our work and volunteer opportunities.