



# GREENWICH LAND TRUST

## Cook / Houlahan Preserve

Once part of large residential back-country estates, the parcels that make up the Cook / Houlahan Preserve were largely left untouched over the years because of their steep slopes and wetland characteristics.



In March, this thriving 22-acre preserve, which contains a deciduous upland forest and swampy area covered by skunk cabbage, comes alive with a symphony of peeper frogs chirping in unison, marking the beginning of spring.

Longtime Greenwich resident, Molly C. Cook began donating pieces of her property in 1974. Between 1981 and 1990, Mrs. Cook donated additional parcels to Greenwich Land Trust to be preserved forever. Nearby neighbors Kenneth A. Anderson and Andrew P. Houlahan began subdividing their property in 1999 and decided to create a Conservation Zone, setting aside at least 40% of the land as undeveloped. In 2003, the Land Trust accepted this parcel to ensure that its conservation values were protected.

This property connects to a signifi-

cant greenway of open space in northwest Greenwich. This greenway extends almost to the New York bordering other Land Trust preserves, Audubon conservation land and a large acreage owned by the Greenwich Boy Scouts.

GLT's management plan for this significant preserve is centered on maintaining the woodlands and wetlands for the benefit of the native flora and fauna. Most of the Cook parcels have been identified by the Connecticut Natural Diversity Database (NDDDB) to contain *Endangered, Threatened, or Special Concern* species.

The extensive wetlands on this property and throughout the surrounding area make a valuable habitat for migrating birds and other wildlife to use for feeding and resting.

The dense wetland thickets also provide reliable cover from predators for many wildlife species, including spotted turtles, Canada warblers, New England cottontail, and American woodcock.

