

# About the Preserve

**Beebe Preserve:** 83 acres,

**Directions:** 41 24'21.97 N, 72 16'55'.93 W

The parking area is on Old Grassy Hill Road near the East Lyme town line.

**Trail:** The orange trail is a fairly level, easy one-mile loop which leaves from the parking area and takes hikers past a network of old stone walls and past a mysterious giant rock pile. The yellow trail provides a short side trip to a viewing platform overlooking the wetlands. A good hike for all ages.

**Brief History:** In the year 1775, three brothers named Henry, John and Timothy Beebe emigrated from Newport, Wales and landed near the mouth of the Connecticut River. Henry settled in Indiana, John enlisted in the army and was killed in the Battle of Flatbush, Long Island. Timothy settled in Pleasant Valley, Lyme, Connecticut. In the 20th century, a Beebe descendant and former first selectman, William Beebe, donated a part of the family land to the Lyme Land Conservation Trust. When he gave this gift, he said, "There are certain parts of Lyme that should stay open for the enjoyment of generations to come."

Evidence of past agricultural activity can be seen in the over two miles of stone walls. Another clue is the presence of red cedar trees, which are the first trees to grow as pastures are abandoned. Old field cedars are present throughout the area but most have been overtopped by the taller hardwoods, shaded out and are now mostly dead. Ancient white oak "wolf" trees that would have provided shade and acorns for grazing animals still stand guard.

**Natural Highlights:** Beaver Brook runs through the Beebe Preserve. The preserve helps to protect the watershed and tributaries of Beaver Brook which flows into the Eightmile River, the Connecticut River at Hamburg Cove, and ultimately Long Island Sound, which have all received national recognition for the important ecosystem services they provide.

The majority of the preserve is almost savannah-like with a mature hardwood forest and a sparse understory. The yellow trail brings you down to a viewing platform overlooking the wetlands. In 2012, a group of volunteers from Dominion/Millstone Power Station erected the platform on the edge of the beaver pond. The beavers built a dam on Beaver Brook about 2011 which flooded the area and formed the pond. The area was opened up to sunlight as the larger plants died. This created a habitat which attracts a large variety of wildlife. The opportunity to view beavers, otters, water fowl, insects and other activity associated with a wetland is fantastic.

**Geocaching:** There is a geocache on the Preserve. For more information, go to: [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com)

*For more preserve maps, information about the Lyme Land Trust or to become a member, please visit: [lymelandtrust.org](http://lymelandtrust.org) or write us at P.O. Box 1002, Lyme, CT 06371.*



**Report any problems during your visit on the Trail Condition Form:**  
[www.lymelandtrust.org](http://www.lymelandtrust.org).

## TRAILS OF LYME Beebe Preserve



Thomas W. Nason, *The Brook*, Florence Griswold Museum; Lyme Historical Society

The beautiful properties that comprise the Beebe Preserve were donated to the Lyme Land Conservation Trust by the Library Associates, Inc. and William Beebe between 1985 and 1990. The Land Trust holds easements on several parcels abutting the Beebe Preserve to the south covering approximately 60 acres on both sides of Old Grassy Hill Road. Combined with the 435 acre Lyme Corner Trails to the north, this complex of open space creates a valuable green corridor for a variety of wildlife as well as providing recreation for people.

The orange trail was officially opened as part of National Trails Day in June 2011.

### **ALLOWED ACTIVITIES:**

Beebe Preserve is open from sunrise to sunset. It provides opportunities for hiking and wildlife viewing. No motorized vehicles allowed.

Dogs should be leashed or under close control at all time.

Hunting is allowed in the portion south of Beaver Brook Road with signed consent form.



Lyme Land Conservation Trust  
**BEEBE PRESERVE**

	<b>Orange Trail</b>		<b>WETLANDS</b>
	<b>YELLOW TRAIL</b>		<b>STONE WALLS</b>
	<b>PRESERVE BOUNDARY</b>		<b>STREAM</b>
	<b>TOWN BOUNDARY</b>		<b>PARKING</b>