



The Lyme Land Conservation Trust

2014 Spring Newsletter

Lyme's Preserves Popular For Outdoor Treasure Hunting Game Of Geocaching

By Wendy Dow Miller

If you are looking for a creative way to get out and enjoy nature in Lyme's many forest preserves, geocaching may be for you.

Geocaching is an outdoor treasure hunting game in which participants find caches using Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates or signals. The caches usually contain small trinkets.

You can take one of the trinkets as long as you replace it with something of equal or greater value, or as it is known in the geocaching world, "take some stuff, leave some stuff." Each cache has a log to sign with the date and your geocache name, so make sure to bring a pen with you.

In the little over a decade since geocaching "treasures" were first hidden, participation in this electronic treasure hunting game has exploded.

There are more than 2.3 million "caches" worldwide, according to geocaching.com (www.geocaching.com), one of the leading websites that have sprung up to serve the more than six million participants around the globe. A map of Connecticut caches on geocaching.com shows hundreds of caches throughout the state and at least a few thousand throughout New England.

With its many state, town, land trust and Nature Conservancy preserves, Lyme is a popular geocaching area. Geocaching.com lists at least 50 different geocache locations scattered in Nehantic State Park, Hartman Park, Mt.



Photo by Humphrey Tyler

"Clucas Cache"

Penny Eno, left, and Wendy Dow Miller at the "Clucas Cache," which Penny hid on the Land Trust's Clucas Preserve on Brush Hill Road two years ago.

Archer Woods, the Ravine Trail, the Selden Preserve, Selden Island State Park, the Jewett Preserve, Pleasant Valley, Beebe Preserve, Clucas Preserve, and others.

When geocachers hide a cache and log it onto a website (like geocaching.com) with its location's GPS coordinates, they often give hints or directions about its location and even give each cache site a name.

So for instance, one of the caches in the Mt. Archer Woods Preserve is named "Mount Archer Meadows." Another in the neighboring Chauncey Eno Preserve is named "Chan's Challenge."

There's a cache in the Jewett Preserve named "Jewett's Jumble" and another nearby named "Parker's Point," an apparent reference to Lyme Selectman Parker Lord

who is a frequent participant in volunteer work crews that maintain both the Jewett and Pleasant Valley preserves.

There are even a few along highways. For instance, one of the caches in Lyme is near Rt. 156 and is named "Ladies In Waiting," a clue that would be easy for just about any Lyme resident to figure out.

Geocaching began on May 2, 2000 when Dave Ulmer of Beavercreek, Oregon, hid a cache, a plastic bucket containing software, videos, books, food, money, and a slingshot. Dave posted the GPS coordinates N 45° 17.460 W 122° 24.800 on the online community sci.geo.satellite-nav, and said he had hidden a "cache" there.

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Mike Teague was the first person to find Dave's stash and within a month the idea had caught on like wildfire, so much so that Mike documented the online posts of coordinates around the world and created a "GPS Stash Hunt" mailing list with people who were interested in this new activity.

The term "geocaching" was coined by combining "geo" for Earth and two meanings of "cache": 1) a collection of items of the same type stored in a hidden or inaccessible place; and 2) computer's memory cache, allowing for quick retrieval of information.

I sought the guidance of experienced Lyme geocacher Penny Eno to take my husband Tom and me on our first outing. Penny has been geocaching for more than eight years and has found geocaches throughout Connecticut, in Canada, Spain and Austria.

We met at the Selden Preserve on Joshua Road, and while there was a lot of snow on the ground, the day was sunny.

The geocache app on Penny's smart phone showed that there was one cache in Selden Preserve, but Penny had done this

one before, so she knew that when you got to the cache listed in the app, it gave coordinates to the second one, which was the "real" cache.

Finding the first one proved difficult due to the terrain and the snow. We eventually made our way to the cache with the help of the app's compass feature.

It took a little muscle to get the cache out

as it was frozen in place. We were rewarded with an interesting home-made wooden puzzle that you had to take apart in order to get the coordinates of the second cache.

We entered the coordinates into Penny's GPS, left a small trinket in the cache, put it back in its place and headed for cache #2. This time the terrain was easier, but the snow was much deeper. After a while, we asked Penny if there was a hint associated with this cache. She looked it up, and it said, "Tree trunk".

We looked in vain but alas we couldn't find the second one.

Lesson learned – wait until the snow melts before trying your first geocaching experience. Nonetheless, we thoroughly enjoyed our adventure and are looking forward to more geocaching once spring arrives!

So if you are looking for a fun-filled, healthy and family-friendly activity that will get you outdoors, try your hand at geocaching!

Join Lyme Land Trust's Geocaching Field Class

The Lyme Land Trust has scheduled a geocaching field trip in September to teach those interested in learning about the outdoor adventure game, how to find cached "treasures," and understanding the generally accepted "rules" followed by others in the geocaching community.

The class will be Saturday Sept. 20 on one of the LLCT preserves and will be led by Kathy Katz of the Essex Land Trust & Jim Lockhart.

Details will be posted in August on: www.lymelandtrust.org.

Would You Like to Support the Lyme Land Conservation Trust?

Use the convenient envelope bound into this newsletter to mail in your donation today. 

The Lyme Land Conservation Trust Newsletter

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2014 Tour de Lyme

..... Just Around The Corner



By George Moore
LLCT Executive Director

Photo by Joe Standart

Sunday May 18 is going to be a big day for the Lyme Land Trust --it is Tour de Lyme day!

Between 300 and 400 cyclists are expected to ride one of four road routes or one of two off road rides. Many are joining together and forming fund raising teams. The wonderful folks at Ashlawn Farm are allowing us to use their splendid facilities to stage the event.

As the riders return to Ashlawn from their rides, they and the volunteers will enjoy a great picnic lunch and entertainment by the Eight Mile River Band. Through the generosity of our corporate sponsors, whose logos appear in this special section, we are able to offer these amenities to our riders so that their registration fees and donations go directly to help the Land Trust.

Why are they riding and why do we encourage them? Cyclists love being outdoors and understand the health benefits of outdoor activity. They welcome the opportunity to ride routes through the beautiful and lightly travelled roads in Lyme and surrounding towns. They are motivated to help worthy causes. Tour de Lyme with its great picnic is hard to pass up.

Tour de Lyme allows the Land Trust the opportunity to demonstrate the benefits, mental and physical, that result from being outside having fun. What an example these cyclists set! Last year, almost 140 chose the 55 mile ride. People of all age groups and endurance levels chose rides that matched their abilities. We had almost 30 in the Family Ride. Our message is whether you

cycle, walk, run, or hike -- get out and enjoy what is at your door step. Few towns can match what Lyme offers.

Tour de Lyme opens up new opportunities for the Land Trust to draw financial support from outside our town borders. Last year, the 325 pre-registered riders came from eight states and 74 different Connecticut towns.

When one looks through the many pictures that were taken last year, it serves to reinforce just how fortunate we are to live surrounded by so much preserved land. It demonstrates how much has been accomplished over the last several decades, not just by the Lyme Land Trust but by our conservation partners, in creating this gem of a town in the busy corridor between New York and Boston. No wonder Tour de Lyme is such a draw -- there aren't many places to ride that offer as much.

Motorists in Lyme, long used to the cyclists who use our roads, are courteous and supportive of the event.

Two wonderful all-volunteer Lyme organizations, the Lyme Fire Company and the Lyme Ambulance Association, turn out and stand by ready to come to the assistance of any riders who experience a problem. Last year they were ready and thankfully, their services were not required.

Even if you don't ride, you can make a donation of \$50 or more on the Tour de Lyme website and get a free event T-shirt, a free picnic lunch and an opportunity to mix with an enthusiastic bunch of people.

President's Tour de Lyme Message

Cycling Through Eden To Support Conservation



John Pritchard
President

I fervently hope that by the time this issue is in your hands, spring will have truly sprung.

It's been a long, harsh winter, but at the Land Trust it has been leavened by planning for -- and anticipating -- our annual spring fundraising event, the Tour de Lyme.

This year the Tour will be held on Sunday, May 18, at the lovely Ashlawn Farm to which we have been generously welcomed by

Carol and Chip Dahlke.

From the beginning, our goal has been to create the signature charity cycling event in the region.

We got off to an excellent start last year, attracting important sponsors and 325 road and mountain bikers, thereby clearing nearly \$40,000 for the Land Trust.

We expect to better that performance this year. The principal reason we can be confident of success is Lyme itself. You have heard it from me before, but it is no exaggeration to say that our town has some of the best cycling roads in the world.

They are quiet, beautiful, intensely rural, tree canopied, well paved and stone wall lined with beautiful farm and woodland vistas. Bikers from Ireland, France or Italy, with their storied riding venues, would agree after riding here that our roads are just as beautiful as theirs.

This is the main reason the Tour de Lyme attracts so many riders -- and thus financial supporters -- from far beyond our borders. Last year the more than 325 riders in the inaugural Tour came from eight states and 74 Connecticut towns.

Our sponsors, too, are businesses from throughout the region. This year returning riders and sponsors will notice significant improvements. Our event site at Ashlawn Farm will offer convenient on-site parking, a large event tent, expanded food offerings at lunch and entertainment from the Eight Mile River Band.

Plus, we have ordered up beautiful weather!

The Tour is a critical fundraising event for the Land Trust. Its proceeds are devoted to stewarding some 100 conservation easements and owned properties in Lyme covering more than 3,000 acres for which the Land Trust has management responsibility.

They also help us be ready to protect additional environmentally sensitive land as the need arises. But the Tour also helps us showcase the lovely Lyme landscape that we and our conservation partners have been instrumental in preserving.

What can you do to help? If you are a road or mountain biker, register to ride on May 18 at tourdelyme.org. If you know riders, direct them to that website. They will thank you for it!

If you would like you help out on event day, you can email us at info@tourdelyme.org for volunteer opportunities. Even if you don't ride, go to www.tourdelyme.org and make a donation as a show of support for the Land Trust and for the riders in the Tour.



Photo by Joe Standart



Photo by Joe Standart



Photo by Joe Standart



Photo by Harley Manning



Photo by Joe Standart



Photo by Harley Manning



Photo by Joe Standart

Riding Courses For Committed & Casual Cyclists

Road Rides

The Challenge – 57 miles, the name says it all. Departs 8:30 AM.

The Classic - 26 miles, a bit still challenging. Departs 9:30 AM.

The Valley – 26 miles, a bit easier than the Classic. Departs 10:00 AM.

The Family – 8 miles, ideal for families with children. Departs 10:30 AM.

Trail Rides

The Woodlands ~ 1 hour, for trail riding enthusiasts.

The Rider's Test ~ 3 hours, for the truly committed trail bikers.



Photo by Joe Standart



Photo by Joe Standart



Photo by Joe Standart

Tour de Lyme To Collect 'Bikes for Kids'

The Lyme Land Conservation Trust is teaming up with the charity *Bikes for Kids* to collect used bikes at the annual Tour de Lyme fundraiser this year.

Bikes for Kids, a charity that collects, refurbishes and distributes bikes primarily to local families and kids in need, will have volunteers on hand at the Tour de Lyme headquarters at Ashlawn Farm on Bill Hill Road to collect used bikes.

Making the announcement, Land Trust President John Pritchard said, "*Bikes for Kids* is an outstanding outreach organization. We are proud and excited to partner with *Bikes for Kids* to help provide bicycles to children in Connecticut."

Pritchard urged anybody who has a bicycle to donate to *Bikes for Kids* to bring it on the day of the event to Ashlawn Farm.

Since its founding in 1989, *Bikes for Kids* has refurbished and distributed almost 16,000 bikes to families and children, mostly to the inner cities of New Haven, New London, Middletown and Hartford. *Bikes for Kids* efforts extend beyond Connecticut and

include deliveries to Bell Harbor, NY, Haiti and Tanzania. All bikes are distributed with new cycling helmets.

Dave Fowler, President of *Bikes for Kids* and a former science teacher in Old Lyme's Middle School, said, "We put people on wheels who would either be walking or not really going anywhere at all. Last year we delivered 1,368 bikes and hope to deliver more this year." Fowler said the motivation for starting *Bikes for Kids* is that "every kid needs a bike."

Tour de Lyme riders can donate bikes as they arrive at the event. Bike donors not riding in Tour de Lyme can drop bikes off between 2:00 and 4:00 on May 18 at the event.

Reynolds Garage and Marine in Hamburg has offered to receive donated bikes at its Subaru showroom from May 12-24 (closed Sundays).

Alternatively bike pick ups can be arranged by contacting Dave Fowler at 860-395-7321; email: davefowler05@gmail.com or info@tourdelyme.org.



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Lyme Land Trust Applies For National Accreditation, Seeks Comments From Public On Its Operations

Lyme Land Conservation Trust is pleased to announce it is applying for accreditation from the Land Trust Alliance (LTA).

The LTA is a national association of Land Trusts with more than 1100 member trusts across the country. The land trust accreditation program recognizes land conservation organizations that meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever.

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent LTA program, conducts extensive reviews of each applicant's policies and programs.

"The accreditation process is beneficial to the Land Trust for two reasons," explains Lyme Land Trust President John Pritchard. "First, the Land Trust Alliance has created a set of rigorous policies, procedures, record keeping and management standards against which we are required to measure our own land trust operations. Consequently, part of the accreditation process consists of upgrading our performance as a land trust so that it complies with these ambitious parameters. Second, LTA accreditation is a stamp of approval of the manner in which a land trust conducts itself and its operations. As such, it contributes

to the confidence that individuals, foundations, government agencies, and members of the Lyme community have in providing us with funding and other benefits."

The Commission invites public input and accepts signed, written comments on pending applications. Comments must relate to how the Lyme Land Conservation Trust complies with national quality standards. These standards address the ethical and technical operation of a land trust. For the full list of standards see www.landtrustaccreditation.org/tips-and-tools/indicator-practices.

To learn more about the accreditation program and to submit a comment, visit: www.landtrustaccreditation.org/submit-a-comment-on-a-current-applicant or email your comment to: info@landtrustaccreditation.org

Comments may also be faxed or mailed to the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, Attn: Public Comments: (fax) 518-587-3183; (mail) 112 Spring Street, Suite 204, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866.

Comments on Lyme Land Conservation Trust's application will be most useful by June 1, 2014.

June 13 Land Trust Annual Meeting Presentation "20,000 Years Of Change On Connecticut's Shoreline"

Patrick J Lynch, an artist, scientist and award-winning illustrator at Yale University, will be the featured speaker at the Lyme Land Conservation Trust's Annual Meeting on Friday, June 13.

An expert on the ecology, wildlife, natural history and the marine environment of Southern CT, he will explain the link between wetlands and watersheds in Lyme and the health of Long Island Sound.

His recent ebook for the Apple iPad, "Connecticut Coast & Long Island Sound," (see cover, right) is available through the iTunes bookstore.

Everyone is welcome. The meeting is at 6 PM at Lyme Public Hall, 249 Hamburg Road (Rte 156) Hamburg. There will be a brief business meeting. Members will be asked to vote for new director nominees. Mr. Lynch's presentation will follow.

A CoastFieldGuides.com Edition

CONNECTICUT COAST & LONG ISLAND SOUND

A guide to the environments, plants,
& animals of the coastline

Written & illustrated by
Patrick J. Lynch



Whalebone Cove Kayaking & Canoeing Tour In July



Photo by Humphrey Tyler

Evan Griswold will lead a canoeing & kayaking tour of Whalebone Cove in Hadlyme on Sunday July 27 at 11:30 AM. Check LLCT website for additional details.

Volunteer Crews Prep Banningwood Preserve



Photo by Lisa Nicolai

Volunteers pitched in for several days to ready a trail in the new Banningwood Preserve in Hadlyme for its "sneak peak" walk on March 22, which drew 60 hikers.

Eagle Scout Project Builds Bridge In Lyme Preserve



Photo by George Moore

Owen Mesham, of Troop 26, BSA, (above left) organized & supervised construction of a new bridge in Walbridge Woodlands Preserve as his Eagle Scout project in March.



Lyme Land Conservation Trust, Inc.

PO Box 1002, Lyme, CT 06371

Lyme Land Conservation Trust Calendar of Events

All events subject to change. Dates & times will be announced by press release & e-mail, and will be posted on the Land Trust website and Facebook page. Consult the Upcoming Events page at www.lymelandtrust.org/news/events/ for the latest information. To reduce costs & paper, the Land Trust no longer mails postcard notification of all events. To receive email notifications, send an email to: info@lymelandtrust.org with a request to be added to the events e-mail list.

Spring Is For The Birds! It's The Busiest Time In The Forest

When - Sat., May 3, 7:30 AM

What - If it's true that the early bird gets the worm, then this early morning walk should provide the opportunity to see a lot of our feathered friends. Join local expert Rob Braunfield to look for and learn about a variety of birds busy with their spring rituals.

Where - Meet at the entrance to the Pleasant Valley Preserve on MacIntosh Road, Lyme.



Connecticut Trails Day



When - Sat., June 7, 10 AM

What - Three age appropriate hikes: two scavenger hikes; one for very little ones; one for the not so little ones; & an adult hike. Meet at the schoolhouse in Hartman Park when you are through hiking. Water and a light snack will be available. Bring a picnic lunch if you would like. Rain date is June 8.

Where - Walbridge Woodland and Hartman Park, Gungy Road, Lyme
Info email: angie.falstrom@att.net

Lyme Land Trust Annual Meeting

When - Fri. June 13, 6 PM

What - Guest speaker Patrick Lynch, author and coauthor of seven books on natural history, ornithology, and digital media, will make a presentation on "Connecticut Coast & Long Island Sound: 20,000 Years of Change on Connecticut's Shores." The program will be preceded by refreshments and a brief business meeting.

Where - Lyme Public Hall, 249 Hamburg Rd. (Rt. 156), Hamburg.

For most current information on Lyme Land Conservation Trust events: www.lymelandtrust.org