

History

In 1992, Catherine and Elizabeth Fehrer, daughters of painter Oscar Fehrer, donated 235 acres to The Nature Conservancy (TNC) for the **Pleasant Valley Preserve**; it was named after the area made famous by Lyme impressionist painters. The Preserve, managed by Lyme Land Conservation Trust (LLCT), also includes a 105-acre conservation easement donated by Fritz and Alva Gahagan to TNC. The adjacent **Jewett Preserve** was created in October 2004 when the Town of Lyme and TNC bought 434 acres and conservation easements on another 46 acres for \$3.27 million from Charles, Jennifer and Jonathan Jewett, the children of the late Molly and Chuck Jewett. Financial assistance was provided by private donors, the State of Connecticut Open Space and Watershed Protection Program (OSWPP). Hugh and Donna Scott bought the 46 acres, with extensive conservation restrictions on 34 of them. **Mt. Archer Woods** is a 275-acre Town-owned property purchased in 2003 with private donations and funding from the Town of Lyme, the OSWPP and TNC. The 100-acre **Chauncey Eno Preserve** was purchased in 1998 by the LLCT and made possible by the generous contributions of two Lyme residents. In 2006, an anonymous donor purchased and donated an easement on the 18-acre **Pickwick's Preserve**, providing access to the trails from Joshuatown Road; the preserve was named for the donor's Shetland sheepdog, an avid hiker of Lyme's woodlands.

Access

The **Pleasant Valley** and **Jewett Preserves** may be accessed through a gate off Macintosh Rd, about ¼ mile from the intersection of Rt 156 and Beaverbrook Rd. Parking is available at the gate, along Macintosh Road or at the "Swimming Hole". An information kiosk is located about 1/10 of a mile from the gate. The **Jewett Preserve** can also be accessed from two locations along the north side of Mt Archer Rd between Macintosh and Tantomorantum Roads; parking is along Mt Archer Rd and equestrian users may park between the cemetery and the kiosk at that entrance. **Mt. Archer Woods** and **Eno Preserves** may be accessed from

two locations on the south side of Mt. Archer Rd. One is at the stone pillar about one mile from the intersection of Mt. Archer Rd and Rt 156 and 2/3 of a mile from the intersection of Brush Hill and Tantomorantum Roads; a small parking lot and kiosk are present here. The **Eno Preserve** can also be accessed across Mt. Archer Rd from the Jewett Preserve "Cemetery" entrance. The access to **Pickwick's Preserve** is from 183 Joshuatown Road; go about 0.4 mile up the driveway and park at the gate on the right.

Pleasant Valley Preserve

The diversity of habitats found in this and each of the River to Ridgetop Preserves resulted from the glacial ice sheet that deposited large amounts of sand and gravel before retreating 17,000 years ago. The rock-free soils became important farmland, remnants of which can be seen in the abandoned fields running along the valley (**Red, Blue and Orange Trails**). The three bowl-shaped wetlands seen from the **Blue Trail** were formed when large chunks of glacial ice melted. These depressions, called kettle holes, fill with water creating vernal pools that nurture a variety of amphibians. In upland areas, the soils deposited by the glacial river abruptly give way to soils formed by the action of the glacier as it ground its way over the hills, leaving a jumble of mineral soils ranging from fine-grained clays to large boulders (north end of the **Green Trail**).

Today's upland forests were mostly grazing lands through the 1800's. As fields reverted to woodlands, water availability was an important factor determining what tree species grew where. In lowlands, where water is most plentiful, ash, tulip, yellow birch and red maple are mixed in with red and white oak, American beech, hickories, black birch and sugar maple. In contrast, on south-facing drier ridge tops, the slope community gives way to a predominance of black, white and scrub oaks with some black birch and pignut hickory. In between, moisture and other conditions vary favoring different mixes of species. Pleasant Valley Preserve with its diversity of habitats and land forms is a superb example of the southern New England landscape and its farming history. It is a living record of Lyme's past; look for similar woodland habitats in the other River to Ridgetop Preserves.

Jewett Preserve

The **White Trail** connects to the Mt. Archer Woods/Eno **White Trail** to form a 3.6 mile loop, suitable for equestrians and non-motorized bicycles; the remaining trails are designed for pedestrian use only. About 0.5 miles from the easternmost Mt. Archer Rd entrance, there is a nice overlook with a bench. Continuing another 0.4 mi, the **Yellow Trail** splits from the White Trail, goes through an interesting "split rock" and runs for about 0.7 miles where it joins the **Pleasant Valley Preserve** trail system. This combination trail of **White** and **Yellow** was developed as part of an Eagle Scout Project led by André Yeomans. If you return to the start along Macintosh and Mt. Archer roads, you will have completed a 2.6 mile loop. The Jewett **Blue Trail** connects the **White Trail** to the **Pleasant Valley Preserve Green Trail**. The **Red Trail** connects the **White Trail** (near the Cemetery Entrance) to the **Pleasant Valley Preserve Green Trail** (near the Overlook).

Mt. Archer Woods Chauncey Eno Preserve & Pickwick's Preserve

The four trails on these properties, **White, Yellow, Red and Blue**, cover relatively flat terrain over one of the highest points in Lyme. Due to the perched water table, especially near the **White Trail**, the forest vegetation resembles that more characteristically associated with moist lowlands. Of note are several stands of large tulip poplar trees. Continuing south (and down slope) on the **Yellow and Red Trails** the vegetation is more typical of dry hilltops. At the southern end of the **White Trail** are stone ruins that go back to the early 18th century: remnants of houses, barns, sheds, penning areas, and pasture stone walls. There is an additional foundation near the intersection of the **Yellow and Red** trails. These are significant archaeological sites that can yield important information about our colonial past.

These five contiguous preserves extend from river to ridgetop and protect diverse site conditions that provide a rare diversity of habitats, including streams, fields, wetlands and several woodland types. The protected area includes more than a mile of high-quality tributaries of the Connecticut River, including parts of the Wild and Scenic Eightmile River, and spans over 1200 acres—from the Pleasant Valley Preserve up through the Jewett Preserve to the ridgetop in the Mt. Archer Woods and down the west-facing slope in the Eno and Pickwick's Preserves toward Joshua Creek. Most wildlife species require a number of habitat types for their survival and these preserves provide and protect these habitats and give us an opportunity to observe their natural functioning.

Pleasant Valley Preserve
Jewett Preserve
Mount Archer Woods
& Chauncey Eno Preserve
& Pickwick's Preserve

RIVER TO RIDGETOP PRESERVES



ACTIVITY GUIDELINES

Pickwick's Preserve (LLCT)



Mt. Archer Woods & Eno Preserve (Town & LLCT)



Jewett Preserve (Town & TNC)



Pleasant Valley Preserve (Town & TNC)



—Activity is limited; see text below

- ▶ Preserves open to the public from sunrise to sunset.
- ▶ Non-motorized biking and horseback riding are allowed on the White Trails in Mt. Archer Woods, Eno Preserve and Jewett Preserves.
- ▶ Dogs will chase, harass, capture and kill wildlife and must be under control at all times; leashes required except in Pickwick's Preserve.
- ▶ See the message boards at the entrances for specific activity guidelines.

HUNTING IS PROHIBITED:

- ▶ At all times in Pleasant Valley Preserve and the area North of the stone wall in Mt. Archer Woods
- ▶ In all preserves on Saturdays and Sundays

HUNTING IS ALLOWED (with written permission of owner)

- ▶ Monday–Friday during deer/firearm hunting season (dates posted): (**Jewett Preserve is closed to other uses during these days**)
- ▶ Monday–Thursday during deer/bow hunting season (dates posted)
- ▶ Monday–Thursday during spring turkey hunting season (dates posted)
- ▶ Hunters are required to post their presence at the properties' entrances
- ▶ The northern section of the **Pleasant Valley Preserve Green Trail** that crosses over the Gahagan property is closed to hikers during May, November and December.

Report any problems during your visit to the Lyme Open Space Coordinator.



Town of Lyme



Lyme Land Conservation Trust

MOUNT ARCHER WOODS

ENO PRESERVE

- RED TRAIL:** 0.8 mile
- YELLOW TRAIL:** 1.2 miles
- WHITE TRAIL:** 1.9 miles
White + Yellow Trail: 2.8 miles
- BLUE TRAIL:** 0.42 mile
Through Pickwick's Preserve



Town of Lyme

JEWETT PRESERVE

- BLUE TRAIL:** 0.3 mile
- RED TRAIL:** 2.3 miles
- YELLOW TRAIL:** 0.7 mile
- WHITE TRAIL:** 1.8 miles



Managed by Lyme Land Conservation Trust

PLEASANT VALLEY PRESERVE

- BLUE TRAIL:** 0.5 Mile
- RED TRAIL:** 0.4 Mile
- ORANGE TRAIL:** 0.25 Mile
- GREEN TRAIL:** 2.75 Miles

1 inch = 1,056 ft
0 0.5 Kilometer 0.5 Mile

82

156

Jewett Preserve Hunting allowed in season with written permission.

Green Trail that is outside of Pleasant Valley Preserve is closed during hunting seasons: Nov - Dec.

Mount Archer Woods Hunting allowed south of stone wall in season with written permission

Eno Preserve Hunting allowed in season with written permission.

- STONE WALL
- POWERLINES
- WETLANDS
- PRESERVE BOUNDARY
- EASEMENT BOUNDARY
- ENTRANCE
- CEMETARY
- DRIVEWAY
- OTHER TRAILS
- VERNAL POOL
- EQUESTRIAN PARKING