

LYME LAND TRUST BULLETIN

Archive Copy

The Lyme Land Conservation Trust

9/86

PRESIDENTS LETTER

COST OF LAND CONSERVATION

Being in favor of land conservation is easy. It is like being in favor of apple pie or motherhood until we look at the price tag. Land conservation is expensive and guaranteed to become more so, particularly as we watch prices skyrocket in Lyme.

Land conservation is also a low priority item for most people in a rural town such as Lyme where we are surrounded by large tracts of open land. "Why conserve it? It has always been in the _____ family and they have always kept it open." Unfortunately, being mortal, change and land must be sold, usually by an executor obligated to obtain the highest price possible which in turn means some form of development.

What's the point? Only this. Land conservation is not for today. It is 20, 50, or 100 years from now, and the paradox is that by then we will not be able to afford it. Indeed we can barely afford it today. The Land Acquisition Fund now stands at \$37,000, less than half the price of the average building lot in Lyme. In spite of the price we must continue our efforts to acquire open space today, in
(continued on page 2)



LAND TRUST AGREES TO TRADE PARTS OF SLAWSON TRACT FOR LOWER JOSHUA POND

The Lyme Land Trust has agreed with the State of Connecticut to exchange 15.5 acres of the Trust's Slawson Tract for the State-owned property containing Lower Joshua Pond. The scenic pond area at the junction of Joshuatown and Tantumorum Roads, is part of the Joshua Creek watershed which empties into the Connecticut River through the Trust's Ramshorn Creek Preserve.

The Slawson Tract property that will be traded to the State is part of the 57.3 acre bequest made by Mrs. Margaret Slawson to the Trust. All this acreage adjoins the Nehantic State Forest, to which the State will presumably add its new 15.5 acres. The 41.8 acres remaining in the Land Trust will be retained as Trust property as before.

The trade is consistent with the original intent of Mrs. Slawson's bequest, which provided that the property be added to the State Forest if the Land Trust did not accept it.

This trade represents a logical extension of the Trust's activity, into another Lyme beauty spot. It is an important and easily accessible property at a key town junction and, properly tended, it can be a continuing pleasure for all Lyme residents.

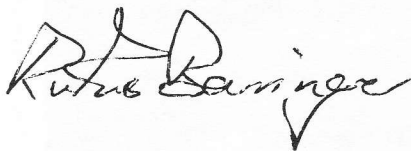
PRESIDENT'S LETTER
(continued from page 2)

fee or by easement, by gift, by purchase, or by swaps.

Remember, under proposed changes to the Internal Revenue Code, a gift of land in 1986 will afford the donor greater tax advantages than the same gift made subsequent to January 1, 1987.

If, as we agreed earlier, land conservation is a worthwhile goal, we cannot afford not to make every effort to secure open space in Lyme today. Motherhood and apple pie will still be around in 50 or 100 years but the open land will not.

Sincerely yours,



Rufus Barringer
President



TRUST SPONSORS NATURE WALK
SEPTEMBER 27

Under the supervision of Ginger Bladen, the Land Trust is sponsoring a Nature Walk on September 27 between 10 and 12 noon at its Honey Hill Preserve. Subjects to be covered in the field by experts are bird banding, nesting birds, butterflies, ferns and amphibians. All Lyme residents are invited.

The Honey Hill Preserve is at the junction of Route 82 and Clark Road, 2 1/2 miles west of Route 156. Signs will show the exact location.

LYME STUDENTS BENEFIT FROM
TRUST SPONSORED WORKSHOPS

During the past year five nature workshops at the Lyme Consolidated School were made possible by a grant from the Lyme Land Trust. 120 students from kindergarten through the 5th grade participated in the workshops which were put on by the Thames Science Center of New London. All workshops involved exhibits and demonstrations developed by the Center.

Subjects ranged from magnetism to the nature of light. A favorite workshop among the younger students featured live animals, the star of which was a boa constrictor named Egbert. Mrs. Barnise, Principal of the school said that all the workshops were greeted with great enthusiasm. "This 'hands-on' kind of teaching creates great excitement and interest", she said.

The Land Trust also sponsored prizes for special projects developed by students of the Lyme school. This year the award winners were:

Susan Ballek	grade 3
Lisa Elder	grade 4
Christian Ward	grade 5

Congratulations!

FOUR TRUSTEES ELECTED AT
LAND TRUST ANNUAL MEETING

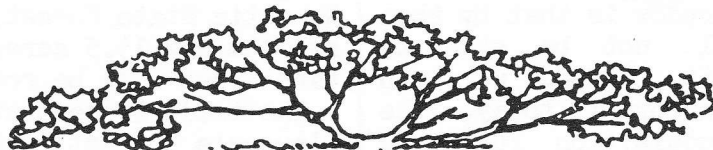
At the annual meeting of the Lyme Conservation Trust held on June 12th at the Lyme Consolidated School, four new members were elected to its Board. They are Joseph Greene of Joshuatown Road, Judith Duran of Mount Archer Road, Jonathan Isleib of Tantomorantum Road, and James Malone of Sterling City Road.

Carroll Dunham, William Eddison, and Charles Harding retired from the Board.

The full membership of the Board is now as follows:

- Rufus Barringer
- Chip Bates
- Ginger Bladen
- Joan Meyers
- Betsy Woodward
- Gray Raynolds
- Paul Harper
- Janie Davison
- Fritz Gahagan
- Joseph Green
- James Malone
- Jonathan Isleib
- Judith Duran
- Frank Hamilton
- James Thach

The annual meeting which was attended by about 150 Lyme residents, featured an illustrated talk by Steven Gephard, writer and naturalist, who discussed fish migrations in the Connecticut River.



A G I F T O F L A N D I N 1 9 8 6

A F F O R D S G R E A T E R T A X A D V A N T A G E S

T H A N O N E I N 1 9 8 7

LYME ROADSIDE CLEANUP ENLISTS 100 VOLUNTEERS

For the 10th year running, the Lyme Land Trust sponsored a town wide road-side cleanup, last April 26th and 27th. This year's cleanup, under the direction of Charles Harding and Gray Raynolds, was highly effective. 100 volunteers turned out under 30 neighborhood captains. 55 miles of Town and State roads were cleared of litter. Over 200 bags of trash were collected and disposed of by this hard-working citizen body. "Nice things just don't happen", Harding commented. "They take wholesale cooperation. I want to thank everyone involved in their highly successful effort to make our town more beautiful." Besides praising the volunteer work crews, Harding has a special word of thanks for all the following:

- * The several stores and public places that provided space for cleanup posters.

- * The Pictorial and the Gazette, which helped publicize the cleanup.

- * Jane DeWolf at Reynolds Store and Denise Flynn at the Hadlyme Store, who assisted in the central distribution of trash bags.

- * Norris Josephs (assisted by Keven and Chris Crowley), Joseph and Beverly Rand, and Ernest and Doreen Lammer, who made dump-run sweeps throughout the town during the cleanup.

- * The cooperation of First Selectman John Yeomans and the Town of Lyme, which provided the bulk of the trash bags, and the cooperation of Ernest Rodman and Ernest Thody who helped extend the hours the dump was open.

Thank you one and all!



BLADEN FINDS KEY FOR ENVIRONMENT IN BIRDS AND THEIR HABITS

Of the many people in Lyme concerned with the natural environment, perhaps none will be busier this fall than Ginger Bladen of Brush Hill Road, a Trustee of the Lyme Land Trust. As the autumn bird migration begins, her year-round job of catching, banding, and releasing birds will reach a seasonal peak. This year the delicate nylon nets on the Bladen's wooded property have already yielded over one thousand birds of night species to her temporary care. Mrs. Bladen is one of 2200 bird banders licensed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the only one in Lyme.

Each bird she catches is carefully weighed and classified for more than a dozen characteristics. If the bird carries a band on its leg, the number is recorded. If not Mrs. Bladen bands the bird before it is released. All data is then sent to the Wildlife Service where it is put into computers. What is emerging from work like hers is a nationwide picture of migration, and the nesting patterns of all domestic species, which in time will allow more intelligent conservation measures. As Mrs. Bladen points out, environmental hazards effect humans after they show up first in birds, as did DDT in ospreys and PCB's in the common tern.

Besides recording migrating species, Mrs. Bladen is now engaged in an annual survey of birds that are resident year-round in Lyme. This will eventually give a complete local picture of bird life showing what species are increasing or declining. Mrs. Bladen has already noted increases in the population of Eastern Blue-birds, of Cerulean Warblers, Redbellied Woodpeckers, and Carolina Wrens.

Lyme, Mrs. Bladen points out, is an ideal place to study birds. It is on the Connecticut River Flyway and it offers the widest diversity of habitat: Lyme's tidal marshes, dense woods, open fields, upland wetlands, and rocky hill-sides, each attract different species.

One of the pressing challenges for Lyme citizens as Mrs. Bladen sees it, is its ability to maintain a reasonable balance of land use. This, she says, is not only important for the birds, but for people who live here, whether they watch birds or not.

Join the Lyme Land Trust

~

In 1986 our membership
rose to a record 345
Lyme Citizens!

~

You, too, can help enhance
the character & beauty of
our town.

~

Send in your Membership
Application NOW !

Membership Application

LYME LAND CONSERVATION TRUST, INC.

Box 1002, Lyme, CT 06371

NAME(S) AND ADDRESS

Regular Membership

\$5.00

Family Membership

\$10.00

Contribution to

Acquisition Fund

Total

Dues and contributions are deductible for federal tax purposes. We thank you warmly for
your support and will economize by making no further acknowledgement,
unless you check the following box. ☐

LYME LAND
CONSERVATION TRUST, INC.
Box 1002, Lyme, Connecticut 06371

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 56
Lyme, CT 06371

