



LYME LAND TRUST BULLETIN

The Lyme Land Conservation Trust

October 1995

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

As a professional ecologist and natural resources land planner, I have traveled a lot of the Northeast studying the land, noting the differences from place to place. What is commonly found in southeastern Connecticut may be the exception in Pennsylvania or Vermont, even many other areas of Connecticut. But Lyme is unique. It combines a remarkable set of circumstances that make it different from any place else in the northeast.

Look at a map of the east coast. The corridor from Boston to Washington is composed of cities and suburban centers with the highest population density in the country. But because of the Connecticut River's natural barriers to deep water navigation, no cities developed along its coastal banks. Of the 169 towns in Connecticut Lyme ranks 159th in population density, and no river town has a lower density or population. Lyme has always been off the beaten path.

With approximately 1000 households in an area of nearly 22,000 acres, Lyme is truly rural. With the reversion of agricultural lands back to woodlands beginning in the mid 1800's, we have become a town with nearly 18,000 acres of forestland. Other towns in the northeast and northwest parts of the state can claim greater areas of open space, but Lyme abuts a major river system and is only six miles from Long Island Sound. No near coastal town from Washington to Boston can top our inventory of undeveloped lands.

But it is more than open space that makes Lyme unique. We have habitat types here that are recognized by the State and Federal governments as well as the Nature Conservancy

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The Childs' property (former Czikowsky farm) overlooking Hamburg Cove..

HAMBURG COVE EASEMENT

Thomas and Susan Childs have generously donated to the Lyme Land Conservation Trust, a conservation easement on three and a quarter acres of field overlooking Hamburg Cove which will remain open space in perpetuity. The view across this field from Joshuatown Road to the Hamburg Church was a favorite theme of Lyme artists over the decades. Townspeople admired the sight of cows in pasture land as they awaited their purchases in the Czikowsky store, and children sledded on the slope in winter. Boaters on the Cove looked up to field and wooded hillside.

"The view from the Czikowsky farm is perhaps the central image of the town to most residents," said Anthony Irving, president of the Land Trust. "We are very grateful to the Childs for understanding the significance of this site and making such a gift to the town. It is a wonderful coda to the long saga of the Czikowsky farm."

Thomas Childs commented that, "Though we are new to the town, all our neighbors made clear this is a beautiful piece of property and wouldn't it be nice to keep it that way. Susan and I are pleased we are able to convey the easement to the Land Trust."

The Childs intend to maintain the open quality of the field. The easement protects the ecosystem of the Cove and Eight Mile River, an area of special concern to both the Land Trust and The Nature Conservancy, as well as keeping open a cherished View.

Past history.

The Land Trust has played a role in the recent history of the property. The Czikowsky family came to Lyme in 1900 and by dint of long, hard hours of work, enlarged an original purchase of 85 acres into a several hundred acre

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HAMBURG COVE EASEMENT

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farm. Two sons and a daughter continued to run the farm and the connected store until their deaths in the mid 1970s. As none of them were married, the farm was left in trust to numerous relatives, none of whom wanted to farm.

As the real estate boom of the 1980s came, the United Bank and Trust Company (now Fleet Bank), as court appointed Trustee, was anxious to sell the property. This consisted of about 80 acres south of Joshuatown Road along the cove, and 120 acres on the hill above the road. There is a third parcel of about a hundred acres, mostly landlocked, which was not included in the sale property. The town was bracing itself for a massive real estate development which would have forever altered the views.



Anthony Irving and Thomas Childs discuss the easement.

However, realtor Samuel Strong, hired by the bank to create the subdivision plan, was convinced that large lot development was in the best interest of both the beneficiaries and the town.

Working with the town and with Rufus Barringer, then President of the Land Trust, he proposed that the 80 acres south of the road be divided into nine lots, of which the Childs now own two, and one is currently for sale. It was also stipulated that the large-cow barn, considered a local landmark, be preserved. The acreage above the road was likewise divided into very large lots.

To protect the area from any future subdivision, the rights to subdivide these lots was conveyed to the Land Trust, thus maintaining the existing density. The subdivision plan was approved by the town in 1985. 🍂

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

At the June Annual Meeting of the Land Trust, the following new members were elected to the board:

Carolyn Bacdayan, and her husband have retired to Sterling City where her family has roots. After teaching history in secondary school, Carolyn took a degree in sociology and became an assistant professor of behavioral science at the University of Kentucky Medical School. For her last thirteen years in Kentucky, she was director of planning for the University of Kentucky Hospital.

Mary Catherwood spent most of her working life as an institutional investment advisor, most recently with Paul Revere Investment Management Co. She moved to Lyme in 1993.

Timothy McMahon operates a landscape design firm and garden center in Westerly, RI. Tim and his wife live on Joshuatown Road.

Daniel Newburg has spent summers in Lyme since childhood. He and his wife have recently recreated the historic Sterling Grist Mill on the original site on Birch Mill Road, which is now their permanent home. For fifteen years he was an art dealer in New York, and will continue in the business here part time, while pursuing other business interests.

Marsha Orzech taught in Connecticut public schools after receiving her B.A. in English from the University of Connecticut and doing graduate work in education at the University of Hartford. She and her husband, Sirge live in Hadlyme, and are co-owners of the Valley Press and New Era Printing Company in Deep River. She has been active in many community organizations.

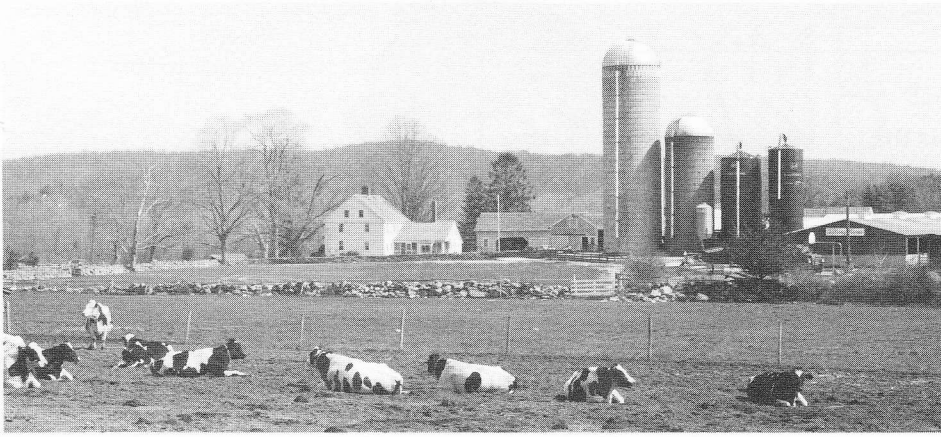
Andrea Wing and her husband live on Ely's Ferry Road with their two children who are in the Lyme Consolidated School. She holds a B.A. in French from Tufts University and is currently studying accounting at the Central Connecticut State University. An active member of the Hamburg Church and PTO, Andrea is particularly interested in the Land Trust's educational programs. 🍂

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

As the Land Trust acquires more land and easements to land, help is needed to fulfill stewardship obligations. Join us to enjoy fall or spring weekends cutting brush, marking trails, repairing bridges or walking boundaries. For information call Roger Smith (434-9792) or Bob Wood (434-8986), co-chairmen of the Stewardship Committee. 🍂



Wild turkeys are plentiful in Lyme this year.



The Tiffany Farm has been in the family for a century and a half.

THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF FARMING IN LYME

John J. Tiffany III held the attention of a full house at the June Annual Meeting in recounting the astonishing changes that have taken place in farming in the last half century. While his ancestor Ebenezer Tiffany, who farmed here from 1700 to 1740, would have felt quite at home on his grandfather's farm from 1900 to 1940, both would have been at a loss on the present Tiffany farm.

Until mid 20th century, work was done with manpower and aide of Devon oxen or horses. Hand implements were used; crops were the same; so were the farm animals. The first major change was introduction of tractors. Tiffany's father bought his first rubber tire tractor in 1941, costing \$1,000. Now diesel tractors have 250 horsepower and can come with air conditioning, stereos and other special features and can cost up to \$100,000. By the 1960's the internal combustion engine did everything, from bailing hay, chopping silage to tilling. Electricity ran motors, coolers and conveyers. Fewer hands are needed now.

Hybridization of corn came in 1927, followed over the years by other specialized crops which are more disease resistant and productive. Complex analysis of soils and fertilizers has also boosted production. The all-purpose cow, hen or sheep has been replaced by specialized animals-the beef or milk cow, the laying or frying hen, sheep of many wool types.

Artificial insemination was introduced in the 1950's; now all semen is frozen, and the latest method of propagation is the transplanting of embryos, which more recently can be frozen and sold on the open market. Japan, according to Tiffany, is a major market. All these practices have improved the quality and health of livestock.

Improved nutrition was the explosion of the 1970's. By analyzing forage samples, university experts can determine how much is needed for each cow to gain an extra pound of weight or extra pound of milk. Today, each Tiffany cow wears a tag which, acting like a bar code, automatically triggers delivery of the correct amount of forage for that cow as it enters its stall. The computer and software have invaded the farm as everywhere else. Every cow is registered and records are kept to aide research as well as help the farmer keep track of his stock.

As a result of all these advances, fostered by the agricultural colleges, production has doubled in the last forty years, but the farmer must be a technocrat to keep up. In the late 1940's, there were 4,000 registered dairy farms in Connecticut. Today there are 303, but they produce almost as much milk. Today



John J. Tiffany at the Annual Meeting in June.

the Tiffany farm is one of only two dairy farms in Lyme, and produces more milk than the approximately fifteen farms of 1940.

But despite the impressive increase in production, the outlook for farms in New England is not rosy. At present the price of milk does not cover the cost of production. As the number of farms dwindle, the wider support system of supplies of seed, grain, fertilizer and equipment also dries up, further discouraging the farmer. Once farmland in Connecticut is lost, Tiffany warned, it is gone forever as it grows quickly back to woodland.

The Tiffany Farm, however, is protected from development by the state's Farm Legacy program. With Hamburg Cove, it is an important landmark in town. ■

PRESIDENTS LETTER

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and international groups as being special and worthy of preservation. The tidal wetlands of the lower Connecticut River have been designated a wetlands of international significance under the United Nation's Ramsar Convention and by the Nature Conservancy as one of the forty Last Great Places in the western hemisphere. As part of this the Conservancy has recognized the Eight Mile River watershed as an area for special attention and study.

As land holders we have the opportunity to preserve this system. It is a jewel, but not immune to pressures from development. Suburbanization is not far away, and to influence Lyme's future we need to plan now while we still have choices. Our major goal as a land trust is to help landowners who wish to protect the aesthetic and habitat values that give Lyme its character and environmental importance. Through education, economic strategies and consolidated efforts with other non-profit groups and town agencies, we hope all citizens will become stewards of the land.

Anthony Irving

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

state law gives agricultural implements the right-of-way on all secondary roads, including Routes 156 and 82? At the Annual Meeting Jack Tiffany made a plea to his Lyme neighbors to have patience as he drives to his distant fields, and promised to pull over as soon as feasible, but avoiding residents' carefully tended lawns. The Land Trust supports that plea—we need the Tiffany Farm to flourish and irritated farmers don't help. 🌿



JOIN NOW

If you are not already a member of the Lyme Land Conservation Trust, won't you consider joining. Send dues to Box 1002, Lyme CT. 06371. Be sure to include name and address.

Senior	\$5.00	Subscribing	\$25.00
Individual	10.00	Contributing	50.00
Family	20.00	Sustaining	100.00

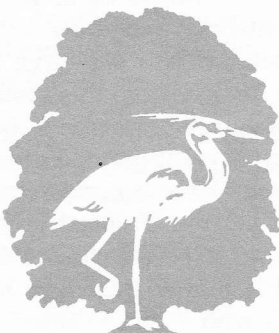
Contributions to the Stewardship/Acquisition Fund also welcome.

The Lyme Land Trust Bulletin

is published several times a year by the Lyme Land Conservation Trust, Inc. as a matter of interest to its membership and to the general public in Lyme. Readers are invited to direct questions and suggestions to Joan Rich, Editor, at 434-7091.

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