



The Lyme Land Conservation Trust

2012 Spring Newsletter

Land Trust Volunteers Log Almost 1000 Hours Clearing Lyme's Trails & Cleaning Up Highways

More than 70 Lyme Land Trust volunteers have put in upwards of 1000 hours during the last year looking after the woodland and fields in Lyme that are protected as open space under ownership or easements held by the Town of Lyme, The Nature Conservancy and the Land Trust.

While volunteers have been working on protected open space in Lyme for years, an energetic new initiative to mobilize volunteers and organize work parties was launched in January, in part spurred by the debris left in the wake of violent and destructive storms during the second half of 2011.

The effort was kicked off in January by Linda Bireley, a former Land Trust president and executive assistant who is now the Town of Lyme Open Space and Fishways coordinator. She quickly found a partner in Don Gerber, the current Land Trust Stewardship Committee chairman.

WWW

Wednesday Working Walks

"I had wanted for some years to organize volunteers into regular work parties to clean up and improve the preserves in town," said Linda, "so in January I decided to set every Wednesday morning as the time for volunteers to form work parties to go out and tackle whatever jobs needed doing.

"The original concept was that a group of individuals would meet every Wednesday morning at one of the properties in Lyme open to the public and walk one or more of the trails on that property, socializing and conducting light maintenance work and determining future maintenance needs," Linda related. "It turned out that there was



Cleaning Up Lyme's Roadways & Trails

Linda Bireley, above left, and Diana Boehning pick up discarded trash and litter along Rt. 156 near Tiffany Farm on April 4. Below, on February 8 LLCT Stewardship Chairman Don Gerber clears a fallen tree from the Red Trail on the Jewett Preserve, which is owned by The Nature Conservancy & the Town of Lyme.

enough known work to be done that each one of the 'walks' accomplished quite a bit of maintenance."

As chair of the Land Trust Stewardship Committee, Don works with 35 different volunteer stewards who are responsible for monitoring and, in some cases, maintaining almost 100 deeded properties and conservation easements (some of which cover several separate parcels).

Each property is visited at least once a year, and sometimes the boundaries have to be marked. In some cases, there are public trails (some with foot bridges) that must be kept open, repaired and well marked.

Under normal conditions, Don's Stewardship Committee has a backlog of maintenance jobs, but Hurricane Irene and the freak October
(continued on next page)



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snow Storm Alfred two months later created a damage repair list unmatched in the LLCT's 45-year history.

In some cases, there were Land Trust preserves whose trails had multiple blockages. For instance, there were a total of seven trees completely blocking the Red and White trails in the Chauncey Eno and Pickwick's preserves — one 29 inches in diameter — and another dozen “hangers” (trees leaning or branches dangling dangerously that must be removed).

A Volunteer Phenomenon

It wasn't long before Don and Linda had teamed up and organized about 50 volunteers into informal work parties that met every Wednesday. They tackled any maintenance job on Linda & Don's lists, regardless of whether the preserve was owned by the Land Trust, the Town or The Nature Conservancy.

In some cases, some of the storm debris was removed by “free lancers,” volunteers who simply noticed trails that needed to be cleared, asked permission, and went at it. Brantley Buerger, who lives near the Town's Mt. Archer Woods Preserve, cleared its trails shortly after Hurricane Irene.

But most of the work has been done by Linda and Don's Wednesday Working Walks, and by the end of March, most of the trails had been cleared and storm damage debris removed.

“The Super 70”

Having gotten the volunteer group organized, however, neither Linda nor Don wanted to let the group slip into dormancy, so they soon directed the Wednesday work parties toward jobs not related to storm damage.

These included inspecting and marking the boundaries of the LLCT Beebe Preserve, re-marking several trails in the northern part of the Town's Hartman Park, clearing back saplings and barberry on the edges of Clucas Field Preserve, and re-establishing sections of the Ravine Trail that for several years had been submerged under a beaver pond whose dam was washed away by Hurricane Irene.

The group even looked beyond open space preserves and spent a beautiful April Wednesday morning picking up litter and garbage along a two-mile section of Rt. 156 from the Hamburg Fire House, south to the Old Lyme town line.

What Linda started on January 7 as her “Wednesday Working Walks,” turned into a volunteer work party phenomenon. Between

January and the end of April, the group went out on maintenance and clean up projects 17 Wednesdays (and four Mondays). On one Wednesday, there were enough volunteers to form two work parties.

Linda's records show the 2012 work parties logged 396 hours in just four months and similar but less frequent work parties put in about 200 hours during the last eight months of 2011, bringing to a total of almost 600 hours in the last 12 months.

Don and Linda's records also show LLCT stewards put in about 400 hours during the same period (including fish ladder monitoring), bringing to about 1000 hours contributed by more than 70 volunteers, a group Linda has now nicknamed “The Super 70.”



Above from left Chuck Lynch, Mel Woody and Louise Lynch collecting litter at the Lyme town line on Rt. 156. Below Evan Griswold mows Japanese barberry on Clucas Field, Brush Hill Road.



LYME LAND CONSERVATION TRUST STATISTICAL STEWARDSHIP DATA POINTS

2,866 Acres — Total acreage under LLCT stewardship
98 Parcels — Total properties under LLCT stewardship

MADE UP OF:

573 Acres — Total acreage owned and stewarded by LLCT
32 Parcels — Total parcels owned and stewarded by LLCT
2,058 Acres — Total acreage of conservation easements held and stewarded by LLCT

65 Easements — Total conservation easements held and stewarded by LLCT

235 Acres — Acreage in Pleasant Valley Preserve owned by The Nature Conservancy and stewarded by LLCT

35 Volunteers — Number of LLCT members who donate their time to steward property for which LLCT is responsible

The LLCT “Super 70” - Exclusive Club Open To All

Volunteers who have contributed time as stewards, fish ladder monitors, and working walkers in Lyme.
To Join Linda Bireley's Wednesday Working Walks “Super 70” Volunteers email: LindaBiota@comcast.net

Sue & Moe Ancil
Carolyn Bacdayan
David Bingham
Linda Bireley
Emily & Jason Bjornberg
Sherry & John Block
Diana & Bill Boehning
Temp Brown
Brantley Buerger
John Charland
Anne & Carl Clement
Charlie Cocca

Christian Connors
Marta & Les Cone
Don Critchett
Beverly Crowther
Bart Drennan
Judith Duran
Carrie Ermler
Angie & John Falstrom
Emily Fisher
John Freer
Carleen & Don Gerber
Mary Guitar

Evan Griswold
Fred Harger
Don Hazuka
Wendy Hill
Laurie Hoyt
Kristen Hunter
Anthony Irving
Tom Lamourine
Doug Lenda
Sandy Lieber
Prescott Littlefield
George Lombardino

Parker Lord
Louise & Chuck Lynch
Sarah McCracken
Bonnie Nuzum
Paul Parulis
Allen Petrie
John Pritchard
Valinn Ranelli
Faye & Mike Richardson
Mike Roche
Kathy Rowe
Barbara Schwanda

Tom Shoemaker
Penny Smyth
Cory Stiff
Jeff Taylor
Molly Turner
Humphrey Tyler
Cary & David Walker
Peter Weigle
Gary Weed
Kiernan Wholean
Melvin Woody
Dave Yapchanyk

Would You Like to Support the Lyme Land Conservation Trust?

Do you support the work being done by the Lyme Land Trust to preserve Lyme's open space?

The scenic vistas created by connected corridors of open space help to create that special “Lyme feeling.” But it didn't just happen. It is the result of decades of work by the Land Trust, our conservation partners, scores of volunteers, and of course generous donors whose contributions are essential for us to preserve open space and maintain it in permanent conservation for all to enjoy.

Unlike many conservation entities, we open almost all of our properties to the public. The many trails provide you and your family with an unparalleled opportunity to get outdoors and explore nature so close to home.

However, like most things in life, there are costs attached, and if you can help the Land Trust with a donation, we would be grateful and will put it to good use.

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

If you are already a member or donor, be assured we appreciate your support.

The Lyme Land Conservation Trust Newsletter

Published by The Lyme Land Conservation Trust, Inc.

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Underwritten by a generous grant from



June 15 Annual Meeting To Feature Continuing Connection Between Lyme Landscape & Artists

The featured speaker at the June 15 Annual Meeting of the Lyme Land Conservation Trust, Inc., will be Susan Ballek, executive director of the Lyme Art Association.

Ballek will speak on the connection between the famous "Lyme light" and the 19th century American impressionists who lived in the Lyme area and painted landscapes that are now famous worldwide.

The meeting will be from 6-8 PM in the Lyme Public Hall, Rt. 156, Hamburg.

Paintings produced during the 2nd Annual Lyme Paint-Out on May 5, which is sponsored by the Lyman Allyn Art Museum, New London, the Lyme Art Association and the Land Trust, will be on display.

Land Trust President John Pritchard referred recently to the important connection between land trusts and artists.

"Artists through the ages have preserved images of our natural beauty," he observed, "and Land Trusts, along with other conservation entities, preserve open space and vistas for generations to view and enjoy forever."



Lyme Land Trust Enters The Age Of Social Media By Launching Facebook Page

The Lyme Land Trust has entered the age of social media by launching its own Facebook page as a way for members and friends to keep up to date on Land Trust events and news.

"Facebook is just another channel through which people can get information about their friends, their interests, their favorite organizations, hobbies, careers, business categories, virtually any topic under the sun," explained Carrie Ermler, the LLCT board member who created the page.

Carrie is urging Land Trust members who have their own Facebook pages to link to the new Land Trust page so they can get updates on Land Trust events and news. The url is www.facebook.com/lymelandtrust.



President's Report

In 2011 Land Trust Added Another 90 Acres To Protected Open Space



George Moore
Executive Director

Editor's Note: In January George Moore, who had been Land Trust president since 2007, stepped down and was appointed Executive Director by the Land Trust Board. This report was written at the end of his presidency.

The year 2011 was eventful and successful for the Lyme Land Conservation Trust. Once again we are indebted to our hard working volunteer Board, scores of member-volunteers who help us in so many ways, and to our generous members and donors whose monetary support means so much.

True to our core mission to preserve land, we were able to protect another 90 acres this past year.

In October, aided by Town Selectmen Parker Lord and Steven Mattson, State Representative Marilyn Giuliano cut the ribbon as we dedicated the new 40+ acre Chestnut Hill Preserve on Sterling Hill Rd.

A great deal of credit goes to our Stewardship Committee and the volunteers for creating a trail that links up with the trails in the Nehantic State Forest.

It never would have happened without a state DEEP grant, a matching pledge from the HJ Promise Foundation and the support of many generous donors in Lyme.

In late December, we gratefully accepted a conservation restriction donated by Mac Godley on 51 acres located at the corner of Mount Archer and Tantumorant Rd. Our 65th easement!

The Land Trust Alliance, a national association of land trusts, honored the Lyme Land Conservation Trust in their annual report citing our staunch defense of conservation easements.

I doubt those of us who were there will forget the Annual Meeting held June 19, Father's Day, on the beautiful grounds of Director Andy Baxter's home.

We honored some of our founders and Land Trust pioneers before watching a spectacular display of falconry.

This will be my last report as President. At the Executive Committee meeting in December, John Pritchard was nominated, and voted in as President at the January 3, 2012, Board Meeting.

Recently, the Board determined that the time had come to create the positions of Executive Director and Environmental Director to better manage our increased responsibilities. Both are part-time staff positions, non-voting officers of the Corporation, reporting to the Board of Directors through the President.

Recognizing the accomplishments of Project Manager Lisa Niccolai, the Board promoted her to Environmental Director. I agreed to serve as Executive Director. We bade a grateful farewell to Executive Assistant Linda Bireley who ended her staff relationship with the Trust.

As I look back over the nearly nine years I served on the Board, I am struck by the commitment people have to their Land Trust—members, volunteers and donors.

Because of them, and people who have had the same commitment since 1966 when the Land Trust was founded, it is not hard to see why this town, Lyme, is so special.

7th Annual Land Trust Photo Contest Awards Presented At March Ceremony



Balanced Between Storm & Serenity

The steamboat dock at Ely's Ferry on the Connecticut River seems to be balanced between the serenity of the placid river and the rolling clouds of an oncoming storm in this photo by Don Quigley of Old Lyme that took an honorable mention award in the Landscape & Waterscape category.



Tony Sullivan, chairman of the Land Trust Photo Contest, presents Jasmine Bazinet of Niantic with her honorable mention award for the Youth (15 & under) category at a reception and awards ceremony on March 30.

Winning Photos Online

Find all the 2012 winning entries to the Land Trust Photo Contest online at Shutterfly.

<http://landtrustphotos.shutterfly.com>

By Tony Sullivan, Chairman, Land Trust Photo Contest

In March the Lyme, Old Lyme, Salem, Essex and East Haddam land conservation trusts held a reception at the Lymes' Senior Center in Old Lyme to celebrate the winners of their jointly sponsored amateur photo contest.

The purpose of the annual contest is to focus on the celebrated and scenic countryside in those towns and its diversified wildlife.

There were over 300 photos submitted by 85 photographers from all over Connecticut and a few from out of state. The ages of the photographers ranged from children to senior citizens.

The three independent judges were: **William Burt**, a naturalist who has won acclaim for his books of wildlife photography; **Amy Kurtz Lansing**, curator at the Florence Griswold Museum and a Yale University doctoral candidate in the history of art; and **Rudy Wood-Muller**, a photographic illustrator and designer.

This year an additional award was given out to honor one of our prior judges, John G. Mitchell, who passed away recently. John, who was an editor at National Geographic, dedicated his career to writing about the environment and conservation, so the award was for the best picture reflecting that subject.

2012 Photo Contest Winners

John G. Mitchell Environmental Conservation Award—Joan Meek, Old Lyme

Plants—First Place: David Dundorf, Salem; Second Place: Skip Broom, Hadlyme; Third Place: Tom Nemeth, Salem; Honorable Mentions: Tom Flynn, Durham; Stephanie Clayton, Old Lyme; Suzanne Zack, Old Lyme.

Landscapes & Waterscapes—First Place: Jeremy Dominijanni, Niantic; Second Place: Linda Waters, Salem; Third Place: Jean Callan King, East Haddam; Honorable Mentions: Jacob Egbert, Old Lyme; Don Quigley, Old Lyme; Cheryl Philopena, Salem.

Wildlife—First Place: Don Quigley, Old Lyme; Second Place: Skip Broom, Hadlyme; Third Place: Hank Golet, Old Lyme; Honorable Mentions: Tom Bradbury, East Hampton; Tom Bradbury, East Hampton; Mark Roger Bailey, Essex.

Cultural & Historic—First Place: Mike Cathcart, Hadlyme; Second Place: Skip Broom, Hadlyme; Third Place: Skip Broom, Hadlyme; Honorable Mentions: Mark Roger Bailey, Essex; Cheryl Philopena, Salem; Tom Flynn, Durham.

Youth—First Place: Haddie Walters, East Haddam; Second Place: Hannah Patten, Old Lyme; Third Place: Emma Pennie, Old Lyme; Honorable Mentions: Breanne Sullivan, Dumont, NJ; Charlotte Boland, Ivoryton; Jasmine Bazinet, Niantic

Awards Made Possible By The Generous Support Of The Following Sponsors

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Historic 100 Acre LLCT Chauncey Eno Preserve Is A

By Kriste

While in Old Saybrook recently I overheard a couple talking about a “great hike” from which they had just returned, and they expressed surprise it was so close by, right across the river in Lyme.

As they chatted with the cashier about the “hidden gems” of Lyme, it was evident that the large tracts of open forestland and fields that surround our homes bring visitors from all over the state.

The Lyme Land Trust’s Chauncey Eno Preserve on Mt. Archer Road is one of those “gems.”

A 100 acre parcel that was purchased in 1998, it features a variety trails for many abilities, interesting historical features, and a peaceful quiet that is often needed in our busy lives.

The Eno Preserve is adjacent to Mount Archer Woods (owned and maintained by the Town of Lyme) and near the Pickwick’s Preserve, a privately owned parcel on which the Land Trust holds a conservation easement. There is a network of almost 4.5 miles of trails that wind



The author sits atop an enormous oak that was toppled across the red trail in the Chauncey Eno Preserve during Hurricane Irene last August.

through all three, and depending on trail selection, all three preserves can be reached in one visit.

There are three different trail heads to reach the interior trail network. One is from Pickwick’s Preserve off Joshuatown Road, and the other two are on Mt. Archer Road, one entering the Eno Preserve across from the Mt. Archer Cemetery and the other entering Mt. Archer Woods across from

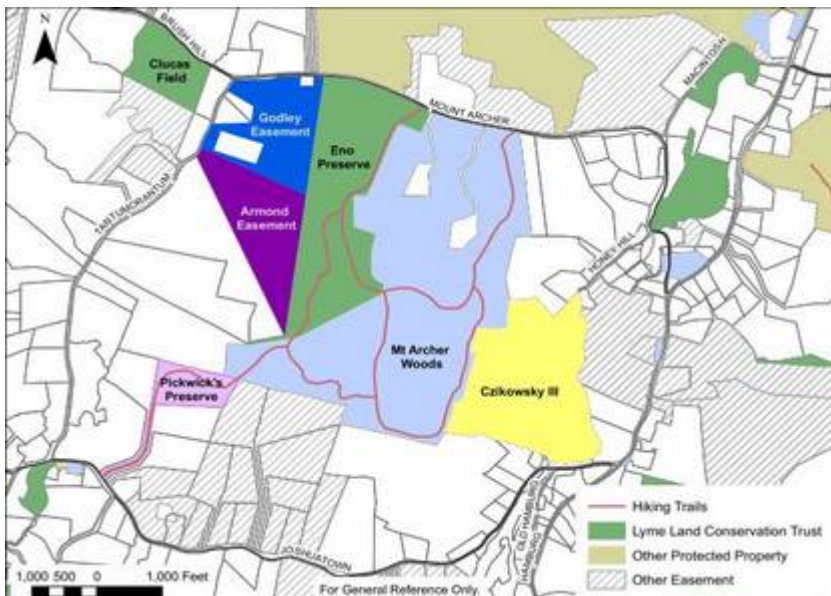
the pond on the other side of the road.

These two trail entrances on Mt. Archer Road access the white trail, which at 1.9 miles is one of the longest in the network. It loops through both Eno and Mt. Archer Woods.

There’s a parking area at the Mt. Archer Woods entrance, so most visitors prefer to access the trail network using this trail head.

Adding to the Mt. Archer Complex

The map below provides a graphic illustration of the portion of the Mt. Archer Complex south of Mt. Archer Road, and the mix of public, private and non-profit ownership that combine to preserve 600 acres of forestland that was once slated for development. The Chauncey Eno Preserve (green) is owned by the Lyme Land Trust. Mt. Archer Woods (light blue) is owned by the Town of Lyme. Czikowsky III (yellow) is protected by a partnership between The Nature Conservancy, the Town of Lyme and the Lyme Land Trust. Another 120 acres is privately owned and protected by easements held by the Land Trust, including Pickwick’s Preserve (light purple) and the 50-acre Armond property (dark purple). The most recent addition to the privately owned property portion was a conservation easement (in dark blue) covering most of 50 acres given to the Lyme Land Trust at the end of 2011 by Mac Godley of Lyme, who is shown with his partner Roz Christison and their dog Holly.



Key Element In The 1,200 Acre Mt. Archer Complex

en Stodolski

A few hundred yards along the white trail from this parking area, there are ruins of a 19th Century farmstead. Overgrown with barberry, these foundations show remains of outbuildings and a cellar hole for a house. Though rumors abound about what happened to its inhabitants, it seems the house was abandoned in the mid 1800s and was torn down or fell down. Near the old farm foundations there is still some evidence of an old road, Honey Hill Lane, that once connected Mt. Archer to Tantumorum Road.

Not far from these old foundations on the white trail is the intersection with the yellow trail, which loops south to the brow of Mt. Archer's prominence, running along the boundary with the Czikowsky III Preserve. There are no trails through the Czikowsky Preserve, but visitors can leave the yellow trail, scramble over a stone wall and walk down to a ledge that provides a view of Hamburg Cove. On clear days Long Island Sound can be seen in the distance.

The yellow trail then starts to loop back north and intersects with the red trail, which heads west past another "cellar hole" foundation, down an old farm road, and over a small stream to connect with the blue trail, which comes up from the entrance to Pickwick's Preserve. There the red trail turns north and enters the Eno Preserve. Like the rest of the trails on Mt. Archer, the red trail is a gentle, easy walk. It passes a large wooded wetland that is usually covered in frog eggs in the early spring.

The red trail meets the white trail in the heart of the Eno Preserve. Continuing north on the white trail leads to the Eno Preserve entrance on Mt. Archer Road, a few hundred yards west of the starting point at the Mt Archer Woods parking lot.

Whatever trail you're on, you will probably see white plastic pipes sticking out of the ground. These were used to perform "perc tests" for possible septic system sites, a reminder that this land was once slated to be a housing subdivision.

Although you can't see it while walking the red trail, through the woods to the west is another 100 acres divided into four lots that are privately owned and not open to the public. The Land Trust holds conservation easements on about 80 acres of this property, assuring that only three houses will ever be built on it.

Counting these four lots, almost 600 acres on the southern half of Mt. Archer have been preserved as open space for future generations on land that could have been subdivided into hundreds of individual building lots.

This 600 acres is part of "The Mt. Archer Complex," a quilt work of 1200 acres of protected lands stretching from Pickwick's Preserve on Joshua-town Road south and east almost to the Joshua-town Road Bridge and north almost to Rt. 82,

including both the Jewett and Pleasant Valley preserves on the north side of Mt. Archer Road.

What is remarkable about The Mt. Archer Complex is that it has been preserved through generous donations from the community and a unique partnership made up of the Lyme Land Conservation Trust, The Nature Conservancy, the Town of Lyme and several private land owners who have granted conservation easements to protect their land from development by future owners.

Understanding Boundary Tree Markers for Property Under Land Trust Protection

The Lyme Land Trust is responsible for managing and protecting open space on almost 3,000 acres, but most of it is privately owned and not open to the public. Hikers should be careful not to wander off public access property onto privately owned property. The Lyme Land Trust uses three different tree tags to assist hikers in identifying property boundaries so that they will be less likely to trespass inadvertently on private property.

Yellow Tree Tag

Marks the boundary of Lyme Land Trust Preserve. Placed on trees facing outward toward property that adjoins Land Trust Property.



What It Means

Open To The Public

You are entering property owned by the Land Trust and open to the public. The Lyme Land Trust encourages public use of its preserves and maintains trails for easy public access.

Taupe Tree Tag

Marks the boundary of Lyme Land Trust Preserve. Placed on trees facing inward toward property that is owned by the Land Trust.



What It Means

Leaving LLCT Land

You are leaving property owned by the Land Trust and may be about to trespass on private property. Do not proceed unless you are sure you are crossing onto property that is open to the public.

White Tree Tag

Marks the outer boundary of privately owned property covered by a conservation easement held by the Lyme Land Trust.



What It Means

Private Property

This is private property that is not open to the public. If you proceed without the owner's permission, you will probably be trespassing. Please respect the owner's privacy and property rights.

Land Trust Education, Exploration & Outdoor Programs ... Learning About: Snakes, Rabbits, Fish, Poisons & Local Trails

Lyme Consolidated School 1st Graders Find Forest Trails on Town Hall Maps



On March 24 LLCT steward John Freer conducted an Earth Day program for his son Mason's 1st grade class with maps at town hall, giving the students an opportunity to find forest hiking trails closest to their homes. Freer said he is active in LLCT because, "I want to expose my sons to the idea of land conservation, particularly in this paradise we live in called 'Lyme'."

Snakes of Lyme—Up Close & Personal

On January 29 in front of an overflow crowd at Lyme Public Hall, LLCT hosted a lecture by Ms. Linda Krulikowski on "Snakes of New England". Ms. Krulikowski, a local resident and self-taught herpetologist, explained her topic in meticulous yet easily understood detail, adding relevance by focusing



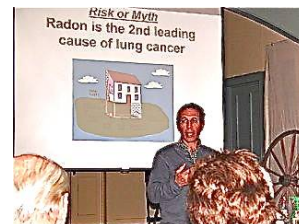
on the 14 different snakes commonly found in Connecticut and Lyme backyards.

Ms. Krulikowski had a treat for the youngsters in attendance: a hands-on introduction to a live snake. As guests departed, overheard were recurring expressions ranging from "so cool" to "very enlightening".

Poisons & Toxins In The Home

On February 12 at The Lyme Public Hall, Dr. Gary Ginsberg, a toxicologist for the state of CT and radio show host of WTIC AM's Greener Living talked about the harmful toxins in our homes and gardens. Co-sponsored by the LLCT and the Lyme Public Hall, the program focused on the myth (or reality) behind some familiar, but little understood, potential health

issues. His suggestions for those who live in Lyme: test your home for radon; install carbon monoxide detectors; test your well for contaminants. More info: <http://whatstoxic.org>



Fish Migrating Up The Eightmile On the Moulson Pond Fish Ladder

On April 7 Dr. Linda Bireley, Lyme Open Space coordinator and fishways coordinator, conducted an "open air" seminar at the Moulson



Pond fish ladder for 45 kids and adults, explaining the purpose and design of fish ladders. More than 300 alewives showed up to demonstrate how they use the ladder to reach their ancient spawning grounds upstream above the old mill dam.

The Disappearing New England Cottontail

On March 11 at Lyme Public Hall, LLCT sponsored a US Fish & Wildlife Service presentation on the New England cottontail, which likes habitat that



has largely disappeared in our area since the mid-20th century. Its preferred home is an "early successional" landscape between grassland and forest with dense and tangled thickets that provide shelter and food. Go to www.NewEnglandCottontail.org to find detailed information.

Dinner Honors Past LLCT Presidents

Three former presidents of the Lyme Land Conservation Trust, Inc., were recognized for their community service Monday April 16 at a dinner attended by former and current Land Trust directors, their spouses and friends.

The three past presidents honored are: Anthony Irving, president from 1997-2004; Ralph Lewis, president from 2004-2006; and Linda Bireley, president from 2006-2007.

Executive Director George Moore, saluted the extraordinary accomplishments of the three and the board directors who served with them.

Moore pointed out that the terms of all three presidents overlapped significantly, resulting in a team that over 13 years accomplished some of the largest additions to open space in the Land Trust's 45-year history.

Moore went on to commend their continued intellectual contributions to the Land Trust and their dedication to public service.

The theme for the "Dutch Treat" dinner at the Fox Hopyard On the Rocks Restaurant was "Wood, Stone and Water", which Moore explained signified the expertise of each of three past presidents.

"Wood" was for Anthony Irving (Land Trust board service: 1994-2004), who is a graduate of the Yale School of Forestry and runs an environmental consulting firm.

"Stone" was for Ralph Lewis (Land Trust board service: 1996-2006), who holds a PhD in geology and is the former Connecticut state geologist.

"Water" was for Linda Bireley (Land Trust board service: 1997-2007), who holds a PhD in marine biology and also serves as the Town of Lyme open space coordinator and oversees operations of fish ladders on the Eightmile River.

Carrying the theme further, current President John Pritchard presented

each with a framed color print donated by frequent Land Trust Photo Contest ribbon winner, Skip Broom. The picture, taken in Lyme, was an artistic presentation of wood, stone and water.

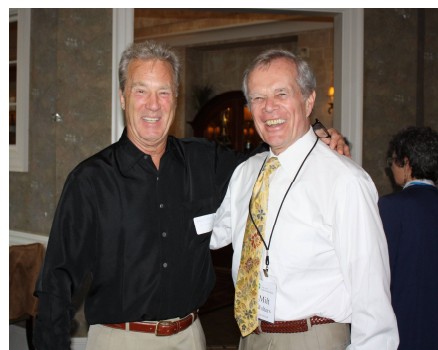
Pritchard spoke of the honor of following in the footsteps of three such accomplished community volunteers.

He noted that until recently the Lyme Land Trust did not have staff to run the organization, so all the operations and routine work was performed by volunteer officers and board members.

Continuing to preserve land remains a principal objective of the Lyme Land Trust, he said. However, as the Land Trust's stewardship responsibilities increase, Pritchard said it will become more important to offer expanded opportunities for the public to enjoy, learn about and appreciate the open space in Lyme that has been preserved on their behalf since the Land Trust's founding in 1966.



Three Former Presidents Honored
Linda Bireley, Ralph Lewis, Anthony Irving



LLCT Board Members
Andy Baxter & Milt Walters



"Stone, Water & Wood"

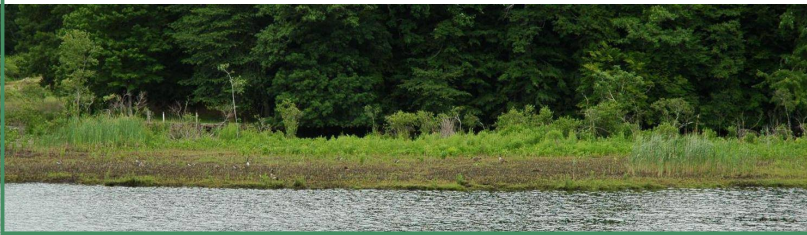
From left: LLCT Executive Director George Moore, geologist Ralph Lewis, marine biologist Linda Bireley, forest ecologist Anthony Irving, LLCT President John Pritchard.

The Nature Conservancy Seeks Volunteers To Continue Invasives Removal From Hamburg Cove Island



Hamburg Cove Island Phragmites: Before & After

With treatment in 2007 and 2008, the The Nature Conservancy has successfully eradicated invasive phragmites from the island in Hamburg Cove (before above; after below), but purple loosestrife has begun to colonize the island. TNC needs workers to pull and bag the loosestrife on Saturday August 11.



The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is seeking volunteers for a habitat restoration work party pulling invasive purple loosestrife on the island in Hamburg Cove on Saturday, August 11.

The work party will focus on pulling, bagging, and removing young loosestrife plants from the island in an effort to promote the rehabilitation of this unique habitat type.

The work party will meet at 9:30 at the Hamburg Cove Yacht Club, Cove Road.

Wear knee high rubber boots or old sneakers that can be thrown out at the end of the day. Work pants or jeans, long sleeves, eye protection (sunglasses will work), and work gloves should be worn; a change of clothes is recommended. Bring at least one liter of water.

Transportation to the island can be provided but it is limited. If you have your own boat, please bring it. This type of work is not suitable for young children. No pets please.

In Memoriam

Gordon I. Ulmer, Jr. 1932-2012



Gordon I. Ulmer Jr., 79, a generous benefactor of the Lyme Land Trust, passed away February 4th following a brief illness.

Gordon moved to his home on Old Hamburg Road in Lyme in 2005.

Born in Brattleboro, VT, Gordon graduated from Middlebury College. He moved to Connecticut in 1957, where he joined the Connecticut Bank & Trust Company and ultimately served as its chairman and CEO. He also served as a director for the Hartford Financial Services Group Inc., Hartford Life Inc., and the Old State House Association.

He also served as a director of Rayonier, Inc., a global forest products company. He designated the Lyme Land Trust as the beneficiary of an annual charitable gift from the Rayonier Foundation, provided by Rayonier in recognition for his service to the company.

Gordon's greatest life achievements are that of a caring father, grandfather, uncle and friend. He is survived by two sons: Gordon Ulmer III and his wife Audrey of Lyme, and Craig Ulmer and his wife Janine of Shrewsbury, MA; three grandchildren: Kiera Ulmer of Lyme and Alexander and Caitlin Ulmer of Shrewsbury, MA and several nieces and nephews. He also leaves his former wife, mother of his two sons, and best friend Sandra (McKeon) Ulmer of Newark, VT.

Rosemarie Czikowsky Fox 1928-2012



Rosemarie (Czikowsky) Rowe Fox, 83 of East Haddam, whose generosity helped the Lyme Land Trust preserve her family farm on the southern slopes of Mt. Archer, died peacefully on April 19.

Rosie was a member of Grassy Hill Church and served as its clerk. She was a member of Lyme Grange #147, the Lyme Public Hall, the North Lyme Cemetery Association and the Lymes' Senior Center

Rosie was instrumental in the preservation of 98 acres that was part of the original Czikowsky farm on Mt. Archer overlooking Hamburg Cove. With her help, the tract was purchased in 2009 by the Town of Lyme, The Nature Conservancy and the Lyme Land Trust.

Rosie loved and valued most in her life her family. She is survived by her son, Jeffery Rowe (and Kathy) of Lyme; her grandchildren, Timothy and Kristina Rowe of Lyme; her three step-daughters, Charlene Anderson (and Gary) of Olympia, Wash., Julie Kenney (and Mic) of Cody, Wyo., and Darlene Lloyd (and John, Matthew and David) of Bedford, Va.

She was predeceased by her brother, Pvt. Frederick Czikowsky; her first husband, Eugene "Jack" Rowe; and her late husband, Charlie Carlton Fox.

Pioneers of the Lyme Land Conservation Trust

Rufus Barringer

By George Moore

Rufus Barringer, born in New Jersey, graduate of Princeton, WW2 veteran and graduate of the University of Virginia Law School, came to Lyme with his wife Charlotte, affectionately known by all as Sharley, to retire in 1980.

Retirement meant land conservation, serving as a trustee of The Nature Conservancy and President of the Lyme Land Conservation Trust, while actively pursuing a passionate love of the outdoors, fishing and sailing.

He was president during a time of great change in Lyme. In the previous eighteen years, conservation easements did not play a significant role in open space preservation; the Land Trust had only accepted one, but during his presidency from 1984-1992, nineteen were accepted.

According to John Friday Jr., who served as vice president, there was a real estate boom followed by the inevitable bust. Prospective developers bought up as much land as they could and submitted their plans to the Town.

So as to preserve open space and protect Lyme's unique agricultural and rural ambience, the approval agencies required conservation restrictions; at the time the Lyme Land Trust was the only town entity that could accept and hold these easements. It required, according to John, "intelligent diplomacy".

Under Rufus Barringer, the Land Trust became far more proactive. The number of fee properties owned by the Land Trust doubled in the eight years he was president, adding a total of almost 168 acres.

Claire Sauer, a fellow director, said Rufus' dedication to Lyme and to land conservation was extraordinary and attributes much of our present day success to his efforts. She said he had the ability to motivate people to accomplish more than they thought possible.

Anthony Irving, our sixth president, credited Rufus with leaving a legacy that greatly facilitated the Trust's activities for years to come. Because of his stature in town, Anthony suggested Rufus brought greater credibility and standing to the Trust's public image. Anthony says he personally turned to Rufus on many occasions for advice while he was president.

Like many accomplished people, Anthony observed, Rufus had vision, in this case a vision of what the Land Trust should accomplish.



Rufus Barringer (1923-2002)
Fourth LLCT President

He credits Rufus with a project articulated in 1989 to establish the Eightmile Preserve - "(it)...would comprise the watercourses of the Eightmile River ...and the banks to a distance of at least 100 feet from midstream on both sides."

Nearly 30 years later Rufus' vision came true, as the river gained national recognition as one of the nation's Wild and Scenic Rivers. Well ahead of the curve, Rufus, in Anthony's opinion, made a grand contribution to the success of the Lyme Land Trust.

On behalf of the Land Trust in 1987, Rufus accepted the largest gift of land it had ever received - over 64 acres from then Town Treasurer, William Beebe.

Toward the end of his term, Rufus negotiated the purchase of 23 acres bordering the

Eight Mile River, from the Hand/Smith estate.

It marked a major change in Land Trust philosophy. Up to this point, the Trust relied on land and easement gifts to expand the land under protection. Under Rufus, the Land Trust for the first time bought land for preservation and embarked on a fund raising effort, confident it had the support of people in town.

Evan Griswold, who knew Rufus as a fellow board member of the Connecticut Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, credited Rufus' "steadiness at the helm" with its ability to feel it could tackle anything.

Noting his nautical reference, I asked Evan about a sailing adventure he had enjoyed with the Barringers. Evan joined them on a trip along the southern coast of Newfoundland back to their home port in Baddeck, Cape Breton Nova Scotia. Rufus and Sharley preferred to sail in the "less crowded" waters off Newfoundland and Labrador.

Experienced sailors will readily concede Rufus had to have been an accomplished sailor. Actually, according to Fritz Gahagan who was on the same trip, Sharley had the steadier hand at the helm!

For decades, the Gahagans have been a constant and positive factor in land conservation in Lyme. The family has produced three directors: Sally Bill, her son Fritz Gahagan and his son Ben. The family has donated conservation easements on hundreds of acres of family land helping to preserve the Lyme we know today. Naturally, I turned to Fritz for his remembrances of Rufus.

There was deep affection that was clear. Fritz credited Rufus for positioning the Land Trust on the road to success, putting in place many of the practices we follow to this day.

According to Fritz, Rufus adopted a scientific analysis of the land in Lyme, prioritized tracts to be protected, set goals and worked hard to accomplish them. He reached out to landowners, conducted conservation education programs and was an effective fundraiser.

He had the courage to personally guarantee a bank loan to acquire a property in advance of fund raising, certain the people of Lyme would be supportive, which they were.

It was for Rufus a work of love. For those of us who live in the Lyme he left for following generations, it was a work for the ages.

The Rufus Barringer Fund

To honor her beloved Rufus, Sharley Barringer established a fund in his memory with the Lyme Land Conservation Trust. The Rufus Barringer Fund gratefully accepts donations to help with the stewardship of the land under the Land Trust's protection and to expand conservation education. Please consider acknowledging this extraordinary man with a donation to this fund.



Lyme Land Conservation Trust, Inc.

PO Box 1002, Lyme, CT 06371

Address Service Requested

Lyme Land Conservation Trust 2012 Calendar of Events

All events are subject to change. Dates and times will be announced by press release, e-mail and on LLCT website. Please consult the Upcoming Events page at website www.lymelandtrust.org for the latest information.

MAY

Sat. May 19 -- 9 AM
OPEN AIR SEMINAR

Managing Invasives

Two-hour walk through private property managed to control invasive species, including multiflora rose, barberry, burning bush, etc. Members only; pre-registration on 1st-come/1st-serve basis required. Call Diana Boehning: 860-434-2336.

JUNE

Fri. June 1 -- 6-9PM
EXHIBITION & RECEPTION

Lyme Paint-Out

Winning paintings from the 2nd Annual Lyme Paint-Out will be exhibited in the galleries of the Lyman Allyn Art Museum, 625 Williams St., New London.



JUNE

Sat. June 2 -- 10 AM
GEOLOGICAL FOREST HIKES
Conn & National Trails Day

Two Hikes - Easy 1 hour walk with LLCT Environmental Director Lisa Niccolai & a moderately difficult 2.5 hour walk with geologist Ralph Lewis. Programs for young & old.. Meet at Chestnut Hill Preserve, Sterling Hill Rd.

Fri. June 15 -- 6-8 PM
LLCT ANNUAL MEETING

Featured Topic: Art & Nature

Lyme Art Association Executive Director Susan Ballek speaks on the connection between nature and the "Lyme light" on American impressionists. A selection of paintings from the Lyme Paint-Out will be displayed. Member vote on new directors & bylaw changes. Lyme Public Hall, Hamburg.



AUGUST

Sat. August 11 -- 9:30 AM
KAYAKING & INVASIVES

Hamburg Cove Clean Up

LLCT's annual kayak/canoe tour will include the opportunity to assist a Nature Conservancy work party clearing invasives out of Hamburg Cove. Launch from Hamburg Cove Yacht Club, Cove Rd. More info: Call Diana Boehning: 860-434-2336 or email to info@lymelandtrust.org.

SEPTEMBER

Sat. September 8 -- 3 PM
ENDANGERED SPECIES

Disappearing Bats

With the help of a pet bat, Gerri Griswold of the White Memorial Conservation Center in Litchfield will discuss benefits of bats and reasons for their decline. Bjornberg Barn, 59 Brush Hill Rd, Hadlyme.

