



The Lyme Land Conservation Trust

2013 Autumn Newsletter

Herring Using Land Trust's Fish Ladder Are Key to Many Species Far From Lyme

By Wendolyn Hill

In recent years, the Lyme Land Conservation Trust has focused considerable efforts on installing and maintaining two fish ladders in the Eightmile River, primarily to assist a non-glamorous group of fish called river herring reach their ancient spawning grounds upstream.

What's the big deal, you may be wondering.

The reason is river herring are essential to a vast ecosystem that extends well beyond Lyme up and down the East Coast and far into the oceans.

They are a key link in a food chain that reaches on to the dinner tables of New England families and restaurants, and provides thousands of jobs in the recreational and commercial fishing industries along the US and Canadian Atlantic coastlines.

River herring are forage food for larger fish such as striped bass, bluefish, cod, and bluefin tuna; for birds such as ospreys, puffins, bald eagles, herons, egrets, kingfishers, and cormorants; and for marine mammals such as seals, otters, whales, and dolphins. Striped bass feed on them as they travel to their spawning grounds up river.



The Threatened Atlantic Cod ... depends on herring as forage food.



River Herring Swimming Upstream To Ancient Spawning Grounds

Without river herring, all these popular sport and commercial fish, birds and mammals would find it hard to survive.

But river herring are in serious trouble.

Populations along the North Atlantic coast have been plummeting. River herring counts in the Northeast's major river systems are down between 95 to 99% compared with previous record years. Between 1985 and 2007, commercial landings of river herring decreased by 97% from 13.6 million pounds to 317,000 pounds. (See chart on page 2).

While there are three recognized reasons for this dramatic decline, most marine experts agree that the major cause has been wasteful commercial fishing practices in the North Atlantic. Trawling for other fish, enormous factory fishing ships drag huge nets that also capture large numbers of river herring and shad as "bycatch" -- unwanted fish.

An entire river run of herring can be caught up in one net drag, which kills the fish. The dead fish are then discarded back into the ocean. Since this practice started in

the 1990s, there has been a significant decline in the forage fish population.

To address this issue, the New England Fishery Management Council voted in September to impose a cap on the amount of river herring and shad that can be killed by the industrial trawlers. "Without healthy

(continued on next page)



Photos courtesy of the Herring Alliance

Atlantic Puffin With Herring For Young
Puffin chicks in Maine were reported starving last summer because parents couldn't find herring to feed their young.

... continued from page one)

forage fish populations, the entire ocean ecosystem unravels,” said Captain Paul Eidman of the Anglers Conservation Network, one of the groups fighting to save the fish.

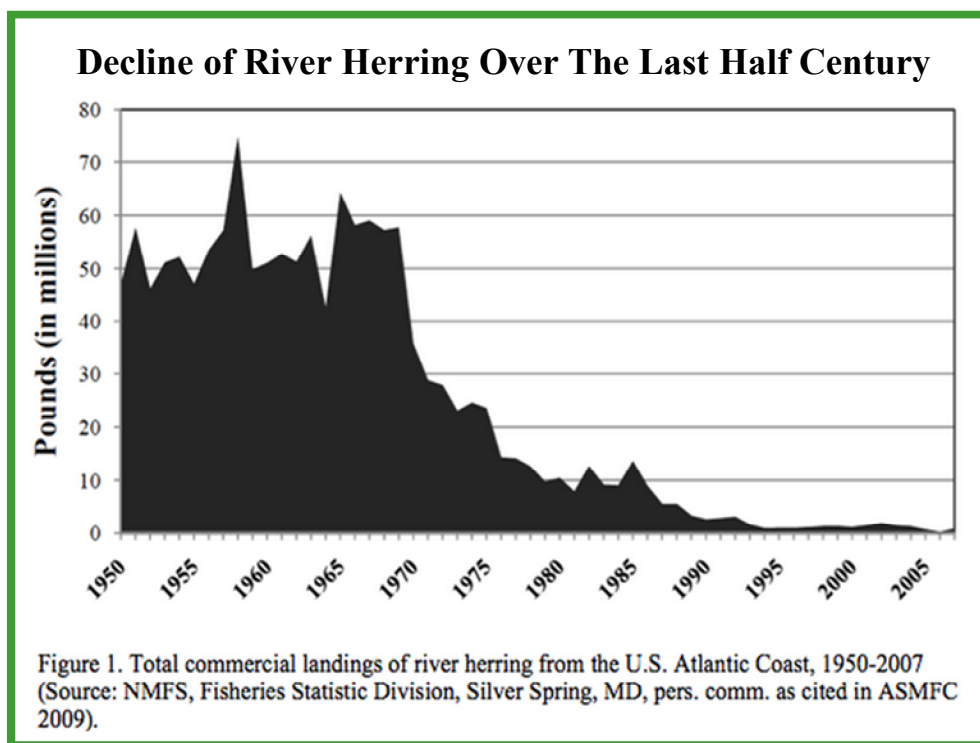
There are two additional -- albeit less significant -- reasons that survival of sustainable populations of river herring is threatened: (1) dams on rivers and streams that block access to spawning grounds and loss of habitat; and (2) chemical run-off from lawn and garden care.

River herring are actually two species, alewife and blueback herring. Like shad and salmon, they are called anadromous because they spend most of their lives in the ocean but swim up freshwater rivers and streams to reproduce.

All anadromous fish depend upon unimpeded journeys up rivers and streams to reproduce. Thousands of dams built in the last 350 years in the US Northeast and Maritime Canada block the river herring's access to their spawning grounds.

When European colonists settled in Lyme, they were attracted by the economic value of the water. Lyme's high hills with its brooks rushing together created an ideal opportunity for the creation of water-powered milling businesses. Most dams were built to intensify the water's power to drive industrial water wheels at the mills.

Today, several dams remain in Lyme,



and there are still more than 2,000 on the Connecticut River and its tributaries. Almost all are unintended barriers to the successful completion of the life cycle of river herring, shad and salmon, because they block the migrating fish from reaching their ancestral spawning grounds. Many die at the dams, held up on the journey, depleting their limited energy reserves before they can reproduce. Others are forced to spawn in areas that are not hospitable for the survival of their young.

The loss of access to habitat due to

dams is one issue that conservation groups have been actively addressing with positive results. Dams in Lyme have been evaluated to see what modifications can be made to help the fish on their journey.

Linda Bireley, Lyme Open Space & Fishways Coordinator, has been involved with the installation, operation and management of Lyme's fish ladders, which are artificial stepladders of water that provide passages for the fish to swim around dams and reach their spawning habitat upstream. This approach has proved highly successful since 1998 at the Moulson Pond Fishway on the Eightmile River. "We knew fish were using the fishway because volunteer monitors could see thousands at a time in it and river herring were observed upstream of the dam", said Bireley.

Fish ladders do not always overcome the obstacles at dams. One installed at the dam at Ed Bill's Pond next to Salem Road on the Eightmile's East Branch has failed to attract migrating fish, and the property owner has begun the process of removing the dam.

The third issue threatening the anadromous fish also affects all aquatic life. The excessive use of fertilizer on lawns and in agriculture can contribute to "dead zones" in the deepest waters of rivers and sounds.

To learn more about protecting river herring and other migratory fish visit:

www.herringalliance.org

Monitoring Camera To Count Fish Installed At Moulson Pond Fishway With A Grant From Trout Unlimited

With guidance from the state Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP), the Eightmile River Wild & Scenic Coordinating Committee worked with the Lyme Land Trust to install an underwater monitoring video camera at the top of the Moulson Pond fish ladder in October.

The camera will be used to monitor the number and species of fish and eels that migrate upstream through the fishway. Installed this year on a test basis, it will be operational all next year. At right, Tim Wildman from the DEEP Fisheries Division removes the camera in late November.

Financing for the project came from

Trout Unlimited, a national organization with 140,000 volunteers, that works to restore and protect North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds. **Photo By Humphrey Tyler**



The Lyme Land Conservation Trust Newsletter

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President's Message

Lyme's Rural Beauty Is A Community Effort



John Pritchard
President

Dear Friends & Neighbors:

This is the time of year that we seek your continuing support for our work in protecting and preserving Lyme's scenic rural landscape.

We hope you will join with your neighbors who are continuing their Land Trust memberships and give generously to help accomplish our mission that is so important to the Lyme community.

We think of the benefits of preservation mainly in terms of conservation: preserving the heritage and character of our town; maintaining Lyme's habitat for local indigenous wildlife (see the article on bobcats in this newsletter) and for the survival of species far from Lyme (see the story on river herring on the cover); and preserving the views we cherish. But would we value our homes and our residence here nearly as much if our town were to lose its rural character?

When you make your decision on membership this year, please think of the benefits we all reap from the work of the Land Trust,

and consider increasing your tax deductible contribution. You will be making an investment in your community's ability to preserve its quiet country charm.

Speaking of your contributions, as most of you know, the Land Trust is in litigation regarding a conservation restriction it holds. The parties have been unable to reach a settlement, and protracted litigation seems likely. It is important you know that the lawyers representing the Land Trust are doing so on a basis that ensures that we will not have to pay their legal fees -- regardless of the outcome of the case. Therefore, please have no concern that your contributions to the Land Trust will go toward paying these fees. We are also pleased that the Connecticut Attorney General has joined the Land Trust as a co-plaintiff and that he has adopted the Land Trust's positions on the merits of the case.

Our Newsletter is full of articles demonstrating the value of conservation and what is being done right now both to foster it and to provide opportunities for all of us to enjoy its fruits.

Have a wonderful Holiday Season!

This newsletter is underwritten by
a generous donation from



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Lyme's Land Trust Needs Your Support To Continue Its Conservation Programs

Your donations help maintain many miles of trails on Land Trust preserves, help publish this newsletter, help put on educational programs, and pay for activities that help make living in Lyme special - the Paint Out, Tour de Lyme, children's hikes, etc.

Each year we ask our friends and neighbors to respond generously to our annual appeal. Donating is convenient. Decide the amount you are comfortable giving and then either: mail us your check in the enclosed return envelope, or, if you prefer the convenience of a credit card, go to our new, secure, and easy to use credit card payment option on our website www.lymelandtrust.org. Donations to the Lyme Land Conservation Trust are tax deductible.

Won't you please help?

More Land On Whalebone Cove Protected

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service partnered with The Nature Conservancy in August to add 66 acres of tidal marsh and coastal lands along Whalebone Cove in Hadlyme to the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge.

The transaction included purchase by the Service of 26 acres along the Connecticut River at the southern entrance to Whalebone Cove and a transfer of four previously conserved parcels totaling 40 acres from the Conservancy to the Service.

Together, these properties will establish the Refuge's new Whalebone Cove Division.

Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge is part of the US Department of Interior. It was established to conserve native plants, animals and their habitats in the 7.2 million acre Connecticut River watershed that covers four states. It is the only refuge in the country dedicated to a river's entire watershed. The Refuge seeks to protect land, form conservation partnerships, educate the public, and pass on the importance of the watershed to future generations.

The Nature Conservancy negotiated the new 26-acre property purchase on behalf of the Service and made option payments over two years to allow time for the Service to secure funding for the purchase.

The newly protected property contains 2,000 feet of Connecticut River frontage and forms the southern entrance to Whalebone Cove. It features high and low tidal marsh

communities; steep, wooded slopes; upland kettle-hole wetlands; floodplain forest; upland meadows; and mature forest.

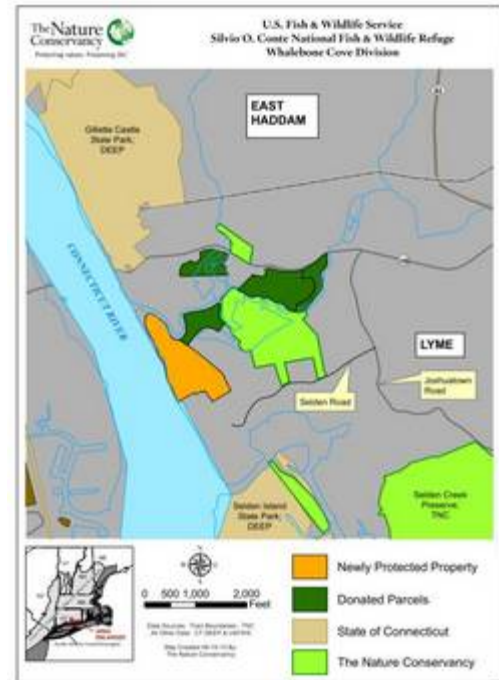
Whalebone Cove, a tidal marsh that hosts one of the largest stands of wild rice in Connecticut, is an important wintering area for bald eagles and black ducks and a significant feeding area for migratory waterfowl.

Whalebone Cove is one of the most undisturbed and biologically significant freshwater tidal marshes on the Connecticut River, according to the Conservancy, which has designated it as a conservation priority. The donated acreage was acquired by the Conservancy more than a decade ago.

"We are thrilled to play an important role in the permanent protection of these precious natural areas," said the Conservancy's Nathan Frohling.

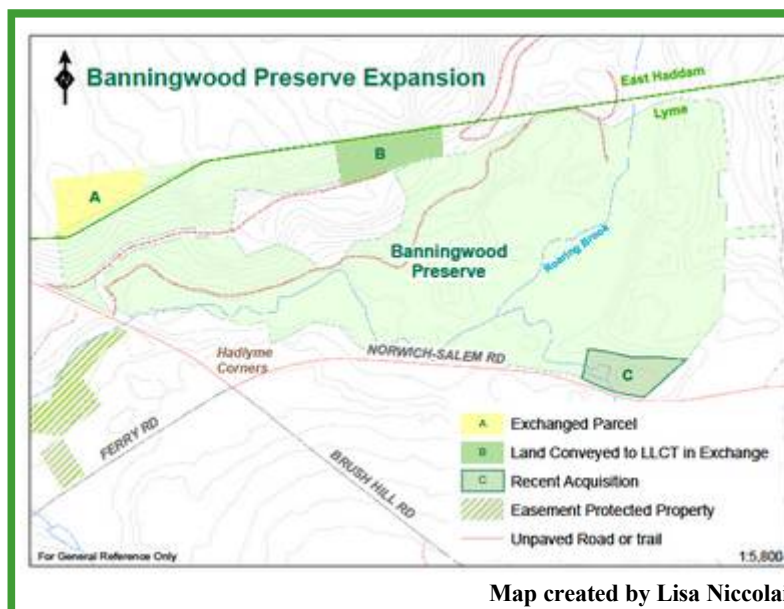
"The new acquisition, combined with the Whalebone Cove parcels the Conservancy is transferring, will build on a legacy of conservation here and in the Lower Connecticut River. The Conte Refuge represents an important new and trusted partner in achieving a larger conservation vision for Whalebone Cove. The Service's role was key to making the purchase possible, and with it 80 percent of this freshwater tidal marsh site is now protected," Frohling said.

"The Service is also an excellent partner in assuring sound stewardship of this site," Frohling said, "and we are confident that the protected lands of the Cove will be managed



in a manner that is consistent with the goals of preserving the fragile tidal marshlands and the marine and wildlife that thrive in Whalebone Cove and its upland buffer areas."

"This acquisition would not have been possible without a close partnership with The Nature Conservancy and support from the Congressional Delegation and the Administration," said Andrew French, project leader at the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge. "We look forward to collaborating with local residents and our partners in being good stewards of this land and good neighbors with those who live in the area."



Map created by Lisa Nicolai

Banningwood Parcel Swap & Add-On Improves Access & Future Trail System

The Land Trust's new 100-acre Banningwood Preserve is being expanded and improved by a parcel swap with a neighbor and a small add-on land acquisition.

The Land Trust traded a three-acre parcel at the Preserve's western end (Parcel A on map) for a three-acre parcel (Parcel B) on the Preserve's north side. The swapped-in parcel closes a gap between two portions of the Preserve and will permit creation of a circular trail system, which Stewardship Chairman Don Gerber hopes to have opened next Spring.

The LLCT also plans to buy two acres (Parcel C) on the Preserve's southeastern corner along Rt. 82 that will provide trailhead access and parking, as well as protection for wetlands and a stream that drain into Roaring Brook.

Ashlawn Farm To Host Land Trust's 2014 Tour de Lyme Cycling Event On May 18

Ashlawn Farm on Bill Hill Road, Lyme's popular coffee house, will host next year's Tour de Lyme, the fundraising cycling event launched this year by the Lyme Land Conservation Trust.

Land Trust President John Pritchard announced the Ashlawn Farm venue and the date for the next year's Tour de Lyme, which will be on Sunday May 18.

"We are delighted that Carol and Chip Dahlke are allowing us to hold our event at their lovely Ashlawn Farm. Everything will be in one spot-- parking, registration and a picnic lunch with music by the EightMile River Band," said Pritchard.

Pritchard went on to say, "One of the goals of Tour de Lyme, apart from raising money for the Lyme Land Trust, is to showcase the agricultural heritage and rural beauty of our town. Being able to associate Tour de Lyme with iconic Ashlawn Farm is an honor and privilege for the Land Trust."

"Ashlawn Farm and its summer Lyme Farmers' Market is the embodiment of why so many people love Lyme – farms, forests, stone walls, locally grown and produced food, and lightly travelled roads," he said.

Ashlawn Farm was an early supporter

of the 2013 Tour de Lyme, he noted, offering free coffee to riders who stopped for a break, and along with Erik Block, and Erica's E-List, Ashlawn Farm fielded a riding team - Builders, Baristas and Blabbers.

This year's Tour de Lyme was "a huge success," said Pritchard, noting that it was the first time the Land Trust held the event and that the weather was overcast and raining for most of the morning.

More than 300 cycling enthusiasts turned out to participate in several road and trail bike rides, he said, and 13 local and regional businesses signed on as sponsors.

Tour de Lyme is a non-competitive event in which none of the rides are timed. It is intended as an opportunity for both serious and casual cyclists to enjoy the beauty of Lyme's highways and byways and of the trails on the thousands of acres of preserved open space in the town.

Ashlawn Farm has been in Chip Dahlke's family for more than a century, and Pritchard noted that it will be a fitting host venue for a Land Trust fund raiser because Chip's uncle, who ran a dairy at Ashlawn for more than 50 years, assured it would be preserved as open space for fu-



Carol & Chip Dahlke in front of their iconic 300-year-old farmhouse at Ashlawn Farm, home to Lyme's popular coffee house & Lyme Farmers Market.

ture generations by deeding the development rights to the State of Connecticut.

The Dahlkes also host the Lyme Farmers Market at Ashlawn Farm on Saturdays during the summer that has become well known for its cheeses, produce, fruits, fresh bread, eggs, sea food, meat, and local crafts.

They also just opened a second coffee house in Old Saybrook in the shopping mall next to the train station.

For more information about Ashlawn Farm, go to: www.farmcoffee.com

For more information on Tour de Lyme, go to www.tourdelyme.org or email info@tourdelyme.org

Development Of A New 10.5 Mile Trail Crossing Four Towns Being Coordinated By The Eightmile River Wild & Scenic Committee

A new 10.5-mile hiking trail crossing parts of four towns is being developed as a cooperative enterprise among several conservation groups under the auspices of the Eightmile River Wild & Scenic Coordinating Committee. Opening of the trail is set for 2014.

The trail will start at the junction of Rt.82 and Hopyard Road, passing through East Haddam's Chapal Farm and wending through the DEEP Eightmile Wildlife Management Area into Salem, where it will traverse the Salem Land Trust's Darling Road Preserve on existing trails. From the Darling Preserve, it will cross Gungy Road at the Salem/Lyme town line and follow existing trails through Lyme's Hartman Park, connecting with the trail system in Nehantic State Forest and meeting a new trail through the Yale Engineering School property that connects to the trail system in East Lyme's Darrow Pond Preserve. In East Lyme several branches will provide trailhead access at different parts of town.

The planning of the trail has included land trusts from East Haddam, Lyme, East Lyme and Salem, DEEP, the Lyme Open Space Committee, and the East Haddam Conservation Commission.

Map created by Lisa Niccolai



Lyme's Forestland, Meadows And Rocky Ledges Are Prime Habitat For The Shy & Solitary Bobcat

By Angie Falstrom

The forbearers of the many bobcats that live in Lyme's forests have been roaming North America for 20,000 years.

Although fairly common in our area, bobcats are seldom seen or heard. They are shy, quiet and solitary animals and would prefer to go unnoticed by humans.

The mixed deciduous and coniferous forests of Lyme, broken by fields and farmland, are a prime habitat for bobcats.

For them, preserving open space in sufficient quantities is crucial to maintaining healthy, viable populations, so the many acres of protected forest and farmland in Lyme, with rock ledges, woods and meadows, offer our native cat an ideal habitat and help to insure its presence here for many generations to come.

Although they are adaptable to a wide range of terrain, it is critical for them to have places for refuge and protection.

They are partial to rock ledges -- of which Lyme has many -- both for shelter and for sunning themselves while on the lookout for prey. Hollow trees and logs, caves, brush piles and rock piles all make good places for resting, breeding, and dens.

A bobcat's favorite meal is a rabbit or hare, but it will eat what is available, including woodchucks, squirrels, rodents, birds, deer and occasionally reptiles and insects.

Lyme's bobcats help control mice, chipmunks, moles, voles, squirrels, skunks and other woodland creatures that could become nuisances without predators like bobcats.

Most deer killed by bobcats are old, sick or injured. Domestic animals such as goats, chickens, and house cats are vulnerable if other prey is scarce, but attacks are infrequent.

When food is plentiful, bobcats cache the excess by covering it with grass, leaves or snow. They will return to feed from a large carcass multiple times, eating what they can access from the top side and leaving the remains of the other side untouched.

In spring and summer, a bobcat is on the move from 3 hours before sunset until about midnight, and again from before dawn until three hours after sunrise.

Its schedule shifts toward the daylight hours in fall and winter, probably to coincide with the activity of rabbits and other prey. A male's home range averages 8 to 20 miles, with that of a female's being smaller and more exclusive.

During the day the bobcat often watches for prey from tree branches or ledges, waiting to ambush, or stalks it until close enough to pounce. It will also run down its prey over short distances. With a good sense of smell and keen eyesight and hearing, bobcats are always alert to opportunities as well as danger.

A bobcat's height at the shoulders is between 12 and 24 inches, and the average weight of an adult male is 21 lbs, but can be as much as 49 lbs. Females are approximately 30 % smaller.

A bobcat's average length is 32 inches from the head to the base of the tail, with



Seldom photographed locally, a bobcat like this one was captured in a picture by Tom Davies sitting on a stone wall near his Joshuatown Road home last summer.

the stubby tail itself being about 6 inches long. It is this distinctive "bobbed" tail that gives the bobcat its name.

Markings vary from tabby stripes to heavy spots and serve to help camouflage the cat. The background fur ranges in color from yellow to reddish brown, and in winter becomes longer and paler. Bobcats have a prominent face ruff and black-tipped ears and tail.

Females usually have their first litter between February and June of their second year, and raise the 1 to 6 kittens alone.

The young are born in a well hidden den lined with dried grass, leaves, and moss. For their safety, the kittens will be moved to several auxiliary dens by the mother, and remain with her until the following year when she has a new litter.

The same den sites may be used by the female for several years in a row. She will continue to produce one litter per year until her death.

Kittens are vulnerable to predators, such as foxes, owls, coyotes, and adult male bobcats, but the most common reason for their death is a low food supply.

Although adult bobcats can survive for long periods without food, starvation is not uncommon for them either, especially during severe winters. Other dangers to adults are coyotes, injuries from their battles with prey, and man.

Bobcats live an average of 8 to 10 years in the wild, and into their mid-twenties in captivity.

Bobcats Seldom Attack Humans & Domestic Animals Unless Cornered Or Protecting Their Young

It's uncommon for a bobcat to attack a dog, but one reportedly attacked 2 dogs in Lyme this summer. A bobcat will usually run up a tree if chased, but there are exceptions: if the animal is trapped or if it is protecting its young. It's important to know that bobcats are short-tempered, muscular animals that if cornered will put up a tough fight. It will always run away from humans if possible.

In general, bobcats cause few problems for people. They rarely contract rabies, and if given an escape route, they will take it rather than engage in fighting. To protect pets and livestock, consider fencing or other preventative measures.

Trailside Benches Dedicated In Memory Of Sally James Bill And H. Templeton Brown

By George Moore
Executive Director

Two people, at different times and in different ways, did much to help the Lyme Land Trust. Each has been honored with a custom memorial bench placed in a Land Trust preserve that had meaning to the person we honor.

Sally James Bill (1929-2010) served on the Board in the late 1970s and early 1980s. In many ways, we honor Sally's family as we honor her. Three generations of family have served as directors – Sally, her son Fritz Gahagan and her grandson Ben Gahagan. Hundreds of acres of family-owned land have been protected with generously donated conservation easements. Sally's bench is in the Pleasant Valley Preserve placed high on a ridge with a beautiful view of Lyme on the Green Trail. For more on Sally Bill, see our 2010 Autumn Newsletter at: www.lymelandtrust.org/news/newsletter/

H. Templeton Brown (1930-2012), served on the Board from 2003-2012, mostly as Chair of the Preservation Committee. He

played a critical role in the large land acquisitions of recent years. "Temp" had the ability to reach out and engage people and the patience to work with them to develop the best plan for the preservation of the land they owned and loved. The Lyme Land Trust renamed our acquisition fund the H. Templeton Brown Land Acquisition Fund in his honor. The bench honoring Temp is along the Orange Trail in the Chestnut Hill Preserve – overlooking a setting Temp especially loved. For more details on Temp Brown see our 2012 Autumn Newsletter at www.lymelandtrust.org/news/newsletter/

The benches are constructed of cedar by Erik Block Design-Build of Hadlyme.



Photo by George Moore

Memorial Gifts: Dr. Robert J. Klimek, Delphine Tone Mulcahy

A generous act, after a loved one passes, is to suggest in the obituary that memorial donations be made to the Lyme Land Trust to honor the deceased. Two families recently made such requests.

Dr. Robert J. Klimek, a noted ophthalmologist, was an avid outdoorsman. Bob died in August. In summer he could be found sailing his sloop *Reverie* out of Hamburg Cove and in winter, having been introduced to skiing by his wife Carol, skiing in Telluride, CO.

Delphine Tone Mulcahy lived to be 99 and died in August. Del was known for her many interests ranging from her legendary baking, to sports and knitting. In her youth, she enjoyed skating on Rogers Lake and playing baseball.

For more on Dr. Klimek and Del Mulcahy go to www.lymelandtrust.org, click on the "Support Us" tab and then on the "Memorial Gifts" item on the pull down menu.

The Land Trust acknowledged each memorial donation with a beautiful card depicting a Lyme scene, as well as notifying the deceased's family of the gift.

When Planning For Taxes & Retirement Income, Consider A Charitable Gift Annuity With The Lyme Land Trust

As the end of the year nears, are you seeking ways to reduce your 2013 taxes?

And at the same time, are you uncomfortable with investing your retirement nest egg in the stock and bond markets?

Or are you concerned about the prospect of outliving your retirement savings?

These are all reasons why many retirees have created a charitable gift annuity.

Charitable gift annuities are not new. Creation of charitable annuities to provide lifetime income to the donor and a major gift to a worthy charity is a time-tested financial planning strategy that provides both a reliable income that is partially tax free and an immediate tax deduction for the current year.

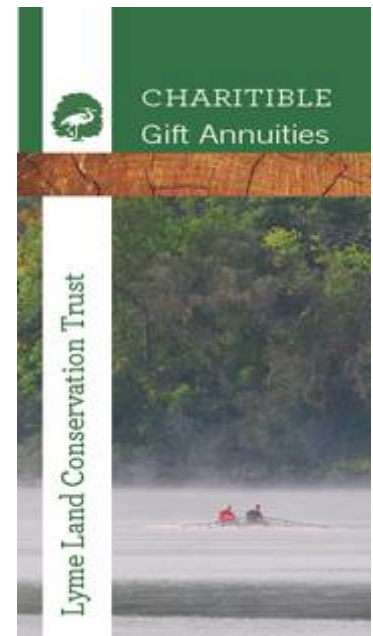
The Lyme Land Trust, in partnership with the Community Foundation of Eastern Con-

necticut now offers a charitable gift annuity. The benefits are: high fixed payments for life (a portion of which are tax free); an immediate tax deduction; and it involves only a simple one-page contract.

Plus, your gift annuity will help support the preservation of Lyme's woodlands, flowing rivers, brooks, watersheds, hiking trails, wildlife habitat, and bird-filled marshes. You'll also join the Land Trust's Heritage Society.

Payment rates based on age currently range from 4.7% to 7.8%. Check with your lawyer, financial advisor or accountant to see if a charitable annuity is right for you.

Email or phone Milt Walters for a brochure that describes the benefits of our charitable gift annuity. Ph: 203-485-6070; email: milton.walters@lymelandtrust.org



Land Trust Sponsored Events

Kids Exploring the Forest --Hunting Mushrooms -- River Clean Up



Photo by Emily Bjornberg

Exploring Nature In Pleasant Valley

Kids & parents spent a beautiful Saturday morning in August exploring Pleasant Valley Preserve & then enjoyed a snack at the "town beach" on the Eightmile River.



Photo by Angie Falstrom

Stalking The Wild Mushroom

Sponsored by the Lyme & East Haddam land trusts on Oct 6, mushroom expert Gerry Miller helped gatherers sort & identify edible fungi near Devils Hopyard.



Photo by Wendy Dow Miller

Connecticut River Clean Up

On Oct. 5 the Lyme Land Trust participated in a clean up of the River's 400-mile length. Ann Roberts-Pierson hefts plastic netting out of a Selden Island marsh.

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.



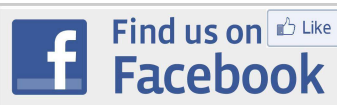
Our Friends The Honey Bees



When - Sun., Feb. 16, 2 PM

What -Honey Bees are our most interesting, important and challenged insect helpers. Learn about their fascinating life cycle and abilities, their importance to our food supply, the threats they face today and the rudiments of how you can start a bee hive.

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



Guided Walk On The New Trail In Banningwood Preserve

When - Sat., March 22, 10 AM

What - The first official guided tour of Lyme's newest preserve. Forest, wildlife & geological experts will explain the species, history & importance of Banningwood.

Where - Meeting Place To Be Announced.

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

When - Sat., April 26, 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.