



# The Lyme Land Conservation Trust

## 2010 Fall Newsletter

### The Lyme Land Conservation Trust, Inc.

PO Box 1002  
Lyme, CT 06371  
info@lymelandtrust.org

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## State Offers \$140K For Purchase of Sterling Hill Parcel Land Trust Must Now Raise Local Share

The Lyme Land Conservation Trust has been awarded a \$140,000 matching grant from the State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) toward the \$280,000 needed to preserve 40 acres on Sterling Hill Road.

"This was an important first step in our plan to acquire this parcel," said Land Trust President George W. Moore. "It represents half of the agreed upon purchase price."

The Land Trust was organizing a campaign to raise the remaining \$140,000, Moore said, when a generous anonymous donor offered to match the state's grant with a three year pledge. "You cannot imagine our delight"

But he says, "even with this generous pledge we will still need the community's help. The DEP grant will not be available until well after the closing. The balance of the pledge will be received over the next two years. The Land Trust needs help now to raise cash needed for the closing."

Confident the residents of Lyme will display the same generosity and commitment to open space preservation as they have over the last 40 years, Moore says this offers the community a wonderful opportunity to get twice the impact from their donations.

"Immediately, it will enable us to close on this important

conservation purchase," he points out. "Then, when we receive the state grant and the remainder of the pledge, the community's money, used for the closing, will effectively be redeemed and put back to work to preserve additional land and to fulfill our important stewardship obligations on land we currently protect."

"Lyme is one of the leaders in Connecticut in preserving open space for future generations," he said. "Its citizens have been supporting land conservation for almost half a century, and I am sure that our efforts to raise the additional money needed for the closing will meet with the same success as those in the past."

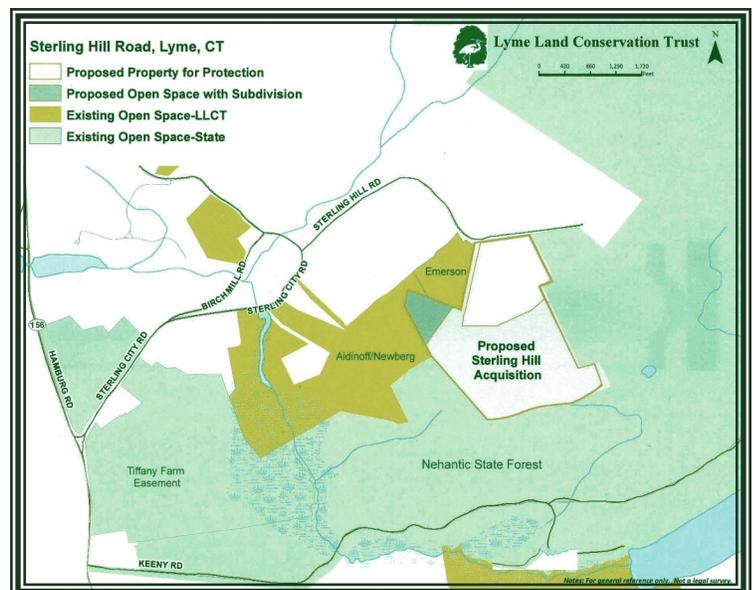
The parcel, which is owned by the Talcott family, is almost completely surrounded by protected land. It is adjacent to the Nehantic

State Forest and the existing Emerson and Newberg easements presently held by the Land Trust.

The Nehantic State Forest abuts the parcel on the east and south, and on portions of the western side [see map]. The remainder of the western edge is bounded by a wetland already protected by an easement held by the Lyme Land Conservation Trust.

Protecting this parcel from development reduces forest fragmentation, saves wildlife habitat, complements existing land protection strategies, protects water quality in the lower Connecticut River Estuary Region, and keeps the view corridor along Rt. 156 from being marred by development on Sterling Hill. The land consists of wetlands and streams, mixed oak forest, field reverting to

(continued on page three)



It's Time to  
**Renew your Membership to the Lyme Land Trust**  
**Renew Your Commitment to Lyme's Open Space**

With membership dollars and generous donations, we have been able protect important properties in Lyme, thus helping preserve the rural character that makes our town so special.

Membership dues are also used to maintain these properties (31 preserves and 64 conservation easements). But total income from membership dues only covers about half of the cost of stewarding these properties.

For 2011 your Lyme Land Trust is using a new procedure to seek membership renewals and recruit new members: we're going online with a membership registration and renewal payment page on the Land Trust website.

In fact if you provided the Land Trust with your e-mail address sometime in the past, you may already be aware of our new membership drive technology because you've probably received an e-mail in the last month asking you to renew your membership on the website.

If you renewed as a 2011 member or joined as a new member on the website, thank you for signing up as a member and supporter for the next year.

If not, now is the time to register your 2011 membership, and we now have three convenient ways by which you can renew your membership or join as a new member.

## Three Ways to Renew/Join as a Lyme Land Trust Member:

### 1 - BY REGULAR MAIL USING THE BOUND-IN ENVELOPE OPPOSITE THIS PAGE :



Fill out the information on the membership form, enclose your check and drop it in the mail.

### 2 - ON THE LAND TRUST WEBSITE USING A CREDIT CARD:

On the Land Trust Website ([www.lymelandtrust.org](http://www.lymelandtrust.org)), click on "Donations and Membership" on the home page. Under the heading "TO BECOME A NEW MEMBER OR RENWEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP" follow directions on how to use **PayPal** and a credit card.

### 3 - BY DOWNLOADING A MEMBERSHIP FORM ON THE LAND TRUST WEBSITE:

On the Land Trust Website ([www.lymelandtrust.org](http://www.lymelandtrust.org)) click on "Donations and Membership" on the home page. Under the heading "Sending In Payment by Mail" click on "Download Membership Form." Once downloaded, print, fill out and mail.

## Give the Gift of a Land Trust Membership For Free

Do you have some friends who you think would enjoy being members of the Lyme Land Conservation Trust? Perhaps newcomers to town or neighbors who just haven't taken the time to join the Land Trust?

Simply fill out the form below (print please) and drop it in the mail.

Your friends will be informed by letter that they will enjoy a free introductory membership during 2011 because of your thoughtfulness.

Mail to: Lyme Land Conservation Trust, PO Box 1002, Lyme CT 06371

I want to give a gift membership to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ YOUR Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town/City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Town /City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

## State Grant Story (continued)

forest, and dramatic rock ledges. The wetlands and streams that drain this property are part of the Falls Brook Watershed which feeds the nationally recognized Wild & Scenic Eightmile River at Hamburg Cove.

President Moore thanked Land Trust Vice President Temp Brown and Secretary George Lombardino for their work in shepherding the preparation of the grant application.

"They worked hard on this," he said, but he also singled out Land Trust Project Manager Lisa Niccolai, who actually wrote the grant application. "The truth is," he said, "much of the credit for this grant is attributable to Lisa's grant writing skills."

The parcel was identified in Lyme's 2001 Plan of Conservation and Development and by the Connecticut River Estuary Regional Planning Agency as an area that should be protected.

Acquisition of this property will allow additional passive recreation and provide a potential link to existing State Forest trails. According to the Connecticut Natural Diversity Database, State and Fed-

eral endangered species and significant natural communities are known to exist in the abutting State Forest and may potentially be found on this property.

The Sterling Hill grant, part of \$10.4 million distributed statewide by the DEP for the preservation of open space, was announced by Gov. Jodi M Rell on Oct. 14 at a ceremony in East Haddam.

In announcing the grant, Gov. Rell said, "This property not only abounds with resources of its own but abuts Nehantic State Forest, meaning we will expand the size of protected space in that area."

State Sen. Eileen M. Daily of Westbrook was also singled out by LLCT President Moore for her continuing commitment to open space preservation. "Without her continual pushing in the legislature to support grant programs like this," he said, "the funding necessary for open space acquisitions simply wouldn't exist. We appreciate her dedication to the cause of open space preservation even in these very tough economic times."



Left to right: State Sen. Eileen M Daily, State Rep. Linda A. Orange, Gov. Jodi M Rell, Land Trust President George W. Moore, and DEP Commissioner Amey Marrella at the announcement of the \$140,000 challenge grant to help protect 40 acres on Sterling Hill as open space.

## January 31st Deadline For 2011 Photo Contest

By Tony Sullivan



Land Trust Photo Contest  
Youth, Second Place - Samantha Barretta

Time is running out on our 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Land Trust Photo Contest, which closes for entries on January 31, 2011.

All amateur photographers are invited to focus on the celebrated and scenic countryside of Lyme, Old Lyme, Salem, East Haddam & Essex and submit their photos to the Contest.

The Lyme Land Trust and the other land conservation trusts from each of these towns are sponsoring the contest. All amateur photographers are welcome to enter the contest regardless of what town they reside in.

This contest is being funded with the generous support of Lorensen Toyota, Oakley/Wing Group at Smith Barney, Ballek Garden Center, Evan Griswold at Coldwell Banker, attorneys Murtha Cullina LLP, Essex Savings Bank, and ChelseaGroton Bank.

Judges will award \$100, \$50 and \$25 cash prizes for each of the following categories:

**Landscapes/Waterscapes - Plants - Wildlife**

**Cultural/Historic**

**Any subject for Young Photographers, below age 15**

For questions, entry forms and a copy of the contest

rules visit [lymelandtrust.org/](http://lymelandtrust.org/) or

send an email to [landtrustphotos@yahoo.com](mailto:landtrustphotos@yahoo.com).

To see last year's winning photos go to

[landtrustphotos.shutterfly.com/](http://landtrustphotos.shutterfly.com/)

# Local Builder Pledges 1% for Lyme Open Space By Rich Melchreit

A local builder whose family has roots in Hadlyme going back to his great grandfather has found a unique way that his business – and others in Southeastern Connecticut – can help save open space in Lyme for future generations.

Earlier this year, Erik Block Design-Build, LLC, a well known local builder, joined an organization named “1% for the Planet,” an alliance of businesses financially committed to restoring, preserving, and protecting the environment. In doing so, the company has committed to donate one percent of its revenues generated from building projects in the town of Lyme to the Lyme Land Conservation Trust.

“One Percent” (as it is called in fund raising circles) enrolls companies doing business anywhere in world that commit to giving one percent of their gross revenues to environmental causes, and it acts as sort of a clearing house for identifying and certifying not-for-profits that can be eligible recipients of the member companies’ contributions.

Erik Block Design-Build initiated this unique relationship by contacting the Land Trust and committing to donating one percent of its gross revenues on projects in Lyme to the Land Trust if the Trust could

become certified by One Percent as an eligible recipient of the Block’s donations.

The Trust applied to One Percent and was certified as an eligible recipient, creating a unique partnership between a young local builder with deep roots in Lyme and the 43-year-old Land Trust.

“When Erik suggested we join *One Percent For The Planet*, a worldwide alliance of conservation charities, we were curious,” said Land Trust President George Moore. “The roster of member non-profits was impressive. Money contributed by Erik Block Design & Build through



this program will help support our efforts

to preserve and protect open space in Lyme. It would be wonderful if more companies doing business in our town would support this marvelous fund raising concept. We applaud Erik and his colleagues for the leadership role they are taking in Lyme to preserve open space.”

One Percent was created in 2001 by Yvon Chouinard, the founder and CEO of the legendary outfitter Patagonia, and his friend Craig Mathews, owner of Blue Ribbon Flies.

It enrolls companies from around the world that agree to give 1% of their gross revenues (yes, that’s total billings, not net profits) to environmental causes. Erik Block is the 18<sup>th</sup> of 20 builders among the 1200-plus firms enrolled to-date.

Many in Lyme and surrounding towns are familiar with Erik Block Design-Build from the ubiquitous orange “block” on a white sign in front of beautifully constructed buildings around the area. It’s a small firm founded in 2002 by young men who care about and for the environment

and enjoy working with their hands and crafting with skill.

The company makes a habit of contributing to the community in many ways.

Recently it built two large handsome weatherproof roadside display cases in front of Hadlyme Public Hall for promoting neighborhood events to replace old cases that had deteriorated badly over the years. Erik and his crew also replaced an exterior door at the Hall that was suffering from old age.

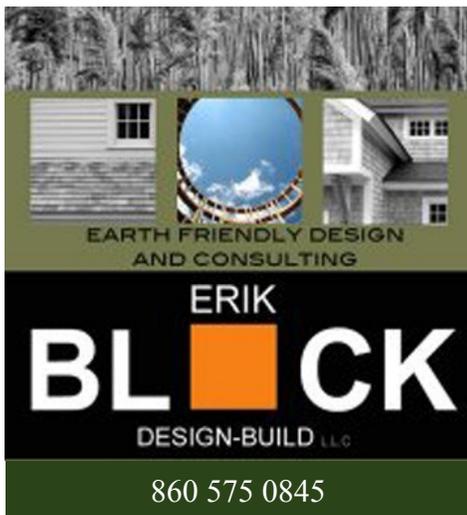
The Blocks take pleasure in being outside and wearing Patagonia (which makes sense when you are working outside and it is very hot or cold).

Erik Block says he has been inspired by Chouinard’s life, work and writings on how to love what you do and how to do good, not just well, while running a business.

Erik and his brother Haldan, who works with him, grew up in a fourth generation family in Hadlyme, where they spent a lot of time in the woods and where they developed a strong feeling for this special place. They say their mission is to preserve it through mutualism, not conflict, in their work creating finely crafted, sustainably built-to-last buildings.

Erik is encouraging other land trusts in southeastern Connecticut to join as well and will direct 1% of Erik Block revenues on projects in those towns to their Land Trusts.

To learn more, you can go to [www.erikblockdesignbuild.com](http://www.erikblockdesignbuild.com) (website designed by Haldan), and [www.onepercentfortheplanet.org](http://www.onepercentfortheplanet.org).



Erik Block on site



## Easement Donor Profile: Linda & Matt Elgart

Three years ago, Linda and Matt Elgart donated an easement on their land in Hadlyme to the Lyme Land Trust.

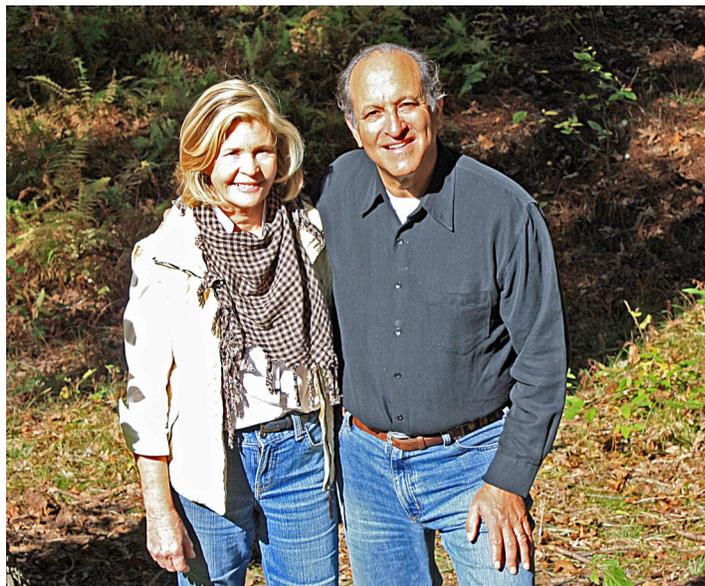
Each year since, Matt has helped a different steward find their way about the property. Although generally, a steward monitors the same easement each year, Matt has found it rewarding to survey their property with different stewards.

This year, he explored the land with two stewards: Stewardship Committee Chairman Don Gerber and Land Trust Project Manager Lisa Niccolai.

"The more eyes, the better!" quips Matt, a professional optometrist.

"What one misses, another sees, and vice versa. Trekking through our tract with different stewards has been refreshing," he says. "Every year, I see this place anew, and I've come to appreciate it all the more as a result of placing it under a conservation easement.

"After all, it's still our private property," he continues. "Donating the easement didn't open it up to the general public. The easement is a way of making sure that the values we treasure here will always survive. Welcoming a steward or two every year



Linda & Matt Elgart

is no great trouble. It's a reminder of why we love the place to preserve it as it is."

The Elgarts have been committed to preserving open space in the lower Connecticut River valley for many years. Matt currently serves on the Lyme Land Trust Board of Directors and in the past held a similar position on the East Haddam Land Trust.

## The High Cost of Administering Conservation Easements

By Mel Woody

The Lyme Land Conservation Trust holds 64 conservation easements that protect more than 2,000 acres at an annual cost of almost \$575 per parcel.

The land cannot protect itself, and an easement alone is no guarantee the owner of a property underlying an easement will respect its conservation purposes.

The Land Trust, in common with land trusts across the country, takes on the responsibility to ensure that the conservation requirements and use restrictions contained in the easement will be carried out "in perpetuity."

By giving or selling an easement to a land trust, the owner relinquishes some property rights in order to conserve valuable features of the land forever. The Trust gains by acquiring a set of rights,

but it also burdens itself with the considerable obligation of insuring that the terms of the easement are never violated any time in the future.

To fulfill that commitment, the Lyme Land Trust appoints one or two stewards to monitor each property.

As time goes by, the property may change hands (often many times), and new owners may not understand the purpose of the easement or share the conservation values of the owner who originally granted the easement.

Stewards keep the easement alive by reminding the original and subsequent owners of its terms and by annually inspecting the property.

To carry out that function, stewards first review a property's easement docu-

ments and the baseline record that describes the condition of the property at the time the easement was acquired.

The baseline record usually includes a map, perhaps an aerial photograph and a description of topography, vegetation and other features, such as stone walls and remnants of old building foundations.

It can also include photographs to help the steward navigate the property and document changes to the property with subsequent photographs.

Before arranging with the current owners to visit the property and survey the area protected by the easement, stewards check town land records to see if ownership has changed since the last monitoring inspection.

(continued on page six .....)

## The High Cost of Administering Conservation Easements (continued)

The site inspection typically requires exploring parts of the easement not visible from the road or a driveway and checking to make sure the easement's boundaries are clearly marked with Land Trust tags.

After the visit, the steward fills out a standard report form that describes the property, and the process of inspection, and identifies and suggests possible remedies.

This whole stewarding process (visit, and report preparation) takes an average of about four hours for each easement.

Stewards post these reports and photographs they may have taken on Conservation Track®, an internet-based software program used by the Land Trust to track easement conditions. Land Trust staff review the reports, note problems and suggest solutions to the Land Trust's Stewardship Committee.

Volunteers monitor most easements, although staff members Linda Bireley and Lisa Niccolai steward some themselves and often accompany stewards, especially on a first visit to a property.

The cost of monitoring easements aver-

ages about \$575 per easement, according to Land Trust Secretary George Lombardino.

The expenses include: consultants and contractors (forestry work, base line property reports and management plans, grant-writing, land surveys, etc.); property maintenance (clean-up supplies, tools, property markers, signage, materials and supplies, invasives control); office costs (scanning, copying, office supplies, and miscellaneous expenses); staff compensation; and technology administration (mapping, documentation, record retention, software licenses and support, and computer system maintenance).

Taken together with the expenses of maintaining its 31 "fee" properties (those the Land Trust owns outright) and other stewarding responsibilities for Eightmile River fish ladders and some Nature Conservancy properties in Lyme, the Land Trust's total cost of fulfilling its trustee role for conserving property in town is almost \$54,000 annually.

That's more than twice the income the Land Trust gets each year from member-

ship dues, which is one of the reasons the Land Trust needs to raise money each year for The Rufus Barringer Fund for Education and Stewardship, which was established by Charlotte Barringer in 2004 in memory of her late husband.



**Land Trust Photo Contest  
Historic - Third Place  
Skip Broom**



**Land Trust Photo Contest  
Historic - Second Place  
Michael Cathcart**

## Memorial Donations to Lyme Land

A donation to the Lyme Land Conservation Trust in the name of a deceased loved one or dear friend is often an appropriate way to pay tribute to the life of someone who has cherished the beauty of Lyme .

The Land Trust will acknowledge your donation by sending to whomever you designate a letter from the president of the Trust documenting your thoughtfulness.

Unless otherwise specified, the donation will go into the General Fund.

Please mail memorial donations to Lyme Land Conservation Trust, PO Box 1002, Old Lyme CT 06371. Please tell us in whose memory you are making the donation and to whom we should send the acknowledgement of your consideration. The Land Trust will also send you a receipt for your records.

# In Memoriam

## Sally James Bill 1929 - 2010



Sally James Bill, an important early leader of the Lyme Land Conservation Trust, died on Oct. 15 at her home in Essex.

She was among the first members of the Land Trust and later one of its early trustees, and one of her sons and a grandson have both

served as Land Trust board members.

Sally believed in serving her community. She volunteered in the school and library and served as a member of the Lyme School Board. She was a trustee of the Lyme Historical Society and an enthusiastic docent and volunteer at the Society's Florence Griswold Museum.

She was deeply committed to the Lyme Land Trust and its mission to preserve the open space and natural beauty of Lyme for future generations. She took great joy in working with her family to permanently protect her family lands and beamed the day her grandson, Ben, became the third generation of the family to serve on the Land Trust board. Her son, Frederick "Fritz" Gahagan (Ben's father) is currently legal counsel to the Land Trust.

Born in Bronxville, N.Y., in 1929, to Edward Lyman Bill and Dorothy James Smart, she spent most of her life at Raymond Farms in Lyme, carrying wonderful memories of four cousins and many beloved animals. Later, she shared the farm, her stupendous gardens, and her memories with her children and seven grandchildren.

Sally was a graduate of the Lincoln School in Providence. She attended Wellesley College, leaving after two years to marry Frederick G. Gahagan. She was very proud of finally completing her college education at Connecticut College at the age of 51.

Sally is survived by three of her children, Fritz Gahagan (Mary Lou Gahagan) of Lyme, Caroline Gahagan (Richard Hasner) of Pinehurst, N.C., and Lolly Gahagan (Chester Whitlock) of Newfield, N.Y.; as well as her seven grandchildren.

Contributions may be made in her memory to the Lyme Land Conservation Trust, Inc. or the Florence Griswold Museum's Education Fund.

## Margaret Moore Clucas 1915- 2010

Margaret "Peggy" Clucas was an ardent supporter of wildlife conservation and land preservation in Lyme for more than 40 years.

Born in New York City, she was the daughter of Eugene Moore and Margaret Graham (who was a survivor of the Titanic disaster). Her brother William Moore was one of the original founders of the Lyme Land Conservation Trust.

Peggy was an accomplished equestrian, extensive traveler and a lover of foreign culture. She resided in Sotogrande, Spain, in the southern province of Cadiz for many winters.

During her 40 years in Lyme she was an advocate for wildlife conservation and land preservation. She supported the Audubon Society, the Natural Resources Defense Council, The Nature Conservancy and the Lyme Land Conservation Trust. In 1993 she gifted 24 acres to the Lyme Land Trust, half of it wooded and half a field, along Brush Hill Road near its intersection with Mt. Archer and Tantomorantum roads.

Peggy served on the board of the East Side Settlement House, one of the original private social services providers in New York City founded in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century. From 1960 to 1962, she chaired the New York Winter Antique Show, held annually for more than half a century for the benefit of East Side Settlement House.

She is survived by her daughters, Sandra Buxton of Boynton Beach, Florida; Alice Clucas-Depret of Lyme and France; and a son, Thomas Sherwood of Southport, North Carolina; five grandchildren and one great-grandson.



Alice Clucas-Depret, daughter of the late Margaret "Peggy" Clucas, enjoys an autumn afternoon with two appreciative dogs in the field on the 24 acre parcel on Brush Hill Road her mother gifted to the Lyme Land Trust in 1993.

# Hiking Trail for Public Developed on Beebe Preserve

By Don Gerber



## Land Trust Work Party at Beebe Preserve Rock Pile

Land Trust Project Manager Lisa Niccolai stands atop a pile of stones cleared from fields in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Below are left to right, Land Trust Executive Director Linda Bireley, Mary Guitar, and Don Gerber.

Several days of hard work by Lyme Land Trust volunteers and staff over the summer and early autumn months has produced a new hiking trail on the Beebe Preserve, a 73 acre wooded tract near the junction of Beaverbrook, Grassy Hill and Gungy roads.

The one-mile trail will provide access to a number features on the Preserve – a beaver pond also visible from Beaver Brook Road, a huge stone pile left from clearing the fields in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, hundreds of feet of stone walls, stone walled sheep pens, and numerous large trees of various species.

Most of the trail is on a 64-acre parcel donated to the Land Trust in 1987 by the late William Beebe, who lived at the intersection of Beaver Brook Road, Grassy Hill Road, and Gungy Road. The donated parcel lies between Beaver Brook Road and Old Grassy Hill Road with frontage on both. A small part of the trail is on an adjacent 9 acre parcel given to the Land Trust in 1990 by Library Associates.

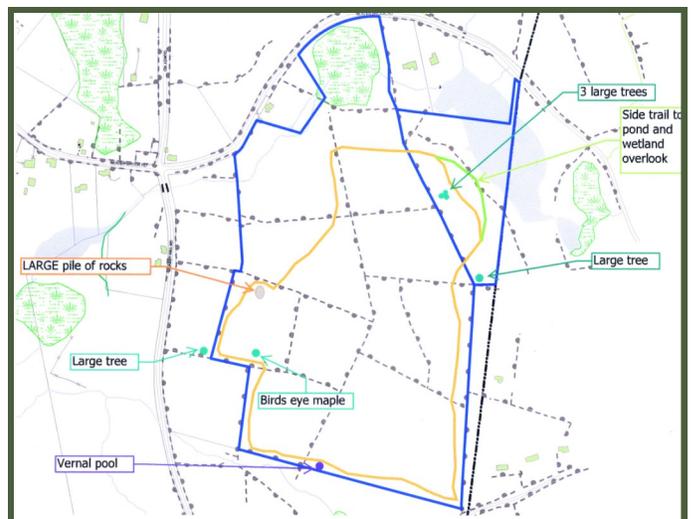
Preliminary layout of the trail was conducted in May. Various features were identified and visited and a preliminary trail location was flagged.

On three work days volunteers and staff have cleared and marked about three-quarters of a mile of trails. This effort includes trimming branches, clearing bull briers, breaching stone walls, removing sections of downed trees, and dropping hazardous dead trees. Also, colored trail markers are installed to assist hikers in finding their way. Another work day or two should complete the remaining quarter mile.

The parcel has about 20 feet of frontage at the town line on Old Grassy Hill Road. This area will be improved to support off-street parking for a few vehicles. The location has good sight lines and is relatively level with the road surface.

Some clearing and some surface improvement will be needed to support parking, consistent with the access points for other existing LLCT trails. Finally, a sign will be constructed at the entrance to the trail. Additional work days will be scheduled to address this task.

The development of this new trail has been supported by a number of volunteers and staff – Linda Bireley, Ed Emerson, Emily Fisher, Don Gerber, Evan Griswold, Mary Guitar, and Lisa Niccolai. Additional help is needed. Work parties are normally conducted on a weekday or Saturday morning and generally last about three hours. If you would like to help, please contact Lisa Niccolai (212-3124) or Don Gerber (434-7477), and we will include you on emails when scheduling work dates.



## Trail Map for Beebe Preserve

The blue line indicates the property boundary lines and the yellow line marks the new trail.

# The Ravine Trail A Popular Hike

By Kristen Stodolski

Many times when starting a trail, a hiker's exit strategy is based on returning to the trail head.

It's the familiar "in and out" route, either doing a loop trail or returning to the starting point by simply reversing course and retracing the way in.

However like many of the popular trails in Lyme, the Ravine Trail -- which runs between Mitchell Hill Road and Joshuatown Road -- is an exception to this rule.

The trail can be accessed from either terminus on both Mitchell Hill or Joshuatown roads, so with a little planning with a carpool buddy a hiker can cover the entire trail in about an hour, enjoying the variety of relatively rough ledge-rock terrain without having to struggle with a return trip.

Before venturing onto the Ravine Trail, the hiker should borrow a map from the information stand or print one from the Lyme Land Trust website. But once on the trail beware that there are a number of trails in the ravine that are well maintained, but not marked on the maps. Since it's a relatively short trail in the first place, you don't have to worry about getting lost in a trackless wilderness, but it is possible to get a bit confused.

If your visit to the Ravine Trail starts on Mitchell Hill Road, there is an old farm road that can be followed. On your left is a stream, and as you head deeper into the trail, the stream enlarges as a result of a resident beaver population.

There is an old trail that takes the visitor to the edge of the beaver pond, and there are number of felled trees that are remnants of the beavers' work. It is very evident through this section that beaver are able to change the landscape relatively quickly.

Currently Emily and Jason Bjornberg steward this property. Approximately once a month, they walk the property and



## Forested Wetlands on the Ravine Trail

trails to ensure there are no trees blocking the trails, picking up any debris, and tend to general trail maintenance.

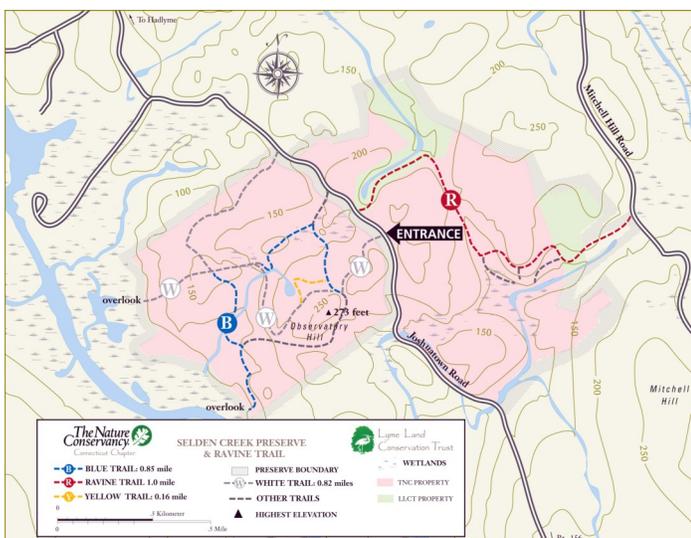
The Bjornbergs have noted that there are several new trails that have been created; these trails are being maintained and are sometimes easier terrain than the original trails. The stewards would like to work with the groups making the trails and encourage the group(s) using the trail to contact the Land Trust to coordinate forces.

It is evident from walking the trails that the property is used by many outdoor enthusiasts. It was featured recently a series about trails in Southeastern Connecticut published in [The Day](http://www.theday.com) newspaper. ([www.theday.com](http://www.theday.com), keyword Hiking Guide)

The Ravine Trail is located on adjoining parcels that make up the Selden Neck Preserve, most of which is owned by The Nature Conservancy. However, some portions of the land covered by the trail is owned by the Lyme Land Trust. The trail boasts a variety of indigenous species including red oak, yellow birch, and sugar maple. As a visitor makes his/her way through the trail, the landscape can be moderate in difficulty in a few sections.

The elevation of the established trails climbs over the bedrock. However, the view of the beaver pond expands with the elevation. At the top of the ridge is a perfect place to take a few minutes to enjoy the view. As one makes their way down the ravine, there is a well-defined drainage area where the water flows north to Whalebone Creek and south to Joshua Creek.

The Ravine Trail is a perfect place to spend a fall afternoon. Sunlight comes through the holes left behind by fallen hemlocks, illuminating the trail with filtered light. Like many areas of Lyme, it's quiet and secluded -- a tranquil place to recollect oneself -- and maybe a place to rekindle a new friendship as you hike from Mitchell Hill Road up to Joshuatown and maybe stop along the way for lunch on the ride home.



# The First Board Of Directors of the Lyme Land Trust

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**Frank  
Stephenson  
President**

**William Taylor  
Vice President**

**Shirley Moore  
Secretary**

**Clifford Hall  
Treasurer**

**William Daniells  
Robert Fiske  
William G Moore**

## Founders of the Lyme Land Conservation Trust Shirley Howard

By George Moore

Currently living in Essex, Shirley Howard is the only remaining board member from the first annual meeting of the Lyme Land Conservation Trust on May 26, 1967.

Who started the Lyme Land Conservation Trust and why the Land Trust formed were among the questions I hoped to get answered when I went to visit her recently for an interview.

She is a very attractive, determined and intelligent lady with a fascinating recall of names and events. We weren't far into the interview when I began to understand the Lyme Land Trust didn't just happen.

When she lived in Lyme, she was Shirley Moore, and along with her then husband William G Moore and a few friends who shared a common vision for Lyme, she was one of the founders of the Lyme Land Trust.

Prior to moving to Lyme, she and her husband had lived in Greenwich CT and were dismayed to see the suburbanization which took place there, large parcels divided up into building lots.

They came to Lyme wanting to do what they could to prevent the same thing occurring here. Two things helped them – the rocky terrain which made development difficult and the passage of CT Public Act 490 which allowed a landowner to put acreage in excess of the zoning requirement into open space and receive considerably reduced property taxes.

While that served to slow things down, it did not prevent anyone from selling their land for development. They were aware of successful land conservation efforts in Massachusetts and wanted to set up a land trust to do the same in Lyme.

It is well known there is a "New York" community here – people who make Lyme their retirement or weekend home. Shirley related that the founders of our Land Trust not only shared a New York social and business relationship, but some were friends and neighbors in Greenwich before moving to Lyme.. Margaret "Peggy" Clucas, a land donor and long time supporter of the Land Trust who recently passed away, was William Moore's sister and followed them to Lyme from Greenwich.

As a last illustration of the New York connection, Shirley sold her Joshua Lane house to the then Mayor



**Shirley Howard**

John Lindsay of New York, who she said matter-of-factly "were friends of ours."

As we went through the names of the successive presidents of the Land Trust from 1967 to 1992: Frank Stephenson, William Moore, Arthur Howe, Rufus Barringer, it was clear a group of like-minded friends guided the Trust and passed the torch for twenty-five years.

The driving force was Shirley, her husband at the time William G Moore, and their friends and neighbors Mr. & Mrs. Frank Stephenson. In 1968, both couples contributed parcels of land on either side of Rams Horn Creek – the first land ever donated to the Trust. The Moores lived on Joshua Lane, the Stephensons on Brockway's Ferry. It was a start, almost eight acres protected. The first Land Trust president was Frank Stephenson who was followed by William Moore. Shirley served as Secretary until 1981. William Moore went on to serve as a State Senator and created and secured funding for the Gateway Commission, which has done so much to protect the first eleven miles of the Connecticut River.

Shirley said that local residents were at first resistant to the notion of affluent outsiders wanting to protect open (continued on facing page .....)

# Eightmile River Committee Focusing on Non-point Source Pollution

By Susan Merrow

Member, Eightmile River Wild and Scenic Steering Committee



You may have noticed that handsome blue, green and white National Wild & Scenic Rivers signs recently appeared on the side of state roads in Lyme and its neighboring towns.

They have been attached to those by now familiar signs saying “Entering the Eightmile River Watershed,” which were posted a few years ago to alert travelers that they were about to enter someplace special.

With the watershed’s official designation as Wild and Scenic, the Eightmile River Wild and Scenic Steering Committee added the new signs because it decided visitors should know this little unassuming river is the equal of the mightiest rivers in our country. There’s more going on here than just bragging, however.

The Eightmile River Committee also hopes the new signs make everyone travelling through the area aware of the importance of a watershed.

If the Eightmile is going to continue to deserve its Wild and Scenic designation, the Committee feels everyone who lives in or visits its watershed should think about their daily practices that ultimately affect its health.

The Eightmile has managed to survive without any major source of pollution: no large industries, no big sewer outfalls, no major hazardous waste dumps nearby.

So, the biggest threat to the river’s health now is non-point source pollution, such as fertilizing lawns, dumping oil down storm drains, failing to keep septic tanks pumped out, or cutting down the vegetative buffers along the River that trap pollutants and cleanse the water.

The Eightmile River Wild and Scenic Steering Committee’s goal is to encourage everyone who lives in or passes through the Eightmile’s watershed to be smart about preventing non-point pollution.

By logging on to [www.eightmileriver.org](http://www.eightmileriver.org) and clicking on the RiverSmart pledge, you can take a quick and educational survey about preventing non-point pollution and keeping the Eightmile River and its tributaries and wetlands free of harmful pollutants.

Those who complete the survey will be sent a packet of information that all good stewards of a river should have and a 3” x 5” sign that declares yours a RiverSmart home.

## Lyme Land Trust Website

### Finding What You Need

What a great day for a hike! But where to go? Somewhere familiar or maybe discover someplace new?

Start with [www.lymelandtrust.org](http://www.lymelandtrust.org) and select **TRAILS AND PROPERTIES**. Here are descriptions of each Land Trust preserve, as well as links to other conservation properties in Lyme. You can easily download trail maps, determine trail length, degree of difficulty, get directions and learn about the history of each preserve: print out a map, lace up your boots and off you go.

#### What if it isn’t a day for hiking?

Selecting **PHOTO CONTEST** will bring to your computer screen the wonderful natural world that surrounds us as seen through the eyes of accomplished amateur photographers, young and old.

Visit **NEWS** to keep abreast of what the Land Trust is currently doing and **UPCOMING EVENTS** to learn what group walks or education programs are planned. Check it out.

To refer to recent publications, go to **ANNUAL REPORTS, NEWSLETTERS, & PUBLICATIONS**

In **DONATIONS & MEMBERSHIP** you can join or renew your Land Trust membership with credit cards using PayPal.

Go to [www.lymelandtrust.org](http://www.lymelandtrust.org) and discover a wealth of information about the Lyme Land Trust.

## Founders Story Continued

space, but they finally came around when they realized preserving land did not adversely affect property values. Shirley bubbled with excitement when she said 60 enthusiastic people came to the first meeting brandishing letters of support and \$50 checks.

Shirley stressed the New York and Greenwich immigrants had deliberately taken a low profile non-confrontational approach. They knew it would take years to convey their message and earn trust. The last thing they wanted was for people to feel they were out to acquire land. Shirley’s daughter married into the

Eno family and lives in Lyme. Shirley’s roots run deep here with a daughter, a granddaughter and three great grandchildren living in Lyme.

It wasn’t until 1973 that the next land donation was made by Mrs. Orlean V Curtin who donated 20 acres on Moulson Pond. Mrs. Curtin lived in the house on Mt Archer usually referred to as the Red Mill. She was married to the world renowned architect, Edward Durell Stone.

When I told Shirley that today we are the stewards of 31 Fee and 64 Easement properties totaling well over 2500 acres – her response was “WOW! WOW!”



Lyme Land Conservation Trust

PO Box 1002, Lyme, CT 06371

- Upcoming Events
- Trails & Properties
- News
- Donations & Membership
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Annual Reports, Newsletters, Publications
- Information for Property Stewards



The Lyme Land Conservation Trust (LLCT) is a non-profit organization founded in 1966, dedicated to helping to conserve Lyme’s natural, scenic and historic land and water resources. We acquire and manage properties; support open space acquisition; promote scientific study of natural resources; and educate the public, thus helping preserve the quality of life. We often partner with the town of Lyme and other conservation groups in this mission.

The Trust oversees a total of 2658 acres. It owns 30 properties, and maintains easements on another 57. The Land Trust also monitors the 235 acre Pleasant Valley Preserve under agreement with the Nature Conservancy.

The LLCT is an all-volunteer organization, from our board of directors to our trail stewards. One of the smallest towns in Connecticut, Lyme has proportionally one of the largest land trust memberships in the United States.



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## Lyme Land Conservation Trust Calendar of Events

### JANUARY

Saturday the 8th - 10am

#### HIKE

Hike with Fritz Gahagan on his family land between the East Branch of the Eightmile River and Beaver Brook & Cedar Pond Creek. Weather dependant.. Check website for updates.

### FEBRUARY

Sunday the 27th - 2 PM

#### EVENT

DEP presentation "**Bats A Conservation Challenge for the Coming Decade**" by Jenny Dickson. Learn more about the world of bats: their amazing diversity, and the important role they play in our ecosystem, Location: Lyme Public Hall, Rt. 156 Hamburg.

### MARCH

Saturday the 12th - 10am

#### HIKE

Hike and discover the lost village on Mt. Archer via the trails of Eno Preserve and Mt. Archer Woods. Learn about the history of foundations of the abandoned 19<sup>th</sup> Century hamlet deep in the forest. Meet at the entrance to Mt. Archer Woods.

### APRIL

Saturday 9th - 10am

#### HIKE

Walking the Jewett Trail and Pleasant Valley Preserve with Linda Bireley. Approximately a 5 mile hike to explore the northwest portion of Jewett Preserve and part of the Pleasant Valley Preserve. Terrain is varied; wear sturdy shoes.

### MAY

Saturday the 5th - 10am

#### HIKE

Hike the Plimpton Preserve with Peter Weigle. Details to be announced.

### JUNE

Saturday the 11th - 10am

#### HIKE

The First Walk on the Beebe property with Lisa Niccolai. Details to be announced.

**All events are subject to change. Please consult the Upcoming Events page at the Lyme Land Trust website [www.lymelandtrust.org](http://www.lymelandtrust.org) for the latest information.**