



The Lyme Land Conservation Trust

2011 Autumn Newsletter

Land Trust Dedicates New Chestnut Hill Preserve on Sterling Hill Road With Ribbon Cutting & Trail Opening

More than 45 Land Trust members and guests celebrated Lyme's newest protected open space on the sunny morning of Oct. 15 with the dedication of the Chestnut Hill Preserve, a 40-acre parcel of forest, wetlands and streams on the south side of Sterling Hill Road.

The event was marked with a ribbon cutting ceremony that formally opened the preserve's new trail, which winds among huge boulders left by pre-historic glaciers, along a forest stream with a small waterfall, and over spines of ledge rock to connect to the trail system in the adjacent Nehantic State Forest.

Land Trust President George Moore spoke briefly, thanking Land Trust Stewardship Chairman Don Gerber and the volunteers who cleared the new trail so quickly after the Land Trust had acquired the parcel.

He also singled out for special thanks Land Trust Vice President Temp Brown, who with great patience over an extended period of time led the negotiating process with the prior owners, and Secretary George Lombardino, who shepherded the preparation of the grant application.

"They both worked hard to make this happen," he said. He also singled out Land Trust Project Manager Lisa Niccolai, who actually wrote the application for a state grant to help cover the cost of the purchase. "The truth is," he



State Representative Marilyn Giuliano cuts a ribbon of oak leaves to open the Chestnut Hill Preserve, along with (from the left) Lyme Selectmen Steven Mattson and Parker Lord and Lyme Land Trust President George Moore.

said, "much of the credit for this grant is attributable to Lisa's grant writing skills."

Carolyn Bacdayan spoke about the history of the region and the many families who settled and farmed Brown and Sterling Hill. She explained that in town records of land distributions around the turn of the 18th century the area was called "Chestnut Hill," and further, that it was still called by that name in the mid-20th century during her visits to a Sterling relative who lived nearby.

The chestnut was important to early European settlers because it provided strong timber for posts and beams for building homes and barns. (Because of

blight, these trees today rarely reach maturity, but the Land Trust has plans for re-introducing a modified strain to the new preserve.)

After the ribbon cutting, former Land Trust Presidents Linda Bireley and Anthony Irving led a walk of the new Orange Trail, describing the flora and geology of the area and explaining its use as farming and pasture land during the 18th and 19th centuries.

Funding for the \$280,000 purchase will be from a \$140,000 grant from the State of Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) and a
(continued on next page)

... continued from previous page)

matching pledge from the HJ Promise Foundation. Additional generous donations from Land Trust members provided bridge funding for the closing in anticipation of the DEEP grant and other pledges.

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

The Nehantic State Forest abuts the parcel on the east and south, and on portions of the western side. 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, 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 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. According to the Con-

necticut Natural Diversity Database, endangered species and significant natural communities are known to exist in the abutting State Forest and surrounding lands.

The Chestnut Hill Preserve brings to 32 parcels totaling 573 acres owned and preserved as open space by the Land Trust.

The Trust also holds 64 conservation easements covering 2,008 acres and manages another 235 acres owned by The Nature Conservancy, bringing to more 2,800 acres in Lyme protected as open space that the Land Trust is stewarding for future generations.

The Lyme Land Conservation Trust, Inc.

PO Box 1002
Lyme, CT 06371
info@lymelandtrust.org
Tel: 860-434-4639

Officers

George Moore, President
Templeton Brown, Vice President
John Prichard, Vice President
Andy Baxter, Treasurer
George Lombardino, Secretary

Board of Directors

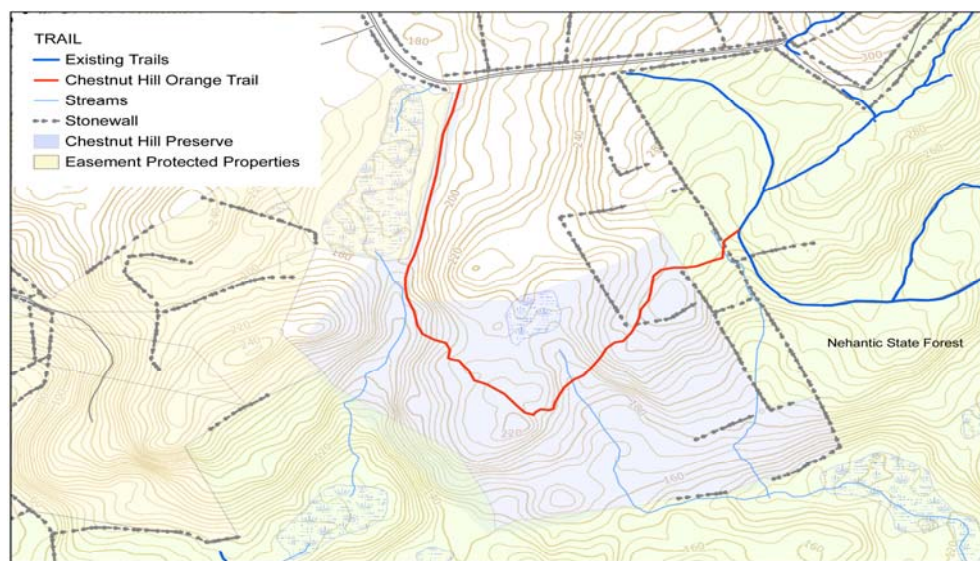
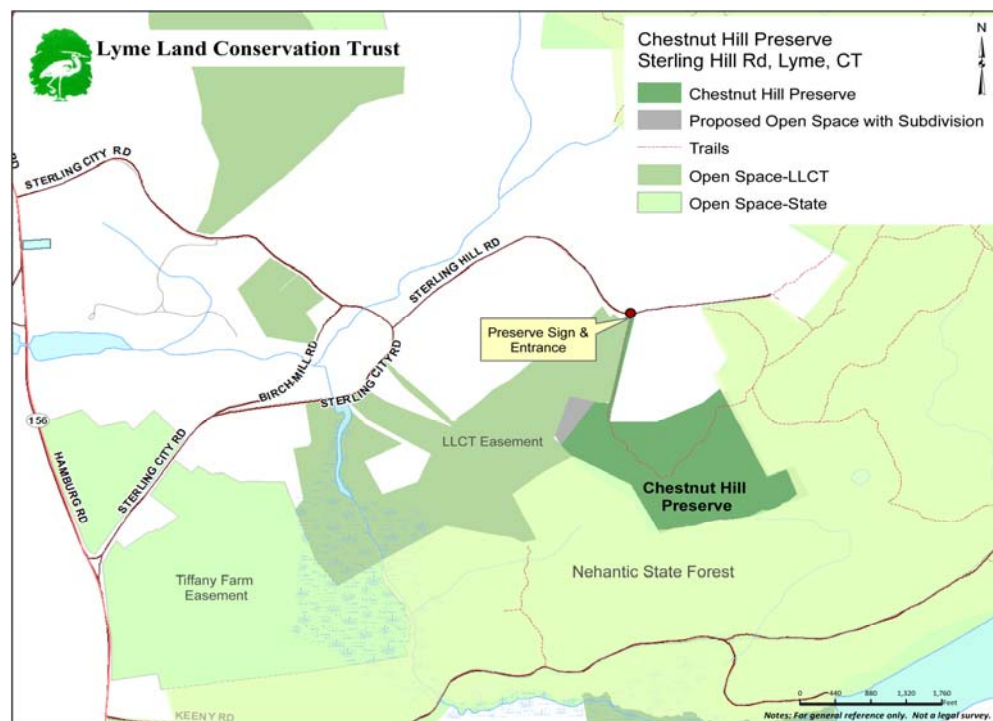
Diana Boehning
Carrie Ermler
Don Gerber
Tom Shoemaker
Molly Turner
Humphrey S. Tyler
Melvin Woody
Rick Worcester

Publications Committee

Richard Melchreit
Kristen Stadolski
Tony Sullivan
Humphrey S. Tyler

Staff

Linda Bireley,
Executive Assistant
Lisa Niccolai,
Project Manager



Lyme Land Conservation Trust
Chestnut Hill Preserve
Sterling Hill Road, Lyme, CT

0 250 500 750 1,000 Feet



Drawn By: LSN
Date: 9/26/11
For general reference only
Not a legal survey

New Trail on Beebe Preserve Inaugerated with National Trails Day Hike Featuring Scavenger Hunt for Trekkers

On the beautiful morning of June 4, more than 50 hikers of all ages (including a couple of babies in backpacks) celebrated Connecticut Trails and National Trails day, by inaugurating the Land Trust's new trail at the Beebe Preserve on Old Grassy Hill Road.

Led by forester and Land Trust staffer Lisa Niccolai, the hike wound through old and new forest, past a beaver pond, through magnificent carpets of fern, and between intricately constructed stone walls. Former Land Trust President Ralph Lewis explained how glaciers had formed the hill and its boulders thousands of years ago, and Lisa showed how the trees and stone walls can be read to understand the more recent human history of the area.

Designed especially to attract young people, the hike featured a scavenger hunt that had participants peering inside rotting trees, collecting different types of leaves, sniffing twigs, and propounding theories about the origin of the Preserve's mysterious rockpile. The intrepid scavengers were rewarded at the conclusion of the hike with a small prize.

The Beebe Walk was one of the first activities designed by the Lyme Trail



First Hikers on the New Beebe Trail

The wonders of nature brought to life with games on a bright June morning.

Trekkers, a group of Land Trust parents and kids who meet to plan activities that will appeal to the younger members of the Land Trust community, as well as to adults. The scavenger hunt proved to be a great way to engage kids in exploring the forest.

The Beebe walk highlighted the many different ways that Land Trust properties serve the community by preservation and stewardship, by education and community-building, and by providing a setting to have fun outdoors on a beautiful June morning.



Your Land Trust Membership Helps Preserve Open Space and a Home for Mother Nature in Lyme

This time of year it is easy to see why Lyme is such a special place.

Between the annual migration of the swallows and the vibrant colors of the fall foliage, Lyme's beauty is breathtaking, an important gift that needs to be protected. We at the Lyme Land Trust are dedicated to helping to conserve Lyme's natural, scenic and historic land and water resources.

We are a volunteer organization, overseeing over 2,800 acres, owning 32 properties, maintaining 64 conservation easements, and

managing a land preserve owned by The Nature Conservancy. Lyme is one of the smallest towns in Connecticut, however, we have proportionally one of the largest land trust memberships in the USA.

But we can't do it without your help. Please take a moment to renew your membership. Simply visit www.lymelandtrust.org to pay by credit card, or to download a membership form. Membership does have its benefits – you'll have access to events and programs, plus the enjoyment of knowing you help preserve the natural beauty here in Lyme.

Czikowsky Legacy of Hard Work and Civic Commitment Preserved In Lyme Landscape

By Richard Melchreit

In 1900 Eugene and Annie Czikowsky, a young German couple from Brooklyn, moved with their children to Hamburg Cove to find “sweet water” for an ailing daughter.

In the century since then, members of the Czikowsky family became legend in Lyme for their hard work as farmers, butchers, and storekeepers -- roles that made them an integral part of the fabric of the town -- and later generations of the family were recognized as educators and civic minded citizens in Lyme.

Recently their descendants continued a tradition of devotion to the land through generous preservation of parts of their farm.

Eugene and Annie bought land to farm for \$700. It included a small wood frame building on Joshuatown Road that became the home for their nine-member family. It also became a grocery and general store, which the Czikowskys soon opened and became the primary source of household provisions for neighbors living nearby.

Rosemarie Czikowsky Fox, a granddaughter of Eugene and Annie, recounts how the men would wake before dark, milk the herd, tend store or work the farm all day, cut wood, and then make

deliveries late into the night. They would drive around town and stock pantries and iceboxes (or the refrigerators of “early adopters”). The Czikowsky women tended the store, worked the huge garden that grew produce to stock its shelves, and churned butter from the family herd’s milk.

By dint of backbreaking work, the family not only supported themselves, but in true American immigrant style, they saved enough to purchase adjoining land along the southern slopes of Mount Archer.

Eventually their holdings included their original farm (with its fields running down to the shore of Hamburg Cove) and extended along the heights of Mount Archer above the west bank of Upper Hamburg Cove to the Joshuatown Bridge. They then purchased a 90 -acre parcel north of the bridge known as the Hoppy property.

After Annie and Eugene died in 1944, the unmarried adult children, Minnie, Herbert (Herbie), and the younger Eugene inherited the farm. They continued to run the store and farm until the last, Herbie, died in 1973 in a tragic farming accident on the Hoppy land, a part of the farm he especially loved.

As time passed, the store closed, and the pastures and fields were sold. After Herbie's

death only the Hoppy property remained, and it reverted to its natural state. The land then passed to the surviving six grandchildren of Eugene and Annie.

This third generation of Czikowskys considered subdividing the land and selling it, but several of the surviving family members, including Rosemarie Fox, wanted it kept as open land. They appreciated its natural value and preserved it through a coordinated mixture of donation and bargain sales to a coalition of buyers made up of the Town of Lyme, the Lyme Land Conservation Trust, and The Nature Conservancy.

The Hoppy Property has several important features that make it particularly valuable for preservation.

It runs a quarter-mile along the west bank of the Eightmile River, a federally-designated Wild and Scenic River. It is divided into floodplain with riverine habitat and a steep grade upland forest that runs up the flank of Mount Archer to the Mount Archer Woods Preserve, making it part of a 1200+ acre tract of unfragmented woodland. The uplands are home to beautiful stands of oak, hickory and beech, while the floodplain supports a host of wetland native plants, including cardinal flower and swampwort.

Rosemarie Fox was born and grew up along the Eightmile River in a house just south of Moulson’s Pond. Her son, Jeff Rowe, and his wife Kathy now live in the house where they raised two children, who also live in the area, making this the fifth generation of Czikowskys to live around the “sweet water” of Lyme. Jeff has been the steward of Moulson’s pond for several years and maintains its osprey platform.

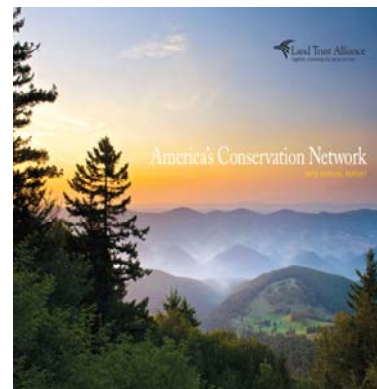
If you want to learn more about the Czikowsky family and their legacy, go to the Lyme History Archive at Lyme Public Hall, open Tuesdays 10 am to noon.

**Rosemarie
Czikowsky
Fox,
Generous
Donor
of
Family
Lands in
Lyme to
Protect
Open
Space**



Lyme Land Trust Featured in National Land Trust Alliance Annual Report

The Land Trust Alliance (LTA), a national association of land preservation organizations, honored the Lyme Land Conservation Trust (LLCT) earlier this year for its staunch defense of conservation easements by publishing a feature article that reports on LLCT litigation, which is seeking judicial interpretation and enforcement of the terms of an easement entrusted to it on property on Selden Road. The article, entitled *Eyes Wide Open*, was in the LTA Annual Report (cover to the right) published in March and is reproduced in the box below.



Eyes Wide Open

George Moore

Traveling up the Connecticut River, the view of the town of Lyme appears little changed from its founding in 1665. Its pastoral scenes and wooded hills contrast with the development on the opposite shore.

“We’re somewhat of an island,” says George Moore, president of Lyme Land Conservation Trust (CT). The rural landscape brought George and his wife here, and serves as an oasis for many from New York City.

The trust knows the importance of good stewardship—of its 95 properties including 64 easements and 400 acres of linked trails—and its obligations to the community it serves. About half of the town’s 1,000 households are land trust members. And with no full-time staff, the organization’s 15 directors and about 40 additional volunteers do much of the work.

So it was an “eye opener” when a dispute over its very first easement brought the 44-year-old land trust to court for the first time.

They tried educating and engaging the new owners of the sensitive waterfront property—as they had two previous owners. But continually rebuffed and with infractions escalating, they

finally filed suit. Concerned that the community might lose faith in the land trust, George reached out and explained its fiduciary responsibility to uphold conserved land in perpetuity. That’s when the landowner sued him personally.

Last year, Lyme Land Conservation Trust joined the Alliance’s Conservation Defense Insurance Program. Once launched, the new insurance service will help land trusts afford legal costs and collectively defend conservation everywhere.

“Because of our experience, we are more acutely aware of the need for this program than most land trusts might be,” says George. He likes that it will also build case law where little exists. “We believe this isn’t unique to us and it won’t be going away.”

There is no end in sight to the case in Lyme, and costs are escalating. George is grateful for the wonderful support of many in town, and that the land trust had Directors and Officers insurance* to cover the personal lawsuit.

With nearly 45% of Lyme already protected, “there’s a narrow window left for land acquisition—maybe 20 to 30 years,” George says. Increasingly, they will be focused on ensuring what has been protected stays protected.



ENSURE THE PERMANENCE OF CONSERVATION

Eyes Wide Open

George Moore

Traveling up the Connecticut River, the view of the town of Lyme appears little changed from its founding in 1665. Its pastoral scenes and wooded hills contrast with the development on the opposite shore.

“We’re somewhat of an island,” says George Moore, president of Lyme Land Conservation Trust (CT). The rural landscape brought George and his wife here, and serves as an oasis for many from New York City.

The trust knows the importance of good stewardship—of its 95 properties including 64 easements and 400 acres of linked trails—and its obligations to the community it serves. About half of the town’s 1,000 households are land trust members. And with no full-time staff, the organization’s 15 directors and about 40 additional volunteers do much of the work.

So it was an “eye opener” when a dispute over its very first easement brought the 44-year-old land trust to court for the first time.

They tried educating and engaging the new owners of the sensitive waterfront property—as they had two previous owners. But continually rebuffed and with infractions escalating, they finally filed suit. Concerned that the community

might lose faith in the land trust, George reached out and explained its fiduciary responsibility to uphold conserved land in perpetuity. That’s when the landowner sued him personally.

Last year, Lyme Land Conservation Trust joined the Alliance’s Conservation Defense Insurance Program. Once launched, the new insurance service will help land trusts afford legal costs and collectively defend conservation everywhere.

“Because of our experience, we are more acutely aware of the need for this program than most land trusts might be,” says George. He likes that it will also build case law where little exists. “We believe this isn’t unique to us and it won’t be going away.”

There is no end in sight to the case in Lyme, and costs are escalating. George is grateful for the wonderful support of many in town, and that the land trust had Directors and Officers insurance* to cover the personal lawsuit.

With nearly 45% of Lyme already protected, “there’s a narrow window left for land acquisition—maybe 20 to 30 years,” George says. Increasingly, they will be focused on ensuring what has been protected stays protected.

*Directors and Officers insurance is available to Alliance land trust members through the Consensus-A-Nation® Program.

LAND TRUST ALLIANCE SUCCESSSES

- Enrolled 18,278 conservation properties from 400 land trusts in 47 states and D.C. in the proposed Conservation Defense Insurance Program.¹ Our next step is to raise the \$4 million in capitalization required by the Insurance Commissioner with the goal of beginning the service by the end of 2012.
- Added and updated case law summaries and opinions to the online Conservation Defense Clearinghouse on The Learning Center.
- Recruited 12 national law firms to provide the Alliance with 4,000 hours of pro bono time to assist with precedent-setting cases.
- Strengthened the conservation defense network, made up of 450 conservation attorneys and conservation experts from every state in America. Created a new stewardship network.
- Taught practices to prevent legal problems by responding to more than 350 information requests.

¹ Numbers current as of March 25, 2011.

Landowners Can Tailor Land Trust Conservation Retain Many Uses of Protected Open Space on T

When Lyme resident Barbara David donated a conservation easement to the Lyme Land Conservation Trust in 2009 on 31 acres on Brush Hill Road, she wanted to ensure the property wouldn't be subdivided and would be maintained in its natural state, but at the same time, she wanted to allow future owners to be able to use the land for light farming.

So she designed a conservation easement that was tailored to restrict future development, and at the same time she stipulated in the easement that the property be managed to protect and enhance native species and that it allow for small family farming.

The final conservation easement document is an excellent example of how property owners can often customize restrictions in easements that will meet their needs on how they would like to use the land (or how they would like the land to be used in the future), but at the same time, will accomplish the Land Trust's goals of preserving open space.

When she purchased the property, Barbara hoped to keep the land in its natural condition as open space and prevent

it from being developed.

She also wanted to allow for some agricultural use, while having the property managed for native flora and fauna.

Because the first buyers of this land with the new easement were known (Jason and Emily Bjornberg had been renters there for several years), Barbara invited them to be part of the planning process.

The easement that was negotiated with the Land Trust does not apply to three acres around the existing house and barns and requires future owners to manage the property for native species. The easement also allows for small family farming, using some of the fields as pasture, and allowing local sale of, for example, eggs, milk and cheese.

The Land Trust agreed to accept the conservation easement containing these agricultural use exemptions because the agreement will still prevent any future subdivision or development.

Thus the open space will be preserved (one of the donor's and the Land Trust's primary missions). At the same time, the easement allows the land to continue to be used for light farming.

Some landowners fear that if they donate or sell an easement to the Land Trust, they will

have to abandon all their private property rights and will no longer be able to use the land.

As the David-Bjornberg example illustrates, that is not the case.

In this particular instance, the expectations of all three parties could be met in the easement documentation. Barbara David was able to ensure that the property would never be subject to subdivision or construction and would be properly maintained as open space. The Bjornbergs were able to continue light farming. And the Land Trust was able to protect 28 acres in perpetuity.

As long as the Land Trust's requirements to preserve open space are met, it is possible to design a conservation easement to fit the needs of the owners.

The Lyme Land Trust holds 64 easements covering more than 2,000 acres on privately owned land, while it actually owns outright only 32 parcels with a total of 573 acres. The difference between these two ways of conserving land is important.

Granting a conservation easement does not mean giving up title or use of the property. The title of the protected property remains with the owners, who can do anything on the property as long as it is permitted under the terms of the easement restrictions they have negotiated with the Land Trust.

The property rights retained by the owner and those transferred to the Trust are spelled out in the conservation easement document. The exact terms of the easement can be tailored to fit the particular interests and concerns of the owner and the peculiarities of the land in question.

For instance, in 2007 Linda and Matt Elgart donated an easement covering 13 acres along the north side of Roaring Brook in Hadlyme to the Land Trust and customized its terms so that Linda can retire her saddle horse there.



Emily & Jason Bjornberg, left, with Barbara David, at far right, in front of the Bjornberg's barn and tractor used for their family farm on the land they bought in 2009.

Easements to Their Property

The easement they negotiated with the Land Trust provides for adding a barn and fenced pasture within the area protected by the easement, as well as allowing bridle trails if they meet standards to protect nearby streams.

The Elgart easement illustrates an important point -- a conservation easement need not rule out all future development or even subdivision of the property. It might actually permit building and development, but restrict the number of lots into which a tract may be divided or define the size or location of the divisions.

For example, in 2009 the Lyme Land Trust accepted an easement covering 16 acres along Grassy Hill Road. It allows for five residential lots set back from the road, but it also protects an important slope that adjoins two other easements toward the top of Grassy Hill.

A little further north, the Land Trust negotiated easements surrounding Gungy Pond and Cedar Lake that will allow for four building lots but still protect them from what could have been more intensive development.

The four examples mentioned here only begin to illustrate how restrictions can be tailored and adjusted to meet the needs of those who give or sell conservation easements on their property.

Every easement means transferring some property rights to the Trust -- theoretically reducing the property's value --but there are also tax savings to offset paper losses.

Moreover, the 40 percent of protected open land in Lyme contributes to the value of everyone's life and property.

Many donors do not regard the transfer of development rights to the Land Trust as a loss of ownership rights. Rather they look on it more as a way of controlling the future and preventing degradation of the land they love.

Lyme Land Trust Seeks to Inform and Work Cooperatively with Property Owners to Manage Easements

By George Moore, LLCT President

If you own property with a conservation easement created by a prior owner, it is understandable if you are unsure of what it really means.

Easements are unique to each property. Asking what you can and cannot do are reasonable questions, and we would like to help you find the answers. At the Lyme Land Trust, we want to work in partnership with you to protect your land.

A prior owner probably donated the conservation easement (often referred to as a "conservation restriction") on your land to the Land Trust for any number of reasons or purposes. It might have been to protect the land from future development; it might have been to preserve it for the next generation; or perhaps it was the firm conviction it was the right thing to do to preserve Lyme as it is today for the future.

The best way to gain a better understanding of the conservation easement on your land is to meet with a Land Trust representative and walk the easement area together. We can explain the provisions in the easement document and review the baseline report with you. (A baseline report lays out the conservation values and the condition of the property at the time the easement was created.)

Because the Land Trust has an interest in your property through its ownership of the conservation easement, it has an obligation to check on the easement occasionally.

Always mindful that the property belongs to you, a Land Trust steward will contact you in advance when it is time for an annual stewardship visit, and we encourage landowners to accompany stewards when they walk the easement.

All easements are different because they reflect the original donor's intent as to what activities are allowed or not allowed.

Before accepting an easement, the Land Trust conducts a legal review to make sure we understand the restrictions. This is important because the Land Trust is taking on a commitment to maintain the conservation standards required by the easement in perpetuity.

We encourage owners of property covered by easements to discuss their plans with us. Involving the Land Trust in the planning phase of a project is an opportunity to continue the legacy created by the original donor of the easement and make adjustments to avoid conflicts with the terms of the easement.

Consider the positive aspects of an easement. Possibly you were able to buy more acreage than one might expect because the earlier owner gave up future development rights. That pleasing combination of mature trees surrounding an open field may have withstood the test of time because of provisions in the easement to ensure its maintenance. Or, you may simply enjoy the rural character of Lyme because so many of your friends and neighbors have sought to preserve their property as open space.

There has been a lot in the news recently regarding the swapping of public lands. That might make you wonder just how permanent is an easement with the Land Trust. Not only is the Trust required and committed to protect any and all easements entrusted to it, but part of its mission is to stay strong and healthy so as to be able to carry out its duties forever.

Our options are few; our duty is clear. Protect the easements entrusted to us -- forever.

Let us do it together.



Preserving Lyme's History

Grassy Hill School House No. 2 — Then & Now



Survival, change, and preservation over almost a century

The picture on the left is of the old Grassy Hill School House No. 2 and was taken in 1920. On the right is the same building today on what is now the section of Beaver Brook Road between its intersection with Gungy Road and the East Lyme town line.

The parcel on which the old school house sits is surrounded by 83 acres of forest now owned by the Lyme Land Trust and preserved as open space. Note the hill behind the school in the old photo has almost no trees (and was probably pasture). Now heavily wooded, the hill is part of the Land Trust's Beebe Preserve, which can be accessed from a trailhead on Old Grassy Hill Road . (See story page 3).

The use of Lyme's one-room school houses was discontinued in 1934 when the town's schools were consolidated. Most of the buildings were eventually converted into cozy family homes.

The old photo above is from the Local History Archives at the Lyme Public Hall. If you have old pictures of Lyme or Lyme people, the Archives can help you preserve them. The Archives are open Tuesdays 10am to noon. The Archives also needs volunteers to transcribe oral histories recorded by Lyme residents. Those interested in volunteering should call Archivist Carolyn Bacdayan at 860-434-9292.

Hadlyme Builder Supports Land Trust Through "1% For The Planet" Donation



Erik Block, left, presents check to George Moore

Lyme Land Trust has been presented with its first donation from Erik Block Design-Build, a family-owned building and construction company based in Hadlyme, through a unique corporate gifting program named "1% For The Planet."

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

The program enrolls companies around the world that agree to give 1% of their gross revenues to environmental causes. Erik Block, who has pledged to give 1% of his revenues on jobs in Lyme to the Land Trust, is one of only a handful of builders among the 1300+ firms enrolled to date.

Deadline for 2012 Photo Contest Jan 31

The land trusts of Lyme, Old Lyme, Essex, Salem, and East Haddam are inviting amateur photographers to focus on our pictorial & scenic countryside and to submit their photos to the Seventh Annual Photo Contest.

The great beauty of our towns shows up repeatedly in the great paintings of the American Impressionist movement. Photography is another way to remind ourselves of what we have and to show how important it is to protect and preserve that heritage.

The 2012 contest is being funded with the generous support of **Lorensen Toyota, Oakley/Wing Group at Smith Barney, Evan Griswold at Coldwell Banker, Ballek Garden Center, Essex Savings Bank, Murtha Cullina LLP and ChelseaGroton Bank.**

Judges will award \$100, \$50 and \$25 cash prizes for each of the following categories: Landscapes/Waterscapes; Plants; Wildlife; Cultural/Historic; and any subject for Young Photographers, below age 15

A special \$100 award will be given in memory of our former judge, John G. Mitchell, for the best photograph that promotes and supports our environment and biodiversity.

The three independent judges are: **William Burt**, a naturalist who has won acclaim for his books of wildlife photogra-



1st Place Landscape Category 2011 by Skip Broom

phy; **Amy Kurtz Lansing**, curator at the Florence Griswold Museum and author of *Historical Fictions: Edward Lamson Henry's Paintings of Past and Present*; and **Rudy Wood-Muller**, a photographic illustrator and designer whose photographs have been selected to be part of the Permanent Collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

The deadline for submitting photographs is Jan. 31, 2012. For questions, entry forms and a copy of the contest rules, send an e-mail to landtrustphotos@yahoo.com. To see 12011 winning photos, go to <http://landtrustphotos.shutterfly.com/>

Limited Hunting Helps Manage Biodiversity in Lyme

The Town of Lyme and the Lyme Land Conservation Trust (LLCT) cooperatively administer a hunting program on approximately 860 acres of open space in the Town of Lyme through the Open Space Coordinator.

During hunting season, hikers should exercise caution by wearing appropriate clothing and keeping dogs close by on the trail.

Much of Lyme's forestland is experiencing heavy deer browse damage which threatens the diversity and health of the forest and the health of the Wild and Scenic Eightmile River Watershed.

Over-browsing prevents native shrubs and tree seedlings from growing and severely reduces forest regeneration and understory vegetation. As a result, there is an increased risk of invasive

barberry, bittersweet and winged euonymus, which harbor higher populations of deer ticks.

Hunting Summary

**Season Dates
Sept 15 – Jan31**

- **A "hunting" sign must be posted at the entrance to any property being hunted.**
- **No hunting is permitted on Saturdays, Sundays and some Fridays.**

Detailed information on where & when hunting is permitted and the LLCT administration of hunting is on the "Trails & Properties" page on the LLCT website: www.lymelandtrust.org

Reduced vegetation also results in increased soil erosion and runoff, which can degrade water quality. Reducing the size of the deer population will help restore the growth of a healthy, sustainable forest that protects and enhances the quality of life in Lyme.

Additionally, hunting has been an historical use of many of the open spaces and the hunting program helps maintain opportunities for this historical use.

The Open Space Coordinator administers the hunting program and issues permits to the public, giving preference to those who hunted a property historically or live locally.

In order to receive a permit, hunters must attend a mandatory pre-hunt meeting to review safety and security procedures, and special requirements.

June Annual Meeting Featured Thrilling Demonstration of Falconry



One Fine Day was how a guest described the Land Trust's forty-fourth Annual Meeting held on June 19th.

After a prolonged stretch of gloomy and rainy days, the sun came out and stayed with us as we entertained our members with a spectacular display of falconry.

The brief annual meeting and falconry event were held outdoors in one of the most beautiful settings in Lyme. The members only event was an afternoon filled with nostalgia, camaraderie and entertainment.

Host and Land Trust Treasurer Andy Baxter provided delicious refreshments under a tent and encouraged members to visit the beautiful gardens on the property.

Chairs were arranged in a large circle on the lawn so members could choose sun or shade. The falconer brought several birds including owls, hawks, falcons and an eagle. Released off his arm, the birds soared up into the bright blue sky, circled, then tempted by the bait, dove back to ground in front of the delighted guests.

Earlier, George Moore, president of the Lyme Land Trust, recognized a few of the founders and pioneers in the Trust: - Shirley Howard, a founding director; Arthur Howe, the third president; Charlotte Barringer wife of the fourth president Rufus Barringer; Trudy Burgess, the granddaughter of William Moore the second president, accompanied by her daughter Gretchen and her mother Megan Eno.

All in all there was something for everyone; a chance to meet and talk with old friends, an opportunity for children to run and play and then to be amazed by the beautiful birds of prey. It was Father's Day, a wonderful opportunity for the family to honor dad with a special outing.

LYME LAND CONSERVATION TRUST STATISTICAL STEWARDSHIP DATA POINTS

2,816 Acres — Total acreage under LLCT stewardship

97 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

2,008 Acres — Total acreage of conservation easements held and stewarded by LLCT

64 Parcels — Total parcels containing conservation easements held and stewarded by LLCT

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

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

\$575 per Parcel — Annual cost in 2010 borne by LLCT for stewarding the open space for which it is responsible..

One-Third of 40,000 Acres in Eightmile River Watershed Protected as Open Space, Improving Water and Residents' Quality of Life

In 2008, the Eightmile was the twelfth river to be designated under the federal Wild & Scenic Partnership Program. Key to this designation was the quality of its habitat and the large amount of unfragmented forest blocks in the watershed.

The watershed is approximately 62 square miles, or just under 40,000 acres, most of it in Salem, East Haddam and Lyme. All three towns have adopted standards to help preserve the Eightmile watershed.

Regulating land use and applying standards helps minimize the impacts of development, but open space preservation remains the most important tool for protecting natural resources. Open space provides many benefits including habitat preservation, surface and groundwater protection, minimization of flood impacts and recreation opportunities.

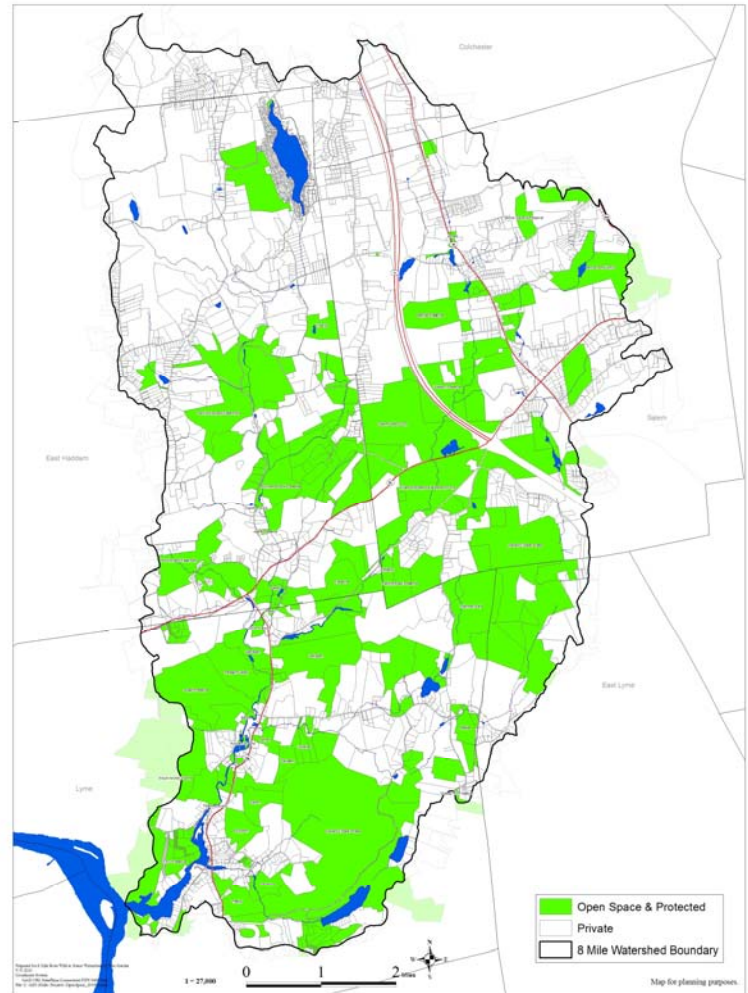
Less well known benefits of land preservation (but still of critical importance), include barriers against noise, living filters that improve air quality and many human health benefits. (A simple drive down a wooded country road has been shown to lower stress and blood pressure levels). Further, open space requires minimal town services, which keeps tax burdens low.

Through substantial efforts of the Lyme, Salem and East Haddam land trusts, the three towns' selectmen, The Nature Conservancy, the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and local citizens, about 14,000 acres — well over a third — of the Eightmile watershed is protected as open space. This is equivalent to over 23 square miles, encompassing rivers, streams, fields, forests, marshland, swamps, hills and ridgelines.

Much of this land has also been made accessible for residents to enjoy for hiking, bird-watching, fishing and hunting or simply being part of something larger.



DESIGNATED OPEN SPACE AND PROTECTED LAND



Three Land Trusts Partner in Sponsoring October Hikes Along Eightmile River



The Lyme, East Haddam and Salem land trusts partnered with the Eightmile River Wild & Scenic Coordinating Committee (ERWSCC) to sponsor a series of guided walks along the river on three October weekends. The first was in Lyme's Pleasant Valley Preserve where former State Geologist Ralph Lewis (above left) described the geological history of the watershed. The second was in East Haddam's Patrell Preserve led by Rob Smith and ERWSCC Chairman Anthony Irving, who is pictured above showing a witch hazel sprig. The third hike was in the state's Zemko Pond Wildlife Management Area in Salem led by David Bingham (in green coat in right photo) who pointed out the many bird species that use the preserve as their home and for seasonal migrations.



Address Service Requested

The Lyme Land Conservation Trust

PO BOX 1002, Lyme, CT 06371

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

Lyme Land Conservation Trust 2012 Calendar of Events

All events are subject to change. Dates and times will to 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.

JANUARY

HIKE

Winter Hiking

Hike or snow shoe through Beebe Preserve in winter

LECTURE

Snakes of New England

Linda Krulikowski with her program on New England Snakes.

FEBRUARY

LECTURE

"Greener Living"

A presentation on how to decrease our carbon, waste and toxic footprint.

LECTURE

"Lurking in the Trees"

The Asian Longhorned Beetle film

MARCH

LECTURE

The Vanishing New England Cottontail

A lecture and presentation on a new endangered species and what can be done to re-establish viable populations in SE Connecticut

APRIL

DEMONSTRATION

Fish Ladders & Dams

A demonstration and explanation of the operation of fish ladders by Linda Bireley at the Moulson's Pond fish ladder on the Eightmile River

MAY

HIKE

Getting Rid of Invasive Plants

A field demonstration and explanation on how to rid your property of Japanese barberry, burning bush, stiltgrass and other invasive plants.

JUNE

HIKE

National & Connecticut Trails Day

Guided hike on a trail in Lyme as part of the national state celebration.

HIKE

Reading the Forest Landscape

Author Tom Wessels leads a hike on how to understand forest habitat

EVENT

Annual Meeting