



# The Lyme Land Conservation Trust

## 2010 Spring Newsletter and Annual Report

### The Lyme Land Conservation Trust, Inc.

PO Box 1002  
Lyme, CT 06371

[www.lymelandtrust.org](http://www.lymelandtrust.org)

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## Barringer Fund is Centerpiece of \$150K Stewardship Campaign

By Andy Baxter, Treasurer

The Lyme Land Conservation Trust has launched a \$150,000 campaign to expand The Rufus Barringer Fund for Education and Stewardship to help cover the increasing costs of managing the almost 2,800 acres of open space entrusted to its care.

The Rufus Barringer Fund for Education and Stewardship was established by Charlotte Barringer in 2004 in memory of her late husband, whose long involvement with the Lyme Land Trust included serving on its board and as president. His strong influence and visionary leadership guided the Land Trust during important years in the Land Trust's development.

Today the Lyme Land Trust is responsible for managing more than 2500 acres on 93 properties which it owns or on which it holds conservation restrictions (easements), another 235 acres it stewards for The Nature Conservancy and two fish ladders on the Eightmile River, all of which must be closely monitored and maintained by LLCT's part-time staff and a small army of volunteers

What is more, the defense of the conservation restrictions in easements entrusted to LLCT is becoming a greater issue, particularly as

properties change hands and new owners may be less sensitive to easement restrictions.

In short, the stewardship of properties for which the Land Trust is responsible has become an expensive undertaking.

The Land Trust is making the Barringer Fund the centerpiece of its fundraising effort to support these stewardship responsibilities.

At the beginning of 2010, LLCT established a Challenge Matching Fund to kick off an effort to build the Barringer Fund to \$150,000, the level suggested by Land Trust Alliance and The Nature Conservancy standards based on the LLCT's portfolio of properties for which it bears fiduciary responsibility.

Land Trust board members have contributed or pledged \$32,000 to the Challenge-Matching Fund, and several community leaders have added another \$25,000. LLCT will

now reach out to the Lyme community at large. Every dollar raised for the Barringer Fund will be matched by the almost \$70,000 in commitments that have already been made through the Challenge Fund.

Protection of open space through acquisitions or easements will always be the number one goal of the Lyme Land Conservation Trust. But stewardship of those properties is a fiduciary responsibility, and LLCT must honor the wishes of those who have been generous to help preserve Lyme's open space. The increased funding of The Barringer Fund will enable the Land Trust to fulfill its duty to be a good steward of the open space for which it is responsible.

The Challenge Fund Campaign is being led by Land Trust Treasurer Andy Baxter. Those interested in joining this effort, either through donations or volunteer work should contact him at: [baxmail@aol.com](mailto:baxmail@aol.com)



**First Place Winner**  
In the  
Youth Under  
Age 15  
Category

**Brandon Donovan**  
of  
Old Lyme

# Announcing The Winners of the Fifth Annual Photo Contest

Sponsored By Our Local Land Conservation Trusts

By Tony Sullivan  
Chairman of the Photo Contest Committee

All the winning photographs will be available for public viewing at Phoebe Griffin Noyes Library at 2 Library Lane in Old Lyme during the month of May and during the following months at the public libraries of Lyme, Salem and East Haddam. The photos can also be seen on the our web site at [lymelandtrust.org](http://lymelandtrust.org)

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Any amateur photographer who is interested in entering this year's contest should contact [landtrustphotos@yahoo.com](mailto:landtrustphotos@yahoo.com) for a copy of the rules and entry form.

The Lyme, Old Lyme, Salem and East Haddam Land Conservation Trusts have announced the winners of their jointly sponsored amateur photo contest.

The purpose of the contest was to focus on the celebrated and scenic countryside of our towns and its diversified wildlife. There were over 300 photos submitted from photographers all over Con-

necticut. The ages of the photographers were from 8 to 80. There were so many wonderful pictures submitted that the judges had a difficult time selecting the winners.

This contest was made possible by the generous financial support provided by Lorensen Toyota, Oakley/Wing Group at Smith Barney, Evan Griswold at Coldwell Banker, Essex Savings Bank, Chelsea-

Groton Savings Bank, and Ballek Garden Center.

The three independent judges are:

**William Burt**, a naturalist who has won acclaim for his books of wildlife photography: *Rare and Elusive Birds of North America*, *Shadowbirds*, and his recently released *Marshes: The Disappearing Edens*

**Amy Kurtz Lansing**, Curator at the Florence Griswold Museum and a Yale University doctoral candidate in the History of Art. She is also the author of *Historical Fictions: Edward Lamson Henry's Paintings of Past and Present*.

**Rudy Wood-Muller**, a photographic illustrator and designer. His first large exhibition was at the New York's World's Fair in 1964 and was followed by numerous other shows, including a one-man show at the Rochester Institute of Technology. A group of his photographs have been selected to be part of the Permanent Collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

This year an additional \$100 award was given out to honor one of the prior contest judges, **John G. Mitchell**, who passed away recently. Mr. Mitchell was one of the editors at National Geographic and dedicated his career to writing about the environment and conservation; so the award was for the best picture reflecting that subject.



**First Place  
Plants  
Linda Waters of Salem**

# Names and Categories of the Winners

## First Place

### Wildlife

Scott O'Donnell of Old Lyme

### Cultural/Historic

Jean Callan King of East Haddam

### Landscapes/Waterscapes

Larry Reitz of Salem

### Plants

Linda Waters of Salem

### Youth Under Age 15

Brendan Donovan of Old Lyme

## Second Place

### Wildlife

Jeff Sims of Waterford

### Cultural/Historic

Michael Cathcart of Hadlyme

### Landscapes/Waterscapes

Carl Buschmann of East Haddam

### Plants

Jean Callan King of East Haddam

### Youth Under Age 15

Samantha Barretta of Lyme

## Third Place

### Wildlife

Hank Golet of Old Lyme

### Cultural/Historic

Skip Broom of Hadlyme

### Landscapes/Waterscapes

Carl Buschmann of East Haddam

### Plants

Sally Perreten of Old Saybrook

### Youth Under Age 15

Nadia Penkoff Lidbeck  
of Essex

## Honorable Mention

### Wildlife

Stephanie Clayton  
of Old Lyme

Scott Owens  
of Colchester

Larry Reitz of Salem

### Cultural/Historic

Carl Buschmann  
of East Haddam

Sally Perreten  
of Old Saybrook

Robert Bowman  
of New London

### Landscapes/Waterscapes

Alice Depret of Lyme  
Susan Becher of Lyme

Skip Broom, Hadlyme

### Plants

Wendy Dow Miller  
of East Haddam

Ralph Chappell  
of East Haddam

Alice Depret  
of Lyme

### Youth Under Age 15

Breanne Sullivan  
of Dumont, NJ

Ellie Wiese of Old Lyme



Winner of  
**John G. Mitchell Environmental Conservation Award**  
Skip Broom of Hadlyme

# Donors Help LLCT Save 150 Acres for Open Space

During the past 12 months, the Lyme Land Trust has secured almost 150 acres as protected open space, including three parcels that combined have more than three-quarters of a mile of frontage on the Eightmile River and its tributaries.

Most recently, the Land Trust acquired a conservation restriction on 98 acres on the southeastern slopes of Mt. Archer running north more than 2,500 feet along the western bank of the Eightmile River from Joshuatown Road and up almost to the crest of Mt. Archer.

Part of the original Czikowsky property, the entire parcel was purchased from the Czikowsky estate through a partnership between the Town, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and an anonymous donor. The Town and TNC each own an undivided half interest in the property, and the Land Trust holds the conservation restriction.

Because it includes a large part of the southern slope of Mt. Archer – which is a familiar prominence visible from Rt. 156 and many vistas in the Hamburg area – the preservation of this Czikowsky tract is a significant achievement in the campaign to save one of Lyme's signature landmarks for future generations.

The Land Trust also acquired title to a one-acre strip immediately across the Eightmile from the Czikowsky tract. It runs between the River and Joshuatown Road from the Joshuatown Road Bridge

about 100 yards east up the road. Its northern boundary runs almost 800 feet along the bank of the Eightmile.

This parcel, which is often used by anglers to access the productive waters just upstream from the Joshuatown Road bridge, was a gift by Robert Thomas of East Haddam.

The stretch of the River that flows between the Czikowsky tract and the Thomas strip is a favorite fishing spot for ospreys, which can often be seen patrolling the tree tops between the banks and diving for a meal in the dark waters drifting down from Moulson Pond.

Another section of the banks of the Eightmile River fell under LLCT protection in 2009 when a conservation easement along its East Branch tributary just downstream from Ed Bills Pond was gifted by Catherine Spencer and Mary Schroeder, who live nearby.

The conservation restriction covers six acres on a parcel along more than 800 feet on the southern bank of the East Branch from Rt. 156 up to the Salem Road bridge (just below the dam at Ed Bills Pond). It is bounded on the west by Rt. 156 and on the south by the Pleasant View Cemetery.

For Eightmile River aquatic life this is a crucial stretch of the river, because it includes holding pools used by herring and other migrating species as they approach the LLCT fish ladder at Ed Bills Pond dam, and it is a section of the river

used for stocking Atlantic salmon fry in early April.

In addition to the three parcels protecting Eightmile River frontage, LLCT received two other important conservation restriction easements covering almost 50 acres.

Just prior to the end of 2009, Barbara David of Lyme gifted a 28-acre conservation restriction to the LLCT covering most of a 31-acre parcel on Brush Hill Road just north of its intersection with Mitchell Hill road.

The easement covers portions of the parcel that includes a pond (which can be seen from Brush Hill Road), wetlands, and both hardwood and softwood forest lands with small clearings. It is in the Whalebone Creek watershed.

The Land Trust also received a conservation restriction on 17.5 acres on a four-lot subdivision running along Grassy Hill Road from Patrick Crowley of Keeney Road LLC.

The conservation restriction covers wetlands along the road at the front of each of the four lots, which together total 43.5 acres. The four parcels are located about a quarter mile south of the intersection of Grassy Hill Road with Beaver Brook Road. The restricted acreage abuts a 53-acre tract just south of it on Grassy Hill Road that is also covered by a conservation easement held by LLCT.



Familiar to anybody who has visited Lyme Town Hall, this 19<sup>th</sup> Century painting shows the mouth of the Eightmile River in the foreground as it passes under Joshuatown Road Bridge. The southeastern slopes are shown descending from the left down to the river.



## Forester Hired for LLCT Stewardship Initiative

The Lyme Land Trust has hired a Lisa Niccolai, a licensed forester with a masters degree from Yale University, to assist with its stewardship responsibilities for the 94 parcels and more than 2,700 acres under its care.

Lisa joined LLCT as a consultant in November on a part-time basis to help the Land Trust in its efforts to compile a digitized inventory of the legal, environmental, and historic status of every parcel – both those owned outright by LLCT and those on which it owns conservation restrictions (easements) – for which the Land Trust has fiduciary duties.

In addition, Lisa will focus on seeking private and public grants for the Land Trust to help fund its land acquisition, stewardship and community outreach programs.

A resident of Lyme, Lisa is the principal in Leaf2Landscape, a consultancy that includes client assignments for the Guildford Keeping Society, the Great Mountain Forest Corporation, Yale Myers Forest, and research work for Yale Forestry School faculty.

From 2004 to 2009 she was a forester for the Metropolitan Commission (MDC), the water, wastewater and solid waste

processing utility serving the Hartford area. At the MDC she authored a management plan for 31,000 acres of watershed forests, managed timber harvesting operations, developed maps for land acquisition, road maintenance, and timber harvesting operations, develop maps for land acquisition, road maintenance, and timber sales, designed implemented an annual boundary maintenance program, implemented measures to protect drinking water supply, developed a deer herd management program, implemented wildlife habitat improvement projects, managed fish stocking, coordinated wildlife research, implemented invasive species control measures, and appeared on cable TV, wrote for water utility publications, and made presentation to students Envirothon trainings.

Prior to her employment with the MDC, Lisa was forester and project manager for Interforest, LLC of Branford, where she co-authored a report on forest soils and timber production.

Lisa is a licensed forester in both Connecticut and Massachusetts. She holds BA from Dickenson College, Carlisle, PA, where she majored in environmental science.



**Lisa Niccolai**  
with a woodland friend

## Join the Eightmile RiverSmart Program

Residents who live in the Eightmile River watershed are being urged “to take the RiverSmart Survey and Pledge” to do their part to protect its water quality. The Eightmile River watershed comprises 40,000 acres (30% of the towns of East Haddam, Lyme, and Salem) and has been declared a Federal Wild and Scenic Watershed by Congress, an effort that took five years of study and lobbying by community leaders. “Now it’s up to each of us to keep it clean and healthy,” says Anthony Irving, Chairman of the Eightmile River Wild and Scenic Steering Committee. “The future health of this extraordinary river depends on the folks who live in her watershed,” says Irving. “If they understand how their day-to-day activities affect the river, and if they make a commitment to partner with

us in stewardship, the future of our river will be bright. We need for everyone to pitch in with the small things we can each do every day as good watershed citizens.” Every resident of the watershed can help by becoming a “RiverSmart Home.” To do this, go to the Eightmile River website, [www.eightmileriver.org](http://www.eightmileriver.org), and take the RiverSmart Survey and Pledge. Those who take the pledge will receive an information packet about protecting the river and a small, sturdy sign that states “RiverSmart Home” to display on your property. The sign tells the world you care and are doing your share.

The Eightmile River Wild and Scenic Steering Committee, made up representatives of East Haddam, Salem, and Lyme local land trusts and the Department of

### Donation of File Cabinets Needed

The Lyme Land Trust is growing and we need your help.

Wanted: 3-4 drawer file cabinet.

Fire proof would be ideal.

Please contact

Lisa Niccolai

860-212-3124 or

[leaf2landscape@gmail.com](mailto:leaf2landscape@gmail.com).



Environmental Protection meets bi-monthly to oversee the programs and activities called for by the Wild and Scenic Designation.

Interested citizens are encouraged to log onto [eightmileriver.org](http://eightmileriver.org) for more information.

# Annual Report

## President's Message

Once again it is my privilege to thank the Directors, volunteers and members for helping to make 2009-2010 a successful one for the Lyme Land Trust.

Success can be measured in many ways but I have long believed it is best defined as the progressive realization of one's goals. As part of our annual budget and planning exercise, we ask each committee to establish goals and encourage them to make them lofty yet attainable.

A high priority goal for the Land Trust is the continued preservation of land through new conservation easements or property acquisition. This past year was no exception as you will see in the report by

the report by the Preservation Committee Chair.

One of my goals as President was realized this past year. We recognized the need to increase our cash reserves for protecting and defending our large property portfolio – both easements and fee properties. To address that need, Board members committed to a personal donation to our Rufus Barringer Fund and then we appealed to a gathering of community leaders to do the same. We will soon reach out to our membership to help match this amount.

Looking ahead, one of our important goals is to continue to build a strong

Board. Attracting talented people to serve as directors is an ongoing process. We strive to create a diverse Board and, increasingly, we feel the need to attract men and women who have widespread contact in the community. We presently have a great deal of talent serving on our Board, but because of term limits, a lot will be leaving over the next few years; fortunately a great deal of talent will remain.

Sincerely,  
George Moore  
President of The Lyme Land Trust

## Finance Committee - Andy Baxter, Chairman

The **Finance Committee**, through upgraded controls implemented in 2008, brought a greater transparency to the Land Trust's finances. Quarterly reporting and roundtable reviews encouraged the ownership of profit and losses by committee chairs, instilling a deeper understanding of both financial trends and the monetary impact of decisions.

By year-end, the program development efforts of the Communication, Education & Membership and Finance committees had pushed revenue well beyond budget, while at the same time, recapitalizing the Rufus Barringer Resource Education and Protection Fund, an endowment created in memory of a prominent Lyme conservationist and

former Land Trust president. Expenses declined proportionately - influenced, perhaps, by the constant emphasis on spending restraint.

With bottom-line results thus leveraged to near break-even, the land trust's fiscal health, measured by cash and current assets, improved marginally over prior year.



## Preservation Committee - Temp Brown, Chairman

The **Preservation Committee** added to our portfolio land through conservation easements and property generously donated by town residents. These included the grant of an easement covering 26 acres owned by Barbara David on Brush Hill Road; a 17-1/2 acre conservation restriction on the Crowley parcel located along Grassy Hill Road; and a six-acre easement opposite Ed Bill's Dam on Eightmile River, contributed by Catherine Spencer and Mary Schroeder. We also received from Road.

Robert Thomas a one-acre gift in fee of Eightmile River frontage on Joshuatown Road.

Finally, in a long-sought acquisition, the Land Trust Partnered with the Town, the Nature Conservancy (TNC) and an anonymous donor to purchase the 98-acre Czikowsky property, expanding a large clock of contiguous open space on Mt. Archer. The Lyme Land Conservation Trust will become the steward of this property.

First Place - Cultural/Historic  
Jean Callan King of East Haddam

# Annual Report

## Stewardship Committee

- Emily Fisher, Chairwoman

The **Stewardship Committee's** overhaul of property management practices continues to progress. All fee-owned and easement-protected parcels were inspected last year; stewardship reports were then uploaded to *Conservation Track (CT)*, our new online property database. The committee provided individual training, including CT instruction, to new stewards.

In response to our requests for additional resources and expertise, Lisa Niccolai, a local forester, was hired as a part-time staff member of the Board.

Taking the initiative against invasive species, the Land Trust launched, along with The Nature Conservancy, a joint venture for controlling Barberry at the Eno and Jewett Preserves, and working with the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, a contract was negotiated for the removal of *Phragmites* at Rams Horn Creek, due to begin in 2010.

The posting of boundaries on Trust-owned properties and on easements, where owners expressed interest, moved forward.

We've scanned and loaded to CT a preponderance of our documentation; this multi-year project should be completed next year.

To fund on-going stewardship costs, a financial reserve was established, along with a policy approved by the Board, assigning a defined cost to the perpetual maintenance of new acquisitions.

## Communications, Education & Membership Committee - Humphrey S. Tyler, Chairman

The former Communications and Education Committee's responsibilities were expanded in 2009 to include the duties of the former Membership Committee; it's name, therefore, is now **Communication, Education & Membership (CEM) Committee**.

The committee is the Land Trust's primary liaison to its members and to the community. A host of events were presented during 2009, beginning in February with *The Extraordinary Lives of Owls* program by Wind Over Wings, attended by an overflow crowd at the Lyme Public Library. CEM also organized a tour of a maple syrup operation in town (including hot pancakes!), lead a cross-country trek from Pickwick's Preserve to Pleasant Valley; and, offered guided hikes at Seldon Preserve, Honey Hill Preserve, and the Ravine Trail. To keep constituents abreast of Land Trust activities, the committee published an Annual Report for members and issued two newsletters to all postal patrons of Lyme.

Adding to our collection of nine existing trail maps, the "River to Ridgeway" map depicting five contiguous preserves was completed.

At the end of 2009 our member base totaled 422, a decline of 18 percent. This drop undoubtedly reflected the severe economic conditions, coupled with a timing discrepancy consequent to the change of membership terms to a calendar year basis. A new software

application for tracking membership and donor data, *Giftworks*, was purchased and brought online; going forward, membership processing on this platform should improve the response and the yield of solicitations.



**First Place - Wildlife**  
Scott O'Donnell of Old Lyme

# Pleasant Valley Preserve - Inspiring New Generations by Rich Melchreit



## Why The Nature Conservancy Selected the Pleasant Valley

The protection of this land provides many environmental benefits, including protection of water quality of the Eight-mile River, which in turn protects the habitat of several rare species.

The Eightmile River feeds into the Connecticut River by way of Hamburg Cove. Protecting this property as open space protects a part of the Connecticut River's watershed, as well as a considerable segment of one of its tributaries. Moreover, some species of fish swim up the Eight-mile River to spawn.

Because Pleasant Valley is "preserved" open space, it continues to be a vital part of our community's recreation and our inspiration.

**Above: Fifth grade students at the Lyme Consolidated School say goodbye to the Atlantic Salmon fry they raised in their classroom**

In April each year, Lyme Consolidated School fifth-graders troop down to the Eightmile River where it winds between the school and the Pleasant Valley Preserve. Each carries a cup of cold water filled with Atlantic salmon fry.

In a brief, solemn ceremony foreshadowing their own graduation to middle school, the young zoologists kneel, tip the cups, and release the young salmon fry they have helped grow.

This natural wonderland is behind their school and preserved forever as open space because starting in 1991 the land was donated to The Nature Conservancy (TNC) by Catherine and Elizabeth Fehrre, daughters of the Lyme artist Oscar Fehrre. (The Preserve is now managed by the Lyme Land Conservation Trust under an agreement with TNC).

The beauty of Pleasant Valley attracted Fehrre and other Lyme School artists, Eugene Higgins and Robert Vonnoh, to settle and paint there in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Paintings of Pleasant Valley hang on the walls at the Lyme Library, which is in the Pleasant Valley, and in Robert Von-

noh's painting at the Florence Griswold Museum in Old Lyme.

Historical photographs of the artists and the land, and other Pleasant Valley memorabilia in the Lyme town archives in the Public Hall show the area was heavily farmed at that time, affording the artists the wide vistas that can be seen in their paintings.

The "grown in" land of today continues to inspire artists and photographers. Several of the winners of the annual Land Trust Photography contest were taken at the Preserve, and anyone passing through Lyme in fine weather has seen talented *plein air* artists painting the 21<sup>st</sup> century landscape. The Preserve is not just for the young or the famously talented; it can inspire the rest of us to photograph,

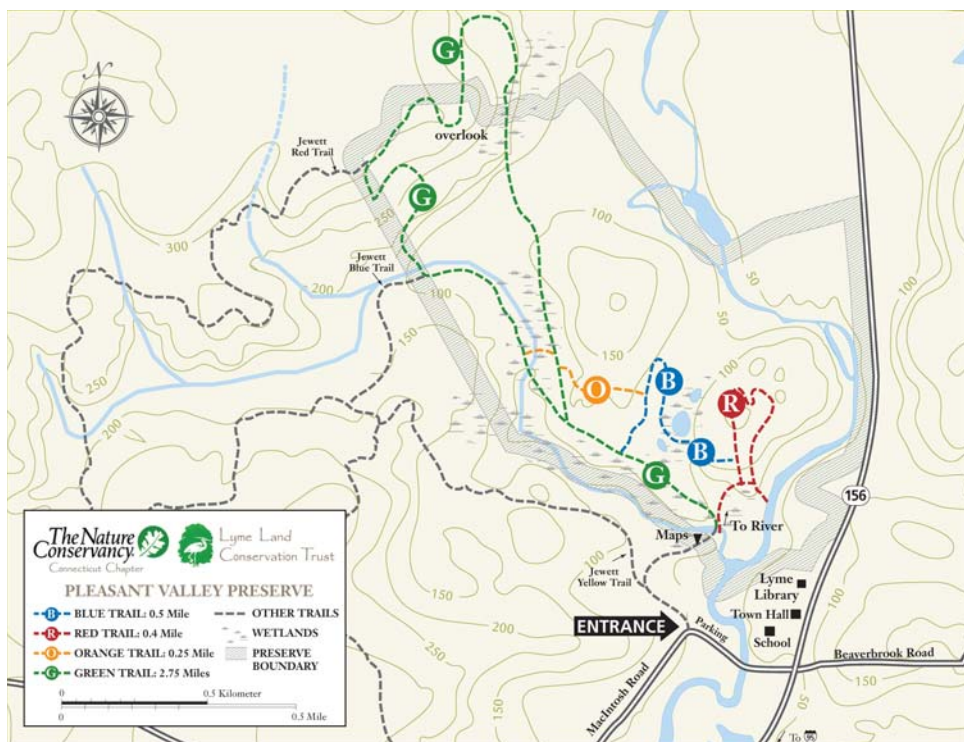
or paint and draw, or write about the land.

The Pleasant Valley Preserve contains a network of well-maintained trails, which connect to trails on the adjoining Jewett Preserve, Mt. Archer Wood, Eno Preserve and Pickwick's Preserve, creating the "River to Ridgetop" network of trails running from Joshuatown Road to the Eight-mile River.

**Painting of Pleasant Valley  
looking north,  
by Robert Vonnoh,  
Florence Griswold Museum**



## How to Get There...and More!



From Route 156 turn onto MacIntosh Road just south of the Town Hall, Library, Lyme School complex, and cross the bridge spanning Eightmile River. The gate is on the right about 75 yards from the bridge at the first sharp bend in road. Park at the dirt road on right.

The trails begin at the gate. Follow the woodland road, bear right to cross the stream at the preserve sign (about a quarter mile). Trail maps are available at the trailhead or at Reynolds' (Jane's) store in Hamburg.

### What to See on a Hike of Pleasant Valley

#### Plants

The trails pass through old fields now full of 20- to 30-foot cedars and dry oak woods. The preserve includes a ridgetop covered with large conifers and old white oaks, as well as rolling wooded hills, covered mostly with oak, hickory, beech and hemlock.

The northwestern section of the property consists of a maple ash seepage forest. Among the important species found on the Preserve is Virginia snakeroot, a plant generally found along rich slopes and a threatened species in Connecticut.

#### Animals

In addition to watching for woodland birds, be sure to visit the banks of the Eightmile River, keeping an eye out for fish (trout, alewives, bass, perch and suckers in season), reptiles and invertebrates.

### Other Adventures at the Preserve

Besides hiking the Pleasant Valley Preserve, here are some other ways to enjoy and be inspired by Pleasant Valley:

**Attend the release of the fish** at the Lyme School in April, (or help the DEP with release of salmon fry along several miles of the Eightmile River: call Bruce Williams at 860- 447-4317)

**See a landscape painting of Pleasant Valley at the Florence Griswold Museum** (phone (860) 434-5542; on the web at [www.florgris.org](http://www.florgris.org)), Lyme Art Association (phone (860) 434-7802; on the web at [lymeartassociation.org](http://lymeartassociation.org)), or a local art gallery

**See the photo contest display at the Lyme Land Trust annual meeting** on May 28 at 7 PM at the Lyme Public Hall in Hamburg, and later in the Lyme Library

**Visit the Lyme Archives at the Lyme Public Hall** (phone (860) 434-6115; email [lymepubhall@att.net](mailto:lymepubhall@att.net); web <http://lymepubhall.blogspot.com>)

**Bring your art supplies to the Preserve and draw, paint, watercolor, or photograph.**

The one thing you can't do at the Pleasant Valley Preserve is fish or hunt. Both are prohibited, as are any type of bicycle and all motorized vehicles. Pets are allowed, but must be kept on a leash.

**"Teaching children about the natural world should be seen as one the most important events in their lives"**

**Thomas Berry**  
*The Dream of the Earth*

# LLCT Testing Barberry Control



The cooperators decided to try both follow up treatments, using the propane torch approach on the Jewett Preserve and the herbicide application on the Eno Preserve, and then collect “before and after” data to determine which of the two follow-up treatments may work best locally.

The cooperators retained the services of All Habitat Services, LLC., to carry out the project in the fall of 2009, All habitat cut both 2-acre plots using a flail mower attached to a compact track loader, supplemented with the use of hand-held brush cutters, to reach barberry in and around rocks, stone walls or desirable shrubs and trees.

In the spring of 2010, when the barberry plants began to sprout, those in Jewett were treated with the heat and those in Eno with the herbicide. The burn process on Jewett was conducted in cooperation with the Lyme Fire Company, which stood by with fire suppression equipment to prevent brush fires.

As soon as results of this test are available, they will be reported in a LLCT newsletter as soon as they are available.

For more information Contact: Linda Bireley, Town of Lyme Open Space Coordinator ([LindaBiota@comcast.net](mailto:LindaBiota@comcast.net)) and Lyme Land Conservation Trust Executive Assistant ([LLCTStewardship@gmail.com](mailto:LLCTStewardship@gmail.com)).

Gary Kevit of The Nature Conservancy demonstrates the use of propane torch burning technique for the eradication of Japanese Barberry in the Jewett Preserve in April.

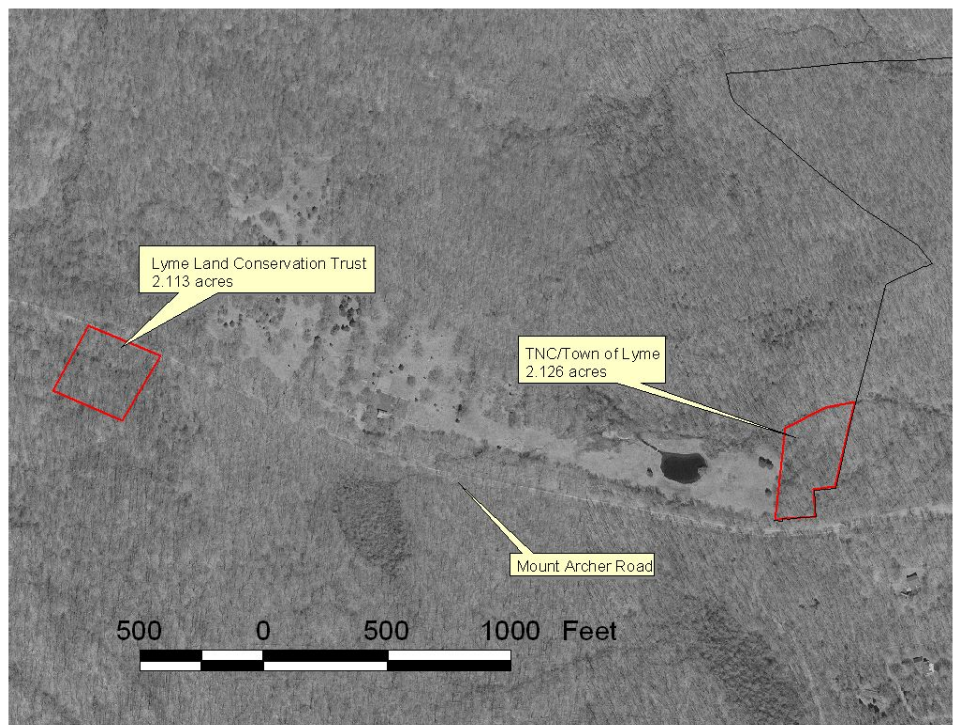
**The Nature Conservancy, Town of Lyme and Lyme Land Conservation Trust (LLCT)** are cooperating to test controls for the non-native, invasive plant Japanese Barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*) and other invasive plants on two separate two acre sections in the Jewett and Eno Preserve.

They are following a protocol established by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, resulting from research that concluded with a December 2007 report.

Successful reduction of barberry dominance in the vegetation understory in a forest environment can be achieved with a two-step management process.

To reduce the size of established dense stands of barberry, such as those in the Jewett and Eno Preserves and on many parcels throughout Lyme, it is necessary first to cut the standing, above-ground biomass.

The second step is to treat the flush of new growth at the beginning of the next growing season by applying either intense heat (using a propane torch) or a herbicide (the chemical triclopyr e.g. Brush-B-Gon, Garlon).



Location of Barberry control plots

# Educational Hikes Planned on National Trails Day June 5

by Kristen Stadolski

On June 5th, Lyme Land Conservation Trust is celebrating National Trails Day by sponsoring a “double header” educational trail hike package that will focus on the geological features of Whale Bone Creek and on invasive species on Lyme’s Mt. Archer. National Trails Day is sponsored by the American Hiking Society. The 2010 edition is the 18<sup>th</sup> year that AHS has organized this nationwide event.

## Morning Hike - 10:15 AM: Roaring Brook Preserve

Join former State Geologist Ralph Lewis, as he explores Roaring Brook Preserve in a half mile morning hike.

Participants should park at the Hadlyme Public Hall, 1 Day Hill Road, and walk up to the Preserve Entrance on Day Hill Road. The Roaring Brook Preserve is 7.5 acres and features a variety of geological features, including Whale Bone Creek.

Ralph is a Certified Professional Geologist with 33 years of professional experience and was the Connecticut’s State Geologist from 1997 to 2003. Ralph plans on highlighting geological features found at this preserve, which was originally intended as a subdivision but has been preserved for many generations to come.

The hike’s terrain will be easy, and dogs are permitted on leash. After the hike, participants are invited to the Hadlyme Public Hall for lunch (\$8).

## Afternoon Hike – 1:15-4:30 PM River to Ridgetop Trails

Join local naturalists, Mark Lacasse and Linda Bireley, as they lead participants from on a River to Ridgetop hike starting at the Lyme Town Hall on Hamburg Road (Rt. 156).

The hike will focus on a variety of properties maintained by the LLCT, The Nature Conservatory, and the Town of Lyme. In this three mile hike, participants will hike trails on many properties, including the Jewett and Pleasant Valley preserves.

Both of these properties are the result of glacial ice sheets which deposited sand and gravel 17,000 years ago. Places where wetlands formed are actually formed by large pieces of glaciers that melted. Over time, this land became valuable as farmland. As farming subsided, the properties returned to the forests that they are today.

On this hike, Mark and Linda will provide information regarding invasive, exotic flora and fauna species, including Japanese barberry, garlic mustard, and tree of heaven, and brown headed cowbirds and the mute swan. They will discuss what constitutes an invasive species and what roles these organisms take on in local communities. Management pros and cons will also be discussed, as well as different types of management techniques.

TNC does not allow dogs at all in most of the preserves, including Pleasant Valley. Dogs on leash are permitted in the other R2R preserves.

## National Trails Day started in 1995

as a way for Americans  
to go out and experience the outdoors.

The first Saturday of June  
is a celebration of America's trails  
and countless supporters and volunteers.  
Throughout the United States  
there are over a thousand different events  
to participate in

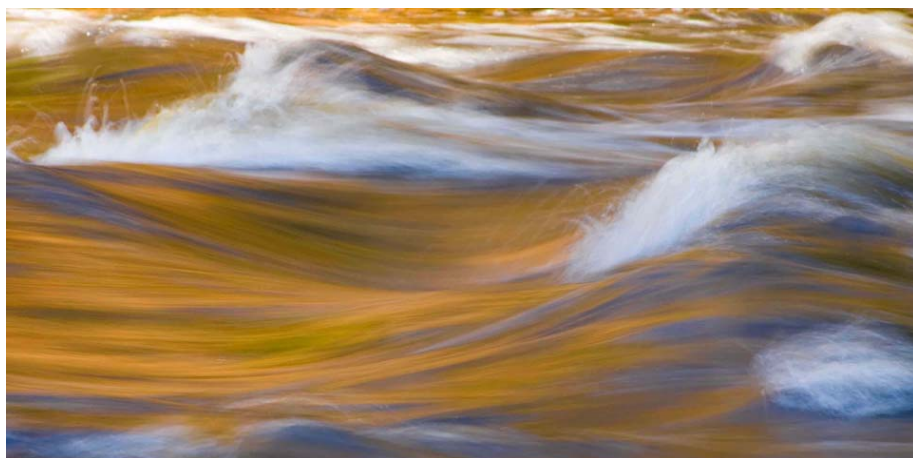
National Trails Day events.

These events are put on  
by a variety of local hiking clubs,  
federal agencies, municipal parks,  
retailers, land trusts,  
and other businesses and organizations.

In Connecticut,  
there are many events  
taking place across the state.

The Lyme Land Trust is working in  
conjunction with  
the CT Department of Environmental  
Protection and the American Hiking Society  
for this national event.

First Place  
Landscapes/  
Waterscapes  
Larry Reitz  
of  
Salem





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# The Lyme Land Conservation Trust

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## Storm Damages LLCT Preserves

The heavy rains in late March caused flooding and washout damage on at least two preserves under the management of the Lyme Land Trust.

In the Pleasant Valley Preserve (owned by The Nature Conservancy but managed and maintained by the Lyme Land Trust) three foot bridges that span a tributary to the Eightmile River were washed off their footings and carried downstream, in one case about 40 yards. The largest of the three was washed away in two separate storms.

Fortunately, none of the bridges were damaged, but work parties had to assemble twice to carry the bridges back to their proper locations (see photo).



In Pickwick's Preserve a torrent of water rushing down from Mt. Archer's ridgetop gouged out a deep new streambed in what once was the hiking trail. Insuk Hainsworth, who lives near the Preserve on Joshuatown Road, stands in

one of the deeper holes carved in the gully by the rushing waters.

The Land Trust holds a conservation easement on Pickwick's Preserve, which is privately owned. The owner is paying for repairs and restoration work to the trail.

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