



The Lyme Land Conservation Trust

2012 Autumn Newsletter

Walbridge & Young Preserve Trail Complex To Be Opened Nov. 18 By Town & Land Trust At Joint Ceremony

The Lyme Land Trust and the Town of Lyme have scheduled a unique joint opening ceremony on Nov. 18 of their two new preserves on Gungy Road.

The new preserves are the Phillip E. Young Preserve, given to the Town in May by Ruth Maynard Young (see next page), and the Land Trust's adjacent Walbridge Woodlands Preserve, purchased last Spring through the generosity of the Sargent family.

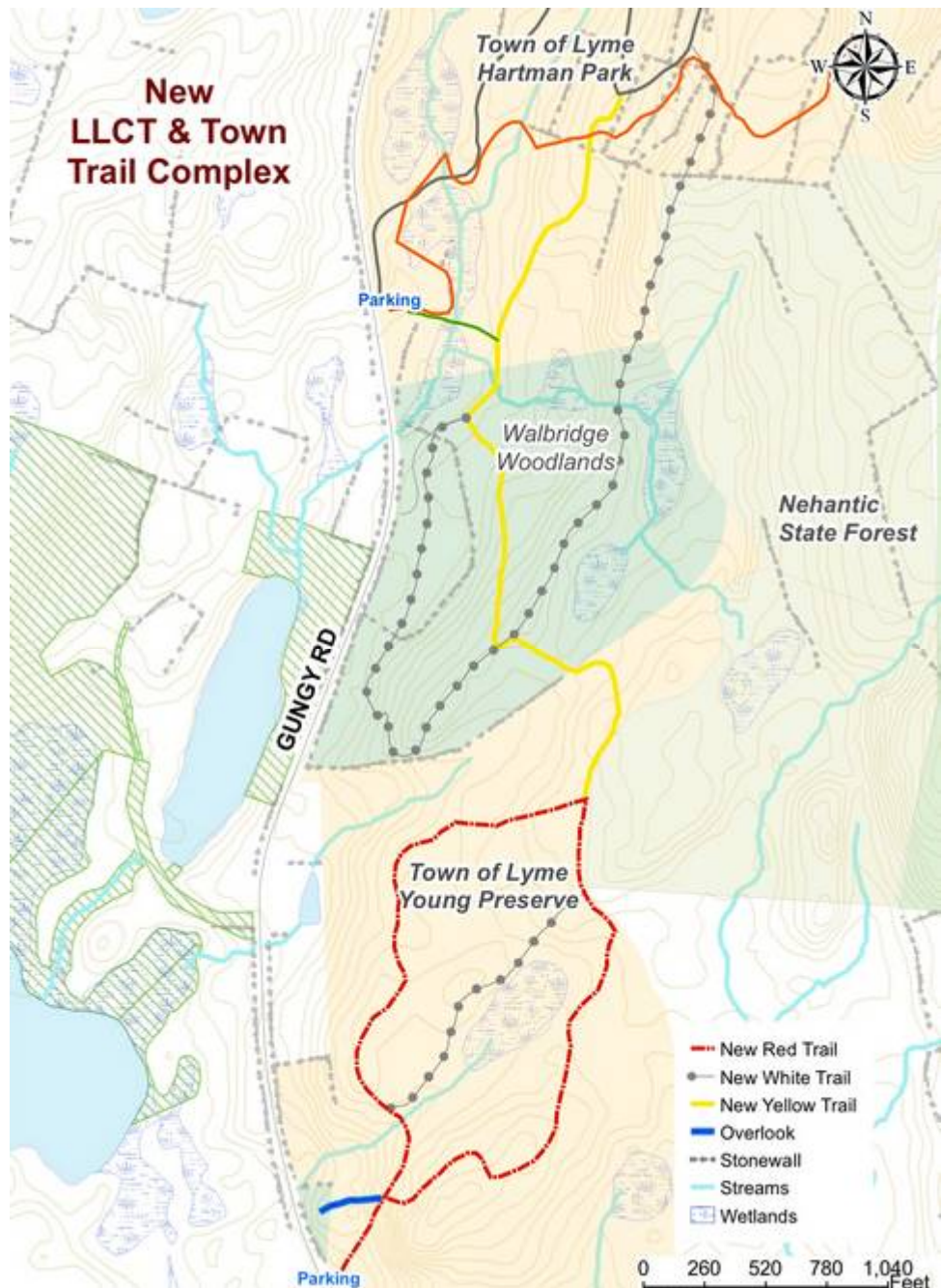
The Lyme selectmen and the Land Trust board are emphasizing that the joint opening of the two preserves is a public event, and they are inviting town residents, guests and out-of-towners to come celebrate and explore Lyme's newest preserved forestlands.

The opening, scheduled for 2 PM, will include a guided walking tour of new trails on the two preserves developed in recent months.

The Town and the Land Trust have worked together to plan and develop the connecting trails on the two new preserves and on the Town's Hartman Park, which borders the Walbridge Preserve on the north (see map).

The new trails on the Young and Walbridge Preserves will add more than two miles to the network of more than 10 miles of trails in Hartman Park, creating a trail system that reaches all the way from the Salem town line in Hartman on the north, through Walbridge and down into the Young Preserve almost to Beaver Brook Road.

(continued on next page)



The Philip E. Young Preserve An 82 Acre Gift To The Lyme Community

Following the passing of her son Philip in 2009, Ruth Young and her family made a remarkable decision that will ensure his legacy is memorialized forever.

They gave the town 82 acres between Gungy and Beaver Brook roads to be named for Philip and permanently preserved as open space for passive recreation. Another two acres has been set aside for the town's affordable housing program.

"The Board of Selectmen extends its thanks on behalf of the town to Ruth,

Cathleen and Patrick for their vision and selfless commitment to our collective mission to preserve Lyme's heritage and rural character for generations to come," said First Selectman Ralph Eno.

"This incredibly generous gesture, when coupled with the Lyme Land Conservation Trust's recent acquisition of an adjacent 46 acre parcel, creates an impressive greenway running from the Beebe Preserve on the south side of Beaver Brook Road through Hartman Park to the Salem town line."



Trail work on Young Preserve: Lyme Selectman Parker Lord, above, clears ground brush on the Blue Trail; below, Diana Boehning, Don Gerber & Marta Cone inspect the Red Trail's eastern leg where it borders Nehantic State Park.



... continued from page one)

The trail systems in all three preserves are connected by an extension of Hartman's Yellow Trail, which now runs south out of Hartman and through Walbridge to connect to the northern end of the new Red Trail in the Young Preserve.

In the northwest corner of the Walbridge Preserve a new White Trail runs southwest off the Yellow Trail, coming close to Gungy Road at what is known as "the Cedar Field," then heading down to the southern end of Walbridge, and looping back across the Yellow Trail to the east and north, running up into Hartman and connecting to the Orange Trail.

In the Young Preserve the new Red Trail is a loop that can be accessed from the Yellow Trail (coming down through Walbridge) on the north and from a trail head on Gungy Road on the south. There's also a new White Trail that runs east-west across the center of the Preserve from one side of the Red Trail loop to the other.

In addition, a short new Blue Trail off the southern end of the Red Trail loop heads west along a narrow ridge of ledge rock to a promontory overlooking Gungy Road with western and southern views. (The very end of the Blue Trail is actually on a small Land Trust parcel known as "the Folly Lot").

Almost all the new trails in the Walbridge Woodlands and Young preserves would be considered "easy" or "moderate" for most hikers. The only exception is the first 100 yards of the Red Trail on the Young Preserve from its trailhead on Gungy Road, which is a very steep climb up to a rocky ridge. Once on the ridge, the Red Trail is an easy walk.

The opening ceremony will be at 2 PM at the Gungy Road trailhead to the Red Trail in the Young Preserve, about a quarter mile up Gungy from Beaver Brook Road. Please do not bring pets.

After the dedication of the Young Preserve by the Lyme selectmen, former Lyme Land Trust presidents Anthony Irving and Ralph Lewis will lead a walking tour of the new trails on both new preserves.

They will discuss the preserves' flora, fauna, geology, and history.

Daughter Of Lyme, Ruth Maynard Young Keeps Faith With Family & A Life Long Friend To Preserve Lyme For New Generations

By Rich Melchreit

Like many farms and homesteads in the rural towns of Lyme and Old Lyme in the 1930s, the Maynard farm, straddling the town line on Burr Lane, received deliveries from the Czikowsky family, which ran a farm and store on Joshuatown Road.

The Czikowskys' young daughter Rosemarie helped make deliveries and looked forward to stopping by the Maynards to see their daughter Ruth. The girls became fast friends, a friendship that lasted 78 years until Rosemarie died last year.

When they weren't in school or doing chores to help out their hardworking families, the two girls walked all around Lyme. They thought nothing of walking all the way to Joshua Rock, overlooking the Connecticut River at the mouth of the Eight-mile, to picnic on the top of the plunging cliffs and wave to the startled crews of passing tanker ships.

The girls went through the school system, grew up, and married. Ruth attended the Bill Hill schoolhouse for one year before the Consolidated School opened, and both girls went to what was then Old Lyme High School, from which Ruth graduated in 1944 as valedictorian.

Ruth gave the school a legacy - the name the Lyme Old Lyme High School yearbook still proudly bears: the *Lymen*. Ruth wanted the kids from Lyme to get their just share of attention, and her entry into the naming contest (notice there is no hint of "old" in the name), was appealing even to the Old Lyme contingent.

Though Ruth and Rosemarie were hardworking and studious, the girls also liked some small town social fun. Ruth recalls the easy way young people could socialize back then; they went to square-dances at the Public Hall and what is now the Old Lyme Inn.

As they do now each August, young people came out to the Hamburg Fair in droves. Ruth's dad was the President for many years and Head of the Grange, so in addition to socializing, Ruth helped with the vegetables display in the Grange Hall, a

Fair attraction that is still popular.

In time, Rosemary married and became Rosemarie Fox, and Ruth married and became Ruth Young.

Ruth's husband, Frank Young, was a career Marine who served with distinction in Korea, earning a Silver Star. They were posted all over the country, as far away as California, though she never forgot the very special place that would always be her home.

Eventually the Youngs were able to return to Lyme, where Ruth became a teacher. She taught for 30 years, 20 of them at the Consolidated School, and settled in the house in which she still lives, built by her handy "swamp Yankee" father just to the east of the intersection of Beaver Brook and Gungy Roads, surrounded by many acres of hardwood forest.

All this time Ruth and Rosemarie stayed friends, and Ruth's return permitted them to see each other more. Through all the challenges, responsibilities, and distractions of life, they remained close as they worked, raised their families, and contributed as citizens to the life of Lyme.

Bill Beebe, whose property is now the Land Trust's Beebe Preserve across Beaver Brook Road from the new Young preserve, was apt to call them the "Bobbsey Twins" when he saw Rosemarie coming by to pick up Ruth to go to a service club meeting, or to pay a visit. After their husbands died they took trips all over the world together.

Rosemarie was the wise and benevolent

counsel behind the Czikowsky family's generous bargain sale of land that established the Czikowsky preserve on the eastern slopes of Mount Archer just north of the Joshuatown Bridge.

Now, in the tradition of her friend, Ruth has given 82 acres outright to the town of Lyme to be kept pristine forever for natural preservation and for recreational use. It is a piece of an ecologically vital puzzle, forming an unbroken forestland that extends from the Hartman Park in the north through Walbridge Woodlands to the Beebe Preserve to the south, encompassing a large section of the northeast corner of Lyme very near the East Lyme border.

It will not be called the "Ruth Young Preserve," as fitting as that might be.

Ruth is naming the preserve after her son, Philip E. Young, who died suddenly in 2009 of a heart ailment. Philip, like his mother, made education his life's work. Like his mother, he was employed by Lyme-Old Lyme District 18, in his case as the Network Administrator for Information Technology. And very much in Ruth's tradition, Philip cherished Lyme and its precious natural land.

Philip's daughter Cathleen fondly remembers her father taking her to see a bobcat in the woods behind the house. "Look!" he told her, "you may never see one again." Thanks to Ruth's generosity and with the support of Philip's children, Philip's passion will remain a legacy for future generations of Lyme's children, and they *will* see a bobcat.



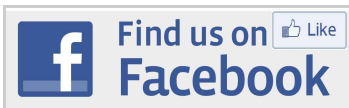
**Ruth Maynard
Young**

**Generous Lyme
Benefactor**

**In her home with
pictures of
Philip E. Young**

The Lyme Land Conservation Trust Newsletter

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Annual Land Trust Membership Drive Coming in November

Current members will soon receive a request to renew their annual membership for 2013, and non-members, an invitation to join. Membership dues, while they don't cover all of our operating costs, do have a significant impact, especially if donors are able to move up to a higher level of membership or make an added donation. Your support helps us to turn out this superb newsletter with news and information about Lyme you cannot get elsewhere.

The actual number of members is important because it makes a strong statement that we have widespread support from the people in Lyme; so give what you can and be a member.

If you enjoy the preserved open space in Lyme, remember that this didn't just happen. Our scenic rural roads, extensive tracts of forest, the many hiking trails, clean air and water, and abundant wildlife are all the result of decades of efforts to preserve this town we love.

When you receive our 2013 membership letter, please show you appreciate what can too easily be taken for granted and support your community land trust by becoming a member.

Land Trust's Fundraising "Tour de Lyme" Cycling Event Next May Gaining Sponsors & Community Support

Interest is building and experienced riders are asking: What is this Tour de Lyme we keep hearing about?

Event publicity is scheduled to begin in the new year and will invite both road and mountain bikers to come to Lyme on May 11, 2013, to enjoy a ride on our lightly traveled scenic roads and off-road trails while helping to raise money to support the Land Trust.

Rain or shine, it will be a wonderful spring day in Lyme. Riders will soon be able to go online at www.tourdelyme.org, choose the ride that appeals to them and register to participate. Choices will range from a 10 mile family outing to a challenging 55 mile ride and routes for mountain bikers.

Depending on route lengths, riders will start at different times so that all will arrive back at Lyme Consolidated School at much the same time for a picnic lunch courtesy of our sponsors.

We owe a great deal of thanks to our generous sponsors and supporters. The costs of promoting and holding Tour de Lyme are being covered by them, and as a result, all event proceeds will go to help the Land Trust.

We anticipate more sponsors but here are the early enthusiastic ones:

Platinum Sponsors



Silver Sponsors

Reynolds Subaru All Pro Automotive

Supporters

Antonino Acura

Coca-Cola Bottling of Southern New England

Connaughty Chiropractic Center

Land Trust members are volunteering to help us with logistics. In addition to an event tee shirt and a great lunch, they will have the satisfaction of helping make this a successful and long remembered event. Interested in helping or riding and having a fun experience? Contact George Moore at george.moore@lymelandtrust.org



President's Message

Your Membership Helps Lyme Land Trust Meet The Increasing Costs Of Managing Almost 3,000 Acres



John Pritchard
President

You may have heard from me before that the Land Trust's success over the last decade in protecting ever more property in Lyme -- now totaling nearly 100 parcels comprising almost 3,000 acres -- has required us to expend more funds annually in order to meet our increased responsibilities.

But we have never informed our members that in recent years, dues and membership related donations have fallen far short of meeting those obligations.

Our Tour de Lyme cycling initiative, an annual fund raising event (see above), is part of our answer to meeting these increased funding requirements.

Even more importantly, the Land

Trust is looking to its members for an enhanced level of support.

Every year at about this time we conduct our annual membership drive. However, the amount raised only covers about 25% of our annual budget. Other donations, mostly one time in nature, and unlikely to be replicated, helped close the gap.

The membership envelope you will receive will offer various categories: *Basic* \$20 (or what you are comfortable giving); *Contributor* \$50; *Benefactor* \$100; *Patron* \$250; *Guardian* \$500; *President's Circle* \$1,000.

It is our hope that many of you will be able to give at a higher membership category this year than you have in the past. Indeed, we are hopeful that a number of you will join the President's Circle by giving \$1,000 or more.

We intend to seek an enhanced relationship with those members whose commit-

ment to our preservation mission has prompted them to join the President's Circle.

And we will be following the lead of other charities in the region by providing recognition in our Newsletter by membership category to all who have contributed unless they request anonymity.

Let me be clear.

Our members are a wonderfully supportive group. A 2010 Town Profile of Connecticut towns stated that Lyme had 832 households. The fact that more than half are members of the Lyme Land Trust is a remarkable testimony to your support and is seldom achieved by other land trusts.

Please renew your membership and if possible, help us by doing so at a higher level.

As Forests Reclaim Lyme's Abandoned Fields Fisher Cats Return To Their Native Habitat

By Angie Falstrom

When European settlers arrived in North America, they spotted an elusive furbearing forest creature that resembled the European polecat. Like the polecat, this animal was somewhat cat-like and had a beautiful pelt and a long, bushy tail.

Using the same words as they did for polecats, the Dutch called them *fisse*, the French *fissau*, and the English *fitchet*. This probably explains how *Martes pennanti* got the phonetically similar name of fisher (known as a fisher cat in New England).

Rarely a fish eater and not a cat, the fisher is a member of the mustelid family, which includes weasels, otters, skunks, mink, wolverines, and yes, polecats.

Deforestation and trapping led to the fisher's extirpation from Connecticut by the 1900's. By the 1950's, fishers could only be found in the northernmost parts of the US and Canada. Since then, the regrowth of forests in the Northeast has recreated viable habitat and enabled fishers to become reestablished in these areas.

Lyme's fisher population is the result of natural migration from the north. Fishers were reintroduced west of the Connecticut River by the state DEP in 1988.

Fishers are dark brown to black and sometimes have white markings on their undersides. They are stocky with short legs, have big feet with 5 toes and large retractable claws, and long tails that are bushier in the colder months.

The males are considerably larger than the females, ranging from 8 to 15 lbs., compared to 4 to 6 lbs. for females. Males can be as long as 48 inches, including the tail. The fur, especially that of the females, is silky and thick, historically making them a target for trappers.

The fisher's ability to rotate its hind feet almost 180 degrees enables it to reverse its direction when climbing a tree and descend headfirst.

Although this can come in handy when catching squirrels, porcupines, and other climbers, for the most part fishers catch their prey on the ground, traversing

it in a zigzag pattern, alert for opportunities. They do not typically chase or stalk. Open areas are not comfortable places for them, so when crossing a field, a fisher moves quickly in a straight line with a characteristic loping gait.

The fisher has few natural predators. Larger carnivores avoid tackling this feisty creature. Man remains his biggest threat. Trapping was legalized in 2005 for licensed trappers, with a limit of 4 animals per trapper per season (November and December).



Fisher Treed Near Joshuatown Road
Photo by Richard Sutton

HABITAT

A mature forest of mixed hardwoods with a heavy canopy and fallen trees is ideal for fishers. They are solitary animals, and a single male in a prime habitat will have a territory of 3 - 5 square miles, but in less ideal surroundings and in winter, his territory can be larger.

Female territories are smaller, and may overlap those of males, but male territories do not overlap. Using anal scent glands, both male and female fishers mark an elevated feature such as a stump, log, or stone along their pathways to announce that "this territory is taken." The scent markings also serve to attract potential mates.

Fishers use hollow logs, brush piles, rock piles and rock crevices, tree cavities and empty gray squirrel nests as temporary resting sites. Natal dens are almost always in tree cavities.

BREEDING

Mating takes place in April in the Northeast. Due to a process called delayed implantation, the embryo does not attach to the uterus for another 10 months. It may be the amount

of daylight that initiates the process in late winter, leading to the birth of 2 to 4 kits 30 to 60 days later. The father has no role in raising the kits, who remain with their mother for the first four months of life. Females are able to breed at the age of one year, giving birth a year later at the age of two.

DIET

The fisher's diet is varied and consists of birds, squirrels, chipmunks, mice, shrews, rabbits, raccoons, porcupines, and even deer in winter. They will eat carrion, fruit, nuts, mushrooms, and occasionally insects, reptiles and amphibians.

Like the other members of the mustelid family, a fisher is a fierce hunter. It is one of the few predators of porcupines. Attacking the face first, the fisher subdues the porcupine and then flips it over to expose the quill-free tender belly. Where porcupines threaten timber industries, fishers have sometimes been released to combat the problem.

HOW TO LIVE WITH FISHERS

Fishers can pose a problem for owners of chickens, cats, and other small pets not restricted to an enclosed area. The instances of fishers killing domestic cats and dogs are rare, but when it's your pet, that is not much comfort. To minimize the risk, do not keep pet food, compost, or garbage outside. Be aware that the small mammals and birds attracted to bird feeders may in turn attract fishers. Consider making your cat an indoor pet, where it is safe from fishers and other predators, and keep poultry and rabbits in secure hutches.

The return of the native fisher is a testament to the quality of the environment in our forests, and their presence will help to ensure its natural bio-diversity.

By keeping the rodent population down and competing with other predators that might harm native plants or nesting birds, fishers help restore balance to the ecosystem. And they make our woods a little more wild and beautiful.

October “Beaver Walk” Visits Lyme Ponds & Meadows Created By Mother Nature’s Industrious Engineers

More than 40 wildlife enthusiasts turned out for the Land Trust’s “Open Air Seminar and Beaver Walk” on Oct. 6.

The group visited three beaver activity sites: an abandoned and drained beaver pond on the Ravine Trail between Mitchell Hill and Joshuatown roads; a large active beaver pond with multiple dams and lodges on private land off Brush Hill Road that offered dramatic contrast with the Ravine Trail pond; and a large meadow and fertile wetland that had formed in the wake of another abandoned beaver pond beside Tantumorum Road.

Ann and Howard Kilpatrick, both wildlife biologists at CT DEEP, guided the walk. The couple brought beaver pelts, a beaver coat, a stuffed 18-month old beaver,

a beaver skull, and casts of a beaver’s foot to explain how the pelt trade had emptied the state of beavers a century ago and how beavers’ physiology suits them for their remarkable aquatic way of life.

During the walk beside the Ravine Trail pond, Ann explained how beavers exploit and transform a landscape and why the rugged ravine had probably proved an inhospitable, transient home.

At the second and third ponds the Kilpatricks underscored the ecological importance of beavers as a keystone species whose transformation of the land into a pond and wetlands creates a home for a great variety of other forms of wildlife, including fish, reptiles, amphibians, insects, birds, and other mammals.



Wildlife biologist Ann Kilpatrick points out beaver lodge in pond. Photo by Geo Moore.

8th Annual Area Land Trust Photo Contest Deadline Is January 31

The land trusts of Lyme, Old Lyme, Essex, Salem, and East Haddam are inviting amateur photographers to focus on our pictorial and scenic countryside and to submit their photos to the 8th Annual Photo Contest. Photography is a way to show how important it is to protect and preserve the heritage of our natural world.

The 2013 contest is being funded with generous support from 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.

There will be awards of \$100, \$50 and \$25 for each of the following categories: landscapes/water-scapes; plants; wildlife; cultural/historic; any subject for young photographers below age 15.

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

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*, *Shadonbirds*, and his recently released *Marshes: The Disappearing Edens*; Amy Kurtz Lansing, curator at the Florence Griswold Museum and the author of *Historical Fictions: Edward Lamson Henry's Paintings of Past and Present*; and Rudy Wood-Muller, a photographic illustrator and designer whose photos were exhibited at the 1964 New York World’s Fair and 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.

The deadline for submitting photographs is Jan. 31, 2013. For questions, entry forms and a copy of the contest rules, e-mail landtrustphotos@yahoo.com. To see all of last year’s winning photos, go to <http://landtrustphotos.shutterfly.com/>



Hadlyme Ferry Slip After Hurricane Irene
2nd Place 2012 Cultural/Historic by Skip Broom of Hadlyme

Lyme Land Trust Is Focusing On Putting Open Space To Use For Education & Recreation

By Molly Turner, Secretary LLCT Board

As Lyme households recover from Hurricane Sandy, I am reminded of the critical role of land trusts in our changing world. Although the word "preservation" often suggests the past, nature is not our past but our present, and if we want it to be our future, then we have to pay attention to it now.



Snake handling at LLCT snake program in 2011.

Photo by
Geo Lombardino

ing up after storms and other damage on a regular basis, and protecting against violations of the conservation values in the deed covenants.

Community Forum: Will The Next Generation Continue America's Commitment To Conservation

The Connecticut Audubon Society, Lyme Land Conservation Trust and Old Lyme Land Trust are sponsoring a community forum to discuss the role that will be played by future generations in the preservation of America's natural resources.

The forum is entitled "Where is the Next Generation of Conservationists Coming From?" Originally scheduled for Oct. 30, it was postponed and has been tentatively rescheduled for Nov. 29.

It will address a concern among conservationists, sportsmen, outdoors enthusiasts, and public health experts that young people are not spending enough time in nature and wilderness activities, and will not embrace and pass on to future Americans our country's long commitment to conservation of its natural resources.

The forum panel will be made up of local conservationists, parents and educators and will be moderated by Milan Bull, Senior Director for Science and Conservation, and Michelle Eckman, Director of Education for Connecticut Audubon Society. The audience will be asked to share ideas, experiences and suggestions.

The forum will be from 7-9PM, at the Old Lyme First Congregational Church, 2 Ferry Road, Old Lyme. It is free and open to everyone. Check the LLCT website at www.lymelandtrust.org for more information and confirmation of the date.

It is for this reason that fundraising must be always in the forefront of our activities.

Our other main concern is to ensure that protection of Lyme's natural resources serves not only a distant future, but the world we live in right now.

How can our efforts benefit our community and contribute toward solutions to some of its most pressing problems, such as climate change, childhood education, and public health?

Simply preserving the land and keeping it safe and healthy is the foundation of our mission. Open space helps mitigate flooding from storm surges, filters drinking water, and provides cooler summer temperatures, in addition to providing habitat.

Beyond preservation, we are also always considering the next step, which is to create opportunities for people of all ages to explore and value the outdoors, and to continue the mission of conservation through recreation, education, and volunteering.

At our newest property, the Walbridge Woodlands Preserve on Gungy Road, we have created trails and plan to design programs that educate and delight people of all ages.

This was the wish of the Sargent family that donated the funds for its acquisition in honor of the late David Sargent, and it is our wish as well.

Diana Boehning, the Land Trust board member who plans and directs its many activities, will continue to plan regular hikes, outdoor seminars, and indoor events for winter Sundays that address everything from bats, beavers and snakes to plein air painting. We hope you will join in teaching, learning, hiking, volunteering, and supporting our work in both the present and the future.



Inspecting beaver teeth & skull at beaver pond in October 2012.

Photo by Geo Moore



Opening Beebe Preserve in 2011.

Photo by
Humphrey Tyler



Rare chance to touch an eastern rat snake at 2012 Eightmile River Festival.

Photo by Humphrey Tyler

H. Templeton Brown

Lyme Land Conservation Trust 2003-2012



Remembering Temp — “The twinkle in his eyes”

Land Trust Vice President Temp Brown died on Aug. 16 from injuries suffered in a fall. He served the Lyme community for more than a decade on the Land Trust Board, most of that time involved in the intricacies and negotiations of preserving what is now some of the largest and most important protected open space in town. The Lyme Land Trust asked those who worked closely with Temp to recall some of the times and episodes in land preservation they had shared with him.

Barbara David

Lyme Open Space Commission

Temp and I served together on the Lyme Open Space Commission and I was always happiest when I found him sitting at the table when I arrived at the meetings.

In his quiet way, but with the usual twinkle in his eye, he was the voice of reason, of kindness, knowing just where the Lyme Land Conservation Trust stood on an issue, knowing just what needed to be done in talking to people in the community about protecting land.

He had an innate love of the outdoors and an intuitive knowledge of how people think.

I know that I will always feel his aura and his strength whenever I am out on the land, or in those monthly meetings at Town Hall.

Nathan Frohling

The Nature Conservancy

I was blessed to share purpose and partnership with Temp when we worked together to conserve some of Lyme's most remarkable properties, like Jewett and Mt Archer.

What great fun to share this passion! And the fun was more than the excitement of pursuing a shared cause, it was the camaraderie, trust and friendship that grew out of it.

His good nature and authentic soul was immediately palpable and part of what made it such a pleasure to work together. The twinkle in his eyes, his warmth and patience, his care and regard, his intelligent questions and articulate advocacy — these strengths and good spirit inspired a confidence that we could reach for ambitious goals and meet them.

George Moore

LLCT Executive Director

One of my favorite memories of working with Temp involved the mysterious land that never was.

Temp became aware of almost 100 acres that bordered the Army Reserve military base that is partly in Lyme. Learning of Department of Defense funds available to conservation groups to create buffer zones, we embarked on an effort to buy the land.

With the owner's permission, we hiked the property to evaluate it. Hearing of the planned acquisition, a new LLCT director told us there was an old survey map in the town vault.

The map revealed there were not 100 acres, but less than ten! When we were hiking, we were on Defense Department property. It seems we were looking at 100 acres that didn't exist.

The Temp Brown Memorial Fund

The family of Temp Brown, in a very thoughtful gesture, suggested friends wishing to honor Temp make a donation to the Lyme Land Trust in his memory. The names of donors are listed below. The donations have been credited to the land preservation fund,, which is used to protect more properties in Lyme. A memorial bench will be installed in Temp's honor in the Chestnut Hill Preserve on Sterling Hill Road, one of the many pieces of Lyme he worked so hard to protect.

Margaret Armstrong, Honolulu
Andy Baxter, Lyme
Roland & Nancy Ballek, Lyme
Linda & Richard Bireley, Lyme
David & Anne Bonnerup, Albert Lea, MN
Lorraine Broom, Lyme
R.A. Brown Jr., St. Joseph, MO
Castle Foundation, Oak Brook, IL
The Cue Club Members*, Lyme-Old Lyme
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Diana & Parker Lord, Hadlyme
Anne Ford Matthews, Stonington
Thomas & Roberta Mc Nellis, Tucson
William & Judith Miner, Mystic

Howard Monroe & Victor Stanley, Bernard, ME
George & Rosemary Moore, Lyme
Jil Nelson, Lyme
Lisa & Andrew Niccolai, Lyme
Michele A O'Kane, Minneapolis
Timothy & Sally O'Shea, Granby, MA
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Parks, Pineville, LA
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Carole Pierce, Ivoryton
April Posson, East Haddam
David & Barbara Preston, Old Lyme
John & Lee Pritchard, Lyme
Michael & Carol Ryland, Essex
Winfield Shiras, Evanston, IL
Diane Taylor, Northbrook, IL
Molly Turner & Tim Clark, Lyme
Milt & Carolyn Walters, Lyme
Kathy & Steve Wilson, Old Lyme
*Society for the Preservation of Cowboy Pool

Community Volunteers From Millstone Power Plant Converge On Lyme To Improve Forestland Preserves



Building a wetlands boardwalk on a Pleasant Valley trail.



Repairing an ancient stone wall in the Beebe Preserve.



Building an overlook platform on the Beebe Preserve pond.

On Sept. 13 more than 40 volunteers from Dominion Resources' Millstone Power Station in Waterford converged on Lyme to tackle major forest preserve improvement projects that have been at the top of the Land Trust's "high priority" list for some time.

The Dominion employees spent the day on the stewardship projects as part of Dominion Resources' Annual Volunteer Day program in which the Virginia-based energy company encourages its employees to contribute a day of company-paid time to work on a community project.

Bringing all the tools and building materials they would need, the volunteers started at 7 AM with a quick safety briefing before departing to their several worksites at Pleasant Valley and Beebe Preserves.

One group put together a removable boardwalk over a wetland trail in the Pleasant Valley Preserve. The approximately sixty feet of boardwalk now allow for dry passage through the wetland area of the existing trail.

Another group constructed three benches and placed them in meadows at Pleasant Valley.

When they finished these two projects, they joined their fellow volunteers near the entry-way at Jewett Preserve to assist in clearing the abundantly invasive winged euonymus ("burning bush"), which had grown to form a low, dark tunnel over the trail along the meadow. Volunteers stacked the cuttings nearby to provide thicket for birds and small animals. Now the trail is open to the adjacent meadow and the remaining invasive euonymus can be mowed back.

Meanwhile, another group was hard at work on the other end of town building a platform overlooking the beaver pond at Beebe Preserve. The platform includes a bench to allow for the quiet observation of the beavers and other inhabitants and guests of the pond.

That would have been more than enough for a day's work. But while hauling lumber and tools to the Beebe worksite, the volunteers recognized a few trip hazards where the trails crossed over stone walls. Rather than make the quick remedy of moving a few stones, the volunteers rebuilt sections of the ancient farm walls to include break-ways, complete with stone benches.

In total the Dominion volunteers contributed 300 hours, and the Dominion Foundation provided \$2,500 in materials to complete these projects, which will provide preserve visitors better access to Lyme's forestlands.

Land Trust Stewardship Committee & Volunteers

Monitor & Maintain Almost 100 Properties

The Stewardship Committee is responsible for the monitoring and maintenance of the 33 properties owned outright by the Lyme Land Trust and the 65 conservation easements it holds on property owned by others.

It's a daunting challenge, partly because it involves managing almost 100 different properties. Many need baseline environmental reports compiled, and each property needs to be inspected annually with a written report submitted after each inspection.

The Committee's responsibilities, however, go far beyond inspections, environmental assessment, annual reports, and the like. It also has the duty to maintain its preserves, which are open to the public and contain many miles of popular woodland trails. (And it also has the same duties for The Nature Conservancy's Pleasant Valley Preserve, which is stewarded by the Land Trust).

Committee Chairman Don Gerber reports that his committee and its many volunteers completed the following since the beginning of the year:

- removed downed trees at Plimpton Preserve;
- developed, cleared & improved trails and parking areas at Walbridge Woodlands, Ravine, Pleasant Valley, Beebe, Chestnut Hill, Honey Hill, Patrel, Pickwick, Eno, and Jewett preserves (clearing brush, trees, and posting new trail markers);
- completed the majority of the annual property inspections - the rest will be completed by year's end;
- posted new boundary markers on three Beebe properties;
- investigated boundaries on Library Associates & Jasper Hills parcels;
- located numerous boundary markers on fee-owned and easement properties;
- erected viewing platform at Beebe Preserve beaver pond;
- repaired stone walls at Beebe Preserve;
- removed burning bush at Pleasant Valley Preserve;

- erected wetland boardwalk at Pleasant Valley Preserve
- installed three benches at Pleasant Valley Preserve;
- picked up trash along route 156;
- investigated several reports of easement violations & provided support to resolve these violations;
- participated in the permitting process for several property owners adjacent to LLCT parcels;
- answered a number of questions from owners of easement properties about prohibitions and reserved rights;
- investigated surveying needs for Becket Hill & Walbridge Woodlands preserves;
- cut back brush and invasives at Clucas Field Preserve;
- drafted about 30 baseline environmental documentation reports;
- drafted management plans for Chestnut Hill Preserve;
- supported planning for Tour de Lyme;
- supported the Eightmile Committee;



New LLCT Trailhead Signs

- erected new trailhead signs at Roaring Brook, Eno, Ravine, Pleasant Valley, Sterling City, Honey Hill, and Walbridge Woodlands preserves;
- operated and maintained Eightmile River fishways at Moulson & Ed Bill's ponds;
- managed hunting program with the town;
- supported DEEP efforts to manage phragmites in Rams Horn Creek
- Coordinated field mowing;
- prepared for easement insurance coverage; and
- created and updated trail and property maps.

LYME LAND CONSERVATION TRUST STATISTICAL STEWARDSHIP DATA POINTS

2,912 Acres — Total acreage under LLCT stewardship
99 Parcels — Total properties under LLCT stewardship

MADE UP OF:

619 Acres — Total acreage owned and stewarded by LLCT
33 Parcels — Total parcels owned and stewarded by LLCT
2,058 Acres — Conservation easements held and stewarded by LLCT
65 Easements — Conservation easements held and stewarded by LLCT
235 Acres — Acreage in Pleasant Valley Preserve owned by The Nature Conservancy and stewarded by LLCT
36 Volunteers — Number of LLCT members who donate their time to steward property for which LLCT is responsible



The Lyme Land Conservation Trust

PO BOX 1002, Lyme, CT 06371

Address Service Requested

Lyme Land Conservation Trust Calendar of Events

All events subject to change. Dates & times will be announced by press release, e-mail, and will be posted on the LLCT website and Facebook pages. Please consult the Upcoming Events page at www.lymelandtrust.org for the latest information. To reduce expenses and paper LLCT no longer mails postcard notification of events. To receive email notification of events, please send email to: info@lymelandtrust.org with request to be added to events e-mail list.

Opening New Trails On Walbridge Woodlands & Philip E. Young Preserves

When - 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 18

What - Come walk with us to celebrate these additions of preserved forestland that complete an unbroken north-south greenway along the eastern border of Lyme. Anthony Irving and Ralph Lewis will lead walks along new trails in these preserves. The program will be about 2 hours. No pets please. All are welcome to this free program.

Where - Park at the Young Preserve on east side of Gungy Road about 2 tenths of a mile north of Beaver Brook Road, just beyond the tire swing.

Community Forum: The Next Generation And Conservation Values

When - 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 29

(tentative date; please check www.lymelandtrust.org for confirmation).

What - The forum will address a concern that young people will not embrace and pass on a commitment to conservation of natural resources. The forum panel will be local conservationists, parents and educators. It is sponsored by the Connecticut Audubon Society, the Lyme Land Conservation Trust and the Old Lyme Land Trust.

Where - Old Lyme 1st Congregational Church, 2 Ferry Road, Old Lyme.

The Good, The Bad, & The Ugly Of Forest Fires And Wildfires.

When - 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 13

What - Richard Schenk, Fire Control Officer at Conn DEEP in Marlboro will present a program on the dangers and benefits of fires that burn through open and forest lands.

Where - Lyme Public Hall, Hamburg.

Save These Dates:

Saturday, April 27 — 3rd Annual Lyme Land Trust Paint Out.

Saturday, May 11 — Tour de Lyme cycling event. (See story, page 5)