

Dinner Honors Past LLCT Presidents

Three former presidents of the Lyme Land Conservation Trust, Inc., were recognized for their community service Monday April 16 at a dinner attended by former and current Land Trust directors, their spouses and friends.

The three past presidents honored are: Anthony Irving, president from 1997-2004; Ralph Lewis, president from 2004-2006; and Linda Bireley, president from 2006-2007.

Executive Director George Moore, saluted the extraordinary accomplishments of the three and the board directors who served with them.

Moore pointed out that the terms of all three presidents overlapped significantly, resulting in a team that over 13 years accomplished some of the largest additions to open space in the Land Trust's 45-year history.

Moore went on to commend their continued intellectual contributions to the Land Trust and their dedication to public service.

The theme for the "Dutch Treat" dinner at the Fox Hopyard On the Rocks Restaurant was "Wood, Stone and Water", which Moore explained signified the expertise of each of three past presidents.

"Wood" was for Anthony Irving (Land Trust board service: 1994-2004), who is a graduate of the Yale School of Forestry and runs an environmental consulting firm.

"Stone" was for Ralph Lewis (Land Trust board service: 1996-2006), who holds a PhD in geology and is the former Connecticut state geologist.

"Water" was for Linda Bireley (Land Trust board service: 1997-2007), who holds a PhD in marine biology and also serves as the Town of Lyme open space coordinator and oversees operations of fish ladders on the Eightmile River.

Carrying the theme further, current President John Pritchard presented

each with a framed color print donated by frequent Land Trust Photo Contest ribbon winner, Skip Broom. The picture, taken in Lyme, was an artistic presentation of wood, stone and water.

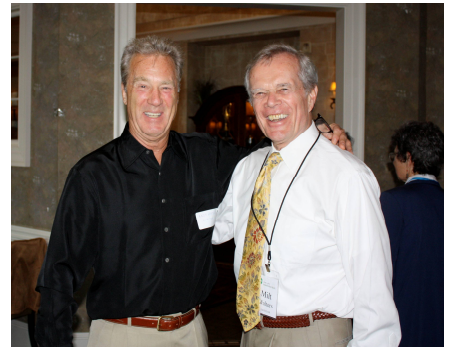
Pritchard spoke of the honor of following in the footsteps of three such accomplished community volunteers.

He noted that until recently the Lyme Land Trust did not have staff to run the organization, so all the operations and routine work was performed by volunteer officers and board members.

Continuing to preserve land remains a principal objective of the Lyme Land Trust, he said. However, as the Land Trust's stewardship responsibilities increase, Pritchard said it will become more important to offer expanded opportunities for the public to enjoy, learn about and appreciate the open space in Lyme that has been preserved on their behalf since the Land Trust's founding in 1966.



Three Former Presidents Honored
Linda Bireley, Ralph Lewis, Anthony Irving



LLCT Board Members
Andy Baxter & Milt Walters



"Stone, Water & Wood"

From left: LLCT Executive Director George Moore, geologist Ralph Lewis, marine biologist Linda Bireley, forest ecologist Anthony Irving, LLCT President John Pritchard.