

LYME LAND TRUST BULLETIN

The Lyme Land Conservation Trust

October 1998

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Someone once asked me how much open space we need in Lyme. Well obviously depending upon the priorities of who is being asked, there are potentially a variety of answers. For example if the objective is to protect habitat, the how much and where issue would not necessarily be the same as if the priority was aesthetics. This does not mean that the end result as to what properties should be preserved is necessarily different, just that the rationale for choosing may vary from person to person. This is reflected in the Land Trust's own land preservation criteria in that to qualify for selection a site must meet one or more of the following conditions:

- Contain waterways, watersheds, wetlands or other land necessary for protection of water resources or wetland habitat
- Protect scenic vistas
- Have unique historic or archaeological value
- Provide connection or corridor to other protected open space land important for movement of wildlife and avoidance of habitat fragmentation.

So there are lots of reasons to preserve open space and if we want Lyme to stay exactly as it is today it would require protecting everything that remains. This is unrealistic even though Lyme has one of the highest percentages of preservation land of any municipality in the state. Of the town's 21,120 acres about 7,100 acres or one third is committed to open space which includes state forest, town lands, conservation easements and ownership by the Nature Conservancy and the Land Trust. Undeveloped and unprotected land totals about 12,000 acres. As much of half of this is unbuildable, but there is still a potential on the low end for around 2000 up to 4000 new house lots according to an assessment by the regional planning agency. Although this build-out scenario is

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The cart track on the Eno property.

TOWN SETS EXAMPLE FOR COOPERATION

Thanks to a cooperative community effort, 200 acres of the estate of Chan Eno, former town selectman, have been preserved mostly as open space. The land lies to the south and east of the intersection of Tantormorantum and Mt. Archer Roads.

The Eno family, whose ancestors date back in Lyme history, made the difficult but necessary decision to sell the property for estate planning purposes. A developer was interested in the property, and Ralph Eno, first selectman, and cousin of Chan, was concerned both for the welfare of the family, and the long term viability of the town. Large scale residential development is only a drag on the tax base of the town, he says, costing more in services than provided in taxes. Last fall, he raised his concerns at a meeting of the Joshuatown Association.

A group of townspeople who love Lyme for the great stretches of natural space the town still enjoys, decided to step in. Sue Hessell, who has so often opened her garden for tours, and Robert ("Mac") Godley, an architect, were joined by Dr. Paul Armond, who currently lives in Ledyard, and Sandy and Robert Mulligan, neighbors of the Eno land.

The group walked the property mulling their strategy. They agreed from the start their goal was to save the open quality of the land; and to keep their group small, if possible, in order to keep their primary goal in mind and avoid complications. Dr. Armond, who is a biologist at Pfizer, was entranced by the unusual ecology of the land. Godley studied the various maps available and with his architect's eye suggested how the land might be divided to meet the needs of the partners. With some slight variations, this became the final plan. The group made an offer to the family.

Ralph Eno became the facilitator and liaison between the many parties. The process became further complicated by Chan Eno's failing health.

As the plans developed the prospective Lyme buyers appeared, with some trepidation, before the Inland Wetlands Commission, the Planning and Zoning Commission as well as enforcement officer Frank Skwarek. They feared their plans might not be accepted,

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Map of the Eno property division. The Land Trust will own section on the right.

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unlikely, at least in our lifetimes, it is not unprecedented. The town I grew up in increased in population from around 4,500 in 1950 to over 10,000 in 1990. The point is that there is a lot of open space in Lyme, but much of it is unprotected and open to development.

The best way to save these pieces is not by depending upon the town, Land Trust, the state or the Nature Conservancy to buy it up. The finances are simply not there nor is it necessarily in the townspeople's best interests to have most of the property owned by a few groups. That's because the land can provide many resources that benefit the town and society as a whole that are best left in the hands of private ownership. For example farming and timber practices that incorporate sensitivity of all the land's environmental resources can coexist in an atmosphere of environmental diligence.

Not only is Lyme blessed with an extraordinary landscape, but with landowners who understand and care about this resource. The conservation easement is the tool that best protects property from development while allowing owners to hold on to and manage their land. And not only does a conservation easement protect the land from development in perpetuity, but the landowner also receives substantial income tax credits and the value of the land is reduced for estate tax purposes. The Land Trust is here to inform and advise owners of these and other options open to them.

Which brings us back to the original question of how much land we need to preserve in open space? From a community point of view it comes down to how we see our town in the future, and how much we are willing to support public and private efforts to raise funds for open space protection. One example of this is the purchase and preservation of the Chauncey Eno property on Mount Archer by a small group of dedicated and generous people. But to really know the amount of open space land we need will be decided by individual property owners as they make determinations regarding the future disposition of their land. It will be the combination of their many decisions that will provide the answer.

Anthony Irving, President

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but instead found welcome in town hall and some suggestions. In the spring Chan Eno died. The estate received new, higher, estimates for the land, which fortunately the group was able to meet.

It was only late in the process that the group approached the Lyme Land Conservation Trust to see if it would accept donations of land and easements, to which the Trust readily agreed.

The Final Agreement

By a memo of agreement between the various parties, Megan Eno, Chan's widow, will retain 59 acres of the original 259 acre farm, and the remaining 200 acres has been divided into four equal parcels. The purchase price for two of the sections, totaling a hundred acres, has been donated to the Land Trust by Sue Hessel and the Mulligans, which will buy this part outright. These donors will obtain the tax advantages of the charitable gift. This half of the property lies to the east of the old well-house visible in the woods next to Mt. Archer Road.

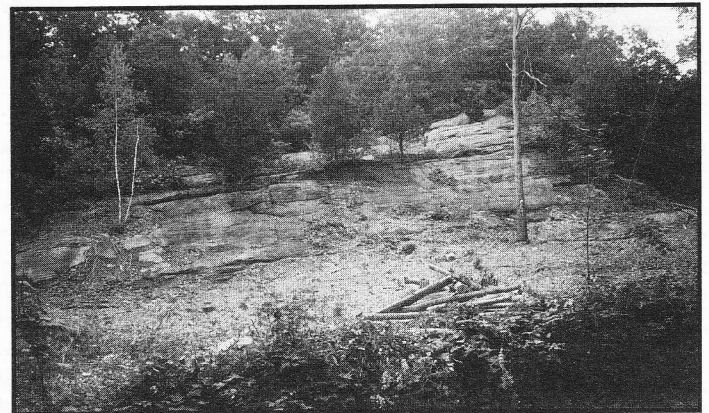
Dr. Armand will build for himself on his 50 acre section, with possibly a second house. Likewise Mr. Godley will practice his architectural skills on one, possibly two houses. The houses will each occupy five acres, and the remaining acreage will be covered by conservation easements to the Land Trust, which foreclose any further development.

The town will benefit by the mile and quarter of road frontage which will remain rural. The houses will be set deep in the lots, not visible from the road. Utilities will be underground, and access will be by the old cart track off Mt. Archer Road.

All participants paid homage to Megan Eno's land ethic, shared by Chan, to maintain as far as possible the landscape of Lyme in which they grew up. This, they agreed, was a key factor in reaching an agreement satisfactory to all.

Sue Hessel pointed out that many landowners do not realize that often they can benefit as well, or better, through the use of charitable donation mechanisms rather than sales to developers, while furthering conservation values. Such agreements can be tailored to the needs of buyers and sellers.

Ralph Eno reports that there are some 7,000 acres in town in parcels larger than 50 acres, all potential areas for large scale development. He praised the town's citizens who came forward in this instance. "The Town can't do it all, nor can the Land Trust," he said. "We must all work together."



RESTORING HISTORIC ROADSIDES

Catherine Fehrer, who with her sister Elizabeth, is responsible for the much enjoyed Pleasant Valley Preserve, has set the town another good example. She has tidied up the roadside across from her house, near the Hamburg Road end of Beaverbrook, to reveal once more a striking rock cliff. This creates a dramatic view for passersby. Lyme's roadsides have grown up over the years, hiding many rural scenes. One is now returned to us.

SUCCESSFUL FIRST SEASON FOR MOULSON POND FISHWAY

Steve Gephard

*Supervising Fisheries Biologist
IDEF/Fisheries Division*

After many years of planning, the Moulson Pond Fishway was completed at the end of 1997. It was opened for the spring season on March 30 in time for the alewives that were coming up from Hamburg Cove. It was shut down in mid-July when all of the spring fish runs were over and water levels in the river had dropped. In the meantime, a cadre of volunteers and DEP employees checked the fishway almost daily — in some cases more than once a day. These checks were necessary to ensure the fishway was properly adjusted, was free of trash and debris, and to document the passage of fish. These volunteers were very enthusiastic about their responsibilities and did a great job. Many good suggestions were made for improving operations and record-keeping for next year. The intent of this article is not to pass out 'thank you's', although there are many that are deserved, but special acknowledgment must be given to Land Trust member Linda Bireley and her volunteer staff for their dedication.

Ever since a dam was built at this site under Mt. Archer Road, fish have been blocked from migrating any further up the Eightmile River. Since there was not sufficient habitat downstream of the dam for Atlantic salmon, the dam exterminated that species from the watershed. The rest of the fish species survived, but in much lower numbers than before. American shad are no longer present, but overfishing along with the construction of the dam probably caused their demise. However, there have been alewife, blueback herring, sea lamprey, white perch, and sea-run brown trout coming up to the base of the dam each spring — for nearly 200 years!

The construction of the fishway allows them to get past the dam and continue upstream. Even though these fish have not been "imprinted" to the river above the dam, some will be adventurous and instinctively keep going upstream once having found the fishway. Once thousands of young fish hatch upstream of the dam and imprint to that area, the number of fish in subsequent years that pass upstream will increase since they will have an increased desire to get upstream.

Spawning Schedules

Alewives run up the river in late March and April and the fishway successfully passed thousands this year. The impoundment behind the dam, lower Beaver Brook, the swimming hole behind the school, and

(eventually) Ed Bill's Pond on the East Branch are all excellent spawning areas for alewives and that is probably where most of these fish ended up. Most of the young fish are probably already in Long Island Sound and will return to the Eightmile River as adults in 3 to 5 years.

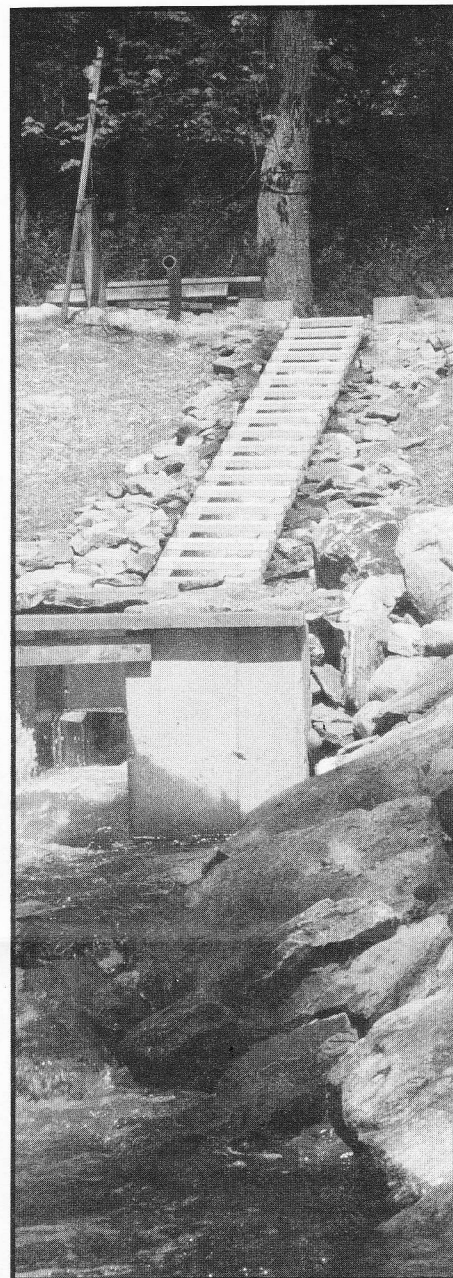
Blueback herring run in May and June. This year's run was very poor throughout all of the Connecticut River but the fishway passed large numbers on several days and upstream spawning was ensured. These fish spawn in quicker current and probably ended up around MacIntosh Road, in the Pleasant Valley Preserve, and in the vicinity of the Rt. 156 bridge. Their young are still in Moulson Pond, feeding and growing and probably will descend to Hamburg Cove in September and then to the sea. They will also begin returning as adults between 3 and 5 years from now.

Shad

Although there are no shad currently in the river, the Fisheries Division has transplanted pre-spawned adult shad from the Connecticut River to the Eightmile River near Rt. 156 for the past two years (and will plan to do it for several more years) so there are probably some young shad in Moulson Pond now, too. We may start seeing adult shad in the fishway for the first time in 2000 or 2001.

Sea lampreys can be very secretive since they mostly migrate at night and are hard to see. However, they make a very visible nest in gravel beds which allows biologists to conduct an annual census. This was the first year we did a lamprey nest survey on the Eightmile River and counted 14 nests above the dam (surveying all the way down from Devils Hopyard) and 13 nests below the dam. This means that about 75 fish spawned in the river and about half used the fishway, which is pretty good for the first year. No white perch were seen in the fishway nor sea-run brown trout, although resident trout were seen using the fishway. Most sea-run trout will come up in the fall rather than the spring.

Atlantic salmon have been stocked as fry into the river for the past several years and could start coming back this year. Although none were seen in the river or fishway, it is possible that salmon could have passed undetected. Fisheries Division staff working on the White Perch Project set research nets in Hamburg Cove this spring and caught and released an adult Atlantic salmon. Who knows, maybe it came through the fishway and is hiding in the river somewhere. It is illegal to catch and



The Fishway.

keep salmon. If you think you have seen this fish, please call me at 434-6043.

The fishway will remain closed until October 1 when we will reopen it for sea-run trout (and perhaps that straggling salmon!). We will also operate the bypass pipe to expedite the passage of young blueback herring and shad headed to sea.

Although we have all congratulated each other on the fine job of building this fishway, the fact is that the real work starts now: restoring anadromous fish runs. This year was a great start and I am optimistic about good years in the future. While salmon and shad restoration may progress slowly, I expect that alewife, blueback herring, sea lamprey, and maybe brown trout runs will increase quickly. By 2001, we should be seeing a difference.

MARCH WORKSHOP LOOKED AT LYME'S FUTURE

What will Lyme look like in a quarter century? Will development spoil the rural charm? Linda Krause and a panel of experts addressed the issue at the Land Trust's winter forum. In the first hour, Krause, a professional planner and director of the Connecticut River Regional Planning Agency, outlined a number of factors that might affect the town's growth. It was a cautiously optimistic assessment, although she noted that projections are notoriously unreliable.

Population growth in the town has in the past come from in-migration, not births. The incomers are escaping suburbia, which now reaches as far as New Haven on the west, and casino-land on the east. The growth has been consuming land. From 1970 to 1990 (the last census), more than 400 families used 2,800 acres. Demand for houses exceeds supply, and houses have increasingly been for week-end, seasonal or retirement use. Many are far larger than the traditional Lyme house-trophy houses, Krause called them.

Housing costs are very high, but of the 300 sales in the last 15 years, only 12 have been more than a million dollars, and 27 percent have been under \$100,000.

What brings people? The rural character, the Connecticut River certainly, but access is also important, and here Lyme is less attractive than other valley towns which are closer to I-95 and Route 9. People see Lyme as remote. Nor does Krause believe completion of Route 11 will make any difference to development pressures.

There is little pressure for commercial uses. If Hamburg were a real village, with local shops, it would be an attraction, according to a realtor Krause spoke to. But Lyme people are prepared to drive to do their errands. Nor is there pressure for industry. There are 31 acres of industrial land in town, most of it sand and gravel operations.

What will the Future Bring?

Predictions are difficult. Both trends in the national economy, and private decisions can increase or discourage development. The town cannot control these, but it can shape where this development goes.

What is undeveloped land? It is land that is not otherwise committed. In 1990, 15 percent of Lyme's 22,000 acres was developed. Another eight percent is water, and of the 83 percent undeveloped land, a third is protected by state forests and parks, reserves of The Nature Conservancy, town and Land Trust lands. Since 1990, additional acres have been added to Land Trust holdings, as well as some additional development. There are about 12,000 acres of undeveloped land not

yet committed to open space, which could be developed.

But there are factors which may put a brake on indefinite development. Environmental limits include high water tables, soils unsuitable for septic systems, wetlands, and flood zones which involve issues of health and safety and welfare. These issues allow a town to undertake zoning and other measures of control under its police powers, as authorized by state enabling legislation. At a wild guess, Krause thought such limitations would rule out development on somewhere between 25 and 50 percent of the undeveloped land. This still would leave land for between 2,000 and 4,000 house lots, or less if people choose larger lots.

Tom Metcalf, an engineer, underlined these points. Of the seven subdivisions he has worked on in Lyme, involving some 300 acres, there were only 18 lots because of soil and topographical restraints. These left 90 acres, or 30 percent open land. And, he added, people want this. Later in the

traffic? Fiscal impact? Environmental Damage? Loss of "rural character"? And if the latter, what is rural character? It used to be farms. Is it not seeing neighbors? Not seeing houses? Not suffering light pollution? Lots of trees? Keeping fields and views open?

To keep the rural character, the town needs to plan for open space, and in reviewing subdivisions, ensure that the town gets the right piece. Restrict location of dwellings, save fields and views. Krause did not think cluster zoning was a likely option in Lyme because of the topography, but some locations might be suitable. In answer to a question, she noted that a country-like road frontage can be maintained through establishing buffer zones when development goes in, and by the flag-lot mechanism that the town has used for some years.

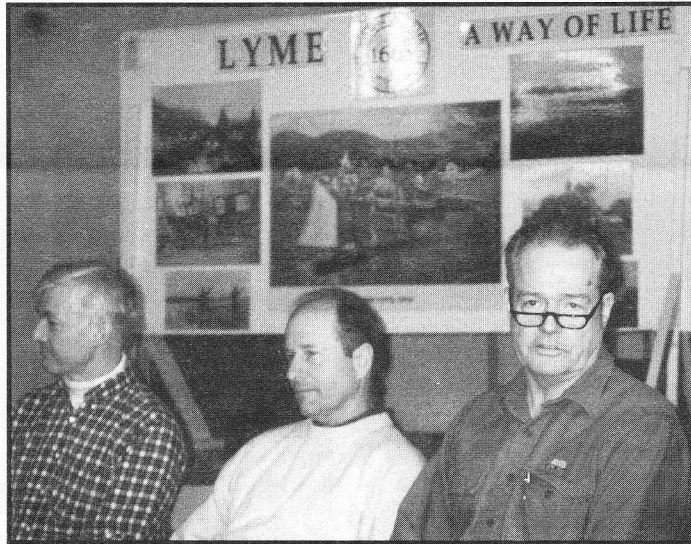
What Should Lyme Do?

In the second part of the workshop, a panel of local officials, Tom Metcalf, and Jim Murphy of the Department of Environmental Protection's Greenways Project, answered questions from the audience. Jim Thach, head of the town's Open Space Committee, urged townspeople to attend meetings so the committee would know what the town wants. He also reported the Committee is looking at the Czikowsky property next to Candlewood Ledge.

First Selectman Ralph Eno noted that residential development does not pay its way, even for the larger houses. Since the property tax is the main source of the town budget, it would be cheaper for residents to support town purchase of open space, than to face the higher costs new development would bring. The town has already begun an annual set-aside of funds for open space acquisition, and Eno was hopeful the state assembly would pass Bill 5684 which would reverse the way the real estate conveyance tax is divided between state and towns. At present it provides few funds, but could potentially yield funds on the order of \$65,000 a year.

Inland Wetlands Chairman Don Gerber explained that wetlands are not determined solely by the presence of water, but that soil types and certain plants, such as skunk cabbage, were more reliable indicators. A permit is needed to do anything in a wetland within the 100 foot setback, although many activities are in fact allowed.

Frank Skwarek reported that the town will be updating its plans and regulations over the next two years. Bill Koch of the Planning and Zoning Committee was also a panel member.



From left, Jim Murphy, first selectman Ralph Eno, and James Thach, panelists at the workshop.

program, Frank Skwarek seconded this by saying that although most of Lyme's area is zoned for two or three acre lots, in fact soil tests and other considerations require most lots to be five acres or more.

Furthermore the state plan of development does not identify Lyme as an area for priority development, but regards the town as having important resources which should be protected. Likewise the town plan of development focuses on preservation of resources and retention of rural character.

What is Rural Character?

Krause concluded by urging Lyme residents to define what they considered the problem with development. What do they fear? Are more people the problem? More

MURPHY URGES RESOURCE ASSESSMENT

Building on the themes of the winter forum, James Murphy, who also participated in the forum, spoke at the Annual Meeting in June of the process in which the town will update its master plan as mandated by the state.

Murphy has long experience with planning and environmental organizations and is currently director of the Greenway Project of the state Department of Environmental Protection. He noted that the state now requires towns to consider greenways in their plans as a way to address conservation issues.

The mandate to protect the health, safety and welfare of its citizens calls upon towns to address a wide variety of issues, from flood and erosion control, housing, open space, police, fire, waste treatment, public works, education, welfare, water quality and more. These could be subsumed as community, cultural and natural requirements which need to be brought into balance in the planning process. Too often plans focus on one or two parts of this continuum, tending in particular to neglect the conservation values that are essential for the long term health of the community.

To achieve community goals, a variety of tools have been developed, such as zoning, technical assistance, training, research, acquisition and more. But, warned Murphy, don't isolate a problem and jump to a solution. The solution to one problem may only create another problem. All elements must be considered in their interrelationship.

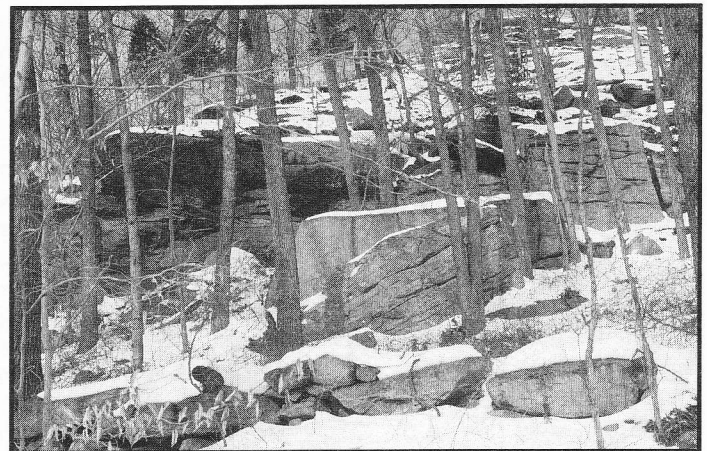
How does one do this? The process begins with a vision of what the town should be. The next step is a detailed inventory of resources, natural, cultural, historical. What are the assets which make Lyme distinctive? There needs to be evaluation of these resources, and establishment of goals. Finally, determine how to reach the goals - the implementation of the plan.

Murphy complemented Lyme on the way it has managed in the past and urged careful scrutiny of our resources for future protection. He suggested a number of additional tools that the town should also consider: setting standards for site design; preservation of historic houses and hamlets; establishment of minimum buildable land regulations, which Lyme has; increase of setbacks from streams and wetlands to 200 feet; use of cluster development (which the town currently allows, but is seldom used); establishment of a land acquisition fund (which the town has just initiated).

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

There will be several vacancies on the Board of the Land Trust next spring. You may put forward your own name or suggest a friend. The Trust seeks people able to give some time to fulfill the obligations of the trust in terms of stewardship, education, acquisition of property or easements, publicity, fundraising and other functions of a small, all-volunteer non-profit organization.

We try to attain a geographic distribution in the town, and a variety of backgrounds, either professional or volunteer. Please send us a few paragraphs summarizing your experience, length of time in the town, and reasons for wishing to join the board. Include phone number. Send to Box 1002, Old Lyme, Ct. 06371



Among Lyme resources; views, historic houses, wetlands, unusual terrain.



A bird place.

SONG OF A BIRD WATCHER IN LYME

Recently George and Cynthia Willauer had a bread-and-butter letter, in the form of a diary, from a friend who used their house in June while they were away. Two years ago the Willaunders, with Melvin Woody and Marilyn Schmitt, donated a conservation easement on about 60 acres adjacent to the Nehantic Forest. The Willaunders have shared the letter, and we quote the sections on birds. The variety, and rarity of some, speak to the importance of this huge and varied habitat.

Thursday: The first welcome on your deck was, of course, the wren. Then nearby, Titmouse families, Chipping Sparrows, the fidgety Gnat Catcher, in the forest a Wood Peewee, Red-eyed Vireo. Heard a new bird calling in the Larch by the driveway, waited, looking up. An Indigo Bunting.

Friday: A Hummingbird tapped on the window at 10:15. Outside I hear an Oriole, watched Swallows swooping over the meadow. Just had to sit outside, facing south. Within 30 seconds, saw Chipping Sparrows, two Kingbirds, the Wood Peewee, which landed in the Larch, as did a Bluebird, which then fluttered to the lawn 20 feet away. Later, a Broad-Winged Hawk called and flew over the house flashing his three-black-bars tail. Heard your Indigo Bunting again. Must be nesting nearby. This is his border patrol.

Saturday: The Red-eyed Vireo, more heard than seen, flew in the Maple. He repeats that phrase 5-10 minutes, with

barely a pause between. A Blue-winged Warbler, buzzing, worked its way up your drive, but remained hidden. Heard the gangle trill of a Woodpecker - yes, the misnamed Red Breasted, but red-capped, zebra-backed. Heard the Phoebe, saw the Oriole.

At 2:50, heard half a "Drink your tea", and the Towhee landed in the Larch, flew off. Went out jogging without my binoculars, and, of course, the Blue-winged (warbler) flew into the lilac just for me.

Tuesday night at 10:00, the Whip-poor-will was calling. Full moon.

Wednesday: Heard the Woodthrush, Veery, the "Teacher, Teacher" of the Ovenbird. A Tree Swallow is nesting in the first Bluebird box on the drive.

Thursday: Was awakened at 5:00 by the Wren. The first Bluebird fledglings have speckled breasts, blue flight feathers, are almost full sized. At noon, (by the stream), heard the "Click! Chirr Shring" of the White-eyed Vireo; a Barn swallow was bathing in a pothole next to a six-inch Painted Turtle. Heard a Yellow Warbler, spotted several Gnat Catchers and two Waxwings. Heard our first Field Sparrow in years. From the deck, we watched Bluebirds imitating Creepers by landing on tree trunks, saw Gold and Purple (?) Finch. At the head of your drive, a Yellow-throated Vireo.

Saturday: Turning into your drive, a cock pheasant tip-toed into the tall grass.

JOIN US ON NOVEMBER 7

The Stewardship Committee has plans for opening new public trails as well as undertaking maintenance work at Pleasant Valley Preserve. If you have some time, come and join us for a pleasant outing among the fall colors. Meet your neighbors and help make the beauties of Lyme accessible to its residents.

On Saturday November 7, at 10 a.m., the Land Trust will begin work on what will be a particularly striking trail through rock ridges, vernal pools, hemlock and laurel that will run from the entrance of the Selden Preserve to Mitchell Hill Road. When complete, the new trail, with the existing trails in Selden Preserve could provide a good day's outing. Be among the first to enjoy this exciting terrain.

The Land Trust has taken possession of a hundred acres of the Eno property, and will also create a public trail through this open forested upland off Mt. Archer Road. (See separate story). Date to be set.

Finally, the Pleasant Valley Preserve, which the town is increasingly discovering as a lovely place to walk, needs some hair trimming. In particular, the large field on the west side is becoming overgrown, and needs to be kept open for wild life and views of the hills.

Please call our Stewardship Chairman, Ralph Lewis at 526-8886 for further information.

Sunday: Mother Turkey and five, only, chicks, were pecking on the lawn. Took a quick walk on your Lady Slipper path (have the deer eaten their flowers? We use chicken wire hats to prevent that). Saw and heard two Red-eyed Vireo, a Black and White Warbler, then crashed down to the swirling chocolate waters after a Redstart. I recognized from years ago the plaintive call of the Field Sparrow. To the left of the driveway, a click click halted me. I waited and waited, and an agitated female Blue-Winged (warbler), bug in beak, darted down in the long grass, soon followed by the bright male.

Monday: Took a final stroll towards the single song of the Field Sparrow. Was puzzled by warbler-like sweet notes in the lone old apple tree, and there sat the Indigo Bunting."

HABITAT MANAGEMENT IN NEHANTIC FOREST

Those who walk or drive in the Nehantic State Forest in Lyme, will notice areas that have been cleared of trees or brush, often with piles of brush left lying about in what may look like messy forestry. These are, in fact, deliberate measures to aid wildlife.

The Wildlife Division of the Department of Environmental Protection points out in a Habitat Note that openings in such large stretches of forest are important to help sustain a wider variety of species, by providing food, nesting, resting or brooding sites. The edge areas between the forest and the open spaces are particularly rich in terms of plant variety, in turn encouraging a variety of wildlife species.

"The vegetation in an opening," the report states, "furnishes forage for deer, wild turkey, cottontail rabbits, grouse, song sparrows, broad-winged hawks, flickers and other wildlife. The value of a clearing is increased if it is managed for herbaceous vegetation and shrubs which provide wildlife food and cover. Clearings also attract a variety of insects which some birds are dependent on as a source of protein."

Open spaces can be planned as permanent for grasses and legumes or for a succession of plants and brush. Or if temporary, they can be cut, then allowed to revert to native vegetation or planted with more desirable tree types. In the Nehantic Forest, some areas have been replanted with pine to increase species variety.

The Wildlife Division recommends that open spaces be a half to one acre in size, with an irregular shape, such as an S, to create more edge. If a herbaceous opening is wanted, tree stumps and large rocks should be removed to facilitate periodic maintenance. Early successional-stage conifer patches close to openings can provide protective cover.

If openings are to be kept for herbaceous plants, they can be prepared and seeded as for any other type of planting. Seeds frequently used include ladino clover, bird seed trefoil, rye grass, millet, sorghum, buckwheat and various mixes. In this area, openings generally revert to blackberry, pokeweed, sumac and elderberry, as a first successional stage in forest rejuvenation.

TO OUR READERS

We have sought to find out of town addresses for property owners who do not receive mail in town. If you have been receiving mail at a local box as well as out of town, please let us know, as duplication is a cost to the Land Trust.



Nehantic State Forest.

FALL WALKING TOUR

The Land Trust's Annual Fall Nature Walk will take place on Saturday, October 31 (Halloween), at 10 a.m. in the Nehantic State Forest. While many people have walked in this wonderful stretch of country, the professional knowledge of Land

Trust Board Members Anthony Irving and Ralph Lewis will point out some special features.

Take Keeney Road off Beaverbrook Road to the parking lot on the right just inside the park, which starts where the paved road becomes dirt. Rain date on Sunday November 1.

TREASURER'S REPORT

For 1997, as in 1996, operating income exceeded expenses, enabling the Land Trust to add the surplus to the Acquisition Fund.

In 1998, we are budgeting additional funds for Education and Stewardship activities. While most categories of the Operating Budget remain about the same as in prior years, there are, relatively, some significant changes. Insurance reflects a double premium. Other includes \$1200 for a required audit opinion which was subsequently waived by the State. Lower Interest is a matter of timing. It is noteworthy that Matching Gifts have doubled over the past two years from \$590 to \$1245.

Membership continued to grow each year and results so far for 1998 suggest another record year. Similarly Land Owned by the Land Trust has increased significantly through the first eight months of 1998.

Thanks to the generosity and support by the residents of Lyme, the Land Trust had a good year in 1997 and is looking forward to an even better 1998.

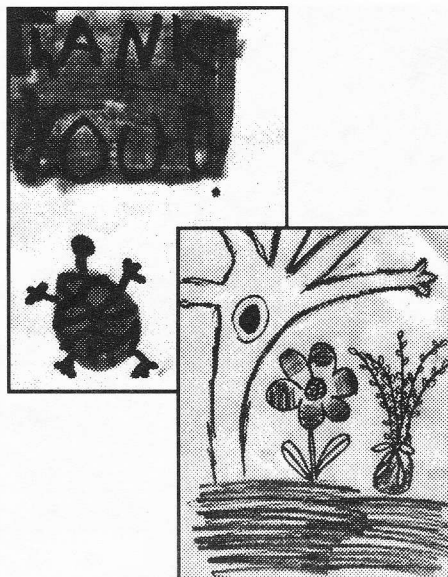
Robert W. Barney, treasurer

Operating Budget			
	1996	1997	Plan 1998
INCOME			
Dues	\$9,415	\$10,740	\$10,740
Interest	3,369	3,907	650
Matching Gifts	590	820	1,245
Other	1,000	400	600
Total	\$14,374	\$15,867	\$13,235
EXPENSES			
Programs	\$2,448	\$2,685	\$2,675
Education	222	400	450
Stewardship	75	106	300
Assn. dues	575	600	575
Insurance	838	0	1,700
Postage	670	933	995
Other	831	851	2,385
Total	\$5,659	\$5,575	\$9,080
Surplus (deficit)	8,715	10,292	4,155
Operations Data			
Membership	392	423	-
Land acres owned	301	304	-
Land acres, easement	805	977	-

SCHOOL OUTING LEARNS ABOUT NICHES

Last spring, the fourth grade at the Lyme Consolidated School had a two hour tour of the Pleasant Valley Preserve under the auspices of the Land Trust, led by Board Member Marilyn Wilkins. The topic of the day was how wild plants and animals each have their own "niche" in the environment. Mrs. Wilkins was rewarded with a stack of warming Thank Yous from the students. She is a former Junior High School science teacher and thoroughly enjoyed the outing.

An added bonus was a small ever-green tree which each student took home as a trophy. Mrs. Wilkins had purchased the trees from the state to replace dying hemlocks, and shared her wealth.



JOIN NOW

If you are not already a member of the Lyme Land Conservation Trust, won't you consider joining. Send tax deductible contributions to Box 1002, Lyme CT 06371. Be sure to include name and address.

Senior	\$5.00
Family	20.00
Contributing	50.00
Individual	10.00
Subscribing	25.00
Sustaining	100.00

Contributions to the Stewardship / Acquisition Fund also welcome. Consider including the Land Trust in your will.

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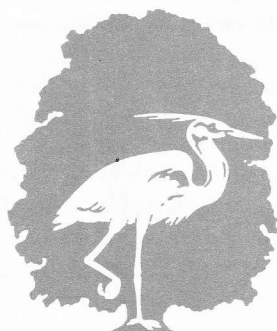
L. Robert Wood

The Lyme Land Trust Bulletin

is published several times a year by the Lyme Land Conservation Trust, Inc. as a matter of interest to its membership and to the general public in Lyme. Readers are invited to direct questions and suggestions to Joan Rich, Editor, at 434-7091.

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