

# LYME LAND TRUST BULLETIN

The Lyme Land Conservation Trust

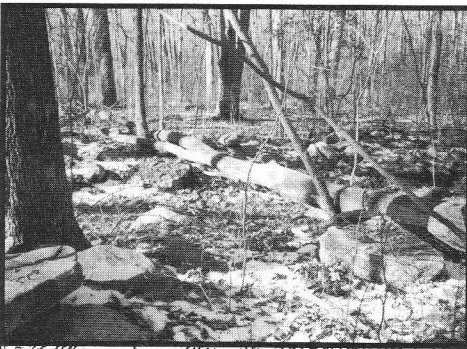
Spring 2003

## EMERSON EASEMENT PROTECTS UNFRAGMENTED FOREST

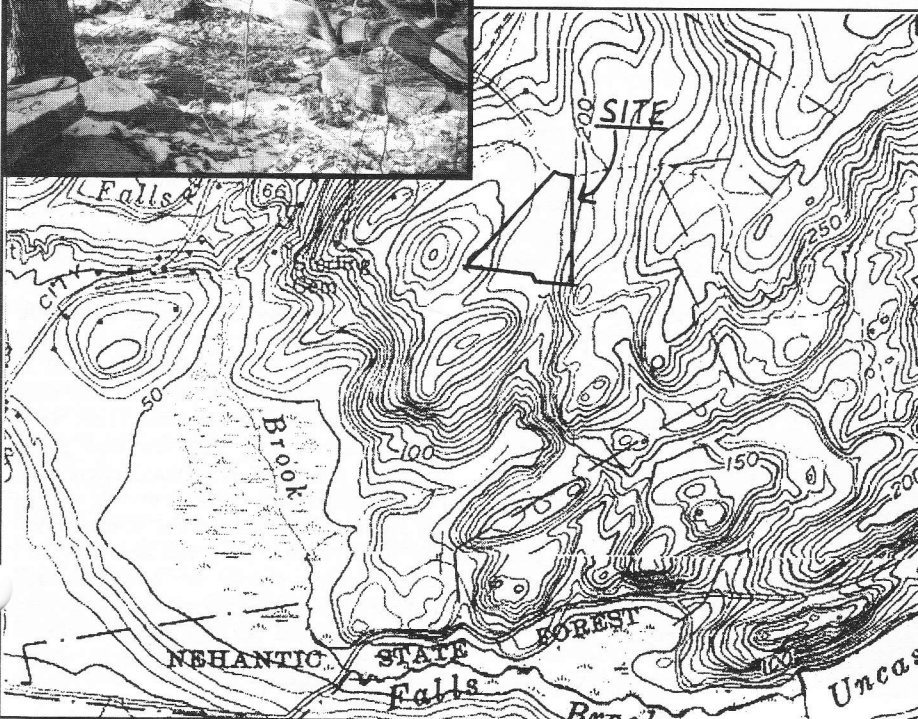
In December 2002, the Lyme Land Conservation Trust received a conservation easement from Gertrude Emerson on a 12.13 acre parcel off Sterling Hill Road. The easement ensures that the parcel will remain undeveloped, that its plants, animals and natural communities will be conserved and its ecological integrity will be maintained. "My Harding ancestors helped settle Lyme and I've lived here all my life," said Trudy Emerson. "I only wish I had more land, so I could protect more of Lyme."

About half the parcel contains wetlands and the remainder is upland woodlands and outcrops. Shrubs dominate the wetlands and include highbush

blueberry, winterberry, spicebush and sweet pepperbush. Red maple and mountain laurel dominate the wetland edges and lower uplands. These give way to an upland forest 40 - 60 years old. The forest contains a mixture of various hardwoods such as oak, maple, black cherry, hickory and black birch. Catbriar and the non-native invasive shrub, barberry, are found throughout the uplands. The numerous stone walls suggest the parcel had been used historically for pasturing. The easement on this parcel ensures a larger forest area will remain unfragmented because it abuts the Nehantic State Forest and the Newburg-Aidenoff parcels held by the Land Trust.



*This wooded setting is typical of the Emerson Easement. The property is located just east of Sterling City Road as shown on the map.*



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Town purchase of the Mount Archer Farms property may be the defining event in charting Lyme's rural future. Why is this one piece of property so pivotal? Lyme is one of the few towns in southeastern Connecticut where much of the landscape is relatively unfragmented and large blocks of property still exist. Piecing together these blocks, including the nearly 300-acre Mount Archer piece is ultimately easier and less expensive than cobbling together many smaller ones.

Once these big pieces go, there is no getting them back. With 27 lots scheduled for development, the Mount Archer property would be forever changed, as would the protected properties directly

*"Please come to the meeting  
and vote YES..."*

*If we don't get this land now,  
we'll lose it forever."*

surrounding it as well as those not far removed. Biological integrity would be compromised by the presence of 27 homes in the midst of an otherwise unbroken landscape. Although the plan calls for the development's owners to retain two house sites, every effort was made to choose lots that would least impact the balance of the open space parcel.

Let's look at how these blocks fit together. With Mount Archer Farms' proximity to other open space parcels protected by the state, Land Trust and The Nature Conservancy, a mosaic of 2,200 acres of protected lands runs west to east from Joshua Creek to Nehantic State Forest. To the north are other protected properties that total around 1,200 acres. When added to properties targeted for protection, we are committed and realistically hope to create a contiguous open space block of over 4,500 acres within the next five years.

Purchasing the Mount Archer Farms property is key to whether this becomes a reality. A look at Lyme's open space map in the 2001 Plan of Conservation and

*continued on page 2*

*PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE continued from page 1*

Development shows the critical location of this parcel. Breaking it up into 27 house sites will not only fragment this forest block, but will immediately create an atmosphere favorable to other large, multi-lot developments. Lyme has traditionally been viewed as a difficult place for developers. A substantial subdivision on the Mount Archer parcel would send a clear and visible statement to the development community that the town is unable to enforce the spirit of its Plan of Conservation and Development that so strongly supports open space protection.

Half of the Mount Archer property falls within the Eightmile River watershed that is currently under study for potential inclusion in the federal government's Wild and Scenic River program. The Eightmile River and its watershed is one of the least impacted in Connecticut. There is no industrial or commercial development and residential incursion is minimal. Its habitat value is further enhanced by its rural proximity to the Connecticut River and Long Island Sound giving it unique habitat values that are fast disappearing from the coastal northeast. With its location at the mouth of the Eightmile River watershed, development of the Mount Archer parcel would compromise the long-term conservation value of the system.

The Mount Archer Farms development is a warning of a future vastly different than what we see today. New population and development pressures give testament to the changes taking place in southeastern Connecticut. Financially this opportunity may not come along again. The down economy not only affects budgets in Hartford, but across the board for those institutions and individuals who have been generous in the past. Without outside financial support, the burden of future acquisitions will fall directly upon the town. The good news for the Mount Archer property is that we are expecting a \$750,000 grant from the state that goes a long way towards meeting the \$2,275,000 purchase price.

Town ownership of the property

using state funding guarantees its public use for passive recreation and that it will remain forever in an undeveloped state. Its accessibility, unbroken woodlands, large size and connection to adjoining open space enhance these recreation values. Imagine some day a trail system linking Hartman Park with Selden Creek. And the property is critical to preserving the visual character of the town as it relates to development incursion and ridgeline protection. Adding these benefits to its proximity to the Eightmile River and other open space parcels makes acquisition key to preserving one of the last, near-coastal forests in the northeast.

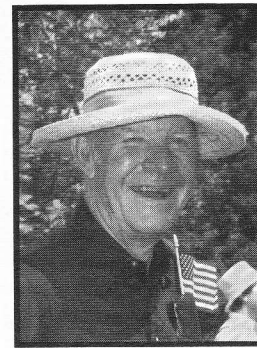
Boards, commissions, town government and the public have all worked hard to preserve the rural quality and character of the area. Until this proposal, the largest development to gain approval in town was six lots. Lyme is particularly blessed with the many landowners who see the value of their property for its contribution to the natural landscape rather than its development potential. Much has already been done to preserve Lyme's rural character. The Land Trust alone holds 49 easements and owns 27 parcels

*"The Mount Archer Farms development is a warning of a future vastly different than what we see today."*

totaling around 2000 acres. All but four of these were donated to the trust. And this does not include the many properties gifted and sold for protection to the town, The Nature Conservancy and the state for a grand total of over 7000 acres. This conservation ethic is further demonstrated by the over 600 households that are members of the Lyme Land Conservation Trust. In a town of about 1250 households this represents a remarkable involvement in conservation issues.

We need your help to make the Mount Archer Farms acquisition a reality. A town meeting will be scheduled in March to ask residents to approve funding for the project. Please come to the meeting, and please vote YES! This is a one-time opportunity: if we don't get this land now, we'll lose it forever. And, equally disturbing, we will signal a weakening of our resolve to protect that which defines our rural character and our legacy for future generations.

*Anthony Irving*



**RUFUS BARRINGER**

1923 - 2002

by  
*John E. Friday, Jr.*

For many years Rufus Barringer and the Lyme Land Conservation Trust were thought of as being pretty much one and the same thing. Rufus, who died last November at age 79, was president of the LLCT from the mid-1980s until the mid-1990s, and during most of that time it was my privilege to serve as his vice president.

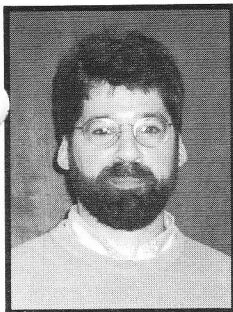
In the course of Rufus's administration, the LLCT became a significant part of the land conservation and open space activities in Lyme. During that period the real estate development boom and subsequent bust occurred. Prospective developers bought up as much land as they could and submitted plans for subdividing it to the various regulatory bodies in Lyme, only to find that they were required to designate significant portions of their land as open space for conservation purposes. The land so designated had to be turned over to an independent, tax-exempt organization. For many years the only body that met that criterion in Lyme was the LLCT, and a good bit of intelligent diplomacy on its part, mostly exercised by Rufus on its behalf, was called for.

Throughout his tenure Rufus believed that the Board of Directors of the LLCT should be comprised of a representative group of Lyme's residents, in order that fair judgments be rendered. Owing largely to the wide acquaintance Rufus and Sharlie, his wife of many years, had and Rufus's personal integrity and reputation for fairness, the LLCT was, and still is, able to attract a broad range of vigorous directors and potential donors of both land and money.

Rufus was a consummate outdoorsman, actively pursuing hunting, fishing, sailing and canoeing, as well as such sports as tennis and pool; but conservation and the Lyme Land Trust were always high on his list. The two presidents of the LLCT who succeeded him, Hiram Maxim and Anthony Irving, sought his advice frequently in the years following his departure from the Board. What's more, shortly before he was informed that he hadn't many more months to live, he told me that he was about to throw his hat in the ring and rejoin the LLCT Board of Directors.







**INTERVIEW  
WITH  
KEVIN  
CASE**  
*DIRECTOR,  
EIGHTMILE RIVER  
WATERSHED WILD  
& SCENIC STUDY  
COMMITTEE*

Kevin Case has been hired by the National Park Service (NPS) as the new Director for the Wild & Scenic Study Committee. Lyme Land Trust Board Member, Linda Bireley, recently interviewed him.

Mr. Case received a B.S. degree in finance from Bentley College, just outside of Boston. After almost a year working for the Farmington River Watershed Association (FRWA), he was inspired to return to college to study natural resource planning, receiving a M.S. in this field from the University of Vermont in Burlington in 1994. He returned to the Farmington river as staff for the FRWA and became Executive Director in 1996. He lives with his wife and two children in Winchester CT.

**Linda Bireley (LB):** Have you had any prior experience with Wild and Scenic River designation? Tell us a bit about that experience.

**Kevin Case (KC):** Yes, I had experience with Wild & Scenic River designation while I was with FRWA in the early 1990's and during my tenure as Executive Director at FRWA. Thus I was involved during both the study process to determine if a river should be designated Wild & Scenic and the post designation management phase that has been under way on the Farmington River since 14 miles were designated in 1994.

During the study process to determine if a river or river segment should become part of the national Wild & Scenic Rivers System you basically try to determine two things: (1) Is the river "eligible"? Meaning, what are the resources that make this river unique from a regional, state or national perspective? and (2) Is Wild & Scenic designation "suitable"? Meaning, is there a comprehensive plan to protect the resource and the local interest to support the plan and Wild & Scenic designation?

The important thing about the Wild & Scenic study process is that it is a bottom-up approach. Local communities must show not only interest but also commitment in protecting the resource if designation is going to work. While designation does provide strong federal protection from projects that require

federal permits or funds that could adversely affect the outstanding resources of the river, it does not influence local or state regulatory roles and responsibilities. That is why it is so important that local communities are involved in the study process and show a strong commitment to protect the resource if designation is ultimately desired.

My major experience with Wild & Scenic is after designation. For five years I was a member of the Farmington River's post designation management committee called the Farmington River Coordinating Committee (FRCC), which oversees the implementation of the river corridor management plan that was developed during the study process. This is where I see the unsung strength of Wild & Scenic designation.

The NPS has stayed involved as a member of FRCC providing staff support and funding to implement the management plan. As a result, the Committee has been able to do great things to help the towns with river resource issues including storm water management assistance, river bank stabilization along town roads, and GIS based natural resource inventories for open space and land use planning.

**LB: Why did you apply for the position with the Eightmile River Wild and Scenic Study?**

**KC:** To me, this project is a great opportunity to focus on a substantial natural resource planning and management effort for a truly unique resource in Connecticut. It wasn't easy to leave FRWA and the Farmington River, although after 8 years I felt ready for a new and slightly different challenge. I have a lot of respect for the NPS approach to Wild & Scenic Rivers in the Northeast and looked at this position as a logical next step for me in advancing my knowledge and experience in river management issues. I am very interested in the challenges of balancing land use change and growth with natural resource protection, and the Eightmile Study is a great opportunity to really grapple with such challenges.

**LB: How will the Eightmile River Study Committee proceed?**

**KC:** As I mentioned earlier, there are three main parts to a Wild & Scenic Study - determining "eligibility", determining "suitability" and creating a watershed management plan. The Eightmile River Study Committee that was created to oversee this process has established a number of subcommittees to do this work. They are: natural resource and cultural resource subcommittees that will help in determining "eligibility"; a management protec-

tion planning subcommittee that will develop the management plan for the watershed; and the outreach and education subcommittee which has the key role of keeping the local communities of Lyme, East Haddam and Salem engaged and involved throughout the process.

There will be two final products of the full Study Committee's work. One will be a report to Congress with outcomes for designation based on "eligibility" and "suitability". If the Study Committee recommends designation should be pursued, then the U.S. Congress would have to pass legislation to officially designate the river. The second will be a comprehensive watershed management plan that will establish goals and actions to help ensure the watershed is protected.

**LB: What will your role be with the Eightmile River Wild and Scenic Study?**

**KC:** I will coordinate the project for the NPS.

**LB: What will you coordinate?**

**KC:** I will bring together the various components I described earlier. I'll work with the Study Committee and its chairman Anthony Irving, and Jamie Fosburgh from NPS, to guide the process through in a timely manner. My work will be facilitated by the fact that this Study already has a great start. First, the Study Committee is a very strong as it includes local chief elected officials, members of land use commissions, land trusts, a regional planning agency, the Nature Conservancy, and representatives from CT DEP and the Natural Resource Conservation Service. Secondly, a substantial amount of work has already been completed through the Eightmile Coalition of Lyme, East Haddam and Salem.

**LB: What do you think are the most important factors in achieving Wild and Scenic designation for the Eightmile River?**

**KC:** The communities, in this case the three towns of Lyme, East Haddam and Salem, are the ones that must ultimately decide if designation is right for the Eightmile River. As such, the single most important factor is community involvement and commitment to protecting the river resources.

Second, developing a comprehensive and meaningful watershed management plan that is supported by the three Towns is a must. It is critically important that the community and

*continued on page 7*

## WHY ARE WETLANDS IMPORTANT?

Wetlands, which are water-saturated lands with characteristic soils and plant and animal communities, provide many benefits to both humans and fish and wildlife.

Human communities benefit from a variety of "services" wetlands provide including flood and storm protection, erosion control, ground water recharge and water filtration.

Wetlands (e.g. salt and freshwater marshes) can temporarily store floodwaters from storms, thereby protecting property owners from flood damage and destructions. In fact, over time, such

flooding helps create wetlands. When wetlands "store" floodwaters, the flow of the water slows, reducing the water's erosion capabilities and, ultimately, controlling the amounts of water reaching streams, rivers and estuaries.

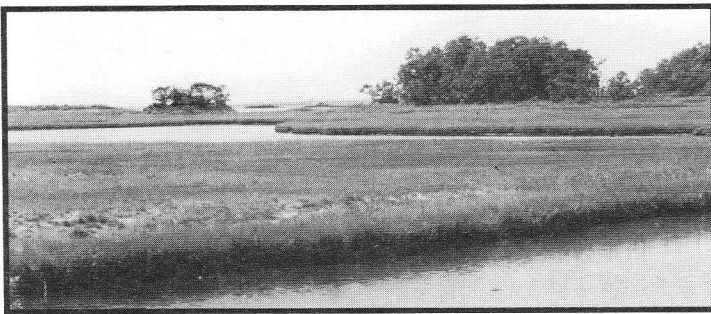
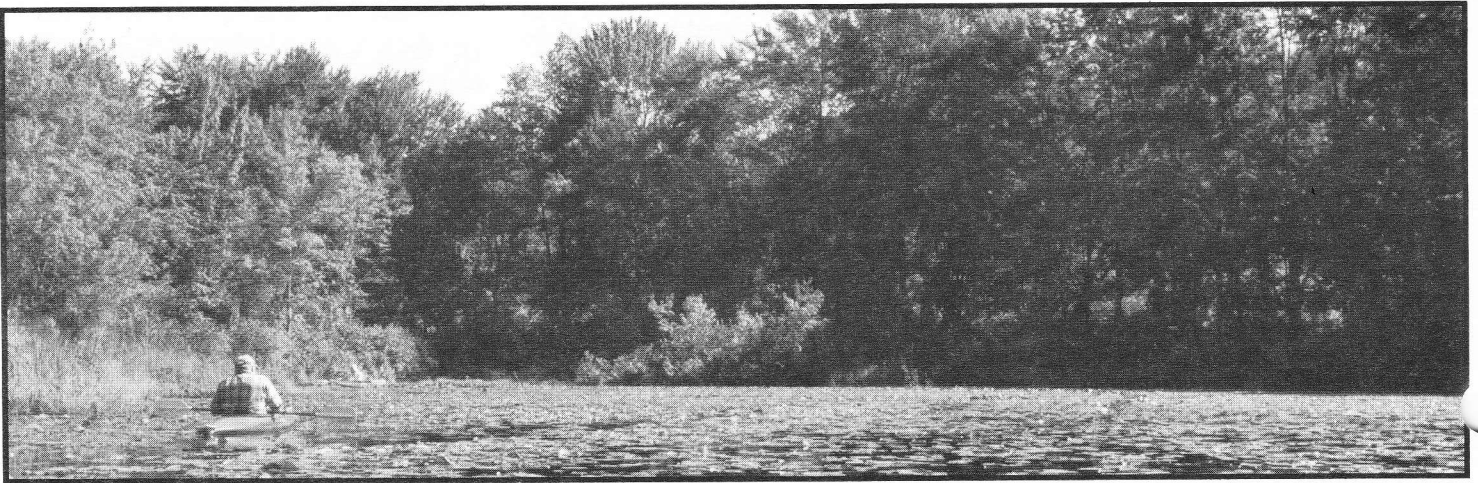
Wetlands can protect soil from eroding in other ways. The roots of wetland plants bind soils and sediments, strengthening a shoreline or riverbank. This reduces its susceptibility to erosion due to the effect of waves or the velocity of the current. Trees make the best stabilizers of riverbanks because their multiple root systems bind with the soil creat-

ing a denser soil that resists erosion. Grasses and grasslike plants withstand wave action.

Many wetlands serve to recharge large areas of groundwater, some of which provide water for public use. The recharge potential of wetlands varies according to many factors, including wetland type.

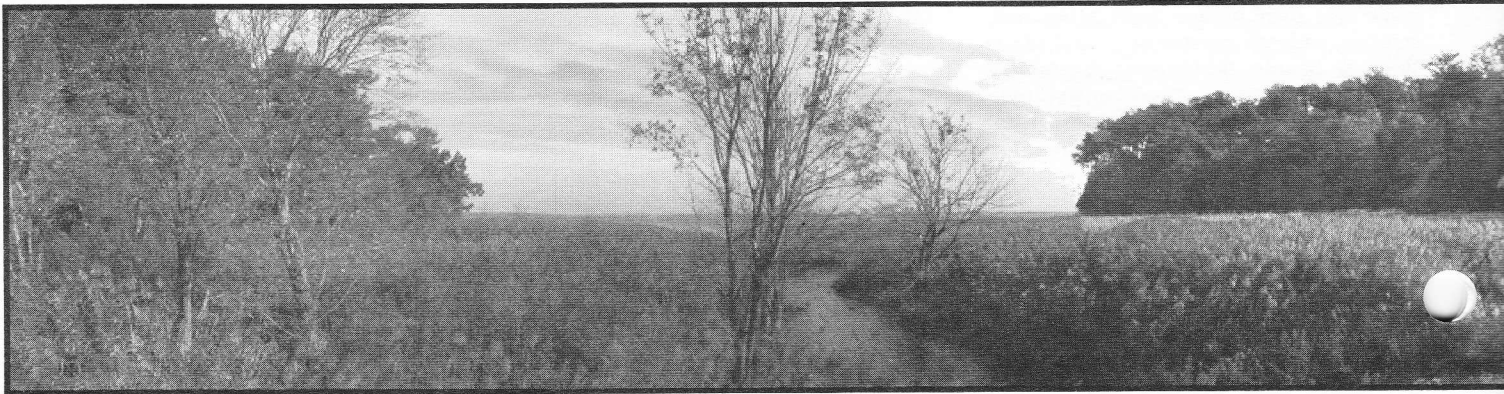
Wetlands intercept and filter runoff from land. Wetland vegetation removes sediments, nutrients, chemicals and organic pollutants from the water, improving water quality, which benefits not only humans but also fish and wildlife.

Fish and wildlife also benefit from important wetland "services". Food and cover



*Wetlands examples (clockwise from upper left):*

- ◆ *Freshwater wetland at the edge of Moulson Pond*
- ◆ *Freshwater wetland along the Eightmile River*
- ◆ *Freshwater tidal wetland, draining to Connecticut River*
- ◆ *Brackish water wetland, draining to the Potomac River, Virginia*
- ◆ *Saltwater tidal wetland, draining to Long Island Sound*

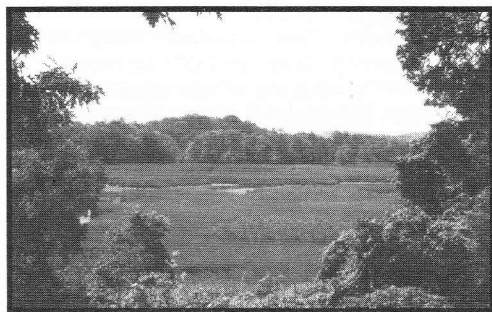
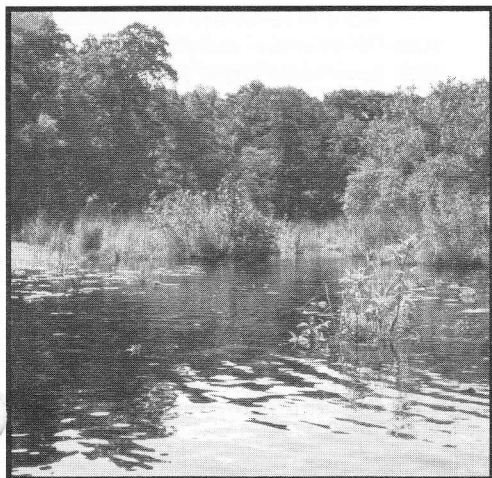




## THE THRILL OF THE HUNT

are provided by shrubs like highbush blueberry, winterberry, spicebush and sweet pepperbush. Fish and amphibians use the waters of wetland habitats for reproduction. In fact, more than one-third of the United States' threatened and endangered species live only in wetlands, and nearly half use wetlands at some point in their lives.

Wetlands make extraordinary contributions to our water quality, economy, recreation, environmental health, and fish and wildlife. To learn more about wetlands, visit: [www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/](http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/).



Many of us enjoy the outdoors just for the pleasure of getting in touch with the living earth around us by noting, observing and appreciating the plants and animals in their natural environment. However, who can resist the allure of a treasure hunt? Well, there are two activities that combine the pleasure of exploring the great outdoors with the thrill of hunting for treasure. These entertaining adventure games are called Letterboxing and Geocaching (pronounced "geo cashing"). The objective of both is to find a location in remote or scenic places where someone else has hidden items in weatherproof containers. In Letterboxing you follow clues to the location while in Geocaching you enter the coordinates of the hidden location into a global positioning satellite (GPS) receiver and attempt to locate the place "on the ground", which sounds easier than it is.

### LETTERBOXING

Each Letterbox holds a logbook and pen or pencil and a rubber stamp and stamp pad (see figure, lower right). Letterbox enthusiasts carry their own logbook and pen or pencil and personal stamp and pad. Upon finding a Letterbox, Letterboxers will use the found stamp to impress their own book noting the date and Letterbox name, and leave their own stamp impression in the Letterbox logbook with the date of their visit. Artistic Letterboxers design and even carve their own stamps.

The hider of the Letterbox distributes clues to its location. Clues can be easy to difficult; and finding a Letterbox may require a combination of skills such as map reading, orienteering, and puzzle-solving. The more clever Letterboxers devise witty or challenging clues to the location of the boxes they've hidden. Clues can be found at sporting goods stores (ask at Eastern Mountain Sports in the Waterford Mall) or the internet ([www.letterboxing.org](http://www.letterboxing.org)).

Believe it or not there are at least 136 Letterboxes in New London County. Lyme and East Haddam have 30 Letterboxes between them including some in Hartman Park and the Selden, Pleasant Valley and Eno Preserves! So find a small notebook, stamp and pad, pen and a set of clues and check it out! See [www.letterboxing.org/ma/ctse](http://www.letterboxing.org/ma/ctse) for clues.

### GEOCACHING

Like Letterboxing, Geocaching is an entertaining adventure game, but with a high tech twist. Enthusiasts use a global position satellite (GPS) receiver, one of those gadgets that can tell where it is anyplace on the face of the earth (within about 6-20 feet), to help find a hidden cache. Hunting for a Geocache is a good way to take advantage of the wonderful

features and capability of a GPS unit, but it's best to know how to use a GPS receiver first! Basic instruction on how to use a GPS unit can be found in the book "GPS Made Easy: Using Global Positioning Systems in the Outdoors", available from [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com).

A Geocache includes at least a logbook. The logbook contains information from the founder of the cache and notes from the cache's visitors. The logbook can contain much valuable, rewarding, and entertaining information. A logbook might contain information about nearby

attractions, coordinates to other unpublished caches, and even jokes written by visitors. The rule is: if you get some information from a logbook you should give some back. At the very least you can leave the date and time you visited the cache. Larger

caches may contain any number of more or less valuable items. These items turn the cache into a true treasure hunt. You never know what the founder or other visitors of the cache may have left there. Items in a Geocache could include maps, books, software, hardware, CD's, videos, pictures, money, jewelry, tickets, tools, games, etc. Remember, if you take something, it's only fair for you to leave something in return.

Individuals and organizations have set up caches all over the world and share the locations of these caches on the internet ([www.geocaching.com/hideseek/](http://www.geocaching.com/hideseek/)). There are 23 Geocaches within a 20 mile radius of Old Lyme and 154 in a 50 mile radius! So, from the website, select the Geocache you want to find, enter the location coordinates or "waypoint" into your GPS unit and "go to" the coordinates to find it!

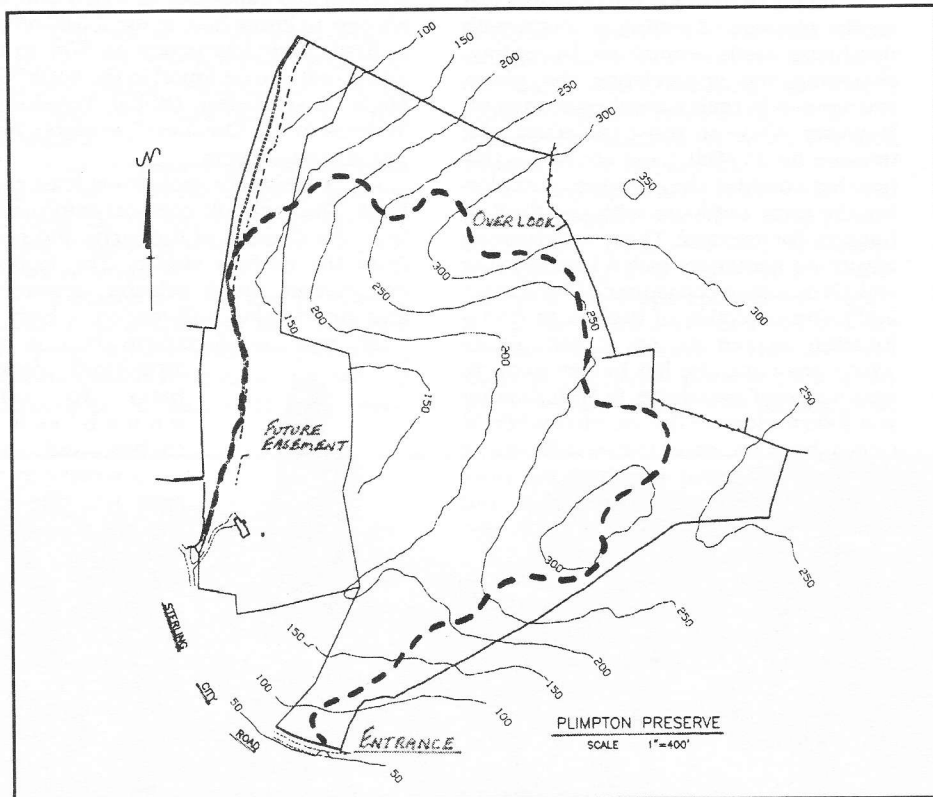


Typical Handheld GPS Unit



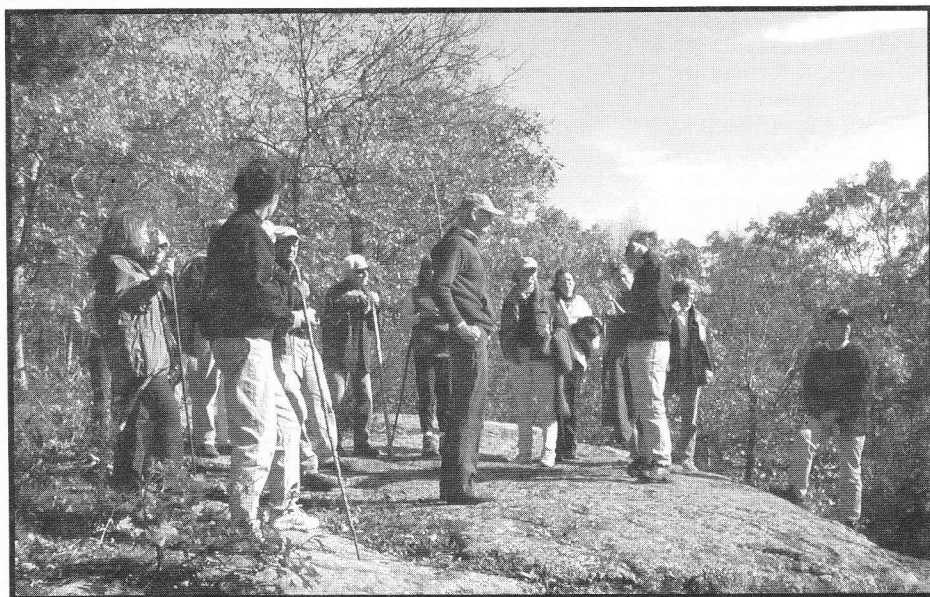
Some materials to put together a letterbox: a stamp, a small notebook and a waterproof container.

## PLIMPTON TRAIL



Since Elizabeth Plimpton Memorial Preserve on Sterling City Road was dedicated last spring, the Lyme Land Trust Stewardship committee worked diligently to create, clear and mark a trail on the property. On October 27, 2002, ecologist Anthony Irving led a group of 20 people on an inaugural walk on the Plimpton Preserve Trail.

The trail entrance is about ¼ mile from the Lyme Congregational Church on the north side of Sterling City Road. The trail works its way along the property's perimeter to the top of the first of two hills, a 150 foot rise from Sterling City Road. From there the trail drops down before meandering its way up to the second hill and Overlook at an elevation of 370 feet. From here you can see Hamburg Cove, the Connecticut River and the north shore of Long Island. At one time these hills were in open pastureland - imagine the incredible views both near and far. Descending from The Overlook, the trail joins an old historic road bed and returns to Sterling City Road. The trail is open to the public all year.



## LYME LAND CONSERVATION TRUST LEADS STATE

More Lyme residents join their land trust, as a percentage of the town population, than residents in any other town or city in the State. In 2002, the Lyme Land Conservation Trust reported 612 dues-paying members. With a Town population of 2000 this represents 30% of the Town's population or 50% of its households. This demonstrates a high commitment to Lyme's rural character, its woodlands and waters and to the conservation of its fish, wildlife and natural habitat. Fully one third of Lyme's 21,000 acres are protected against development by easement or State, Town or Land Trust ownership.

Six towns in the state boast land trusts with more members, but all of them have vastly larger populations than Lyme. Guilford leads the list with 1,500 followed by Greenwich, Southbury, Woodbridge, Simsbury and New Canaan. As a percent of population, Roxbury ranks second with 19.4% of its population supporting the land trust, followed by Colebrook, Warren, Norfolk and Sharon. Of

*The fact that 50% of Lyme households belong to the Land Trust demonstrates a high commitment to Lyme's rural character.*

the towns in our area, Old Lyme ranks second with 6% of its population as dues-paying members of its land trust followed by Essex, East Haddam, Deep River, Westbrook, Salem and Old Saybrook.

In addition to the statistics for 84 towns reported by the Land Trust Service Bureau, there are ten large regional associations with large membership that tend to reduce the members of town land trusts. These are the Housatonic Valley Land Trust, Sleeping Giant Park Association, Aspetuck Land Trust, Greenwich Audubon Society, Connecticut River Watershed Council, Avalonian Land Conservancy, Lillinonah Audubon Society, Joshua's Track Conservation and Historic Trust, Salisbury Association Land Trust Commission and Environmental Learning Centers of Connecticut. Membership in these range in size from 650 to 4,000 members and include people from multiple areas.

The Lyme Land Trust welcomes new members and has a continuing need for candidates for its Board of Directors. Those interested in joining or members interested in serving on the Board should inquire by mail to the Lyme Land Conservation Trust, PO Box 1002, Lyme, CT 06371.



INTERVIEW WITH KEVIN CASE  
continued from page 3

stakeholders reach a common vision for the watershed and help develop a Management Plan, which becomes a roadmap for further action. In this way, when the time comes to put the Plan into action, it is more likely to be successfully implemented.

And third, the communities must demonstrate to Congress their support of river protection through the symbolic commitment of voting for designation in a town meeting. This should be followed by active support of the Management Plan and implementation of its goals and actions for the long term protection of the watershed. For example, the Plan might include committing funds to conserve open space that helps protect river resources, or implementing best development practices for stormwater management in the watershed.

**LB: What can individuals do to help the Eightmile River Wild and Scenic Study?**

**KC:** The Study Committee can certainly use help in the work of the subcommittees in several areas. It will need input from people knowledgeable of the natural and cultural resources in the watershed as the Study Committee crafts its "eligibility" report. The outreach and education subcommittee will need help spreading the word about this effort and the process that is underway. Also the Study Committee will need input from all segments of the community.

**LB: Can anyone serve on a subcommittee or provide input? How would someone let his or her interest be known?**

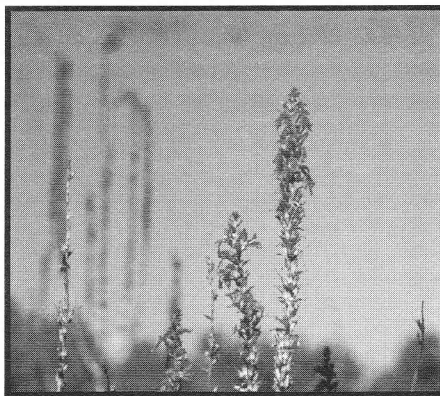
**KC:** Help with the subcommittees is certainly welcome. We've set out an ambitious work plan that certainly could benefit from knowledgeable input. If someone is interested in the Study they can either contact Anthony Irving, the Study Committee Chair, (860)434-2390 or me at (860) 379-0282.

**LB: What can individuals do to help the Eightmile River achieve Wild and Scenic designation?**

**KC:** They should get familiar with the process in more detail, understanding what needs to happen if designation is desired. I know I'm sounding like a broken record, but it so important to let community members know what is going on and, if they are interested in designation, to show support and actively participate in the long-term conservation of the Eightmile River Watershed.

## DOES DIVERSITY PROTECT AGAINST INVASIVE SPECIES?

Many biologists consider continent-hopping alien species the second most important threat to biodiversity after habitat loss. Invasive species like Japanese kudzu and Purple Loostrife have swept over ecosystems from Florida to Australia. Ecologists have long assumed that diverse landscapes should be more resistant to exotic plant invaders, because an array of species does a better



*Purple Loostrife*

job of using up all the available resources like nitrogen and sunlight, which promotes productivity and stability. But new studies suggest that diversity isn't always a shield against invasions.

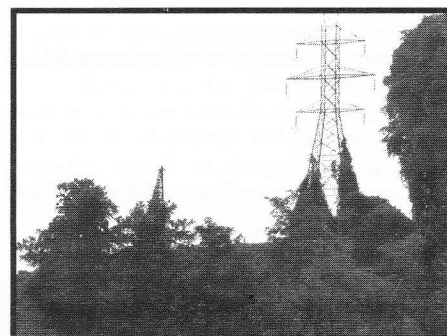
Researchers who examined various global landscapes including the U.S. report that areas that are hot spots of plant biodiversity are sometimes magnets for invading weeds, perhaps because good growing conditions favor both native species and exotics alike. When the researchers examined their data on a larger scale they found that exotic invaders were more numerous in more diverse areas in both grasslands and mountain areas.

A feature of the more diverse areas that could explain why they have so many invaders is that they also have higher levels of nutrients and tend to support denser foliage. Thus resource availability, which sometimes correlates

with diversity, may explain the invasive species success. This also means that high diversity doesn't necessarily protect against invasions.

Other factors may determine the "success" of an "invasion". For example, researchers found that globally, temperate zones have more invasive species than savannahs or deserts. Further, there are more exotic species in high visitation nature reserves, suggesting that how often exotic seeds are introduced to an area is as important to their invasive capability as the growing conditions in the new territory. Finally, invasive species frequently have far fewer parasites and less illness to contend with than their native competitors.

Research is ongoing to develop models that help predict which species are likely to be successful invaders. However, because efforts to control invasive species are usually expensive and must be performed in perpetuity, there is an urgent need to focus on prevention and diversity itself may not be as protec-



*Japanese Kudzu*

tive as once assumed. To learn more about invasive species in New England and managing to inhibit their spread visit:

[www.newfs.org/ipane.htm](http://www.newfs.org/ipane.htm)

[www.invasives.eeb.uconn.edu/ipane/](http://www.invasives.eeb.uconn.edu/ipane/)

and

[www.hort.uconn.edu/ipm/](http://www.hort.uconn.edu/ipm/)

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Lyme Land Conservation Trust is always interested in including even more enthusiastic volunteers in the challenging and rewarding work of conserving open space. While there are many tasks to be done, the following are priorities:

### Board of Directors

We have several openings. Board Members are elected at the Annual Meeting (June 7, 2003) and serve a minimum of three years. The Board meets bi-monthly and helps oversee existing properties and acquire new ones. Submit letter of qualifications to Russ Shaffer, Nominating Committee Chair, 434-2527.

### Fish Ladder Monitor

Observe and record findings of fish passing through any of Lyme's three fish ladders. These projects help restore migratory fish to habitats upstream of dams. Call Linda Bireley, Fish Steward, 434-9864.

### Newsletter

Are you a photographer? A writer? We would love to include your work in our Bulletin. Call Linda Bireley, Newsletter Editor, 434-9864.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**March 22, 2003**

### Lyme Land Conservation Trust Spring Workshop

Wind Over Wings with Hope Douglas, Wildlife Rehabilitator, will present a Great Horned Owl, a peregrine Falcon, a Bald Eagle and a Saw-Whet Owl, 10:00 am to 12 noon at the Lyme Public Hall, 249 Hamburg Rd., Lyme, CT.

**June 2, 4, 6 and 7, 2003**

**Lyme Parks & Recreation Fishing Class**  
Contact Ralph Lewis for registration information, 526-8886.

**June 7, 2003**

### Connecticut Free Fishing Day

Get more information at:  
[www.dep.state.ct.us/burnatr/fishing/care/care.asp#FreeFishingDay](http://www.dep.state.ct.us/burnatr/fishing/care/care.asp#FreeFishingDay)

**June 7, 2003**

### East Haddam Hiking Day

Two hikes: Sheepskin Hollow Preserve and Devil's Hopyard. Get more information at:  
[www.thelt.com/ehlt/hiking\\_day\\_-\\_june\\_7,\\_2003.htm](http://www.thelt.com/ehlt/hiking_day_-_june_7,_2003.htm)

**June 13, 2003**

### Lyme Land Conservation Trust Annual Meeting

7 pm, Lyme Public Hall, 249 Hamburg Rd., Lyme, CT.

## USING SNET LONG DISTANCE SUPPORTS THE LYME LAND CONSERVATION TRUST

If you are a SNET long distance subscriber, you can now designate the Lyme Land Conservation Trust to receive, as a donation from SNET, 5% of your monthly long distance charges at no cost to you. Simply call SNET at 1-800-635-7638, give them your 13 digit account number plus the code number 3855, and designate the Lyme Land Conservation Trust to receive the donation.

## 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 a name and address.

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

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

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### *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 Linda Bireley, Editor, at 434-9864.

## LYME LAND CONSERVATION TRUST, INC.

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