

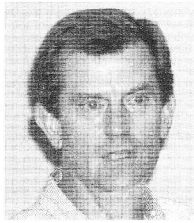
LYME LAND TRUST BULLETIN

Fall 2004

The Lyme Land Conservation Trust

Eightmile Wild & Scenic Community Forums

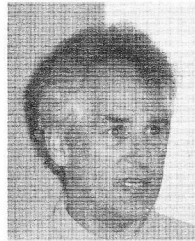
This past May the Eightmile River Wild & Scenic Study Committee held community forums in the Towns of East Haddam, Lyme, and Salem. The forums, which drew over 160 attendees, were an opportunity to present the study findings to date and solicit input on potential strategies to manage and protect the Eightmile's special resources. The Forum held at the Lyme Public Hall on May 18, 2004, attracted over 60 participants.



First Selectman, Bill Koch addresses forum participants.

To kick off the evening Anthony Irving, Committee Chair, briefly explained the three steps of a Wild and Scenic Study: determining eligibility, developing management strategies, and demonstrating community support. The committee has been diligently working through the study process, and the first step—determining eligibility through the identification of Outstanding Resource Values (ORVs)—is almost complete. Kevin Case, National Park Service Study Project Manager, then described the seven ORVs under

consideration including geology, water quality, water quantity, unique species/ natural communities, the watershed ecosystem, archaeology, and possibly the cultural landscape. From work completed to date it is clear that the Eightmile's natural and cultural resources are truly outstanding, therefore the river and its watershed are likely to be eligible for designation. (See accompanying article on page 3 that describes the water quality ORV of the Eightmile.)



Anthony Irving

The remainder of the evening focused on strategies available to



Nearly 70 attended the forum held at the Lyme Public hall on May 18, 2004.

protect the seven ORVs, including development of a locally supported watershed management plan. Nathan Frohling, Committee member and The



Nathan Frohling

Nature Conservancy's Lower Connecticut River Program Director, emphasized that successful resource protection hinges upon community involvement in developing acceptable management strategies, and a strong local commitment to implementation. A watershed management plan is a toolbox that provides communities with strategies to protect resources over the long-term. In the Eightmile, the Committee has begun the first steps of plan development — identifying the major threats to, and current protections of, the seven identified ORVs. The next step is to determine the preferred level of resource protection, and assess if there are gaps between the desired and current levels of protection. Once these gaps are understood, a suite of action oriented recommendations can be developed that focus on achieving the desired levels of resource protection.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Ralph Lewis

One of my grandfather's favorite expressions may be familiar to you. It had to do with change. As he was reading something, often in the New London Day, he would look up and say "the more things change, the more they stay the same". On occasion, he would embellish this with a wink and add "sometimes change is good". Both of these observations pertain to our mission as a land trust. We must anticipate and try to influence change if we are to successfully protect the natural, scenic and historic land and water resources of Lyme. If we are successful, some things won't change, and the changes that do occur have a better chance of being beneficial to us all.

Ironically however, much of what

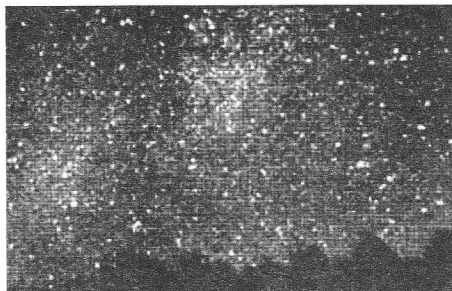
the Lyme Land Conservation Trust has accomplished over the past ten years can be credited to a lack of change. Anthony Irving's tenure as our President provided a steady hand, a vision, and a firm dedication to the work at hand, and allowed us to build on the legacy that was passed down to him from those who went before. For the next two years, the legacy that Anthony so ably enriched will be in my hands, and then it will pass to Linda Bireley. We have much to learn as we move forward in the face of this change. Fortunately, Linda and I can draw on the wisdom and energy of an excellent Board of Directors, but we will need your help and involvement as well.

While the leadership and good council that the present Board can supply is extremely important, our

long-term success is in your hands. The working relationships that Anthony built with many of you are important to us. Linda and I, and all of the members of our Board, would like to hear from you. Contact us, provide your advice, share your concerns, come to our events and introduce yourselves if you do not know us. Most importantly, we need you to get involved in our future. Board vacancies occur each year as members terms come to an end. If you are interested in helping us to influence the nature of change that our children will see in Lyme, please let us know of your desire to serve on our Board Of Directors. If we all do our part, the more Lyme changes the more its natural beauty, land and water resources and cultural heritage will remain the same.

Land preservation protects more than critters

Several of the articles in this issue of the Bulletin pertain to the land and water of the Eightmile River Watershed and efforts related to identifying its positive outstanding resource values and, ultimately, protecting those values through Wild and Scenic designation. However preserving and protecting land can also preserve values that we don't often associate with the land - dark skies at night and quiet. Anne Matthews discussed many of the factors surrounding both of these issues in a recent article "Beyond the Glare and the Blare" in the May/June 2004 issue of "Preservation", the National Trust for Historic Preservation's magazine. She identified the many sources of



Dark skies reveal the universe

non-natural sounds and lights, their impacts on humans and wildlife and various grass roots efforts to control light and noise pollution.

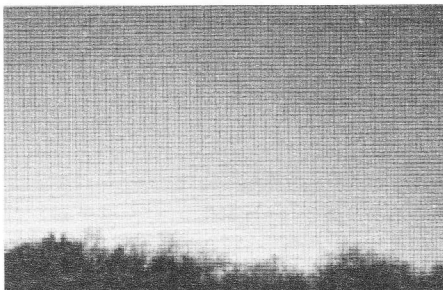
Two events in the last three years resulted noticeable changes in the amount of light and sound that we in the northeast experienced. The most recent was the northeast blackout of August 14, 2003. With the power knocked out, the stars shined brightly in many places where the night sky is normally obscured from the glow of cities over 50 miles away. Ms. Matthews pointed out that last fall when Mars came closer to Earth than any time in recorded history, millions never saw it because of sky glow and glare.

The other event was the grounding of all airplanes after the 9/11 event. In the Northeast Corridor, planes normally fly over about every 5-10 minutes. That sound was absent. Further, in Ms. Matthews' article she reports that in 1984, Gordon Hempton, an acoustic ecologist who won an Emmy for his recording work on the 1992 documentary, *The Vanishing Dawn Chorus*, knew 21 places in Washington State where he could reliably record natural sound for 15 minutes straight. By 1989, he could find only three.

The International Dark-Sky Association (IDA, www.darksky.org) promotes awareness of the problems and solutions of light pollution and the value and effectiveness of quality nighttime lighting. IDA points out

1. Bad lighting is a threat to human health because melatonin production can be suppressed with even brief periods of moderate lighting during the night.
2. Light pollution is a serious threat to many species of wildlife.
3. Glare is a serious safety problem.
4. Light trespass is a violation of property rights.
5. Energy waste is a big problem for all of us. Shielding lights and using lower power reduces both light pollution and energy waste.
6. Protecting our heritage of dark skies must be protected to allow astronomers and the general public to see dark skies filled with thousands of stars and ponder the nature of the unbounded and beautiful universe.

City glow obscures stars



The National Park Service is in the process of establishing baseline data for the natural sounds of American national parks. Sound-related issues range from snowmobiles in Yellowstone to plane and helicopter overflights of other national parks. This data enabled park managers to deduce the impact of human-caused sound on in national parks and develop appropriate policies for preserving natural soundscapes. For more information visit: <http://www.nature.nps.gov/naturalsounds/index.htm>

Certainly there are many ways of protecting dark skies and natural soundscapes. However, preserving open space also helps preserve dark skies and areas that lack the intrusion of sounds caused by humans or human technology.

Eightmile Wild & Scenic Community Forums

continued from page 1

In general, public comments gathered during the forums suggest interest in employing an array of resource protection strategies. A number of possible management alternatives were mentioned, including improving stormwater treatment practices, strengthening local land use regulations, and enhancing river corridor protections. The Committee will continue working with local community members, including land use commissions, watershed landowners, and the public, to develop a locally accepted resource management plan. This fall, the Committee will meet with the land use commissioners to solicit input and guidance on resource management alternatives.

For more information on the Wild & Scenic Study visit our website at www.eightmileriver.org or contact Kevin Case, Study Project Mgr., at 100 East River Rd., PO Box 395, Pleasant Valley, CT 06063, 860.738.1092, kevin_case@nps.gov

LLCT LIST SERVE

The Lyme Land Conservation Trust List Serve allows us another means of communicating with you and for exchanging relevant environmental information. You can subscribe by sending a blank email to lymelandconservationtrust-subscribe@topica.com and you can post an email by addressing it to: lymelandconservationtrust@topica.com. Your email address remains unknown unless you send an email to the list serve and you can easily unsubscribe at any time.

For more information, please go to the Topica website at: www.topica.com. The LLCT looks forward to your participation in this free electronic communication service.

Voting at Essex Savings Bank

Annually, Essex Savings Bank's Community Investment Program gives back 10% of their after-tax net income to nonprofits and community development projects in the communities they serve.

Customer voting takes place during February and the first two weeks of March each year. As a customer of the Bank, you can vote for the LLCT as one of your three favorite causes.

An Eightmile River Watershed Outstanding Resource Value - Water Quality

by Kevin Case, Study Project Manager

This is the first in a series of updates on the Outstanding Resource Values of the Eightmile River watershed.

Healthy river systems can support a myriad of sustainable uses. They provide habitat for unique plants and animals, serve as a drinking water supply, and offer recreational opportunities such as swimming, boating or fishing. The long term sustainability of a river as a resource is, however, strongly tied to the quality of the water flowing through it.

The Eightmile River and its tributaries form a strong and robust river system and excellent water quality is one reason why. In fact, the Committee studying the Eightmile for possible Wild & Scenic designation is considering water quality as one of the watershed's "Outstanding Resource Values." To meet federal standards for Wild & Scenic designation, the Study Committee is now working to show that water quality is not only locally outstanding, but is a unique, rare or exemplary resource for the state as a whole.

To determine just how outstanding the water is in the Eightmile two key factors are under consideration, chemical and biological conditions and current threats to water resources.

One indicator of chemical and biological water quality is the community of bottom-dwelling aquatic organisms known as benthic macroinvertebrates. Because the sensitivity of these organisms to water pollution and habitat change varies, the composition of species found living in a river or stream reflects long-term water quality of that resource.

Benthic macroinvertebrate surveys in the Eightmile indicate that ecological conditions are exemplary in the main stem and very good in the East Branch. The data demonstrate that water quality and aquatic habitat in the Eightmile is not only locally exemplary, but as good as the best rivers studied in the state.

In addition to having outstanding water quality, major threats to water

resources seen in other watersheds are almost nonexistent in the Eightmile. The two primary threats to water quality are point source and nonpoint source pollution. Currently, there are no point source discharges in the Eightmile watershed. Point sources are generally associated with discharge pipes from industrial uses such as wastewater treatment plants or factories.

Nonpoint source (NPS) pollution, on the other hand, can come from any type of land use, including residential, agricultural, industrial and commercial properties. The most common types of NPS pollution are sediments, fertilizers, pesticides, oils and greases. Once contaminants accumulate on impervious surfaces (roads, parking lots, and roofs), residential lawns and agricultural fields they are carried by

stormwater runoff into wetlands, rivers, streams, lakes, and ponds. Because it is so prevalent, the Environmental Protection Agency considers NPS pollution to be a leading cause of river impairment.

One measure of NPS impairment is the amount of impervious cover. Scientific research suggests that in watersheds of up to 10 mi², stream quality can degrade when impervious cover is just 10% of the total area. For certain sensitive aquatic species, such as brook trout, impervious cover of as little as 4% can cause major population declines. Currently, impervious cover in the 88 Eightmile subwatersheds, the largest of which is 4.5 mi², ranges from 2% to 9%.

Based on the key indicators considered, it is clear that the Eightmile presently has exemplary water quality. Now the question is—how can we keep it that way? As part of the Wild & Scenic designation process the Study Committee is working to develop a Management Plan in cooperation with local land use officials and residents. The plan will include an overall water quality goal and recommended actions that can be implemented to meet that goal.



Volunteers assess benthic macroinvertebrates in the Eightmile.



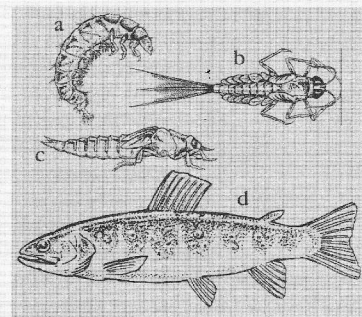
WATER QUALITY PRESERVATION ACTIONS

- ◆ Monitor water quality
- ◆ Minimize impervious surfaces
- ◆ Control NPS pollution
- ◆ Manage stormwater quality
- ◆ Limit new point sources
- ◆ Maintain healthy buffers
- ◆ Provide NPS education

If the Eightmile is designated as a national Wild & Scenic River, a locally led Advisory Committee will promote use of the plan with support and funding from the National Park Service.

For more information on the Wild & Scenic Study visit www.eightmileriver.org or contact

Kevin Case, Study Project Mgr.
100 East River Rd., PO Box 395
Pleasant Valley, CT 06063
Telephone: 860.738.1092
Email: kevin_case@nps.gov



One of the beneficiaries of high quality water is the native brook trout (d).

Also shown are examples of benthic macroinvertebrates: a. Caddisfly larva, b. Mayfly larva and c. Dragonfly larva.



EIGHTMILE RIVER BUMPER STICKERS ARE AVAILABLE

Show your Wild support for the Eightmile!!! Contact Project Manager Kevin Case, and get a free limited edition bumper sticker today.

Improving Fish and Wildlife Habitat on Private Lands

US Department of Agriculture's National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides funds through its Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) to help private landowners improve fish and wildlife habitat on their private lands. This voluntary program encourages creation of high quality wildlife habitats that support wildlife populations of National, State, Tribal, and local significance. The funding provides technical and financial assistance to develop upland, wetland, riparian, and aquatic habitat areas while offering farmers and ranchers an opportunity to meet their production needs in ways that are compatible with providing fish and wildlife habitat.

On August 26, 2004, the NRCS announced that an additional \$600,000 had been allocated to 21 states, in addition to the \$33.3 million announced early this year.

Since WHIP began in 1998, 14,700 participants throughout the United States have enrolled about 2.3 million acres into the program. Connecticut received over \$500,000 for FY 2004 WHIP and has more than 125 contracts ongoing in.

Additional information on WHIP is available at
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/whip>.



Early successional habitat restoration project in Connecticut.

Connecticut Legislation of Interest

Excerpted from the Spring issue of "The Habitat", newsletter of the CT Assoc. of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions

INVASIVE PLANT LEGISLATION 2003 AND 2004: HELP FOR TOWNS AND HOMEOWNERS

Two Public Acts regarding invasive plants have been passed by the Connecticut State Legislature — **An Act Concerning Invasive Plants (PA 03-136)** and **An Act Concerning Fines for Banned Invasive Plants (PA 04-203)**.

The 2003 legislation, PA 03-136, established an Invasive Plants Council of nine people, with representatives from the Department of Environmental Protection, and seven other entities, including two from the nursery industry and described the council's responsibilities and other mechanisms to prevent establishment of invasive plants. It includes a mechanism for banning invasive species. After the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG, <http://www.hort.uconn.edu/cipwg/>) establishes a list of invasive and potentially invasive species using criteria it developed, the Invasive Plants Council reviews a plant's characteristics, history, and economic benefits. Then, if six of the nine council members vote for a ban, it is then brought to the General Assembly. There is an implicit opportunity for members of the public to provide information to the Council in support of (or opposition to) additional bans.

To date the Council has recommended the banning of 60 invasive plants, effective October 1, 2004, and another 20 species to be banned by October 1, 2005. A ban includes the importation, movement, selling, purchasing, transplanting, cultivating, and distribution of those invasive plants. A list of all of the 80 "to be banned" invasive plants can be found in the language of the 2004 legislation, PA 04-203 (<http://www.cga.state.ct.us/2004/act/Pa/2004PA-00203-R00SB-00547-PA.htm>).

PA 03-136 and PA 04-203 also include the following: A mandate that all plant material be removed from boats and trailers transported between waterbodies, and that instruction in proper removal techniques be incorporated into all safe boating courses; from June 26, 2003 until October 1, 2005, no municipality shall adopt any ordinance regarding

the retail sale or purchase of any invasive plant; any person who violates the provisions of this section shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars per plant.

GRASSROOTS EFFORT SUCCESSFULLY OVERCOMES OPPOSITION TO WETLANDS BILL

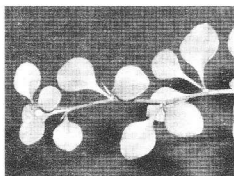
Public Act 04-209: An Act Concerning Jurisdiction of Municipal Inland Wetlands Commissions.

In response to the decision by the Connecticut Supreme Court regarding Avalon Bay (the "Avalon Bay decision") a coalition¹ of environmental organizations worked with staff from the Department of Environmental Protection and the Attorney General's office to develop legislative language that would reinstate jurisdiction of municipal inland wetlands and watercourse agencies to consider impacts to fish, other aquatic organisms, wildlife and vegetation dependent on those resources for their existence.

The resulting bill (SB 445, An Act Concerning Jurisdiction of Municipal Inland Wetlands Commissions) was opposed by the CT Home Builder's Association and affordable housing advocates. Negotiations finally resulted in Public Act 04-209, which restored aquatic, plant or animal life and habitats as elements of consideration for commissions regulating activity in wetlands and watercourses. Although consideration of these factors is limited to wetlands and watercourses, the Act is a step in the right direction. An extensive grassroots campaign implemented by the environmental coalition was crucial to the Act's passage.

Senator Donald Williams, Co-Chair of the Environment Committee, sponsored S.B. 445 and guided the bill through the various committees. Representative Patricia Widlitz, Co-Chair of the Environment Committee, also supported the legislation and led a last minute effort to get the bill passed as the House session was winding down.

¹ The environmental coalition included: CT Association of Conservation and Inland Wetland Commissions (CACIWC), CT Fund for the Environment, CT League of Conservation Voters, CT Audubon Society, Audubon-CT, CT Council of Environmental Quality, Quinnipiac River Watershed Partnership, and the Connecticut Conservation Association; other supporting groups included: CT Rivers Alliance, CT Forest and Park Association, Housatonic Valley Association and Land Conservation Coalition of Connecticut.



Japanese Barberry



Winged Euonymus
or Burning Bush

LLCT ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING 2004

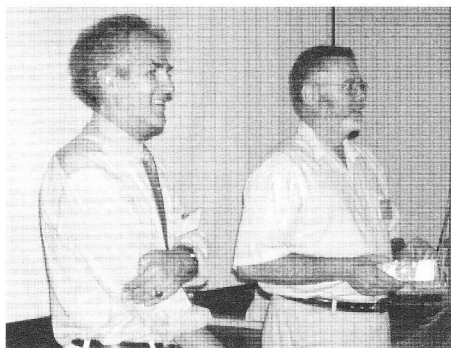
By Emily Lerner

The annual meeting of the general membership of the Lyme Land Conservation Trust, Inc. (LLCT) was held on June 18, 2004 at the Lyme Public Hall. About 60 members and friends of the Land Trust gathered to hear the business of the past year, to welcome new board members and thank retiring directors, and to hear the evening's speaker.

This meeting marked a changing of the guard for the leadership of the LLCT. Longtime Land Trust Board president, Anthony Irving, officially retired



Approximately 60 people attended the LLCT annual meeting.



Incoming President Ralph Lewis acknowledges outgoing President Anthony Irving's contributions to the LLCT with a gift and Certificate of Appreciation.

from his position and the LLCT membership welcomed our new and returning officers: President - Ralph Lewis, Vice President - Linda Bireley, Secretary - Judy Davies and Treasurer - Tony Sullivan. Anthony Irving has given countless hours and energy to promoting Land Trust activities and deepening the involvement of the Lyme community in conservation efforts. Incoming President Lewis presented retiring President Irving with a gift and a Certificate of Appreciation for his many years of service. President Irving's presence, his perspective and his knowledge will be missed.

The membership elected Susan Ballek Smith, Emily Fisher Griswold and Michael Richardson as Directors to fill the positions vacated by resigning Director Henry Willard and retiring Directors Anthony Irving and Tom Childs. We look forward to the new board members' energy and perspectives, and putting them to work! And the Board offers our great appreciation to all three retiring and resigning Directors for their service. The membership also approved the budget of the past year with a voice vote.

Retiring President Irving fulfilled
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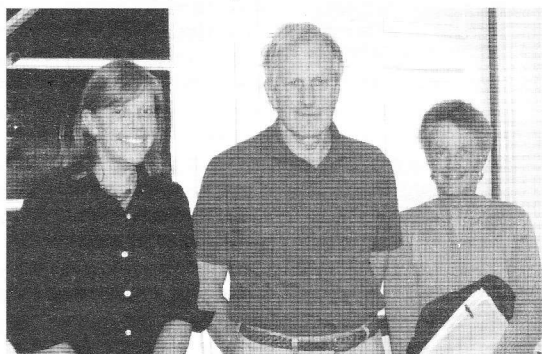
New Board Members

As reported above, the Lyme Land Conservation Trust membership elected three individuals to the Board of Directors at the annual meeting: Susan Ballek Smith, Emily Fisher and Mike Richardson. Susan was appointed to the Board previously to complete the term of another director and we welcomed her in the last newsletter. The Lyme Land Conservation Trust would now like to welcome Emily and Mike.

Emily grew up in Greenwich with miles of trails and woods right outside her door and has been interested in the outdoors as long as she can remember. She graduated from Princeton in 1973 and Columbia with a master's degree in Journalism in 1976. She brings to the Board the experience of editing (a magazine in Greenwich), writing (as a consultant in corporate writing programs) and serving on non-profit Boards (Florence Griswold Museum and High Hopes Therapeutic Riding). She also has a small landscaping business. She and husband Evan Griswold own a 50 acre parcel near the Lyme Library that they have committed to keeping undivided.

"I seem to spend a lot of my time in Lyme these days, on the river and in the woods," says Emily. "One of my favorite places is Pleasant Valley and my time there was the original inspiration for my wanting to contribute in some way to the Lyme Land Trust. We face huge challenges in the future, and I think we will all need to work together, pooling interests and resources and energy."

Mike and his wife Faye have lived in Lyme for six years. Mike brings considerable experience with environmental issues to the Board as well as experience working constructively with people on a wide variety of environmental issues. Most of his career was spent as an environmental engineer with a consulting engineering firm, and as an environmental lawyer, in both private practice and government service. At the end of his career, he developed and managed the global Pfizer environmental and worker health and safety program. During this period he had the opportunity to devote a portion of his time to non-profit organizations whose work related to environmental issues of interest to Pfizer, including the

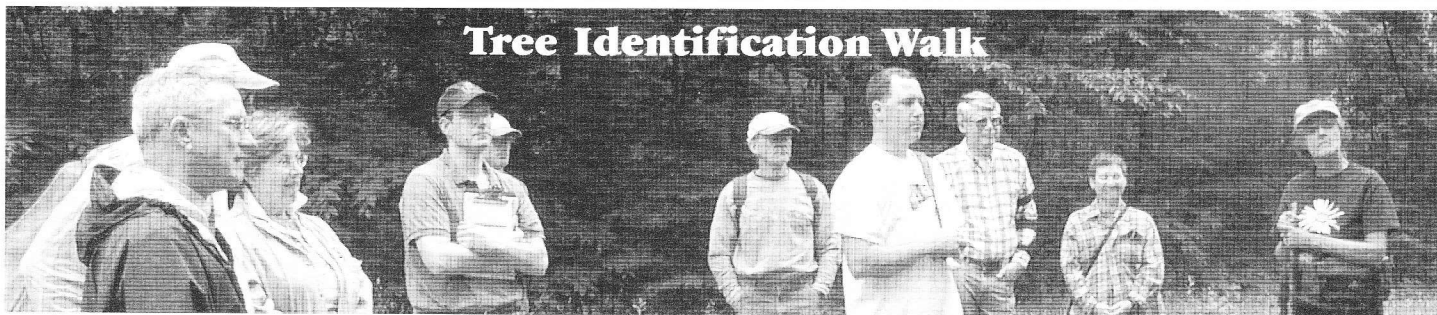


Susan Ballek Smith, Mike Richardson, and Emily Fisher

Environmental Law Institute in Washington DC, the World Environment Center in New York City and the Caribbean Environment and Development Institute in Puerto Rico.

"We chose to live in Lyme because we enjoy being surrounded by its historic treasures and its scenic woodlands and waterways. Few days go by when we do not reflect on how blessed we are to live in a place as beautiful as this. I know that it has taken a great deal of effort by many dedicated people over the years to preserve the town's historic structures and resist inconsistent development. Having benefited so much from these efforts of others, I welcome an opportunity to contribute myself."

Tree Identification Walk



Participants are shown above listening to an overview of the tree identification walk.

Anthony Irving, below right, describes identifying characteristics of trees. Close up of a chestnut leaf is shown at left.

As part of the recognition of the 75th Anniversary of the Connecticut Blue Trails the Lyme Land Conservation Trust hosted a tree identification walk on June 5, 2004.

Using leaves and bark as identifying features, former LLCT president and forest ecologist, Anthony Irving, showed about 15 people how to recognize the approximately 50 tree species that are common in southern Connecticut. Participants also learned how site characteristics such as soil type and water and light availability determine where particular species are likely to be found. He further demonstrated how individuals or groupings of tree species not only act as indicators of site conditions, but also provide insight into landscape history.

The walk took place in Nehantic State Forest, Lyme's largest open space and one of Connecticut's first state forests.



LLCT ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING 2004 *continued from page 5*

his final duties by reporting on the Trust's activities during the past year. These activities included: educational offerings to the community; providing the LLCT Bulletin and other outreach efforts; stewardship of the Trust's 79 properties; the creation and maintenance of interpretative trails; fund-raising activities, and the Trust's involvement with the Eightmile River Wild and Scenic Study. During his remarks, President Irving presented a plaque to Kathy Newton, daughter of the late June Maynard, in appreciation of the 140-acre conservation easement June granted the Lyme Land Conservation Trust, Inc. this past year. He also noted



President Irving presents Certificate of Appreciation to Kathy Newton, in recognition of the 140-acre conservation easement that her mother, June Maynard, donated to the LLCT.



Dr. Stephen Kellert

that the current membership of the Land Trust is 605, representing almost 50% of all households in the town of Lyme. This is a wonderful testament to the dedication of our residents toward preserving Lyme's rural character and our natural resources.

President Irving concluded his remarks by introducing the speaker of the evening, Dr. Stephen Kellert, Tweedy Ordway Professor of Social Ecology at the Yale University School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. Dr. Kellert's spoke on "Land Trusts and Promoting Healthy Development in an Increasingly Urban Society."

Dr. Kellert began by describing the realities of the increasingly developed world in which most Americans live; 80% of all Americans now live in or near a major metropolitan area. Most of us fail to create opportunities through which to interact with the natural world. Dr. Kellert described the theory of biophilia, which states that human beings evolved within the context of the natural world, and that our personalities and health are inextricably linked to our experiences with nature. He made the argument that this inter-

action with nature is "less a luxury and more a necessity for achieving lives of satisfaction and well-being."

Dr. Kellert presented a range of empirical evidence from different disciplines of science and social science that support the link between human experience of nature and human physical and mental health. He hypothesized that first, "damaged and degraded natural systems precipitate and, in turn, result in diminished human performance and productivity," and second that "the health and integrity of natural systems causes and, in turn, is the consequence of enhanced human performance and productivity."

He concluded his talk with a discussion of the important role that land trusts can play in enhancing and promoting human interaction with nature. Dr. Kellert suggested that not only is the preservation of land important for the sake of the natural resource conservation, but also vital for the health of human beings through creating opportunities for access to nature for many people. To this end, he encouraged land trusts, including LLCT, to promote unfiltered interaction between people and the natural world, especially for young people.

Thanks to the membership for all its support during the past year and we look forward to another productive year to come!

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:

PROPERTY STEWARDSHIP Do you like to get outside? Are you a fix-it person, capable with power equipment? Our properties need trail maintenance and other upkeep. Contact Temp Brown, Stewardship Committee Chair, (860) 434-9550, tbrown14@adelphia.net

NEWSLETTER Are you a photographer? A writer? Have a gripe or complement? We would love to include your work in our Bulletin. Contact Linda Bireley, Newsletter Editor, 434-9864, LindaBiota@adelphia.net.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE WORKSHOPS Do you have some interest or knowledge related to conservation or the natural landscape? Would you like the opportunity to share it? Contact Emily Lerner, 434-3626.

More than a Handbook

Book review by Ning Rich

The first land trust, according to Richard Brewer, was the Massachusetts Trustees of Public Reservations, formed in 1891 by Charles Eliot, son of the Harvard President and a landscape architect with Frederick Law Olmstead. In his book **Conservancy: The Land Trust Movement in America** (University of New England Press), Brewer traces the slow early growth of the land trust movement until about 1980 when a great spurt of new trusts reached more than 1263 today.

The Lyme Land Conservation Trust, formed in 1969, when there were only about 132 trusts nationwide, was an early addition to this sum. There was rapid growth between 1965 and 1975 with the emergence of the environmental movement; the first Earth Day was 1970. Another spurt came between 1985 and 1988 as a response to the environmental record of President Ronald Reagan.

The growth of trusts was also spurred by sprawl development, beginning after World War II. As housing developments replaced fields, they spawned roads, highways, commercial strips and large malls. Brewer has an excellent brief history of the cultural and public policy causes of sprawl and its detrimental effects on the environment.

Why save natural land? There are aesthetic reasons for saving land formations that hold various habitats and support a variety of species. Natural preserves have been inspirations to poets artists, landscape architects and meet the need for beauty and silence in all of us. There are also very practical benefits provided by healthy ecosystem such as clean air, protection from ultraviolet rays, tempering of droughts and floods, protecting soils, filtering pollutants and other incalculable benefits.

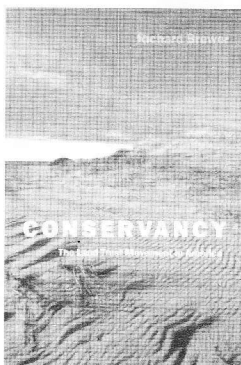
Brewer also succinctly summarizes the many studies that explain the economic advantages of open space. Far from bringing lower tax rates to a community, new developments, even commercial, cost more than they add to a town's finances, although denser development is less costly than spread out building.

There are moral, ethical, even religious reasons for land conservation. Humans should consider their role as stewards of the land, not as "the biosphere bully, or planetary potentate".

Land trusts are formed solely to protect land, Brewer stresses. "Many organizations that protect land as one of several missions in their charter, place a premium on flexibility. They'll decide how any piece of land best meets their needs now and in the future. This unwillingness (to act only to preserve land) serves their purpose but not necessarily the purpose of the potential land donor or the cause of land protection." He backs up his point with some horrendous examples of abuse of trust by many prestigious institutions, including churches, universities and some government agencies.

Insightful sections explain the processes by which land trusts pursue their goals. How to choose what land to save. What are the goals and method of stewardship, such as dealing with invasive species. How might practices differ in dealing with owned versus easement properties. He stresses the need for solid fund raising, and explains the arcana of the legal arrangements.

The history and differing goals of the various national land trusts, such as The Nature Conservancy and the Trust for Public Land are outlined. One chapter deals with the American Farmland Trust, in the context of the nationwide problem of preserving farmland and he



EXPLORE THE CONNECTICUT SHORE

Connecticut Coastal Access Guide Available On-line

The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has added the Connecticut Coastal Access Guide to the DEP web site. It allows shoreline visitors to identify sites along Connecticut's coast which are open to the public for boating, swimming, fishing, hiking and other outdoor activities. The on-line version of the Guide can be found at: <http://www.dep.state.ct.us/coastalaccess>

The on-line Guide features 286 public access sites along the Connecticut coast available for natural resource-based outdoor recreation. The website allows users to search for public access sites by geographic area, by activities such as swimming, wildlife observation or shellfishing, or by site amenities such as boat launch ramps or access piers. Detailed driving directions and an interactive map are provided for each public access site. For more information about the new web page or Connecticut coastal access in general, contact Susan Fox at the DEP's Office of Long Island Sound Programs, 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106, call 860-424-3034 or email coastal.access@po.state.ct.us.

discussed how the Rails to Trails and Greenways organizations likewise play special roles.

As a scientist, Brewer is passionate in his plea for protection of local ecosystems and their biodiversity as the highest priority. He also includes agricultural lands, if they are cultivated organically. But he says nothing of urban parks, community gardens and recreational lands for human use to which the Trust for Public Land has drawn attention.

Brewer presents the reason d'être and workings of land trusts in clear and lively language, with many touches of humor and striking case histories. As an emeritus professor of biology and a land trust president, Brewer also enhances our knowledge of the environment we seek to save.

Conservancy: The Land Trust Movement in America is available at the Phoebe Griffin Noyes Library.

UPCOMING EVENTS

This is where you will find LLCT and other events that may be of interest to you. The events may be sponsored by any number of organizations. If an event relates to the Eightmile River Watershed, it will be designated as a "Going Wild in the Eightmile" or "GW8" event. Participating in these events will help you learn more about this very special watershed and its potential designation as a Wild and Scenic River.

Saturday, October 2, 2004 The Connecticut River Watershed Council is holding its 8th Annual Source to Sea Cleanup and needs your help! Volunteers are needed to get their feet wet, hands dirty, and rivers cleaner. The Cleanup is a one-day, watershed-wide, trash-collecting frenzy that is fun and involves people of all ages and abilities. If you are interested in helping to clean up trash in a river or stream by organizing or joining a group, or posting a flyer, check out www.ctriver.org/river_news/cleanup.php

Thursday, October 7, 2004 The Lyme Grange #147 is sponsoring a program by Elisabeth Moore of Connecticut Farmland Preservation—Saving our Precious Farmland from the Forces of Development. Lyme Grange, 2 Sterling City Rd. 7:30 pm Refreshments served.

The following are The Nature Conservancy sponsored events. TNC asks that you register by the Monday before by contacting Sylvia Torning at storning@tnc.org or (860) 344-0717 x310. Directions sent upon receipt of registration. Rain cancels.

Saturday October 9, 2004 Salmon River Region. Join Lower Connecticut River Program Director Shelley Green and Meshomasic Hiking club President John LeShane at the Comstock Covered Bridge for a scenic hike to visit the Salmon River, Dickinson Creek and surrounding woods via the Airline Trail. 9 am - 12 noon

Saturday October 30, 2004 Lower Connecticut River Region. Join Program Director Nathan Frohling and former Lyme Land Conservation Trust President Anthony Irving to walk 268 wooded acres that includes the Lieutenant and Duck Rivers watersheds, vernal pools and towering bedrock ledges. 9 am - 11 am.

Using SBC Long Distance Supports LLCT

If you are a SBC long distance subscriber, you can now designate the Lyme Land Conservation Trust to receive 5% of your monthly long distance charges at no cost to you. Simply call SBC 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. To date we have received \$285.65.

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 and Rufus Barringer Funds are also welcome. Consider including the Land Trust in your will.

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