

LYME LAND TRUST BULLETIN

Spring 2005

The Lyme Land Conservation Trust

Mission: To conserve Lyme's natural, scenic and historic land and water resources by acquiring and managing real properties, supporting open space acquisition, promoting scientific study of resources, and educating the public thus helping preserve the quality of life.

Eightmile River Watershed "Outstanding" Cultural Resource

That's what Ethan Carr, a professor at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, and graduate student Lauren Todd reported to nearly 60 people on the evening of December 9, 2004 at the Lyme Public Hall. Their research on the cultural landscape of the Eightmile River Watershed revealed that the Watershed contains more forest cover than 60 years ago, it's commerce consists of general stores and rural businesses rather than convenience stores and it's road system has remained virtually intact since colonial times.

Todd closely analyzed the Millington Green historic district in East Haddam, the Bingham family properties in Salem and the Hamburg area in Lyme, assessing these areas' vegetation, historic buildings and spatial organization. She showed, slide by slide, how forest cover expanded in Salem and East Haddam between 1934 and 1995 and pointed out that the roads in Salem barely changed between 1880 and 1995. Although the well-preserved

buildings along the riverbank in Hamburg reflected past marine commerce, today's agrarian land use consists of a single dairy farm. She found these patterns were typical of the watershed as a whole. Originally, there was an active harbor at the mouth of the Connecticut River but shifting sand bars prevented the area from developing into a major harbor like New Haven or New York City, Todd concluded.

Carr agreed that the area was a very important place up until the mid-19th century. Carr explained their work was not a comprehensive examination of social and cultural history of the region's people or the Impressionist art movement that

bloomed here. He indicated that questions the audience raised about that art community, churches and other matters warranted further study.

The research was part of the Eightmile River Watershed Wild & Scenic Study, which was authorized by Congress three years ago to determine if the 62 square mile watershed has qualities that make it eligible for federal "wild and scenic" designation. This would encourage long-term protection and management of natural resources here.

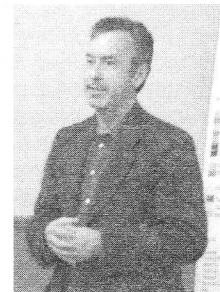
Anthony Irving, chairman of the Study Committee that helped guide the research pointed out the Eightmile River Watershed was on the way to no place. "It was almost like the place that time forgot, so we were able to escape that post-World War II development," he said.

Kevin Case, the National Park Service project manager for the Study, is coordinating the results of the cultural landscape study with other analyses of the watershed's ecology, geology and

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Nearly 60 people learn about the Eightmile River Watershed's cultural resource value at the Lyme Public Hall.



Ethan Carr



Lauren Todd



Old fields and forests along the Mount Archer Road boundary of the Jewett property.

Funds Still Needed for the Jewett Property

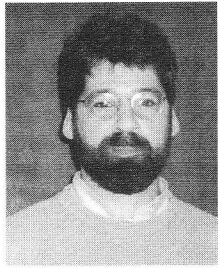
The Town of Lyme, the Lyme Land Conservation Trust (LLCT) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) formed The Lyme Partnership a few years ago to work cooperatively to secure the private funding necessary for the preservation of lands in Lyme which will contribute toward the integrity of the Eightmile and lower Connecticut River systems.

Following the successful funding of the Mt. Archer property, the Partnership is now actively engaged in pursuing private donations for the Jewett property acquisition. The purchase price for the 434 acre Jewett property (plus easements

on an additional 46 acres) was \$3.27 million. A state grant of \$450,000 reduced this amount to \$2.8 million, half supplied by the Town of Lyme and half by TNC. The LLCT, Town and TNC jointly agreed to raise a minimum of \$600,000 from private sources, the Land Trust portion to be turned over to the Town of Lyme to reduce its obligation. Toward this goal, the Partnership has secured commitments from Lyme residents totaling \$368,000. While this is an impressive amount, a minimum of \$232,000 remains to be raised. Beyond this there is

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Eightmile River Wild & Scenic Study Enters Homestretch



by Kevin Case

The Eightmile River Wild & Scenic Study Committee is entering its final six months of work to complete the Study process.

The Committee recently completed the formal endorsement of six Outstanding Resource Values (ORV), including: water quality; hydrology; geology; unique species and natural communities; the watershed ecosystem; and the cultural landscape. This provides the justification for making the watershed eligible for Wild & Scenic Designation, the first of three steps in the study process.

The research on these resource values has provided in-depth reports on the watershed's botany, cultural landscape, fish community and most recently habitat types. Over the next few months reports on each of the Outstanding Resource Values will be posted on the

Eightmile River Website — www.eightmileriver.org.

The main focus of the Committee is now on the second step of the study process, drafting the Watershed Management Plan. Substantial effort has been put into performing a comprehensive review of potential threats to the ORVs, identifying existing measures to minimize such threats, and identifying gaps in ORV protection. The Committee has identified 25 distinct potential threats to the ORVs, including impervious cover, poor stormwater management, habitat fragmentation and degradation of the riparian corridor.

The Committee, which includes representation from all the local towns land use commissions, is working with a professional planning consulting firm to come up with a proposed list of possible tools that local communities could implement to help protect ORVs from being degraded by such threats. These proposed tools will be reviewed by local land use commissions, landowners, and

the community at large through a series of meetings that will occur during June. The Lyme Community meeting will be held Thursday, June 17, at 7 pm at the Lyme Public Hall. The final management plan will be something that the communities have taken a lead in crafting and can support as leaders continue its long-term implementation.

The final step of the study, planned for September/October of this year, involves going to a town meeting in each community to ask for town votes of support for Wild & Scenic designation. This is the key final step in the study process and if all votes are affirmative it will provide Congress with the best and strongest indication that the local communities support Wild & Scenic designation and they are willing to be a leading partner in the long-term protection of the Eightmile River Watershed.

Any question or comments regarding the Study please contact Study project Manager Kevin Case at kevin_case@nps.gov or 738-1092.

Jewett Property
continued from page 1

an additional \$1.1 million that TNC needs to raise to cover the remaining amount of their commitment.

The Jewett property is the largest land purchase that the Town, LLCT or TNC has undertaken in Lyme and is one of the largest purchases TNC has ever made in the Lower CT River area. In the last 15 years, the LLCT, the Town, TNC and the State either separately or together have assured the preservation of thousands of acres of natural landscapes in Lyme. This bubble of preservation activity is the natural result of a dramatic confluence of historical, local, regional and national factors.

Past LLCT President Tony Irving mentioned, "Over the past 15-20 years, Lyme citizens, and LLCT members have been actively educating themselves about the many and varied attributes of preserving our very special natural resources. Simultaneously, during the 1990's a land rush occurred and the demand for a piece of property in Lyme and surrounding communities went sky high. We realized that our little corner of the world was not as protected as we

thought."

Current LLCT President Ralph Lewis added, "With all of these factors coming together at the same time in the town's history, it wasn't hard to see that we, as land stewards, have an historic decision to make: either protect the land when it comes to market or lose it forever. The land owners of 1895 didn't have to make these decisions. And the Lyme land owners of 2075 won't have this dilemma, but we do."

Although the Partnership is meeting with folks who can make an important difference in this fund raising effort, it will need help from everyone in the community. One generous gentleman walked into Bill Koch's office twice over the past five months, indicating

that he 'found' another \$10,000 that he would like to give to this effort.

If significant commitments are not made toward the Jewett purchase, the Partnership will not be able to react quickly to future parcels that come on the market.

If you would like to talk to someone about this project please contact one of the members of the Lyme Partnership.

MEMBERS OF THE LYME PARTNERSHIP

Susan Ballek, LLCT434-2362
Temp Brown, LLCT434-9550
Ralph Eno, Town434-5016
Nathan Frohling, TNC	..767-7706 x12
Anthony Irving, LLCT434-2390
William Koch, Town434-7733
Ralph Lewis, LLCT526-8886
Sarah Shrewsbury, TNC	.344-0716 x334

CONSERVATION JEWEL

The Town of Lyme and The Nature Conservancy jointly own the newest and largest addition to Lyme's open space - the Jewett Property. It consists of a 434-acre parcel, which will be open to the public for passive recreation, and conservation easements on 46 acres. Private buyers Hugh and Donna Scott of Lyme bought the 46 acres, with extensive conservation restrictions on 34 of them. Twelve of the 46 acres include a circa 1752 house, as well as barns, a pond, fields, and adjacent forest. The conservation easement on the 12 acres permits the addition of a guest house.

This jewel is adjacent to the Conservancy's 340-acre Pleasant Valley Preserve and was one of the three largest unprotected parcels in the Eightmile River watershed. It includes more than a mile of high quality tributaries of the Connecticut River and links the 100-acre Eno Preserve and the 280-acre Mt. Archer Woods to the south with a 3,000-acre block to the northeast, forming more than 10 miles of contiguous open space.

"Outstanding" Cultural Resource
continued from page 1

hydrology. As he integrated the information he found that "the landscape has not been developed and you have this amazingly functioning ecosystem that you just don't find in New England or the rest of the country on this scale." In response to questions from the audience Case said that wild and scenic designation would not prevent the proposed extension of Route 11, but the watershed would have to be adequately protected from adverse affects. He also noted that the designation would not impose new sets of regulations but rather would provide land-use tools to help ensure consistency across town borders. Long-term management requires active support from residents, while individual town regulations continue to be enforced by local planning, zoning and conservation commissions.

Voters in the towns of Lyme, Salem and East Haddam will have a chance to support the proposed designation in the fall of 2005 (see Eightmile River Wild & Scenic Study Enters Homestretch by Kevin Case on page 2).

PHOTO CONTEST ANNOUNCED

The Lyme Land Conservation Trust and the Old Lyme Conservation Trust are sponsoring a photo contest for pictures taken in our towns. The contest is open to amateur photographers only and will run from May 1, 2005 to January 31, 2006, so we can have images from all the seasons. Photos can be in color or black & white using film or digital cameras. There will be a separate division for adults and for young people, ages 18 and younger. Prizes and awards will be given out in the following categories:

- Forest/Landscapes
- Waterscapes/Marshes/Bogs
- Flowers/Plants
- Birds/Insects/Wildlife
- All Other Images

For a copy of the Photo Contest Entry Form and the Contest Rules or if you have any questions, contact us at: LOLPhotoContest@Go.Com. Dust off your cameras, plan to get outdoors and start taking some pictures.

Roaring Brook Preserve Trail Guide

The Education Committee has prepared an interpretive guide to the trail on the Lyme Land Conservation Trust's Roaring Brook Preserve. The Roaring Brook Guide describes 14 points of interest along the trail and copies will be available at the trail head, off Day Hill Road in Hadlyme.

Amphibians Diverse in Pleasant Valley Preserve

by Ed Natoli

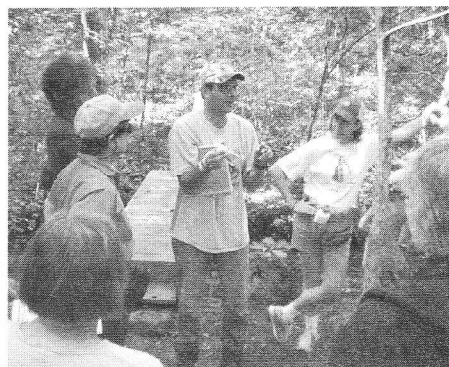
On September 25, 2004, Ed Natoli of the CT Amphibian Monitoring Project led a group in search of amphibians within Lyme's Pleasant Valley Preserve. He reports the diversity has been both well studied and well documented. He has found a complement of amphibians typical of southeastern Connecticut including: spotted, marbled, red back (both color variations), four-toed, northern dusky and two line salamanders, red spotted newts, bullfrogs, green frogs, wood frogs, pickerel frogs, gray tree frogs, American toad and northern spring peepers. We saw most of these during our September sojourn.

In the course of our three-hour walk we visited four distinct wetland types and found eight different species of amphibians. Looking for amphibians in the fall is great because they are quite mobile this time of year, making different ones easier to find.

Our first stop was a dried out vernal pool. This pool is unique due to its high elevation and it is one of the first ponds in the Preserve to completely dry up. As an environmental educator I like this because it demonstrates what happens if the amphibians that use it don't get out of it in time. When I took my class there in late May the pool had already dried up and the desiccated remains of several tadpoles were evident.

From here we proceeded to a red maple swamp where we collected two American toads (*Bufo americanus*), a pickerel frog (*Rana palustris*) and both color variations of the red back salamander (*Plethodon cinereus*). Next we took a short walk to the major stream that cuts through the preserve. We found several two-line salamanders (*Eurycea bislineata*), a northern dusky salamander (*Desmognathus fucus fucus*), several more red back salamanders and just missed catching a green frog (*Rana clamitans*).

After examining the stream we hiked a bit to the multiple vernal pools located in the middle of the Preserve where we found two spectacular female marbled salamanders (*Ambystoma opacum*). After examining the vernal pools we headed north towards the Eightmile River to a low-lying swamp covered in



Ed Natoli (center) describes amphibians likely to be found along this stream.

Photo credit: Charles Landry

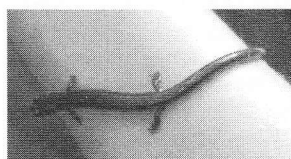
sphagnum moss. We were trying to find four toed salamanders that are common in this habitat. We didn't find any but we did come across a lone spring peeper (*Pseudacris crucifer*), an usual find for this time of year.

Marbled salamanders are especially intriguing. Mating occurs in autumn and eggs are often deposited under rotting logs. The female stays with the eggs until the rising waters of the vernal pool cover them. Come spring, you will see the larvae feeding upon Wood Frog eggs.

Of the 5,743 known species of amphibians, 1,856 are now threatened with extinction, according to a survey of 500 experts <http://www.globalamphibians.org/>. As many as 122 species may have disappeared since 1980.

JOIN US AGAIN AT THE
PLEASANT VALLEY PRESERVE
ON APRIL 16TH AT 6:30 PM,
WHEN ED WILL LEAD US ON
AN EXPLORATION OF
EVENING SOUNDS.

Red back salamander



Spring peeper



Marbled salamander



BOOK REVIEW by Ning Rich

The Last Undiscovered Place

Move over Tony Hiss, John Stilgoe, William Cronon, and so many others who have written with perception about how we have shaped our environment, and how it in turn shapes us. David K. Leff is joining the ranks with *The Last Undiscovered Place*, related essays on his native town, Collinsville, Connecticut, a mill town on the Farmington River.

The Collins Mill gave rise to the town in the early 19th century and gave it the name. A manufacturer of axes, hoes, machetes and other metal tools, Collins Mill was an international name as the ship captains who used its tools became good advertisers. It employed some 2500 workers, and was noted for its innovative manufacturing methods. In fact, one of its engineers was so ingenious, he became the model for Mark Twain's A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court.

By degrees new competition and a lack of new technology lead the firm to decline, although it survived in smaller form well into the 20th century. By the 1960s, however, the mill and the town were all but abandoned, and there was even talk of demolishing the town under urban renewal and putting in a mall. Ultimately the town voted it down.

Gradually cheap rents in the surviving mill buildings brought in artists, and start-up businesses. To these were added young professionals, like Leff, to restore the old houses.

Far from a dry economic history, however, Leff weaves together the many threads of the life of the town. He gradually tells the tale through walks about the village, exchange of gossip with his neighbors, conversations with his children. He visits the abandoned mill buildings and the ever-changing surrounding hills. The Farmington River plays its role as power

source for the mill and a center for fishing and canoeing. He joins the volunteer firemen; he participates in Memorial Day, Halloween and other festivities.



Author David K. Leff has joined the ranks of writers who have written with perception about how we have shaped our environment and how it in turn shapes us.

living."

Calling himself a "Farmer without a farm," Leff goes on to tell us about his venture into maple sugaring, which began as a kitchen stove affair, but which created a fog worthy of the Grand Banks. "By April we had almost three gallons of syrup - and some badly curled wall paper held fast with thumb tacks — to show for our efforts." A few years later the enterprise became more professional and neighbors joined in to produce some forty gallons.

Leff, a Deputy Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, has a sharp eye for the telling detail, whether scenery, buildings or people. He tells us about not only the trout, but the angler. There is an underlying sense of humor and a catching turn of phrase that enlivens every page. This book is a delight to read and can be found at the Phoebe Griffin Noyes Library.

Backyard Conservation

It seems as though snow was on the ground forever this past winter! By now most folks are looking forward to being outside and getting their yard in shape and their gardens growing. Want to attract more birds, butterflies and other creatures to your property? It's easy.

Assess Your Property

The first thing you need to do is identify the habitat elements that already exist on your property. Native plants that provide food and cover are the backbone of every habitat. Make a list of all the plants in your yard, including everything from trees to wildflowers. Try to determine which of your plants are native to your area and which are not. Which existing plants might provide food such as seeds, fruits, nuts, and nectar? Which plants might provide safe cover or nesting places? Do you have any dead or dying trees? If so, don't reach for the chainsaw! Dying or dead trees are excellent habitat features. They are excavated and used by woodpeckers, flying squirrels, and a multitude of insects and cavity-nesting birds, such as owls, bluebirds, chickadees, and wrens.

Determine how your yard might already provide water for wildlife. This could be in the form of a pond, water garden, stream, vernal pool, or birdbath. Make a list of any structures that provide habitat elements, such as bird feeders, nesting structures, rock walls, or log piles. Finally, consider the physical features of your yard such as sun and wind exposure and soil conditions.

Provide the Four Basic Habitat Elements — Food, Water, Cover, and Places to Raise Young.

FOOD — Select plants that provide natural foods such as fruits, seeds, nuts, and nectar. Choose your plants to provide food for backyard wildlife throughout the year. Restoration of native plant communities to your yard should be the main emphasis of your habitat project. This is especially important since our native plants and wildlife have co-evolved.

WATER — Wildlife needs water, for drinking, bathing, and in some cases, breeding. Water can be supplied in a birdbath, a small pond, a recirculating waterfall, or a shallow dish. If you're lucky enough to have a natural pond, stream, vernal pool, or other wetland on your property, make sure to preserve or restore it as these are excellent aquatic habitats. However you decide to provide water, make sure you do so year round.

COVER — When choosing your plants, make sure to include at least one good clump of evergreen trees and shrubs to provide year-round protective cover from weather and predators. Good

choices are juniper, hollies, and live oaks, as they provide food as well as cover. You should also plant deciduous shrubs to offer effective summer cover for nesting and escape from predators. Rock, log, and mulch piles also offer good cover.

PLACES TO RAISE YOUNG — Evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs provide nesting areas for birds. Dead and dying trees (called "snags") provide nesting sites for many species such as owls, flying squirrels, and other cavity-nesters. Nest boxes for bluebirds, chickadees, wrens, and purple martins can be placed in your backyard. Rabbits, shrews, mice, snakes, and salamanders lay their eggs or raise young under boughs of plants as well as in rock, log, or mulch piles. Aquatic animals, such as frogs, toads, newts, dragonflies, and other insects, deposit their eggs in ponds, vernal pools, and other wetlands. Butterflies lay their eggs on the host plant preferred by the caterpillar, so make sure to include some of the host plants in your habitat.

Practice Resource Conservation in Your Own Backyard

Conserving resources will not only help the wildlife in your own yard but will help improve your community's environment. Here are some ideas for practicing resource conservation in your own backyard:

- ◆ Plant native plants suited to your region and do not plant any invasive exotics (non-native plants).
- ◆ Establish a backyard wetland or drainage buffer area to filter storm water and limit runoff.
- ◆ Capture roof rain water for use in planted areas.
- ◆ Use mulch to conserve soil moisture and cut down weeding time.
- ◆ Use a drip soaker hose instead of a sprinkler if watering is needed to help plants become established.
- ◆ Eliminate chemicals in your yard.
- ◆ Control pests by organic means. Better yet, let nature take its course and encourage beneficial insects (e.g., ladybug, praying mantis), birds, bats and other insect eaters.
- ◆ Reduce or eliminate your lawn area to cut down on mowing, watering and general maintenance.

If you provide food, water, cover and places to raise young for wildlife on your property and practice resource conservation, your property may be eligible for certification as a National Wildlife Federation Backyard Wildlife Habitat site. Visit <http://www.nwf.org/backyardwildlifehabitat/> to find out more.

CONNECTICUT LEGISLATION OF INTEREST

Among the many bills the Connecticut General Assembly is considering in this January to June session are two that may be of particular interest to our readers: Proposed Bill 6393 on Community Investment and Committee Bill 6414 on Wild & Scenic designation for the Eightmile River Watershed.

Community Investment

James F. Spallone, representative from the 36th District and member of the Environment Committee, proposed Bill No. 6393, "An Act Concerning Community Preservation and Investment". The purpose of this bill is "To provide municipalities with the opportunity to independently raise revenue for important community preservation and investment initiatives." It enables towns to raise revenues by means of a conveyance tax for the purposes stated in the bill; it does not require towns to implement such a tax. It was referred to the Joint Committee on Environment, which held a public hearing on March 4 to obtain information for

drafting specific legislation. Bill Koch and Ralph Eno attended this hearing and reported that the committee seemed supportive. Representative Marilyn Giuliano (23rd District), Senator Edith G. Prague (19th District), and Representative Faith McMahon (15th District) are co-sponsors of the proposal.

The Lyme Open Space committee finds much merit in the proposed bill and suggests that residents who would like to support the bill contact Lyme's legislators (see side bar). For more information, contact James Spallone (James.Spallone@cga.ct.gov, 800 842 8267), Bill Koch (434-7733) or Ralph Eno (434-5016).

Eightmile Wild & Scenic Designation

The Environment Committee introduced Bill 6414, "An Act Concerning Designation of the Eightmile River Watershed within the National Wild and Scenic River System". Its purpose is "To preserve the portion of the Eightmile River watershed which is the subject of the authorized study by the Eightmile River Wild and Scenic River Study Committee as provided for in the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act." The Environment Committee held a public hearing on this bill on March 11 and several residents and members of the Eightmile River Watershed Wild & Scenic Study Committee testified in support of the bill and reported that the

committee was also supportive of this legislation. It was co-sponsored by Representatives Linda Orange (48th District) and Ed Jutila (37th District) and Senators Eileen Daily (33rd District) and Andrea Stillman (20th District). Residents who would like to support this bill should also contact Lyme's legislators.

FOR UP-TO-DATE INFO
visit <http://www.cga.ct.gov/>
and search on bill 6393
and 6414. To find out
more about CT's legisla-
tive process visit the
on-line Citizen Guide at
<http://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/menu/citizen.asp>.

LYME'S LEGISLATORS
Representative Giuliano
Marilyn@housegop.state.ct.us, 860-246-8700
Senator Eileen M. Daily
Daily@senatedems.ct.gov
800-842-1420

Did you know that 30 percent of water consumed on the East Coast and 60 percent on the West Coast goes to watering lawns? Or, that a lawn mower emits as much hydrocarbon in one hour as a typical auto driven 50 miles?

ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY FERTILIZER

If you're looking to grow the perfect garden but your soil could use a bit of work, you can buy fertilizers that promise to provide your soil with the nutrients it needs. But not all fertilizers are alike when it comes to environmental impact.

Many commercial fertilizers are made from ammonia, which is extracted from natural gas using a complex chemical process. This process also releases carbon dioxide (the heat-trapping gas primarily responsible for global warming) into the atmosphere. Nitrates in the fertilizers can harm both humans and marine mammals by seeping into groundwater or drinking water supplies. And, in the ultimate irony, because these fertilizers are generally very acidic, they eventually have the opposite effect of the one intended, depleting the soil of nutrients and killing healthy bacteria and other essential organisms.

Fortunately, there are environmentally friendly alternatives you can buy or make. Visit http://www.ucsusa.org/publications/green_tips.cfm?publicationID=850 for tips that can give you both healthy plants and healthy soil.

DIRECTORS' CORNER

The Nominating Committee Secures Future Directors and Officers

by Russ Shaffer, Chair
Nominating Committee

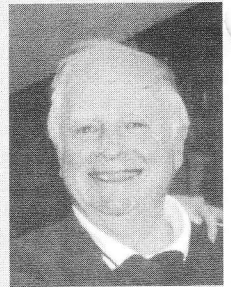
The Lyme Land Conservation Trust operates to conserve Lyme's natural, scenic and historic land and water resources for the benefit of the whole town. It is funded by the generosity of our residents in their annual membership dues and additional donations for specific causes. The stewardship of the Land Trust's properties as well as identification of specific causes, acquisition of new properties and environmental educational programs is the responsibility of the Directors.

Directors are recruited from the general LLCT membership. Candidates may be proposed by any member, including one's own self, to the Board's Nominating Committee Chair. (That person is listed on the back page of each Land Trust Newsletter.) The Nominating Committee evaluates each person's qualifications and tries to match him or her with the current and anticipated needs of the Board. For example, if our financial officer's term is ending, the committee would look for someone with an accounting background as a replacement. Similarly we might be looking for people with teaching, legal, publicity or fundraising experience.

While these areas of expertise are sometimes required to fulfill a particular opening, the most important qualification is enthusiasm to work in the conservation of our natural resources. Each Director is a member of one or more committees and is assigned responsibility for the stewardship of a number of Land Trust properties. These duties often require a considerable amount of time to be spent stewarding LLCT properties and easements, building and repairing trails and evaluating and planning Land Trust programs. It is, however, extremely rewarding and very much worth the time and energy the Directors devote.

A candidate proposed by the Nominating Committee is presented for endorsement by the whole Board of Directors. At the annual meeting in June the general membership may propose alternate candidates and then vote on the election of new Directors. Generally there are three retiring Directors each year who need to be replaced. While this is the Nominating Committee's most important job, it also proposes the slate of officers each year to be voted upon by the Board. The Committee also proposes Directors to chair each of the Land Trust's major committees.

Russ has been a Land Trust member since buying a house here in 1982. He's served in a variety of positions over the past six years as a Director and currently chairs the Nominating Committee.



Russ Shaffer

A retired advertising executive, Russ and his wife, Leslie, are active in the community. As past president of the Lions Club, Russ is a Director of several other organizations. (Leslie has just retired as president of the Lyme Garden Club.) Both are outdoor enthusiasts enjoying boating, bird hunting, gardening, trout fishing, firewood cutting, and making maple syrup as well as golf, tennis and paddle tennis.

A graduate of Brown (BA '54) and Harvard (MBA '58), Russ is a prolific reader, avid bridge player, wood carver and dog trainer. He's also getting an education in finance as Treasurer of the Connecticut Woodcock Council.

Lyme Land Trust at Work

For the past few months the LLCT Board of Directors has been reassessing how it functions in relation to the needs and expectations of the Lyme community. To share its deliberations with the Lyme community, it decided to devote some portions of this and upcoming issues of the LLCT Bulletin to how YOUR land trust works. This article will summarize some recent conclusions. Also in this issue, and upcoming ones, the President's Message column will be "guest written" by a Director that Chairs one of the Board's Committees and will be called the "Directors' Corner".

In the last year, the Board assessed how the LLCT practices compared to the Land Trust Standards and Practices that the Land Trust Alliance believes are essential for responsible operation of a land trust. The Board found that our practices conform closely to those Standards and resolved to adopt them to ensure that the LLCT continues to operate legally, ethically and in the public interest and that it conducts a sound program of land transactions and stewardship.

More recently, the Board reviewed and revised the mission statement to reinforce the focus on land preservation (see page 1). The Board took this step

because it determined that the recent support of positions that are political in nature could be construed as advocacy and that might threaten our charitable tax exempt status. This does not preclude individual LLCT Directors from taking strong positions on a given issue. The Board also revised the internal procedure used for selecting candidates to serve as LLCT Directors and this process is the topic of this issue's Directors' Corner column.

To improve the LLCT ability to conduct transactions that benefit all, the Board will be assessing constituent needs and plans for the present or future disposition of properties. The Board hopes that such information will enable the LLCT to partner with interested entities to protect specific properties as well as to educate constituents about the possible tax advantages of donations. A voluntary questionnaire requesting this information will be included in future membership mailings. Also, the membership process has been revised to reduce the number of categories and allow donors to more precisely designate where their contributions will be used (see form on page 7). Remember all LLCT Directors volunteer their time and each individual donation goes directly to support our

transactions and programs.

Finally, the Board wants to involve the Lyme community more directly in the LLCT work. The Board expects to organize a volunteer group that will help maintain trails, clear debris on properties we own in fee, expand educational programs and help with mailings, record keeping and publicity. It makes sense to use expertise, talent and enthusiasm that resides right here in Lyme and it's an opportunity to help and perhaps become better acquainted with what the Land Trust does. If you are interested in this volunteer group or would like to make a comment or suggestion, contact any Director (listed on the last page of the Bulletin) or write to LLCT, PO Box 1002, Lyme CT, 06371. Please sign your correspondence so we can respond to your interest.

Memorial Gifts

Within the past year, thoughtful gifts have been made to the Trust in memory of
Carley Cuniff (Baxter)
David Whitehad

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:

DIRECTOR

The Board of Directors of the Lyme Land Conservation Trust runs the organization between the general membership meetings held annually in June. Board members are elected at the Annual Meeting, meet bi-monthly and serve a minimum of 3 years. The Board obtains new properties, oversees existing properties, develops educational programs, distributes the newsletter, recruits new members and raises funds for operations and property purchase. This group is the brains, heart and soul of your organization. If you are interested in joining this distinguished group, submit your letter of qualifications to Russ Shaffer, Chair, Nominating Committee, 68 Brockway Ferry Road, Lyme, CT 06371, 434-2527.

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, tbrown14@adelphia.net or 434-9550.

A MESSAGE ABOUT MEMBERSHIP

by George Moore, Chair, Membership Committee

We will soon be starting our annual membership drive, asking members to renew their support and appealing to those who are not to consider joining.

The Lyme Land Conservation Trust prides itself on the high percentage of townspeople who are members. In fact, Lyme has one of the highest percent participations of Land Trusts in the country. Yet, there are still many who are not members. If you are one of those, we would like you to consider joining so that along with your friends and neighbors, you can help in the continuing effort to make Lyme a very special place. For as little \$ 10 (Individual) or \$20 (Family), you can do your part.

NEWSLETTER

Are you a photographer? Writer? Have a gripe or compliment? We would love to include your work in our Bulletin. Contact Susan Ballek, Newsletter Editor, ballek@lymanallyn.org or 434-2362.

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, turtleek@hotmail.com or 434-3626.

Your membership dues are put to work. The all-volunteer Board is comprised of fifteen Lyme citizens who give freely of their time and talents. All Board members serve as stewards, walking the properties and easements entrusted to us. They help organize community activities and publish our newsletter.

Have you ever wondered, when visiting rural areas and seeing the encroaching development, what it must have looked like many years before? What did our fore fathers and mothers see?

Well, because of the work of your Land Trust, together with the Town of Lyme and organizations such as The Nature Conservancy, large parcels of our town will remain undeveloped hundreds of years from now. Through purchases, generous monetary donations and gifts of land and easements to the Land Trust, thousands of acres are set aside.

To be able to live in a beautiful rural setting such as ours is a privilege few enjoy. To do it in the densely populated North East is quite special. When you get our appeal in the mail, won't you become a member and help us keep up the good work. Or use the form below and join now.

Application for Membership Lyme Land Conservation Trust, July 2005 – June 2006

Name(s): _____	Membership Dues
Address*: _____	Individual \$10.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
City, State, Zip: _____	Family \$20.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Phone: _____	Contributing \$50.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
E-mail: _____	Sustaining \$100.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
(used to notify you of special events and important activities)	Enter Membership Category Amount: \$ _____
Own Property in Lyme <input type="checkbox"/>	Matching Gift Form enclosed <input type="checkbox"/>
*If PO Box or address in another town, could we know your Lyme street address for our records? _____	
Optional donations:	Membership Dues and Donations are tax deductible
Lyme Land Conservation Trust General Fund	
Membership dues and unspecified donations are used to acquire properties to pay our general operating expenses	\$ _____
Rufus Barringer Resource Education and Protection Fund	
Created in 2004 in memory of Rufus Barringer through a generous donation from wife, Charlotte. Donations to this fund are used specifically for education programs or programs that protect or enhance resources on LLCT properties.	\$ _____
Jewett Property Acquisition	
Money donated to this fund go specifically to the acquisition of the Jewett property	\$ _____
Total for membership dues and optional donations	\$ _____
Please make check payable to Lyme Land Conservation Trust, Inc. and send to PO Box 1002, Lyme CT 06371-1002	
My optional donation is given in memory of: _____	
Personal letters acknowledging the donation are sent to the family members by the President of the Trust.	
Please contact me about the tax benefits of donating easements on or property in Lyme to the Lyme Land Conservation Trust <input type="checkbox"/>	
I have included a bequest to the Lyme Land Conservation Trust in my will <input type="checkbox"/>	

UPCOMING EVENTS

If an event relates to the Eightmile River Watershed, it's designated as a "Going Wild in the Eightmile" or "GW8" event. Participating will help you learn more about this very special watershed and its potential designation as a Wild and Scenic River.

Saturday April 16, 2005, 6:30 p.m.

Lyme Land Conservation Trust

Amphibian Night Sounds — A GW8 Event

Join Ed Natoli in the Pleasant Valley Preserve to learn about and experience amphibian sounds. This is a follow-up to last fall's workshop and walk. Wear your boots and bring a flashlight.

Saturday June 4, 2005, 9-11 a.m.

Lyme Land Conservation Trust

A GW8 Event and a Connecticut Trails Day Event

Join LLCT Board members Marta Cone and Prescott Littlefield on the Heritage Trail at Hartman Park. They will focus on the cultural history, geology, and archeology of the area. Park and meet at the parking area on Gungy Road. Sections of the hike are of moderate difficulty. Rain date is Sunday, June 5 (9-11 a.m.).

Friday, June 17, 2005, 7-9 p.m.

Lyme Land Conservation Trust

Annual Membership Meeting and Community Meeting on Eightmile Wild and Scenic Study

Join the LLCT Board of Directors at the Lyme Public Hall for the Trust's annual business meeting. The program will consist of a presentation by the Eightmile Wild and Scenic Study Committee and a discussion of management options for the Eightmile River Watershed. Refreshments will be served.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

LYME LAND CONSERVATION TRUST

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George Moore⁶

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¹ Chair, Acquisitions Committee

² Editor, Newsletter

³ Chair, Finance Committee

⁴ Chair, Stewardship Committee

⁵ Chair, Education and Publicity Committees

⁶ Chair, Membership Committee

⁷ Chair, Nominating Committee

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 Susan Ballek at ballek@lymanallyn.org or 434-9864.

LYME LAND CONSERVATION TRUST, INC.

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