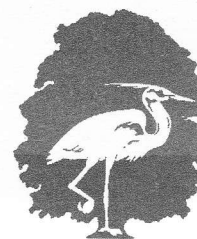


Non Profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 56
Lyme, CT
06371

Lyme Land Conservation Trust
PO Box 1002, Lyme CT 06371

Address Service Requested

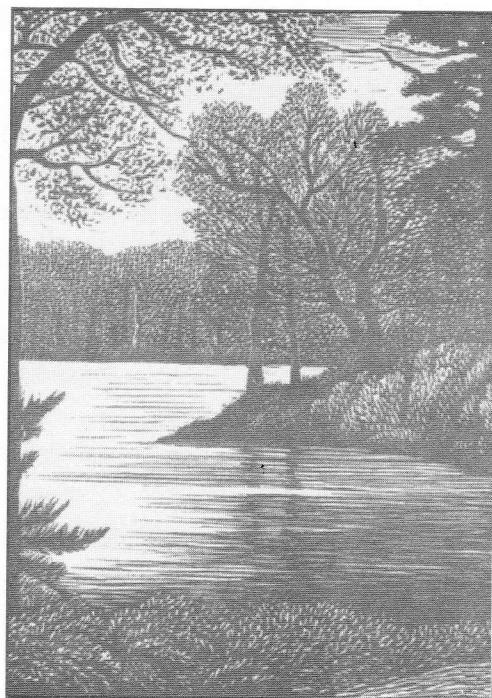
Postal Patron
Lyme, CT 06371



LYME LAND
Conservation Trust

Bulletin

August 2007



*Detail of Nason's etching, The Pond,
Florence Griswold Museum; Gift of Janet Eltinge*

Bulletin

LLCT Annual Meeting, June 3, 2007

Excerpted from Remarks Made by Fritz Gahagan

When I speak to Land Trusts or conservation groups around the State, I discover what we have done here in Lyme is held in awe by most other land trusts and communities. Why? Because over 40% of our town is in protected open space and we are continually building on that! As of now, in its 40 years, the Lyme Land Trust: holds over 1750 acres under Conservation Restriction, owns over 525 acres, and has partnered with the Town, the State, and the Nature Conservancy to protect well over 1000 additional acres.

To put this in perspective—a square mile is 640 acres—that means that our Land Trust has been involved in the protection of over 5 square miles of land!

In short, other land trusts and communities are amazed by what we have accomplished because we have done what they all wish they could have done, and we have, so far, stayed ahead of the onslaught of modernity.

Our success did not just happen; it evolved over a long period of time. We don't have to look far back to recall when the land trust was viewed as an idiosyncratic group of well meaning, but harmless, individuals. Wow, were they wrong! In hindsight we can recognize some of the strategies that worked and some other factors that I can only call our Lyme blessings. You, the early leaders of the Land Trust recognized that: conservation action had to begin with landowners & the strong emotional tie that every landowner has with their land; and that broad community support

had to be built from the ground up; i.e. the hard way. You were willing to: be proactive about reaching out to landowners, and risk rejection, recognize, respect, and nurture Lyme's landowners' stewardship ethic, take the risk of contracting to buy properties and trust that there would be support in the community to raise the funds, develop a strategy for broader protection based on our important natural resources, and begin what seemed like an endless series of programs to educate the community and landowners on the importance of their land and the ecological resources we are blessed with.

We [the Land Trust and the town of Lyme] are blessed with a number of things all of which, I believe, were necessary components of our success.



On a beautiful morning in May, Anthony Irving led a group of hikers through the Honey Hill Preserve in Hadlyme. Many spring wildflowers were blooming, including Trillium, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, and Starflower. Anthony gave the group tips on identifying many species of trees and shrubs.



We are blessed with resources of national and international significance.

We are blessed with our landowners, who protected over 2000 acres of land, by gift, before there was ever money involved or it was the "Lyme" thing to do.

We are blessed with two farmers who were willing to sell their development rights to preserve farmland and a way of life.

We are blessed with town leaders who had an open mind and were willing to see that conservation action was necessary to protect our town budgets and our traditional community values.

All this resulted in something wonderful—what I call "community conservation consciousness" which affirms and values the protection of our conservation

resources. And so others came to live here who shared those values. Looking back these 40 years, it seems that we are blessed with a truly endangered phenomenon in the modern, east coast of the United States—a common ethos: a sense of who we are, what is important to us and, most important, a real commitment to take the responsibility to make it work—to live out our values.

Birds in Pleasant Valley Preserve

During 2006, fifty-four species of birds were recorded in the Pleasant Valley Preserve. This considerable diversity is due to the health and variety of habitats in the Preserve: there are vernal pools, wetlands, running water, meadows and woodlands.

The largest species recorded were the turkey vulture, red-shouldered hawk and red-tailed hawk. The smallest were the blue-gray gnatcatcher, golden-crowned kinglet and ruby-throated hummingbird. There were eleven species of warblers, a number of thrushes and large and small woodpeckers.

The American woodcock did its amazing courtship display in the preserve fields during the spring months. This species needs three types of habitat: wetland in which to feed; meadow on which to display and woodland in which to nest.

If you wish to record a species seen or heard, there is a CT bird list in a plastic bag near the map at the trailhead.

Thanks to Ginger Bladen for supplying this article.



The Land Trust made a good showing this year in Lyme's 4th of July parade riding in Director Mike Richardson's '52 Studebaker pickup. Thanks, Mike!



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

LYME LAND CONSERVATION TRUST

SUMMER 2007

SECOND SATURDAY WALK SERIES

Our Second Saturday Series continues this spring with walks led by directors and former directors of the LLCT board on their favorite trails in Lyme. All walks are held rain or shine. For further information about location of properties, see Trails and Properties page on our website at www.lymelandtrust.org.

Saturday, September 8th, 10:00 am

A Cross-Country Hike with Marta Cone from Pickwick's Preserve through Mt. Archer Woods and the Jewett Property, ending at the Pleasant Valley Preserve. Park at Pickwick's Preserve trailhead, approximately one-quarter mile down the dirt road at #183 Joshuatown Road (on the right-hand side of the road, coming from Hamburg).

This will be a long hike of almost 6 miles. Hiking will be at a moderate pace, with some hills, but no strenuous climbing. The hike will take approximately 2-1/2 hours, with stops along the way, and a snack break at the overlook on the Jewett property. There will be a van/car shuttle from Pleasant Valley Preserve back to the starting point at Pickwick's. Please contact Marta Cone at 434-0255 to pre-register or for further information. Call if weather is iffy; heavy rain cancels.

Saturday, October 13, 10:00 am

Gerber and Slawson Properties with Emily Fisher, Don Gerber and Evan Griswold

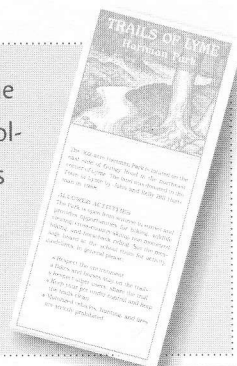
This walk is an opportunity to walk in a new area for many of us, on contiguous properties owned by the Lyme Land Trust, the Nature Conservancy and the Gerber family. It will include a comparison of forestry management styles on the two properties. If the weather has been wet, please wear waterproof footwear. Please park up the driveway at 431 Hamburg Road (Rte. 156).

Saturday, November 3, 10:00 am (please note, first Saturday of the month)

Selden Park Preserve with Matt Elgart.

This walk will include beautiful views of the Connecticut River. Park at Selden Creek Preserve lot on Joshuatown Rd.

Trails Maps are Coming! Trail maps for all Lyme trails open to the public will be available in August, with a compilation in booklet form available the following month. These will be available by mail to Land Trust members; non-members may pick them up at the Town Hall, Library, and local stores. The maps will also be available for downloading on the Land Trust website: www.lymelandtrust.org



For further information, call Mary Guitar at 434-7285 or visit www.lymelandtrust.org

Would you like to receive email notices concerning upcoming LLCT and related events?

To be added to our update list, please contact us at Tom.Shoemaker@gmail.com