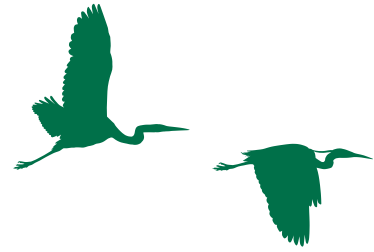


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# THE LYME LAND CONSERVATION TRUST

## SPRING 2019 NEWSLETTER

### Self-Guided Trail Walk Opens in Banningwood

By Wendolyn Hill, *Land Trust Director*

It was a glorious day on June 1 for the opening of the NaturePlace Self-Guided Trail Walk for All Ages in the Land Trust's Banningwood Preserve. NaturePlace is a series of outdoor educational programs, inspired by Diana and Parker Lord, designed to promote a love for the natural environment and to engage the curious of all ages. The map and brochure that accompanies the new interpretive trail highlights interesting facts about its ecology, history and geology at marked stations in the preserve. For those who wish to learn more details, the Self-Guided Trail Walk Geology and Ecology brochure, will be available soon.

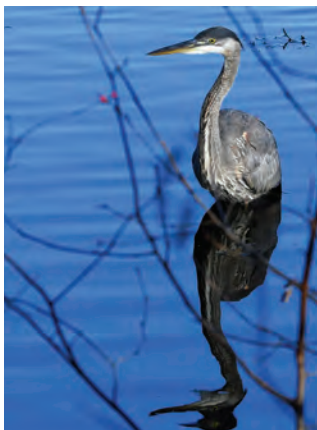
After the ribbon-cutting by Diana and Parker Lord, Land Trust directors Regan Stacey and Wendolyn Hill led the group on the tour with assistance from Parker Lord, history enthusiast and Anthony Irving, forest ecologist.



Photo by Sue Cope

Diana and Parker Lord cut the ribbon for the new Self-Guided Trail Walk for All Ages in Banningwood Preserve.

Many thanks to the Rockfall Foundation for helping to secure funding for a comprehensive environmental inventory of the preserve, compiled by Anthony Irving and former Connecticut State Geologist Ralph Lewis, available on [lymelandtrust.org](http://lymelandtrust.org). Find both self-guided trail brochures at [lymelandtrust.org](http://lymelandtrust.org). The Guide for All Ages is also available in print at the Lyme Library and Lyme Town Hall.



First Place winner in the Land Trusts Properties category, "Great Blue Heron," by Peter Scott, taken in Falls River Preserve in Essex.

### Land Trust Contest Winners: Hard to Choose

Three hundred impressive photographs were on view on April 12 at the well-attended Thirteenth Annual Land Trusts Photo Contest reception at the GrandView Camp Resort in Moodus. The photos illustrated the beauties of the six towns whose land trusts sponsored the contest: East Haddam, Essex, Lyme, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook and Salem. One hundred and thirty photographers entered the contest, one third of whom were kids.

Winners and honorable mentions were selected in seven categories that included land trusts properties, landscape/waterscape, wildlife, plants, two youth categories, black & white, and cultural/historic. A fan favorite was selected during the reception.

Photo judges Skip Broom, Amy Kurtz-Lansing and Joe Standart selected winning photos and honorable mentions in each category. The John G. Mitchell Conservation Award went to Soren Frantz for "Sunset Reeds."

The Land Trusts gave a special thank you to Susan Scott of the Essex Land Trust for her great work in coordinating the contest for the past two years. As Susan is stepping down, a call is going out for a new volunteer coordinator. If you would like more information, contact us at [info@landtrustsphotocontest.org](mailto:info@landtrustsphotocontest.org)

To see a list of the winners and winning photographs, visit [landtrustsphotocontest.org](http://landtrustsphotocontest.org). Winning photos are currently displayed at the Lyme Public Library.

## Pollinators

Douglas Nielson, *Amateur Naturalist*

Quick! What do the following creatures have in common? Birds, bees, bats, wasps, mosquitoes, ants, moths, butterflies, beetles, monkeys, lemurs, rodents, geckos, skinks, and humans. If you answered, “They’re all pollinators,” you’re very smart (or you looked at the headline).

Pollinators are any animal that carries pollen, containing the male gamete, from the anther of a flowering plant to the female stigma, part of the pistil. Usually this occurs between the anther of one plant and the stigma of a different plant of the same species. Once the stigma is fertilized, the ovary becomes the fruit of the plant and the ovule inside it becomes the seed.

Flowering plants, found all over the Earth, represent about 80 percent of all plants. They are the most important food source for birds and mammals, as well as a key source of fiber products, pharmaceuticals, timber and ornamentals.

Most essential food crops, such as corn, wheat, and rice, are wind-pollinating or self-pollinating. Root vegetables and salad crops can produce food without pollination, but won’t develop seed to produce further generations of crops. Hybrid plants are human pollinated.

Flying insects, such as bees, wasps, flies, moths, and butterflies are the most common pollinators, especially of food crops, but beetles, simply because there are so many of them, also play an important role. We think of honeybees as the quintessential pollinator, but because they visit so many different species, they are not efficient pollinators; for instance, if a single bee visits ten species of plants, there is only a one in ten chance that it will carry the right pollen for the stigma it visits next. Other types of bees, like bumblebees, orchard bees and solitary bees, specialize in specific species.

Bees are believed to carry a higher volume of pollen each trip; however, flies, including bee flies, hoverflies and mosquitoes, make more frequent flower trips. I remember camping near a small lake in New Jersey when I was about seven years old, being eaten alive by mosquitoes. At the time I thought, “There isn’t anything useful that these bugs do.” But I was wrong. Only female mosquitoes feed on blood and only when they are producing eggs. Otherwise all mosquitoes feed exclusively on plant nectar, serving as vectors for plant pollination, especially orchids and plants such as carrots, celery, parsnips and dill, as well as some grasses.

Hummingbirds, which feed on nectar, are the best-known bird pollinators, but there are several others, including honeyeaters and sunbirds. Plants pollinated by birds are usually bright orange, red, or yellow and have little odor. This works well because birds have keen eyesight but little sense of smell.



Hover flies. Image by Myriam Zilles from Pixabay.

Flowers have evolved certain traits, like color, to attract certain kinds of pollinators or even specific pollinators. Flowers that attract butterflies tend to have large, showy pink or lavender blossoms complete with a landing area. Beetle-pollinated flowers are usually greenish or off-white and heavily scented. There is a large variation in bee-pollinated flowers, but they tend to be yellow or blue and scented. Flowers that attract flies, rodents, lizards and bats are often strongly scented, sometimes with a smell unpleasant to us, similar to carrion.

In recent years, populations of important pollinators have been threatened by habitat loss, climate change, disease, and pesticides. Since it is estimated that 75 percent of food crops are pollinated by animals, this is quite alarming.

Honeybees are particularly susceptible to threat; because there is only one mating female in each hive, there is little genetic variability. Mace Vaughan, co-director of the Pollinator Program of the Xerces Society, a nonprofit that focuses on the “conservation of invertebrates essential to biological diversity and ecosystem health,” has stated that “Keeping honeybees for pollinator conservation is like keeping chickens for bird conservation.” Aside from their lack of genetic robustness, honeybees are inefficient pollinators and can compete with native bees, even possibly introducing diseases to them.

You can help conserve pollinators by planting native flowers and reducing your use of pesticides. You could even replace your short-mowed lawn with a garden that will provide food and hiding areas for native pollinators.

Recently it has become easy to find “insect hotels” which offer refuge to beneficial insects. However, in order to avoid damaging the populations of the very insects we want to conserve, these hotels need to be properly designed and maintained in a nurturing environment. For more information, see <https://entomologistlounge.wordpress.com/2017/09/18/insect-hotels-a-refuge-or-a-fad/>





## Meet us on the Equinox

On the summer equinox, Friday, June 21, at 6:00 p.m., please help us celebrate our members at our annual meeting. All are welcome at the Lyme Public Hall for community cheer, light fare, and libations. The evening will begin with a brief business meeting, followed by the presentation of the First Lyme Land Trust Volunteer of the Year Award.

## New Riverside Preserve to Open

Please join us for the opening of the Lyme Land Trust's beautiful Riverside Preserve on Sunday, June 23 at 1:00 pm. This new preserve is a 6-acre property about one-quarter mile up Salem Road from Route 156. It borders the newly restored portion of the Eightmile River by the former Ed Bill's Pond and Dam.

Steve Gephard, CT DEEP Fisheries Biologist, will talk about the effect of the dam's removal on the health of the river ecosystem, including the migrating fish population that now has unrestricted passage to ancestral spawning areas. Wildlife and native plants are colonizing this new floodplain habitat. The Nature Conservancy planted native shrubs and trees on the newly exposed soil after the dam removal. Riverside Preserve was donated to the Lyme Land Trust by conservationist Barbara O. David.



A view of the restored portion of the Eightmile River.

Photo by Sue Cope.

## An Important Pile of Rocks

Steve Gephard, *Supervising Fisheries Biologist*  
CT DEEP's Fisheries Division

"Migratory fish diversion wall" is a pretty fancy term for a pile of rocks, but a pile of rocks by the entrance of the Moulson Pond Fishway on the Eightmile River is an important feature for that fishway. A work crew with the DEEP's Fisheries Division performed a "tune-up" for that wall early this season in anticipation of the spring fish migrations.

Most fishways have their entrance at the base of a dam so that as the fish pile up below the barrier, they can easily find the entrance, but that was not possible when we designed and built the Moulson Pond Fishway in 1998, so the entrance to this unique fishway ended up many hundreds of feet downstream. To discourage fish from overshooting the entrance and continuing upstream to the dam, we piled up rocks in the form of a wall that makes it difficult (but not impossible) for fish to continue upstream, and guides them to the left toward the entrance of the fishway. Over the years, this wall has deteriorated due to repeated high water events and last year the numbers of fish that used the fishway was quite low. Furthermore, many fish were seen below the dam.

On March 21, a team rebuilt the wall, taking rocks that had rolled downstream over the years, bringing them back upstream and putting them back on the wall. Almost immediately, white suckers began to use the fishway and in one week we witnessed more white suckers pass than we did all last year. It is too early to comment on the size of the runs of river herring and other species, but we hope that the rebuilt wall will increase the numbers of all species that use the fishway. We thank Sue Cope, the Lyme Land Trust and the adjacent property owners for their cooperation in this task.

Below: A member of a work crew from DEEP's Fisheries Division moves rocks in the Eightmile River. Photo courtesy of Steve Gephard. Right: A student from Lyme Elementary school looks for fish in Spring 2018. Photo by Mary Guitar.





# Tour de Lyme 2019



## Tour de Lyme a Resounding Success

The seventh annual Tour de Lyme was one of our best tours ever! Great weather made for perfect riding on our quiet country roads and mountain bike trails. More than 625 riders enjoyed great food, music from Dan Stevens and, for the first time, craft beers from local breweries.

The success of the Tour de Lyme depends on the efforts of many people working together. This year over 75 volunteers did everything from clearing and flagging the mountain bike course, marking the road routes with signs and arrows, managing the parking of hundreds of cars, registering riders, offering food and water at rest stops, to helping at the picnic and cleaning up afterwards. We could not stage this event without the support of the Town of Lyme, the Lyme Fire Company and Lyme Ambulance; thank you for all your efforts. We would be remiss if we did not acknowledge the residents and motorists in the six towns we ride through for their courtesy, patience and good humor as hundreds of cyclists dominate the roads for a few hours. We also wish to thank our loyal sponsors who make this event financially viable. Last, but certainly not least, we thank the enthusiastic riders from over 100 Connecticut towns and several states who support Tour de Lyme. Many return year after year to ride in this great event. Tour de Lyme is a wonderful way for us to showcase 53 years of land conservation, to support those who choose to get outside and enjoy what nature has to offer, and to encourage others to join them.

Finally, we wish to thank the Dahlke family for allowing us to use their property for the past six years. Chip Dahlke, who passed away in 2018, was a generous supporter of the Land Trust and this wonderful event. His presence was greatly missed this year.

Kristina White  
*Executive Director*

Photos by Joe Standart, Sue Cope, Deb Swaney Jones, Ellen Falbowski, Ted Falbowski, Alex Falbowski, Debra Joy, Julia Werth, Barb Singer and Humphrey Tyler.







## Platinum Sponsors



## Gold Sponsors



## Silver Sponsors



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## KNOW THESE INVASIVES

SECOND IN A SERIES

### Japanese Barberry *Berberis thunbergii*



Japanese Barberry. Creative Commons image.

Japanese barberry is one of the most prolific invasive plants in the Land Trust preserves. This ornamental deciduous shrub is banned in some states, but is still widely available. Barberry has been associated with high populations of deer ticks because they retain humidity, which ticks need to reproduce. White-footed mice also thrive under barberry stands.

**Controlling Barberry:** If you can't remove the plant entirely, kill all of the plant that's above ground by cutting it down or heating it with a propane torch. When there is new growth, re-treat it with heat or an herbicide. This second treatment works especially well in October.

Some native shrubs that are good alternatives to Japanese barberry include highbush blueberry, New Jersey tea, Virginia sweetspire, and dwarf witchhazel.

## Land Trust's Accreditation Renewal: Comments Invited

The land trust accreditation program recognizes land conservation organizations that meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever. The Lyme Land Conservation Trust is pleased to announce it is applying for accreditation renewal. A public comment period is now open.

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance, conducts an extensive review of each applicant's policies and programs.

The Commission invites public input and accepts signed, written comments on pending applications. Comments must relate to how the Lyme Land Conservation Trust complies with national quality standards. These standards address the ethical and technical operation of a land trust. For the full list of standards see [landtrustaccreditation.org/help-and-resources/indicator-practices](http://landtrustaccreditation.org/help-and-resources/indicator-practices).

To learn more about the accreditation program and to submit a comment, visit [www.landtrustaccreditation.org](http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org), or email your comment to [info@landtrustaccreditation.org](mailto:info@landtrustaccreditation.org). Comments may also be faxed or mailed to the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, Attn: Public Comments: (fax) 518-587-3183; (mail) 36 Phila Street, Suite 2, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866.

Comments on the Lyme Land Conservation Trust's application will be most useful if received by November 8, 2019.

## A Contribution with Benefits

"Carrie and I moved to Lyme almost 10 years ago. We were impressed by Lyme's scenic beauty, lightly traveled roads, the community's emphasis on preserving the environment, and its friendly character.

Our retirement savings were heavily skewed towards equity investments. When the Lyme Conservation Trust began to offer Charitable Gift Annuities underwritten by the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut, we decided to purchase them annually under a "dollar-cost averaging strategy." The benefits are pay rates above bond alternatives, tax deductions, and importantly a lasting contribution to the environment. Before inviting others, it's best to eat your own cooking. We have." — Milt and Carrie Walters

AGE	ANNUITY RATE	ANNUITY PAYMENT*	CHARITABLE DEDUCTION*
65	5.1%	\$1,275	\$8,618
70	5.6%	\$1,400	\$9,808
75	6.2%	\$1,550	\$11,263
80	7.3%	\$1,825	\$12,205

\*Based on a \$25,000 purchase

For additional information on how you and the environment might benefit with a Land Trust Annuity, contact Milt Walters at 203-485-6070 or [Milton.Walters@LymeLandTrust.org](mailto:Milton.Walters@LymeLandTrust.org).

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## THE LYME LAND CONSERVATION TRUST NEWSLETTER

Published by The Lyme Land Conservation Trust, Inc., PO Box 1002, Lyme, CT 06371  
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## The Tree Collective: Field Notes

By Jane Scheiber, Lyme-Old Lyme High School student

*The Tree Collective is a program designed to engage young conservationists ages 14-18 in outdoor fun and education, while working to maintain trails in Lyme. It is sponsored by the Lyme Land Trust, as part of the NaturePlace Education program.*

In the last three months, The Tree Collective has been wonderfully productive. At the end of February, we took a trip to the Peabody Museum to learn about the past and present of the natural world. In mid-March, we received t-shirts thanks to the LLCT and TC member Jack Conley, who designed our logo. One of our new members, Ethan Rivera, joined us at our mid-March meeting, and we headed out to Hartman Park to clean up the ruins of Lee Farm. In April, we met Don Gerber, who taught us different land surveying techniques and we welcomed new member Sarah Conley. Finally, at our last meeting, we continued cleaning the Fairy Circle after the Earth Day celebration was canceled due to rain.

The floors of the Peabody Museum possess an expansive wealth of knowledge that we felt very fortunate to see. We explored each floor and learned many new facts. Among these were: the hummingbird has the second smallest bird skull, and an owl cannot move its eyes (instead it rotates its head, and only 270°, not 360°). We also saw a terrarium with leafcutter ants, a wide array of preserved insects, birds, and mammals, and an exhibit detailing the path of human evolution. We headed home with an expanded understanding of the natural world.

At our next meeting, we explored Hartman Park and cleaned up the ruins at Lee Farm. While at Lee Farm, Jack Conley and Jess Kegley found a letterbox tucked behind a rock. We all signed the book and returned it to its original spot. Elsewhere at Hartman, we studied the beaver activity and identified a large patch of juniper.

In April, Don Gerber taught us the basics of land surveying. We learned how to read a survey map and look for its landmarks, such as trees (based on their diameter), stones left over from old fencing, and iron rods (found with a magnetometer). Mr. Gerber also taught us how to tell the difference between true and magnetic north, and how to measure a distance when accounting for the slope of a hill, as well as troubleshooting difficult areas to survey.

Finally, at our last meeting, we cleaned up the Fairy Circle in preparation for our new picnic table. While clearing, we discovered the spring ephemerals sessile bellwort and wood anemone. On May 19, we helped out with Tour de Lyme.

In the future, we are looking forward to delivering the picnic table to the Fairy Circle, and other projects.



(L to R) Chase Reneson, Jack Conley, Ethan Rivera, Jess Kegley, and Jane Scheiber, moving a beaver log from the trail at Hartman Park. (Not pictured: Calvin Scheiber, Sarah Conley, Will Bartlett.) Photo by Regan Stacey.



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## Events Calendar

All events subject to change. Dates and times will be announced by press release and email, and posted on the Land Trust website and Facebook page. Contact: [stewardship@lymelandtrust.org](mailto:stewardship@lymelandtrust.org) (unless otherwise noted below)

### **Bat Presentation with Maureen Heidtmann**

**Saturday, June 15, 2019, 11:00 a.m.**

#### **NaturePlace Banningwood Preserve, Town Street, Lyme**

Join us in Diana's Field with bat expert and rehabilitator Maureen Heidtmann. This presentation will cover bat populations in Connecticut, the threats they face, and how we can help to protect them. She will also bring some of her furry flying friends with her.

### **Annual Meeting 2019**

**Friday, June 21, 2019, 6:00 p.m.**

#### **Lyme Public Hall, 249 Hamburg Road (Route 156) Hamburg, CT**

Please join us on the Summer Equinox for community cheer, light fare, and libations. Everyone welcome. After a brief business meeting, an award will be given to the First Lyme Land Trust Volunteer of the Year. Contact: [info@lymelandtrust.org](mailto:info@lymelandtrust.org)

### **Riverside Preserve Opening**

**Sunday, June 23, 2019, 1:00 p.m.**

#### **Riverside Preserve, Salem Road, Lyme CT, about ¼ mile from Route 156**

The beautiful 6-acre Riverside Preserve borders the newly restored portion of the Eightmile River by the former Ed Bill's Dam. Steve

Gephard, CT DEEP Fisheries Biologist, will talk about the effect of the dam's removal on the health of the river ecosystem. The preserve was donated to the Lyme Land Trust by conservationist Barbara O. David.

### **Forest Yoga**

**August 10, 10:00 a.m.**

#### **NaturePlace at Banningwood Preserve, Town Street, Lyme**

Relax in the shade of the forest while stretching out your muscles. Alison Ritrovado of Red Barn Yoga leads an all-levels yoga class in Diana's Field. Bring your yoga mat and water.

### **Edible Plants Walk**

**Saturday, August 17, 11:00 a.m.**

#### **Banningwood Preserve, Town Street, Lyme**

Naturalist "Wildman" Steve Brill will lead a 2.5-hour walk of Banningwood Preserve to forage for edible plants and teach us about the food to be found in the forest. This walk is free for LLCT members, \$10 suggested donation per adult for non-members. Contact: [stewardship@lymelandtrust.org](mailto:stewardship@lymelandtrust.org) to reserve your spot.