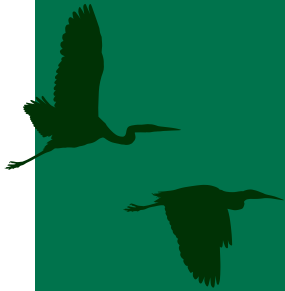




# ANNUAL REPORT

## LYME LAND CONSERVATION TRUST

2019-2020



Dear Members,

What began as a typical year for the Lyme Land Trust evolved into an extraordinary one. But, like nature, we have learned to adapt; and with change comes exciting new ventures that may not have otherwise been explored. The Land Trust has continued its core mission of managing and preserving its lands for the benefit of all while also providing educational opportunities for all ages in new formats. In these difficult times, it is clear how vital being in nature is for our mental and physical well-being.

Land acquisition is at the core of our mission and we are happy to report that we have received donations of another property as well as a new easement, both of which continue to expand our green corridors. As our Preservation and Stewardship Committees report, these parcels enhance large, uninterrupted greenways that are critical habitat for both flora and fauna. Each of our parcels has its own management plan intended to improve the ecology of Lyme—whether it is farming our fields in partnership with Long Table Farm in the Bloom Field or creating a pollinator field in Riverside Preserve.

The Education and Events Committee had another year of successful events while facing the daunting challenge of continuing to educate in an era of social distancing. We had many well-attended walks and talks in the fall and winter, including a huge turnout of families for the owl presentation given in partnership with A Place Called Hope. That event turned out to be our last in-person event and the Committee immediately began planning new ways to educate. New ventures that have been successful include Wild Wednesdays—a Facebook and Instagram program that provides activities to do in your backyard, short videos of walks in our preserves, and self-guided interpretive trail brochures. Stewardship also began video compilation of live footage of the animals that visit our preserves.

While our mission is the land, we are committed to managing the organization in a fiscally sound and prudent way. To that end we successfully completed the arduous process of being reaccredited for another five years by the Land Trust Alliance. The effort, led by Board Member Dan Hulseberg, delved into every aspect of our organization and led to the creation of a new Governance Committee chaired by Director Ann Rich. We take seriously our goal of long term financial viability, and we have Milt Walters, our Philanthropy Committee Chair, to thank for continuing to guide us in growing a healthy endowment. We also are delighted to welcome Alan Sheiness as a Director and our new Treasurer. He has continued George Lombardino's work of managing our assets and developing our financial reports in a sound manner.

We hope you will enjoy reading our Committees' reports which highlight all they have accomplished in more detail. These accomplishments would not have happened without the strong and continued support of our members and we thank you.

Sincerely,

Kristina White  
*Executive Director*

Photos above: Sophia Griswold plays at Family Fun Day 2019; Selden Preserve; Bob Cope receives the Volunteer of the Year Award 2020. Photos throughout report by Sue Cope, Wendolyn Hill, and Kristina White.

**FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS,** the Land Trust has undergone the rigorous process of preparing its application for reaccreditation with The Land Trust Alliance, a national organization dedicated to the policy, standards, education and training of land trusts. Under the stellar leadership of board member Dan Hulseberg, our board compiled a phone-book-size set of materials documenting the Lyme Land Trust's efforts to uphold the standards it committed to when it became accredited five years ago. We supplied the Land Trust Alliance proof that our by-laws, policies and procedures, and other governing documents are in compliance, our finances and fundraising practices are well-managed and following protocols, our procedures and documentation for acquiring new properties are well organized and recorded, and our stewardship practices and property ownership and management documentation are up to date and verified. On August 20 of this year, the Land Trust received confirmation of its reaccreditation for another five years.

While intensive and time consuming, the application process showed us that we have a lot to be proud of—we have accomplished a lot as a Board and an organization over the last five years. We have become an organized and well-oiled machine. However, as we have grown in size and staff, and increased the number of properties and easements we own and manage, we did find some gaps that needed to be addressed.

We filled one of these gaps by creating a Governance Committee which will be responsible for ensuring the overall effectiveness of the organization. To this end, the committee will merge all the duties of the Nominating Committee and several duties of other committees and also greatly expand its accountability with the Board and the organization as a whole. We will review and evaluate the governance policies, practices and performance of the Board, its committees, and directors to ensure effective oversight and thoughtful planning; oversee compliance of LLCT by-laws, regulations, policies, and procedures, as well as conformity with state, local, and Land Trust Alliance laws, regulations, policies, and procedures; oversee the Executive Director; oversee responsible succession planning for Board officers and Committee Chairs; implement new Board Evaluation Processes; and review any perceived or actual conflicts involving individual and/or staff members.

The creation of this new committee will add a whole new level of oversight to ensure that we hold ourselves to the highest standard of operations as we continue on the road to prosperity and sustainability.

The creation of the Governance Committee was approved by the board and the membership in June 2020 at the Annual meeting. The Board and membership also voted unanimously to allow the Board to hold virtual meetings and to make changes to the by-laws without membership approval.

**Photo: Riverside Preserve**



### Governance Chair

ANN RICH

**DURING THIS PAST YEAR** the Land Trust has been working with three landowners: one who donated a 44-acre property off Grassy Hill Road, another interested in donating a conservation easement and a third landowner considering a possible gift of 73 acres.

The 44-acre donation, known as the Idlewild Preserve, is a forested tract that connects with adjacent open space, creating an almost uninterrupted corridor of protected lands running from Hartman Park to the summit of Grassy Hill Road. The potential easement parcel is an historic open field running along Hamburg Road. The third is a 73-acre property that includes fields and woodlands abutting other open space parcels. The owners of this third property had previously donated an easement, but the heirs are now considering donating the property in full. All of these properties add to the larger network of protected lands that provide clean air, water and enhanced habitat for wildlife.

Much time and deliberation is needed to explore various

protection strategies for landowners wanting to protect the conservation value of their lands. The Land Trust must evaluate each property and inform the potential donor or seller about the different options available. Only when a landowner is convinced that working with the Land Trust is in their family's and the land's best interest can we formulate a final plan. These decisions cannot be rushed; sometimes years go by before the fate of a particular property is decided.

The Land Trust depends on caring and committed landowners when it comes to land protection. Sharing these goals makes the relationship between the community and the Land Trust vital. The Land Trust is always available to answer questions and guide prospective landowners interested in protecting their family lands for future generations. Landowners wishing to discuss conservation options and strategies can contact me directly and in confidence at 860 434-1460 or by email at anthonyinlyme@gmail.com.



### Preservation Chair

ANTHONY IRVING

**Photo: Cedar Grove in Idlewild Preserve**

**THE EVENTS AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE** provided a full roster of programs in 2019-2020 to fulfill the Land Trust's goal of educating the public about the value of our preserved open space and the importance of environmental conservation.

**Pull-out map:** While many public sites and activities were closed, our preserves remained open to all, with social distancing guidelines posted at each entrance. We featured the trails and preserves in our Spring 2020 newsletter, providing a pullout map and descriptions of all the trails in Lyme.

**A new website** was updated with a new look, a dynamic home page, and an interactive map highlighting all the trails of Lyme.

**Interpretive Trail self-guided brochures** were more popular than ever. This year, to complement the popular Banningwood Preserve Interpretive Trail for all Ages, which provides a general overlook, we published the Interpretive brochure on the Geology and Ecology of the Banningwood Preserve which goes into more detail. Both are based on the inventory compiled by forest ecologist Anthony Irving and geologist Ralph Lewis. In addition, we introduced an updated Lyme Corner Trails Map and Brochure with an interpretive trail guide to the Heritage Trail at Hartman Park, with information about the cedar grove at Walbridge Woodlands. New infographic signage on the Heritage Trail highlights sites of historical and geological interest. Instead of the scheduled guided walk there for CT Trails Day June 6 and 7, 2020, hikers were invited to visit on their own.

**Videos and virtual programs** that highlight our preserves are being created as an alternative to in person programming. They can be accessed on the Media page on our web site. Sue Cope, LLT Environmental Director, introduced Wild Wednesdays, a social media campaign on Instagram and Facebook, which offers fun and educational DIY nature activities for families. We recorded a longer video of a virtual walk along the Ravine Trail guided by conservation biologist Michael Zarfos, focusing on springtime tree and plant identification.

**Family Programming:** We hosted Mystic Seaport staff for an amphibian survey, a Fall Family Nature Day, and a family nature walk with Kim Hargrave, all at Banningwood Preserve. In February 2020 at a well-attended children's program at the Public Library, staff from A Place Called Hope introduced the children to saw-whet and barred owls and told stories about bird conservation.

**Tour de Lyme,** scheduled for May 2020, is postponed until May 23, 2021 because of the pandemic.

**Our Annual meeting** was held online on June 26, 2020. Bob Cope was named Volunteer of the Year; Congratulations and a huge thank you to Bob for all his help.

**The Tree Collective,** led by Regan Stacey, a program designed to engage young conservationists ages 14-18 in outdoor fun and education, while working to maintain trails, met monthly and provided much support to the stewardship of Lyme trails.



**A Place Called Hope raptor presentation; the Tree Collective; planting elm trees with The Nature Conservancy on Czikowsky Hill property.**

## Events and Education Chair

WENDOLYN HILL

**Informative and inspiring presentations and events** for adults included forest yoga in Diana's Field in Banningwood in July, an edible plant walk with Steve Brill in August, a butterfly walk in September with Rich Chyniski, and a mushroom walk in October. In September, the Land Trust hosted the annual sunset cruise on the RiverQuest to enjoy the display of migrating swallows. In November, we were treated to a talk and walk by Markham Starr to see ceremonial stonework created by indigenous people. Michael Zarfos led a tree-identification walk in January.

**Partnerships:** This year, we joined with organizations in Lyme to provide families with a program to paint peace pole birdhouses to be placed in our preserves. We also worked with The Nature Conservancy to plant disease-resistant elm saplings in one of our preserves, as part of multi-year research project to help bring elms back to the region. We offered a series of programs through the Lyme Forest Block Conservation Project (LFBCP) with Audubon Connecticut, the Town of Lyme, the Eightmile River Wild and Scenic Committee and many area partners to encourage the enhancement of bird-friendly habitat. In September 2019, as part of the LFBCP, we ran a program at Hartman Park on how to recognize and remove invasive plants. LFBCP sessions about habitat assessment planned for the spring of 2020 were transferred to online webinars, which were recorded and are available for view. See the "Of Note" section of the website.

**Community walks and work parties** on Lyme's preserves were led by committee chairperson Wendolyn Hill. Highlights included a Saturday after Thanksgiving Walk, the Annual New Year's Day Walk to the overlook at Pleasant Valley Preserve, and a Groundhog Day Walk.



**OUR NEWEST PRESERVE,** Idlewild Preserve, on Grassy Hill Road, was given to the Land Trust over the winter by Mr. and Mrs. George Lombardino. We are creating a management plan which reflects the donors' wish to preserve this parcel in its most natural form, while also allowing it to become an active contributor to a large corridor of preserves in this part of the state. Idlewild will not host a trail system, but will be a wild sanctuary where native flora and fauna can flourish. The boundaries have been marked and soon there will be signage to identify the preserve. An informal grand opening will be held later this year.

Last summer we hosted a grand opening of the stunning Riverside Preserve, a six-acre parcel along the Eightmile River on Salem Road. This parcel was generously donated to us by local conservationist Barbara O. David, and features a short trail through a working pollinator meadow, and a beautifully crafted timber-frame pavilion. Many hours were invested in pulling invasive plants and seeding the field with native perennial pollinator-friendly plants and flowers. This summer, the field is a buzz of activity and we have proudly registered Riverside with the non-profit organization Monarch Watch, based at the University of Kansas, which focuses on the monarch butterfly, its habitat, and its spectacular fall migration. We will continue adding beneficial vegetation to this field, with the goal of applying our findings from Riverside to other fields in the future.

We are continuing our commitment to maintain our agricultural fields in a "farmed or farmable state." This directly benefits our community by providing affordable

space for a local business to carry out its operations, while also maintaining and conserving our lands. Our Bloom Preserve on Macintosh Road is currently managed by Long Table Farm on Beaver Brook Road. We are fortunate to have a local, organic farm express interest in rejuvenating this property by re-establishing long lost nutrients in the soil and farming in an ethical and environmentally conscious way. Additionally, Long Table will begin working the land on Sterling City Preserve—a privately owned parcel on Sterling City Road with a land trust easement in place. The owners of this lot are equally satisfied with the quality of farming coming to their land.

In order to appropriately manage and maintain our preserves, the Land Trust has begun using video footage via trail cameras to obtain data from our properties, especially of fauna species diversity.

With more of us anchored close to home, the trails of Lyme are providing many visitors with the welcome break of a walk in the woods. Keeping the entrances, footpaths and environs clear takes the efforts of many volunteers who brush-cut and clip invasives, remove downed trees and limbs, and mow fields. Others contribute by helping with ongoing trail and annual easement monitoring. A group from Dominion Energy volunteered several days to help erect kiosks, clear debris, build benches in several preserves and erect the platform for the Riverside pavilion. We are, as always, grateful for the contributions of all and thankful to have such a spirited group as partners.



## Stewardship

.....  
**STEWARDSHIP CHAIR**  
**MAL KARWOSKI**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECTOR**  
**SUE COPE**



**Photos: Bench on Brockway Hawthorne Preserve, built by Dominion Energy; Long Table Farm potato field on Bloom Preserve.**

**AS HAS BEEN THE CASE FOR** almost all enterprises everywhere, the second half of our fiscal year was financially challenging because of COVID-related restrictions and the related impact on revenues. With the postponement of the May 2020 Tour de Lyme, all proceeds were deferred into the next fiscal year, and we experienced a falloff in many revenue categories year over year.

With careful expense management, the Land Trust performed above budgeted net income expectations for the full year excluding a single non-recurring charge for enforcement-related legal fees. All in, the Land Trust experienced about a \$7,000 decrease in net assets, despite the lower revenues and deferrals into next year. The Land Trust's investment portfolio,

managed externally with a conservative investment policy, performed well year-over-year despite a temporary decline in the third quarter. Over the year, we continued the strategy of investing for the future by making additional contributions from our General Fund into the Endowment Fund and the Preservation Fund.

Looking ahead to next year, the various committees and their chairs will continue their quest for excellent conservation management with an involved and satisfied community. Our budget for next year calls for prudent expense management with modest revenue increases. Now more than ever we need your financial support to allow uninterrupted diligence in keeping Lyme green and beautiful and accessible!

## Treasurer

.....  
**ALAN SHEINESS**

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As of June 30, 2020

ASSETS	Amounts in 000s
<b>Current Assets</b>	
Checking and Savings Accounts	616.7
Other Current Assets	6.5
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<u>623.2</u>
Conservation Land	5,864.8
Long-term Investments	1,458.5
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u><u>7,946.9</u></u>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>	
Total Current Liabilities	108.1
Deferred Revenue	53.6
Installments Payable	80.0
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<u>241.7</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>	
Retained Earnings	5,790.4
<b>Fund Balances</b>	
General Fund	228.2
Endowment Fund	717.0
H Templeton Brown Preservation Fund	608.6
Rufus Barringer Stewardship Fund	212.0
Other Restricted Funds	148.8
<b>Total Fund Balances</b>	<u>1,914.7</u>
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<u>7,705.1</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>	<u><u>7,946.9</u></u>

## STATEMENT OF INCOME

Year ended June 30, 2020

Ordinary Income/Expense	Amounts in 000s
<b>Revenues</b>	
Membership Dues	70.1
Fund Donations	179.3
Tour de Lyme	0.0
Other Revenues	5.8
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<u>255.2</u>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Compensation	137.8
Stewardship	34.3
Communications	21.2
Events	3.8
G & A	35.0
Operations-other	92.2
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<u>324.3</u>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<u>-69.1</u>
 <b>Net Other Income</b>	 <u>61.8</u>
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<u><u>-7.3</u></u>

# WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

## Over \$10,000

Anonymous  
Baxter, Andy  
David, Barbara O.  
Hargraves, John & Newcomb, Nancy  
Hastings, Mark & Susan  
Lombardino, George  
Millerbernd, Donald  
Pritchard, John & Lee

## \$2500-\$9,999

Childs, Jamie & Hannah  
Deane, Curtis & Shoemaker, Tom  
Duncan, James & Laura  
Gahagan, Frederick & Mary Lou  
Griswold, Evan & Fisher, Emily  
Hulseberg, Daniel & John Kiker  
Konst, Jozef & Copp, Betsey  
Richardson, Michael & Faye  
Walters, Milton & Caroline

## \$1,000-\$2,499

Barringer, Charlotte P.  
Beglin, Brian & Cynthia  
Bianchi, John & Alexandra  
Brewer, John & Margaret  
Butler, Jonathan & Deborah  
Clark, Ronald & Jane  
Clark, Tim & Turner, Molly  
Daitch, Peter  
Douglas, J. Scott & Wendy  
Dowling, Vincent  
Embree, Jeb & Dianne  
Enders, Anthony & Elizabeth  
Fetter, Trevor & Melissa  
Frankel, David & Liz  
Jackson, Mark & Hagberg, Karen  
Klimek, Carol  
Leonardo, Melodee  
Luce, James  
Mallory, Scott & Sonstroem, Sara  
Melville, Gregory & Fox, Susan  
Merrill, Newton & Polly  
Miller, James & Stacey, Regan  
Morgan, Elizabeth  
Murphy, Alden & Jamie  
Patterson, Michael & Elena  
Pritchard, Chris & Sally  
Roosevelt, Christopher du P. & Rosalind  
Saxton, Dr. Craig & Pietrina  
Schroeder, Mary & Spencer, Cathy  
Shea, James & Kristen  
Sheiness, Alan & Jeanne  
Standart, Joe & Clinton  
Turner, Molly  
Tyler, Humphrey & Susan

## \$500-\$999

Becker, Virginia  
Buerger, Brantley  
Catlett, John & Athana

Dodge, Bradley  
Duran, Judith  
Karwoski, Malvin & Gail  
Learned, E. Russell & Cotton, Allyson  
Leonardo, Jarrod & Stacey  
Lewis, Ralph & Leslie  
Lieber, Dr. William & Carolyn  
McCall, Alison & Eiel, Peter  
McKee, Nicholas & Tracy  
Meeus, Juliette & Stevens, Catherine  
Melchreit, Richard & Anna-Marie  
Miller, Thomas & Wendy  
Nuzum, Dr. Margaret  
Prichard, Peter & Ann  
Rosseau, Richard & Gail  
Sauer, Claire  
Theobald, Sprague & Reichling, Julie  
Williams, Nancy Young  
Woody, Melvin

## \$250-\$499

Amacher, David & Charlene  
Ballek, Rowland & Nancy  
Barney, Claire  
Bauwens, Mark & Susan  
Beaudette, Michael & Edna  
Burnham, Rika  
Buttrick, Ann  
Critchett, Donald & Jane  
Crowley, Patrick & Halvorsen, Kim  
Denow, Bill & Sara  
Domenie, Douglas & Patrice  
Egri, Paul & Christine  
Elgart, Dr. Matthew & Linda  
Finger, Eric, Jascin & Nolan Leonardo  
Fiske, William & Diana  
Fogle, Gifford  
Ford, Wendy  
Fotos, Michael & Lindsey, Claudia  
Frank, Allan & King, Lillian  
Griffin, John  
Griffin, John & Richmond, Lynn  
Henderson, Susan & Dan  
Hessel, Susan & Dahle, Karen  
Hill, Wendolyn & Sutton, Richard  
House, Robert & Carol  
Inglis, Andrea & Allan  
Irving, Anthony & Lees, Deborah  
Jacobs, Stephen & Andi  
Knight, Douglas & Williams, Susan  
Lee, Richard & Heidi  
Lovejoy, Timothy & Brechneff, Christian  
Lynch, Anthony & Patricia  
Macbeth, Thomas & Griffin, Maureen  
Maroni, Paul & Margot  
Mattson, Steven & Maddy  
Michael, Curt & Barbara  
Miller, Laura Lee & Bowes, Brian  
Mooney, George & Laura  
Nelson, Jil

Niblack, John & Heidi  
Pedrick, James & Jacquelyn  
Rennhard, Hans & Hildegard  
Rosenshine, Allen & Susan  
Su, Chih-Wu  
Thurston, Sandy  
Tuttle, Courtney & Silvers, Jonathan  
Volles, Warren & Lori  
Watt, Peter N. & Cattie, Gerard  
West, Tina  
Willauer, George & Cynthia  
Wing, Thomas & Andrea  
Worcester, Rick & Heidi

## \$100-\$249

Anderson, Bruce & Leslie  
Andreas, Robert & Deborah  
Angers, Thomas E. & Van Daff, Tim  
Bach, Debra S.  
Ballard, Bob & Barbara  
Bannister, Heather & David  
Bergan, Nathaniel & Sara  
Birch, Susan Raible & Michael  
Bischoff, Thomas & Terry  
Blackwell, Elmer & Bennett, Stefanie  
Bladen, Ashby & Ginger  
Boehning, William & Diana  
Bombacci, Edward  
Brady, Mark  
Broom, Lorraine  
Cain, Maureen  
Cantner, Matthew & Shaleighne  
Carpiniello, William  
Clarke, Kay  
Clements, Nicholas & Elizabeth  
Cone, Alione & Andrews, John  
Coney, Joseph & Peres, Andrea  
Cooper, Gwen  
Crowther, Beverly  
D'Arista, Jane  
Darnell, Christine  
DiGiovanna, Steve & Sherry  
Dominy, Richard & Carol  
Evans, Douglas & Ann Lacey  
Fay, John & Isleib, Jonathan  
Feltham, Ethel  
Fischer, Kurt & Susan  
Flanagan, Stephen  
Fowler, George & Roehr, Carol  
Francis, Anthony & Marion  
Furgueson, Michael & Sherley  
Gerber, Donald & Carleen  
Giaconia, John & Deborah  
Gibbons, Elizabeth  
Gibson, Andrew & Katherine  
Gravatt, Scott & Denise  
Hardin, Melissa  
Harris, Robert  
Heym, James  
House, George & Linda

Howard, Shirley  
 Hutton, IV, William & Jennifer  
 Johnson, Gilead & Maureen Miskovic  
 Johnston, Judy  
 Jones, Richard & Carol  
 Kane, Mitchell & Jessica  
 Kelly, Barry & Cynthia  
 Krusen, Gordon & Cole, Susan  
 Lacey, Richard  
 Lawlor, Elizabeth  
 Lesick, Andrew  
 Lewis, Steven & Denise  
 Li, Zheng & Wan, Hong  
 Limon, Patricia & Kim Secrist  
 Littlefield, David & Desillier, Elene  
 Livingston, Scott & Deborah  
 Long, Barbara & Walters, Roxann  
 Lord, Parker & Diana  
 Martin, William Scott  
 Miller, Gregory & Motyka, Joan  
 Monte, Charles & Andrina  
 Moore, George & Rosemary  
 Mummert, Drs. Earl & Margaret  
 Nagourney, Herbert & Bramson, Ann  
 Nielson, Doug & Guitar, Mary

Overfield, Dennis & Joan  
 Pawlik, Gary & Christine  
 Payne, Judith  
 Platt, Frederick & Christine  
 Rich, Ann  
 Rothery, Kyle & Sue Ellen  
 Rubino, Damian & Holly  
 Schwolsky, John & Storch, Elizabeth  
 Slater, Brian & Janet  
 Snarski, Richard  
 Snyder, Todd & Boyer, Phoebe  
 Standish, Robert & Mildred  
 Stark, Lucius  
 Steele, Rick & Debbie  
 Sulger, Jack & Laurie  
 Tennant, Foster & Goodall, Susan  
 Thach, Margaret  
 Walker, David & Cary  
 Weed, Gary & Carol  
 White, Peter & Kristina  
 Wilson, Thomas & Mary

**Corporate and Foundations**  
 Essex Savings Bank Community  
 Investment Program  
 Rayonier Advanced Materials

**Matching Gift Programs**

Aetna Foundation  
 Boston Consulting Group  
 Dominion Foundation  
 Pfizer Foundation Matching Gifts

**Heritage Society Members**

**Charitable Gift Annuity Inclusions**

Anonymous (6)  
 Baxter, Andy  
 Cushman, Katherine Rose\*  
 Hessel, Susan & Dahle, Karen  
 Howard, Shirley  
 Irving, Anthony & Lees, Deborah  
 Lord, Parker & Diane  
 Millerbernd, Donald  
 Moore, George & Rosemarie  
 Pritchard, John & Lee  
 Rich, Ann  
 Simon, Nissa  
 Tyler, Humphrey & Susan  
 Ulmer, Gordon\*  
 Walters, Milton & Caroline

\*Deceased



Photos: Volunteer Nick White and Board member Mal Karwoski doing trail work; New Year's Walk; Volunteer David Walker in his full trail maintenance gear; butterfly expert Rick Chyniski.

**FIRST, WE OWE A HEARTY EXPRESSION** of gratitude to our members, benefactors, volunteers, fellow board members, Tour de Lyme sponsors, Lyme's Fire Department and Ambulance Association, Town of Lyme officials and appointees, and the State of Connecticut, both elected officials and appointees.

Our success in fulfilling our mission of conserving Lyme's land and water resources depends on your financial support and volunteer commitment of time.

Here's what your support helps us achieve: our woodlands produce fresh air and water daily for the lower Connecticut River Valley and beyond, our trails are available to the public for recreation especially in the past months for the solace that nature provides in the current Covid-19 pandemic. Our greenways enhance wildlife biodiversity; migrating birds and fish travel thousands of miles annually to spend time in our woods and waters. By stewarding the land, the Lyme Land Trust helps to mitigate climate change.

As part of long-term planning in advance of our initial

accreditation 5 years ago, we established an Endowment Fund to provide a source of recurring income to the Land Trust against the possibility of leaner times. Now three years old, the Fund totals about \$750,000. Our goal is to build it to \$4 million. In conjunction with our 50th Anniversary Capital Campaign, we received pledges of approximately \$1.5 million (no cash today) but as a planned gift from the donors' estates.

To recognize the planned gifts of many, we established the Heritage Society; with this year's additions, it now has 27 members.

Pledges ranged from beneficiary designations of IRAs and 401ks to will codicils and Charitable Gift Annuity purchases. The CGAs now total \$275,000,

through 10 purchases, including two this year totaling \$75,000. All have been underwritten by our partner, the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut. John Pritchard has addressed the benefits of the Charitable Gift Annuity in a note titled "Better Than an Ice Cream Sundae." If you'd like a copy, let me know. milton.walters@lymelandtrust.org

**Philanthropy Chair**

MILT WALTERS



## UPCOMING EVENTS FALL 2020

Coming soon for streaming—

### A Video Exploration of the Forest Plants in Ravine Trail

with Michael Zarfos, conservation biologist, PhD candidate from The State University of New York-College of Environmental Science and Forestry. Filmed on-site May 30, 2020 by the Events and Education Committee of the Lyme Land Trust.

### October 2020—Imagining Lyme—A Visual Exploration of Lyme's Preserves

This online program will encourage the use of photography to expand visual awareness and appreciation of Lyme preserves, while at the same time teaching new strategies for taking photos. Photographers will be encouraged to focus their efforts with guidance through tips from Joe Standart, an internationally known photographer and artist. Each tip will be short, simple, and non-technical, suitable for photographers using a smartphone. Photos will be submitted to be showcased in our web gallery; photos of distinction will be chosen by a three-judge panel. Details listed soon on the events page at [lymelandtrust.org](http://lymelandtrust.org).

## SAVE THE DATE

### Sunday, May 23, Tour de Lyme 2021, rescheduled from May 2020

Please join us for the seventh annual Tour de Lyme cycling event with beautifully scenic routes for all ages and levels. We're looking forward to seeing you! The Lyme Land Trust inaugurated Tour de Lyme in 2013 as an annual bike ride to raise funds to support its mission of preserving and protecting environmentally important land in Lyme. For more information, visit the Tour de Lyme webpage: [tourdelyme.org](http://tourdelyme.org).

Photos: star flower; Banningwood in winter; Board member Ann Rich and Riley on the Ravine Trail.



Check our website [lymelandtrust.org](http://lymelandtrust.org) for upcoming events, walks and work parties.

[lymelandtrust.org](http://lymelandtrust.org)

Follow us on:   

## OUR 2019-20 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Brantley Buerger  
Jonathan Butler  
Wendolyn Hill  
Dan Hulseberg  
Anthony Irving  
Mal Karwoski  
George Lombardino, *Treasurer*  
through Dec. 2019  
Nancy Newcomb  
John Pritchard, *President*  
Ann Rich

Alan Sheiness, *Treasurer Jan.*  
2020-present  
Joe Standart  
Milton Walters, *Vice President*  
Melvin Woody, *Secretary*  
George Moore, *Director Emeritus*

### OUR STAFF

Kristina White, *Executive Director*  
Sue Cope, *Environmental Director*

## Mission Statement

*To conserve in perpetuity for the public benefit Lyme's natural, scenic and historic land and water resources by: acquiring and stewarding real properties and conservation easements; supporting open space acquisition by third parties; facilitating scientific study and management of our resources; and educating the community regarding the natural world and the benefits of conservation.*



## LONG RANGE PLAN

- Conserve land of environmental, cultural or historical importance
- Carry out work of Trust in an operationally, fiscally, legally and ethically responsible manner
- Increase substantially the Trust's educational offerings to youth and adults
- Facilitate scientific study of the natural resources present on selected Preserves for educational and land management purposes
- Strengthen the Land Trust financially and through increased and more effective use of volunteers
- Continue strengthening the Land Trust's stewardship program