



ANNUAL REPORT LYME LAND TRUST

2024-2025



Dear Friends,

Every year, the land trust has responsibilities and tasks that we set for ourselves while also providing programming to our community. This past year, we have also undertaken our five-year accreditation renewal with the Land Trust Alliance to ensure our protocols meet current standards. This review adds to the workload of almost all our committees, and it is not taken lightly. Led by Dan Hulseberg, chair of the Governance Committee, and his firm Baker Botts LLP, we have submitted our renewal application.

2025 marks the last year of the Tour de Lyme at Ashlawn Farm. I thank the Dahkle family, Carol Adams, and Bill Donovan for being wonderful hosts at their beautiful farm since 2014. It would not be the regional cycling event it has become without this fantastic location. We are excited to announce that in 2026, the Tour will be held at the Lyme Land Trust's Grassy Hill Preserve. We look forward to seeing many of you there!

More than a year has passed since we moved into the John Pritchard Conservation Center. Establishing a central venue for meetings and workshops has significantly enhanced our operations, and we appreciate the visits from many supporters. We are actively developing a native, climate-resilient landscape and observing the rich biodiversity that calls the center home.

On behalf of the Board and staff, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to all our donors and volunteers, whose support has been essential to achieving our mission.

Sincerely,
Kristina White, *Executive Director*

Preservation

SCOTT GRAVATT, CHAIR

THIS YEAR WE ACQUIRED one parcel, discussed a possible easement with a landowner, and helped with Land Trust Alliance reaccreditation.

The Brush Hill Preserve represents our most recent land acquisition. As part of our ongoing commitment to expanding and enhancing local conservation efforts, we have initiated plans to create a trail that will connect the Brush Hill Preserve with the neighboring Thach Preserve within the current year. This trail will

provide increased access and recreational opportunities for the community while supporting our preservation objectives.

In addition to our acquisition activities, we are currently engaged in discussions with a landowner who is considering placing an easement on a portion of his property. The owner has expressed a desire to ensure that future owners retain the ability to use these fields for agricultural purposes. Aside from permitting agricultural use, the owner wishes to preserve the property in its current state, maintaining its existing landscape and ecological features for generations to come.

In collaboration with the reaccreditation committee, our process for evaluating acquisitions and easements has been refined. Our goal is to be available and prepared for any parcels that may become available.

Lyme Landowners wishing to discuss conservation options and strategies in confidence can contact:

Scott Gravatt, Preservation Chair, at 860-961-4913, or by email at s.gravatt@comcast.net,

Jennifer Tiffany at 860-575-4730, or by email at Jtiffany01@msn.com

Imagining Lyme Spring 2025 Photos of Distinction, left to right: Jurassic Ravine Trail by Sue Wyeth, Doe and Fawn by Scott Martin, Sun Dappled Roaring Brook by John Gluszek

Governance

DAN HULSEBERG, CHAIR

THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE is responsible for guiding the Board to ensure compliance with governing policies and applicable laws, such as conflicts of interest, and to augment the overall effectiveness of the Lyme Land Trust. In this regard, the Governance Committee ensures LLT By-Laws, policies and procedures are aligned with updated Land Trust Alliance (LTA) Standards and Practices and related requirements. With the pro bono support of Baker Botts LLP, the Governance Committee also coordinated the timely completion and submission of the application for 2025 Accreditation Renewal with the LTA. A final decision of Accreditation Renewal is expected in late 2025 or early 2026.

The Governance Committee is also tasked with nominating new directors and officers for the Board, as well as making recommendations regarding committee membership and leadership. We regularly assess both the immediate and long-term requirements of the LLT to determine the skills, connections, and demographic profiles needed in prospective directors to enhance the Board's effectiveness. In alignment with this mandate, the Governance Committee has launched a new search—supported by a specially appointed Search Committee—to identify a suitable candidate for President-Elect, who will succeed Tony Irving upon the conclusion of his term as President in June 2026.



1 In October 2024: President Circle Hike to the highest point in Lyme in Johnston Preserve **2** Board members, Anthony Irving and Dan Hulseberg, manned our table at the town volunteer fair **3** Staff from the CT Land Conservation Council visited Banningwood Preserve

Finance

ALAN SHEINESS, TREASURER

THE FISCAL YEAR that ended on June 30, 2025 was marked by balanced revenues and disciplined spending. Revenues showed good growth over the prior year including a much-anticipated uptick in Tour de Lyme proceeds. At the same time, while Expenses were up versus the prior year, they were well below budget. The increase was primarily a function of operating the barn, but because of your generosity, the ongoing operating costs were covered by earnings from the Barn Building Fund. The 24/25 Other Income included a significant “planned giving” receipt and the donated value of a 26-acre land acquisition, while 23/24 reflected

three different land donations.

Our balance sheet (right) remains very strong with high liquidity and no long-term liabilities. The decrease in Cash is well offset by the increase in Investments as we added the bequests to our diversified portfolio. Investments are conservatively invested with a prudent allocation across asset classes, managed by an independent investment advisor and overseen by the Finance Committee of the Board of Directors. These investments performed well in absolute terms as well as versus benchmarks.

Your financial support ensured that our land stewardship, events, and activities were well-funded and well attended. Looking forward, we expect another successful year in fiscal 2026 made possible by your ongoing engagement and financial support. The fiscal 2026 budget makes adequate provision for our recurring events and programs, and our stewardship needs. The General Fund and all other Funds are in good shape, well positioned for the various needs for which they were created.

Thank you for your trust and support!

LYME LAND CONSERVATION TRUST, INC. (in \$000)
CONDENSED BALANCE SHEET
(UNAUDITED)

	June 2025	June 2024	This year vs last year
ASSETS			
Cash & Equivalents	\$635.6	\$662.7	(\$27.1)
Other Current Assets	\$22.9	\$42.0	(\$19.1)
Total Current Assets	\$658.5	\$704.7	(\$46.2)
Fixed Assets	\$1,228.3	\$1,135.0	\$93.4
Conservation Land	\$8,000.8	\$7,723.2	\$277.6
Investments	\$3,097.4	\$2,382.5	\$715.0
Total Non-Current Assets	\$12,326.6	\$11,240.6	\$1,086.0
Total Assets	\$12,985.1	\$11,945.3	\$1,039.8
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS			
Total Current Liabilities	\$156.3	\$69.4	\$87.0
Total Non-Current Liabilities	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
Total Liabilities	\$156.3	\$69.4	\$87.0
Retained Earnings	\$8,267.6	\$7,729.6	\$538.0
Current Earnings	\$952.9	\$1,119.7	(\$166.8)
General Fund	\$862.9	\$386.5	\$476.3
MJ Walters Endowment Fund	\$1,117.7	\$1,009.4	\$108.3
Enforcement Fund	\$267.0	\$242.9	\$24.1
Brown Preservation Fund	\$489.7	\$536.0	(\$46.3)
Barringer Stewardship Fund	\$288.7	\$267.0	\$21.6
Barn Building Fund	\$540.9	\$543.1	(\$2.3)
Other Funds	\$41.5	\$41.5	\$0.0
Fund Balances	\$3,608.3	\$3,026.6	\$581.7
Net Assets	\$12,828.7	\$11,875.9	\$952.9
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$12,985.1	\$11,945.3	\$1,039.8

LYME LAND CONSERVATION TRUST, INC. (in \$000)
CONDENSED PROFIT & LOSS
(UNAUDITED)

	2024/2025	2023/2024	This year vs last year
REVENUES			
Fund Donations and Dues	\$213.9	\$215.8	(\$1.9)
T de L Revenues	\$117.4	\$103.2	\$14.2
Other Revenues	\$30.2	\$8.9	\$21.3
Total Revenue	\$361.5	\$327.9	\$33.6
EXPENSES			
Compensation	\$196.2	\$186.2	\$10.0
Communications & Events	\$61.0	\$61.4	(\$0.4)
Stewardship	\$20.9	\$25.9	(\$5.0)
G&A	\$61.0	\$52.2	\$8.8
Operations	\$29.2	\$18.4	\$10.8
Other	\$40.7	\$22.4	\$18.3
Total Expenses	\$409.0	\$366.5	\$42.5
Operating Profit	(\$47.5)	(\$38.6)	(\$8.8)
Other Income & Expense			
Land Donations	\$193.0	\$781.6	(\$588.6)
Barn Donations and non-recurring items	\$592.1	\$156.1	\$436.0
Net Investment Activity, Net of Fees	\$215.2	\$220.6	(\$5.5)
Net Income	\$952.9	\$1,119.7	(\$166.8)

Over \$10,000

Bianchi, John & Alexandra Shor
David, Barbara O.
Duncan, James & Laura
Gahagan, Frederick & Mary Lou
Godley, Robert & Christison, Roz
Hargraves, John & Newcomb, Nancy
Lombardino, George
Neff, Thomas & Haviland, Mary Lyndon
Pritchard, John & Lee
Sheiness, Alan & Jeanne

\$2500-9999

Anonymous
Deane, Curtis & Shoemaker, Tom
Embree, Jeb & Dianne
Frankel, David & Elizabeth
Hilles, Frederick & Osgood, Jane
Hulseberg, Daniel & John Kiker
Shea, James & Kristen
Walters, Caroline

\$1000-2499

Aidinoff, Ellen
Anderson, Bruce & Leslie
Angier, Mark & Elizabeth
Beglin, Brian & Cynthia
Bramson, Ann
Butler, Jonathan & Deborah
Camarra, Chris
Crater, Douglas & Susan
Danielle Dimston
Datilio, Deborah
Dodge, Bradley
Duran, Judith
Enders, Anthony & Elizabeth
Everett, Martha
Frank, Allan Dodds & King, Lilian
Gravatt, Scott & Denise
Griffin, John & Richmond, Lynn
Griswold, Evan & Fisher, Emily
Hatton, Charlie & Clapp, Susie
Huber, Stephen & Carol
Irving, Anthony & Lees, Deborah
Jackson, Mark & Hagberg, Karen
Klimek, Carol
Leonardo, Melodee
Li, Zheng & Wan, Hong
Lieber, Dr William & Carolyn
Lombardozzi, Michael & Joan
Luce, James
Mallory, Scott & Sara
McCall, Alison & Eliel, Peter
McKee, Nicholas & Tracy

Melville, Gregory & Fox, Susan
Miller, Laura Lee & Bowes, Brian
Murphy, Alden & Jamie
Patterson, Michael & Elena
Rennhard, Hildegard
Roosevelt, Christopher du P & Rosalind
Russell, Nicholas & Caine, Jen
Saxton, Dr. Craig & Pietrina
Schwartz, James & Sallie
Standart, Joe & Clinton
Stern, Robert & Holmes, Lisa
Thompson, Claudia
Tiffany, Jennifer & Hurtle William
Volles, Warren & Lori
Ward, Ray & Bobbi-Anne
Willauer, George & Cynthia

\$500-999

Bauwens, Mark & Susan
Buerger, Brantley & Harlow, Karen
Butz, Suzanne & Theodore
Catlett, John & Athana
Clark, Ronald & Jane
Clingman, Rod
Donald, Andrea
Dowling, Caroline & Anderson, Sean
Fotos, Michael & Lindsey, Claudia
Friday, Judy
Hastings, Mark & Susan
Hill, Wendolyn & Sutton, Richard
LeWitt, Sofia
Malan, Susan
Martin, William Scott
Mehler, Jeffrey & Russell, Mary
Melchreit, Richard & Anna-Marie
Merrill, Newton & Polly
Milardo, Ronald
Mooney, George & Laura
Niblack, John & Heidi
Phelan, Mark & Maryellen
Platt, Frederick & Christine
Skopas, Edward & Kathleen
Slane, Mark & Cindy
Wing, Thomas & Andrea
Woody, Melvin

\$250 - 499

Abbot, Rodney & Mangano, Lisa
Allard, Kenneth & Janine
Amacher, David & Charlene
Bach, Debra S.
Bacon, Michael & Elizabeth
Ballard, Bob & Barbara
Barney, Claire

Becker, Virginia
Berger, Gregory
Brown, David & Diane
Cantner, Matthew & Shaleighne
Carper, Scott & Stephanie
Carpiniello, William
Connor, James & Jacqueline
Domenie, Douglas & Patrice
Finger, Eric & Jascin Leonardo
Fiske, William & Diana
Goss, Jon
Guthart, Jonathan & Semel, Lisa
Hessel, Susan & Dahle, Karen
Horn, John & Karen
House, Robert & Carol
Hunt, Faulkner & Ann Lightfoot
Ifshin, Noelle
Kane, Mitchell & Jessica
Karwoski, Malvin & Gail
Krall, Phillip
Learned, E Russell & Cotton, Allyson
Lee, Richard & Heidi
Leonardo, Jarrod & Stacey
Lewis, Ralph & Leslie
Lynch, Anthony & Patricia
Macbeth, Thomas & Griffin, Maureen
Marburg, Charles & Louise
Mattson, Steven & Maddy
Miller, James & Stacey, Regan
Mummert, Drs Earl & Margaret
Oyster, Jeffrey & Yasuda, Lisa
Rich, Ann
Rosseau, Richard & Gail
Sahasrabudhe, Parag
Seddon, Andrew & Smith, Kathryn
Sicord, Angela & Bill
Smith, Robert
Sokolowski, Devin & Roberts, Lindsay
Tennant, Foster & Goodall, Susan
Watt, Peter N & Cattie, Gerard

\$100 -249

Abetti, Frank & Dana
Ahnell, Paul & Jane
Anderson, Eric
Angers, Thomas E & Van Daff, Tim
Bacdayan, Albert & Carolyn
Ballek, Rowland & Nancy
Barringer, Susan
Bartlett, William
Beebe, Deane & Fitzgerald, Joe
Bell, Nicholas
Bergan, Nathaniel & Sara
Berry, Bradley & Guild, Jayna

Bischoff, Terry
 Bliven, Frederick & Cynthia
 Bombacci, Edward
 Boyd, Thomas & Jane
 Brainard, Newton & Mary
 Brand, Bill
 Brandt, Jonathan & Rueb, Emily
 Brecht, Jonathan
 Broom, Lorraine
 Brown, Kenneth & Karen
 Buccheri, Stephen & Wendy
 Burdelski, Juliet & Bell, Alexander
 Burnham, Rika
 Cain, Maureen
 Chmielewski, Kenneth
 Compagno, Andrew & Bridget
 Cone, Alione & Andrews, John
 Conniff, Richard & Karen
 Corrigan, Brian & Rivington, Joan
 Critchett, Donald & Jane
 Crowley, Patrick & Halvorsen, Kim
 Cumiskey, Mary Jean
 Darnell, Christine
 Davies, Tom & Judy
 Decker, Peter & Patricia
 Denow, Bill & Sara
 Elgart, Dr Matthew & Linda
 Evans, Ann Lacey
 Evertson, William
 Feltham, Ethel
 Ferri, Paul & Gloria Grace
 Field, Catherine
 Finley, Francis & Cynthia
 Fischer, Kurt & Susan
 Fisler, Richard & Joan
 Fowler, George & Roehr, Carol
 Franklin, Michael
 Gaskell, John & Suzanne
 Giaconia, John & Deborah
 Govert, Pete
 Greenho, Brian & Pamela
 Grey, Marie
 Griffin Jane
 Hallwood, Paul & Barbara
 Hamsher, Gail
 Harra, Brian & Hoy, Anne
 Harris, Robert & Wong, Grace
 Hawkins, Joel & Mary Stone
 Heanue, Richard
 Heym, James
 Hourigan, Amy & Glenn
 House, George & Linda
 Inglis, Steven & Julie
 Izzo, Alfred & Donahue, Sandra

James Wimpe
 Jarrabeck, Frank & Cowgill, Francis
 Jenkins, Gary & Ehlen, Jerry
 Johnson, Kyle
 Joshuatown Association
 Keating, Edward & Valerie
 Kendall, George
 Klarnet, Katy & King, Nick
 Knight, Douglas & Williams, Susan
 Konst, Jozef & Copp, Betsey
 Lacey, Richard
 Lavoie, Suzanne & Ayers, David
 Lawlor, Elizabeth
 Leake, Nancy
 Lears, Katherine & Phillips, Toni-Jean
 Lesick, Andrew
 Lewis, Denise
 Lins-Morstadt, Carl & Cecilia
 Littlefield, David & Desillier, Elene
 Littlefield, Prescott & Anne
 Livingston, Scott & Deborah
 Long, Barbara & Walters, Roxann
 Lyme-Old Lyme Lions Club
 Mahon, Scott & Wendy
 Malchiodi, Robert
 Mele, Michael
 Miller, Gregory & Motyka, Joan
 Morgan, Elizabeth
 Musheno, Michael & Birgit
 Namdol, Tenzin & Wheeler, Jon
 Neely, Wayne & Julie
 Olstein, Stephen & Morel, Linda
 Osborne, Sarah & Michael
 Overfield, Dennis & Joan
 Page, Michael & Paula
 Palumbo, Paul & Kathy
 Parsons, Kelly & Cheryl
 Perkins, Jud
 Perry, Jennifer & Braunfield, Robert
 Quinn, Ryan & Drown, Bailey
 Rand, Dale & Diane
 Rapaport, Alex & Murray, Jan
 Ritrovato, Charles & Alison
 Roach, Janet
 Rogers, Gary & Linda
 Ross, Euan & Christina
 Roughan-Grady, Denise
 Rubino, Damian & Holly
 Sanders, Richard & Lisa
 Schade, Susan & Buller, Jon
 Schwolsky, John & Storch, Elizabeth
 Seelig, Richard & Christine
 Spurgeon, Joseph
 Steele, Rick & Debbie

Thomas, Graham
 Thompson, Josh & Kim
 Twining, Alex & Nell
 Walker, David & Cary
 Ward, Howard & Laura
 Warren, Marilyn
 Weber, James
 Weed, Gary & Carol
 Weiglhofer, John
 West, Tina
 White, Peter & Kristina
 Wildermuth, Gina
 Wilson, Thomas & Mary
 Winter, Steven & Cartmel, Brenda
 Wolfswinkel, Rolf & Jaffe, Jacqueline

Heritage Society

Anonymous
 Baxter, Andy *
 Catherwood, Mary*
 Cushman, Katherine Rose*
 Hessel, Sue & Dahle, Karen
 Howard, Shirley *
 Irving, Anthony & Lees, Deborah
 Lord, Parker & Diana
 Millerbernd, Donald*
 Moore, George* & Rosemary
 Pritchard, John & Lee
 Rich, Ann
 Simon, Nissa
 Tyler, Humphrey & Susan
 Ulmer, Gordon*
 Walters, Milton* & Caroline
 Willauer, Cynthia
 *deceased

Corporations & Foundations

Bank of America
 Deveaux Landscaping
 Dominion Foundation
 Gull Associates
 Hewlett Packard
 Jansky Rubbish
 Lyme-Old Lyme Lions Club
 New England Pollinator Gardens
 Panoram Foundation
 Pfizer Foundation Volunteer Program
 Raytheon Technologies
 The Hartford
 Two Sisters Design

Education and Events

WENDOLYN HILL, CHAIR

THE EDUCATION AND EVENTS Committee maintained a special focus on youth in our educational efforts throughout the year, in addition to our continuing attention to important land trust values of maintaining native ecosystems for wildlife conservation and recreation. This year, we were pleased to bring a cohort of fourth-grade students from the Interdistrict School for Arts & Communication (ISAAC), a public

charter middle school in New London, to the Banningwood Preserve. These 27 excited students, most of whom had never experienced the woods, joined Committee members Jim Arrigoni, Wendy Hill, Birgit Musheno, Ryan Quinn, and Rich Sanders for a half-day of exploratory hikes to supplement their geology curriculum. This event, organized by Kristina White with assistance from Rich Sanders, marks the beginning of an ongoing collaboration with the school, with plans for additional grade levels to visit annually.

The ISAAC school program is just one component of a suite of programs that the Lyme Land Trust has assembled to encourage youth interest in wildlife and participation in outdoor activities. Every year the Land Trust brings the Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center's program to elementary students at the Lyme School in April for two days of hands-on nature education for every grade level. Many children in Lyme are fortunate to spend time outdoors and have first-hand knowledge of the land and its creatures, and they are excited to share their stories.

In addition to hiking forest trails and recognizing the ecological and aesthetic benefits of Lyme's open spaces, the preservation of historical and cultural practices is also supported when land is protected from development. Archaeologist John Pfeiffer's November discussion of the Nehantic Native Nation's presence in the area for thousands of years, Professor Robert Thorson's May talk introducing the idea of classifying and conserving colonial era stone walls, and Dr. Manuel Lizarralde's presentation on ethnobotany and the use of native plants by indigenous peoples at our Annual Meeting in June were all exceptionally well attended and received. Expect more talks and walks on topics like these to be forthcoming!

THIS YEAR WE HAD:

- 35 Tuesday Treks
- 13 Expert-Led Walks
- 13 Work Parties (to remove invasives)
- 12 Astronomy Observing Sessions
- 11 Expert Talks
- 11 Family Trail Time with Tori hikes for young families
- 10 Take-A-Walk-Wednesdays
- 10 Tree Collective Teen Hike and Steward Group Meetups
- 9 Forest Bathing Experiences
- 5 Dusk/Night Hikes
- 3 Youth Observing Sessions at Trail 53 Observatory
- 3 Holiday Hikes
- 1 Garlic Planting
- 1 Happy Hour Walk
- 1 Saturday Hike



1



2



3



4



5



6

1 Wizard Nebula by Alan Sheiness taken at Trail 53 **2** Annual Meeting at the Conservation Center **3** Mike Baczewski talk at the Conservation Center **4** Planting native flowers at Curiosity Shop Program at Lyme School **5** New Year's Day Family Hike at Gillette Castle **6** ISAAC School visit to Banningwood Preserve

Stewardship

MAL KARWOSKI, CHAIR
JIM ARRIGONI, ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECTOR

THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE worked doubly hard this year. While ensuring that the preserves and trails were maintained, and our properties monitored, we were also responsible for a large part of the renewal application for accreditation with the Land Trust Alliance (LTA).

Stewardship finished the calendar year 2024 with monitoring a record 118 properties, which includes 71 conservation easements and 47 fee parcels (=LLT preserves). This effort is annually undertaken by an impressive team of trained volunteers and board members, spearheaded by Environmental Director Jim Arrigoni. This annual monitoring process will ramp up again in autumn, as the temperature and leaves fall.

With the help of volunteer Sam Frankel, Jim Arrigoni spent countless hours reviewing our records and updating policies to ensure that they aligned with the land trust's mission and capacity to fulfill our legal obligations and adhere to best practices as defined by the LTA.

As for on-the-ground activity, there are two special projects to highlight. The Banningwood Preserve floodplain restoration project continues to evolve as the approximately 100 shrubs planted by Boy Scout Troop 26 in spring 2024 were supplemented with a dozen Atlantic White Cedars planted last autumn, and a similar number will be planted this October. Historically this majestic species was much more common throughout the region, but its durable and useful wood was so highly sought after that today only a few scattered stands remain around Lyme. Atlantic White Cedar is a wetland specialist, so it is expected to thrive in the poorly drained floodplain soils. As they grow, the year-round foliage will provide winter cover and thermal refugia for owls during the day and roosting songbirds and other wildlife at night.

With the support of a grant from the Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology, we are partnering with the Connecticut Audubon Society's Roger Tory Peterson Estuary Center to understand better the bird species breeding at Slawson Preserve and the adjacent Rabbits' Rest Preserve that was donated by conservationist Barbara David in 2024. These preserves have been managed to provide habitat for early successional stage species that thrive in young forests, such as Chestnut-sided Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Indigo Bunting and Eastern Towhee, all of which were recorded during early morning bird surveys this past spring. As we refine the management plans for these preserves, we will consider whether or not the benefit is worth the cost of continuing to manage vegetation to cater to these and other wildlife species such as the New England Cottontail, another species of conservation concern.



1



2



3

1 Banningwood Flood Plain **2** Atlantic White Cedar protected from browsing deer. **3** Joe Attwater of CT Audubon's Roger Tory Peterson Estuary Center at Slawson Preserve

John Pritchard Conservation Center

Landscape Improvements

Over the past year, the John Pritchard Conservation Center has undergone substantial changes to the landscape surrounding its building. A major feature of this transformation was the relocation of the enormous pile of dirt that previously dominated the front area of the center.

Ed O'Connell, our skilled Site Contractor, expertly managed this project. By enlarging the parking lot, leveling the grounds, and creating a curved driveway, he significantly improved both the functionality and aesthetics of the site. In addition to these upgrades, the slope in the front area was reduced. This change was critical in preventing soil erosion and ensuring proper drainage, further protecting the landscape and supporting the long-term sustainability of the conservation center's grounds.

Once the site work was complete, Michael Baszewski of New England Pollinator Gardens, along with Refugia Design, began the design and implementation of a planting plan that would incorporate native plants specifically designed for the sandy soil prevalent on the site. The first phase, completed in the Fall of 2024, involved the entrance from the road, as well as the areas alongside the driveway leading up to the front of the building.

Mike took on the second phase as a solo project, installing it in the Spring and Summer of 2025. This area comprises the gardens surrounding the front patio and the sides of the front yard.

The last phase to be planted will be the native grass meadow in front of the building which will occur either this Fall or next Spring.

This ongoing project is a living education space for the community to come and learn about native plant species and climate-resilient landscaping. The biodiversity that is already calling the center home is amazing, with butterflies, rabbits, birds, and frogs, to name just a few.



Check our website lymelandtrust.org for upcoming events, walks and work parties.

860/322-4604 ■ info@lymelandtrust.org

Follow us on: [f](#) [ig](#) [tw](#)

2024-2025 Board of Directors

Anthony Irving, *President*
Wendolyn Hill, *Vice President*
Alan Sheiness, *Treasurer*
David Frankel, *Secretary*
Bruce Anderson
Jonathan Butler
Scott Gravatt

Evan Griswold
Dan Hulseberg
Mal Karwoski
Birgit Musheno
Ryan Quinn
Jennifer Tiffany

John Pritchard, *Director Emeritus*

OUR STAFF

Kristina White, *Executive Director*
Jim Arrigoni, *Environmental Director*
Chris Curcio, *Accountant*



Spring 2025 Photo of Distinction (Honorable Mention) Mt. Laurel
blooming, by Jos Konst

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.