



Natural Surroundings

WYNDHAM LAND TRUST, INC. • SINCE 1975

Conserving the Natural Resources of Northeastern Connecticut December 2013

About The Wyndham Land Trust

The Wyndham Land Trust, Inc. is engaged in the preservation of natural resources in Windham County, Connecticut. Its emphasis is on wild-life habitat, especially where unique or particularly fragile assemblages of animals and plants exist or may be expected to exist. Its properties are open to the public for the quiet enjoyment of nature. Land may be acquired by donation or purchase. Since WLT enjoys 501 (c) 3 status donations to it are deductible under IRS rules, a feature which sometimes proves attractive! Our work is supported by dues, donations, grants and a very modest endowment income. Members enjoy an annual potluck supper, generally in the fall.

Inquiries may be directed to the Wyndham Land Trust, Inc., PO Box 302 Pomfret Center, CT, 06259 or to info@wyndhamlandtrust.org Please see our web site www.wyndhamlandtrust.org Phone (860) 963-2090. Your comments, questions and suggestions are most welcome.

We Seek To Increase Our Membership Base

Presently annual dues are:

- INDIVIDUAL \$25
- FAMILY \$35

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

- \$350 INDIVIDUAL
- \$5500 FAMILY

We now accept

DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE UNDER IRS RULES

END OF YEAR DONATIONS

The land trust continued to acquire and protect land in 2013. Protecting land is our mission; however, as the land trust grows, so do our operating expenses. We rely on income from our membership to cover our day-to-day costs, such as part-time staff, property tax bills, printing, mailing, phone bills, and rent.

If you're one of those people who wait until the end of the year to make your tax-deductible charitable donations, consider a gift to the Wyndham Land Trust. The land trust is a registered 501(c)3 charity, and your donation is fully deductible. Send a check to Wyndham Land Trust, PO Box 302, Pomfret Center, CT 06259. To make things easier you can now donate on our web site using our secure Paypal account.

We need your support to continue on our mission.

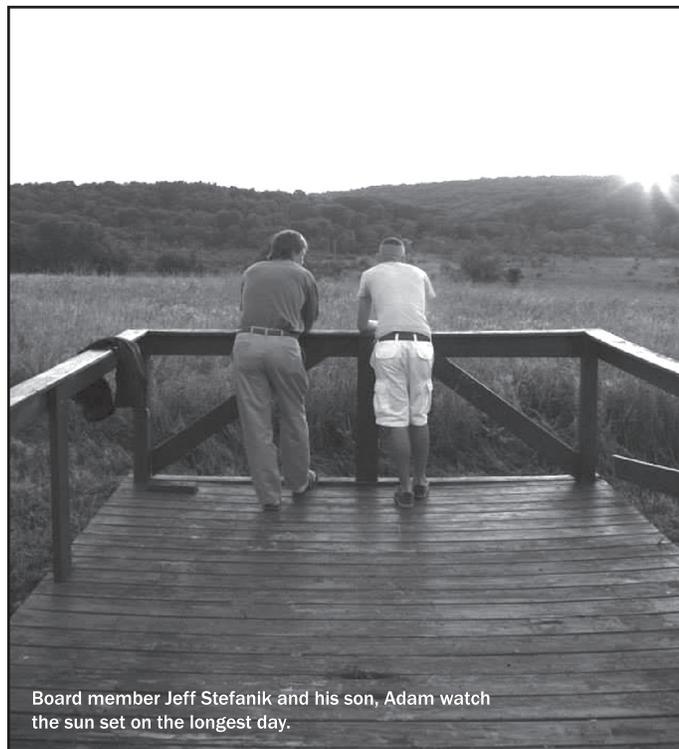
SUMMER SOLSTICE EVENT

Land trust members and friends gathered at the Duck Marsh Preserve in Pomfret on the evening of Friday, June 21 to celebrate the summer solstice—the longest day of the year. As members gathered around a small fire they were treated to the vibrant colors of the sun setting in the west and to the translucent light of the “Super Moon” rising in the east. Nesting bobolinks flitted around the unmowed field while the songs of wood thrushes, ovenbirds, and veery filled the evening air.

“This is a new event for us,” said the land trust’s president, Ben Williams. “We’re trying to get members onto our preserves so they can see the value of what we are protecting. We want them to feel a real connection with our land. The Duck Marsh is one of our special

places, and we knew the setting would resonate with our members.”

It was a spectacular evening and a great way to enjoy the beauty of the Duck Marsh Preserve--one of the land trust treasures. We hope to offer a similar event during 2014 and provide another opportunity for members to gather at one of our preserves while enjoying the company of their fellow land trust supporters.



Board member Jeff Stefanik and his son, Adam watch the sun set on the longest day.

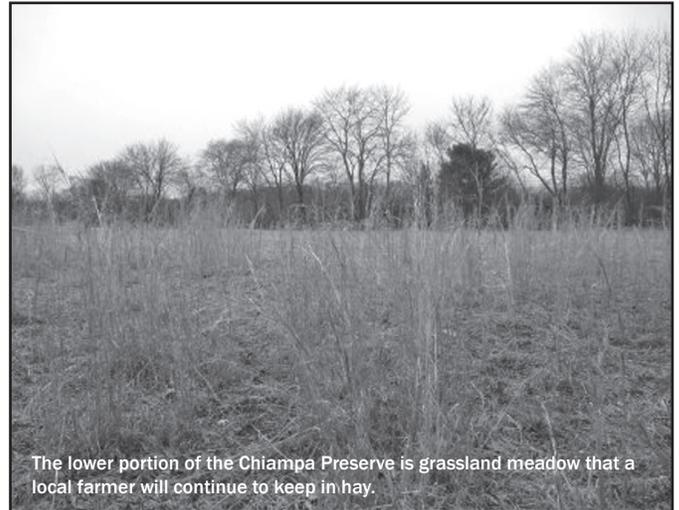
PLAINFIELD LAND DONATION

Marion Preston loved the land on which she lived. When her family asked her what to do with her land on Goshen Road in Plainfield after she passed away, she replied, “leave it for the animals.”

Marion Preston died in the summer of 2011, and her niece and nephew, Barbara Chiampa and Philip Chiampa, inherited the property that meant so much to her. To honor her aunt’s request, the sister and brother turned to the Wyndham Land Trust, who accepted their donation of the 29-acre tract and will protect it from development in perpetuity.

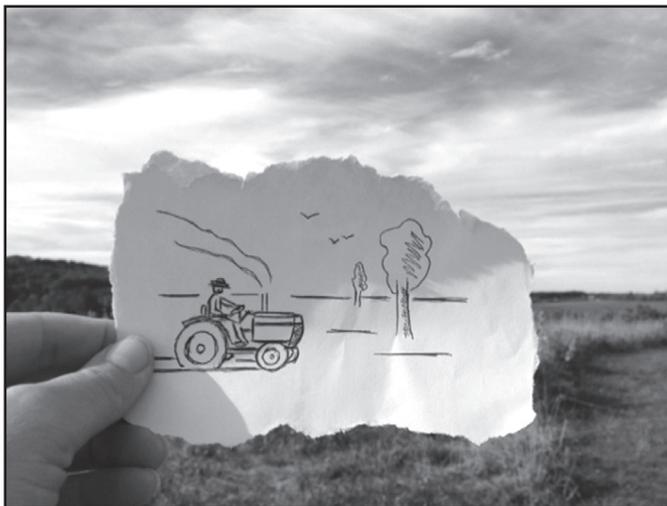
“Our number one priority is to see Marion’s wish come true and know the land will be taken care of,” said Barbara Chiampa. “My brother and I were brought up there and have many memories picking huckleberries and hiking through the woods. To know the land will also offer others the same adventures makes me feel good.”

The Chiampa Preserve is the Wyndham Land Trust’s fifth preserve in Plainfield. We also own the 34-acre Tillinghast Preserve adjacent to the Sugar Brook Wildlife Management



The lower portion of the Chiampa Preserve is grassland meadow that a local farmer will continue to keep in hay.

Area along with the Fitze preserve, a 3.5-acre wooded lot that sits behind Plainfield’s Recreation/Seniors complex and contains the Children’s Discovery Trail. In addition, the 40-acre Oates Preserve and the two-acre Lathrop Preserve are inaccessible cedar swamps that we protect.



Attendees at the Pot Luck Supper were asked to donate to the Tractor Appeal and turn the pencil sketch into a working tractor.

GOAL REACHED IN TRACTOR APPEAL

Andy Rzeznikiewicz at Connecticut Audubon manages the 700-acre Bafflin Sanctuary that surrounds their Grassland Bird Conservation Center in Pomfret. Part of that management practice is annual mowing of the meadows in late summer using a small tractor that they purchased a few years ago. Andy uses the same tractor to mow the 500-acres of adjacent grassland that belong to the Wyndham Land Trust. However, mowing 1200-acres of land each year takes its toll on the equipment, and Andy’s tractor has become increasingly unreliable.

To remedy the situation, Connecticut Audubon decided to purchase a new tractor and reached out for help from the land

trust. Each organization pledged a sum of money, with the remainder coming from foundation grants. The land trust was asked to raise \$5000. An appeal at the Pot Luck Supper in September and a follow-up email campaign raised \$3880 in pledges. After hearing the story about the tractor appeal, the Pomfret Horse and Trail Association graciously agreed to donate the remaining \$1120. It was a remarkable show of support from the membership and from the Pomfret Horse and Trail Association, and we thank everybody who donated.

*Seasons Greetings from the
Wyndham Land Trust*

Dust of Snow by Robert Frost



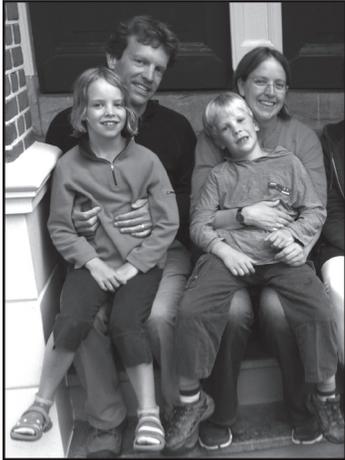
The way a crow
Shook down on me
The dust of snow
From a hemlock tree

Has given my heart
A change of mood
And saved some part
Of a day I had rued.

ANOUK

Have you ever wondered who mails out your land trust newsletter, who processes your membership, who pays the land trust bills, and who keeps track of the finances? The answer is one person—Anouk de Ruiter.

Anouk was born and raised in Stamford, CT. Together with her husband Rick Canavan, she has also lived and worked in California, Massachusetts, and the Netherlands. Upon their return from the Netherlands in 2007, Anouk and Rick settled in Pomfret. It didn't



Anouk de Ruiter with her husband Rick Canavan and their two children.

take long before she and her family “discovered” the Wyndham Land Trust and became members. They often made use of the Aicher preserve near their house, looking for beaver in the pond in the summer and cross country skiing on the preserve in the winter.

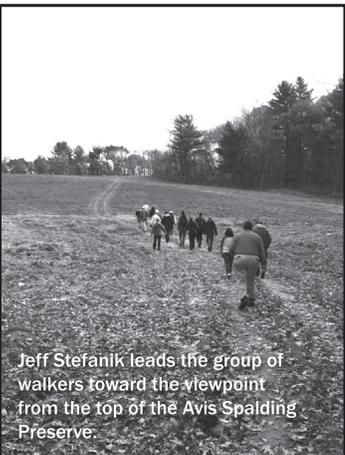
In the spring of 2012 Anouk responded to a Facebook post from the Land Trust looking for office help, and she volunteered for about six months before becoming the land trust's first part-time employee. Her IT background and organizational skills have

brought the land trust into the 21st century. We now have a functional membership database, all financial data managed in Quicken, and a new stewardship database in the making.

“I love working for the land trust,” said Anouk, “I am very attracted to the idea of preserving this land in perpetuity. Having lived in more densely populated areas in the past, I'm more appreciative of the open space around here. I'm happy to assist the board as they fulfill the mission of the land trust—it's such a worthwhile cause.”

WALKTOBER

At the end of October board member Jeff Stefanik led a group of enthusiastic walkers through the Rapoport/Spalding Preserve in Woodstock. The walk was held during the last weekend of The Last Green Valley's Walktober 2013 event and introduced the group to the beauty of the preserve and to the work of the land trust. Several of the participants were surprised to learn they are welcome to walk on the preserve at any time during the year.

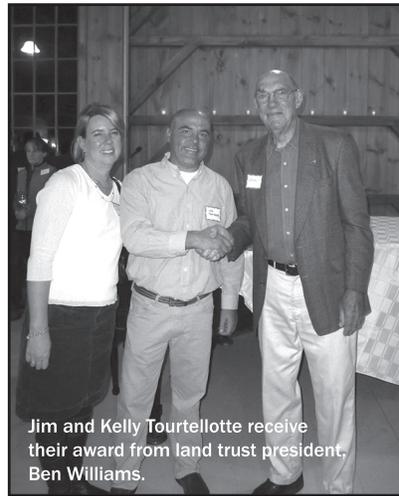


Jeff Stefanik leads the group of walkers toward the viewpoint from the top of the Avis Spalding Preserve.

Three members of the group joined the land trust following the walk--Marcy Dawley from Putnam, a lead ranger with The Last Green Valley, and Ted and Gerry Teja from Woodstock. Welcome aboard!

POT LUCK SUPPER

Thanks to gracious hosts, Hadi and Cheryl Bozorgmanesh, about 70 land trust members attended the annual Pot Luck Supper in September. It was an evening of good food and good company and a great way to begin the transition from summer into fall.



Jim and Kelly Tourtellotte receive their award from land trust president, Ben Williams.

During the event land trust president, Ben Williams presented a framed photo of the Aicher Preserve in Pomfret to Jim and Kelly Tourtellotte of Global Design in Putnam. The award was in appreciation for the graphic design work donated by Jim, who designs our newsletters and our advertising and promotional material, including the updated logo that we introduced in 2012.

“I am proud to support the goals of the Wyndham Land Trust,” said Jim “We are passionate about preserving our natural resources and are happy to help promote the cause.”

Mission Statement

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The mission of the Wyndham Land Trust is to conserve the natural resources of Northeast Connecticut - the water courses, swamps, woodlands, and open spaces, the plant and animal life therein, and the scenic natural and historic sites - all of which are very much a part of the unique character and beauty of all communities in Northeast Connecticut.

 Like us on Facebook!
Wyndham Land Trust

Design of the WLT Newsletter is donated by Jim Tourtellotte
www.gdpublishing.com



WYNDHAM
LAND TRUST, INC.

The Wyndham Land Trust, Inc.
P.O. Box 302
Pomfret Center, CT 06259-0302

THANK YOU

THE WYNDHAM LAND TRUST, INC.

Individual annual membership \$25
Family annual membership \$35
Individual life membership \$350
Family life membership \$550
Donation to Land Acquisition Fund \$ _____

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Address: _____

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E-mail: _____

Checks payable to:

WYNDHAM LAND TRUST, INC.

P. O. Box 302

Pomfret Center, CT 06259

(Gift Memberships Available by Calling: 860-963-2090)