



WYNDHAM
LAND TRUST, INC.

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



WYNDHAM
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Natural Surroundings
WYNDHAM LAND TRUST, INC. • SINCE 1975

Conserving the Natural Resources of Northeastern Connecticut

June 2016



Summer Solstice 2016

JUNE 21 FROM 7-9 PM

DUCK MARSH PRESERVE, POMFRET

PLEASE SEE ARTICLE FOR DETAILS



We welcome the following new members in 2016:

Susan and Rob Beach, Peter Joyce, Robert Kelleher, Bill Reid, Zachary Reiner,
Thomas and Karen Richmond, Marc Robbins, Amy Sterling, Joann Szela and Kathy Zamagni

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
- SUPPORTER \$100
- PATRON \$500
- BENEFACTOR \$1,000

We now accept 

DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE UNDER IRS RULES

A Note From the President

By Ben Williams

It has been an active late winter and early spring for the Wyndham Land Trust. At a special meeting of the membership on March 22nd the 40-year old by-laws were updated in order to bring them into compliance with modern times. At that same meeting, the membership authorized the board to proceed with an application to become a nationally-accredited land trust through a program managed by the Land Trust Alliance. Accreditation is a time-consuming and somewhat expensive commitment, but it will ensure that we meet the highest operational standards for a non-profit land trust. In short, accreditation shows we are following a set of recognized standards and practices, and that we have our house in order in all respects, including comprehensive record keeping, stewardship, and financial management. Several members recently attended a meeting in New London with other land trusts as part of the Connecticut Land Trust Advancement Initiative. We have also spent some time talking with Joshua's Trust and the Wolf Den Land Trust to explore ways in which the land trusts might work together for our mutual benefit. Partnerships between the land trusts could make us eligible for funding which individually we could not obtain. I am pleased to report that we have acquired several additional properties since our Annual Meeting last fall and others are in the pipeline. I urge you to visit our wonderful preserves and to enjoy a pleasant walk on the wild side. Finally, our strength is in our members. With that in mind, please encourage your like-minded friends and neighbors to consider membership. The cause is worthy, and the benefits enriching.

Accreditation

The board of directors has decided that it is in the best interests of the land trust to become nationally accredited through the Land Trust Alliance. To achieve accreditation, we have to show that we have successfully implemented the Land Trust Alliance's Standards and Practices, which describe how to operate a land trust legally, ethically, in the public interest, with a sound program of land transactions and land stewardship.

To quote the Land Trust Alliance:

Land trust accreditation is a mark of distinction, showing that a land trust meets high standards for land conservation. It sends a message to landowners and supporters: "Invest in us. We are a strong, effective organization you can trust to conserve your land trust forever." Accreditation is a catalyst for improvement, which results in faster, better, stronger conservation. The accreditation seal offers the assurance that a land trust can keep the promise of perpetuity and that it is worthy of the public trust. So, accreditation strengthens both individual land trusts and America's land conservation movement.

The board recognizes that applying for accreditation will require a lot of time and effort and also some expense. A special meeting of the land trust was held at Connecticut Audubon in March, and the membership voted to approve our application.

Land trust board member Dawn Adiletta was a member of the Connecticut Farmland Trust accreditation team and is familiar with the application process. Dawn has volunteered to chair our accreditation committee.

Preparing Baseline Documentation

By Ron Tillen

As part of the preparation for the accreditation process, we are required to create a baseline report for each of our preserves. I have inventoried the files for each of the properties and reviewed the information they contain. The deeds and other legal documents are being checked, and the maps and correspondence considered and compared. It is a very time-consuming activity because we have over 50 preserves and some of them consist of several parcels acquired at different times. While working on this project, it has become evident to me how board members have worked long and hard to obtain grants and to raise funds for land acquisition. Dedicated board members have also worked to determine property boundaries that are described in deeds--many well over a hundred-years old. In particular, I realize how much effort our late President, Dr. Richard Booth, put into providing the trust

with a large and comprehensive collection of documentation. His field notes and voluminous correspondence show what a debt we owe Dick and how much he is missed. As a scientist, he recorded the details that showed why each preserve has value and why it deserves conservation in perpetuity. Most important, was his ability to work with donors, land owners, and Federal and Connecticut State organizations. Without these connections, many acquisitions would not have been possible. The accreditation process we are going through is both revealing and necessary. It will help us in the future when we apply for grants because it shows that we meet all the local, State, and Federal environmental and taxation regulations that apply to the acquisition, management, and conservation of precious land.

Spring Outdoors

A handful of people braved a few April showers to join board member Jeff Stefanik for a walk on the Rapoport/Spalding preserve in Woodstock on Saturday April 23. The event was held in conjunction with the Last Green Valley's Spring Outdoors program. The program was new in 2016 and sponsored a series of walks in our region during April and May that promoted awareness of conservation efforts.

It's Happening in the Last Green Valley **SPRING Outdoors!**



Summer Solstice Gathering The land trust is holding the fourth annual Summer Solstice event at the Duck Marsh Preserve in Pomfret on Tuesday, June 21. Members, family, and friends are invited to spend the evening with their fellow land trust members and supporters. Watch the sun settle into the western sky while Bobolinks settle into the grassland meadows at the Duck Marsh. What better way to celebrate the longest day of the year?

The event runs from 7pm to 9pm and drinks and light refreshments will be served around a fire. Bring a friend and a lawn chair. Park along Holmes Road, just west of Modock Road.

Annual Stewards Gathering

In March about 20 land trust stewards gathered at the Connecticut Audubon barn in Pomfret for the third annual land trust Stewards Night. President, Ben Williams thanked the stewards for all their work, and Andy Rzeznikiewicz reminded everybody of their annual reporting duties and answered questions.



President, Ben Williams, addresses the stewards meeting.

Rectory School Volunteers

Volunteers from the Rectory School in Pomfret recently worked with Andy Rzeznikiewicz, the land trust's Land Manager, to remove trash from the Tucker and Holzer/Aicher Preserves in Pomfret. The enthusiastic group removed eleven bags of trash from each site. A big vote of thanks to the environmentally conscious folks at the Rectory School!



Rectory School volunteers prepare to go to work

Wyndham Land Trust Board of Directors:

President:

Benjamin Williams (Pomfret)

Jo-Ann MacFarlane (Eastford)

Secretary/Treasurer:

George Jackson (Pomfret)

Andy Rzeznikiewicz (Pomfret)

Jeff Stefanik (Woodstock)

Members:

Dawn Adiletta (Woodstock)

Ron Tillen (Thompson)

Michael Green (Killingly)

Andy Tillinghast (Killingly)



Walkers gather with Jeff Stefanik at the Rapoport/Spalding preserve

Connecticut Trails Day

Jeff Stefanik is leading a walk on the Rapoport/Spalding preserve in Woodstock on Saturday June 4, from 10-11:30am. This walk is part of the CT Trails Day weekend sponsored by the Connecticut Forest and Parks Association. Directions: Take Calkins Road, off Joy Road., follow Calkins Road to the end, and park on the street near house #129.

Civil War Reenactment on Aicher Preserve

During the weekend of July 9-10, the New England Brigade will be holding a Civil War reenactment at 22 Harrisville Road in Pomfret and on our adjacent Aicher Preserve.

Born in 1818 in Eastford, Nathaniel Lyon graduated from West Point, served with distinction in the Mexican War. During the Civil War, Lyon proved to be a tower of strength for the Union side, as he quickly fought and won several battles. Finally, in the fierce action at Wilson's Creek, Missouri on August 10, 1861, he audaciously led his outnumbered troops forward and was mortally wounded, becoming the first Union general killed in the war. Lyon's campaign is credited as the force that saved Missouri from seceding.

The event in Pomfret will be a reenactment of the fall of General Nathaniel Lyon at Wilson's Creek.

Mission Statement

 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 of the unique character and beauty of all communities in Northeast Connecticut.



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 www.gdpublishing.com