

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

We now accept 

DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE UNDER IRS RULES

LAND TRUST CELEBRATES 40 YEARS

On April 29, 2015 about 70 members and supporters attended the 40th Anniversary commemoration of the Wyndham Land Trust at the Golden Lamb Buttery in Brooklyn. The setting was appropriate because it was where Virginia Booth, then co-owner of the Golden Lamb, and Lois Orswell, a Pomfret art philanthropist, first hatched the idea of protecting land in Northeast Connecticut in 1974. The two women charged attorney George Jackson with the task of forming a legal entity, and the Wyndham Land Trust Inc. was registered in April, 1975. George is the sole survivor from the original group of founders and continues to provide invaluable legal services to the land trust.

The evening also served as a recognition of the land trust reaching the landmark of 2000 acres of preserved land. In recognition of the 40th anniversary and the work of the land trust, Connecticut State Representative Danny Rovero presented a citation from Joe Courtney's office at the US House of Representatives and State Senator Tony Guglielmo presented a citation from the State.

To round out the magical evening, President Ben Williams announced the \$500,000 gift from the Mitchell D. Phaiah Foundation. The gift served as a fitting tribute to the memory of the original founders of the land trust and to the work of countless volunteers who have contributed their time and energy over the last 40 years. Special recognition has to go to President Emeritus Dick Booth, whose indefatigable spirit guided the land trust from its early days, through a period of tremendous growth, and into the 21st century.



President Emeritus Dick Booth cuts the 40th Anniversary cake

Foundation Awards \$500,000 gift to the Wyndham Land Trust

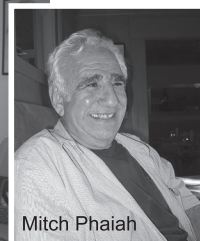
There was even more cause for celebration at the 40th Anniversary Dinner when President Ben Williams made an unexpected announcement that the Wyndham Land Trust was the recipient of a generous donation from the Mitchell D. Phaiah Foundation. Ben presented the first check of the \$500,000 gift that is to be paid in monthly installments over a 27-year period.



George Jackson (founder and treasurer), Ben Williams (president), and Mike and Bev Cristina from the Mitchell D. Phaiah Foundation

The Mitchell D. Phaiah Foundation was formed by Mitch Phaiah just before his passing from pancreatic cancer in February, 2014. A self-made millionaire through hard work and frugal living, Phaiah lived in Killingly for 50 years and amassed his wealth through real

estate. The primary focuses of his foundation are animal welfare, conservation, education, and patient care.



Mitch Phaiah

TAMLER PRESERVE EXPANDED

At the end of 2014, Julie Tamler donated 140 acres of family land to the land trust. The donated land extends into the existing 79-acre parcel that the late Nettie Tamler, Julie’s mother, donated to the land trust in the early 1990s. The end result—the 200-acre Tamler Preserve—is contiguous to or near three different state forests, the Quaddick State Forest in Connecticut, the George Washington Management Area and Buck Hill Wildlife Management Area in Rhode Island, and the Douglas State Forest in



Nettie and Nathan Tamler

Massachusetts, and provides a significant block of protected habitat for both plants and animals.

“Border trail is a particularly beautiful area with streams, ponds, hills, and miles of trails,” said Julie. “It’s very peaceful and nourishing to be there, and it’s important to me

to keep the area that way. Building homes or stores on that land, I couldn’t imagine it.



Border trail in Thompson holds many treasured memories for the Tamler family

“I believe that the best thing we can do for our children is to have them spend time in the wilderness. It’s through walking in the woods, and playing in the woods, and being away from electronics and noise and light pollution, that our children can know what is real and truly important. They can spend time with themselves and learn that it’s rewarding, fulfilling, and nourishing. They can connect with the seasons, the weather, the plants, and the animals and know peace.

“If we are no longer connected with the land then we have lost something forever.”

WOODSTOCK LAND PROTECTED

At the end of 2014, the land trust received a gift of 15 acres of land in the town of Woodstock from Rebecca Harvey. The property is working agricultural pastureland on the north side of Route 171 and the west side of Little Pond Road and sits across from the land trust’s Little River Greenway—a 40-acre preserve that Rebecca and her late husband Cy gave to the land trust ten years ago.

The donated land contains a pond, some shrubby thickets, and some scattered larger trees. American Kestrels, a state-threatened species in Connecticut, successfully nested there in the summer of 2013. It is the land trust’s intent to keep the fields in agricultural use, and the combination of the two preserves along Route 171 helps to protect the rural gateway into Woodstock.



The new Harvey Preserve protects the rural gateway into Woodstock



Summer Solstice

The land trust is holding the third annual Summer Solstice event at the Duck Marsh Preserve in Pomfret on Sunday, 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 end of the longest day of the year.

The event runs from 7pm to 9pm and drinks and light refreshments will be served.

ANNUAL STEWARDS GATHERING

About 20 land trust stewards gathered at the Connecticut Audubon barn in Pomfret for the second annual 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. Contact the land trust if you are interested in volunteering as a steward.



Ben and Andy address the annual stewards gathering

HABITAT RESTORATION AT THE ROBBINS PRESERVE

The land trust would like to thank *David Foisey* for trailering our tractor to the Robbins Preserve. Moving the tractor enabled land manager, Andy Rzeznikiewicz to mow the meadows and trails and to root up the invasive bushes around the edge of the fields.

The land trust also thanks the Woodstock scout troop for making brush piles out of the cut pine trees to increase early-successional habitat at the Robbins Preserve.

LAND TRUST PATRONS AND SUPPORTERS

Patrons

Allison Gray-Smith

Supporters

Hadi & Cheryl Bozorgmanesh
Kenneth & Cindy Cardinal
Laurence & Jane Hale
Ron & Gwyneth Tillen
Andrew Tillinghast
David Wagner
Monique & Bruce Wolanin

Donations to the Land Acquisition Fund

Denise Archambault
Michael and Denise Baum
Edward Browne
Chris Demers
Paul Maidment & Sandra Tosi
Paul & Joy Nelson
Peter & Elaine Nelson
Robert & Caroline Sloat

REMEMBERING HOWARD PECK

We were saddened to hear that Thompson resident and land trust member, Howard J. Peck, 76, passed away peacefully on Thursday, December 31, 2014.

Howard volunteered frequently for the Connecticut Forest and Park Association and maintained the Blue Blaze Trail at Old Furnace State park in Killingly for several years. He also served as a member of the Wetlands Committee in Thompson. The following friends kindly made contributions to the Wyndham Land Trust in Howard's memory:

Kiku Andersen (another longtime member who sadly passed away in February)

Elizabeth Cartier

Leslie & Robert Holland

George & Judith Jackson

Paul & Joy Nelson

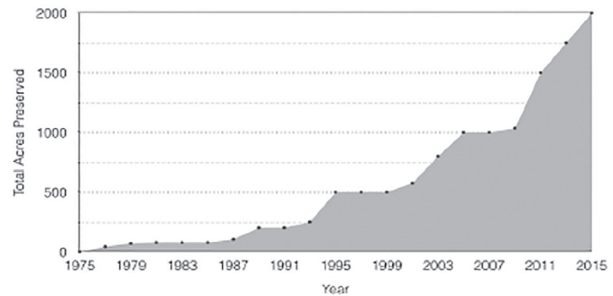
Mercedes Robbins

Virginia Siege

Thompson Trails Committee

Ron & Gwyneth Tillen

Wyndham Land Trust Land Acquisition Since 1975



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



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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.

Yes, I'd like to renew my membership with the Wyndham Land Trust and support their mission.

- \$25 Individual membership \$35 Family membership \$100 Supporter
 \$500 Patron \$1,000 Benefactor Other Amount: \$ _____
 Land Acquisition Fund: _____ \$ TOTAL: \$ _____

MEMBERSHIPS AND DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Make checks payable to Wyndham Land Trust and mail to PO Box 302, Pomfret Center, CT 06259

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone #: _____ Email Address: _____