

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**

Remembering Dick Booth

By Andy Rzezniakiewicz and Ben Williams



For many land trust members, their last memory of Dick Booth is from the celebration of the 40th anniversary at the Golden Lamb in April.

sorts of data down to the number of chickadees and blue jays he encountered. He liked nothing better than to be able to confirm the nesting of bird species that were uncommon in Connecticut. A meticulous record keeper, one of Dick's memorable quotes was "If it isn't written down, then it's folklore."

We believe Dick felt his greatest accomplishment was preserving most of the Lower Pond area in Thompson. He loved exploring that property as many rare plants, invertebrates and other uncommon wildlife species can be found there. Prior to their acquisition Dick worried greatly about losing those lands and consequently he committed the time, energy and perseverance required to accomplish his objective.

After Dick succeeded Phil James as President he converted an old trailer located on our Lyon Preserve in Pomfret into the Wyndham Land Trust office. He kept an active bird feeding station going on that location which attracted an impressive variety of birds. Dick was especially proud of the fox and field sparrows that regularly visited the feeders as neither species is normally found throughout the winter in this area.

Eventually the office was moved to Pomfret's Old Town House. This was a major upgrade as it had heat and electricity, both of which the trailer lacked. The Town House

Dr. Richard A. Booth, President Emeritus of The Wyndham Land Trust, died peacefully at home surrounded by family in mid-October. Dick was the heart and soul of the land trust and with his passing the natural world lost one of its greatest and most dedicated champions. Dick was a member of the Board of Directors for over two decades serving for 11 years as its President.

From his very beginnings with the land trust, Dick loved researching every property that we acquired. He dug out deeds, tax cards, walked property lines, met with land owners, made maps and identified the abutters. What he enjoyed the most, however, was conducting natural resource inventories of the properties. Dick was an ardent compiler of bird lists and he always had an eye out for unusual plant species. Every time he visited a property he would record all



Dick was a board member of the Wyndham Land Trust for many years and served as the President from 2000 to 2011. This is a photo of a land trust meeting at the Golden Lamb in 1987 with, from left to right, Ben Williams, Virginia "Jimmie" Booth, Phil James, Lois Orswell, Dick Booth, and George Jackson.



Dick Booth was in his element observing nature in the field.



Dick earned a PhD in Biology from UConn in 1967 and taught Zoology at CCSU for 26 years. This 1965 photo shows him conducting research on the estuary of the Mystic River.



Dick Booth was the driving force behind the Wyndham Land Trust for many years from his office at Pomret's Old Town House.



Dick shared his love of the natural world with his daughters Margaret and Janet.

provided us a more comfortable, respectable location for our office as well as a better place to store our records. It may have appeared to some as a rather lonely venue but Dick appreciated the quiet and the uninterrupted time which enabled him to do his good work at his own pace while on the Lyon Preserve. Those who did stop by were treated with the latest sightings on the preserves and/or a repeat of favored stories from the past.

Dick, himself, was a rarity. He was totally devoted to the mission of the Wyndham Land Trust. Dick's legendary eloquence, his great sense of



humor, his passion for his cause and his uncommon decency as a human being will never be forgotten by those of us who were fortunate enough to know him. We have lost a most admired and much loved leader, but we have gained renewed strength and inspiration by his example. For that we are ever grateful.

As a child Dick formed a passion for the natural world that stayed with him for the rest of his life. This is an early photo of Dick taken by his father Seaver Booth.

LAND DONATION IN WOODSTOCK

In September 2015, Bet Zimmerman Smith and her husband Patrick Smith donated the three parcels on Roseland Lake in Woodstock to the Wyndham Land Trust. Their goals were to protect the lake and to honor the memory of Bet's late husband, Doug Zimmerman.

"Protecting land forever in honor of someone you love is such a great concept," said Bet Zimmerman. We've always admired others who left such a legacy. We were glad to be able to follow in their footsteps. Perhaps our



One of Doug Zimmerman's bluebird nest boxes along Muddy Brook as it feeds into the northern end of Roseland Lake.

donation will serve as an inspiration to others. There is so much valuable and scenic open space in northeastern Connecticut, but only a small fraction of it is permanently protected or set aside for agricultural use.

"Working with Wyndham Land Trust members was a pleasure. They are knowledgeable and committed people. The board asked a lot of questions, but at the same time were responsive and sensitive to our wishes. We have similar goals and look forward to continuing to work with them to protect another significant property in Woodstock."



Land Trust members and their friends at the 2014 Winter Solstice celebration.

Second Annual Winter Solstice Celebration 2015

The land trust is planning a brief celebration of the 2015 winter solstice on the Lyon Preserve in Pomfret on Monday, December 21. Warm drinks and snacks will be served around a log fire from 3:30pm to 5:30pm. Bring your friends and family and celebrate the shortest day and the beginning of the inexorable progression toward spring.



Celebrating Agriculture 2015

The Wyndham Land Trust exhibited some photographs and maps of their preserves in the Sheep Barn at the September Celebrating Agriculture day at the Woodstock Fair Ground. Board members were on hand to answer questions and encourage support. By longstanding agreement farming activities are carried out on selected land trust preserves that we own and on properties on which we hold a conservation easement.

Pomfret Land Acquisition

In the summer, we acquired a 42.7 acre property in Pomfret from siblings Robert Valentine and Mary Feathers. The land is especially valuable to us because it abuts our 125-acre Gellert preserve, the state's Airline trail, and the New England Forestry Foundation's Kimball preserve. The land is part of a large forest block important for forest nesting interior birds. The majority of the forest is composed of oak and birch trees. In the section of the property where past logging had been conducted a thick shrub understory exists.



Marcy Dawley leads kids on an Acorn Adventure on the Lyon Preserve in Pomfret.

Acorn Adventure

On August 29, Ranger Marcy Dawley of The Last Green Valley invited children and their parents to the Lyon Preserve in Pomfret for an "Acorn Adventure." The children took part in a scavenger hunt on the preserve and ended up the evening roasting s'mores over a fire under the light of the full moon. One of the attendees was Lorraine Hopkins (formerly Lyon), one of the family members that sold the property to the land trust in 1994. Lorraine was thrilled to see young children enjoying themselves on the land that held so many fond memories for her family. Marcy plans to hold another Acorn Adventure on September 4, 2016 from 1:00-2:30pm on the land trust's Rapoport/Spalding Preserve in Woodstock.

Pot Luck Supper

About 60 members attended the land trust's annual meeting/pot luck supper in October. The event was held shortly after Dick Booth passed away, and his absence was felt by all in attendance (and the absence of his book raffle). At the annual meeting, board members Ron Tillen, Jeff Stefanik, and Mike Green were returned for additional three-year terms.



Every year Cheryl and Hadi Bozorgmanesh gracefully host the pot luck supper at their spacious barn in Brooklyn. In this photo, Cheryl accepts a token of our appreciation from land trust President, Ben Williams.



Andy Rzeznikiewicz explains the work he is doing to promote biodiversity on the Robbins preserve

Walktober 2015

Board members Andy Rzeznikiewicz and Jeff Stefanik led walks on land trust preserves during The Last Green Valley's Walktober event. Andy led a walk on the Robbins Preserve

in Thompson and Jeff led a walk on the Rapoport/Spalding Preserve in Woodstock. Both walks were well attended and highlight the work of the land trust to a new audience.

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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LAND TRUST, INC.

The Wyndham Land Trust, Inc.
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THANK YOU

THE WYNDHAM LAND TRUST, INC.

Individual annual membership \$25

Family annual membership \$35

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