

## 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 wildlife 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](mailto:info@wyndhamlandtrust.org)**  
*Please see our web site*  
**[www.wyndhamlandtrust.org](http://www.wyndhamlandtrust.org)**  
**Phone (860) 963-2090.**  
**Your comments, questions and suggestions are most welcome.**

## Wyndham Land Trust Board of Directors:

### President:

Ben Williams (Pomfret)

### Secretary/Treasurer:

George Jackson (Pomfret)

### Members:

Stephen Adams (Woodstock)

Dawn Adiletta (Woodstock)

Michael Green (Killingly)

Jo-Ann MacFarlane (Eastford)

Andy Rzeznikiewicz (Pomfret)

Jeff Stefanik (Woodstock)

Mike St Lawrence (Thompson)

Ron Tillen (Thompson)

## A Note From the President

By Ben Williams

“No rest for the weary” may have negative connotations, but that is not the case where the land trust is concerned. We have been constructively busy in recent months, and there is no indication of an impending lull.

In July we had a display at the Putnam Peddler’s Market in downtown Putnam. In September we held the Pot Luck Supper/Annual Meeting at Hadi and Cheryl Bozorgmanesh’s barn in Pomfret, and we thank them for their kind hospitality. I was honored to present Marcy Dawley with the “Volunteer of the Year” award for the work she does on our marketing committee and the enthusiasm she brings to our social events.



Also in September the land trust was present at Woodstock’s “Celebrating Agriculture” and at The Last Green Valley’s “Tastes of the Valley.” In October, we hosted three “Walktober” walks—a great way to expose new people to the land trust.

At our annual meeting two new board members were elected, and the retirement of a long-serving member was announced. While the land trust is extremely fortunate to gain the talent, expertise, and

commitment of Mike St Lawrence and Steve Adams, we also extend our heartfelt gratitude to Andy Tillinghast. Andy stepped down as a director, having served for well over a decade. Given his history with and interest in the land trust, Andy will continue to serve as an ex-officio member of the board, and we welcome Andy’s continued involvement.

As President I spoke on behalf of the land trust in front of the Killingly Town Council, the Inland Wetlands Commission, and the Planning and Zoning Board in opposition to the proposed power plant in Killingly. The land trust’s board of directors voted unanimously to join the Alexander’s Lake Home Owner’s Association in a suit opposing construction of the power plant. The project would have a negative impact on our Dunn Preserve, which sits between the construction site and the Quinebaug River. We are also concerned about the impact of the gas line expansion required by the proposed power plant—the gas line runs through both the Dunn Preserve and the Duck Marsh Preserve.

We filed with the Connecticut Siting Council to become an official party opposing the project at the Council’s hearings in New Britain. Our legal efforts to protect our preserves have come at a price, and we welcome any donations from the membership to our legal defense fund.

*Thanks as always to our members for your support and your interest in land conservation. You are both our strength and our inspiration.*

*Welcome*

**We welcome the following new members:**

**Steve Adams • Barbara Lussier • Gary Sturni • Karen Zimmer**

# WALKTOBER

The land trust organized three Last Green Valley “Walktober” events in 2016. In late September, Jeff Stefanik, guided walkers along a peaceful wooded trail in our Rapoport/Spalding preserve in Woodstock. The walk also took the group around the Taylor Brook beaver pond.

A couple of weeks later, Andy Rzeknikiewicz led a walk at our Robbins Preserve in Thompson. Andy’s guided hike offered a look at one of the land trust’s best preserves in terms of diversity and public access. A pristine section of the Five Mile River cuts through the center of the property, and the 123-acre preserve is home to a variety of birds, amphibians, and pollinators.



Bella and Lucas Canavan at their Walktober scavenger hunt on our Lyon Preserve

At the end of October, a team of the land trust’s younger members hosted a “By Kids/For Kids Scavenger Hunt” on the Lyon Preserve in Pomfret. Bella and Lucas Canavan managed to get a group of young children excited about being outdoors and engaged in nature, no mean feat these days. All of the participants were first-time visitors to the preserve, and everybody proclaimed it to be a family-friendly afternoon and great for toddling legs and strollers.

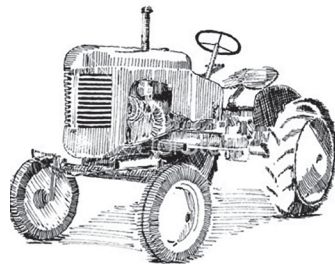
## We’ve Moved!

At the end of October, we moved our office from the CME building in Woodstock to space above the Key Bank on Main Street in Danielson that is occupied by The Last Green Valley. The new office was graciously offered to us by Lois Bruinooge, Executive Director of The Last Green Valley, and we hope that sharing space will encourage cooperation between the two groups.

*The land trust would like to thank Brad Cheney, the owner of CME, for hosting us for the last three years.*

## Thanks!

The land trust would like to thank David Foisey from Pomfret, for donating two of his trucks and his time to tow the tractor and mower to the Robbins Preserve in Thompson. David’s work allowed us to mow the property, which helps us maintain the early successional habitat that we value so highly.



## New board members:

Stephen Adams and Michael St Lawrence were elected to the Board of Directors at the Annual meeting in September. We are excited about the energy and expertise they bring to the land trust, and they have quickly settled in and started contributing to our valuable work. We are using this issue of the newsletter to introduce Steve and Mike to the membership:



STEPHEN ADAMS

Steve Adams has been an attorney in a private general practice for over 30 years, with an emphasis on real estate, land preservation, probate, estate planning, childrens’ matters, small business formation, and personal injury. He has been active in community matters in Northeastern Connecticut for nearly 20 years, currently serving as Senior Warden and a teen leader at Christ Episcopal Church in Pomfret, the Chair of the Northern and Southern Windham County Juvenile Review Boards, the Board of Directors of the Putnam Rotary Club, the Secretary/Treasurer of the Windham County Bar Association, and is also a member of the Putnam Lodge of Elks.

Steve is a resident of Woodstock and is the very proud father of Liam, Christian, and Frances, all fabulous young adults. He also is the dad of two rescued adult Labradoodles, Lily and Taz. His interests include beekeeping, gardening, fishing, hiking, cooking, and rooting for the New York Mets and Giants.

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“I’m very excited to have the opportunity to use my talents to serve on the board of the land trust,” said Steve.



Mike and Dale St Lawrence

**MICHAEL ST LAWRENCE**

Mike St Lawrence and his wife Dale have been residents of Thompson for over 30 years and raised three children through the local school system. Mike has a Masters degree in Civil Engineering from MIT. He worked for the Rogers Corporation in Killingly for 28 years, beginning as an R&D Engineer and retiring as Director of Business Development. Today Mike works with regional technology startups as an advisor, mentor, and investor.

Mike explains why he joined the Board of Directors: "In 1986, Dale and I moved to Northeast Connecticut to live and work, and we quickly fell in love with its unique combination of relative proximity to major urban centers while containing significant undeveloped areas of nature. It was clear to us then, and even more so now, that over time many of these undeveloped areas will be threatened by economic expansion – simply due to location and availability.

"Although we've been financial supporters of open space and conservation for many years, in 2011 I became a more active member of The Wyndham Land Trust and volunteered to be the Land Steward for the Robbins Preserve in Thompson. Since that time I've seen the significant and impactful work done by the land trust, preserving the untouched nature of Windham County's most important land parcels. By joining the Board, I hope to help continue the land trust's mission and expand the great work it does."

**Rocky Hill Refuge**

In September Woodstock residents Bet Zimmerman Smith and Patrick Smith donated a 58-acre property to the Wyndham Land Trust. The land, now called the Rocky Hill Refuge, sits on the highest point of Rocky Hill Road in Woodstock and is a combination of agricultural field and forest. A 12-lot subdivision had been approved on the lot some years ago, but Bet and Patrick were able to buy the land and convert the subdivision back into open space that will be protected into perpetuity by the land trust.



"After our time is done, the land trust will maintain the refuge as open space forever," explained Bet. "Patrick and I consider ourselves fortunate to have been able to preserve this land for current and future generations of people, plants, and animals. "We will have reserved life use of the property--a great concept that enables us to continue to work the land during our lifetimes. Plus, the federal tax deduction for giving land to a non-profit organization like the Wyndham Land Trust offers an impressive bonus. It's a win-win situation, and I would encourage other property owners who want to protect their land to speak with the land trust."

If you wish to visit the new preserve, an old logging road provides a peaceful walk on level ground. Dogs must be kept on a leash to avoid disturbing the wildlife. A dedication ceremony in honor of Bet's late husband, Doug, will be held on the property in May 2017.

**New Fund To Honor George Jackson**

The Board of Directors recently voted to establish the George H. Jackson Legacy Fund to honor George's 43 years of dedicated service to the Wyndham Land Trust. George is a founding member of the land trust and has provided exemplary legal advice since day one.

Membership in the Legacy Fund is intended for individuals who have made provision for the land trust in their wills. For those who have already done so, we would like to know who you are. Leadership support at this level is persuasive and can encourage others who have a strong interest in preserving open space and have financial circumstances that make leaving a legacy gift a compelling option. At the very least we would like to extend our thanks. We also recognize an individual's right to privacy; a right we pledge to honor.

*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.



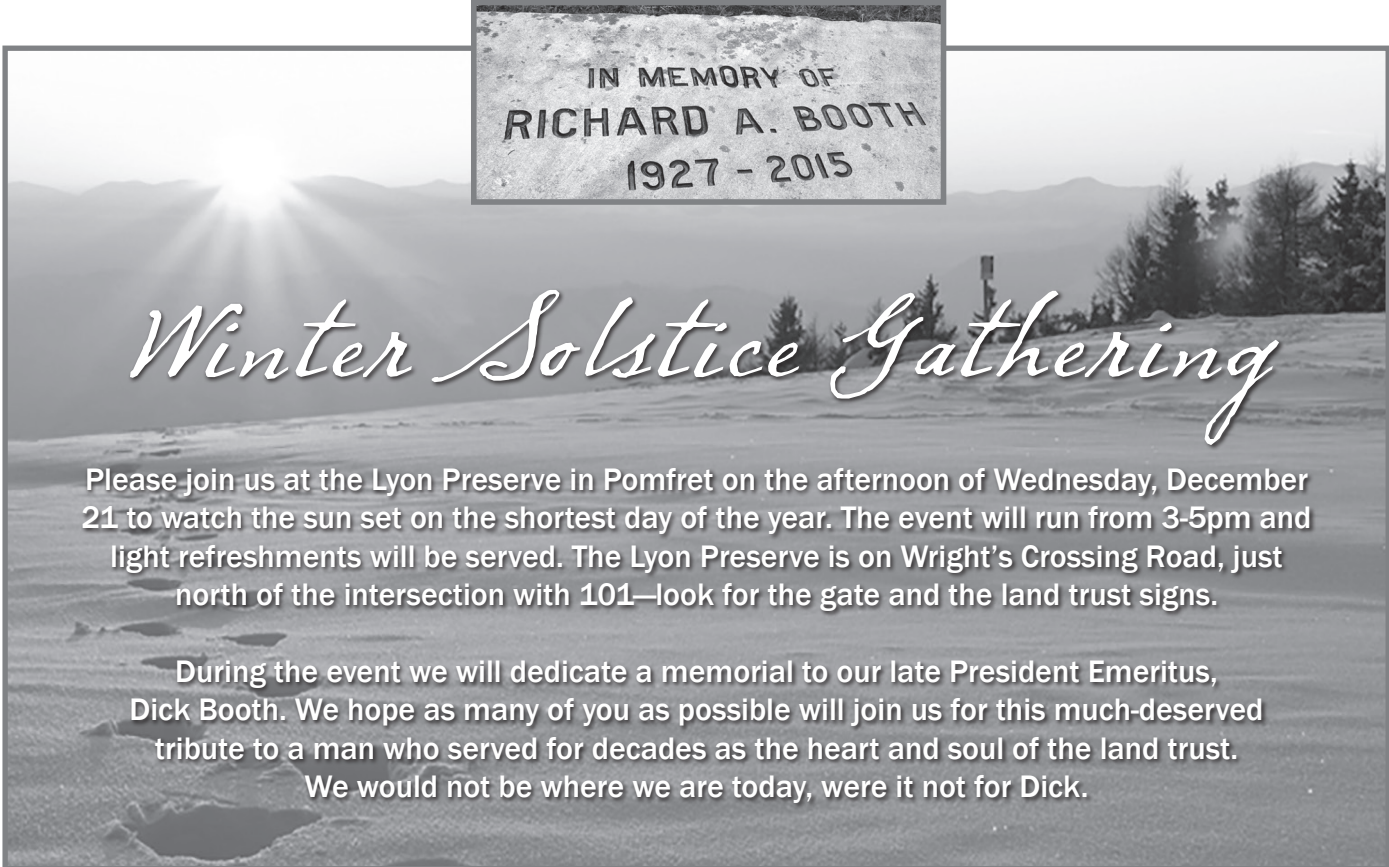
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**WYNDHAM**  
LAND TRUST, INC.

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



IN MEMORY OF  
**RICHARD A. BOOTH**  
1927 - 2015

## *Winter Solstice Gathering*

Please join us at the Lyon Preserve in Pomfret on the afternoon of Wednesday, December 21 to watch the sun set on the shortest day of the year. The event will run from 3-5pm and light refreshments will be served. The Lyon Preserve is on Wright's Crossing Road, just north of the intersection with 101—look for the gate and the land trust signs.

During the event we will dedicate a memorial to our late President Emeritus, Dick Booth. We hope as many of you as possible will join us for this much-deserved tribute to a man who served for decades as the heart and soul of the land trust.

We would not be where we are today, were it not for Dick.