

Natural Surroundings

WYNDHAM LAND TRUST, INC. • SINCE 1975

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Conserving the Natural Resources of Northeastern Connecticut



DICK BOOTH / PRESIDENT

A Brief Glance Back and a Long Look Forward

The Wyndham Land Trust was incorporated on April 22, 1975 and operates in the 10 most northerly and easterly towns of Windham County. In the 27 years of its existence the trust has acquired 22 parcels totaling 779 acres and lying in 8 towns. An additional 248 acres are protected by means of conservation restrictions. One hundred and sixty four species of birds have been recorded on Trust property; sixty three of them are confirmed nesters. Amphibians breed in our vernal pools and a variety of wildflowers, most of them common, others somewhat less so, bud and bloom on Trust land.

Our first newsletter (Old Series) came in the winter of 1992 and continued on an irregular basis. We are proud to present Number 1 of Volume 1 (New Series) which will appear semi-annually through the efforts of our board and Mary Anthony.

As to looking forward: Our focus is on the acquisition of wildlife habitat, the protection of the biodiversity thereon, and ultimately on providing opportunities for the quiet enjoyment of nature by the general public. To accomplish these things, we seek to increase our membership, augment our income from dues and donations, build our endowment,



Wyndham Land Trust President Dick Booth in the Field.

and maintain our operating efficiency. At some future point as land becomes increasingly more difficult to acquire, the Trust's acquisition phase will undoubtedly diminish while a management phase consumes increasing amounts of time and attention.

In short, we seek those who believe, or who can be persuaded, that the Windham County Landscape and the animal and plant life which are a part of it, are interesting, beautiful, essential to a healthy human environment, and worthy of protection. We seek those who can come together in recognition of this fundamental tenet and contribute in various ways and at various levels. We seek those to whom the Wyndham Land Trust, its aims, ideals, assets, and responsibilities can be passed, generation to generation. Our work is urgent.

E V E N T S

Members Annual Pot Luck Supper

The Members Annual Pot Luck Supper will be held on October 17th, 2002 at The Golden Lamb Buttery, Brooklyn, CT, 6 P.M. Speaker: Dale May, Director, Wildlife Division of the Connecticut D.E.P. Topic: "Wildlife For Tomorrow". *Invitations will be forthcoming.*

Benefit Concert to Aid Local Land Preservation

The Wyndham Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy and Tyrone Farm are pleased to announce that local folksinger Maria Sangiolo will perform at a benefit on October 27th at 3:00 P.M. to support local land preservation. Maria will feature songs from her latest CD, entitled "The Way We Live," including the song 'Last Green Valley.' The newly renovated barn at Tyrone Farm will be the picturesque setting for this concert. Tickets are available beginning September 8th by sending \$15 per ticket to Bill Toomey, Benefit Concert, P.O. Box 203, Pomfret Center, CT 06259. **Checks should be made out to "The Wyndham Land Trust" ... Please enclose your mailing address!**



Beginning September 29th, tickets will also be available at *The Vanilla Bean Café* in Pomfret and at *Wonderland Books* on Main Street in Putnam.

BOARD MEMBER PROFILE



Sarah Heminway

One of Wyndham Land Trust's newest directors is Pomfret resident Sarah

Heminway. Sarah grew up in North Granby, Connecticut and is a graduate of Northfield Mount Hermon School and Trinity College. She holds a B.S. in Environmental Studies and is currently completing her master's degree in soil science at UConn. She is the owner of Geotoxi Associates, Inc., an environmental consulting firm. Sarah and her husband Earl and their three children, Cody 10, Sothea 6, Seth 5, are active community members.

Sarah is no newcomer to land protection. She has been involved with the Soil Conservation Service, the Agricultural Development Rights Program (PDR), Pomfret Conservation Commission, the Pomfret ad-hoc committee on zoning, and the DEP Atlantic Salmon Restoration program. For seven years, Sarah developed programming at the Bafflin Sanctuary for the Pomfret chapter of the Connecticut Audubon Society as the sanctuary's resident naturalist.

Sarah's family has a long history of land preservation in Connecticut. In 1883 her ancestors, the Calhouns, purchased a large property in Cornwall which encompassed the famous Cathedral Pines with the express purpose of protecting it for future generations. In 1967, the land was deeded to the Nature Conservancy and it remains one of their most compelling and thoroughly discussed parcels.

When asked why she is taking time from her busy schedule to serve on this board, Sarah replied, "Northeastern Connecticut, with its open spaces and relatively inexpensive land values, has moved into a period of unprecedented land development pressure." It is my feeling that we as the land trust must provide a vehicle for land preservation and we as a community must support these efforts. We must act now to try to preserve the rural character of this area which is so unique to Connecticut."

"We welcome Sarah to the Wyndham Land Trust Board of Directors. Her expertise, her experience and her view of life equip her well for the land preservation challenges before us."

"It is my feeling that we as the land trust must provide a vehicle for land preservation and we as a community must support these efforts."

HELPING THE W.L.T

"When time permits, It's a pleasure donating my design services to environmental organizations such as the Wyndham Land Trust. I am a strong believer in preserving and protecting the environment. Now more than ever, it's evident that our communities are developing at such a fast rate I fear my daughter will never experience the natural beauty and open country I grew up with.

Thanks to organizations like the Wyndham Land Trust and the CT Audubon Society continually working hard to preserve our natural surroundings gives me hope that our local communities will remain open and untouched for future generations to appreciate and learn from as we have done."

Jim Tourtellotte, Global Design
East Putnam, CT / 860-963-0414

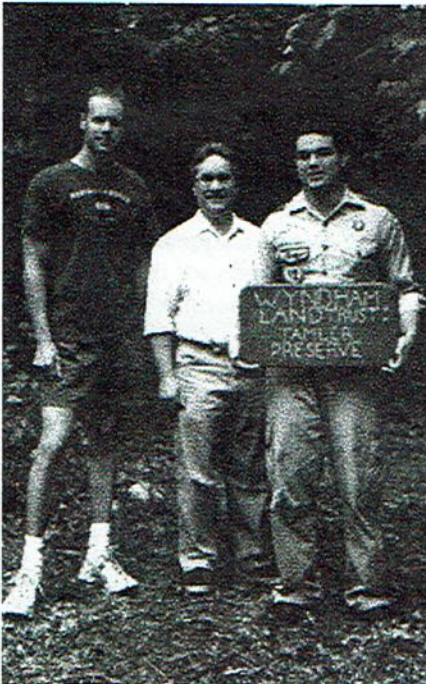
Nature Conservancy – Wyndham Land Trust Reception in Thompson

Many thanks to Trust members Barbara and Richard Loy of Thompson, who held a reception for TNC and the Wyndham Land Trust on June 5th at their home. Many Thompson residents gathered, braving imminent thunderstorms, and enjoyed the gallery filled with photographs taken on protected land in Thompson. Bill Toomey from the Nature Conservancy gave an overview of the Quinebaug Highlands Project in Northeast Connecticut, and Dick Booth gave a talk about the history and future of the Wyndham Land Trust, highlighting the recent activity in Thompson, including the joint effort with the Nature Conservancy to protect Lower Pond, a pristine spot at the head of the Five Mile River. *We welcome the following new members from Thompson: Peter and Donna Lange, Cynthia and John de Bruyen Kops, Chris and Judith Eichner, Walter Gueha, Lynn and Michael Dawes, Vanessa Marie Hoenig & family, James Hillman and Margot Maclean.*



Ravenelle Completes Trail on Tamler Parcel in Thompson

Pomfret resident Matt Ravenelle, a senior at Woodstock Academy, completed a mile-long trail through the Trust's Tamler Parcel on Elmwood Hill Road in Thompson. The project, which provides a safe and scenic path through the thickly wooded property, was completed by Ravenelle as part of the service requirement for Eagle Scout designation. For several months, Ravenelle removed brush and saplings, and cleared downed trees to make the scenic and secluded parcel available to the public. As part of the leadership component of the project, Ravenelle organized 20 volunteers, who camped out on the parcel and completed 20 hours of strenuous trail work. When asked to comment on the completion of his project, Ravenelle said "It wouldn't have been possible without the help of volunteers." Shown with Ravenelle's new trail sign are: Andy Rzeznikiewicz from the Wyndham Land Trust, Matt's dad Greg Ravenelle, and Matt Ravenelle.



Wood Turtle found on Trust Parcel

A young volunteer prepares to release "MB3," a wood turtle found on land protected by the Wyndham Land Trust. Note the radio transmitter and its flexible antenna attached to the turtle's upper shell, or "carapace." The D.E.P.'s Richard Haley will monitor the turtle's movements via a radio receiver. The resulting data will enable Haley to determine the size, shape and ecological characteristics of the turtle's

home range, information which will prove useful in protecting this declining species.

The wood turtle, *Clemmys insculpta*, was described by the zoologist Le Conte over one hundred and fifty years ago. Today, in 21st century Connecticut, it is a species in trouble. Extensive collecting for the pet and laboratory trades,

habitat loss and fragmentation, and an age to maturity of fourteen or more years have all contributed to its decline in numbers. We hope that the fourteen-year-old female pictured here lives a long, untroubled and fruitful life and are more than pleased to provide her with the required habitat.





The Wyndham Land Trust, Inc.

Individual annual membership \$20

Family annual membership \$30

Individual life membership \$300

Family life membership \$500

Additional Donation \$ _____

Name: _____

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