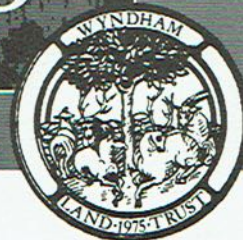


Natural Surroundings

WYNDHAM LAND TRUST, INC. • SINCE 1975

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Conserving the Natural Resources of Northeastern Connecticut



How Things Sometimes Happen

Richard Booth, President Wyndham Land Trust



Blue-winged Teal

The Wyndham Land Trust has a good friend, a keen birder who shares her meticulously kept records with us when they relate to Trust properties as they often do. It was she who confirmed nesting by a pair of Orchard Orioles on our Lyon Preserve a short time ago and it was she who found Blue-gray Gnatcatchers nesting within a few feet of our Tillinghast Preserve this spring. On our 101-acre Duck Marsh Preserve in Pomfret we have beavers and they do what beavers have done ever since there have been beavers. They build dams and lodges and cut and store their winter food supply. Undoubtedly they also strike the water with their tails when alarmed although this writer has never heard them do it. Perhaps their lives are unusually tranquil.

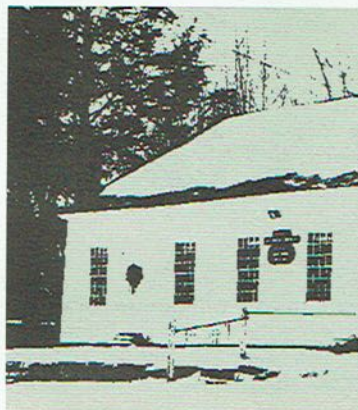
One fine spring day, not so long ago, our friend the birder said "You need another observation blind at the Duck Marsh Preserve. A good place for it would be next to the middle pool where the beavers have cut all those alders. I will give you a donation towards it." The check (\$200 above the promised amount!) arrived and it came time to seek another friend, a craftsman of great skill, the same who had built our existing observation blind and platforms years ago. By great good fortune we approached him during a fleeting moment between jobs, an almost impossible thing to do. Consequently, our new 10' x 6' observation blind was pre-cut, carried to the site, and assembled in a number of days.

A pair of Blue-winged Teal, the female accompanied by 11 downy day-old ducklings constituted one of the first sightings. They were seen regularly thereafter, the young increasing rapidly in size until they lost their down and were hard to distinguish from adult birds. Thus, the Blue-winged Teal became a new

confirmed nester on Trust land. This is particularly exciting as *The Atlas of Breeding Birds of Connecticut* lists but three confirmed and four probable nestings for this species.* Other sightings at the Duck Marsh observation blind includes Glossy Ibis (a new record for Trust property), both Great Blue and Green Herons, plus Spotted, Pectoral, and Solitary Sandpipers. In season, one may expect any of the ducks, geese, and shore birds regularly occurring on and about the fresh waters of Connecticut.

When beavers, good friends, generous folk, and those of great skill come together, very good things can happen. Come the rare, come the common, the observation blind is a place of peace, tranquility, beauty and great interest.

*Bevier, Louis R. (editor) 1994. *The Atlas of Breeding Birds of Connecticut*. State Geological and Natural History Survey of Connecticut, Bulletin 113. (Note: The Atlas data were gathered during the period 1982-1986.



The Wyndham Land Trust
will have office hours
on Mondays and Wednesdays
from 9 A.M.-noon at the Old
Town House in Pomfret.
Our phone number is
963-2090.

Trust Acquires 24th preserve; third in Thompson

The Trust recently acquired its 24th wildlife preserve, its third in Thompson. *Donated by the family of the late Raymond S. Wieloch*, this preserve located off of Long Pond Road in Thompson will protect an ecologically sensitive 30-acre area. The Trust expressed its thanks to Mrs. Genevieve Wieloch, Esther Ventola, Paul Wieloch, and Leonard Wieloch for arranging for the protection of this important parcel.



The Trust is seeking volunteer stewards from that area of Thompson, who will help monitor the status of the property.

Two other properties in Thompson have also been protected by the Wyndham Land Trust: Lower Pond and the Tamler Preserve. The Tamler Preserve, located off of Elmwood Hill Road, has a new hiking trail open to the public.

**WLT Total Acreage Protected:
1,257 Acres**

Board Member Profile

Andy Tillinghast

Andy Tillinghast, lifelong resident of Killingly and owner of Tillinghast True Value Building and Home Center, joined the board of the Wyndham Land Trust two years ago. A graduate of Killingly High School and the University of Connecticut, Andy brings a long history of family community service and a personal environmental commitment to the trust.



The Tillinghast family has lived in New England since 1656 and in Connecticut since the 18th century, which provides Andy with a unique appreciation for our area. He "loves to hike in the woods being in the forest when I can." He believes "The Wyndham Land Trust is a conduit to protecting the forests and the treasures of Wyndham County's green belt. The natural surroundings are part of our heritage and deserve protection."

Andy brings a wide range of skills to the trust: knowledge of forestry, non-profit investment experience, a thorough knowledge of the lumber industry, and local business experience. He served on the investment board of Connecticut Forest and Park, the oldest private, nonprofit environmental organization in Connecticut. He has also been a member of the Danielson Exchange Club, a local service club, for over thirty years.

The Trust is fortunate to have Andy on board as we face increasing land protection challenges. As Andy noted, "exploring open space is like going into a museum- it's an art form"... and certainly art well-worth preserving.

UPCOMING FALL EVENTS

Pot Luck Supper

Thursday, November 6, 2003

At Tyrone Farm

Details will be mailed to members.



**Don't Miss our
Concert to Benefit
Local Land
Conservation!**

October 12, 2003

at the Tyrone Farm Barn Reception
at 6:00 P.M. • Concert at 7:00 P.M.
Tickets available at the Vanilla
Bean or by calling 860-963-2090.

WLT newsletter design services donated by: Global Design, Putnam CT 860-963-0414



Forest and farm land is being lost at an alarming rate

In southern New England, many once rural towns have grown into bedroom communities for nearby urban centers. In Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island, more than 300,000 acres of forest and farm land went out of production in the 1970s and 1980s. That's an area equal to 75 percent of all the farm land left in Connecticut. Lost forever are those forests' ability to clean our water and air, those farms' ability to grow our food, and both their abilities to provide the environmental attributes and quality of life so intrinsic to our region.

Forest and farm lands provide wildlife habitat and safeguard our wetlands and floodplains. They provide tourist and recreational opportunities. Primary forest and farm industries are important economically, earning roughly \$750 million a year. They provide jobs. In Massachusetts alone, forestry and farming have an estimated annual payroll of \$170 million. In addition, they supply profitable secondary markets like food processing and lumber milling, as well as generating numerous spin-off industries that fuel our local economies.

Southern New England Forest Consortium, Inc. (SNEFCI) is a non-profit forest conservation organization made up of natural

resource professionals and advocates from Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. Established in 1985, SNEFCI promotes wise forest conservation ethics and the productive use of the region's forests and natural resources. SNEFCI works to conserve the forests of southern New England through a variety of programs aimed at reducing fragmentation of forest land and open space, promoting the stewardship of forest resources, and enhancing urban and community forests.

To help local and regional officials to make informed decisions regarding the future of open space, SNEFCI conducted an unprecedented, region-wide Cost of Community Services study (COCS). Made possible, in part, by a grant from the USDA Forest Service, the study has uncovered state and region wide trends regarding the fiscal impact of various types of land use and development.

Forest and farm lands help balance municipal budgets

The COCS study uncovered regional trends and found a pattern: throughout the southern New England study towns, forest, farm, and open land more than paid their way. In fact, they helped support residential services. For every dollar of revenue raised from the residential sector, the towns spent an average of \$1.14 on residential services. However, for every forest, farm, and open space land dollar, towns only spent an average of 42 cents on public services. That left 58

cents to offset other municipal expenses. The study also concluded that towns with large or growing populations experienced greater losses on their residential land than towns with smaller, more stable populations. As a result, the fast growing towns relied more heavily on the fiscal relief derived from open space in order to balance their budgets. While residential land in the southern New England study towns costs more in services than it provides in revenue, forest, farm, and open space lands serve an important role in balancing municipal budgets. Southern New England's open spaces provide fiscal relief for tax payers, as well as providing quality of life amenities, such as: recreation, wildlife habitat, scenic vistas, and a sense of privacy.

The COCS study concluded that for the southern New England study towns, the conversion of open space for residential development was not advisable on a financial basis alone. The loss of forest, farm, and open space land to commercial/industrial, or residential development today may translate into higher costs for our communities tomorrow. Without open space to balance the budget, residential expenses would quickly lead towns into higher taxes or debt. Though revenues from open lands may be modest, they perform a balancing act to cover the net loss towns experience on their other land use sectors.

From a report excerpted from an SNEFCI Publication. For more information and complete article contact the SNEFCI at: 1-800-722-TREE or www.snefci.org, contact the WLT at: 860-963-2090



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The Wyndham Land Trust, Inc.

Individual annual membership \$20
Family annual membership \$30
Individual life membership \$300
Family life membership \$500
Additional Donation \$_____

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