



Natural Surroundings

WYNDHAM LAND TRUST, INC. • SINCE 1975

Conserving the Natural Resources of Northeastern Connecticut

Winter 2025

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.,
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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.

Wyndham Land Trust Board of Directors

Michael St. Lawrence, President
Michael Green, Vice President
Stephen Adams, Secretary
Penny Foisey, Treasurer
Mary Anthony
Janet Booth
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Andy Rzekniakiewicz
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THE COMMITMENT TO PRESERVING OPEN SPACE

In October, 1999 the New Roxbury Land Trust was created and incorporated in the State of Connecticut. Founded by Valerie Ietto and a group of other like-minded conservationists, the organization's mission was to preserve open space, protect agricultural lands, forests, natural resources and wildlife habitats in the towns of Woodstock, Eastford, Pomfret, Putnam, Thompson, and Union.

Over the next 25 years, this all-volunteer organization had preserved eight pristine properties totaling over 300 acres. Unfortunately, Valerie, the driving force behind New Roxbury's success passed away in 2024. This left New Roxbury's board of directors with the task of determining a path forward. Led by John Davis, New Roxbury's board weighed its options but never wavered in its commitment to preserving and protecting its properties.

After a number of months of discussion between Wyndham and New Roxbury's leadership, it became clear there was great alignment between the two organizations in mission, approach, methodology, and geography. Over the next 14 months, John Davis worked tirelessly to ensure a proper transfer of New Roxbury's properties and any remaining assets to Wyndham as well as wrapping up New Roxbury's affairs. No small task!

As of September, 2025, New Roxbury Land Trust is now a part of the Wyndham Land Trust, Inc. New Roxbury's eight properties and its 40 members are now part of Wyndham. This entire exercise is a shining example of the commitment our organizations have to ensuring the preservation of our properties in perpetuity.

Thank you John, and a warm welcome to our new members from the New Roxbury Land Trust.

Best regards, Mike St. Lawrence, WLT President

POMFRET LAND DONATION

Mary Adams recently donated a 14-acre parcel in Pomfret to the Wyndham Land Trust. The property is adjacent to other protected land that stretches north all the way to our Cabbage Hill preserve in Woodstock. It contains a large actively-managed wildflower meadow and woodlands with some very large white oak trees.

Welcome

We welcome the following new members:

Debra Burns, Heather Beach, Tina Betley, Amy Burroughs, Linda Calchers,
Wendy Caron, Angela Chabot, Amanda Chapman, Patricia Chaudhuri, Alex Christy, Sharron Cochran,
Melanie Corley, Betsy Cracco, Ruth B. Cutler, Kelli Deliso, Karen DeLuca, Julie DiDonato, Kristin Digilio,
Heather Driscoll, Francesca Edwards, Malin Eubanks, Stargazer Farm, Kelley Fayadh, Melanie Finkeldey,
Taylor Fox, Mikako Fukagawa, Jamison Glass, Allison Goldsnider, Sarah Gornbein, Kristen Govoni,
Catherine Guglielmo, Sarah Haley, Susan Hawkins, Stacy Hayes, Maria Heskes-Allard, Jennifer Hyland,
Lauren Jorgensen, Beth Kaftan, Brian Keroack, Agnita Knott, Erica Korper, Eddie and Linda Lambert,
Jeff Livingstone, Betsey MacDonald, Ingrid McManus, Bonnie Mudge, George O'Neil, Mary Palumbo,
Katie Panos, Kieran Parsons, Anna-Maria Paul, Deborah Pepin, John Pillo, Amy Proulx,
Charlotte Quinn, Chrissy Rampelli, Jennifer Reilly, Lisette Rimer, Lorrie Ruff, Celeste Santos-Rivera,
Michelle Sigfridson, Edward Spillers, Heidi Springthorpe, Stacey Stearns, Douglas Woodward,
Kelsey Tichenor, Alecia Underhill, Katrina Van Dellen, Selby Wajcs, Corinne Walsh, Christy Wolf.

WINTER SOLSTICE GATHERING



Land trust members watch the sunset at the Solstice event.

Sunday, December 21, 2025.

3:00 - 5:00 pm.

**Lyon Preserve, Wrights Crossing
Road, Pomfret Center.**

Please join us at the Lyon Preserve in Pomfret.

Sunday, December 21, 3pm as the sun sets on
the shortest day of the year.

Great for all ages!

The event runs from 3–5pm.

Parking is available at the end of the driveway
near the barn.

JOSIE STENBACK

The land trust was sorry to hear of the passing of long-time member and supporter Josephine Stenback in September, just shy of her 101st birthday. In August, 2012 Josephine Stenback donated 36 acres of forested land in East Killingly to the Wyndham Land Trust. The property included 2600' of road frontage along the NW edge of Yosemite Valley Road and 360' of frontage on the Five Mile River. She wanted it to be known as the Yosemite Valley Preserve and hoped her example would inspire others to donate land.

"I wanted to see the property protected," said Josie in 2012.

"I'd rather see animals using it than people."



Josie reviews a map of the new preserve with board member Jeff Stefanik, who surveyed the property.

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY AND CONSERVATION: WLT'S 3RD ANNUAL RIDE FOR OPEN SPACE

On October 5th, we held our third Annual Ride for Open Space fundraiser at our Cabbage Hill Preserve in Woodstock. It was a beautiful day filled with sunshine and community spirit. Riders enjoyed more than nine miles of scenic trails winding through Nightingale Forest, a network that connects conserved lands and private properties.

We're deeply grateful to the generous landowners who opened their fields and trails for this event, allowing us to showcase the beauty of our shared landscape. This year's ride was our largest yet — and extra special as we celebrated WLT's 50th anniversary!

Our dedicated committee — Sue Jackson (Co-Chair), Penny Foisey (Co-Chair), Penny Gladstone-Kaiser (Marketing), and Nina Kneeland (Fundraising) — worked tirelessly to make it a memorable day for all.

We extend heartfelt thanks to our community sponsors whose support makes these events possible:

Presenting Sponsors: bankHometown, Bay State Trail Riders, New England Plasma, Pomfret Horse and Trail Association, The Inn at Woodstock Hill, and Weiss, Hale & Zahansky.

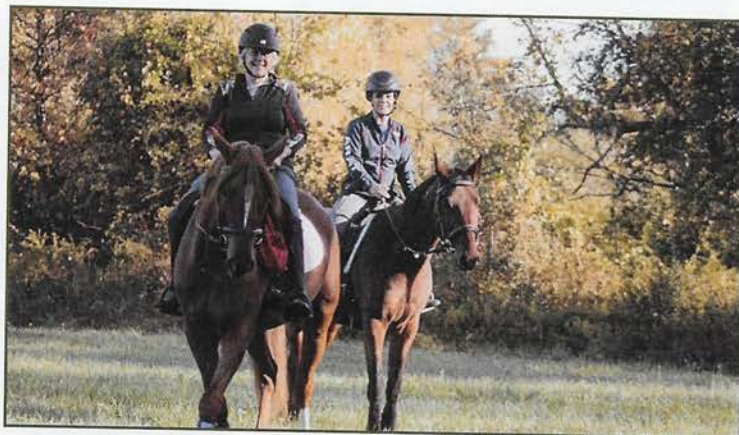
Trail Sponsors: Green Valley Hospitality, Linemaster, Mackey's, Triple Crown.

Preserve Sponsors: Advanced Back & Wellness, Jewett City Savings Bank, Rocco's Lawn Care, Spirol, and Stargazer Farm.

Thanks to their generosity, every rider received a commemorative sweatshirt, and 100% of registration fees went directly to support WLT's conservation mission. Lunch was provided by The Rolling Tomato, whose brick-oven pizza is always a hit, and We-Li-Kit Ice Cream generously donated a delicious dessert.

Nightingale Forest spans over 1,300 acres and features a well-established multiuse trail network originally created by Harry Townshend for bird dog trials. His family's enduring appreciation for land stewardship lives on through this forest, now a cornerstone of our conserved lands. We invite everyone to visit Nightingale Forest (parking areas available off of Swedetown Road and Quarry Road) and experience its tranquility, wildlife, and natural beauty.

Thank you, Penny Foisey, WLT Treasurer & Equestrian Liaison



Event organizer, Penny Foisey, prepares to hit the trails.

WEBSTER LAKE HISTORY

WLT Director Jeff Stefanik has written a history of Lake Chagogoggoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg (Webster Lake) entitled "Beside Blue Waters." The book will soon be published by the Samuel Slater Museum and sold as a fund raiser. The Lake, while over the Massachusetts State Line, is next to our Long Pond Preserve in Thompson.

The Slater Museum is located at 31 Ray Street, Webster.

Jeff has also written a publication detailing the 50-Year history of the Wyndham Land Trust that is available from the land trust office on request.

A NEW BRIDGE FOR NIGHTINGALE FOREST

In preparation for the WLT Ride for Open Space, WLT volunteers came together to replace a failing bridge — a significant project that was completed in just two days! The new bridge is safer, sturdier, and a testament to what can be accomplished when our community joins hands for conservation.

This project was made possible thanks to the generosity of our members, donors, and supporters of the Ride for Open Space. We also extend our deepest gratitude to the volunteers who contributed their time, skill, and energy to bring this project to life: Ray Morgan, Dave Foisey, Penny Foisey, Amy & Kristen Burroughs, Corey & Kayla Burroughs, Sue Jackson, Mary Anthony, Steve & Katie Panos, Christine Stanton, and Gary Valade.

The Bridge Crew



SHOW YOU CARE

You can now buy quality organic cotton Wyndham Land Trust gear—t-shirts, sweatshirts, and hoodies—from our online store. The new Eco-friendly fabrics are perfect for hiking on our preserves in the summer. Purchasing Wyndham Land Trust gear is a great way to show your neighbors and friends that you support our mission. The store offers a variety of styles and colors, including women's shirts, and all sizes from S to XXL are available.

Check it out at

<https://www.bonfire.com/store/wyndham-land-trust/>

SCAN
ME!



ANNUAL APPEAL/ MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

You should be receiving our annual appeal in the mail soon. The land trust depends on the support of its members to survive. Please renew your membership for 2026 and consider joining at the Supporter level (\$100) to show your support for our mission.

You can renew by mailing in the form on the back of the newsletter, or you can renew online by clicking **BECOME A MEMBER** on the home page of our secure web site.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY

There are many ways to make a gift to the Wyndham Land Trust to help protect land for future generations.

TRANSFER FUNDS FROM YOUR IRA directly to WLT and satisfy required minimum distributions while avoiding federal income tax.

Recommend a grant from your **DONOR ADVISED FUND** to WLT.

Make a **GIFT OF STOCK**, bonds, or mutual funds to WLT and avoid paying capital gains.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, see the WHZ Guide to Giving Back at whzwealth.com/resources-for-charitable-giving

Please consult your tax advisor for guidance.

