



# Natural Surroundings

## WYNDHAM LAND TRUST, INC. • SINCE 1975

Conserving the Natural Resources of Northeastern Connecticut

Summer 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.,  
PO Box 302  
Pomfret Center, CT 06259  
or to 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.**

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Amy Burroughs

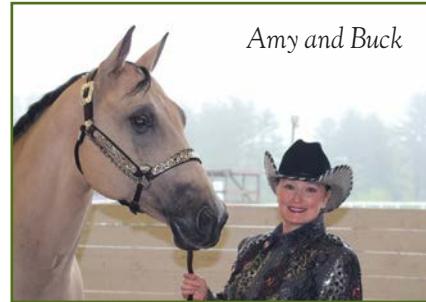
### NEW OFFICE MANAGER

**M**y name is Amy Burroughs, and I am very happy to join the Wyndham Land Trust team, helping to preserve open space for generations to come.

I am a horse girl, through and through, with trail riding being my favorite horse-time. My retirement following a 33-year finance career with International Paper has enabled me to spend a lot more time with my four-legged fur babies – equine and canine. When I'm not covered in horse hair and dirt, I enjoy reading and sewing.

I grew up in upstate New York, where I began my finance career at International Paper's Ticonderoga Mill. With a move to Memphis, and then a final move to the Controller's position at their Putnam Box plant in 2002, we settled down and made Canterbury our forever home with our three children. Our family has been active with local volunteer fire company since our arrival, with our boys following in their dad's volunteer firefighter bootsteps. The boys and I also became EMTs and run ambulance calls.

With the kids grown and a full-time job behind me, I hope to use my business skill set to help WLT streamline some of the record keeping and project processes. It's going to take a while to grasp all the moving parts, but I look forward to working with the membership and supporting the critical mission of the land trust.



Amy and Buck

### THE NEW ROXBURY LAND TRUST JOINS FORCES WITH THE WYNDHAM LAND TRUST

**A**fter 26 years of existence resulting in the protection of seven preserves and over 300 acres in Woodstock and Union, Connecticut, The New Roxbury Land Trust membership has decided to become a part of The Wyndham Land Trust. This change will provide enhanced protection and preservation of New Roxbury's land in perpetuity while also augmenting Wyndham's footprint in northern Connecticut.

As a result, the Wyndham Land Trust will be one of the largest Connecticut land trusts in terms of property owned, have over 300 members, and will be protecting properties in 11 towns in northeast Connecticut.

The transition is scheduled to be completed this summer, and The Wyndham Land Trust wholeheartedly welcomes the new members from New Roxbury!

*Welcome*

#### We welcome the following new members:

Patricia A Bachand, Jay Bartholomew, Becky Kalagher (Bay State Trail Riders), Brian Benoit, Robin & Donald Berry, Lois Bruinooge, J Robert Burgoyne, Noel Cain, Audrey Chase, George Clark, Bernie Davis, John Davis, Anthony Emilio, Kevin Farnham, Jessica Feuti, David Fiorio, Linda Fries, Andrea Gaines, John Hinners, Becky Kalagher, Michael Keenan, Chris Kueffner, Danielle Long, Chris Mckleroy, Michael Meadows, Glenn Miller, Jake Moran, Katy Paradise, William Ross, Gregory Rossolimo, Margaret Smith, Sue Jaskson (Tanhath Hunt Club), Vaughn Valcourt, Linda Krul (West Greenwich Horseman's Association), Lee Wesler (Woodstock Conservation Commission), Megan Zablocki family

## WLT WORKING HARD TO PROTECT LAND

The land trust continues to protect land in the Quiet Corner, and we're still pushing to reach our goal of protecting 10,000 acres by 2030.

Most of you are aware that we completed the protection of the iconic 318-acre Hillandale Woods property in Brooklyn and Pomfret. We closed on the property in March, less than a year after we kicked off the fund drive to raise the \$635,000 needed to protect the woodlands. The response from you was humbling, and we're moved to know our work has the support of the community.

We've also continued to expand our Bull Hill Preserve. At the end of 2024, Marianne Callahan donated 31 acres in the north west corner. The lot is split by the town line—7 acres in Woodstock and 24 acres in Thompson.

"My grandfather, Arthur George Morse, was a dairy farmer and lived on two farms in Woodstock, CT, during his life," explained Marianne Callahan. "He and my grandmother, Mary, had five sons, only one of which remained on the working dairy farm and took over the family business [Lewis]."

"My father always meant to donate the two woodlots eventually.

When he passed my sister and I inherited them. When my sister passed in 2021, I intended to donate them right away, but my lawyers made it a lengthy process. Anyway, it is now done, and the family is very pleased."

Twelve days later, we acquired six lots from the Boliver family at the southern end of our Bull Hill Preserve. The six lots cover 65 acres and form a vital connection between existing protected parcels on the preserve.

We now protect almost 1300 acres on Bull Hill, just eight years after we protected the first 13 parcels, covering 254 acres. The 13 parcels were acquired from Blue Dog Investments, who were actively marketing the property on the open market. Bull Hill has an extensive network of trails and is our most visited preserve. Access has been made easier by the construction of a gravel parking lot on the east side of Bull Hill Road that is accessible from Ravenelle Road in Thompson.

In April, a town meeting in Woodstock voted to donate two properties near our Nightingale Forest Preserve to the Wyndham Land Trust. The main donation was a 113-acre parcel that links our Cabbage Hill Preserve with the northern edge of Nightingale Forest along Quarry Road.



Arthur and Mary Morse, and their five sons.

## 50TH ANNIVERSARY HIKE AT BULL HILL

To celebrate our 50th Anniversary, you are invited to join board member Jeff Stefanik on a 3.5 mile hike on Bull Hill on Saturday June 7 at 10:30 am. Jeff will be joined by Jack Smith, President of the CT Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation, and they will be searching for rare examples of American Chestnut trees in bloom on the walk to the fabulous Bull Hill overlook.

The walk is part of the Connecticut Forest and Park Trails Day weekend, June 7-8. Enter Bull Hill Road from Senexet Road in Woodstock and park by the gate. For more information, see [trailsday.org](http://trailsday.org).



Bull Hill overlook.



Land trust members watch the sunset at the 2023 Summer Solstice event.

## WLT 50TH ANNIVERSARY SUMMER SOLSTICE GATHERING

Celebrate the 50th anniversary of WLT at the annual Summer Solstice event at the Duck Marsh Preserve in Pomfret. This year's event will be held on Saturday, June 21. Members, family, and friends are invited to spend the evening with their fellow Land Trust members and supporters. Come and ask us about the most recent properties we have protected, and our plans for the future. Watch the sun settle into the western sky from the observation platform while Bobolinks settle into the grassland meadows. What better way to celebrate the longest day of the year!

The event runs from 7 pm to 9 pm. Parking is available along Holmes Road, between Modock Road and Wrights Crossing Road. If you'd like, you can bring your own chair and refreshments. We'll provide a firepit and fixings for s'mores.

## 50TH ANNIVERSARY RIDE FOR OPEN SPACE

The 50th Anniversary Ride for Open Space will take place on October 5th this year. Equestrians from all over southern New England will participate in support of the land trust. The ride will stage from our Cabbage Hill Preserve and traverse trails in Nightingale Forest. This year we will be incorporating some new trails that line within the section we acquired last year. The Nightingale Forest contains over 1300 acres of conservation land. This is a large block forest that provides essential habitat for wildlife and contains the headwaters for Nightingale Brook. The system of multi use trails allows users to be part of this incredible place. Riders will be treated to a delicious lunch following the ride.

The ride starts from Cabbage Hill



## 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](http://whzwealth.com/resources-for-charitable-giving)

*Please consult your tax advisor for guidance.*

## 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! ➤





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

Mail in the form below to renew or go to [www.wyndhamlandtrust.org](http://www.wyndhamlandtrust.org) and renew online (Ways to Give->Join).

THANK YOU

## The Wyndham Land Trust, Inc.

Individual Membership \$25

Family Membership \$35

Supporter \$100

Patron \$500

Benefactor \$1,000

Donation to Land Acquisition Fund: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to  
Wyndham Land Trust  
PO Box 302, Pomfret Center, CT 06259

(Gift Memberships Available by Calling: 860-963-2090)

A complimentary membership to WLT is given with any donation. We appreciate you.