



**WYNDHAM  
LAND TRUST, INC.**

# Natural Surroundings

**WYNDHAM LAND TRUST, INC. • SINCE 1975**

Conserving the Natural Resources of Northeastern Connecticut

Winter 2020

## 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

Michael St. Lawrence, President  
Michael Green, Vice President  
Stephen Adams, Secretary  
Penny Foisey, Treasurer  
Janet Booth  
Robert Craig  
Anouk de Ruiter  
Andy Rzeznikiewicz  
Jeff Stefanik  
Ron Tillen

### Staff

Marcy Dawley

## PLANNED GIVING

**T**hinking about the future of the Quiet Corner? When you include the Wyndham Land Trust in your estate plans, you'll help future generations enjoy the rural countryside we treasure. For example, you can choose to:

- Include the Wyndham Land Trust in your will.
- Name the Trust a beneficiary of your IRA, 401k, and/or 503b plan.
- Give appreciated stocks and bonds, or mutual fund shares and realize larger tax savings.

Directing a bequest to the Wyndham Land Trust in your will is an easy way to support our protection of land and valuable habitat for years to come. Alternatively, you might wish to provide a gift from the "residue" or "remainder" of your estate after providing for your loved ones.

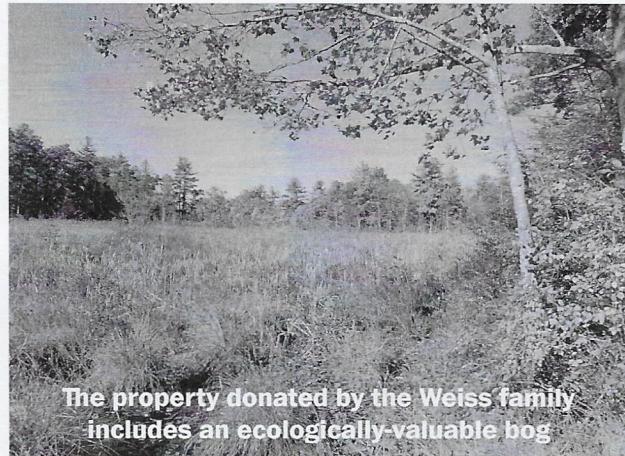
Gifts made through wills and living trusts are easy to arrange and can be changed at any time you choose, giving you maximum flexibility in your planning. Creating or updating your estate plans calls for careful planning with the help of an estate-planning attorney who understands local estate laws. For more information, contact the land trust.

## WEISS FAMILY EXPANDS LONG POND PRESERVE

**T**he families of Katherine Weiss and the late John and William Weiss, recently donated a 13-acre property to the land trust. The donated land connects to our Long Pond preserve in Thompson and increases its size to 113 acres.

"The land has been in the Joslin and Weiss family for more than one hundred years," said Katherine Weiss. "We wanted to donate it to a worthy organization that could protect the land for future generations and preserve the wildlife habitat."

"The 13 acres donated by the Joslin and Weiss family gives the land trust ownership of an entire bog at Long Pond," said land manager Andy Rzeznikiewicz. "The bog contains a rare plant community that includes native Atlantic White Cedar and Black Spruce. Some rare insects and butterflies are known to inhabit this type of habitat."



**The property donated by the Weiss family includes an ecologically-valuable bog**

*Welcome*

### We welcome the following new members:

Nancy Austin, Dot Burnworth, Donna Ciarlante, Caroline Delaney, Sarah Ginnetti Rodriguez, Sara Gustavesen, Dr. Neri Holzer, Bill Keefe, Lindsay Lehmann, Daniel Malo, Jill Mathieu, Thalia Meehan, Ryan Nealon, Wayne Paquette, Paula Schimmel, Sebastian Scripps, Guila Wagner

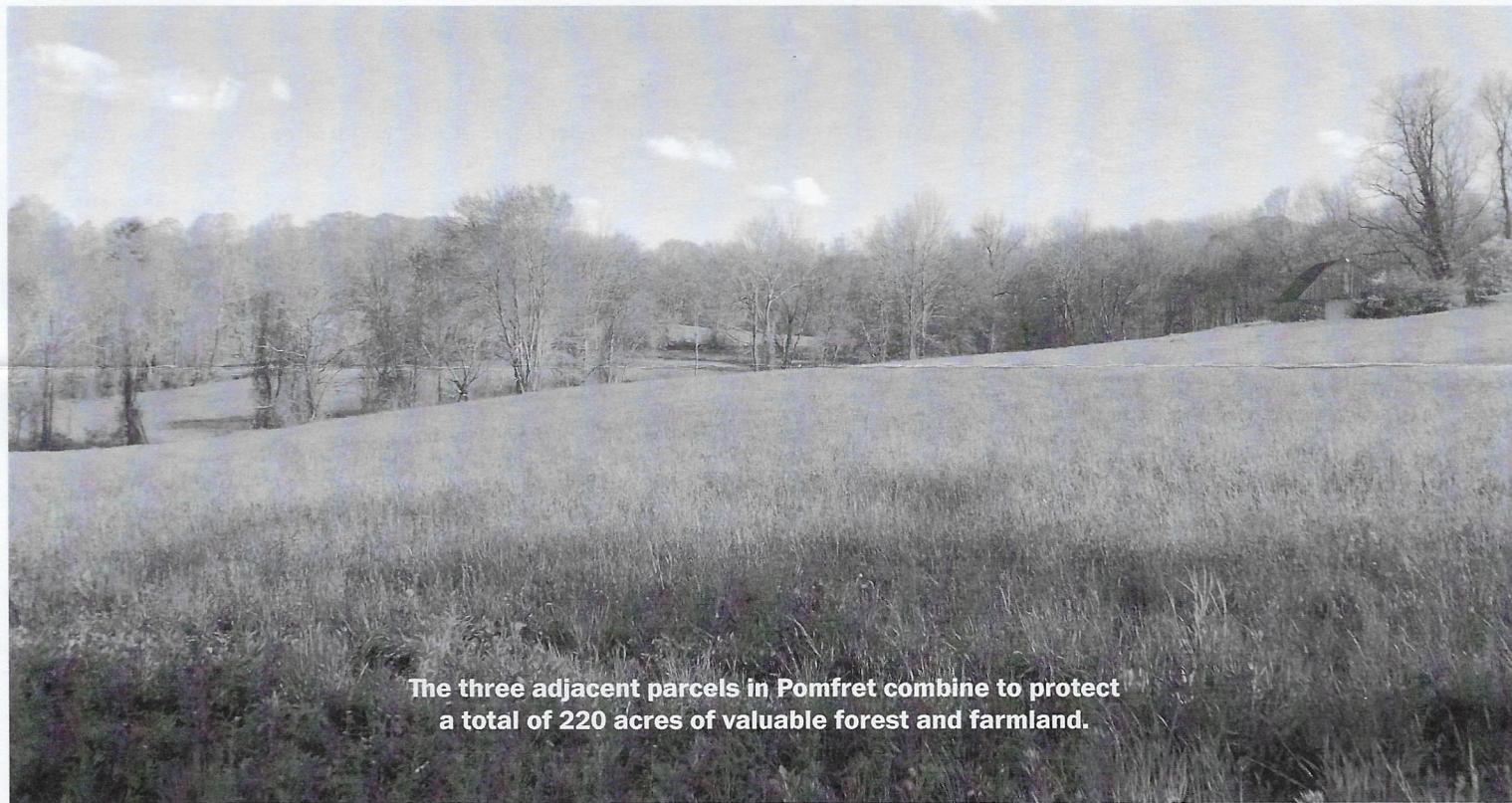
## SUPPORTERS RALLY TO PROTECT LAND IN POMFRET

In July the land trust acquired a 9.5-acre property on Harrisville Road in Pomfret that is adjacent to our existing Aicher and Holzer preserves. The three parcels combine to protect a total of 220 acres of valuable forest and farmland in the heart of Pomfret.

The property belonged to Pomfret realtor Cici Cole who passed away in December of 2019. Local residents were alarmed when For Sale signs appeared in May, and they realized that the fragile habitat could quickly be replaced by house lots. The neighbors banded together with conservation-minded citizens of Windham County, the Town of Pomfret, friends of Bird Conservation Research Inc., and the Wyndham Land Trust to raise the funds to purchase the property.

"It was heartening to see the community pull together in a short period of time to protect this valuable land," said land trust President Mike St Lawrence. "It was an example of how a group of people with a common vision can make a difference. Future generations will thank them for their foresight."

"Through acquisition of this land, a contiguous band of natural habitat now exists," said Bird Conservation Research Director and new board member Robert Craig. "The importance of parcel size for the protection of wildlife has been demonstrated by multiple studies and is a key principle in the field of conservation biology."



**The three adjacent parcels in Pomfret combine to protect a total of 220 acres of valuable forest and farmland.**

## ANNUAL APPEAL/MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

You should have received our annual appeal/membership drive in the mail a few weeks ago. The land trust depends on the support of its membership to survive. Please renew your membership for 2021 and consider a donation to support our Year-End Drive. An anonymous donor has offered to match your membership at the Supporter level or above, but you have to renew before the end of the year.

The Wyndham Land Trust is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, and your donation may be tax deductible. (You can claim a charitable deduction up to \$300 on your 2020 tax return, even if you take the standard deduction.)

**If you have already renewed your membership for 2021, thanks. We love ya!**

## KID'S CORNER: TALKIN' (WILD) TURKEY

BY BELLA CANAVAN

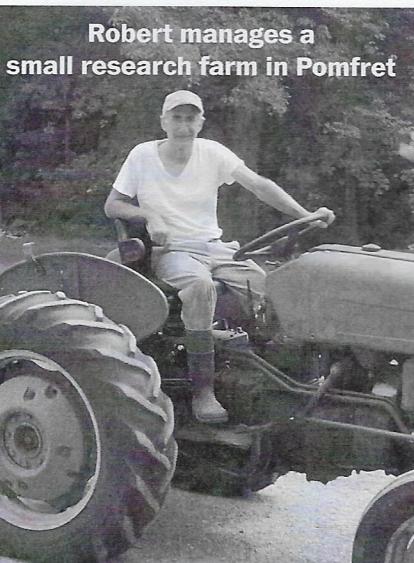
You might have spotted a wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*) this year. Maybe it was crossing the street with its flock or munching on insects in a field. The wild turkey can be found all across the United States with strong populations in 49 states. Currently the turkey population in the United States is over 6.5 million, however it was not always that way. Turkey populations struggled in the early 1800s because of over-hunting, deforestation, and severe winters, and the much-loved bird disappeared from the state. However, after numerous conservation efforts, especially in the 1980s, their population increased drastically, and they are a common sight today.



Turkeys have made a remarkable comeback in Connecticut

### WILD TURKEY FACTS

- Did you know that the average turkey can have about 5500 feathers?
- Turkeys can run up to 18 mph and they can fly up to 50 mph.
- Benjamin Franklin called the turkey the “bird of courage.”
- Turkeys can have a wingspan of up to six feet which makes them the largest bird to be found in our forests.
- Turkeys have no external ear structure.
- Turkey feathers were used by Native Americans to stabilize their arrows.
- Turkey brains are about the same size as a green pea.
- Turkeys were first tamed in the ancient Aztec and Mayan empires in Mexico, leading to the domestic turkey you see in the store today.



Robert manages a small research farm in Pomfret

### ROBERT CRAIG JOINS BOARD

Dr. Robert Craig from Pomfret, recently joined the Wyndham Land Trust board of directors. Robert has studied birds for over 40 years. He received his education at Rutgers University and the University of Connecticut, where he studied wildlife management and ornithology. His research focused on the community ecology of marsh and forest birds as well as on endangered species conservation. The research led to numerous contributions to the scientific literature, several books of fiction and several video series on environmental science. He is former head of the Pacific Island Recovery Team for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and presently directs Bird Conservation Research, Inc., a non-profit foundation based in Pomfret.