



# Natural Surroundings

WYNDHAM LAND TRUST, INC. • SINCE 1975

Conserving the Natural Resources of Northeastern Connecticut

Winter 2022

## 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  
Mary Anthony  
Janet Booth  
Anouk de Ruiter  
Andy Rzeznikiewicz  
Jeff Stefanik

### Staff

Joyce Fountain

## MARY ANTHONY JOINS THE BOARD

We are pleased to welcome Mary Anthony to the land trust board of directors. Mary has many years of experience with non-profit organizations and has served as Executive Director of the 1772 Foundation since 2003. The foundation is committed to farmland conservation and historic preservation across the country. Under her leadership, the foundation has granted over \$55 million to projects that protect both built and natural heritage sites in the United States.

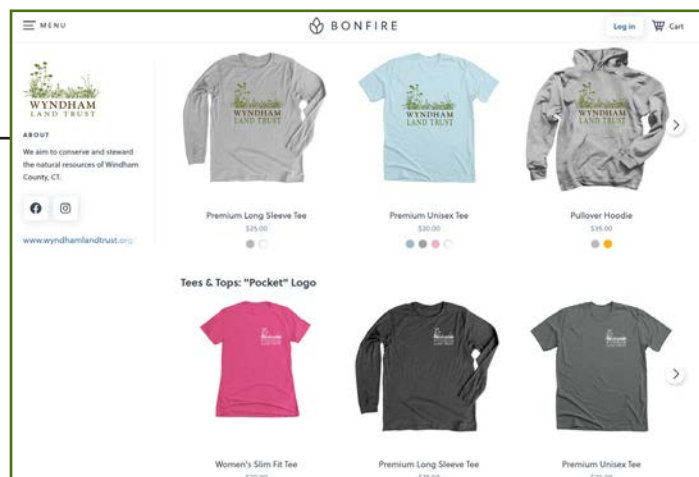
Mary is an active participant at Exponent Philanthropy, contributing pieces on cooperative board work and internal strategic planning, as well as supporting the creation of their catalytic philanthropy program. In 2022, Mary joined the Trust for Public Land's Black History and Culture Advisory board.

Mary lives in Pomfret and holds a B.A. from the University of Connecticut and an ALM from Harvard University.



## SHOW YOU CARE

You can now buy quality Wyndham Land Trust gear—t-shirts, sweatshirts, and baseball caps—from our online store. Perfect gifts for the holiday season. Although the pricing is such that the Land Trust makes very little profit, purchasing gear is a great way to show your neighbors and friends that you support the mission of the land trust. The store offers a variety of styles and colors, and all sizes from S to XXL are available.



**Check it out at**  
**<https://www.bonfire.com/store/wyndham-land-trust/>**

# Welcome

## We welcome the following new members:

Mary Anthony, Megan Bard Morse, William Brower, Heather Brunelle, Marie Cantino, Joyce Fountain, Joelle Guillot, Michael Guillot, John Hankins, Grace Holliday, David Hussong, Tara King, Joshua Lagace, Scott Matthies, Peggy McKleroy, JD Mellowship, Brendan Owens, June Maureen Powell, Elizabeth Smith, Matt Stanton, and Elizabeth Williams.



## TACKLE THE TRAIL

In October about 100 runners competed in the annual Tackle the Trail event along the Airline Trail between Windham and Putnam. The course for the half marathon, which was run by about 70 competitors, included a loop around the trails in our Gellert Preserve in Pomfret. Board member, Anouk deRuiter, was on hand to make sure everybody was safe and knew where to enter and exit the preserve.

*Tackling the trail through the Gellert Preserve*



## GIFT OF SECURITIES

The Wyndham Land Trust now has the capability to accept the gift of securities. Securities are usually assets that have a marketable financial value and can range from simple stock in a publicly traded company, to mortgages or life insurance policies. Donors of these assets usually receive a tax deduction equivalent to the market value of the asset upon donating. Donors do not have to pay capital gains tax on the asset appreciation, and the full value goes to the Land Trust (which, as a non-profit, does not pay any tax). Please consider a gift of securities in your future financial planning.

## ANNUAL MEETING

After a two-year hiatus, the land trust annual meeting and harvest dinner returned in grand style. The event was held at the elegant Tyrone Farm in Pomfret, and about 80 members attended. Mike St Lawrence and Andy Rzeznikiewicz described the activity of the land trust during the last year and presented our ambitious plans for the future. During the meeting, the membership voted for an additional five-year term for land trust secretary Steve Adams. After dinner, Gale Cameron, the President of the Hampden Land Conservation Trust gave a well-received talk on "Living with bears in Connecticut."

*The Annual Meeting at Tyrone Farm*



## WALKTOBER

The Wyndham Land Trust was well represented at The Last Green Valley's annual Walktober event. Andy Rzeznikiewicz led a hike at our new 364-acre Nightingale Forest North Preserve on Sunday, October 16. The walk was attended by 24 people, many of them members eager to visit the new preserve for the first time. Twelve people attended Jeff Stefanik's hike at our Tamler Preserve on Saturday, October 22, which Jeff described it as a hike through the woods up the old "Widow Hannah Barrett Road." Pomfret historian, Donna Dufresne, led a walk on Sunday, October 2 that toured the remains of the Higginbotham homestead in the Townshend Tract of our Nightingale Woods. Donna described the history of the property including the Higginbotham's industrial endeavors, and their neighbor, Jonathan Randall's enslaved Africans buried in the Randall/Higginbotham Cemetery.

*Jeff's walk at the Tamler Preserve*







*Nightingale Forest was a perfect setting for the PHTA fall trail ride*

## POMFRET HORSE & TRAIL ASSOCIATION RIDE

On Sunday, October 15 the Pomfret Horse and Trail Association held a fundraising trail ride through our Nightingale Forest preserves in Woodstock and Pomfret. The event started in the open fields of our Cabbage Hill preserve and attracted over 100 riders from as Southern New England. Participants followed a seven-mile trail that crossed only one public road, and the event raised \$4700 for the land trust.

Penny Foisey, WLT board member and PHTA president, planned and marked the trail. "We are so grateful to WLT for its efforts to conserve this important block of forest for generations to come," said Penny. "The mindfulness in maintaining equestrian access and the established trail network ensures we will continue to enjoy this extensive area of open space."

"Partnering with WLT in order to host this ride and donating the proceeds to WLT could not better represent what our club is all about," said Ride secretary, Sue Jackson. "It's important to preserve our open spaces for the benefit of all. We're very appreciative that WLT trusted us to host our Fall Foliage Ride on the Cabbage Hill Preserve and show horseback riders how special our quiet corner is. We thank them for their generosity. The positive feedback from riders confirms that WLT is doing a great thing."



*Hardy souls at the 2017 Winter Solstice Gathering at the Lyon Preserve in Pomfret – It was REALLY COLD!*

## WINTER SOLSTICE GATHERING

Please join us at the Lyon Preserve in Pomfret on the afternoon of Wednesday, December 21, to watch the sun set on the shortest day of the year. The event runs from 3–5pm. The Lyon Preserve is on Wright's Crossing Road in Pomfret, just north of the intersection with 101—look for the gate and the land trust sign.

## 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 2023 and consider a donation to support our Annual Appeal. An anonymous donor has offered to match your donation and your membership at the Supporter level (\$100) 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.

If you have already renewed your membership for 2023, thanks. We love ya!

## ILSA'S CORNER

"Who, Who, Who?", or, "Who cooks for me, who cooks for you?" Is what you might hear on a frigid night in New England. The barred owl is a brown and white owl that lives in the eastern United States. A barred owl is silent as a feather, and its feathers are the key to its stealth! Did you know that the barred owl has brown eyes when most owls have yellow?

By 8-year old Ilsa Reiner of Eastford. (Ilsa loves nature and wildlife as much as her late great aunt, Jo-Ann MacFarlane.)



## STOP PRESS

Just before Thanksgiving we closed on the critical 91-acre property on Bull Hill that was purchased with help from members like you. Back in September the land trust needed to raise \$10,000 to complete the purchase, and we reached out to the membership for support. Your response was amazing, and within a few days we had the funding to close the deal. The new property connects with existing lots that we own and will allow us to expand our trail system on Bull Hill. A big thanks to all who contributed!



**WYNDHAM**  
LAND TRUST, INC.

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

The mailing label indicates the date your membership expired.

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)*