



Natural Surroundings

WYNDHAM LAND TRUST, INC. • SINCE 1975

Conserving the Natural Resources of Northeastern Connecticut

Winter 2023

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
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

WALKTOBER

The Wyndham Land Trust was well represented at The Last Green Valley's annual Walktober event. Janet Booth and Pomfret historian, Donna Dufresne, scheduled a walk on October 7 that had to be postponed for 24 hours because of heavy rain. The walk explored the understory of Nightingale Forest and the families who lived in the Mashamoquet Uplands along Nightingale Brook including people of African and Native American descent. Unfortunately, the wet conditions prevented the 25 attendees from reaching the historic Randall/Higginbotham Cemetery.

Andy Rzeznikiewicz led a hike at the gorgeous Cabbage Hill Preserve on Sunday, October 15. The walk was attended by 12 people, and included a visit to the historic cemetery on the site. Several people mentioned the adjacent 100-acre parcel that is for sale on Quarry Rd and expressed the need to protect it. Twenty people attended Jeff Stefanik's hike at our Tamler Preserve on Saturday, October 28, including TLGV Ranger and land trust supporter Bill Reid.



Donna Dufresne describes the historic settlement along the Nightingale Brook in Pomfret.



It was a glorious fall day of almost record-breaking temperatures for Jeff's walk at the Tamler Preserve in Thompson.

WINTER SOLSTICE GATHERING

Please join us at the Duck Marsh Preserve in Pomfret on the afternoon of Thursday, December 21, to watch the sunset on the shortest day of the year. The event runs from 3–5pm. 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 fire pit.

(Take note: This year, we are moving the event from the Lyon Preserve to the Duck Marsh Preserve.)



It can get cold at the Winter Solstice event!

Welcome

We welcome the following new members:

Joan Adams, Keith Bedard, Kelly Berthiaume, Andre Bolduc, Mary Ellen Briga, Kathy Cambo, Leslie Cashel, Eve Cicchiello, Lori Corriveau, Mary Ellen Coyne, Rebecca Eddy, Malin Eubanks, Erica Foley, Viktoria Fortier, Penny Gladstone Kaiser, Grace Goldberg, Kristie Gonsalves, Diane Gryncewicz, Eric Hoxie, Maureen Jolicoeur, Denise Lichtenfels, Jeff Livingstone, Jessica Macho, Kate McDonald, Cheryl Metz, Beth Morrison, Ava Nettleton, Tiffany Nichols, Michael Paparo, Michelle Perrotti, Mariola Podpora, Violetta Podpora, Joann Potrzeba, Joan Pratt, Jennifer Reilly, Nina Reilly, Lisette Rimer, Laura Runkle, Rachel Runkle, Jiri Schindler, Stefenie Shaw, Michael Stanley, Arielle Stearns, Fiona Stevens, Stephanie Thorstenson, Jane Toomey, Anna Tromza, Kristin Williams, Linda Young

RIDE FOR OPEN SPACE *by Penny Foisey*

On October 1st, we held our inaugural Ride for Open Space—the first equestrian event sponsored by WLT.

Through the generosity of the equestrian community and our sponsors, we were able to raise over \$7000 to support the protection of land in the Quiet Corner.

We are grateful for the sponsorship support we received from Weiss, Hale & Zahansky, who contributed toward the cost of t-shirts designed for the ride. The Vanilla Bean Café, 85 Main, and Rawson Materials also donated generously. We are also grateful for the support of the local businesses who provided gifts for our raffle.

Thankfully, October 1st was a sunny and beautiful day, one of only a few Sundays without rain. The Cabbage Hill Preserve has proven to be a terrific equestrian venue. With the support of private landowners who provided passage for our riders, we were able to host over eight miles of beautiful trails in our Nightingale Forest which consists of 1150 acres of pristine forest. We had 49 registered riders who were treated to wood-fired pizza for lunch provided by the Rolling Tomato. We thank our anonymous lunch sponsor for covering this expense.

We plan to continue to utilize the Cabbage Hill Preserve for equestrian fundraising. Bay State Trail Riders and Tanheath Hunt Club both held fundraiser rides there this year and donated a percentage of their proceeds in support of our mission. Tanheath Hunt Club will be hosting some hound training and hunts there this fall.

Quarry Road is a historic road passing right through our properties and divides Pomfret on the south side and Woodstock on the north. The road is not maintained but is a lovely walk or bike ride. Trails abound in these woods, great for hiking, biking, cross-country skiing and horseback riding. The conservation of this large forest block is hugely important. It holds the source waters for Nightingale Brook. It also provides benefits in off-setting climate change. Many old foundations dot the landscape, evidence of a farming past, seen as well by the many stone walls throughout the woods.

In closing, there are a few committee members I would like to acknowledge, without whom, we could not have provided such a successful event.

Sue Jackson – Secretary and the girl with the lists of every possible thing that might come up.

Penny Gladstone Kaiser – Planner – marketing and another person that plans for every eventuality.

Nina Kneeland – Organizer – essential support in sponsors and raffles.

WLT Board support - Janet Booth, Anouk De Ruiter and Mike Green. These guys cover everything that comes up with marketing and the web.

If you haven't had a chance to visit Cabbage Hill make some time, it's good for your soul.

Ride organizer Penny Foisey and Nina Kneeland prepare for the inaugural Ride for Open Space at our Cabbage Hill Preserve.



RESCUING THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT

The Wyndham Land Trust and Connecticut Audubon Society are hosting a showing of The American Chestnut Foundation's (TACF) documentary, Clear Day Thunder: Rescuing the American Chestnut. The movie tells the story of citizen scientists and researchers working to restore the American Chestnut to our forests.

The movie will be screened at the Connecticut Audubon Society (CAS) Center at Pomfret on Sunday, February 18, at 2:00 p.m. There is no admission charge. Rain date is Saturday, March 2.

The screening will be followed by a question and answer session with Jack Swatt, president of the Connecticut chapter of TACF, and Ginny Patsun, manager of the TACF seed orchard in Stafford. Jack and his team of volunteers have harvested burrs from American Chestnut trees across Connecticut, including from our Bull Hill preserve in Thompson.



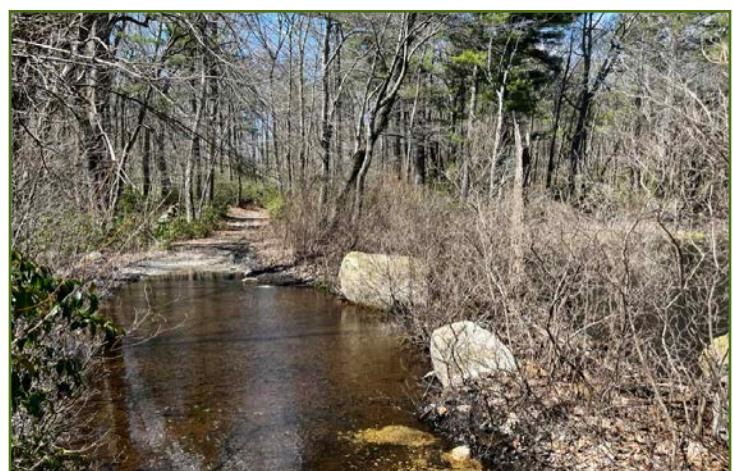
TWO NEW PRESERVES ADDED

The land trust acquired two new properties in June—the 49-acre Dilorio property in Pomfret and the 28-acre Grochowski property on Bull Hill in Thompson.

The Dilorio property lies on the border of Woodstock and Pomfret and is connected by an old cart road to Johnson Road. It is wet and surrounded by undeveloped steep hills. In the future, we hope to connect it with existing parcels in our Nightingale Forest.

The Grochowski property has extensive frontage on Ravenelle Road in Thompson and sits east of our existing parcels on Bull Hill. It is predominantly wetlands with some large, mature trees, and it appears that the property has not been logged for decades.

The cart path leading into the new Dilorio Preserve in Pomfret.



ANNUAL MEETING

The land trust annual meeting and harvest dinner returned to Tyrone Farm in Pomfret in October and was attended by about 70 members. Mike St. Lawrence and Andy Rzeznikiewicz briefly 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 a full five-year term for board member Mary Anthony. A special thank you goes to Bill McLaren for again generously hosting us at Tyrone Farm.



L to R: Joyce Fountain, Mike St. Lawrence, and Anouk de Ruiter welcome members to the annual meeting.

ANNUAL APPEAL/ MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

You should soon be receiving our annual appeal letter in the mail. The land trust depends on the support of its members to survive. Please renew your membership for 2024 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 2024, thanks. We love ya!

LAND TRUST ACCREDITATION STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION/ PUBLIC NOTICE

The land trust accreditation program recognizes land conservation organizations that meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever. The Wyndham Land Trust is pleased to announce it is applying for renewal of accreditation. A public comment period is now open.

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance, conducts an extensive review of each applicant's policies and programs. Accreditation signifies that the Wyndham Land Trust is a strong, sustainable organization based on sound management and financial practices and a trusted steward of the land it protects.

The Commission invites public input and accepts signed, written comments on pending applications. Comments must relate to how the Wyndham Land Trust complies with national quality standards. These standards address the ethical and technical operation of a land trust. For the full list of standards see <http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org/help-and-resources/indicator-practices>.

To learn more about the accreditation program and to submit a comment, visit www.landtrustaccreditation.org, or email your comment to info@landtrustaccreditation.org. Comments may also be mailed to the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, Attn: Public Comments, 36 Phila Street, Suite 2, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866.

Comments on the Wyndham Land Trust's application will be most useful by March 22, 2024.

PLANNED GIVING

Thinking 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.

BEN WILLIAMS MEMORIAL FUND

After the passing of trustee emeritus and long-time champion, Benjamin D. Williams III in March, we established the Ben Williams Legacy Conservation Fund to recognize his incredible contribution to conservation work in Windham County. As of November 1, the fund had raised \$9,330, a testament to our members' respect for Ben's legacy. In addition, Ben left a generous gift to the land trust in his estate. All of the money will be used to protect space for people and wildlife to grow and thrive--the places that mattered so much to Ben.

You can still make a year-end tax-deductible donation to the Ben Williams Legacy Conservation Fund on our web site or by sending a check made out to the Wyndham Land Trust to P.O. Box 302, Pomfret Center, CT 06259. Write "Ben Williams Fund" on the check's memo line.



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 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)