



# Natural Surroundings

## WYNDHAM LAND TRUST, INC. • SINCE 1975

Conserving the Natural Resources of Northeastern Connecticut

June 2014

### 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.**

### We Seek To Increase Our Membership Base

Presently annual dues are:

- INDIVIDUAL \$25
- FAMILY \$35

#### LIFE MEMBERSHIP

- \$350 INDIVIDUAL
- \$550 FAMILY

We now accept

**DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE  
UNDER IRS RULES**

### BOARD MEMBER PROFILE

GEORGE JACKSON

By Ben Williams

If there was a Most Valuable Player award for land trusts, George Jackson would be a strong candidate. George, along with the late Jimmy Booth, John Bigelow, and Irma Levonius co-founded the Wyndham Land Trust back in 1975. It was through George that the land trust obtained its 501(c) 3 tax-exempt status and, thankfully, George continues to serve as our general counsel.

George, a native of Danielson, is a senior partner in the law firm of Jackson, Harris, Hubert, and Kelley LLC who specialize in real estate law. The firm, when George became a member in 1964 was Woisard, Back, and Woisard. The name has changed but the building and address—245 Main Street, Danielson—remain the same.

Most everything changes over time and so too has the Wyndham Land Trust. In its early days George recalls most things were very low key. Land acquisitions came by donation only, as no other funding was available. Of necessity we are a far more proactive organization today—identifying properties to preserve, educating land owners of the various options they have to preserve their properties, growing our membership, and seeking funding. What hasn't changed is the high regard we hold for the value of open space, and the animal and plant life which depend on it.

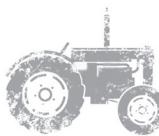
This sentiment motivated the founders to establish the Wyndham Land Trust as the specter of development was a concern in 1975 and remains so today. That same motivation has resulted in increasing numbers of land owners exploring ways of protecting properties that mean so much to them. The land trust welcomes such inquiries and will continue to do all we can to keep George busy.

George and his wife, Judy, are Pomfret residents. They both enjoy the outdoors, both are birders, and George is an accomplished fly fisherman and Judy a "green thumb" gardener. The Jacksons are active, contributory members of our community. The quality of service which George has provided to the land trust over an impressive number of years warrants special recognition as well as our heartfelt gratitude.



George Jackson was one of the founders of the Wyndham Land Trust in 1975 and has served on the board for almost 40 years.





## TRACTOR FUND

Thanks to many generous donations from land trust members we were able to give \$5000 to Connecticut Audubon toward the purchase of a new tractor. Land manager, Andy Rzeznikiewicz will use the tractor to manage grasslands on Audubon and Wyndham Land Trust properties in Pomfret.

### TRACTOR FUND DONORS:

George and Sandy Groom	Donald and Darleen Morgan
Josie Stenback	Paul and Louise Lee
Jeff and Donna Stefanik	Pomfret Horse and Trail Association
Jim and Linda Goodwin	Marjorie Hoskin
Rick and Deb Canavan	Wayne and Marcia Kilpatrick
Ben Williams	Dale and Kathryn May
Denise Archambault	Carl and Cynthia Opderbeck
John Folsom	Dale and Michael St. Lawrence
David Foisey	John and Susan Hall
Floyd and Jean Cole	Mike and Bev Cristina
Murray and Carol Buttner	Paul Maidment and Sandra Tosi
Paul and Carol Nelcon	Hadi and Cheryl Bozorgmanesh
Edward Browne	Ron and Gwyneth Tillen
Tony Mongillo	
Mari Santi and Thomas McGrath	

## LAND TRUST STEWARDS

The land trust is working hard to expand our stewardship program to the more than 40 properties we own in ten towns of Windham County that cover over 1800 acres. As a minimum, stewards are asked to visit their preserve during the year and confirm the boundaries are marked. They also look for signs of encroachment and illegal dumping and report problems back to the land trust. In effect, our stewards are our eyes and ears on the ground, and they are an important component of our land management.

Some of our more active stewards have established trails on their properties and worked to control invasive plants. We encourage our stewards to take personal responsibility for their preserve and support them in any way we can.

On April 10 we held our first-ever stewards evening at the Connecticut Audubon Center in Pomfret. President, Ben Williams and Land Manager, Andy Rzeznikiewicz used the evening to explain the stewardship program. It was also an opportunity for stewards to review the paperwork we hold on their preserves, and to meet their fellow stewards. The evening helped create an important connection between the land trust and the stewards, and we hope to make this an annual event.



President, Ben Williams and Land Manager, Andy Rzeznikiewicz describe the new stewards program during the event at the Connecticut Audubon Center in Pomfret.

We are still looking for stewards for some of our properties. If you are interested in volunteering, contact the land trust. Even if you'd just like to assist a steward on a favorite property, we'd still like to hear from you.

## PLAINFIELD LAND DONATION

At the beginning of 2014, Lawrence "Larry" Rainville donated a 29-acre parcel of land in Plainfield to the land trust. Larry's grandfather farmed the land back in the early 1900s, and Larry has fond memories of the family farm.

"I remember when we had a couple of acres of cucumbers and potatoes on the land, and we've always cut hay", remembers Larry. "At one time my family had 30 head of beef cattle, three milking cows, and a couple of hogs. It's nice habitat and a great place for animals. I didn't want to see it turned into houses or a gravel pit."

"It's a historic part of town," said Ruth Bergeron , President of the Plainfield Historic Society and a land trust member. "The land is close to the rail spur to the Wauregan Mill Company's freight building that was used to delivered raw cotton to the mill and to ship out finished goods. Protecting this land will help to preserve the rural character of town."

The property is bordered by a Tilcon quarry to the northeast and by the Providence and Worcester railroad and the silos of the Wauregan Grain Company to the west. The land serves as an ecological buffer, and its mixture of open hay fields and woodland makes it a natural oasis for wildlife.

The land trust and future generation of residents of the last green valley are grateful for Larry's generous donation.

Maps of most of the preserves are available on our web site at [www.wyndhamlandtrust.org/preserves.html](http://www.wyndhamlandtrust.org/preserves.html). The following is a list of our preserves and their stewards.

Preserve	Stewards
Aicher	Karen Richmond
Barker, Lower Pond E & W	David Ostrowski and Karen Durlach
Barker, Lower Pond E & W	Joe Suich
Barker, Lower Pond E & W, Tamler	Cindy Obert
Booth, Sherman	Jeffrey C. Page and Ray and Chris Paine
Bosworth, Buttner, Butts	Bruce Langlois
Chaffee	Ronald J. Tillen
Chase, Kogut, Schneider, Stenback	Michael Green
Chiampa	Walter Cwynar
Duck Marsh	Fran Baranski and Nathan Rosebrooks
Dunn	Paul and Elaine Gazzola
Fitze, Oates, Levonius, Nelson	Andrew Rzeznikiewicz
Gaines	Wayne and Marcia Kilpatrick
Gallup, Gellert, Townshend	John Folsom
Gosnell, Fitze, Oates	Jeff Stefanik
Hauser	Paula Coughlin and Maura Robie
Holzer	Brian Jessurun
Little Green River	Pamela S. Bouchard
Lyon	Kevin and Michelle Benton
MacFarlane	Jo-Ann MacFarlane
Rainville	Marc Gaudé
Rapaport, Spalding	Will Kirk and Laura Field
Robbins	Michael St. Lawrence
Sarantopoulous	Penny Foisey and Betty Norris
Tamler, Le Clair	Al and Lynn Landry
Tillinghast	John Hall
Tucker	Thomas McGrath
Weiloch	Bernie Davis and Mary Sharkey
Williams 1 & 2	Paul and Joyce Larson
Wright	Anouk de Ruiter and Rick Canavan

## SUMMER SOLSTICE EVENT



We will be holding our second Summer Solstice Celebration at the Duck Marsh preserve in Pomfret on the evening of the Saturday, June 21—the longest day of the year. Last year's inaugural event was a big success, as we watched a spectacular sunset to the west, followed closely by a harvest moon rising to the east. This year's event promises to be just as memorable. Come on out with your family and friends, meet your fellow land trust members, and enjoy light refreshments around a log fire.

The Summer Solstice Celebration begins at 7:30pm and will run until about 9:00pm.

## PLANNED GIFTS

### Leave a Bequest to the Wyndham Land Trust

As you think about planning your estate, it can be easy to include a legacy to the Wyndham Land Trust by including a provision in your will or in your trust, whether as a gift during your lifetime or at the time of your death. The legacy can be completed in the form of cash or real or personal property.

By remembering the Wyndham Land Trust in your planned giving, you help ensure that future generations will benefit from our mission--to conserve the natural resources of Northeast Connecticut - the water courses, swamps, woodlands, and open spaces, the plant and animal life therein, and the scenic natural and historic sites - all of which are very much a part of the unique character and beauty of all communities in Northeast Connecticut. Your gift will truly make a difference for future generations.  
*Contact the land trust for more information.*



WYNDHAM  
LAND TRUST, INC.

## Mission Statement

The mission of the Wyndham Land Trust is to conserve the natural resources of Northeast Connecticut - the water courses, swamps, woodlands, and open spaces, the plant and animal life therein, and the scenic natural and historic sites - all of which are very much a part of the unique character and beauty of all communities in Northeast Connecticut.

The new Rainville Preserve in Plainfield



Like us on Facebook! Wyndham Land Trust

Design of the WLT Newsletter is donated by Jim Tourtellotte - [www.gdpublishing.com](http://www.gdpublishing.com)

## Welcome Our Summer Intern

**Marc Glaude** will spend the summer working as an intern for the land trust. He will be helping land manager Andy Rzeznikiewicz in the field and our staff assistant Anouk de Ruiter in the office. We asked Marc to introduce himself to the members:

"I am going to be a junior next semester at Unity College in Maine and going for my Bachelors of Science in Parks and Forest Resources. I am from Dayville, CT and went to Killingly High, so I am familiar with the area and was aware of the land trust. Unity College is known as 'America's Environmental College.' I have taken many hands-on classes that relate to the career fields I would like to pursue, such as Dendrology, Wild Land Fire Science and Management, Intro to Natural Resources, Chainsaw Safety, Maintenance and Use, Intro to Geographic Information System (GIS), and many others that relate to my desired career field.



Marc Glaude, our summer Intern.

"At Unity College we are required to fulfill an internship that follows a career field we are interested in pursuing later on after college. I am very interested in land management, which helps conserve and preserve our lands and natural resources for future generations to enjoy.

"So far I have worked with the Wyndham Land trust for a few weeks already, and I am thoroughly enjoying every day. I hope to do many tasks here at the land trust, such as working both inside and outside and learning how each position here helps make a strong and productive land trust. I also plan on doing a project where I will help create a map of some of the hiking trails provided on a few of the preserves and using a Geographic Information System (GIS) and a Global Positioning System (GPS)."



## WYNDHAM LAND TRUST, INC.

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

# THANK YOU THE WYNDHAM LAND TRUST, INC.

Individual annual membership \$25

Family annual membership \$35

Individual life membership \$350

Family life membership \$550

Donation to Land Aquisition Fund \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### Checks payable to:

WYNDHAM LAND TRUST, INC.

P. O. Box 302

Pomfret Center, CT 06259

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

*Summer Solstice*

Come join the Wyndham Land Trust for a casual evening on our Duck Marsh Preserve in Pomfret as we celebrate the longest day of the year! There will be a fire pit, s'mores and more.

Saturday, June 21  
7:30-9:00 p.m.

Please bring a friend and a lawn chair.  
No cost, but donations gratefully accepted

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