

## 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:

**President:**  
Ben Williams (Pomfret)  
**Secretary/Treasurer:**  
George Jackson (Pomfret)  
**Members:**  
Stephen Adams (Woodstock)  
Dawn Adiletta (Woodstock)  
Michael Green (Killingly)  
Jo-Ann MacFarlane (Eastford)  
Andy Rzeznikiewicz (Pomfret)  
Jeff Stefanik (Woodstock)  
Mike St Lawrence (Thompson)  
Ron Tillen (Thompson)

## Bull Hill Preserve

In February the land trust took possession of the 254-acre Bull Hill Preserve in Thompson—the largest single property owned by the land trust.

“The property we acquired on Bull Hill has everything,” said Andy Rzeznikiewicz, “and we hope to make it our signature preserve. It sits in a 3000-acre unfragmented forest block. It contains wetland and swamps with ecological value, and it has hemlock forested areas with mountain laurel that support a high diversity of bird life. The property is easy for people to access, it has existing trails, and the views are terrific. It also protects the watershed of the Little River—Putnam’s water supply.”

“The view we acquired is spectacular,” said board member Jeff Stefanik. “You can see all of Woodstock below you; and you can see down to Bay Mountain in Griswold, Chestnut Hill in East Killingly, Thompson Hill with the white church steeple, all the way over to Wood



(Photo courtesy of G L Sweetnam aerial photography)

Leslie Sweetnam’s aerial view shows the large unfragmented forest block at Bull Hill. The farms of Woodstock are to the west; the Quinebaug River and West Thompson Dam are to the east.

Hill on the Upper Gore in Webster. There aren’t many spots in this part of New England with such a great view that are open to the public. I’m very happy we’ve had a chance to acquire it and make this happen. It is a huge long-term benefit to the public.”

The land trust will map the preserve and its trail system this summer and also work on installing signs and boundary markers. We have already approached some of the local residents to serve as stewards. Andy Rzeznikiewicz would like to lead some guided walks on our new property later in the year. “I want people to realize we have preserved a special place for future generations and to support our mission.”

*The land trust is very grateful to the Summer Hill Foundation and to the generous members that made this acquisition possible.*

## President's Message

After a year of dedicated service to the land trust Lisanne Tholl will be moving on. We take this opportunity to thank Lisanne for her commitment to the trust's mission and for her hard work on its behalf. Lisanne cheerfully accepted any assignments, met every deadline, and she leaves with our respect, gratitude, and continued best wishes.

Assuming Lisanne's responsibilities as Office Manager is Katy Slininger whom we welcome with enthusiasm. Katy is no stranger to the Quiet Corner. Her husband, Andrew Larson, is a graduate of Woodstock Academy and the son of Paul and Joyce Larson—the owners of Sprucedale Gardens in Woodstock.



Katy Slininger

Katy comes to her position with a strong background in office management coupled with keen interests in agriculture and the outdoors. Katy and Andrew will be moving to Woodstock from the Boston area this spring. We are confident that Katy's outgoing personality, professional skills, and avocational interests make her an excellent fit for the land trust's administrative team.

## Connecticut Trails Day

Each year we enjoy sharing some of our precious preserves with the public during Connecticut Trails Day—a perfect opportunity for us to showcase our conservation efforts. This year you can join board member Jeff Stefanik for a one-hour, two-mile walk around the fields, woods, and wetlands of the 154-acres Spalding/Rapoport Preserve in Woodstock, Sunday, June 11, from 10-11am. Directions: Take Calkins Rd. off Joy Rd. in Woodstock, follow to the end. Street parking is available near house number 129.



Enjoy a walk on the Spalding/Rapoport Preserve in Woodstock with Jeff Stefanik.

## Long Pond Preserve

In January the land trust acquired a spectacular 76-acre parcel at Long Pond in Thompson. The body of water and its surrounding wetlands sit just south of the Massachusetts state line and form the source of the Five Mile River which flows south through Thompson, Putnam, and Killingly before joining the Quinebaug River in Danielson.

The acquisition was aided by Audubon Connecticut's Wetland In-Lieu Fee (ILF) program—a new funding source aimed at protecting wetlands in the state. The ILF program is an innovative public and private partnership that provi-



The Long Pond acquisition protects an ecologically valuable area.

des substantial funding for the restoration, enhancement and preservation of aquatic habitats and their upland buffers in the state. The program receives its funding from application fees required in U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permits for work in waters of the U.S. for development projects impacting wetlands and watercourses. The fees are given to Audubon Connecticut which works with local, state, and national partners to select and fund large-scale mitigation projects including land acquisition. Funding was also received from the Bafflin Foundation.

“Land acquisition projects like Long Pond will preserve water resources and ecosystem values in perpetuity, and represents the kind of projects that the ILF program is looking for,” said Steward Hudson VP and Executive Director of Audubon Connecticut. “We congratulate the Wyndham Land Trust and their Long Pond acquisition for being in the first round of projects approved under the ILF program.”

“This area has a high concentration of rare species,” explained Andy Rzeznikiewicz, the land trust's land manager, who was instrumental in obtaining the ILF grant. “The land trust will work with experts in the field to study the site and determine what is there, particularly looking at the plants, birds, amphibians, and insects.”

### Rocky Hill Refuge Dedication

Members and friends are invited to the dedication of the Rocky Hill Refuge in Woodstock, CT on Sunday, May 21, 2017, from 1-3 p.m., rain or shine. Light refreshments will be served.



In 2016, Bet Zimmerman Smith and Patrick Smith donated this spectacular property to the Wyndham Land Trust, in honor of Doug Zimmerman. Come explore this 58-acre preserve with your fellow open space supporters. Hear the story of how an approved 12-house subdivision was permanently protected as open space. The Refuge now provides a haven for passive recreation and wildlife, while remaining as working agricultural land.

Directions: Drive 2.2 miles west on 171 from the intersection with 169 in Woodstock. Turn left on Rocky Hill Road and continue 1.7 miles; look for signs to the refuge (which is across from Woodstock Acres horse farm) on your left. Parking will be available on the property.

### The George H. Jackson Legacy Fund

The establishment of the George H. Jackson Legacy Fund was announced in the Winter newsletter. The fund honors 43 years of dedicated service to the Wyndham Land Trust by our secretary/treasurer, George Jackson. Membership in the fund is for members who have made provision for the land trust in their will. Current membership includes Marcy Dawley, Anouk de Ruyter, Jeff Stefanik, and Ben Williams. Others in our membership may have made similar provision, and, if you are comfortable doing so, we would love to know who you are.

### Thanks to the Rectory School

On Martin Luther King Day students from the Rectory School volunteered to construct a new observation platform overlooking the land trust's Duck Marsh Preserve off Holmes Road in Pomfret. The original platform was vandalized several years ago, and the reconstruction of the platform would not have been possible without the efforts of the students.

The crew worked under the direction of Mario Hurtado, the school's director of facilities, and they were assisted by Jon Fahey, owner of East Coast Home and Gardens based in Johnston, RI. All the materials were donated by Gordy Bradon from Scituate Lumber in Scituate, RI.

The view from the platform overlooking the marsh and the Amaral Farm is spectacular. The land trust's first official gathering at the site will be the celebration of the summer solstice on Wednesday, June 21.



Students of the Rectory School during construction of the new platform.

### Killingly Power Plant

The land trust has been working diligently to oppose the proposed 550 MW gas-powered power plant in Killingly. The project abuts our Dunn Preserve along the Quinebaug River in Killingly and would be devastating to the ecological value of the preserve. In addition, the proposed gas line extension that feeds the power plant crosses land trust and Connecticut Audubon properties in Pomfret. We retained a lawyer to argue our case in front of the Connecticut Siting Council in New Britain, and a decision is expected soon. We are grateful to members and residents of the local community who contributed to our legal defense fund to help defray our cost.

*Welcome*

**We welcome the following new members:  
Ruth Carroll and Zachary Reiner**

*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.



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**WYNDHAM**  
LAND TRUST, INC.

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

## *Summer Solstice Gathering*



Land trust members gather at the 2016 Summer Solstice event.

The land trust is holding the fifth annual Summer Solstice event at the Duck Marsh Preserve in Pomfret on Wednesday, June 21. Members, family, and friends are invited to spend the evening with their fellow land trust members and supporters. Watch the sun settle into the western sky from the new observation platform while Bobolinks settle into the grassland meadows at the Duck Marsh.

What better way to celebrate the longest day of the year?

*The event runs from 7pm to 9pm and drinks and light refreshments will be served around a fire. Bring a friend and a lawn chair. Park along Holmes Road, just west of Modock Road.*