



Natural Surroundings

WYNDHAM LAND TRUST, INC. • SINCE 1975

Conserving the Natural Resources of Northeastern Connecticut

Winter 2018

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
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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:

President:
 Michael St Lawrence (Thompson)
Vice President: Michael Green
 (Riverside, RI)
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Staff:
 Marcy Dawley

President's Message: Why I'm Committed to the Wyndham Land Trust

The other day, a friend asked me why I choose to spend so much of my free time on the business of the Wyndham Land Trust. He was right, being president of such an active and growing organization, requires a significant commitment of my time but, frankly, I hadn't really thought about it until then. So why am I so committed to the Wyndham Land Trust?

First and foremost, I believe in the mission of the land trust. Preserving and protecting open space and its inhabitants is something I've been passionate about since working as a park ranger in Massachusetts during my college summers. Preserving and protecting open space is even more critical today with challenges such as climate change, shrinking habitat from development sprawl, and even the public's more sedentary and tech-based lifestyle.

Playing a role in the operations of the Wyndham Land Trust often requires me to get outdoors; to walk our existing properties or inspect possible new ones. I love being outdoors, in almost any weather, so I consider this time well spent.

After working locally and raising a family in the area for the last 30 years, I am now at a stage in life where I have the extra time to focus on land trust matters. During my career, I would often get frustrated with the "corporate world" and sometimes found it difficult to see the results of my efforts. This is not the case with the Wyndham Land Trust where the effort of a single individual can make all the difference.

After joining the land trust, first as a land steward for the Robbins Preserve in Thompson, and then as a member of the Board of Directors, I was pleasantly surprised at how friendly and caring everyone associated with the organization is. The board and the membership are a diverse group, but both share the same passion for the land trust's mission. This common cause forms a strong bond regardless of age, gender, socioeconomics, or other factors. The Wyndham Land Trust is a welcoming organization.

Lastly, I am committed to the Wyndham Land Trust because it is, and will continue to be, successful. Most of us want to be part of something that is successful. Most of us want to know that our efforts are not in vain. I am no different, and I take great pride knowing that we will have 4000 acres under protection by the end of 2018 and we have never been better prepared to protect this land in perpetuity.

Best,

Mike St. Lawrence

Welcome

We welcome the following new members:

Nancy Barrett • Lee Dunbar • Adam Keser • Paul Manzone
 Carol Joy Nelson • Stephen Reck • Leah Schad • Gary Sturni
 Mark Thomas • Phil Thomas • John Tracy • Gary Warzocha

Denise Baum Joins the Board

We are pleased to welcome Denise Baum to the Board of Directors. Denise resides in Pomfret with her husband Mike and has lived in the Quiet Corner since 1990. The Board expects to benefit from Denise's professional background in business administration as we adhere to the financial best practices that we implemented during the accreditation process.

Denise has a BS from Northeastern and an MBA from Saint Louis University. She worked as a financial analyst at Day



Denise hiking in the Swiss Alps on a recent vacation.

Kimball Hospital and was the administrator of finances at the Arc of Quinebaug Valley in Danielson. She currently serves on the TEEG Board of Directors and the Day Kimball Hospital Woman's Board. In the past she was Treasurer of the Performing Arts of Northeast Connecticut and has served on the Brooklyn Board of Education and the Woodstock Academy Board of Trustees.

Denise has a long interest in nature and

took the Master Naturalist class at Connecticut Audubon. She loves to be outdoors and enjoys hiking, kayaking and gardening, and seeing nature's beauty at a slower pace.

"I am particularly proud to live in Northeast CT where the preservation efforts of those before me have contributed to the beauty of our area," said Denise. "I hope to encourage our next generation to appreciate nature as well."



The next Wee Wander will take visitors to the Five Mile River

Wee Wanders

Marcy Dawley is offering monthly "Wee Wanders" on land trust preserves that are easy to access. The short, easy walks are an opportunity to enjoy some of the properties the land trust and our members have preserved in Northeastern Connecticut, all of which are open to the public to visit.

Marcy is calling the adventures in nature "Wee Wanders" for a few reasons: "Whether you have tiny legs, slow legs, unsteady legs, or even a walker, stroller or cane, you will be able to manage to wander at these select locations.

"Age is no barrier. We welcome the wee and not-so-wee, young and young-at-heart to come outside for some fresh air. It will take just a wee amount of your time—an hour at best—and you can come late or leave early. Science proves the power of fresh air! Heck, you can even sit in your car and simply enjoy the views, smells, sounds if that is better for you."

Look for announcements of Marcy's Wee Wanders on our Facebook page, in the local press, and on WINY. The next Wee Wander is scheduled at our Robbins Preserve in Thompson, Saturday December 29, from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm.



Amy Paterson, the Executive Director of CLCC, takes in the view at Bull Hill and explains the benefits of the OSWA program and the Community Investment Act.

CLCC Event

On the evening of Thursday, July 12 the land trust hosted a Connecticut Land Conservation Council (CLCC) Regional Conservation Conversation on our Bull Hill preserve. The event was one of many statewide events that highlighted Connecticut land conservation success stories made possible by the DEEP's Open Space & Watershed Land Acquisition Program (OSWA) - funded by the Community Investment Act - and other local investments. The land trust received \$172,000 from the program, and we used the money towards the purchase of the initial 254 acres on Bull Hill that kickstarted the project.

Local community leaders, land trust members, and guests were invited, and it was a great opportunity to showcase the work we are doing to protect Bull Hill. The event was one of the best attended Regional Conservation Conversations in Connecticut. It was a magical summer evening, and it was heartening to hear appreciation for all the work we are doing.

THE GROWTH CONTINUES

The Wyndham Land Trust continues to grow at an unprecedented rate and shows no sign of slowing down. Since the summer newsletter we acquired three more properties on Bull Hill, adding 113 acres to the project. In just two years we have secured 885 acres on Bull Hill, in both Thompson and Woodstock, with help from member donations, the Summer Hill Foundation, the Bafflin Foundation, and the CT DEEP's Open Space & Watershed Land Acquisition Program (OSWA).

In addition to Bull Hill, we added a 24-acre parcel on the northwest corner of Long Pond in Thompson, which strengthens our protection of this ecologically valuable wetland. We also added 27 acres adjacent to our Robbins property in Thompson. The additions to both the Long Pond and Robbins Preserves help protect the water quality in the Five-Mile River as it heads south towards the Quaddick Reservoir and our Lower Pond Preserve. One of the long-term goals of the land trust is to protect the Five Mile River.



We expanded our protection of Long Pond in Thompson

It was only a few years ago (2006) that the land trust hosted a party at Tyrone Farms in Pomfret celebrating the acquisition of our first 1000 acres. It took us over 30 years to reach that milestone. Today, just 12 years later, we have approximately 4000 acres under protection.

We couldn't do it without financial and moral support from our membership. That means you.

Annual Appeal

You should soon be receiving a request in the mail to renew your membership and to donate to our annual fundraising drive. To simplify things for you, we combined our annual appeal with our annual membership drive. Please support our mission by renewing your membership and donating to the annual appeal. Memberships in the land trust run from January through December. Both memberships and donations may be tax deductible.

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.



Like us on Facebook!
Wyndham Land Trust

Winter Solstice Gathering

Please join us at the Lyon Preserve in Pomfret on the afternoon of Friday, December 21, to watch the sun set on the shortest day of the year. The event will run from 3-5pm and light refreshments will be served. 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.



Hardy souls at the 2017 Winter Solstice Gathering at the Lyon Preserve in Pomfret