



# ANNUAL REPORT

## LYME LAND CONSERVATION TRUST

2013-2014

Dear Friends,

This has been another year of significant accomplishments for your Land Trust. Chief among them has been the completion of our application for accreditation by the Land Trust Alliance. Accreditation of the land trust by the Alliance is very important. For one thing, when we apply for a grant, it signifies to the foundation or government entity that we are in the top echelon of land trusts in the country in terms of our governance practices. Additionally, as the IRS more carefully reviews land donations to land trusts, an accredited land trust is held in higher regard.

You may be thinking that completing an application doesn't sound like a very big deal, and it doesn't--but it is. It is actually the culmination of a process that has spanned the last seven years which started with a self-directed top to bottom assessment of the Land Trust using a program created by the Alliance--a series of 26 parameters against which we were able to measure our performance. Think of them as best practices. They include areas of corporate governance, financial health and reporting practices, land and conservation easement acquisition, stewardship of our properties and easements, documentation and record keeping and ethical practices among many others.

Over the past seven years we have been busy refining our procedures and practices in each of the Alliance's 26 performance areas. As I have put it to the Board, this was more a case of fine tuning than overhauling. The Alliance is now evaluating our application which is a lengthy process. We expect to hear whether we pass muster early next year. A nod to the directors and officers who served the Land Trust in the past. We couldn't have done it without their good work.

See the following pages for a reprise of our other accomplishments this past year. I will single out one here. This year's 2014 Tour de Lyme was another resounding success. Our charity cycling event attracted almost 600 road and mountain bikers from towns all over the State, and it raised nearly \$45,000 after expenses for the Land Trust. Perhaps you saw some of the riders on May 18 biking along our beautiful rural roads. Thanks to the many volunteers who worked hard to make the event so successful! Special thanks are due to Carol and Chip Dahlke who welcomed the event to their lovely Ashlawn Farm.

Finally, please join me in welcoming our new Directors: Brantley Buerger, Jeff Thompson and Kristina White. Nancy Newcomb was elected to a three year term after serving out the term of a director who had resigned. I know they will enjoy their Board service and will contribute towards accomplishing our Mission.

Best regards,  
John Pritchard  
*President*



After the Land Trust acquires land for conservation protection and creates a land management/stewardship plan, wherever possible we create trails so that the public can enjoy what their membership dues and donations have made possible.

It goes further than simply showcasing our preservation achievements. We believe we need to encourage people, people of all ages, to get outdoors and experience nature—it is good for body and soul. We particularly want to encourage parents to get our next generation of conservationists, their children, outdoors for experiences that will stay with them forever.

For adults this past year, we had our annual kayaking trip in August led by Susan Ballek and Lisa Niccolai in Whalebone Cove. Many of our members enjoyed an evening cruise on the Connecticut River on the *River Quest* to witness a local phenomenon, the autumn migration of the swallows.

### our events chair

ANGIE FALSTROM

At our annual meeting in June, guest speaker Patrick Lynch delivered an informative and entertaining presentation: “Connecticut Coast & Long Island Sound: 20,000 Years of Change on Connecticut’s Shores”.

For children, we organized a hike in Pleasant Valley, celebrated Connecticut Trails Day with a family oriented hike in Walbridge Woodlands and Hartman Park and participated in a celebration of Earth Day at Lyme Consolidated School.

For the inquisitive we offered an educational program on Honey Bees, a Mushroom Hunt in cooperation with the East Haddam Land Trust and a Spring Bird Hike in Pleasant Valley.

Last but not least we offered the public their first opportunity to explore our newest preserve—the 100 acre Banningwood Preserve.

Activities planned by our Events Committee are posted in advance on our website [lymelandtrust.org](http://lymelandtrust.org), on our Facebook page, through an email message and in our newsletter.

The Communications Committee has the important task of telling the Lyme community about the Land Trust’s many activities, the development of its preserves, management of conservation easements, and the various events it organizes.

Our Land Trust probably has one of the most dynamic and multifaceted communication programs of any local conservation organization in Connecticut.

Besides publishing an eight-page newsletter that’s mailed to every household in Lyme (members and non-members) three times a year, the Land Trust maintains an informative website (which was

updated and redesigned last year), and an active Facebook page that has more than 250 followers.

In addition, the Land Trust has established a separate communication platform for the Tour de Lyme, which includes a website, a popular Facebook page with more than 350 followers and a Twitter feed with more than 200 followers.

The Land Trust uses all these communication channels, as well as regular emails to members announcing upcoming events and press releases to local media, to disseminate news of its activities to its members and their neighbors in Lyme.

### our newsletter editor

HUMPHREY TYLER



The primary role of our Stewardship Committee is to ensure that the conservation values of all our protected properties are preserved—forever. Careful monitoring and detailed record keeping by directors, staff and volunteers helps foster a mutual understanding of the shared responsibility for managing properties we own in fee and conservation restrictions we hold on privately owned land. It is an obligation, a duty we willingly shoulder; however, it comes at a financial cost.

We are presently responsible for stewarding nearly 3,000 acres spread over 102 properties.

While we have long carried Liability Insurance to cover personal injury, we now have a unique insurance plan from Terrafirma LLC, a creation of the Land Trust Alliance. Essentially, this insurance program gives Land Trusts the financial resources and legal help to enforce a conservation restriction in the courts if all other efforts to resolve a dispute have failed. As ownership of property protected by a conservation restriction passes into new hands, the original intent of the donor may not always be clear to the new owners. Usually, a discussion

### our stewardship chair

DON GERBER

with the Land Trust resolves matters but if not, we now have this added resource.

We are proud of our outreach efforts in the community. For example, we again partnered with the Scouts on an Eagle Scout project to improve our hiking trails with a bridge in Walbridge Woodlands, and more projects are planned for the future.

Exposing children to the wonders of nature is always an enjoyable experience. We cooperated with Lyme Consolidated School in their Earth Day program with an excursion into Pleasant Valley.

On some of our properties we permit hunting in season and to simplify matters, we revised our program to make it consistent with the Town program. Hunting is an important tool to help protect biodiversity in our Preserves but it needs careful management.

We maintain an extensive network of trails throughout Lyme. Go to [lymelandtrust.org](http://lymelandtrust.org) to learn more, choose a preserve and download a trail map. Get outdoors and experience firsthand what is in your backyard. Few towns can match what we offer.

Our core mission is the preservation of open space and the protection of valuable watersheds. This past year saw three important properties protected—two enhanced our newest preserve Banningwood, and the other added to the vast stretches of protected land on the eastern side of Lyme.

In October 2013, Anne & Robert Scheel donated a conservation restriction on almost 40 acres of their property on Grassy Hill Rd. It was a generous and conservation motivated donation. Thank you Anne and Robert! Also in October, Don Gerber, Land Trust Vice President, orchestrated a creative land swap. The Land Trust had acquired a three acre parcel in East Haddam as part of the 100 acre Banningwood purchase. The neighboring land owner in East Haddam owned a three

acre parcel that jutted into Lyme and Banningwood. Both parties agreed that a swap of the two parcels was a win-win situation. The Land Trust was thus able to create a circular trail system within Banningwood.

In December 2013, we acquired 2.8 acres adjoining the Banningwood Preserve. This acquisition was important not so much for its size but for its location and possible historical value. It will provide trailhead access and parking at the eastern end of the preserve with further protection of wetlands and a stream that drains into Roaring Brook. There is also an old cemetery, Richards Cemetery, on the property. It is believed that the family of a slave who fought in the Revolutionary War and thus gained his freedom are buried there. Research is underway to verify this.

### our preservation chair

KIERNAN WHOLEAN



We continue to be grateful to the residents of Lyme for their wholehearted support of the Land Trust. They show it by renewing their annual membership and by doing so at higher monetary levels. The percentage of households in town who are members is one that few Land Trusts in the country can equal. And yet, as time goes by and long-time residents move, that percentage is declining. The new arrivals in town are not immediately becoming members. It takes time to acquaint them with the Trust; who we are, and the good we do and why we need their support.

Nevertheless, membership dues and added contributions continue to play an important part in generating the funds needed to carry out our mission on a day-to-day basis. The 2014 membership drive started in November 2013. Compared with last year, there were somewhat fewer members but revenues were up considerably. Much of the increase can be attributed to the 42 members of our President's Circle whose members contribute \$1,000 or more annually to the Trust.

The Tour de Lyme charity cycling event exceeded our most optimistic expectations. A combination of great weather, a wonderful venue at Ashlawn Farm, financial support from our sponsors, hard work by our volunteers, and a fast growing reputation for an excellent picnic lunch with live music, resulted in almost 600 riders, plus many youngsters who rode with their parents for free. Rider registrations were up 75% over last year. The Tour de Lyme has become the Spring Cycling Event of the Eastern

Connecticut shore. Our net revenues also increased nicely from last year.

In his president's letter, John Pritchard refers to our accreditation application with the Land Trust Alliance. In addition to evaluating our governance procedures and policies, they will consider our financial capacity. The Trust has always operated conservatively. To be accredited, one must meet specific criteria for maintaining balances in segregated funds. In anticipation of meeting their requirements, we initiated the Project 350 Capital Campaign. The Board kicked off the fund raising with pledges of \$215,000, payable over five years. An anonymous grant and pledge that totaled \$150,000 put us over the top

The Banningwood Preserve was purchased last year with a down payment and four year seller notes for the balance. The purchase price, including estimated closing costs and other expenses was \$675,000. To date we've received contributions or pledges of \$577,000, leaving a balance of \$98,000. Proposals outstanding exceed that amount. We're cautiously optimistic the balance will be raised by summer's end.

Deferred giving plans of our members and other supporters will increasingly be part of our longer term initiatives. We encourage all members to review their estate plans and to consider including the Land Trust in those plans. You'll help in the perpetual preservation of our woodlands, vital watershed, and wildlife, aquatic, and bird habitats.

### our philanthropy chair

MILT WALTERS



The year 2013 was, financially, a good one for the Land Trust. The significant events are referenced in other parts of this Annual Report, but included in the year's highlights are the following:

Largely as a result of the formation of the President's Circle and increased giving at other levels, our membership dues grew from \$49,800 last year to \$73,800 in 2013;

The 2013 Tour de Lyme cycling event raised over \$65,000 in its first year;

The Barringer Stewardship Fund grew from \$169,000 to \$338,000;

The Templeton Brown Acquisition Fund grew from \$158,000 to \$260,000;

### our treasurer

ANDY BAXTER

We continue to be proud of our ability to keep our operating expenses low; our General & Administrative Expenses, exclusive of compensation, were less than 6% of our total income. Combined compensation for our Executive Director and Environmental Director amounted to \$73,000. So much of the work of the Land Trust continues to be done by volunteers, which enables us to continue to direct funds to accomplishing our true mission—preservation and conservation.

We need to continue to build liquid resources for stewardship and acquisition, but the current financial state of the Land Trust and our momentum are strong.

## Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2013

### ASSETS

Current Assets	
Cash	\$ 816,063
Eight Mile River	21,075
Total Current Assets	<u>\$ 837,138</u>
Fixed Assets	
Conservation Land	\$ 4,833,280
Other	1,791
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 5,672,209</u>

### LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Opening Balance Equity & Retained Earnings	\$ 4,481,574
Current Liabilities	
Eight Mile River	21,075
Total Current Liabilities	<u>21,075</u>
Long Term Liabilities	
Long-term Debt	532,000
Total Long Term Liabilities	<u>\$ 532,000</u>
Total Liabilities	\$ 553,075
Equity	
Retained Earnings	\$ 3,883,498
Fund Balances	
Barringer Stewardship Fund	338,425
General Fund	175,988
Templeton Brown Acquisition Fund	259,728
Walbridge Woodlands Fund	41,922
Eight Mile River Fund	21,075
Total Fund Balances	<u>\$ 837,138</u>
Net Income	<u>398,497</u>
Total Equity	<u>\$ 5,119,133</u>

### STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS: JANUARY – DECEMBER 2013

Revenues	
Membership Dues	\$ 73,824
Bequests	10,000
Donations	307,364
Grants	100,000
Tour de Lyme	65,738
Other	74,422
Total Income	<u>\$ 631,348</u>
Expenses	
Compensation for Executive Director and Environmental Director	\$ 72,798
G & A	36,080
Communications, Events, Education	42,219
Stewardship & Acquisitions	17,326
Other	64,428
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 232,851</u>
Net Income	<u>\$ 398,497</u>

# WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014

## OVER \$10,000

Anonymous  
Baxter, Matthew  
Hargraves, John & Newcomb,  
Nancy  
Pritchard, John & Lee  
Walters, Milton & Caroline

## \$2,500 to \$9,999

Anonymous (2)  
Brown, Suzanne  
Clark, Tim & Turner, Molly  
David, Barbara O.  
Duncan, Jim & Laura  
Millerbernd, Donald  
Patterson, Michael & Elena  
Willauer, George & Cynthia

## \$1,000 to \$2,499

Aidinoff, Bernard & Ellen  
Barringer, Charlotte P.  
Brewer, John & Margaret  
Daitch, Peter & Alexandra  
Davison, Jane  
Deane, Curtis &  
Shoemaker, Tom  
Embree, Jeb & Dianne  
Fetter, Trevor & Melissa  
Frankle, David & Elizabeth  
Gerber, Donald & Carleen  
Greenberg, Alva  
Hardin, Adlai  
Hastings, Mark & Susan  
Heffernan, Mitchell & Cheryl  
Holmes, Lisa  
Jackson, Mark &  
Hagberg, Karen  
Johnston, Mark & Sarah  
Leonardo, Jack & Melodee  
Lombardino, George & Nina  
Merrill, Newt & Polly  
Plimpton, Kenneth D Jr

Pritchard, Christopher & Sally  
Roosevelt, Christopher &  
Roddy  
Shea, James  
Standart, Joe & Clinton  
Thurston, Tony & Sandy  
Turner, Nancy  
Tyler, Humphrey & Susan  
Webster, Bob & Betsey

## \$500 - \$999

Allaire, Paul & Tina  
Ashley, Frances  
Cerosimo, Richard &  
Koif, Valerie  
Davidson, Spencer &  
Telfair, Tula  
Griswold, Evan &  
Fisher, Emily  
Horn, John & Karen  
Lieber, Dr Sandy & Curly  
Rowe, Jeffery & Kathy  
Saxton, Dr Craig & Pietrina  
Schroeder, Mary &  
Spencer, Cathy  
Thompson, Geoffrey &  
Claudia  
Thorn, William & Gladys  
Williams, Luke

## \$250 - \$499

Ahern, Jennifer  
Amacher, David & Charlene  
Angers, Thomas E &  
Van Daff, Tim  
Anonymous  
Astles, Richard  
Ballek, Rowland & Nancy  
Barry, Gery & Hollis  
Beaudette, Michael & Edna  
Becker, Gigi  
Block, John & Sherry  
Campbell, Tom

Clingman, Rod  
Cooksley, David & Theodora  
Critchett, Donald & Jane  
Dandonoli, Patricia  
Dwyer, Michael  
Enders, Anthony & Elizabeth  
Ermler, Rick & Pat  
Friday, John Jr & Judy  
Gagliardi, Gerald & Deborah  
Gibbons, Elizabeth  
Goodrich, Chip  
Gourlay, Michael  
Greenho, Brian  
Griswold, Matt  
Hessel, Susan & Dahle, Karen  
Heym, Jim & Wilkinson, Lynn  
Hiltz, Janet  
Jacobs, Stephen  
Jones, Margaret  
Krusen, Gordon &  
Cole, Susan  
Lee, Dylan  
Lee, Richard H & Heidi  
Li, Zheng & Wan, Hong  
Lynch, Anthony & Patricia  
Maher, Kathleen  
Mallory, Diane  
Marburg, Charles & Louise  
Maroni, Paul & Margot  
Martin, Frederick & Marie  
McCall, Alison  
Morgan, John  
Mozzicato, Kristina  
Mueller, Scott  
Murphy, Alden & Jamie  
Nash, Rebecca  
Niblack, John & Heidi  
Nuzum, Dr Margaret  
Pritchard, Mary  
Pritchard, Sally  
Rennhard, Dr Hans  
Ritzhaupt, Larry  
Rosseau, Richard & Gail

Russell, Antoinette  
Sharp, Matthew & Eliza  
Thorn, Ashley  
Volles, Warren & Lori  
Wardlaw, Dr Stephen & Lynne  
Wieschenberg, Peter  
Wing, Thomas & Andrea  
Wood, Larry

## \$100 - \$249

Abrahamsen, Thor & Susan  
Alberg, Robert & Margaret  
Purcell-Alberg  
Angier, Mark & Elizabeth  
Balavender, Henry & Gail  
Ballard, Robert &  
Barbara Earle  
Beebe, Richard & Pamela  
Bennet, Douglas & Midge  
Bireley, Richard & Linda  
Bisceglia, David & Teresa  
Bischoff, Thomas & Terry  
Blackwell, Elmer &  
Bennett, Stefanie  
Bladen, Ashby & Ginger  
Bloom, Dr Barry  
Boehning, William & Diana  
Broom, Lorraine M  
Brown, James & Lyn  
Buccheri, Stephen & Wendy  
Buerger, Brantley  
Buttrick, Harold & Ann  
Camarra, Linda  
Chase, Duane &  
Joyce (Gomez)  
Childs, Thomas & Susan  
Clark, Herbert & Sherry  
Clark, LeRoy & Jane  
Clark, Ronald & Jane  
Clement, Carl & Anne  
Cone, Leslie & Marta  
Cooper, Richard  
Cove Landing Marine Inc



**\$100-\$249 cont.**

Crowley, Patrick & Halvorsen, Kim  
 Cushman, Rose  
 Czarnecki, Keith & Debra  
 Dailey, Corinne  
 D'Arista, Jane W  
 Decker, Peter & Patricia  
 Denow, Bill & Sara  
 Domenie, Douglas & Patrice  
 Dominy, Richard & Carol  
 Douglas, J. Scott & Wendy  
 Duran, Lee & Judith  
 Egri, Paul & Christine  
 English, Bob & Debbie  
 Evans, Douglas & Ann Lacey  
 Falstrom, John & Angie  
 Fanning, Craig & Sara  
 Fay, John  
 Feltham, Ethel  
 Flanagan, Stephen  
 Fogle, Gifford & Cynthia  
 Furr, Ronald  
 Gibson, Andrew & Katherine  
 Gravatt, Scott & Denise  
 Handy, Parker & Sally  
 Hardin, Melissa  
 Harra, Brian & Hoy, Anne  
 Harris, Robert  
 Heap, Roger  
 House, George & Linda  
 Howard, Shirley F  
 Irving, Anthony & Lees, Deborah  
 James, Dr William Hall  
 Jenkins, Gary & Ehlen, Jerry  
 Jones, Richard & Carol  
 Kahn, Robert & Amy  
 Kane, Mitchell & Jessica  
 Karwoski, Malvin & Gail  
 Kaslow, Andrew & Diane  
 Klimek, Carol  
 Knight, Douglas & Williams, Susan  
 Krawski, John & Lynn  
 LaForge, Elwood & Mary  
 Lazrove, Debra

Lee, Jean Soper  
 Leonardo, Jarrod & Stacey  
 Levin, Douglas & Carter, Abigail  
 Lewis, Ralph & Leslie  
 Lewis, Steven & Denise  
 Littlefield, David & Desillier, Elene  
 Littlefield, Prescott & Anne  
 Lombardo, Stephanie  
 Lord, Parker & Diana  
 Lynch, Eugene & Louise  
 Macbeth, Tom & Griffin, Maureen  
 Mattson, Steven & Maddy  
 McFarland, James & Leray  
 Melchreit, Richard & Anna-Marie  
 Miller, Tom & Wendy  
 Molyneux, Richard  
 Moore, George & Rosemary  
 Morgan, Elizabeth  
 Moriarty, Dr. Patrick E  
 Mulligan, Sandy  
 Mummert, Drs Earl & Margaret  
 Nelson, Jil  
 Pearson, Stuart & Lois  
 Purcell, Bradford & Louise  
 Riches, Wendy  
 Robillard, Robert & Van Ness, Addison  
 Rosseau, Richard & Shirley  
 Ryan, Kevin & Frogard  
 Sauer, Claire  
 Schaaf, Judy  
 Schneid, Jared & Wilber, Marna  
 Schwolsky, John & Storch, Elizabeth  
 Semple, Dr Joseph P & Tannen, Erica  
 Shea, John  
 Slater, Brian & Janet  
 Snyder, Todd & Boyer, Phoebe  
 Steiner, Christopher & Rebecca

Sulger, Jack & Laurie  
 Sutton, Richard & Hill, Wendolyn  
 Taylor, Anne Alexis Cote  
 Tennant, Foster & Goodall, Susan  
 Tiffany, Jennifer  
 Tracy, John & Sharon  
 Watt, Peter & Gerrard, Cattie  
 West, Tina  
 White, Peter & Kristina  
 Wholean, Kiernan & Nicole  
 Witkins, James & Janis  
 Wood, Robert & Nancy  
 Wood-Muller, Rudolph & Jenny  
 Woody, J Melvin  
 Zelek Electric Co

**Bequests**

Rayonier Inc  
 (for Gordon Ulmer)

**Heritage Society for Planned Giving**

Baxter, Matthew  
 Lord, Parker & Diana  
 Moore, George & Rosemary  
 Pritchard, John & Lee  
 Walters, Milton & Caroline

**Corporate & Foundation Grants**

The Bafflin Foundation  
 Community Foundation of Eastern CT (For anonymous donors)  
 Essex Savings Bank, Community Investment Program  
 Chester Kitchings Family Foundation  
 Moore Charitable Foundation  
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 New England Power Equipment  
 Pasta Vita Inc.  
 Wilcox Tree Experts



# nature AND THE arts

Plenty has been happening behind the scenes during the past twelve months! Photographers and artists, using their medium of choice, were busy capturing the natural beauty that surrounds us, and organizers have been preparing for events to come. Both the Photo Contest and Paint Out were re-scheduled.

**Here is why:** Our annual Land Trusts Amateur Photo Contest, a collaborative effort of the East Haddam, Essex, Lyme, Old Lyme and Salem Land Trusts was postponed in order to reorganize after founder and longtime leader Tony Sullivan retired. Lyme Land Trust Director Wendolyn Hill has taken up the reins. The deadline for submissions is October 31, 2014. See our website for details.

Our annual Lyme Paint Out, "Celebrating Lyme's Beauty", normally an early spring event, has been moved to autumn to allow artists to capture the wonders of Lyme at that marvelous time of year. It will take place October 11 and 12. The opening for the exhibition and sale will be November 21 at the Lyme Art Association. Details are available on our website.

# lymelandtrust.org

## OUR 2013-14 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- |                            |                                       |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Andy Baxter, Treasurer     | John Pritchard, President             |
| Angie Falstrom             | Humphrey Tyler                        |
| Don Gerber, Vice President | Milton Walters                        |
| Wendolyn Hill              | Kiernan Wholean                       |
| Wendy Miller               | Melvin Woody, Secretary               |
| Jil Nelson                 | George Moore, Executive Director      |
| Nancy Newcomb              | Lisa Niccolai, Environmental Director |



*To conserve in perpetuity for the public benefit Lyme's natural, scenic and historic land and water resources by: acquiring and stewarding real properties and conservation easements; supporting open space acquisition by third parties; facilitating scientific study and management of the resources; and educating the community regarding the benefits of conservation.*

## LONG RANGE PLAN

- Conserve land of environmental, cultural or historical importance
- Carry out work of the Land Trust in a fiscally responsible manner
- Raise public awareness of the natural resources, history, lands and the benefits of the Land Trust's activities.
- Expand our community relations activities
- Enhance our systematic stewardship program.