

# TRIBUTARIES

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE OLD LYME CONSERVATION TRUST, INC.

Incorporated 1966

[www.olct.org](http://www.olct.org)

July 2006

## Old Lyme Conservation Trust – Forty Years of Protecting Land for the Public

*by Mike Kiernan*

Old Lyme is growing rapidly – housing developments are springing up, replacing woods and fields. A group of concerned residents bands together to form an organization dedicated to preserving the town's remaining open space. Sound like today? Actually, the year was 1966, and the Old Lyme Conservation Trust was born. Forty years later, and thanks to the volunteer efforts of many too numerous to list here, the Trust today holds nearly 700 acres of forest and wetland that will never be developed. These holdings provide permanent benefit to you and the public at large, in the form of preserves which are open for hiking and bird watching, habitat for wildlife, and the preservation of scenic vistas.

Two names play prominently in the formation and early days of the Trust – John Lohmann and Bud Twining. Sadly, both have passed away, but their legacy endures, including considerable acreage donated to the Trust from personal holdings, most notably the 46-acre Lohmann-Twining-Buck Preserve, perched high above the Lieutenant River. The first donation of land to the Trust was made in 1967 by Mr. and Mrs. Belton Copp. This ground-breaking donation of salt marsh set an example that would be repeated many times over for following decades. Today, nearly forty percent of the Trust's holdings are salt marsh, protecting and preserving the breath-taking vistas for which Old Lyme is renowned.

In 1973, William and Connie Pike donated the first sizeable woodland parcel. Today, this 44-acre preserve on Mile Creek Road is one of the Trust's most secluded holdings, protecting vernal pools in the spring and providing a venue for quiet introspection year round. In 1988, led by John Lohmann, the Trust launched its first campaign to purchase land. The 25-acre "Bunt" Karter Watch Rock Preserve is certainly one of our most beautiful, offering priceless views across the Connecticut River estuary. Several large donations of woodland followed, most notably from John Hoffman, Teddy Goberis, and (perhaps most generously) Mary Steube. In recent years, however, and with the high price of real estate, land donations have dwindled, leading the Trust to form partnerships and to

pool its limited resources with The Nature Conservancy, the Town, and the State.

This trend is likely to continue in the future, as the Trust works to strategically acquire parcels of open space that will increase the size of a particular preserve, our link our preserves to other open space, especially along water courses. Our goal now is to double the acreage under protection 1,400 acres – and we want to achieve this goal not over the next forty years, but over the next five years. Much of this effort will involve the use of easements, along with the commitment, of course, of our town's largest land-owners. To meet this challenge, we actively seek to grow and diversify our Board, to involve our membership in the wide range of Trust activities and, most importantly, to manage and monitor our preserves and easements more effectively.

On behalf of our membership and the public at large, we thank all of you who have had the generosity and foresight to contribute to this movement – rest assured that your impact will be permanent and appreciated by future generations. Please do plan to join us in celebration of the Trust's 40th Anniversary. We look forward to seeing you all at the Lyme Art Association on the evening of October 5th, 2006. Until then, thanks again to you all.

### Scholarship

The Old Lyme Conservation Trust, Inc. is pleased to be able to provide scholarship support to college students who are residents of the Town of Old Lyme and who are pursuing college degrees in environmental science, environmental studies, ecology, conservation biology, or related areas. The Trust will provide one \$1,000 scholarship per year for a qualified student on a competitive basis. Application forms are available on our web site, [www.olct.org](http://www.olct.org), or by writing to the Old Lyme Conservation Trust, Inc., PO Box 163, Old Lyme, CT 06371. All application materials should be sent to the address listed on the application form no later than July 31st 2006.

# Lawn Chemicals – You, Your Family, Your Pets

by George James

Following the lead of dozens of Canadian cities and towns, the State of Connecticut made its first step to remove pesticides from the grounds of child care facilities and elementary schools. This step recognizes the scientific fact that children are far more susceptible to the serious health risks of pesticides than adults. Especially vulnerable are children in the pre-natal environment. In Canada in such cities as Toronto the authorities have banned the cosmetic use of lawn chemicals recognizing the dangers to children, pets, wildlife, and the aquifer.

The chemical industry has fought hard against these efforts to ban the sale and use of many of the same harmful chemicals that Rachael Carson correctly cited in her famous book *Silent Spring*, but a \$27 billion industry is not going to be outlawed without a fight. This fight typically takes the form of creating the general impression through advertising that a lush weed-free, grub-free lawn is not only safe for children and pets to frolic on but is also a universal status symbol of suburbia and the source of envy in the neighborhood.

At the same time close reading of the labels clearly indicate that these chemicals are not safe. The EPA is the first to admit that no pesticide is "safe." As of the year 2000 the EPA had listed 148 pesticide chemicals as known, likely, probable, or possible human carcinogens. Numerous studies have identified links between home and garden pesticides and elevated rates of childhood cancers including leukemia and lymphoma as well as impaired brain function. Pets are also victims of certain lawn pesticides.

A recent testing of lakes and rivers across the country by the federal government revealed that all the water bodies tested had pesticides, some with as many as twenty different chemicals. The Centers for Disease Control conducted blood tests on over 9000 people across the country. Results showed that pesticide residues were present in every single person tested, some with high concentrations and some with a large number of different pesticides. Scientists express real concern for the safety of the nation's drinking water, yet efforts to make the environment safer by banning the cosmetic use of these synthetic products is met by ridicule led by powerful lobbyists of the chemical industry.

OLCT urges everyone to use organic alternatives, reduce or eliminate the use of lawn chemicals, reduce the size of lawns to reduce air pollution from lawn mowers, and support efforts to ban the use of pesticides on children's playgrounds, athletic fields, and school grounds.

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## You Are Invited

Please join us for any or all of the events below. You can always check our web site for more details and information on our events: [www.olct.org](http://www.olct.org).

**Old Lyme Midsummer Festival** at the Florence Griswold Museum on Saturday, July 29, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**40th Anniversary Celebration** October 5 at the Lyme Art Association. Details to be announced.

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## Try And Find Them

by Hank Golet

When the land trust acquired the Lohmann Buck Twining Preserve (LBT) last fall I decided to keep a list of all the wildlife that that I saw and recognized there for one year. I live nearby and have included LBT in my morning walks, probably 200 or more times during the year. I usually walk it early in the morning and that can be both an advantage and a disadvantage to seeing what is there.

Mammals such as River Otter and Coyote are best seen early in the morning. Migrant and nesting birds are also more

vocal in the early hours of the day. Butterflies, on the other hand, are more apt to be encountered during the warmer hours. I'm sure there are more migrant songbirds passing through the woodlands and possibly rails and bitterns in the marsh along the Lieutenant River that I have not seen.

The list below is what I have seen, Birds, mammals, butterflies, amphibians and reptiles while walking LBT. Looking for number 72 (bird that is).

- |                            |                             |                            |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>A. Birds</b>            | 14 Great Blue Heron         | 42 White-Breasted Nuthatch |
| 1 Double-Crested Cormorant | 15 Common Snipe             | 43 Winter Wren             |
| 2 Mute Swan                | 16 Wild Turkey              | 44 Carolina Wren           |
| 3 Snow Goose               | 17 Sharp-Shinned Hawk       | 45 Marsh Wren              |
| 4 Canada Goose             | 18 Harrier                  | 46 Ruby-Crowned Kinglet    |
| 5 Black Duck               | 19 Red-Tailed Hawk          | 47 Golden Crowned Kinglet  |
| 6 Mallard                  | 20 Red-Shouldered Hawk      | 48 Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher   |
| 7 Wood Duck                | 21 Bald Eagle               | 49 Gray Catbird            |
| 8 Green-Winged Teal        | 22 Osprey                   | 50 Eastern Bluebird        |
| 9 Ringneck Duck            | 23 Turkey Vulture           | 51 Wood Thrush             |
| 10 Common Merganser        | 24 Great Horned Owl         | 52 Hermit Thrush           |
| 11 Hooded Merganser        | 25 Mourning Dove            | 53 Blue-Headed Vireo       |
| 12 Herring Gull            | 26 Belted Kingfisher        | 54 Red-Eyed Vireo          |
| 13 Ring-Billed Gull        | 27 Pileated Woodpecker      | (Continued on Page 3)      |
|                            | 28 Downy Woodpecker         |                            |
|                            | 29 Hairy Woodpecker         |                            |
|                            | 30 Red-Bellied Woodpecker   |                            |
|                            | 31 Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker |                            |
|                            | 32 Great Crested Flycatcher |                            |
|                            | 33 Eastern Phoebe           |                            |
|                            | 34 Eastern Wood Peewee      |                            |
|                            | 35 Tree Swallow             |                            |
|                            | 36 American Crow            |                            |
|                            | 37 Common Raven             |                            |
|                            | 38 Blue Jay                 |                            |
|                            | 39 Black-Capped Chickadee   |                            |
|                            | 40 Tufted Titmouse          |                            |
|                            | 41 Brown Creeper            |                            |

# It's Baby Season; Do You Know What To Do?

## Thoughts from your local wildlife rehabilitator

by Susanne Colten-Carey

Wildlife thrives all around us, and once again the spring and summer seasons bring our contact with animals, and commonly their young, to a year long high. When do the babies we stumble upon need our help and when is it best to leave them be?

Unknown to many the well meaning rescuer, baby bunnies are left alone virtually from birth on and are only visited and fed by their mother's three (3) times per day, with this number quickly diminishing to just twice a day. A baby bunny that is as long and as wide as your fist when he is sitting on all fours is old enough to be on his own. He will venture out from his nest for longer and longer periods until he moves on. Younger bunnies that are disturbed should be left as is, with an X of thread put over the nest. If the thread is undisturbed in the morning the babies need help. If they are in need of help, remember that both the young and adults stress very easily and should be placed in a dark, quiet, secure place while help is being sought. Contact a wildlife rehabilitator as soon as you are able.

Fledgling birds pose additional problems. They are often found by well intentioned people and brought in for help when they do not need it. Fledglings are babies that are feathered, on the ground and unable to fly more than one or two feet. Both parents remain near by to feed them, encourage their first flights, and warn them of predators. With their inability for

true flight, they are very vulnerable to predators (including our cats and dogs!) and well meaning folks of all ages. If they have not been cat caught, the best option is to leave them where they are. If they are found in a road or driveway, pick them up gently and move them between 50-100 feet to the branch of a bush or small tree. The parents should hear them calling and respond. If the bird is exactly where you left him after four (4) or five (5) hours and/or it is getting dark, put him in a secure box and seek help.

Birds placed in a box will appreciate a towel or rags on the bottom of the box to provide traction. Baby birds brought in for help **do not** need milk, water or worms. Small pieces of moistened dog or cat food placed into the mouth works well to keep the baby alive until a rehabilitator can be found. If the baby is cold, be certain to warm him (place the box on a heating pad set on low/ medium) before attempting to feed him.

Another thought: Baby killdeer often show up on soccer and baseball fields. The babies are precocial, meaning they are running around eating on their own but are still reliant on their parents for protection and warmth. Mom and dad are most often off on the sidelines, waiting for the end of a game so they can get to their babies.

**Please do not take these babies home.** Shoo them under a bush or into a safe spot and when everyone leaves you can be certain the parents will be back.

### Try And Find Them *(Continued from Page 2)*

- |                            |                         |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 55 Yellow-Throated Vireo   | 66 Scarlet Tanager      |
| 56 Black And White Warbler | 67 Dark-Eyed Junco      |
| 57 Magnolia Warbler        | 68 Eastern Towhee       |
| 58 Worm- Eating Warbler    | 69 Song Sparrow         |
| 59 Common Yellowthroat     | 70 Swamp Sparrow        |
| 60 Louisiana Waterthrush   | 71 American Robin       |
| 61 Yellow-Rumped Warbler   | <b>B. Mammals</b>       |
| 62 Ovenbird                | 1 Coyote (S)            |
| 63 Red-Winged Blackbird    | 2 White-Tailed Deer (S) |
| 64 Brown-Headed Cowbird    | 3 Fox (T)               |
| 65 Common Grackle          |                         |

- |                        |
|------------------------|
| 4 Fisher(T)            |
| 5 River Otter (S)      |
| 6 Raccoon (T)          |
| 7 Gray Squirrel (S)    |
| 8 Eastern Chipmunk (S) |
| (S) Seen, (T) Tracks   |

- C. Butterflies**
- |                       |
|-----------------------|
| 1 Mourning Cloak      |
| 2 Spring Azure        |
| 3 Juvenal's Duskywing |

- D. Amphibians and Reptiles \***
- |                               |
|-------------------------------|
| 1 Wood Frog (Eggs)            |
| 2 Pickerel Frog               |
| 3 Common Snapping Turtle      |
| 4 Spotted Salamander          |
| 5 Marbled Salamander (Larvae) |
- \*All seen in or near vernal pool at trailhead*

## OLD LYME CONSERVATION TRUST MEMBERSHIP FORM

*Please join us in preserving Old Lyme's Open Space!*

Complete this form and return to: Old Lyme Conservation Trust, Post Office Box 163, Old Lyme, CT 06371

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** If you are employed by Pfizer, J.P. Morgan Chase or Merrill Lynch, the company may match your contribution if you fill out their matching gift form and send it along with your donation.

### Tax-Deductible Membership:

\_\_\_\_\_ Single (\$25)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Family (\$50)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Additional donation

- Matching gift from company.  
 **YES**, I would like to volunteer! Please call me.



## Old Lyme Conservation Trust, Inc.

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### Photo Contest 2005

The winners of the amateur photo contest jointly sponsored by the Lyme Land Conservation Trust, Inc. and the Old Lyme Conservation Trust, Inc. were officially announced at a ceremony at the Phoebe Griffin Noyes Library on April 29. "There were so many wonderful pictures submitted that the judges had a difficult time selecting the winners" said Tony Sullivan, spokesperson for the two conservation trusts. Photos, below, are from the photo contest, a full list of awardees and their photos are published online at [www.lymelandtrust.org](http://www.lymelandtrust.org) and [www.olct.org](http://www.olct.org).



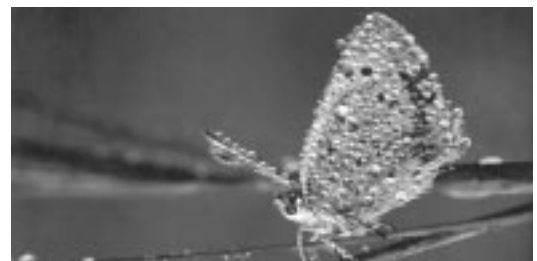
Dead Cedar by Alice Depret



Great Blue Herons by Hank Golet



Turkey Vulture by Mark Dixon



Dew on Copper Butterfly by Jim Sims