

TRIBUTARIES

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE OLD LYME CONSERVATION TRUST, INC.

Incorporated 1966

www.olct.org

January 2009

Connecting People and Places Right Here in Old Lyme

This year the Trust welcomes a set of new officers: Anna Silberberg, President; Christina Clayton, Co-Vice President; Charlie Beal, Co-Vice President; Sabine O'Donnell, Treasurer; and Connie Tapper, Secretary. The new officers have expressed that it is an honor and privilege to work as an officer and on the board of the Old Lyme Conservation Trust. The officers are looking forward to working with the rest of the board, all volunteers and the community in advancing the Trust's mission of preserving and enhancing the rural character and quality of life here in Old Lyme. Our town may not be large but there are so many things to be done here: Take care of and enjoy our preserves, look for opportunities to create connections between our preserves, educational activities and much more.

At the same time, the Trust thanks outgoing president Mike Kiernan and outgoing board member Ted Crosby. They have both been active with the Trust for many years. They have worked on communications, maps, and, most recently, have helped the Trust acquire land, primarily in the Three Mile River area in the eastern part of town. They may no longer be board members but they continue to be affiliated with the Trust and we are grateful that they continue to share their vast knowledge in the area of land conservation and management.

There are also many other people that have been and are working for the Trust's mission. Two of them were given special attention at the Trust's annual meeting this spring. In recognition of the central role he played in the founding of the Trust, as well as the many donations of land that his advice and assistance have helped to bring about over the years, the Trust presented the first **Landsaver Award of Appreciation** to Belton A. Copp. His wife Eugenie was also recognized for her work together with her husband.



Former President Mike Kiernan, left, presents Belton A. Copp with the "Landsaver Award of Appreciation".

Hank Golet was awarded the **Volunteer of the Year** award for his wonderful work as a steward of the Lohmann Buck Twining preserve. This has resulted in – among other things – a list of observed birds and animals on this preserve that is available online at www.olct.org.

The Trust is starting a new campaign this year called Town-wide Walking Trails: Connecting People and Places. The goal is to use "trails" – existing or potential – as an organizing principle for our efforts. Building from existing trails on public preserves owned by the Trust or the Town, new trails would be created to link tracts of open space. We hope to acquire new land or walking easements across privately owned lands, and also design trails to follow town roads (between preserves). This project initiated in 2008 and is expected to continue for several years to come.

New Champlain South Extension Trail Created by Boy Scouts

The Jadon Road entrance to the Champlain South property was significantly enhanced this year by Boy Scout Troop #26 on August 14th and 21st. As a result of their efforts, a well-delineated access trail is now in place on the Old Lyme Conservation Trust parcel where Jadon Road joins Whippoorwill Road.

The project involved clearing the trail head by cutting several large logs and removing the logs as well as considerable brush that had been covering the area. To clear the rest of the trail, the sides of the trail were cut back to create a comfortable path, large branches were removed, and the trail was raked. Also, a stepping stone path was constructed over a small stream. To guide hikers, the trail was marked with

white markers and a new sign marking the trail head was installed at the Whippoorwill Road entrance. The green Old Lyme Conservation Trust sign – in the same style as signs on other OLCT properties around town – was made by Board Member Jerry Silberberg.

The 204-acre Champlain South property has been under the stewardship of the Town of Old Lyme Open Space Committee since 2003, and features an extensive trail system including climbing ridges, a stream crossing, a large bog, 100-foot granite cliffs, vernal pools, and a peaceful old growth pine grove. The new access trail from the south complements the other entrance points at the end of Meetinghouse Lane and

(Continued on page 2)

Boy Scout Trail

(Continued from page 1)

on Library lane, and helps to realize one of the OLCT's visions: the creation of a more extensive, continuous hiking system in town.

Special thanks are extended to Life Scout Evan Anway, Senior Patrol Leader Justin Kegley, and Patrol Leader Matt Fries. The project was coordinated by Old Lyme Conservation Trust Board Member Ted Mundy and Old Lyme Open Space Committee Chairperson Diana Atwood Johnson.

We invite all residents of Old Lyme to visit the site and use the new Champlain South Extension Trail to enjoy a hike on this special property.



Volunteer Stewards Wanted!

What is a steward? A steward is someone who helps care for one of the OLCT's preserves. If you like to hike, this is a way to volunteer while enjoying one of your favorite pastimes!

OLCT's Stewardship Committee is charged with maintaining its land holdings, including any trails on them, in good condition. The Stewardship Committee coordinates work teams for routine maintenance and also special projects.

The Committee, however, relies on volunteer stewards who visit the property periodically to report on its condition and any issues. There are one or more stewards assigned to each of the OLCT properties with public access.

Stewards walk the property with a focus on:

- Getting to know the boundaries.
- Looking out for hazards, litter, invasive plant species, and evidence of prohibited activities (e.g. hunting, ATV use, etc.)
- Identifying potential enhancements, such as new trails or additional parking.
- Checking the condition of OLCT signage, gates, etc.
- Getting to know the property's neighbors.

We hope you too will consider becoming a steward.

The Kinsley Twining Scholarship

The Old Lyme Conservation Trust, Inc. is pleased to be able to provide scholarship support to college students who graduate from the Lyme-Old Lyme High School and pursue college degrees in environmental science, environmental studies, ecology, conservation biology, or related areas.

The Trust provides one \$1,000 scholarship per year for a qualified student on a competitive basis. The Trust is proud to announce that the Kinsley Twining Scholarship for 2008 was awarded to Emily Kearney. Kearney is attending Cornell University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, majoring in Environmental Studies.

Application forms are available on our web site, 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 August 31, 2009.

Old Lyme Conservation Trust MEMBERSHIP FORM

Join us in preserving Old Lyme's Open Space!

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

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

E-Mail _____

Tax-Deductible Membership:

Member (\$35) \$ _____ Additional donation

Matching gift from company.

YES, I would like to volunteer! Please call me.

Ways to Contribute

(including some you may have never heard of)

There are many ways to support the goal of conserving land in Old Lyme to improve the quality of life and to protect our natural resources. Land and cash donations probably are the first to come to mind, but there are many other methods, each with its own characteristics and benefits. Together they provide a range of options for conservation-minded people in different personal or financial circumstances.

The **Nature Conservancy web site** (www.giftplanning.nature.org/gifts.php) provides an excellent resource to explore these options. In addition to a description of each type of gift, there is an explanation of how it works, an example, points to consider, and a summary of the particular benefits it offers to both the recipient and the giver. There is also a handy tool which allows one to compare up to three gift types to determine which is most appropriate or beneficial based on factors such as the donor's goals (eg, reduce income tax, reduce estate tax, etc), the donor's age, and the particular asset being considered for donation. The web site provides comprehensive information on these types of gifts:

Outright Gifts

Cash

Maximize your charitable deduction and deliver immediate benefits.

Stock

The IRS allows you one of its most significant tax breaks for gifts of appreciated securities.

Real Estate

Make a substantial gift through a transfer of residential, commercial, or undeveloped real estate.

Retirement Assets

Donate with a tax-free distribution from your IRA.

Donor Advised Fund

A convenient and flexible way to manage your charitable giving and a cost-effective alternative to establishing a private foundation.

Business Interests

Give an interest in a closely-held or family business.

Partnership Interests

Support a charitable organization by transferring interest in a real estate or a business interest.

Personal Property

Donate books, artwork or equipment and secure an income tax deduction.

Gifts Through Your Estate

Bequests

Give without affecting your cashflow during your lifetime.

Retirement Assets

Your retirement plan may be worth more when donated than to your heirs.

Life Insurance

Give a significant gift without dipping into your capital assets.

Gifts That Produce Income

Gift Annuities (Immediate Payments)

Receive a fixed payout and significant tax benefits.

Gift Annuities (Deferred Payments)

Build retirement earnings by deferring the onset of annuity payments. (recommended for younger donors)

Charitable Remainder Unitrusts

Meet multiple goals with this most-flexible life-income gift.

Real Estate Gifts

Charitable Remainder Unitrusts ("Flip")

Meet multiple goals with this most-flexible life-income gift.

Gift Annuities

Funded outright or with remainder interests.

Retained Life Estates

Give your house and continue to live there rent-free.

Charitable Bargain Sale

This part-gift/part-sale transaction gives you a charitable deduction plus cash to purchase other property.

Special Situations

Charitable Lead Trusts

Freeze the taxable value of your appreciating assets: use them to make gifts today, then pass them to family later.

Charitable Remainder Annuity Trusts

An individually managed trust that reduces income and capital gains taxes and pays stable, predictable income.

Pooled Income Fund

A life-income gift that works like a charitable mutual fund. Give cash or securities, receive an income tax deduction and pay no capital gains tax on the transfer, secure lifetime income, and deliver significant support to the charitable organization.

We would be remiss not to mention another important gift option in 2009: the **conservation easement**. A conservation easement protects land from development, while allowing the owner to maintain private property rights and possibly realize significant federal tax benefits. For many people, the decision to donate a conservation easement is a major financial decision.

A federal easement incentive in place through the end of 2009 allows *conservation easement donors to deduct up to 50% of their adjusted gross income in any year, and continue to take deductions for as long as 16 years.*

More information about easements and how to use this valuable conservation tool is available through the Land Trust Alliance (<http://www.landtrustalliance.org/policy/taxincentives/tax-policy>)

Finally, keep in mind that many workplace giving campaigns (such as United Way) and also employer matching contributions can be directed to the Old Lyme Conservation Trust. Please consider whether any of these gifts types suit you.



Old Lyme Conservation Trust, Inc.

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Photo contest 2007 including the new John G. Mitchell Environmental Award

The winners of the 2007 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 Old Lyme Senior Center in May. "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. The first place winners are:

Landscapes/Waterscapes: Skip Broom, Hadlyme
Plants: Deanna Broderick, Guilford
Wildlife: Stephanie Clayton, Old Lyme
Cultural/Historic: Skip Broom, Hadlyme
Young Photographers: Annie Bolduc, Old Lyme

We thank the independent judges who helped make this event possible: **Anne Hoy**, Professor of Art & Photographic History at New York University and former curator at the International Center of Photography in New York. Hoy is also the author of National Geographic's *The Book of Photography: The History, the Technique, the Art, the Future* and *Fabrications. Staged, Altered, and Appropriated Photographs*, Abbeville Press; **William Burt**, a naturalist who has won acclaim for his books of wildlife photography: *Rare and Elusive Birds of North America*, *Shadowbirds*, and his recently released *Marshes: The Disappearing Edens*; and **Amy Kurtz Lansing**, Curator at the

Florence Griswold Museum and a Yale University doctoral candidate in the History of Art. Lansing is also the author of *Historical Fictions: Edward Lamson Henry's Paintings of Past and Present*.

This year an additional award was given out to honor one of our prior judges, John G. Mitchell, who passed away last year. John dedicated his career to writing about the environment and so the award was for the best picture reflecting that subject. The award was presented to **Skip Broom** by Alison Mitchell, who revealed that even though John was a writer, he still felt that a picture says more than thousand words.

A full list of awardees and their photos are published online at www.olct.org and www.lymelandtrust.org. Generous support for this event was provided by Bank of America, ChelseaGroton Bank, Essex Savings Bank, Evan Griswold of Coldwell Banker, Pfizer, Inc., Lorensen Toyota and Tom Wing and Harry Oakley of Smith Barney's.

The 2008 Photo Contest is now open! The contest is open to amateur photographers only, and the submission deadline is January 31, 2009. Photos can be in color or black & white using film or digital cameras. There is a separate youth category for those 14 years and younger.

Prizes will be given for the best artistic composition in the following four categories in addition to the youth prizes: Landscapes/Waterscapes, Plants, Wildlife, Cultural/Historic. Please visit www.olct.org for detailed contest rules and contest entry form.