



# Old Lyme Land Trust

Our Annual Newsletter: *Tributaries*

Incorporated 1966

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

August 2018

## Happenings at the Watch Rock Preserve

For the past several years, we've been working at the Elizabeth B. Karter Watch Rock Preserve to reverse invasive plant growth. Efforts began in 2013 under a grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Service. At that time, a meadow was restored and a huge volume of non-native invasive trees, shrubs, and vines (e.g., Norway maple, burning bush, Chinese privet, Oriental bittersweet) was removed. You may have seen our former Volunteer of the Year, Ed Sopneski, tirelessly pulling out the remaining and returning invasive plants along the main (green) trail.

This year, thanks to a generous donation from husband and wife Stanley Kolber and Chris Clayton, coupled with the volunteer efforts of 15 Pfizer employees and family members, we were able to carry out the next stage of our Watch Rock initiative: partial restoration of the native understory.

It was a happy day for OLLT when this year's Volunteer of the Year and former board member, Lea Harty, approached the Trust with the news that she would be able to organize a group of Pfizer scientists and other professionals for a work project on one of our preserves. The work was carried out on a beautiful day in early June. The work crew planted 26 native bushes and understory trees in an area between the meadow and the main trail. Working with enthusiasm, discipline, and the satisfaction that comes from making the world a better place, the volunteers completed the task in just two hours. Since that day, the plants have been regularly watered by our newest volunteer, Peter Engelking, a neighbor of the Watch Rock Preserve.

We continue to monitor the progress of the newly installed native plants at Watch Rock. We hope to learn from this initial planting to guide our continued efforts in the coming years. Please visit the preserve and contact us ([ollandtrust@gmail.com](mailto:ollandtrust@gmail.com)) if you wish to contribute to this transformation of one of OLLT's most popular preserves.



Lindsay MacDonald and Anna Silberberg, Old Lyme residents who work at Pfizer, "dig in" to plant native *ilex glabra* (inkberry) at the Watch Rock Preserve. Other Pfizer volunteers who participated were John Jakubzak, Liz and Dave Rubitski, Sara Paciga with sons Jacob and Nathan, Tess Wilson, Jean Lee, Linda Wood, Wen He with daughter Connie Pan, Jill Johnson, and Lea Harty.

## Don't Miss The Vision Box

Ana Flores, the first Schumann visiting artist at the Lyme Academy of Fine Arts, recognized that the natural beauty of the Old Lyme area is what first attracted the artists who arrived here at the turn of the 20th century. The magnificent landscapes, estuaries, wildlife, and unique quality of the light lured the artists, many of whom became well-known impressionist painters. She conceived the Vision Box Initiative "as a public art project that celebrates the relationship between the artistic and the land conservation commitment that is deeply rooted in our local community". We were thrilled when Ana selected OLLT's Watch Rock Preserve as one of the installation sites.

The boxes are designed to suggest the *plein air* paint-boxes used by the landscape painters. They are installed at four special places in town: the yellow trail at the Watch Rock Preserve; the Ferry Landing Viewing Platform on the boardwalk; the stream at the Lyme Art Association; and the Champlain North Preserve Barbizon Oak. These are sites

(Continued on page 2)

### **OLLT Board Members:**

President:	Michael J. Kiernan
Vice President:	Vacant
Treasurer:	Sabine O'Donnell
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	Claudio Denoya
	Mary Devins
	George James
	Ed Silk
	Tom Unger



Ana Flores at the innovative Vision Box at OLLT's Watch Rock Preserve. The Vision Boxes will be on display through early September.

## The Vision Box *(Continued from page 1)*

along the marshes, riverfront, and woodlands that appear relatively unchanged since half a century earlier when the *plein air* painters discovered Old Lyme. Inside each box are a notebook and pencils with an invitation to the curious, who have opened the box, to write their observations. The notebooks are full of thoughtful and appreciative comments, written by children and adults from near and far, all of whom remark on the beauty of the nature that is before their eyes.

Ana designed and constructed the boxes and her students helped install them. Three local artists and Ana painted scenes on the boxes that echo the immediate landscape. Ana articulated the connection between art and land conservation when she said, "The Vision Box project reminds us that we cannot take for granted open space, mature trees, or a clean river. They exist only because of visionary stewardship and efforts." In this spirit, the Vision Box initiative is squarely aligned with OLLT's mission. We are grateful to Ana for her efforts to stimulate appreciation of local history and the value of preserving our area's natural beauty, and for bringing this collaborative opportunity to the Trust.

The boxes will be auctioned when the project is retired in early September. The proceeds will be used to give urban youth the chance to draw outdoors in nature refuges.

Ana's work was supported by the Schumann Foundation, which promotes the Environment, Education and the Arts. More about Ana Flores can be found on her website: [www.earthinform.com](http://www.earthinform.com).

## A Steward's Tale

by Sandra Downing

One cold and blustery Sunday in early March, my partner Ted and I were performing our regular steward patrol at the Watch Rock Preserve. The tide was higher than normal and I spotted something floating in the water near the yellow trail. Stick in hand, I reached down the ledge to retrieve it. It was a woman's purse, badly tattered, although the inside compartment was intact. I found a water-logged wallet with store, travel, and insurance cards. There was also a driver's license, a key (safety deposit?), and a Laxmi coin. I decided to try to contact the owner and return the items.

I sent a message to an e-mail address found via LinkedIn that turned out to belong to the purse's owner. She contacted me that night, very excited to hear her purse was recovered. It had been snatched from her grocery cart in Mystic almost two years ago in May, 2016. The thieves went on a spending rampage with her credit cards from Mystic to Old Saybrook. She asked if, by chance, I found a bracelet. I told her there was no cash, nor credit cards, nor jewelry of any sort. The purse was in such bad condition that it was amazing anything was still inside. She asked if we could meet and go to the area where the purse was recovered.

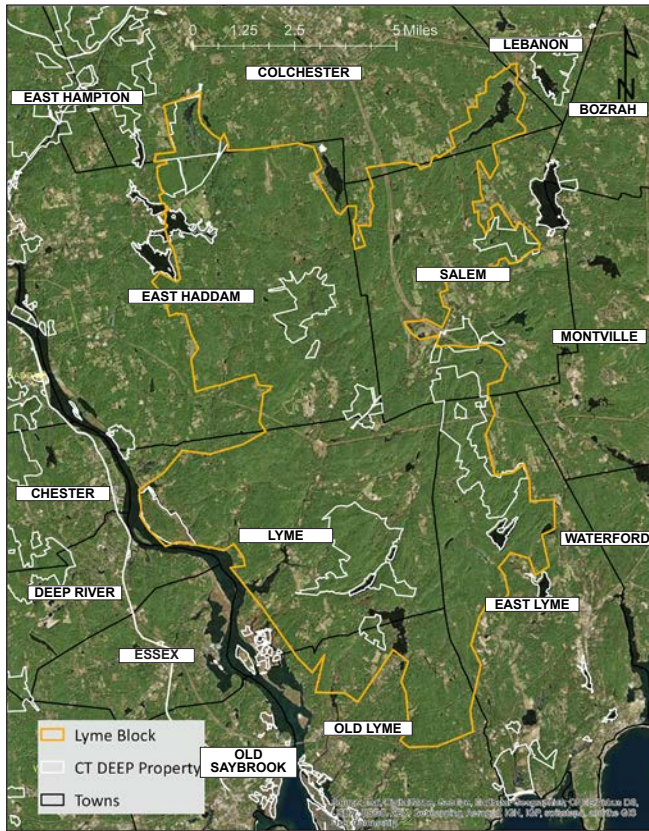
We brought her and her son to Watch Rock the following Saturday. I gave her everything I had found. She asked if we would help search for the bracelet, as it was a family heirloom dating back to the 1700's. She showed us a picture of it taken when it was removed from her safety deposit box to be appraised. I saw how beautiful and valuable it was and commented that the thieves probably made off with it, too. But it was worth a try to find it.

Luckily it was low tide, so we climbed down the ledge and scoured the muddy shoreline. I spotted several of her credit cards underneath a layer of ice. Walking back towards the ledge, something barely protruding out of the mud caught my eye. I reached down and gave it a tug. I literally let out a scream when I saw it was her bracelet! I brought it to her and she started to cry in sheer happiness and disbelief. She had been praying for its return for two years.

There are still many questions in my mind about this curious and serendipitous series of events. Where was the purse tossed two years ago and how did it end up at Watch Rock? Would I ever have spotted it if it weren't for a higher than normal tide? How did the wallet with her identification manage to stay in that disintegrated purse? And why didn't the thieves keep the bracelet? The answers may never be known, but that does not diminish my happiness in reuniting her with her family heirloom, answering her prayers.



# Lyme Forest Block Important Bird Area



Aerial view of the Lyme Forest Block Important Bird Area (IBA). Among State lands in this IBA are: Devil's Hopyard State Park, Babcock Pond Wildlife Management Area, Zemko Pond Wildlife Management Area, Eightmile River Wildlife Management Area, Nehantic State Forest, Seldon Neck State Park, and Beckett Hill State Park.

OLLT is pleased to join partners in six neighboring towns in conserving lands that are part of an enormous 60,000 acre block of relatively intact forest. The Lyme Forest Block Important Bird Area (IBA) initiative is led by Audubon Connecticut.

This tract includes wooded areas—both state-owned and privately held—in southeast Connecticut spanning the towns of Lyme, East Lyme, Old Lyme, Salem, Colchester, and East Haddam. In Old Lyme, the Lyme Forest Block extends into the northeast corner of town and includes portions of OLLT's Lay and Upper Three Mile River Preserves.

The Lyme Forest Block contains habitat that is important to the cerulean warbler and the wood thrush, worldwide populations of which are declining drastically and threatened with extinction. The area also supports a variety of other forest-nesting birds identified in Connecticut's Wildlife Action Plan, including worm-eating warbler, scarlet tanager, and Eastern towhee. Many of these species require large blocks of unfragmented woodlands to successfully nest and sustain their populations. For example, a forest cover of at least 75% is critical to cerulean warblers, so maintaining the woodland landscape that is the Lyme Forest Block is essential for this species.

This project will engage the conservation stewards of protected lands in the Lyme Forest Block IBA through education,

training, and outreach. They then will promote bird-friendly habitat management by private landowners of up to 1,200 acres of land in and around the IBA. Any landowners within the IBA boundary can reap the benefits of recognizing their property as part of the IBA complex, including eligibility for IBA small matching grants or use of the IBA status to enhance other grant applications.

Funding from Eightmile River Watershed, the Community Foundation of Eastern CT, and the Jeniam Foundation will make this project possible. Please watch for a presentation and a bird walk here in Old Lyme, and join our special work party on the Lay Preserve. Thanks to Chris Clayton for facilitating OLLT's participation.

## The Search for Hidden Preserve Residents

Observant preserve visitors can often see evidence of non-human inhabitants, including tracks, scat, and tree markings, but short of face-to-face contact, what's cooler than a photo? With this mindset, Kathryn Atkinson, a student at Lyme-Old Lyme High School (LOLHS), has been assisting OLLT in capturing striking images of wildlife at the John Lohmann CT River Preserve.

Kathryn's project was prompted by Master Wildlife Conservationist (MWC) Paul Colburn's presentation on bobcats at our 2018 annual meeting. She contacted OLLT with a photograph of a bobcat taken outside her family's home on

*(Continued on page 8)*



Wildlife captured on the trailcam at the John Lohmann CT River Preserve. Top to bottom: coyote, bobcat, and deer.





The stone wall along the frontage of the Heller Preserve on Town Woods Road shows signs of its age. OLLT is looking for volunteers to perform repair work. Please contact us at [ollandtrust@gmail.com](mailto:ollandtrust@gmail.com) if interested.

### Volunteer of the Year: Lea Harty

Every year, one volunteer stands out, usually for the volume or breadth of their work. This year, that volunteer is Lea Harty. A Connecticut native, Lea moved to Old Lyme with her husband Patrick in 1999, in part to raise their two sons in a place with easy access to the outdoors. In 2008, her enjoyment of hiking on OLLT preserves led to the start of four terms as a trustee, most

of them in the capacity of Secretary. Although she is no longer on the board, she continues to make significant contributions. During the past year, she served as steward of the Jericho Preserve, organized and participated in work parties (see Happenings on page 1), and produced OLLT's annual newsletter *Tributaries*. Thank you, Lea, for all that you have done for OLLT!



OLLT welcomed five new stewards this year: Mary and Jeff Ballachino (Hatchetts Hill Preserve), Wayne Ashton (Goberis-Chadwick Preserve), Ned Coffee (Boggy Hole Preserve), and Kent Lacey (Heller Preserve). Pictured are Ned (left) and Wayne (right).

## The OLLT Family of Volunteers

Land is only half of the equation when it comes to a land trust. The other half, which is just as important, is the people. People make the land trust, both those who enjoy our preserves and, especially, the volunteers. OLLT is fortunate to have many dedicated volunteers who give of their time and talents, often in multiple capacities. Preserve Stewards are a special category charged with visiting a designated preserve regularly and reporting problems or maintenance needs. They were recently recognized at a Stewards Appreciation Reception, graciously hosted by Chris Clayton and Stanley Kolber. In addition, OLLT has an unpaid Board of Trustees. We thank all those who volunteered during the past year:

Wayne Ashton\*  
John Atkinson  
Juliette Atkinson  
Kathryn Atkinson  
Jeff Ballachino\*  
Mary Ballachino\*  
Charlie Beal\*  
Olaf Bertram-Nothnagel  
John Christiano\*  
Chris Clayton\*  
Ned Coffee\*  
Susanne Colton-Carey\*  
Sandy Downing\*  
Caeli Edmed  
Sam Edmed  
Winnie Edmed  
Peter Engelking  
Rob Evans\*  
Fred Fenton\*  
Russ Fogg\*  
Ted Freeman\*  
Gregory Futoma  
Anne Galliher\*  
Hank Golet\*  
Jerry Grady\*  
Chuck Halsey\*  
Day Halsey\*  
Lea Harty\*  
Wen He  
Jack Hine  
Pam Hine  
Andrea Griffis Inglis\*  
John Jakubczak  
George James\*

Jill Johnson  
Mike Kiernan\*  
Stanley Kolber  
Cindy Kovak\*  
Kent Lacey\*  
Jon Lathrop\*  
Jean Lee  
Patricia Lee\*  
Ron Lee\*  
Andrew Liefeld  
Lindsay MacDonald  
Ted Mundy\*  
Mary Jo Nosal  
Agnes O'Connor  
Jack Ostroff  
Jacob Paciga  
Nathan Paciga  
Sara Paciga  
Bobbie Padgett\*  
Connie Pan  
Alan Robertson  
Debbie Robertson  
Randy Robinson  
Dave Rubitski  
Liz Rubitski  
Anna Silberberg  
Craig Taylor  
Karen Taylor  
Edie Twining\*  
Mary Waldron  
Lee Whitaker  
Tess Wilson  
Linda Wood  
\*Preserve Steward

The Trust also gratefully acknowledges Attorney Michael J. Wells of the Hudson & Kilby law firm in Centerbrook for his *pro bono* work for OLLT.

# Keeping John Lohmann's Vision Alive



**A serene moment in the field at the John Lohmann CT River Preserve.**

Anyone who has visited the John Lohmann CT River Preserve is struck by this magnificent 42 acre tract. It is one of only two OLLT preserves accessible by canoe or kayak (at high tide). The landing spot, Whaleback point, offers spectacular views across the waters of Lord Cove and beyond. And, the preserve boasts a park-like setting of trees rising up as focal points in a stirring expanse adjacent to a series of terraced fields that slope down to the shore.

This was John Lohmann's vision. The land reflects his desire to replicate the feeling he experienced in the landscaped public preserves he visited in England while serving in World War II. It was Mr. Lohmann himself who, over a period of years, cut down the overgrown forest on his property in Old Lyme to create this lovely landscape. Desiring that it be preserved, he bequeathed the property to OLLT with the condition that it kept in an "open and park-like condition". Since acquiring the land in 2012, OLLT has gained a deep apprecia-



**Will Hindman of Yankee Tree, LLC takes advantage of one of the few sunny days in early Spring to remove a tree at the John Lohmann CT River Preserve.** *(Photo courtesy of Jon Parker)*

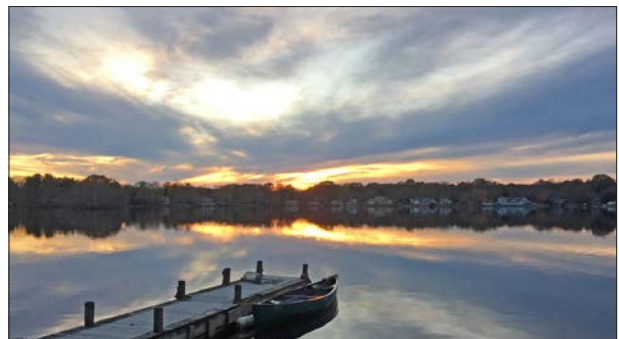
tion of that simple phrase and of the extraordinary time and labor Mr. Lohmann devoted to the property.

Maintaining the preserve requires considerable effort and financial resources. To prevent the fields from overgrowth by saplings and invasive plants, OLLT arranges for professional mowing each Fall. (Spring and Summer mowing is avoided so as not to disturb habitat used by nesting birds and other wildlife.) Also, as the trees age, increasingly more fallen limbs appear, necessitating more clearing and mowing time. And with the tree growth came a sense that the fields were becoming darker and more wooded rather than "open and park-like."

To uphold Mr. Lohmann's vision, the Trust hired Yankee Tree, LLC of Old Lyme to manage the mature tree growth. Owner Jon Parker, working with past OLLT President and Connecticut College botanist Pam Hine, helped prepare a tree removal strategy consistent with the Trust's goals. Invasive species such as Norway maple, trees overcrowding attractive or less common specimens, and dying trees threatening trails were targeted. The Yankee Tree crew is to be commended for persevering and accomplishing the work without damaging the fields, despite extended adverse weather-related conditions. Over 25 trees were removed this year, and we hope to take more down in subsequent years, budget permitting.

The conventional entry point to the preserve is the trailhead at 33 Coult Lane. It's a steep, short climb between neighboring houses through a heavily wooded and rocky area, but those willing to make the trek are richly rewarded. After cutting through an old stone wall, the woodland trail gives way to acres of fields dotted with a wide variety of trees and criss-crossed by paths used by hikers and an occasional equestrian visitor. From there, it's an enjoyable walk through the terraces down to Whaleback point. We are committed to maintaining Mr. Lohmann's beloved fields according to his vision and invite you to visit this exceptional preserve.

## Land Trusts' 2018 Amateur Photo Contest



**"Sunset on the Lake", a dramatic image captured by 12-year-old Ricky Frascarelli of Old Lyme. The springtime photo contest is hosted by OLLT and five other lower Connecticut River Valley land trusts. The 2018 winners and forthcoming details of the 2019 show are at: <https://www.landtrustphotocontest.org/2018-winners>.**



# Old Lyme Exceeds Connecticut Green Plan Goal for Conservation Groups –and Aims Even Higher

It's been almost 20 years since the State of Connecticut ("the State") launched its visionary "Green Plan", a partnership initiative aimed at protecting 21% of our state's land base as "open space", as set forth by Section 23-8 of the General Statutes. Open space is defined as "land that is capable of providing certain services including buffers to climate change, critical wildlife habitats, and recreational trails". The 2016-2020 plan is available on the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) website.

Under the Green Plan, the State seeks to hold 10% of the state's total acreage as open space. (Note, the percentage of State-owned land in each individual town need not be 10%.) An additional 11% is to be protected by the State's land conservation partners including municipalities, non-profit land conservation organizations, and water companies. Periodically, OLLT is asked about progress with conserving and protecting open space here in Old Lyme, i.e., what percentage of our town is preserved open space? This article addresses that question.

The total acreage in town that does not include ocean waters is about 16,500 acres (the number ranges from 15,000 to 18,000, depending upon the exact definition used). And so what qualifies as open space? For the purpose of the present calculations, the following were considered as open space:

- Property held by OLLT
- Preserves and other protected parcels held by the Town of Old Lyme ("the Town")
- Land owned by the State
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) properties, and
- Parcels with conservation restriction easements or otherwise held by The Nature Conservancy (TNC).

Not included are golf courses, athletic fields, and other active recreational facilities.

OLLT owns nearly 1,100 acres of land in town, making it the largest landowner. In addition, the Trust holds easements on some 40 acres. About 800 acres of this land are open to the public in the form of 12 nature preserves. The remainder is largely inaccessible marshland and smaller upland parcels.

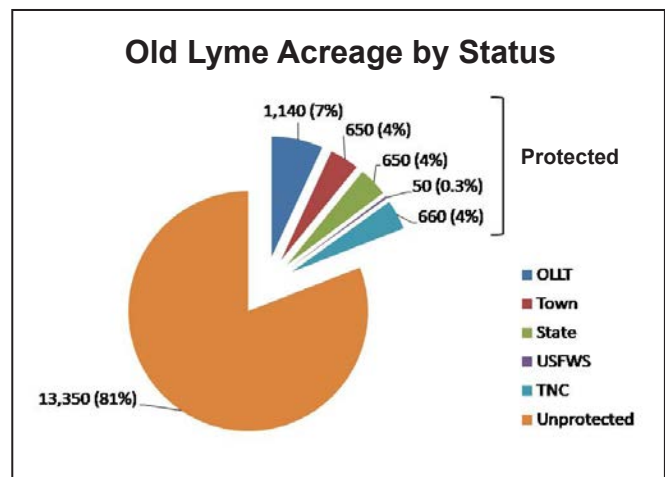
The Town owns five publicly accessible nature preserves, totaling about 600 acres. Another 46-acre town-owned parcel protects a valuable water source. Thus, approximately 650 acres of open space are owned by the Town.

Approximately 650 acres are owned by the State, including the 103-acre McCurdy-Salisbury forest parcel on Town Woods Road, with the balance being primarily saltwater marshland. (Also owned by the State is the 400-acre National Guard Stone Ranch military reservation. Though heavily forested, the land is not open to the public, nor is it dedicated to protecting habitat or mitigating climate change. Therefore, it is not included as open space in our analysis.) Importantly, DEEP

provided significant assistance and funding toward many OLLT, Town, and TNC holdings. All three organizations have received funding through DEEP's Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition (OSWA) grant program. Indeed, more than 50% of the cost of several of OLLT's recent acquisitions has been covered by this program. Thus, the total open space acreage in Old Lyme that the State is credited with protecting is much higher than the outright acreage it owns in fee.

USFWS owns the 50-acre parcel on the upper Lieutenant River that formerly belonged to noted ornithologist Roger Tory Peterson.

TNC holds conservation restriction easements on nearly 630 acres, and also has about 30 acres of fee-owned land. Limited development is permitted on eased lands, which remain in private ownership and are not open to the public.



As shown in the figure, these combined protected holdings constitute approximately 19% of the total land acreage in Old Lyme. Together, OLLT, the Town, and TNC are protecting about 15% of the town acreage, exceeding the 11% Green Plan goal for land conservation partners.

And what of the future? Although we currently enjoy considerable open space in Old Lyme, there remain over 500 acres of undeveloped woodlands in town with the potential for enlarging and/or linking existing OLLT and Town preserves. Such acquisitions could also help build our town-wide system of walking trails, as well as protect some of the unique and important wild lands that we are fortunate to have within our limits (see "Lyme Forest Block" on page 3). We hope to realize these aspirations through continued alliances with the Town and DEEP, whose OSWA Grant Program has been essential for our open space purchases.

Note, certain assumptions were required for the above assessment. OLLT welcomes any additional insights into open space acreage in Old Lyme that would help refine the calculations.

# We gratefully acknowledge those who have generously donated to OLLT

## (July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018)

Marie R. Abraham	Amy Conley	George & Gunilla James	Mr. & Mrs. John Rixon
Patricia Abraham	Jeff & Betsey Cooley	Sue & Don Joffray	Ruth Robins
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Miriam L. Beardsley	William K. Dunbar III	Joan & Ken Levin	Susan Duncan)
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Kay Knight Clarke	Pamela Hine	Sloane M. Danenhower &	Elizabeth Worthington
Stanley Kolber &	Paul & Linda Holt	Judith A. Read	David Wurzer
Christina Clayton	Peter T. Hunt	Eleanor Rickel	Christy & Jason Zelek
Ken & Eileen Coffee	Loisann Huntley	Mr. & Mrs. William Ridgeway III	
Susanne Colten-Carey	Andrea Griffis Inglis	Michael Riggio	

***Thank you all!***

## Fifth Annual OLLT Kayak Regatta: September 16

This year's trip will explore the picturesque area around Lord Cove. We will leave from Pilgrim Landing, enter Lord Cove, and paddle past Goose Island to a landing at Whaleback point on OLLT's John Lohmann CT River Preserve. Here we will disembark briefly to view the parcel and enjoy refreshments provided by the Trust. (Landlubbers may join us at Whaleback point by following

### The Search for Hidden *(Continued from page 3)*

Coult Lane. What resulted was a collaboration in which Kathryn conducted research to identify suitable equipment and appropriate placement locations. It only took a matter of a few days and nights to capture a shot of one of those elusive animals using a motion-sensitive trail camera ("trailcam")! Kathryn, with help from her father, John, and younger sister, Juliette, has been monitoring the trailcam and periodically downloading its captivating images (see photo on page 3).

Kathryn will enter her senior year at LOLHS this fall. Besides conducting the trailcam project this summer, she worked as a day camp counselor and at the library. She's looking forward to majoring in science at college. We're most appreciative of her and her family's help, and eagerly await more intriguing wildlife evidence at our preserves.

For further information on bobcats and the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection Bobcat Project, visit [www.ct.gov/deep](http://www.ct.gov/deep).

the trail which begins on Coult Lane; go to [www.oldlymelandtrust.org](http://www.oldlymelandtrust.org) to access the trail map.) On the return trip, time permitting we will visit a beach on Calves Island, also held by OLLT. Those desiring a longer trip may elect to venture further into Lord Cove on an additional loop through one of the many marsh islands prior to returning to Pilgrim Landing.

The event is suitable for families, and will be held rain or shine. Personal Flotation Devices (PFD's) are required. Meet at Pilgrim Landing at 1 pm. Allow approximately 2-2.5 hours for this excursion.

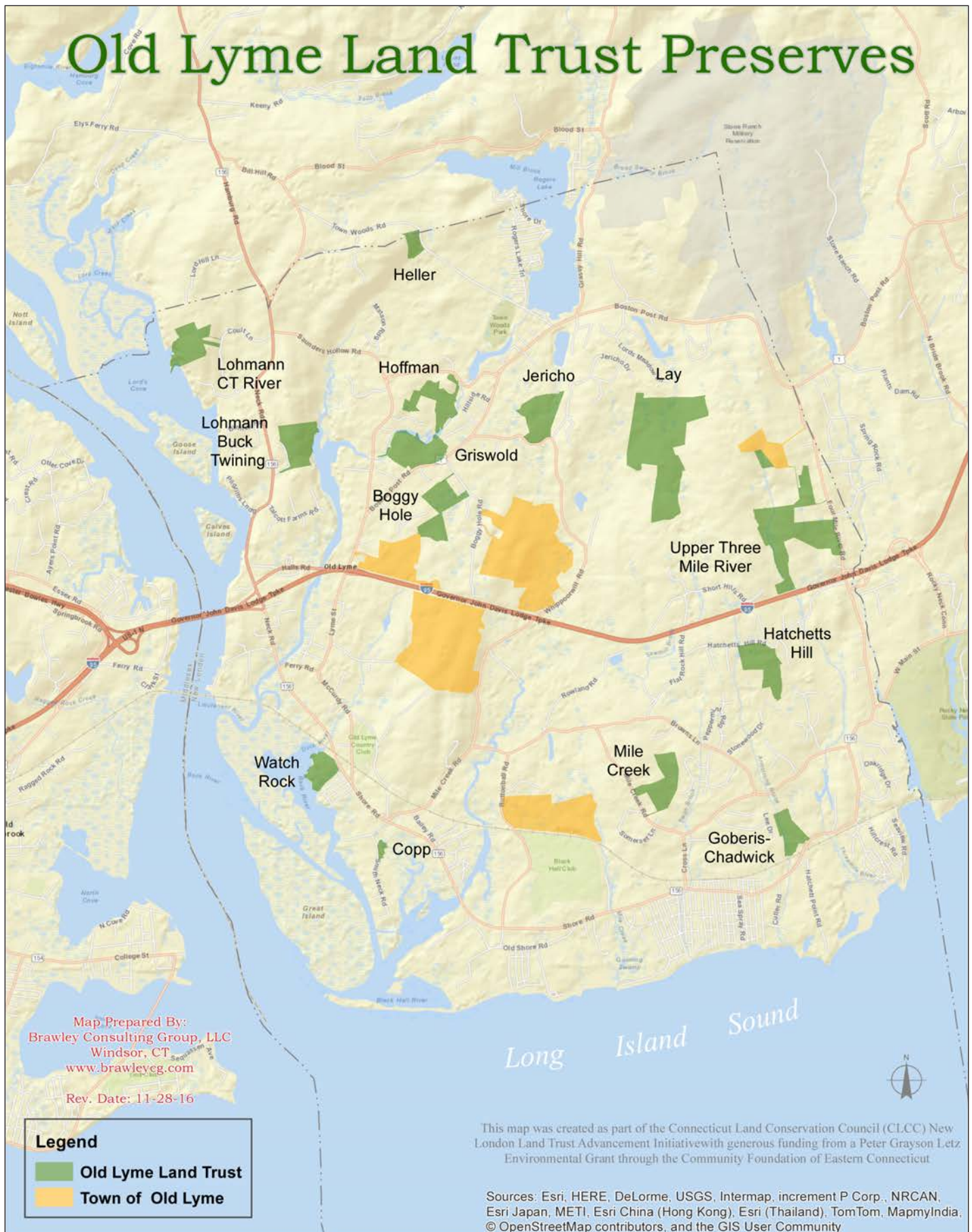
For more information, contact Fred Fenton at: [fredfenton16@gmail.com](mailto:fredfenton16@gmail.com).



OLLT's popular kayak regatta is a great way for paddlers of all skill levels to explore special places along the local waterways. Pictured in the foreground are Rick Goulding and sons Jackson and Ben.



# Old Lyme Land Trust Preserves



See reverse for descriptions of the preserves and directions.

Visit [www.ouldlymelandtrust.org](http://www.ouldlymelandtrust.org) for downloadable trail maps, land history, and other information. Enjoy!

# Old Lyme Land Trust Preserves

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**Boggy Hole** – 45 acres. Northern part has wetlands and abundant wildlife. Southern section has wonderful ledge outcrops and an old cart path through open woodland with large trees. Directions: Boston Post Rd to Boggy Hole Rd, trailhead about 600' from intersection on right, OR enter via the town-owned Champlain North Preserve: Boston Post Rd to Rose Ln, right at T onto Hillwood Rd, park in cul-de-sac at end.

Belton **Copp** – 4 acres. Borders a state-owned 32-acre tidal marsh, with views of sunrise and marsh wildlife. Wind chimes and a grove of fairy houses in a garden adorned with fanciful objects are along the “Whimsy Walk” created by local girl scouts. Directions: Rte 156 to 14 Smith Neck Rd, on left 0.25 mi. from turn. Walk through the grassy clearing with a granite bench under a lone cedar tree to the trailhead.

**Goberis-Chadwick** – 25 acres. Bordered by Armstrong Brook. Features rock ledges, huge boulders and stone walls. Alive with spring peepers in early spring and red-tailed hawks year round. Directions: Take the gravel drive at 372 Shore Rd (Rte 156), bear to the left to the parking area. There is a private home on the right; please do not park in the driveway.

George & Woodward H. **Griswold** – 51 acres. Contains forested uplands and ledges, vernal pools, and riparian lowland. Also the site of a CT DEEP fish ladder. There are beavers in the pond and several species of ducks. Many migratory birds visit. Directions: Parking area off Boston Post Rd, directly opposite Stoneleigh Knoll, 2 mi. west of Rogers Lake.

**Hatchetts Hill** – 44 acres. Boardwalks cross Armstrong Brook, which originates here. Land is flat, easy walking through woods of large oak, beech, and maple. The blue trail crosses wetlands that are a haven for amphibians. Directions: Four Mile River Rd to Hatchetts Hill Rd just south of I-95. At Machnik Dr (0.65 mi. from turn) the road goes straight but becomes much narrower. Preserve is 0.15 mi. further on left.

Bob and Esther **Heller** – 16 acres. Flat ledges along the uphill trail are thought to have been used by Native Americans for ritual ceremonies. Directions: Boston Post Rd to 80 Town Woods Rd, on the left just before the big curve where the road enters Lyme.

**Hoffman-Matthiessen-DeGerenday** – 40 acres. Open woodlands with laurel stands and soft patches of ferns. There is a pond formed by an earthen dam, where you may see beavers. Many species of birds present. Directions: Boston Post Rd to 95 Sill Ln (0.3 mi. from turn if Sill Ln is taken from the east, or 1.5 mi. if taken from the west.)

**Jericho** – 50 acres. Dramatic ledge outcrops and thick conifer stands. Ladyslipper orchids in June. Wonderful views from the high points. The fieldstone-clad house is OLLT owned and rented; please respect the tenants' privacy. Directions: Boston Post Rd to Whippoorwill Rd, 0.5 mi. on the left at 44 Whippoorwill Rd.

**Lay** – 185 acres. OLLT's largest preserve. High secluded woodland with considerable wetlands in the lower sectors. Blue heron rookery on site. Directions: Boston Post Rd to Lords Meadow Ln then straight into planned Lords Woods development. Trailhead at 3rd asphalt driveway apron on right.

John **Lohmann CT River** – 42 acres. Lovely terraced fields with a few huge trees, edged by stone walls, leading down to Whaleback Point and frontage on Lords Cove in the CT River. Directions: Trailhead at 33 Coult Ln, off Neck Rd (Rte 156). Park along Coult Ln, but please do not park in front of or directly across from driveways. Can also be accessed from the river by kayak or canoe.

**Lohmann-Buck-Twining** – 46 acres. Includes 2,000 feet of Lieutenant River frontage. Panoramic views of the CT River (west) and the Lieutenant River (east) from the top of the ridge. Bald eagles are often seen here. Directions: Rte 156 to Riverview Dr (right turn at mailbox that says #79). Park in the graveled area at the sharp bend of the road.

**Mile Creek** – 44 acres. Secluded woodland with wetlands created by Swan Brook. You might see turkey, deer, amphibians, and other wildlife here. See website to download a fun self-guided tour along the Mile Creek Educational Nature Trail. Directions: Trailhead parking near mailbox at 191 Mile Creek Rd, 0.2 miles west of Mile Creek School.

**Upper Three Mile River** – 160 acres. Part of the largest remaining undeveloped block of land in Old Lyme. Varied terrain includes cliffs, open ridges, a long piece of the Three Mile River, amazing stone walls, thick conifer groves, stands of laurel, wetlands, and woodlands. A very special place! Level: moderately difficult. Directions: Trailhead across from town transfer station on Four Mile River Rd. Park at the I-95 Exit 71 Commuter Parking Lot a few hundred yards south.

Elizabeth B. Karter **Watch Rock** – 25 acres. Bordered by the Duck River on two sides. Spectacular views from rocky shoreline across the water and tidal wetlands to the CT River and Long Island Sound. Varied habitats of woodlands, meadow, and spruce grove mean there is plentiful wildlife. Directions: McCurdy Rd from Old Lyme town center, cross Rte 156, right turn on Joel Dr, then a left and a quick right to the parking lot. Also accessible by water via kayak or canoe.