



Photo: M. Burns, Looking South from Devils Hopyard State Park Lookout

Lower Connecticut River Land Trust Annual Report 2022

Supporting the Conservation Needs of the Land Trusts and Communities of the Lower Connecticut River Region

www.lcrlt.org

The Lower Connecticut River Land Trust works to conserve, study, steward, and promote the unique values and scientific significance, natural and working lands, and historic, ecologic, cultural, and scenic resources of the communities of the Lower Connecticut River Valley Region.

2022 Board Members

- * President – Kristina White, Lyme Land Trust
- * Treasurer – Joe Samolis, Middletown
- * Secretary – Michael Zarfos, Deep River Land Trust
- * David Brown – Middlesex Land Trust
- * Jim Irish – Middlefield
- * Gail Reynolds – Haddam Land Trust
- * Dr. Melvin Woody – Ct River Gateway Commission

2022 Permanent Members

- * Jenny Kitsen – Chester Land Trust
- * Gail Reynolds – Haddam Land Trust
- * Jim Denham – Essex Land Trust
- * Kristen White – Lyme Land Trust
- * David Brown – Middlesex Land Trust
- * Tom Elliott – Westbrook Land Conservation Trust
- * Michael Urban – Old Saybrook Land Trust
- * Michael Zarfos – Deep River Land Trust
- * David Bingham – Salem Land Trust
- * Joseph Porcaro – Berlin Land Trust
- * Margot Burns – RiverCOG
- * Charlene Janecek – Chester
- * Anthony Salvatore – Cromwell
- * Karl Kilduff – Clinton



Photo: J. Preston, Lord Cove, Lower CT River

- * Angus McDonald – Deep River
- * Laura Francis – Durham
- * Irene Haines – East Haddam
- * David Cox – East Hampton
- * Norm Needleman – Essex
- * Bob McGarry – Haddam
- * Nancy Gorski – Killingworth
- * David Lahm – Lyme
- * Jim Irish – Middlefield
- * Joe Samolis – Middletown
- * Carl Fortuna – Old Saybrook
- * Tim Griswold – Old Lyme
- * Ryan Curley – Portland
- * Karl Kildoff – Westbrook
- * Dr. Melvin Woody – Gateway

With the worst of the pandemic behind us 2022 proved to be a productive year for the Lower Connecticut River Land Trust and included a new website, adopting the Land Trusts Alliance's Standards and Practices as our guiding principles, launching our first regional fund raising project as a regional supporting organization for stewardship initiatives, and receiving our largest donation to date as the year closed. 2022 meetings were held virtually with one meeting in November held as a hybrid meeting.

The new website has provided a beautiful communication platform and launch site for the Trail Challenge Initiative

that seeks to connect the residents of Connecticut to the land trusts, trails and day trip amenities of the lower River region. The project challenges hikers to take at least one hike in each member community and to do more if they can. Trail resources are provided for each community and t-shirts and hats are for sale to raise funds for a regional stewardship fund for our member land trusts and communities.



Photo: M. Burns, Clinton Land Trust, Elliot Preserve

With Kristina White, Executive Director of the Lyme Land Trust as President, the LCRLT not only accomplished the important milestones listed above but others as well. They include award of the 2021 Melvin Woody Lower Connecticut River Conservation Award to Janet Stone of the Deep River Land Trust. A member of their Board of Directors for more than 30 years, Janet is a Research Geologist Emerita with the U.S. Geological Survey, where she specializes in compiling geologic maps of glacial sediments in southern New England, especially in Connecticut and Massachusetts. She is the first author of the Quaternary Geologic Map of Connecticut and Long Island Sound Basin, among many other geologic publications. In the process of producing numerous geologic maps, Janet has become proficient in GIS mapping techniques and now uses these tools to produce accurately located property boundary maps and trail maps for the Land Trust. Janet was also a member of the Deep River Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commission for many years. She has a deep commitment to the protection of the earth's natural environment and preserving the special landscapes of the lower Connecticut River valley.

The land trust explored an agricultural grant obtained by the Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Government's (RiverCOG) Regional Agricultural Council through the State of Connecticut Department of Agriculture, to implement soil health agricultural practices and match

farmers with land owners willing to lease their land, and applied for a summer intern to do a terrestrial *Regional Invasive Species Municipal / Land Trust Stewardship Needs Assessment* to the 1stGENYale internship program but did not have any luck in finding an applicant.

At the beginning of the year Berlin Land Trust joined as a new member represented by Joseph Porcaro. New representatives for 2022 include Jim Irish, who also became a member of the Board in April, for the Town of Middlefield, and John Ogren and Anna Termine for the Old Saybrook Land Trust.

The land trust will continue to be a member of the Connecticut Land Conservation Council and looks forward to continuing our work with them concerning our next steps after our 2021 Land Trust Advancement Initiative to improve the organizations bylaws and governance structure, and our opportunity to participate in their Connecticut Conservation Partnership Program.

Projects that will be carried forward for our members and the LCRLT include continued website development; our trail adventure project and further development of stewardship funding opportunities; endowment creation and due diligence funding for both the Land Trust Exchange Land Trusts and the LCRLT.



Photo: J. Preston, Wild Rice, Lower CT River