



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

## LOWER CONNECTICUT RIVER LAND TRUST ANNUAL REPORT 2018

### MISSION

*TO CONSERVE AND STEWARD THE NATURAL AND WORKING LANDS AND THE HISTORICAL, CULTURAL, AND SCENIC RESOURCES OF THE COMMUNITIES OF THE LOWER CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY REGION AND THE ORGANIZATIONS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO THIS MISSION.*

It was a momentous year for the Lower Connecticut River Land Trust which began 2018 with a change in bylaws, board structure, membership, a new Executive Director in Sam Gold, and greater acknowledgment of its geographic extent and land use planning contributions and responsibilities. The intent of conserving not only the lower Connecticut River Gateway Conservation Zone but the surrounding towns of the Lower Connecticut River Valley Region and the organizations that also contribute to this mission has opened the organization to greater opportunity for collaboration and partnership.

An interim 6 month Board of Directors was elected on February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and included the Executive Board of the Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments and a Representative of the Connecticut River Gateway Commission, who is a permanent Board of Directors member. They included:

- \* President – Bonnie Reemsnyder, Old Lyme;
- \* Vice President – Michael Maniscalco, East Hampton;
- \* Treasurer – Carl Fortuna, Old Saybrook;
- \* Secretary – Noel Bishop, Westbrook;



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

- \* At-Large Member – Cathy Iino, Killingworth;
- \* At-Large Member – Anthony Salvatore, Cromwell;
- \* Dr. Melvin Woody – Connecticut River Gateway Commission, and alternate Claire Matthews.

The 2018 Annual Meeting was held July 25<sup>th</sup> and it was agreed that the slate of officers would consist of the interim Board of Directors until the December meeting. At the full membership LCRLT meeting held on December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018 officers elected for the first 6 months of 2019 include:



Photo: USFWS, Mallards, Salt Meadow Unit, Westbrook

- \* President – Mike Maniscalco, East Hampton;
- \* Vice President – Anthony Salvatore, Cromwell;
- \* Treasurer – Noel Bishop, Westbrook ;
- \* Secretary – Lauren Gister, Chester;
- \* At-Large Member – Bonnie Reemsnyder, Old Lyme;
- \* At-Large Member Cathy Iino, Killingworth; and
- \* Dr. Melvin Woody, Gateway Commission, and alternate Claire Matthews.



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

Projects undertaken in 2018 included the Fund Development Initiative with Consultant Tom Curren and the land trusts of the Lower Connecticut River and Coastal Region Land Trust Exchange (LTE), and the addition to the bylaws to include the LTE as an advisory sub-committee if they so choose. The LTE is an informal collaboration of the 14 land trusts of the lower Connecticut River region and coordinated by the Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments.

The Fund Development Initiative for 2018 consisted of both local fund development for the land trusts of the LTE and development of regional funding sources for capacity building of the LCRLT and regional land and resource conservation purposes. 4 fall workshops were given by Tom Curren focused on annual fund development, capital campaigns, and endowments. The initiative was made possible by the Connecticut River Gateway Commission as a matching grant of 2:1 up to \$5,000 if funds were contributed from all participating LTE land trusts. LTE land trusts contributed \$3,344.00 towards the matching grant and Gateway's \$5,000 grant was realized. The Gateway Commission also generously granted the LCRLT a \$5,000.00 capacity building grant. Both these contributions were greatly appreciated.

Website development, endowment creation for both the LTE land trusts and the LCRLT, due diligence funding, and proactive land owner outreach are projects that will carry forward into the New Year.



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