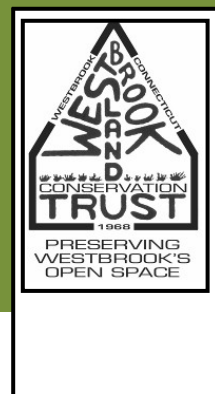


Fall 2018

WLCT TIDINGS

P. O. Box 1124, Westbrook, CT 06498 (860) 399-5224 email:WestbrookLCT@yahoo.com



The Westbrook Land Conservation Trust Newsletter

President's Message by Tom Elliott

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The fall weather is upon us! This is a wonderful time of year to go outside and enjoy nature, go for a walk, hear the migrating birds, feel the crunch of the leaves under foot, and enjoy the beautiful fall colors. The Westbrook Land Conservation Trust is working hard to ensure that people in our community have the opportunity to enjoy our open space and we ask that you please consider supporting the Land Trust by becoming a member.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tom Elliott, President, Westbrook Land Conservation Trust

ANNUAL MEETING

Join us on **Tuesday, election day, November 6th at 7:00pm**
Westbrook Mulvey Municipal Center
Multi-Media Room.

Featured Speaker

Dr. Terry Doyle

(The mushroom detective of Killingworth)

Will present an illustrated presentation called

Mushroom Collecting for the Table

Basically, the goal is to tell people how to avoid harming themselves! With the heavy rains this year, mushrooms are abundant. This is a very timely presentation and should be enjoyed by all.



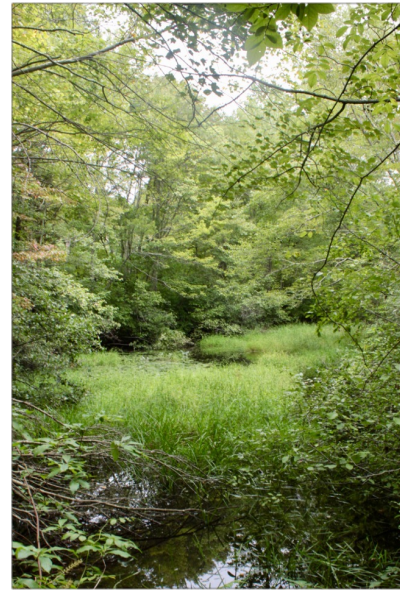
WLCT Mission Statement: The Westbrook Land Conservation Trust acquires, preserves, and actively stewards its own real property, including wetlands and woodlands, to conserve natural resources and to promote the scientific, educational, and passive recreational uses of open space, all for the benefit of the public. In addition, the Trust supports the town of Westbrook in its endeavors to conserve and educate the public regarding the value of its natural environment.

Board of Directors: • Tom Elliott, President; • Barbara Helander, Vice President • Kate Gilstad, Treasurer t, properties
• Doug White and John Cotton • Bill Neale, Membership Chair; • Kristin Elliott Leas, Alternate; • Sarah Greaves, Counselor

Land Portraits: *Lynn Bridge Property*



The Lynn Bridge spans the Falls River where Lynn Road meets East Pond Meadow Road in the north of town. Built in 1933 by the WPA, the bridge is scheduled for replacement, using the original stones. In 1999 the Trust acquired a 0.45 acre parcel on the western side abutting the River - see the pictures. The property has deep pool of water in its center, providing a quiet home for amphibians and wetland wildlife. As well, it can act as a buffer for the river, in dry and flooding times. Indicated by a WLCT signpost, this parcel is worth a visit, and is important to monitor. Do you live nearby?



Upcoming election issue!

Ballot question #2 asks whether there should be a constitutional limit on the State Legislature's ability to sell or otherwise dispose of any State real property - land and buildings. This amendment is aimed at increasing the transparency of state property transfers by requiring:

- *Legislation for each piece of property being transferred or sold
- *A public hearing on the property transfer
- *A supermajority to approve certain transfers

Vote **YES** to approve this amendment to increase transparency of state property transfers (*recommended by WLCT*)

Plum Island Update from the Plum Island Coalition

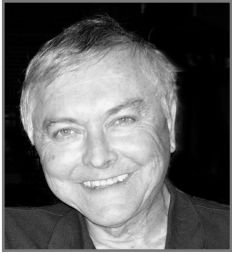
The effort to preserve Plum Island is ongoing. In 2016 a coalition of organizations, Save the Sound, Group for the East End, Peconic Baykeeper, and three individuals, [filed a lawsuit](#) against the federal government to block the sale of Plum Island. They attained a good deal of success in 2018. The Preserve Plum Island Coalition, itself, is not a party to and not involved in the lawsuit. The parties argued that the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the sale was inadequate, that conservation alternatives were ignored, and that the agencies therefore violated the National Environmental Protection Act, Endangered Species Act, Coastal Zone Management Act, and other federal laws in putting the island up for sale. Judge Denis Hurley [denied the government's motion](#) to dismiss the lawsuit in January 2018, allowing the lawsuit to go forward. This alone was a victory and very encouraging.

Yet it gets better. In August 2018, after the ruling on the motion to dismiss, the federal government appeared to acknowledge most of the arguments: The General Services Administration (GSA) published a notice of intent to prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS). The re-done document would consider a more detailed environmental study and analysis and is supposed to adequately address the provisions of the Endangered Species Act and the Coastal Zone Management Act. The GSA will start a new public process for input, analysis, and review in 2019.

The lawsuit plaintiffs are concerned that the new SEIS does not appear to be directed toward correcting the primary legal flaw in the original EIS process – the agencies' failure to consider conservation or a conservation sale of the island as an alternative. The plaintiff organizations are continuing to advocate for that in the SEIS process and potentially through continuation of the lawsuit. The Morrison Forester law firm is working with Save the Sound's attorneys and representing the plaintiffs pro bono.

In reaction to the lawsuit, the Department of Homeland Security has shut down visitor access to Plum Island. "Cancelling research visits and public tours of Plum Island without warning is a real problem," said Chris Cryder, lands campaign manager at Connecticut Fund for the Environment/Save the Sound. "It undermines research efforts just when accurate data are needed most, as agencies, lawmakers, and regional stakeholders ponder the future of the island."

REFLECTING ON THE LOSS THIS YEAR OF FORMER MEMBERS



John Doane joined the WLCT board after retiring from CL&P. He served as our property manager, driving around town to check on the condition of our land parcels. John was instrumental in helping with tree removal, developing management plans for our parcels, and making sure our properties were well maintained. At our board meetings, John always had a warm greeting for all attendees and was a positive force on the Land Trust. We will miss seeing him at Land Trust events and around town.



Tom O'Dell helped found the Trust fifty years ago. Known through the town for his tenure as Chairman of the Conservation Commission, Tom was also active with the Land Trust. Along with others, he maintained relations with potential land donors, keeping them informed of the protective value of their holdings and the good their contributions might do. Tom's initiative from the beginning was greatly appreciated.



Sandy Towel was known for her hats and lively spirit during clean up events. She also gathered History and anecdotes about the Leatherman, and led visits to Leatherman's Cave as an interesting outdoor event. Recently, nearly a hundred people attended a lecture and hike to the cave. For years, Sandy kept minutes and records for the Land Trust. Her contributions will be missed.



Gordon Helander, along with his wife BJ Helander, joined others as the first members in 1968. He was very active for many years, often filling in for BJ, if absent. Gordon was known for his reliable attendance and warm smile and spirit at clean up events. His departure leaves a void.



John Clements was a long-time Chairman of the Inland Wetlands Commission. His mother was Mildred Clements, a former planning Commission member. His warm, smiling personality will be missed.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday November 7, 7pm: Annual Meeting

Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe, Bird Conservation Programs Manager for Audubon Connecticut will give a talk entitled: Westbrook Important Bird Areas – Their Bird-life and Stewardship Needs Location: Town Hall Media Rm

Sunday November 18, 1pm: Town Clean-Up

Help clean up WLCT's parcels located south of Rt 1. Bring work gloves and a can-do attitude! Meet at the town hall

Upcoming Board Meetings

Every month on the 2nd Wednesday at 7pm in Town Hall, except for December, June and July. November's meeting is always on Election Day. All members are invited! The Annual Open House is coming up, typically on Super Bowl Sunday.



Westbrook Land Conservation Trust

P. O. Box 1124, Westbrook, CT 06498

(860) 399-5224 email: WestbrookLCT@yahoo.com

Names: (Please list all family members)

Address: _____

Phone: _____

_____ Individual \$15/yr
_____ Family \$25/yr
_____ Patron \$50/yr
_____ Donor \$100/yr
_____ Life Membership \$300
_____ Additional contribution
for land acquisitions

WLCT has gone "GREEN." By providing your email address, members will receive notification of special activities including nature walks, property clean ups and a newsletter highlighting annual accomplishments.

Please make checks payable to "Westbrook Land Conservation Trust"
Dues and contributions are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

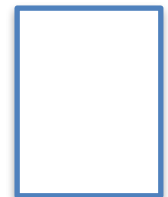
circle one

Yes No Please contact me about volunteer opportunities.
Yes No Please contact me about stewardship.
Yes No Please have a director call me to discuss land acquisitions.

Membership Form



Westbrook Land Conservation Trust
P.O. Box 1124 Westbrook, CT 06498



1968 - 2018

