

The MIDDLESEX LANDSCAPE

Serving the towns of Durham, Middlefield, Middletown, Cromwell, Portland and East Hampton

Sellew Fundraising Effort a Success

Thanks to overwhelming support from the community, we are proud to announce that we have purchased the Sellew property in East Hampton. As many of you know, the Land Trust was awarded a State of Connecticut Open Space Watershed Land Acquisition Grant to acquire the property, contingent on coming up with a 50% local match.

Through the tireless efforts of several of our Board members and the generosity of our donors, we were able to raise the \$30,000 necessary to match the state grant. A listing of the groups and individuals that made this purchase possible is included in this newsletter on page 3. Our thanks go out to each and every one of you who contributed to this worthwhile project.

Upcoming Dedications

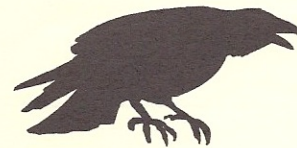
The Middlesex Land Trust will be hosting two dedications this spring. We hope you can join us!

The dedication of the Oak Ledges Preserve will take place on Sunday May 6, at 98 South Road in Portland. The event will begin at 1:00 PM and will feature a hike of the property. John LeShane, long time board member of the Middlesex Land Trust and donor and steward of the Oak Ledges Preserve, will lead the hike. Refreshments will be served following the hike.

On Saturday May 12 we will be dedicating the Sellew Open Space parcel, located at the end of Dogwood Drive in East Hampton. The ceremony will begin at 10:00 AM and follow with a hike of the property. Refreshments will be served after the hike.

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MLT Annual Meeting

Keep the evening of May 21, 2001 open on your calendars. The Land Trust Annual Meeting will be held that Monday night at 7:00 P.M. at the deKoven House in Middletown. We will be sending out more information about the meeting as we get closer to the date. The meeting will feature a presentation on Meshomasic State Forest and, of course, a look at what we have accomplished over the last year, thanks in no small measure to your support.



The *Chairman's Corner*

I am happy to report that, by the time you read this newsletter, we will have closed on the Sellew Open Space parcel in East Hampton. Our first foray into the State Department of Environmental Protection Open Space matching grant program was an adventure and a learning experience for us and we are pleased to have met the challenge. We extend a very large thank you, once again, to each of the individuals and organizations who teamed up with us to make this acquisition a reality. As the saying goes "We couldn't have done it without you"!

We are also pleased to report another milestone. Nonprofit organizations love milestones since they help us to focus our energies and to realize that we are having a positive impact in our communities.

Past Land Trust Chairman and long time board member John LeShane, aka "Meshomasic Man" and "Iron John" and a number of other monikers, offered the land trust an 8.25 acre portion of his property which abuts the Meshomasic State Forest. With this wonderful donation came a few provisions. John would be the steward, and the property would be ringed with trails and uniquely named areas of interest. We would expect nothing less. Thank you, John. The milestone... we now have over 100 acres of property protected in the Town of Portland by the Middlesex Land Trust.

Also included in this newsletter is our work party schedule and who to contact for each of the planned workdays, as well as some other activities you may be interested in. Our work parties typically start at 9:00 AM and run for three to four hours. Activities are family friendly and all volunteers, regardless of age or experience, are invited. Starting on this page (and continued on page 4) are short descriptions of the particular tasks we hope to accomplish and the location and time we plan to meet. If you have an interest in one or two of the events, call the director, steward or volunteer in charge and ask about details, directions and parking. You will find that all of these activities are fun, require only a short time commitment on your part, and are a great way to meet interesting people. Last but not least, your help will go a long way in aiding the Middlesex Land Trust to preserve our natural heritage.

Alan

Spring Activities and Work Parties

April 16, 2001 (Monday) – King Preserve - Middletown
Meet at the preserve at 80 Sisk Street in Middletown at 5:00 PM. We will post boundaries, put up signs, and review and address the encroachment issue. For additional details contact John LeShane, 342-0658.

April 21, 2001 – Jackson Preserve/South Farms/Delbert Harris - Middletown
Meet at Jackson Preserve at 9:00 AM on Wilcox Street, where we will plant trees adjacent to boundary pins. Then, we will move up Sumner Brook to our South Farms parcel for boundary marking and general

cleanup. If time permits we will also visit the Delbert Harris Preserve. For additional details contact John LeShane, 342-0658.

April 28, 2001 – Taylor Brook Preserve - Portland/East Hampton town line
Meet at Taylor Brook preserve at 9:00 AM. Work will include control of Japanese barberry, continued trail clearing and trash pickup along Middle Haddam Road in Portland. Alan Hurst will lead the work, 267-2799.



(continued on page 4)

Spring Activities and Work Parties, cont.

May 7, 2001 (Monday) – Holmgren Preserve – East Hampton/Haddam town line

Meet at preserve entrance on Clarkhurst Road in Haddam to control Japanese barberry, check on postings and hike to the utility right-of-way. For information contact Alan Hurst, 267-2799.



May 19, 2001 – Benson Preserves - Middletown

Meet at juncture of Stantack and Spruce Brook Roads at 9 AM. We will post boundaries, and do general cleanup and trail building/clearing. For additional details contact John LeShane, 342-0658.

Think Globally, Act Locally 

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The Middlesex Land Trust
Membership Application

Name(s) _____

Address _____

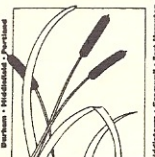
Phone _____

- This is an address change
- Annual Membership..... \$10
- Sustaining Membership.....\$35
- Patron Membership\$500
- Life Membership\$1000
- I would like to learn more about donating land or conservation easements.
- I would like to donate time.
- Stewardship Fund \$ _____

Please make checks payable to:
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27 Washington Street, Middletown, CT 06457

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