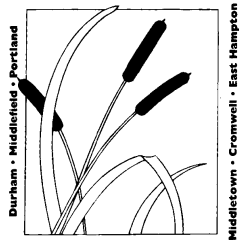


MIDDLESEX



LAND TRUST

The MIDDLESEX LANDSCAPE

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

Volume 13, No. 3

The Middlesex Land Trust, Inc.

Fall 2001

MLT Annual Meeting Features Local Conservationist

Your land trust held its annual meeting on May 21, 2001 at the deKoven House in Middletown. The meeting featured as its guest speaker John LeShane, President and founder of the Meshomasic Hiking Club and a long time Board member of the Middlesex Land Trust. John, who has spent a number of years researching the history of and hiking every hill and dale of Meshomasic State Forest, provided stories and anecdotal history of the State of Connecticut's oldest state forest during this combination slide and lecture presentation.

At the meeting, Middlesex Land Trust members took the opportunity to thank John for his dedication to the land trust and the local environment, and to recognize his recent donation of the 8¼ acre Oak Ledges Preserve. John was presented with an honorary membership in the

Land Trust and a plaque commemorating his ten years of service on the Board of Directors.

The annual meeting also featured the election of officers and directors. Elected as officers for 2001-2002 were:

- Alan Hurst, East Hampton, Chairman
- Katherine Doak, Middletown, Vice-Chair
- Donna Monnes, Cromwell, Treasurer
- Peter Marteka, Moodus, Secretary

Elected as directors for three years were:

- William Hincks, East Hampton
- William Howard, Esq., Middletown
- Diane Moore, Durham
- Joyce Powzyk, Middletown
- Thomas Wells, East Hampton
- Stuart Winquist, East Hampton

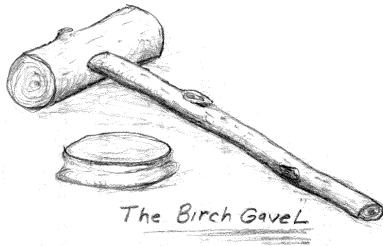
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Cobalt Landing Launch To Open

The Land Trust has re-opened car-top boat access to the Connecticut River at the Cobalt Landing Preserve at the end of Oakum Dock Road, located on the Portland/East Hampton town line. On Saturday, October 20 at 1:00 PM, members and the general public are invited to 'break in' the new canoe/kayak launch, and join us for a fall foliage tour of the nearby reaches of the River. If weather and currents allow, we will paddle a couple of miles west to Pecauset Meadows, home to two Land Trust properties that are readily accessible only by water. Please note that life jackets are required by state law. The launch is suitable for car-top boats light enough to hand-carry - there is no trailer access.



The *Chairman's Corner*

This issue of our newsletter features a re-cap of our annual meeting and a flurry of end of the year property transactions. The annual meeting is that time when the board and members get to visit and reflect on accomplishments during the past year and goals for the future. As of the date of the annual meeting we were responsible for 37 preserves comprising 450 acres. In Portland, we passed the 100-acre mark during the year. Membership has reached an all time high of 304 members.

2000-2001 was another active year for the Middlesex Land Trust. Our accomplishments include:

- ◆ Purchase of the 37 acre Sellew Preserve in East Hampton with a DEP Open Space Grant
- ◆ Receipt of the Oak Ledges Preserve in Portland totaling 8 acres
- ◆ Donation offers of:
 - Three parcels in East Hampton totaling 43 acres
 - Two parcels in Middletown totaling 2 acres
 - One 4 acre parcel in Portland
- ◆ Receipt of a Rockfall Foundation Grant to help with stewardship and provide educational programs in Portland and East Hampton
- ◆ Dedications of the Oak Ledges and the Sellew Open Space preserves
- ◆ A booth at the Portland Fair with the Meshomasic Hiking Club
- ◆ Sponsorship of programs on Raptors, Wildlife Predators and Family Lands in several of our communities

The annual meeting allows us (forces us) to stop and measure our successes (and failures) and regroup for the future. This meeting was a particularly joyful one for me. The Sellew project was complete and proved we were able to take advantage of the State Open Space program. We had the opportunity to thank and publicly acknowledge John LeShane for ten years of dedication to the land trust (with many years to come in this and other endeavors).

Our next annual meeting will mark the fifteenth anniversary of the Middlesex Land Trust, created on May 11, 1986. To our founders Andy Zepp and Bill Howard, Thank You!

Alan

P.S. To save money this year, we are mailing our membership renewal with the newsletter. We look forward to receiving your renewal. Let us know what you think!



Middlesex Land Trust's Newest Acquisitions

The end of the fiscal year – particularly the month of June – was a busy time for the Middlesex Land Trust as we closed on six new properties. We are excited about our latest acquisitions and send our most sincere thanks to our donors. A brief description of each of the properties is included below. We are currently in the process of acquiring two additional parcels, a 17½ acre property in Portland, and a 24 acre property in East Hampton. These will be featured in a future newsletter.



Pocotopaug Parcel, Bay Road in East Hampton – The Pocotopaug Community Corporation, a tontine dating back to the start of the 20th century, deeded approximately 18 acres of lightly forested woodlands that have been owned by the corporation since its inception. The parcel, which has not yet been officially named by the Land Trust, is a level tract with some defined trails running between Lake Drive and Bay Road in East Hampton, featuring views of Lake Pocotopaug.

Trebert Parcel, Front Street in Middletown – Craig Trebert recently donated his Sumner Brook frontage parcel to the Middlesex Land Trust. This small parcel, also to date unnamed, will be the seventh property that the Land Trust owns in the Sumner Brook corridor. It is located near the Marino Preserve.

Bourgoin Parcel, Serafin Terrace in East Hampton - donated to the Middlesex Land Trust by Doris and Donald Bourgoin. This unnamed 1½ acre preserve includes a portion of Green River within its boundaries. Behind this parcel, at present there are a number of undeveloped open space areas.



Salonia Parcels (2), Bartholomew Road, Middletown – are two pieces of property donated to The Middlesex Land Trust by Joseph Salonia. These parcels are part of an existing and environmentally sensitive subdivision that was developed by Mr. Salonia a number of years ago. One of the two pieces abuts an existing open space corridor and trail system that was created for wildlife protection and enjoyment.

Taylor Hill Preserve, Portland – long time supporters and honorary members Prudence and T. J. Palmer donated this nearly 4 acre preserve to the Middlesex Land Trust. It is on the site of Taylor Hill, off of Breezy Corners Road in Portland. Eventually, it will connect to the Taylor Brook Preserve off of Middle Haddam Road in Portland, also previously donated by Prudence and T.J. and added to by the Land Trust with a one acre acquisition in 1999.



Join the Middlesex Land Trust for a Hike!

The Land Trust will hold two hikes this fall featuring several of our preserves, both new and old. Don't pass up this chance to spend an afternoon enjoying the beauty of the fall woods.



Airline Railroad right-of-way in East Hampton, Sunday, October 7, 2001.

Meet at 1:00 PM at the parking area adjacent to the cranberry bog on Smith Street. The hike will be 3-4 miles over relatively flat terrain, and will include views from the Rappallo viaduct, as well as a loop around the Sellew Preserve. Hiking boots are recommended as some areas may be wet.

Steady rain cancels. For more information, contact Alan Hurst, 267-2799.



Mica Ledges Preserve in Durham, Sunday, October 21, 2001.

Meet at 1:00 PM at the Durham Town Hall – we will carpool from there. The 4 mile hike will include a loop around most of this 88 acre preserve, and feature outstanding views from the mica ledges. The terrain is a moderate up and down and hiking boots are recommended. Steady rain cancels. Contact John LeShane for more information, 342-0658.

Work Party At Sellew Property

Join Land Trust members for a work party at the Sellew Property on Saturday, October 27 at 9:00 AM. Meet at the end of Dogwood Drive in East Hampton. We will do general cleanup and trail building/clearing. Please bring loppers, shovels, garbage bags and gloves. For additional information, contact Doug Bonoff, 267-6867.



The Middlesex Landscape Contributors:

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Articles: Alan Hurst, Doug Bonoff

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:

The Middlesex Land Trust, Inc., and mail to
27 Washington Street, Middletown, CT 06457

Dues & Contributions are Tax Deductible

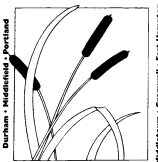
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