

# Mary Edwards' Legacy



**One person can make such an enormous impact on our world — especially in a small town like Granby.**

Take, for example, Mary Edwards. How would Granby's landscape differ if Mary had not supported the Granby Land Trust over the course of her life?

For starters, a great deal of our remaining open spaces would most likely be dotted with houses. Mary donated more than 250 acres of her land to the Land Trust, most of which would be considered prime real estate for a builder. But that's not all Mary contributed to the Land Trust. When it was just a fledgling organization, striving to establish itself in town, Mary supported the Land Trust wholeheartedly. Without Mary, one wonders whether the Land Trust could have become the powerful force that it is. Without Mary, one wonders whether the Land Trust's motto, "Working to Preserve Granby's Natural Heritage," would have the hollow ring of wishful thinking.

Within a year of the Land Trust's founding, Mary contributed the ten-acre "Diamond Ledge" preserve at 27 Broad Hill Road in West Granby. In 1975, she contributed six acres at 22R Oakridge Drive. In subsequent years, she added 29 acres at 84 Hartford Avenue and two acres at 329R Salmon Brook Street. She did not contribute her dearest possession, however. Instead, she continued to own and steward the magnificent 200-acre "Mountain" property at 200 Mountain Road, just to the north of its intersection with Silkey Road. With sweeping views of Springfield, the Connecticut River Valley and Mount Tom, "Mary's Mountain Property" was and continues to be one of Granby's most beautiful places — a place where people go to watch Fourth of July fireworks in distant towns, to see the fall leaves turn color in the val-

leys below and to hike to "Mary's Rock" for a picnic or a moment of quiet contemplation in a beautiful place.

For years, Mary waited to see whether the Land Trust would be worthy to own her "Mountain." In the meantime, she created "The Mountain Trust" as a separate charitable foundation; and gave partial interests in the land to the Trust each year. Her original plan was to have The Mountain Trust continue as a separate legal entity after her death.

She kept her eye on the Land Trust and watched as others continued to make generous gifts of land and money. Cordelia Richards, working through The Nature Conservancy, gave the 47.7-acre Creamer Preserve at 248 Loomis Street; Bertha Dimock donated the 200-acre Stanley K. Dimock Preserve in West Granby and Barkhamsted; Grace Kellogg and Arline Mooney gave 22.1 and 23.1 acres, respectively, at 92 and 94 Loomis Street; Whitey and Paula Johnson gave 41.6 acres on Old Messenger Road; and, members of the Godard family gave almost 115 acres on Donahue Road. Others, as well, too many to list separately, were similarly generous. Another 500 acres were protected through conservation easements.



*Mary Edwards and her mother Helen Bunce Edwards berry picking in 1932.*

This was a lot of activity for a relatively new organization and reflected both the growing sophistication of the Land Trust Board and the increased stature of the organization in the broader community. Mary knew that the Land Trust was now ready to accept her greatest gift. After meeting with representatives of the Land Trust, her lawyers, representatives of the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving and her bank trustees, Mary transferred her Mountain property from her own Foundation to the Granby Land Trust. At the same time, she made provisions for the creation of a separate endowment fund at the Hartford

Foundation for Public Giving for the benefit of the Land Trust. She directed that monies be added to that endowment fund at her death, first to cover the direct costs of maintaining the Mountain, and then to be used for the general purposes of the Land Trust.

By the time Mary passed away on January 15, 2004, the Land Trust owned nearly 1000 acres of land with conservation easements on another 500 acres.

Mary would not want all of the glory. Many others — donors, members, and volunteers — have worked hard, and continue to do so, to assure the continued success of the Land Trust. Still, each of us knows that Mary's unfailing enthusiasm for what we were doing gave us courage when we most needed it. She also taught us by her own example the benefits and joys of forming alliances with others who shared our vision and could help in some way.

We will do our best to be worthy stewards of all that she has given to us and we continue to see the open space of Granby as she did, as a place to be cherished and protected. Enjoy your visit to the Mary Edwards Mountain Property.

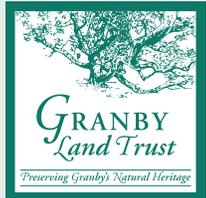
*Mary's unfailing enthusiasm for what we were doing gave us courage when we most needed it.*



Those wishing to honor Mary's memory, and the values she represents, can do the following:

- Join the Granby Land Trust.
- If you have the capacity to do so, give land, a conservation easement or funds for the ongoing operation of the Land Trust. In that way, you will assure that Mary's legacy will be carried on for the benefit of future generations.

For more information, visit [www.GranbyLandTrust.org](http://www.GranbyLandTrust.org)



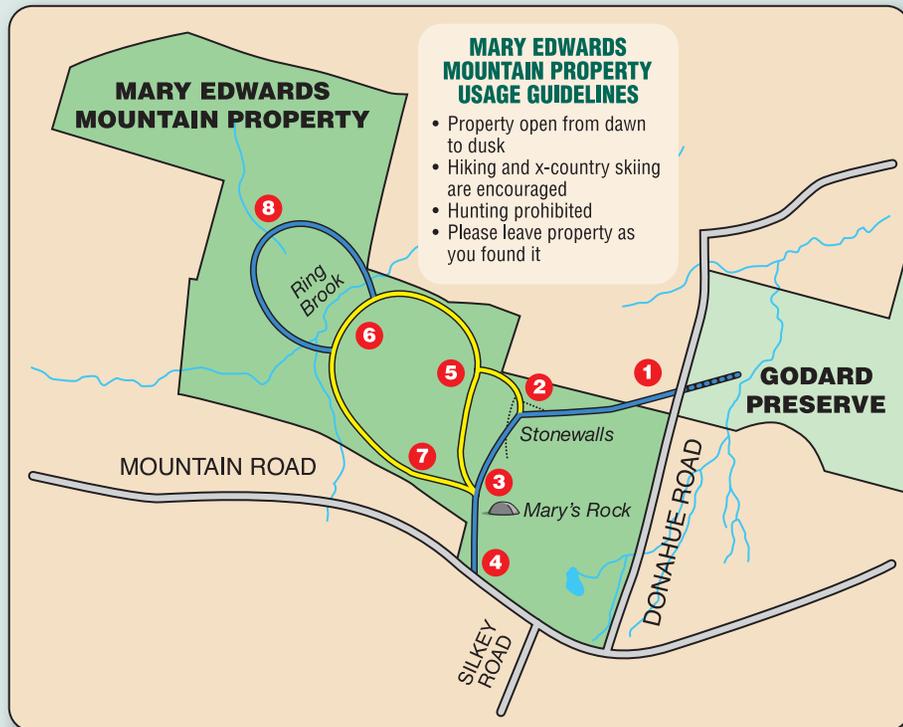
# Mary Edwards Mountain Property Trail Map

*A Granby Land Trust Property*

The Granby Land Trust works to preserve Granby's Natural Heritage through the conservation of its scenic vistas, open space corridors, wildlife habitat, ecologically sensitive areas, and agricultural land.

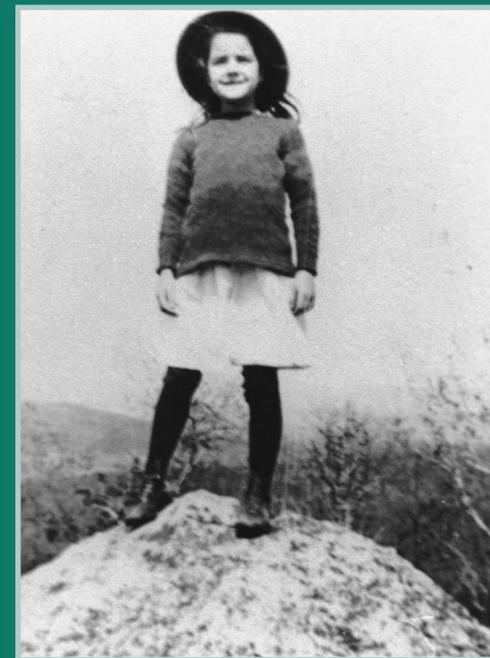
Founded in 1972, the Land Trust owns approximately 1,100 acres in Granby and has preserved another 500 acres through conservation easements. In addition to acquiring land, the Land Trust protects and cares for these properties.

Working with a range of conservation partners, the Land Trust is committed to forever preserving Granby's rural character and its beautiful places. To join us or learn more, please visit [www.GranbyLandTrust.org](http://www.GranbyLandTrust.org)



## Mary Edwards Mountain Property Trail Guide

*A Granby Land Trust Property*



*The Granby Land Trust is grateful to Mary Edwards for her generous donation of this property so that we may all enjoy it as she did.*

*Front Cover Photo: A young Mary Edwards standing on her much-loved Mary's Rock at her Mountain Property in 1919.*

### TRAIL GUIDE

**BLUE TRAIL ■** From the Donahue Road Trailhead **1**, where the blue trail connects to the Godard Preserve's blue trail, hikers can proceed up a slope to the intersection of the blue and yellow trail systems **2**. Stay to the left and continue on the blue trail at this intersection and you will reach Mary Edwards' much-loved outlook and a large glacial boulder — known as *Mary's Rock* **3** — from which you can see the city of Springfield and the Mt. Tom range. By continuing on the blue trail, you will reach the Mountain Road Trailhead **4**.

**YELLOW TRAIL ■** Hikers who take the yellow trail at the blue/yellow intersection **2** and stay right on the yellow trail **5** will be eventually rewarded by a walk along the pristine Ring Brook **6**. The Ring Brook portion of this walk is a magical place where the babbling brook and scent of the forest provide a soothing natural haven from the commotion of everyday life. Continue on the yellow trail and you will intersect with the upper yellow trail **7** near Mary's Rock. For a longer hike, take the Blue Trail Extension **8**.

Trails can also be accessed from the Mountain Road Trailhead **4**.

*With sweeping views of Springfield, The Connecticut River Valley and Mt. Tom, the spectacular 200-acre Mary Edwards Mountain Property includes an extensive trail system which is easily accessed from either the Mountain Road or Donahue Road Trailheads.*

