



Preserving Granby's Natural Heritage

www.granbylandtrust.org  PO Box 23  Granby, Connecticut 06035  Volume 1

113-Acre Godard Preserve Trails Ready for Hiking

The Godard name has been an illustrious one in Granby for more than 300 years and it will continue to be remembered due to the Godard family's generous donations of land to the Granby Land Trust.

In 1997, Alice Hills Godard (widow of Paul Beach Godard) of West Hartford gave 108 acres on Donahue Road to the Land Trust. She also created an endowment for the construction and maintenance of trails.



GLT's new trail signs

This year, Mrs. Godard's daughter, Barbara Godard, donated an additional five-acre parcel located in the middle of the Donahue Road frontage. Barbara Godard's most recent gift is a fitting memory to her father, preserves the streetscape along Donahue Road, and sets aside a parcel which provides for additional brookside trails.

The Land Trust has been hard at work preparing this property to pro-

vide clear and easy access to this preserve. Over two work days this spring, under the leadership of Property Steward Mark Wetzel, trails were cleared by Land Trust volunteers and a hard working group of Cub Scouts, and then marked with the Granby Land Trust's new trail signs. Additional improvements are underway as the Land Trust completes trail maps (see page 4) and the construction of an entrance sign that will clearly mark the primary entry point on Donahue Road to the property. These additional property improvements will be finished by the end of the year.

cont. on pg. 4



This spring, a group of Land Trust volunteers joined together to clear and sign trails on the Godard Preserve off Donahue Road.

Preserving Granby's Natural Heritage

Since its founding in 1972, the Granby Land Trust has been working to preserve scenic vistas, open space corridors, ecologically sensitive areas and agricultural land.

In the last five years, during which Granby has seen a great deal of development, the Granby Land Trust has acquired and ensured the preservation of the following Granby properties:

- **The Dewey Granby Oak.** The Granby Oak Property features one of the great trees of Connecticut and, for many, a symbol of the town. The property was on the market and was about to be bought by a family who would have built a house on the lot.

- **The Western Barn Door Hill.** Across from the other Barn Door Hill in McLean Game Refuge, the Western Barn Door Hill offers a commanding view of the countryside from the summit. A house



cont. on pg. 6



If you would like to explore making a land gift to the Granby Land Trust, please contact a GLT Board Member.



GRANBY Land Trust

Preserving Granby's Natural Heritage



Dear Friends,

My wife Sandy and I moved to Granby from a West Hartford three-decker apartment in the Fall of 1965. We were a young couple with one child and had been looking for our first house; a place with some trees and a little land is what we told the realtors; a place where we could enjoy the outdoors. We settled into a wonderful little ranch house on Wells Road across from the school, with a couple of acres, lots of pine trees and Bradley Brook flowing through the back of the property. I remember walking in the front door with the agent and virtually straight out the back and into the woods as Sandy decided on whether the inside would make the grade. Sandy gave a thumbs-up and we settled into Granby.



It didn't take us long to realize just how lucky our decision to move to Town was. We had Salmon Brook down the street for trout fishing and we soon discovered the McLean Game Refuge. Our soon to be five member family hiked and cross-country skied in the McLean Game Refuge many times with friends. Special places started showing up for our family to enjoy like Enders, the Dewey Granby Oak, and the Mountain property. Over the years, we marveled at just what a special place Granby is to have so many natural treasures.

Some years later, a concerned group of forward thinking leaders decided it was time to formalize the preservation of Granby's natural heritage and the Granby Land Trust was formed. Realizing that the status quo would not work, they needed to follow in the footsteps of Senator McLean and others who cherished nature and open space for the benefit of generations yet to come.

Over the years, the Granby Land Trust has acquired almost 1,000 acres through gifts and facilitated placing another 500 acres in conservation easements, effectively restricting future development. In keeping with the goal of these early leaders, the Granby Land Trust today continues to identify and assure the long-term protection of open space land that has environmental, aesthetic or recreational significance.

We thank our membership and encourage each and every Granby family to become a Granby Land Trust member, to join in our endeavor that will benefit our children and their children and all children; forever.

Yours sincerely,

David A. Schupp
President

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If you have a comment or question about the Granby Land Trust Newsletter or would like to submit news for our next issue, please contact Rick Orluk at 653.7095 or via email at orluk@cox.net



State Acquires 525-Acre Worthen Farm Property; Will Be Forever Preserved As Open Space

For more than 25 years, members of the Granby Land Trust have been working with members of the Worthen family on the stewardship and possible long-term protection of their 525-acre farm in West Granby. In June, the future of this beautiful tract of open land was secured when the State of Connecticut acquired this property through its Open Space Acquisition Program.

The Worthens' love of their land and their charitable inclinations made possible a "bargain sale" of the farm to the State. The transaction was negotiated over an almost 12-month period by members of the Land Trust on behalf of the family. The land abuts both the Land Trust's 200-acre Stanley K. Dimock Preserve and the 2,000-acre Enders State Forest. The State Forest, in turn, abuts the 4,300-acre McLean

Game Refuge, the Land Trust's 37-acre Peterson Preserve at the top of Broad Hill Road and the 350-acre Holcomb Farm. Thus, the Worthen Farm — magnificent in its own right — is a logical extension of those other protected open space lands and continues a wildlife corridor that runs for miles.

Although the Granby Land Trust did not acquire the property in its own name, it helped to assure the protection of the land for a "sister" organization — the State — with which it shares a common mission. In every way, this was a victory for the Land Trust and everyone else involved. For its part, the family is proud to know that its careful stewardship of the land will be continued and is enthusiastic in its praise for the role the Land Trust played.

There are many heroes in this story.



On Saturday, September 21st, the Granby Land Trust held its first annual fall "Preserve Our Properties" Day. More than 30 volunteers turned out to work on two of the Land Trust's most picturesque properties, the Western Barn Door Hill Preserve and the Mary Edwards Mountain Preserve. Trails were cleared and marked on the Western Barn Door Hill, just in time for hikers to enjoy the beautiful fall foliage views. On the Mary Edwards Preserve, another team of Granby citizens spent the morning clearing brush and opening up the views from Mountain Road. Thanks to all of our volunteers.

- The Granby Land Trust now has a website thanks to the volunteer work of Ken Kuhl. Visit the Land Trust's website at www.granbylandtrust.org.
- The following individuals have generously volunteered to be Land Trust Property Stewards: Mark Wetzel – Godard Preserve; Keith Fetridge – Western Barn Door Hill Preserve; Charles Stielau – Dewey Granby Oak; Rick Kirschbaum – Peterson Preserve; and, Fran Armentano – Mary Edwards Mountain Preserve.
- The Land Trust is looking for a few more good men and women to become Property Stewards. If you would be interested in acting as the "caretaker" of one of our Land Trust properties, please let us know by contacting a Granby Land Trust board member (see page 2 for contact information).
- The Land Trust would like to thank Brian Watkins of Arborworks, who is helping the Land Trust assure the health of the Dewey Granby Oak.
- The Land Trust's Hike and Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, October 13th at the home of Ted and Kristen Cormier at 12 Silkey Road in West Granby. We will start the day with a hike at 2:00 PM. All are welcome (see our enclosed Calendar of Events for more details).
- Join us on Saturday, November 16th to clean up the Land Trust's Dewey Granby Oak property (see enclosed Calendar of Events for more details).



"The land is the host and humans merely guests."

—Chinese proverb

Godard Preserve Trail Map (continued from pg. 1)



Related Resources

See these websites for more information about some of the Granby Land Trust's "Sister" Organizations:

The Nature Conservancy
www.nature.org

Town of Granby
<http://www.munic.state.ct.us/GRANBY/granby.htm>

The Salmon Brook Historical Society
www.salmonbrookhistorical.org

Farmington River Watershed Association
www.frwa.org

State of Connecticut — Dept. of Environmental Protection
<http://dep.state.ct.us>

Holcomb Farm Learning Centers
www.holcombfarm.com

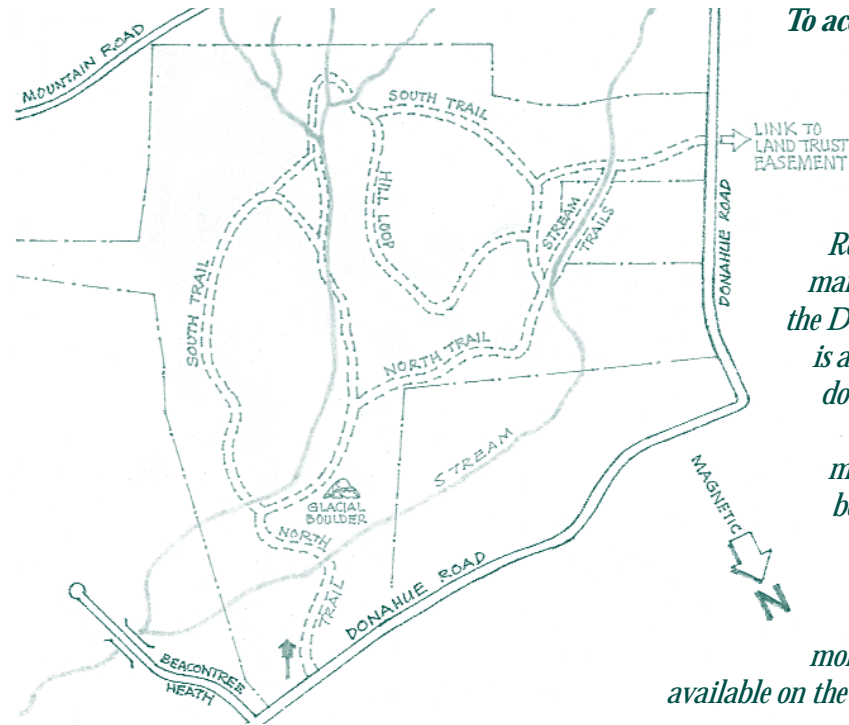
Hartford Foundation for Public Giving
<http://www.hfpg.org>

McLean Game Refuge
www.mcleancare.org/Continuum/Refuge.asp

Granby Land Trust
www.granbylandtrust.org

"Nature is full of genius, full of the divinity; so that not a snowflake escapes its fashioning hand."

—Henry David Thoreau



To access the Godard Preserve: From Mountain Road, turn down Donahue Road and the primary access point to the Donahue Preserve is about a half mile down on the right. It is currently marked by a large boulder (entrance sign and map will be posted in the next couple months). Parking is available on the side of the road.

The Godards' roots are deep in Granby soil and Granby history. It is the generosity of people like them that allows the Granby Land Trust to fulfill the mission set forth in its motto – "preserving Granby's natural heritage." The Land Trust is

deeply indebted to the members of the Godard family for their magnificent gifts that have created the Godard Preserve.

We invite you to visit this preserve and enjoy its rugged beauty.



Open Space Preservation Benefits Taxpayers

In addition to preserving the quality of life that attracted many of us to town, the Land Trust's activities actually make Granby more affordable for its taxpayers. While initially counter-intuitive, by preserving open land and preventing it from being developed, the overall tax burden of the citizens of Granby is reduced. Recent studies in Connecticut and elsewhere have established that, for communities like ours, the costs of residential development exceed the tax income

generated by new houses. The specifics vary from town to town and depend on such variables as the price of housing, the average number of students per house, and the length and physical characteristics of new roads. As a rule of thumb, however, municipal services cost between \$1.07 and \$1.70 for each additional tax dollar raised. Thus, by sensibly limiting development, we are saving money for the town and benefiting its taxpayers.

19th Century Burial Ground Donated to GLT

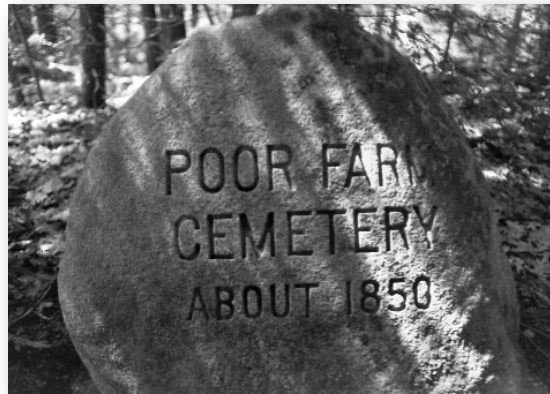
Thanks to the generosity of developer Dan Dumais, the Granby Land Trust has acquired a parcel of land at the corner of Silver Street and Doherty Road in North Granby. Dumais donated the land when it came to light that the parcel contains a 19th Century burial ground, commonly referred to as the Poor Farm Cemetery. The parcel also includes three fully approved subdivision lots, which would have had driveways on Doherty Road. “We are grateful to Mr. Dumais for his generous donation of this property,” says Daniel “Put” Brown, a board member of the Granby Land Trust. “He has stepped up to the plate and made a donation that truly honors our town’s history.”

Only recently paved, Doherty Road is one of Granby’s most beautiful ancient streets. “It is an oasis of tranquility and natural beauty in an increasingly developed part of town,” says Brown. The parcel will now be known as the Doherty Road Preserve.

The Poor Farm Cemetery probably was used for burials during a 10 to 15 year period in the mid-1800s, when Ahira Merriam, who lived across from the cemetery, and Anson Cooley, who also lived on Silver Street, ran poor houses for state and town paupers. There are at least 48 recorded burials there, and it is suspected that there may actually be 100 or more. While it is not known exactly who is buried there, it is clear from town records that they were “paupers.” In other

words, the old; the sick; the disabled; illegitimate, abandoned or orphaned children; African American laborers who owned no land; alcoholics; transients; foreigners; the mentally ill and mentally handicapped; perhaps even Native Americans are buried here.

Today, the cemetery is overgrown and littered with fallen trees, rotting logs, deep ruts, and 150 years of forest debris. Yet, with a minimum of raking, Salmon Brook Historical Society volunteers found two field-



stones placed at the head and one at the foot of the graves. They were in rows, facing the east, as are most cemeteries, to be ready for Judgment Day.

The first step the Granby Land Trust will take in its stewardship of the property is to work closely with the Salmon Brook Historical Society to better identify the boundaries of the cemetery and the number of bodies buried there. Already, through the volunteer efforts of members of the Salmon Brook Historical Society, headed up by Carol Laun, some preliminary work has

been done. Mark Gottlieb, president of Catalyst Environmental Consulting, Inc. and a resident of Silver Street, has donated his ground penetrating radar equipment and expertise, and State Archeologist Nick Bellatoni has been consulted to help analyze the results.

Once the findings have been analyzed, the Granby Land Trust will continue to work with the Historical Society to install appropriate signs and establish a stewardship plan that appropriately protects the final resting ground of some of Granby’s early inhabitants.

On Tuesday, October 29th, the Land Trust and the Historical Society will be working together to clean up the Poor Farm Cemetery area. Clean up starts at 10 AM — we would welcome your help. See Calendar for details.



“In the end, our society will be judged not only by what it creates, but also by what it refuses to destroy.”

—John Sawhill, former President of The Nature Conservancy

Preserving

(continued from pg. 1)

could have been constructed on that spot; in fact, a very significant offer had been made for the land. Instead, trails have been blazed, cleared and marked and the hill is now open to the public.

• **The Godard Preserve.** Located on Donahue Road in North Granby, the Godard Preserve is composed of 113 acres from two generous land gifts from the Godard family. In addition to the land gifts, the Godards created a fund to build the preserve's hiking trails, which are now cleared and marked.

• **The Former G. Ray Smith Property.** Located in North Granby, just south of the Godard Preserve, this 90-acre property — located to the south of the new Cider Mills Heights development — abuts another parcel given to the Land Trust by Paula and Whitey Johnson.

• **The Mary Edwards Mountain Property.** One of Granby's signature properties, the 187-acre Mary Edwards Property — located off Mountain Road — preserves a magnificent view towards Springfield. Any developer would swoon over the property, which abuts Tunxis State Forest and offers a linkage with the Godard Preserve.

• **The Doherty Road Preserve.** Recently donated by Dan Dumais, this property contains the historically important "Poor Farm Ceme-



The view towards Springfield from the Mary Edwards Mountain Property

tery" and protects the streetscape of one of Granby's older streets.

Acquisitions such as these are what we strive to accomplish. Sometimes, the Granby Land Trust acquires outright title to land; in other cases, we acquire conservation easements (i.e. development restrictions on land that remains in private ownership); and, in still other cases, we help "sister" organizations such as the Holcomb Farm, The Nature Conservancy, the State DEP and the McLean Game Refuge acquire land or manage their properties. We also work hard to be worthy stewards of the land entrusted to our care.

A gift of land offers valuable tax advantages for land donors and the opportunity to guarantee that the land they treasure will be protected and cared for according to their exact wishes. Most important, a land gift preserves Granby's natural environmental heritage for generations to come.



Western Barn Door Hill Preserve

Granby Land Trust Supports Salmon Brook Ecology Center



In its continuing effort to preserve our town's natural heritage, the Granby Land Trust has made a \$1000 donation to the Granby Education Foundation in support of the "green" construction of the Salmon Brook Ecology Center.

In this Center, which will be located on the grounds of Granby Memorial Middle and High Schools and is presently under construction, brown trout will be raised, then released into local streams in cooperation with the state Department of Environmental Protection. In addition, plants, including watercress, will be grown hydroponically, then shared with the community and planted on stream banks in an effort to reduce erosion.



Middle and high school classes will be held in the Center and, after school, it will house educational activities for the community at large. In short, the Center will serve not only to improve our environment, but to educate our children and our community about environmental issues.

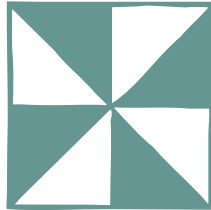
The board of the Granby Land Trust feels it is a cause worth supporting.



Join the Granby Land Trust Today and Help Us Preserve Granby's Natural Heritage

A growing membership is critical to our mission — please take the time today to complete the membership form below to renew your membership or join us as a member for the first time. As an all-volunteer organization, we welcome a range of involvement levels. Beyond your financial support, let us know if you would be interested in helping in any other ways.

Your membership, at any level, will help us spread the message that open space and land management is critical to preserving Granby's rural character for future generations.



Holiday Gift Idea

The holidays are just around the corner. Consider membership in the GLT as a gift for friends and loved ones. They'll receive our member newsletter, invitations to Land Trust events and, most important, they'll become partners in protecting Granby's future.

"I see an America whose rivers and valleys and lakes, hills and streams and plains; the mountains over our land and nature's wealth deep under the earth, are protected as the rightful heritage of all the people."

— Franklin D. Roosevelt

2002 GLT Membership Form

- Yes! I agree with what you are doing. Please sign me up!*
- I'm already a member, I would like to give a membership gift to:*

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone Day: _____ Eve: _____

E-Mail _____

Membership Class [choose]:

- Regular \$30.** **Sponsor \$100.** **Benefactor \$250.**
- Life \$1,000.** **Gift (from _____)**

[If you are already a Life Member, you need not pay dues again. If you can afford an additional gift, however, it would be most appreciated.]

Please make checks payable to "Granby Land Trust" and mail to: P.O. Box 23, Granby, CT 06035

Ways in which I would like to help [check areas of interest]

- Trail Design
- Trail Construction
- Participate in Work Parties
- Property Steward
- Leading Hikes and Preserve Walks
- Publicity
- Computer Work
- Fund Raising
- Scientific or Historical Studies
- Education
- Other (specify) _____

Thank you for your support!
All contributions are tax deductible.

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GLT Calendar of Events



OCTOBER

What: Granby Land Trust Hike and Annual Mtg.
Where: The Home of Ted and Kristen Cormier
12 Silkey Road, West Granby
Date: Sunday, October 13, 2002
Time: 2:00 PM Hike Starts; Picnic and Short
Annual Meeting to follow.
All are welcome – hot dogs and hamburgers
will be provided, please bring a side dish or a
dessert.
Info: Call 860.653.2168

What: Poor Farm Cemetery Clean-Up
Where: Poor Farm Cemetery, Doherty Road
Date: Tuesday, October 29, 2002
Time: 10:00 AM
Info: Call Dave Schupp @ 860.653.2168 if you
can volunteer to help clean up this property.



NOVEMBER

What: Dewey Granby Oak Clean-Up
Where: Granby Oak, Day Street
Date: Saturday, November 16, 2002
Time: 9:00 AM
Info: Call Charles Stielau at 860.653.5650 if you
can help clean up this important Granby
Land Trust Property.



www.granbylandtrust.org ■ PO Box 23 ■ Granby, CT 06035

[Membership information inside]

Join or renew your
membership today.
Help us preserve
Granby's natural
heritage.

