



Preserving Granby's Natural Heritage

www.granbylandtrust.org



PO Box 23



Granby, Connecticut 06035



Volume 2

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



A young Mary Edwards standing on her much-loved Mary's Rock at her Mountain Property in 1919

Mary, one wonders whether the Land Trust's motto, "Working to Preserve Granby's Natural Heritage," would have the hollow ring of wishful thinking.

Luckily, we did have Mary...and therefore we will never know the answers to those questions. From the time she completed her first gift to her death on January 15, 2004, she was among its most ardent supporters. She does not deserve all of the credit, but there is no doubt that her support was of critical importance, especially in the early years. She was the catalyst for much of what later happened.

Within a year of the Land Trust's founding, Mary jumped in to contribute 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

cont. on pg. 4



*This Newsletter
is Dedicated to
Mary Edwards*

January 11, 1913



January 15, 2004



New Hiking Trails Opened on Mary Edwards Mountain Property

Building on work done during last fall's "Preserve Our Properties" Day, the Land Trust has established and opened a new trail system on the Mary Edwards Mountain Property. These hiking trails connect with the Godard Preserve Blue Trail System at the upper Donahue Road entrance.

cont. on pg. 7



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 Granby Land Trust Members,

This newsletter is dedicated to Mary Edwards, for no one has done more to preserve Granby's beautiful natural heritage and support the goals of the Granby Land Trust. From her earliest gift of land in 1973... to her donation of the spectacular 188-acre Mountain Property in 2000... to her final bequest — a generous financial contribution, Mary's contributions to the Land Trust were selfless gifts to be enjoyed by Granby citizens for generations to come.

Over the last 18 months, the Land Trust has been hard at work preserving and improving Mary's Mountain Property as she wished. During last Spring's "Preserve Our Properties' Day," the Land Trust cleared a significant amount of brush on the property; then further cleared the fence line on Mountain Road earlier this year, magnifying the beauty of this spot and its view north. In addition, during the Land Trust's Fall "Preserve Our Properties' Day," the beginnings of a Mountain Property trail system were established, linking the Mountain Property to the Godard Preserve. Just recently, Granby Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts continued working on the trails and put up six bluebird boxes on the property.

Located directly across from the upper Donahue Road entrance of the Godard Preserve, the Mountain Property trail begins and leads upwards to Mary's much-loved lookout known as "Mary's Rock." Our family already has hiked it several times and my older son Nate always says Mary's Rock is happy to see us when we arrive. I know that it makes me happy to have this beautiful place in my backyard. I encourage you to take a moment from your busy life to experience a quiet moment from the lookout at Mary's Rock, courtesy of Mary Edwards. It will make you happy and thankful that Mary had the foresight and generosity to share this special place with all of us.

I would also like to thank and recognize GLT Board Members Put Brown and Fran Armentano for their efforts to see Mary's dream come to fruition. Put's years of service to the Land Trust put our organization in a position to responsibly take care of the Mountain Property donation and Fran's recent stewardship of this property gave Mary confidence that the Land Trust would maintain the property she loved so much.

Mary, thank you for all you have done for Granby. The Granby Land Trust salutes you.

Warmly,

Rick Orluk

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GRANBY
Land Trust



Preserving Granby's Natural Heritage

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

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

Photographs of Mary Edwards courtesy of the Salmon Brook Historical Society.

The Granby Land Trust thanks the Granby Community Fund for their support.





Granby Land Trust Adds 65 Acres on Simsbury Road

When developers partner with conservation groups to preserve open space in new housing developments, everyone wins. Residents, neighbors and wildlife all can benefit from responsible development.

A recent example of this is the new Holcomb Hill development on Simsbury Road. In 2002, developers P.K. Allen and Andrew Mason purchased 120 acres on Simsbury Road, south of Holcomb Farm. In conjunction with their development of Holcomb Hill, Allen and Mason elected to donate 65 acres of open space to the Granby Land Trust. This property could have been broken into 30 lots, but Mason and Allen chose to limit home sites to only 19, thirteen on a public road and six on a private road.

The donated parcel includes 10 acres of active farmland off of Simsbury Road and more than 3000 feet of frontage on the West Branch of the Salmon Brook. The open space will serve as a wildlife corridor, with potential for hiking trails in the future.

This new Granby Land Trust acquisition includes magnificent geological features. There is a point at the southern end of the property where glacial till has been carved from the land for hundreds of thousands of years by the waters of the Salmon Brook. The land drops off precipitously to the brook on three sides, presenting a spectacular view.

The Granby Land Trust applauds developers P.K. Allen and Andrew Mason for this gift. 

- The Land Trust would like to thank the Crowe Family for their support. Mr. Albert Crowe, a longtime Granby resident, passed away earlier this year. The Crowe Family honored Mr. Crowe's love of Granby by designating the Land Trust as the recipient of memorial contributions made in his memory.

- A special thanks to Don Johnson of Don Johnson Carpentry (Granville, MA) for building and donating the Godard Preserve Trailhead Information & Map Box located off of Donahue Road.



- The Land Trust is looking for a few 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 contact Mark Wetzal or Fran Armentano.

- Thanks to former GLT Board Member Chuck Stielau for his dedicated service to the Land Trust. Chuck has played a leadership role on a number of recent GLT initiatives, including the ongoing efforts to take care of the Granby Oak and the Godard Preserve.

- The Land Trusts of the Farmington Valley are featured in a special section in the 2004 Valley Book. We thank publisher Bob Pawlowski and his entire Distinctive Directories team for their support of the Granby Land Trust.

- Join us on Sunday, May 18th for the Land Trust's annual Spring "Preserve Our Properties" Day (see Calendar of Events for more details).

- The Land Trust's Hike and Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, October 24th. We will start the day with a hike at 2:00 pm. All are welcome (look for more details this Fall).



Bluebird House Building

Mark Wetzal and his 7-year-old daughter Rosie and Edna Zimmer and Put Brown build bluebird houses during the GLT's Bluebird House Building Event. Led by GLT Board Members Dave Russell and Dave Emery in conjunction with a special Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection Bluebird Restoration Project, volunteers gathered and built 20 bluebird houses to be installed in appropriate habitat around Granby. Six of these bluebird houses were recently installed on the Mary Edwards Mountain Property by Granby Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts.

Common throughout Connecticut in the mid-1800s, the Eastern Bluebird - a member of the thrush family and the only bluebird species found in New England - grew scarce as suitable nesting cavities declined due to changing land use patterns, the introduction of other non-native bird species such as European starlings and house sparrows, and increased urbanization. The construction of nest boxes and the establishment of nest box "trails" is helping the bluebird make a comeback.





Mary Edwards' Legacy

continued from page 1

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. That land commands a sweeping view of Springfield, the Connecticut River Valley and Mount Tom and is known by everyone in the area. People go there to watch Fourth of July fireworks in distant towns, to watch the fall leaves turn color in the valleys 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 also made provisions to endow that organization, so that the day-to-day costs of maintaining the property would be assured.

All along, she kept her eye on the Land Trust, though, 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; members of the Godard family gave almost 115 acres on Donahue Road. Others, as well, too many to list separately here, were similarly generous. Conservation easements also came to the Land Trust from Dorothy Russell (50 acres), Dan and Pauline Cunningham (27.3 acres), Fred and Edie Wilhem (42.3 acres), Seth and Lucy Holcombe (151.9 acres), Steve and Bett Conland (16.7 acres), Dave and Sandy Schupp (118 acres), Sam and Sally Paul (3.5 acres), Milly Rugland (75 acres) and others, almost 500 acres in total.

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 to work out

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

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

Land Trust Alliance
www.lta.org

Granby Land Trust
www.granbylandtrust.org



"What is art? Nature concentrated."

—Honore de Balzac

Mary Edwards' Legacy

continued from page 4

the details, she worked with her lawyers, representatives of the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, her bank trustees, and representatives of the Land Trust to transfer her Mountain property from her own Foundation to the 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.

As Mary was working through these details, others continued to make significant gifts to the Land Trust. Most recently, Tom Fredo gave 97 acres on Mountain Road, Dan Dumais gave 36 Acres on Doherty Road and P.K. Allen and Andrew Mason gave 60 acres on Simsbury Road in West Granby. The Land Trust also worked with members of the Worthen family in selling their 525-acre farm on Fox Road in West Granby to the State Department of Environmental Protection, to be added to Enders State Forest. Negotiations for additional gifts are ongoing, but already (in addition to the 500 or so acres of conservation easements it holds) the Land Trust owns outright about 1,000 acres of land.

Mary would not want all of the glory. Many others — donors, members, volunteers and others —

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 unflinching enthusiasm for what we were doing gave us courage when we most needed it. With her urging us on at every opportunity, how could we quit? 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.



Mary Edwards and her mother Helen Bunce Edwards berry picking in East Hartland in 1932

We miss her already and will do our best to be worthy stewards of all that she has given to us. We hope, too, that we will see the open space of Granby as she did, as a place to be cherished and protected. ■

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

- First, make a contribution in her name to the "Mary W. Edwards Charitable Fund" for the benefit and maintenance of "The Mountain" and the Granby Land Trust at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, 85 Gillett Street, Hartford, CT 06105.
- Second, join the Land Trust. There is a lot of work still to be done and we have a lot of fun together.
- Finally, 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.



"Like a great poet, Nature knows how to produce the greatest effect with the most limited means."

—Heinrich Heine

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.

Mary Edwards Friend of the Land Trust Award Established

In honor of Mary Edwards' many contributions to Granby and the Granby Land Trust, the Land Trust Board has established the Mary Edwards Friend of the Trust Award. This service award will be given annually to an individual or organization that has done — through a single gift or collectively over many years — the most to promote the

GLT's mission of "preserving Granby's natural heritage." It will be awarded at the Land Trust's Annual Meeting and Hike in October.

To date, no one has done more for the Land Trust than Mary has. It is only fitting, therefore, that this award carry her name. ■

"The vast possibilities of our great future will become realities only if we make ourselves responsible for that future."

—Gifford Pinchot

2004 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.*

Hiking Trails

continued from page 1

This initiative has been led by GLT Vice President Mark Wetzel, who has overseen efforts to clear and mark the trails with help from Land Trust members, Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts. While all trails are not fully completed, the Blue Trail to Mary's Rock is open for hiking.

To access the south end of this new trail, park on Donahue Road near the upper entrance of the fully marked Godard Preserve. The Mary Edwards Mountain Property Blue Trail starts directly across the street from the Godard Preserve. As you walk up to Mary's Rock, you will pass some beautiful old stonewalls which lead to the junction of the Blue and Yellow Trails (the Yellow Trail is still under construction). Follow the Blue Trail signs and you will reach the lookout at Mary's Rock, which is on the left at the crest of the hill.

Over the next year, the Land Trust will continue to build out this trail system, creating an extensive set of trails which link the Godard and Mary Edwards Mountain Properties. Eventually, the Land Trust hopes to link these trail systems with systems on adjacent State property. A trailhead map box will be installed with a complete map of these trails later this year.

The Land Trust once again thanks Mary for sharing this beautiful property with us all. We encourage you to take the time to make the short hike to Mary's Rock – you will understand why it was one of Mary's favorite spots. 

GLT to Present Sheila Connor of Harvard's Arnold Arboretum

On Saturday, September 18, Sheila Connor of Harvard's Arnold Arboretum will make a presentation at the Holcomb Farm on "Ten Trees of the New England Forest." She will draw from her widely acclaimed book, *New England Natives*, an engaging look at the history and use of our native trees. Anyone who is interested in the forest and its ecology should own this book...and you won't want to miss this lecture, either!



You'll learn why early settlers preferred white oak over red oak for almost all uses. You'll better understand the impact on the Eastern forest of the widespread destruction of American Chestnut trees in the early 20th Century. You won't soon forget about the early 17th Century squabble between Sir Walter Raleigh and Bartholomew Gosnold over plantations of sassafras trees. And you'll learn about the changing mix of forest trees brought on by modern land use practices. Sheila will illustrate her points with slides chosen from her book.

Following the lecture, there will be a break for lunch and then participants will be invited to hike the Broad Hill trails of Holcomb Farm and the Granby Land Trust. Sheila will point out trees she discussed in the morning and will affix labels to the most noteworthy trees.

The lecture will begin at 11:00 a.m., lunch will take place at about noon, and the hike will begin at about 1:00 p.m. You are welcome to participate in all three events (the lecture, lunch and the hike) or any one of them. It should be an enjoyable and educational day. And you'll like Sheila - she is a delightful person.

This special event is a joint presentation of the Granby and Simsbury Land Trusts, the McLean Game Refuge, and the Holcomb Farm. Look for more information as we get closer to the event and be sure to sign up promptly because we expect very good attendance and may have to limit the number of attendees. 



Granby Oak Clean-up



During the Granby Land Trust's Fall "Preserve Our Properties" Day, Brian Watkins and his team from Arborworks worked with Chuck Stielau and GLT volunteers to clear and maintain the Dewey Granby Oak Property.

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GLT Calendar of Events



MAY

What: **Spring "Preserve Our Properties" Day**
Where: Meet at the Upper Entrance to the Godard Preserve on Donahue Road
Date: Sunday, May 16, 2004
Time: 1:00 PM
Info: Call 860.653.7095



SEPTEMBER

What: **Sheila Connor New England Trees Lecture and Hike**
Where: Holcomb Farm Main Barn
Date: Saturday, September 18, 2004
Time: 11:00 AM - Lecture; 12PM; Lunch; 1:00PM - Tree Identification Hike
Info: Call 860.653.7095

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[Membership information inside]

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

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Preserving Granby's Natural Heritage



View from Mary Edwards Property



OCTOBER

What: **Granby Land Trust Annual Meeting, Hike and Picnic**
Where: Holcomb Farm
Date: Sunday, October 24, 2004
Time: 2:00 PM - Hike; 3:30PM Picnic and Short Annual Meeting
Info: All Granby Land Trust Members are welcome - please bring a side dish or a dessert, hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided.