



Seth and Lucy Holcombe Donate 152 Acres



Seth and Lucy Holcombe enjoy their property with their horse Allen Ash.

When newlyweds Seth and Lucy Holcombe moved to Simsbury in 1959, Simsbury was a rural town, its geography dominated by horse properties, farmland and forest. Over the 15 years that they lived there, however, the population nearly doubled and the traffic on their road became significant. In addition, there was a dramatic increase in air traffic, with a flight path directly over their house. Seth and Lucy decided this rural town wasn't quite rural enough for them anymore, and went looking for a place in the country.

continued on page 3

Ann Pelka Donates 143 Acres

During her life, Ann Pelka mostly kept to herself, living primitively on her farm in North Granby. Not many in town knew of her. She did not drive a car, depending on the largesse of neighbors to

transport her to the grocery, hair salon, church or doctor, but when she died in January of 2016, her extraordinary gift to the Granby Land Trust earned her a place in Granby history.

continued on page 7



Pelka farmland in North Granby.





Dear Granby Land Trust Members and Friends,

As outlined in our two lead articles in this newsletter, 2016 was a truly incredible year for the Land Trust and for Granby.

Lucy and Seth Holcombe and Ann Pelka loved their land and this community so much that they chose to donate their North Granby properties (almost 300 acres total) to the Land Trust so that others, for generations to come, will be able to enjoy these beautiful properties as well.

I find both gifts humbling and inspiring.

Seth and Lucy Holcombe were involved with the Land Trust from the early 1970s until they passed away. They helped lay the foundation for the Land Trust by donating a conservation easement on their Silver Street property when we were just getting our feet under us, by regularly attending GLT functions, and by encouraging, in their quiet way, Town and Land Trust leaders to work to preserve our natural assets. When they passed away, they donated more than 150 acres – along with a stewardship fund for managing the property – to the GLT. Full of carefully manicured trails, their property stretches from Silver Street to the Crag Mountain ridge line. In time, the Land Trust will open these trails to the general public and everyone will be able to enjoy these woodlands, dotted with fields and views. What a legacy to leave!

Ann Pelka had a special connection to the land. The Pelka Family farmed their 143-acre North Granby property for more than a century; and Ann lived on the farm until her death in 2016. The farmland is comprised of four parcels, ranging from a beautiful open field with frontage on Granville Road to another that immediately abuts the new Seth and Lucy Holcombe Preserve on Silver Street. Ann could easily have sold one or all of these properties and lived a more comfortable life. Instead, she made sacrifices and kept close watch over the farmland she loved. She lived frugally, maintained a vigilant watch over her land, and eventually left every single acre to the Land Trust.

I find these gifts humbling because Seth and Lucy Holcombe and Ann Pelka had choices, and they chose others over themselves. I find them inspiring because of the examples these remarkable people have set. We all benefit from their sacrifices and their generosity. I am reminded of the genuine goodness in others; and I have a renewed drive to preserve Granby's natural places; to pay this generosity forward. Once you've read the two articles in this newsletter, I think you'll feel the same.

Respectfully,



Rick Orluk
GLT President



Board Members Granby Land Trust

Officers

Rick Orluk, President
653-7095

Rod Dimock, Vice President
651-0376

Dave Russell, Treasurer
653-7441

Leslie Judge, Secretary
653-4733

Board

Fran Armentano
653-0631

Put Brown
653-7557

Dave Emery
653-3746

Els Fonteyne
413-9709

Jamie Gamble
653-9495

Paula Johnson
653-3132

Lowell Kahn
653-4911

Eric Lukingbeal
653-4239

Mike Mooney
413-9150

Shirley Murtha
653-7607

Dave Schupp
653-2168

Mark Wetzel
653-9125

GLT NEWSLETTER

EDITORS:

Rick Orluk
Trish Percival

CONTRIBUTORS:

Shirley Murtha
Peter Dinella

Holcombe Donation (continued from cover)

Both Holcombes knew something about Granby. Seth's ancestors lived in Granby for five generations before moving to New Hartford and then Hartford. [Many other descendants of Joshua Holcomb, including Tudor and Laura Holcomb (of Holcomb Farm) stayed in Granby; and many Holcombs still live here today.]

to sell. For the Holcombes, for Granby, and for the Granby Land Trust, this was a fortuitous turn of events, indeed.

Seth and Lucy purchased the 89-acre property and in July of 1974 they moved into their new home. No one knew then what a truly indelible mark they would make upon this little town.



Seth and Lucy Holcombe.

The Gunnery, before graduating Trinity College, where he majored in the Classics.

Lucy, born in 1924, was a tomboy. Growing up near Elizabeth Park, Lucy would run home after school to change into her long pants so she could go play outside. She loved all animals, especially horses. Her favorite book was *Black Beauty*, and she was so sensitive to the plight of the horse that she burst into tears anytime the book was mentioned. Lucy was proud to tell of her father, William Spalding Eaton, who had ridden with the U.S. Cavalry in the Mexican Border War. A family vacation to a dude ranch solidified Lucy's love of horses. Lucy attended the Oxford School, then Connecticut College. After graduation, she worked at Connecticut General, but she soon switched to teaching first grade so she could earn enough money to buy a horse.

Before long, Lucy bought Echo, a Morgan horse, and began working with him "in harness" (see photo). The following excerpt from the July 1958 issue of *The Morgan Horse* magazine portrays the world in which Seth and Lucy lived during their courtship: "Miss Eaton bought Towne-Ayr Echo as a two-year old from the Wolcotts. He was well along in harness by that time and though Miss Eaton was quite new to the horse world, Echo's gentle disposition was just the thing for



Lucy Eaton Holcombe works in harness with her horse, Echo.

Lucy had visited Granby as a child, going to a friend's house "at her home on a dirt road that is now Route 20" (said Lucy in the Granby Senior Center publication, *From Acorn to Oak. Stories of the Town of Granby*). Lucy also had long been a member of the Hampstead Hill Club, a private swim club in West Granby. (Back then, Club membership consisted of urbanites looking for fresh air and a place to cool off.)

Seth and Lucy knew that Granby had the kind of open space and rural setting that they desired. However, when the realtor began showing them houses, nothing quite suited them. Then, one afternoon, as they drove up Silver Street, they saw open fields. The land was not for sale, but it turned out the owner was willing

Early Life

Both Seth and Lucy grew up in Hartford, not far from one another; both descended from old New England families; and both loved horses.

Seth, born in 1918, lived a block west of Union Station, and as a boy was a train aficionado. Seth's father was a skilled horseman, and Seth grew up riding. He boarded his horse, Hightop, at a stable in Bishops Corner. His family had a summer home in Marlborough and they spent time there with their horses. (Seth even told of riding their horses from Hartford to Marlborough, across the Bulkeley Bridge!) Seth attended Kingswood School, The Loomis School, and

continued on page 4

Holcombe Donation (continued from page 3)

her and now the two of them make a pretty sight driving over the wooded trails of Bloomfield. They are just beginning to work under saddle and he is proving to be the same quiet boy he is in harness.

"Seth Holcombe purchased Viganita from Mrs. Ela as a three

as president of the New England Morgan Horse Association. Lucy also served as secretary of the New England Morgan Horse Association for a time.

Soon after they moved to North Granby, Seth and Lucy stopped showing horses and began breeding them, instead. They named their farm Thorne Bay Hill, after one of their favorite horses, Baythorne.

"Seth and Lucy were true horsemen," says Harry Werner, VMD, who cared for the Holcombes' horses and was a very close friend. "There are lots of horse owners out there, but few true horsemen. Seth and Lucy loved and respected their horses and knew how to care for them, so their horses lived long lives."



GLT board members join members of the Holcombe Family at the Seth and Lucy Holcombe Preserve. First row, from left: Co-Executor of the Holcombe Estate Donald Wilmot; Seth and Lucy's niece, Nancy Hinman; and their nephew, Shepherd Holcombe. Second row, from left: GLT Board members Rod Dimock, Dave Russell, Rick Orluk, and Put Brown.

year old. She had been trained a little, but Seth has put in many hours of work to make Vig the pleasure mare she is now. They have traveled together the trails of the reservoir, tobacco plantations, and the State Park for four years, and it is a happy day indeed when they take a ribbon in Morgan Pleasure Riding."

Just a month after this article was published, Seth proposed to Lucy; in the horse barn! On January 17, 1959, they wed.

Thorne Bay Hill

Morgan horses were central to the life Seth and Lucy built together. Both competed in equestrian events at horse shows across New England. Seth served as secretary and registrar of the Morgan Horse Club and

Family Life

Lucy's obituary read, "Through 50 years of marriage, Seth and Lucy generously shared their home on Thorne Bay Hill with many Morgan horses, dogs, cats, family, and fortunate friends." Indeed, they were never without animal companions, and they entertained family and friends frequently. Their nieces and nephews had open invitations to visit. Lucy's sister's daughter, Nancy Hinman, enjoyed Seth and Lucy's company so much that she would bring high school friends to visit with her. Harry Werner and his wife Susan grew so close with the Holcombes that they considered Seth and Lucy surrogate grandparents to their children, and the two families spent many special

"Their gift of land and stewardship funds will have a lasting impact on the Land Trust and the community they treasured. It is the Land Trust's intention to create the Seth and Lucy Holcombe Preserve, which will be open for use by the public, so that others may enjoy and experience the land they so loved."

occasions together.

Seth was extremely well-read and a wonderful conversationalist. "He was the best extemporaneous speaker you've ever heard," said his nephew, Shepherd Holcombe, Jr. "He also was very open and articulate, and truly engaged with whom he was talking." Seth had many diverse interests. He was an academic who was passionate about the Classics and who studied the poetry of Emily Dickinson. He also enjoyed studying his family's genealogy; was a true expert on the history of baseball (especially his beloved Red Sox); and took wonderful photographs of steam trains, which now are housed in the Railroad History Archive at the University of Connecticut. He even, for a time, was a square-dance caller. "When they made Seth, they broke the mold," says Nancy.

Lucy was an outdoorswoman and a nature lover, with a special affinity for birds. She was gentle and kind, but she enjoyed intellectual discourse as much as Seth did, and many a dinner party went late into the night. Lucy also loved her dogs. When they moved to North Granby, the Holcombes built an extensive trail system through their

property; and when Lucy wasn't riding her horses on those trails, she was walking her dogs, cross-country skiing, or snow-shoeing on them. The trails served as a primary source of recreation for the Holcombes for 30+ years. Another source of recreation was their swimming pool. While Seth always said he wouldn't get in unless the water hit 90 degrees (which, of course, it never did!), Seth and Lucy hosted pool parties for all their nieces and nephews and for the Werners' children. Everyone loved visiting Aunt Lucy and Uncle Seth.

Contributions to Granby

Upon moving to North Granby, the Holcombes quickly became involved in numerous town organizations. Lucy was a member of the Friends of Cossitt Library, a member and secretary of the Granby Library Board, and a member of both the Granby Historic Properties Study Committee and Salmon Brook Historical Society. She also was very active at First Congregational Church. Seth served on the board of The Salmon Brook Historical Society, served several terms on the Zoning Board of Appeals in Granby, was a member of the Republican Town Committee, and was a founder of the Granby Horse Council. Together, they were active members of The Granby Land Trust. Granby benefited immensely and in so many ways from their contributions over the four decades they spent here.

Conservationists

The Holcombes shared a deep appreciation of the natural world and were dedicated to its preservation. They followed planning and zoning issues and favored open spaces and minimal environmental impact;

and they were very early and active members of the Granby Land Trust. When 68 acres of property abutting theirs was put up for sale in 1984, the Holcombes bought it. Then, in 1993, they donated a conservation easement on all 152 acres to the Granby Land Trust, protecting it from development. In 2005, the GLT awarded its highest honor, the *Mary Edwards Friend of the Land Trust Award*, to Seth and Lucy. Lucy hung the award, a Carole Day watercolor triptych of the Mary Edwards Mountain Property, right by her bed.

A Remarkable Legacy

Seth Holcombe passed away in 2009. Lucy passed in January of 2016. Remarkably, the Holcombes bequeathed their entire North Granby property – all 152 acres, including their house – to the GLT. In addition, they left a stewardship fund, so we can care for the land forever.

“Lucy and Seth's commitment to land preservation and the natural world is truly remarkable,” says GLT president and the steward of the Holcombes' property, Rick Orluk. “Their gift of land and

stewardship funds will have a lasting impact on the Land Trust and the community they treasured. It is the Land Trust's intention to create the Seth and Lucy Holcombe Preserve, which will be open for use by the public, so that others may enjoy and experience the land they so loved.”

The Holcombes were modest, private people, who went about their lives with conviction and principle and completely without fanfare. “They wouldn't want to be celebrated,” says Harry. “They wouldn't want a big plaque with their names on it. They'd want to be remembered for what was important to them.”

Toward the end of her life, when Lucy was no longer able to get outside and enjoy her beautiful property, Nancy moved her bird-feeders to the window by her bed. To Lucy, those birds represented the natural world that she loved so dearly. Indeed, the animals, the trees, the flowers – the abundant natural world that existed on Thorne Bay Hill – that is what was most important to Lucy and Seth; that is what will live on, because of them; and that is what they will be remembered for, forever. ☉



Seth Holcombe rides his horse, Viganita.





Seth & Lucy Holcombe Preserve

A Granby Land Trust Property

www.granbylandtrust.org

The GLT's new Seth and Lucy Holcombe Preserve provides quality habitat for forest birds, amphibians and reptiles, and other wildlife; and is part of an expansive wildlife corridor. The mast (acorns, samaras, etc.) produced by the numerous oaks and other hardwood trees on the Preserve is a critical food source for up to 35 wildlife species. The mature white oak trees produce the favored acorns for numerous birds and other wildlife and are a primary winter food source for white-tailed deer and turkey.

The Preserve also provides migratory stopover and breeding habitat for forest-interior birds that require large tracts of forestland for their survival. Forest-interior bird species have experienced population declines in small nature preserves throughout the northeastern United States, and are considered to be extremely sensitive to human disturbance. During a site visit during bird migration, several at-risk forest birds were recorded within the Preserve, including the Black-throated Blue Warbler, the Scarlet Tanager and the Wood Thrush.

The Preserve also is important in terms of wetlands and watershed protection. Situated at the top of two local watersheds, the permanent protection of this property reduces potential impacts to both Dismal and East Branch Salmon Brooks, both of which have been identified by the Connecticut DEEP Fisheries Division as quality habitat for juvenile Atlantic Salmon. The wooded wetlands provide a suite of important ecological functions, including surface and subsurface water storage, flood abatement, groundwater recharge, nutrient cycling, particulate removal, and habitat for plant and animal communities. The shrub-scrub wetland contains several shallow pools that may provide breeding habitat for sensitive vernal pool species such as Jefferson Salamander and Wood Frog.

The Preserve includes 1,200 feet of frontage on Silver Street and has an elevation of 600 feet, making it visible from Tunxis State Forest in East Hartland, the Newgate Prison in East Granby, Mountain Road in North Granby, and from numerous town highways in Granby and Southwick. Thanks to the generosity of Seth and Lucy Holcombe, instead of seeing houses on this ridgeline, we will see trees.

In time, the GLT will open the Preserve to the public. We plan to build a small parking lot to provide access, and we will continue to maintain the trails that Seth and Lucy built and cared for over so many years.



Stanley Pelka, as a young boy, working on the farm.



Pelka Donation (continued from cover)

Although the donation of her 143-acre North Granby farm came as a surprise to the Land Trust, those who did know her well note that it was her way of making sure her most precious possession would be forever protected. The Pelka Farm is actually comprised of four parcels: 47 and 43 acres on Granville Road, 33 acres on Silver Street and 20 acres on Loveland. (The last piece mentioned was used as a summer pasture for the dairy farm's cows.)

Ann was born in 1922, the last of the seven children of Joseph and Jennie Pelka. Most of them never married, and all of them lived on the farm, which was a dairy farm. One by one, her siblings died and eventually she was the only one left on the property.

Her across-the-street neighbors, the LaChapelles, became close friends and for 27 years she relied on them for needed transportation, but more importantly, social connection. Every Saturday and Sunday, Ann would cross the street and spend the day visiting the family, eating meals with them and entertaining (and being entertained by) the five LaChapelle children. Lemonade and cookies was an especially favored treat in the summer time. Even after marrying and moving away, LaChapelle daughter Kristin

picked up Ann once a week for dinner at her home. Ann was "grandmom" to them all.

Local veterinarian Morey Miller took care of the Pelkas' dairy herd, and when Ann's brother Stanley died in 1995 and the cows were sold, he continued in her employ, haying the large field behind the house and barns. Miller notes that he and Ann got along very well, sharing memories of old-time farming, such as community horse pulls and doing chores without the modern equipment of today. She was extremely protective of the property, wanting to know anyone he brought along to help with the haying. She kept an eye on who ever was there and what they were doing.

Until his death six years ago, Al Lachapelle was Ann's executor and financial advisor. He once asked her if he could buy a portion of the property to build a cabin there, but she refused, saying she "had plans." Many people stopped to ask if any of the land was for sale, but the answer was always "no." Miller relates the story of one gentleman who stopped and told her he had an idea: "You sell me the farm and I'll let you live here

Ann Pelka Preserve

A Granby Land Trust Property

www.granbylandtrust.org

for the rest of your life." Ann replied, "I have an idea: why don't you get off my property!"

Although usually very mannerly and proper, Ann did not take well to those who wanted a piece of her farm to develop.

Josephine LaChapelle recalls her husband introducing the idea of the



Ann Pelka often spent time with her good friends and neighbors, the LaChapelle Family. Here, they bake cookies together.

Land Trust to Ann at one point as a solution to avoiding development, but nothing definite was planned as far as he knew. After his death, Ann's niece became executor of the estate and Josephine was as surprised as everyone when Ann's will specified that the Land Trust was to receive her most precious possession. Now Ann can rest easy, knowing that her land will be enjoyed and respected by future generations. ☉

KA GIFT

COMBE GIFT



Meet Rod Dimock

The Granby Land Trust is fortunate to have some of the most experienced, knowledgeable, and dedicated board members around. GLT Vice President Rod Dimock is one of them.

Rod served for three years as a U.S. Navy Officer during the Vietnam War, including two years at sea as Destroyer department head. He served as president of Aetna Realty Investors, Inc., one of the country's largest real estate investment management advisors. He also served on Aetna's asset allocation committee and was a registered investment advisor in all 50 states. More recently, he was the president, chief operating officer and director of Cornerstone Properties, a \$4.8 billion Real Estate Investment Trust.

Rod's leadership and decision-making skills serve the board well; as does his extensive investment expertise (he currently chairs our Finance Committee and is the co-chair of the Property Stewardship Committee). And his handyman skills (he can do carpentry, tile, drywall, electrical... pretty much anything) came in very handy indeed when he built-out our office at Holcomb Farm.

When he's not working for the Land Trust, Rod is the principal of Arrow Capital, LLC, offering private investing, property development and consulting services; he is an owner and the chairman of the management committee of the highly acclaimed Red Tail Golf Club in Devens, Massachusetts; and he serves on numerous other boards of directors and as a recruiter and fundraiser for his alma mater, Williams College.

From Fallen Limbs to Works of Art

When our beloved, 400-year old Dewey-Granby Oak suffered broken limbs after the October snow-storm of 2011, the Granby Land Trust salvaged what wood they could

The GLT auctioned off the table at its art show in November. The table sold for \$1,200 and, we are happy to say, now resides in a Granby Land Trust member's home.



Brenon Plourde crafted this stunning coffee table from the fallen branches of the Dewey-Granby Oak.

from the magnificent tree and invited area artists, crafters and woodworkers to find ways to utilize it.

More than 20 people responded, with proposals to create everything from picture frames to spoons to a gunstock to a bench. A number of them also created works of art that they donated to the GLT, for the benefit of the GLT, and we are so grateful to them for their generosity.

For example, Scott Duncan created 35 hand-turned wooden bowls, which he donated to the Land Trust. The Land Trust, in turn, gave the bowls as gifts of appreciation to our Life Members and most generous supporters. It was a fitting way to thank some of the people who make our work possible.

Brenon Plourde created a beautiful, one-of-a-kind coffee table. Brenon used a large piece of the Oak to make the tabletop, and wood from other local trees to make the base. The finished product was simply gorgeous.

Jamie Gamble created exquisite, hand-turned pens, which he presented as gifts to the members of the all-volunteer GLT Board, in appreciation for all of the hours they spend working for the GLT. These pens serve as a tangible reminder of Granby's natural heritage and the

importance of the work we do.

Jeff Huot created a handsome mantle clock and some lovely boxes, which he donated to the GLT. The clock adorns the GLT's office at Holcomb Farm, noticeably dressing up our office space.

The Land Trust is exceedingly appreciative of these generous donations. The storm was a tragic event in the history of the Dewey-Granby Oak, but by creating beautiful works of art from the salvaged, broken limbs, these artists have helped preserve a piece of this magnificent tree, and, indeed, of our history.



Scott Duncan turned 35 beautiful bowls in a range of sizes from Dewey-Granby Oak wood.

GLT Promotes Granby



VISIT GRANBY & GET FRESH

Granby, Connecticut is a rural town with an agricultural history and a creative spirit. Its farms, forests, and open spaces provide many benefits, including fresh food, fresh air, and a fresh perspective. This map is a guide to some of our town's farms, hiking areas and art studios, where you can see nature's beauty reflected in art. You can help keep Granby Fresh by supporting our local farms and artists – and by joining the Granby Land Trust.

FRESH AIR

Granby has an abundance of open space. More than 8,000 acres of land are permanently preserved through the efforts of the Granby Land Trust, McLean Game Refuge, the Town of Granby, and the State of Connecticut. Hiking trails crisscross much of this property, providing visitors with the perfect opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors. There are meandering trails along babbling brooks, short walks to beautiful ponds and waterfalls, more challenging climbs to incredible views, and open farm roads where you can see stone walls and house foundations that chronicle Granby's agricultural roots.

Exposure to nature has been shown to reduce stress and boost well-being, so what are you waiting for? Get out there and enjoy it!

FRESH FOOD

See the fields where your food grows and the facilities where milk turns into cheese. Take a wagon ride, go apple picking, taste a new wine, snap a picture of your kids on a tractor. Granby is unique in that it boasts a large number of working farms and a wide variety of agricultural products.

Local farms provide more than fresh food; supporting local farms helps preserve farmland and benefits farmers, consumers and the community. Experience the satisfaction of knowing your farmer, knowing where your food came from, and helping preserve agricultural land.

Visit a local farm today!

FRESH PERSPECTIVES

The artwork being done within the borders of this small New England town is exceptional. We have painters, photographers, potters, glass blowers, jewelers, sculptors, a blacksmith, and more. Visit these talented artists in their studios. In some cases, you can see them at work or take a class; in others, you can order custom-made, one-of-a-kind pieces of art. Each offers unique and beautiful items for sale; and supporting local, independent artists benefits the cultural fabric of the community.



Photography: Peter Dinella



granbylandtrust.org

Granby Agricultural Commission

granbyag.org

GRANBY ARTISTS ASSOCIATION

granbyartists.org

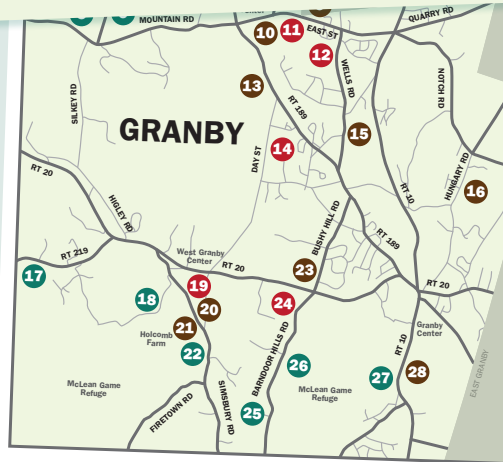
This map was produced collaboratively by the Granby Agricultural Commission, the Granby Land Trust and the Granby Artists Association. For more information on these organizations, including information on how you can get involved, please visit our websites:

GRANBY, CONNECTICUT

FRESH AIR
FRESH FOOD
FRESH PERSPECTIVES



Your guide to Granby's hiking trails, farms, and art studios.



- 11. Fiddlehead Foto**
114 East St. • fiddleheadfoto.com
Wildlife photos and art. Lectures on photography and photo destinations. Open weekends May thru Oct.
- 12. Sally Sargent Mackey**
127 West Rd. • 860.653.3224
Watercolor, fine, greeting cards. Open by appt.
- 14. Laura J. Eden**
Juniper Ct. • 860.396.3879
laurajeden.com
Watercolors, egg tempera, giclee prints, notecards. Open by appt.
- 19. Art of Lamp**
46 Simsbury Rd. • 860.413.3569
artoflamp.com
Nature-inspired sculptural lighting, commission projects. Open daily 10am-6pm.
- 24. Honey Hill Pottery**
31 Barndoor Hills Rd. • 860.841.8675
honeyhillpottery.us
Handmade functional and decorative pottery for every home. Open daily 10am-5pm or by appt.
- 1. Lost Acres Orchard**
120 Lost Acres Rd. • 860.653.6600
lostacres.com
Apple and peach orchard, cider mill, bakery. Open year-round; lunch served May-Oct.
- 3. Lost Acres Vineyard**
80 Lost Acres Rd.
lostacresvineyard@gmail.com
lostacresvineyard.com
Handcrafted boutique wines. Wine tastings available. Open Apr.-Dec. Fri. and Sat. 12-6pm; Sun. 12-5pm.
- 7. Emery Farm**
71 Loomis St. • 860.214.6955
Hay, firewood, maple syrup, native lumber. Open by appt.
- 8. Hemlock Knoll Farm**
18 Loomis St. • 860.653.6447
hemlockknoll.com
Family farm raising beef, pork and veal. Open by appt.
- 9. School House Farm**
100 East St. • 860.885.0190
mloc@ccoc.net
Show chickens, pigs, chickens, vegetables. Open by appt.
- 10. Sweet Pea Cheese at the House of Hayes Dairy**
151 East St. • 860.614.6624
granbyag.org/sweet-pea-cheese-house
-49 Hayes Hill
Cow and goat milk, cheese and yogurt. Corn maze in the fall. Open daily 7am-7pm.
- 13. Wilhelm Farm**
329 North Granby Rd. • 860.844.0008
am.wilhelm@ccoc.net
Small-scale, mixed-dairy system. Vegetables, berries, and fennel. Open by appt.
- 15. O'Brien Nursery**
40 Wells Rd. • 860.653.0163
obrienista.com
Hostas, Japanese maples, conifers, display gardens, and more. Open seasonally.
- 16. Lyric Hill Farm**
134 Hungry Rd. • lyrichillfarm.com
Goat milk soap, herbs, eggs, horse riding and board. Open by appt.
- 20. The Garlic Farm**
78 Simsbury Rd.
garlicfarmct.com
Pesticide-free veggies: onions, peppers, eggplant, etc. Open daily July-Sept. 10am-6pm.
- 21. Holcomb Farm**
111 Simsbury Rd. • 860.844.8616
holcombfarm.org
Rooftop farm. Chemical-free vegetables, farm store, CSA. Open June-Oct. Tues.-Sat. 10am-6pm.
- 23. Clark Farm at Bushy Hill**
33 Bushy Hill Rd. • 860.653.4922
bushyhill.com
Apples, peaches, goat cheese & homemade goods. Open year-round.
- 28. Maple View Farm**
102 Salmon Brook St.
mapleview@ccoc.net
Hiding lessons, Christmas trees, pasture-raised pork and beef. Open daily 9am-6pm.
- 5. Mary Edwards Mountain Property**
A Granby Land Trust Property
Sweeping views and extensive trail system. Hiking, snowshoeing. Parking.
- 6. Godard Preserve**
A Granby Land Trust Property
Danaheir Rd. • granbylandtrust.org
Varied terrain. Connects to Mary Edwards trails. Hiking, XC skiing, snowshoeing. Parking.
- 17. Enders State Forest**
Route 219 Barndoor Hills Rd.
Short hike to waterfall. Parking.
- 18. Broad Hill Road Properties**
Broad Hill Rd.
Various trail systems through large conservation area owned by Granby Land Trust, Holcomb Farm/Town of Granby and McLean Game Refuge. Hiking, XC skiing, snowshoeing. Parking.
- 22. Holcomb Farm Trails**
111 Simsbury Rd. • 860.844.8616
holcombfarm.org/trails
Varied terrain. Hiking, XC skiing, snowshoeing, and horseback riding. Parking.
- 25. Western Barndoor Hill Preserve**
A Granby Land Trust Property
Kettle Pond Rd. • granbylandtrust.org
Short hike to a magnificent view. Hiking, snowshoeing. Parking on Barndoor Hills Road.
- 26-27. McLean Game Refuge**
Barndoor Hills Rd. & Salmon Brook St.
pic@granbylandtrust.org
Extensive trail system through varied terrain. Horses allowed on yellow trails. Parking.

Working together, the Granby Land Trust, the Granby Agricultural Commission, and the Granby Artists Association have created a map showing local hiking trails, farms, and art studios where you can GET FRESH! (Get fresh food, fresh air, and a fresh perspective, that is...right here in Granby.)

The creation of the map was spearheaded by Lost Acres Vineyard's Michelle Niedermeyer and The GLT's Rick Orluk, who have worked together for years to support land preservation, working farms, and the local art community,

most notably through the annual GLT Art Show (which takes place at Lost Acres Vineyard each fall), and their "Buy Local" campaign (which encourages area residents to buy locally-grown food whenever possible). The Granby Artists Association was happy to join in the effort, and the resulting map is the result of this collaboration.

The map gives the location and operating hours for a number of Granby's many farms and art studios, as well as the locations of our town's very best hiking trails. It is a guide to some of the things that

make this town special; and whether you're visiting from out-of-town or someone who has lived in Granby for 30 years, you're apt to discover something new to do in Granby.

You can find the map on the Granby Land Trust website (www.granbylandtrust.org). Printed copies can be found at Town Hall, Granby Public Library and Cossitt Library, and at various businesses throughout town. Once you have your map, you're going to want to get out there and see all the fresh food, fresh air and fresh perspectives this little town has to offer. Enjoy! ☺

GLT Featured in National Magazine



The Granby Land Trust was excited to be featured (as the center spread, no less!) in the Winter 2017 issue of *Saving Land* magazine, a quarterly publication of the Land Trust Alliance. The magazine featured a beautiful midwinter photo of the Mary Edwards Mountain Property, taken by our talented volunteer photographer, Peter Dinella.

When asked to submit an article about the Granby Land Trust, the GLT Board knew exactly what they wanted the subject of the article to be: 1) saving land is as much about people as it is about land; and 2) you can't build a land trust without first building trust.

The Land Trust Alliance is a national land conservation organization that works to save the places people need and love by strengthening land conservation across America. The Alliance represents more than 1,100 member land trusts supported by more than five million members nationwide. The Alliance is based in Washington, D.C.



land we love

PHOTOGRAPH BY Peter Dinella
STORY BY Trish Percival and Rick O'Connell



20 Winter 2017 **SAVINGland** www.landtrustalliance.org



Building Trust, *Saving Land*

The accredited Granby Land Trust (GLT) in Granby, Connecticut, has preserved more than 2,500 acres since its founding in 1972. Often, these gifts result from a family's deep, emotional connection to the land, a connection at the heart of the GLT's work, because saving land is as much about *people* as it is about *land*, and building a land trust is really about building *trust*.

Mary Edwards helped the GLT learn this lesson soon after its founding. Mary owned some of Granby's most beautiful land. She wanted to preserve it, but the GLT was young, and she wanted to be sure it could protect her beloved land forever. The fledgling, all-volunteer trust set to work building a strong organization and learning about Mary's connection to the land.

In time, the GLT earned Mary's trust and she gifted more than 250 acres to the organization, including the incredible Mary Edwards Mountain Property (seen here), as well as a generous endowment. In effect, earning Mary's trust helped the GLT build a *Trust* of its own. 🍂

11th Annual Lan

Draws Extraordinary A



Jim Laurino won the Matthew K. Orluk Award for "Creamery Hill Horse Barn."

Each November since 2005, the Granby Land Trust and the Granby Artists Association have worked together to sponsor a juried art show. Thanks to the incredible generosity of the GLT's friends, the show now offers a remarkable \$5,000 in award money and the event has become something the community looks forward to each fall. At our 2016 show, 178 pieces of original artwork were submitted from artists across Southern New England. Seventy-seven works were selected.

The theme was *Celebrating New England's Natural Beauty*, and all artwork had to reflect this theme. Will

Lustenader, an accomplished artist who teaches at Choate Rosemary Hall in Wallingford, Connecticut, served as juror.

The winner of the 2016 show's top prize – the **Don and Marty Wilmot Award** – was Kate Tortland, for her painting *Holcomb Overlook*.

Alexander Anisimov was awarded the show's second place prize, the **Granby Land Trust Award**, for his painting titled *Mountain Top*.

Fourteen additional prizes were awarded as follows: Catherine Elliott won the **Sandy and Dave Schupp Award** for *Morning Paint*. Bill Hanson won the **Austin J. McNey Memorial Award** given by Karen, Scott & Patrick McNey for *Salmon Brook, East Branch*. Carole Hartwell won the **Stephen Brown Memorial Award** for *Mary Edwards' Mountain*. The **Ray Betts Award**, given by Carol and Greg Reid, went to Bill Manocchi for *Grey Barn*. Rick Daskam won the **Granby Artists**



The winner of the show's top award – the Don and Marty Wilmot award – was Kate Tortland for "Holcomb Overlook."



Alan Izatt won the Tudor and Put Brown, for "Lampson"

Land Trust Art Show

Art from Across the Region

Celebrating New England's Natural Beauty Granby Land Trust Juried Art Show



"Beaver's Home II" by Suzanne Ros Magnus - 2015 Old Stewart Award Winner



"Fresh Snowfall" by John Wilkin - 2015 William Stewart Award Winner

October 27-November 27, 2016

Lost Acres Vineyard Art Gallery
North Granby, CT

Association Award for *Phillips Farm*. Douglas Williams won the **Helen and Al Wilke Award** for *A New Day*. Del-Bourree Bach won the **Mildred Dewey Award**, given by Jenny and Dave Emery, for *A Winter's Tail*. Jim Laurino won the **Matthew K. Orluk Award**, given by Trish Percival and Rick Orluk, for *Creamery Hill Horse Barn*. Michael Patnode won the **Olof**

Stevenson Award, given by Jamie Gamble, for *A Fall Day*. Alan Izatt won the **Tudor and Laura Holcomb Award**, given by Nannie and Put Brown, for *Lampson Brook Farm*. The **William Stewart Award**, given by Dave and Judy Russell, went to Margot Callahan for *August Afternoon*. Kristen Cormier won the **Salmon Brook Watershed Association Award** for *Reflection #6*. Del-Bourree Bach won the **People's Choice Award** for his painting, *A Winter's Tail*. This award, underwritten

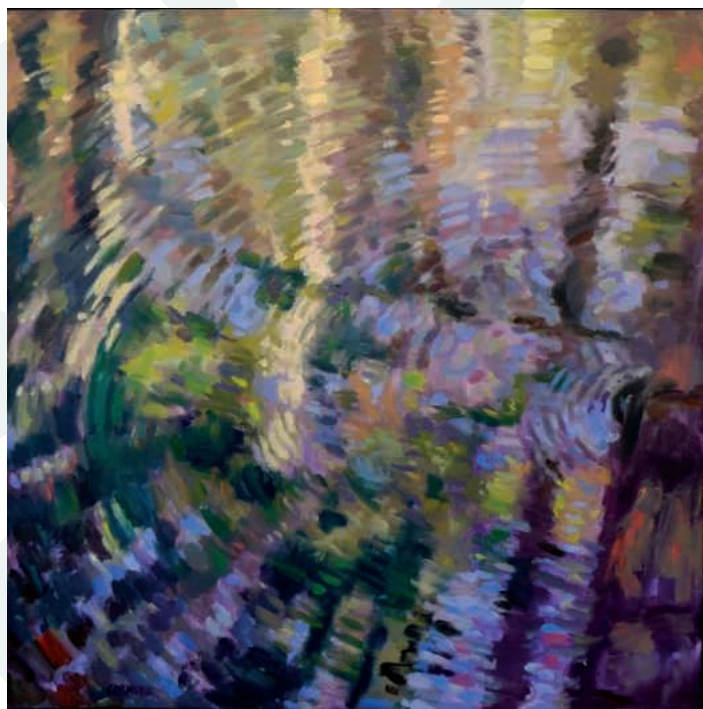


by Lost Acres Vineyard owners Michelle Niedermeyer and Kevin Riggott, is chosen by guests who visit the Vineyard during the show and vote on their favorite piece.

The Land Trust is grateful to Mark Wetzell and Fiduciary Investment Advisors, LLC and Ted Cormier and ALIRT Insurance Research, LLC for their ongoing, loyal support of the show. In addition, the Land Trust thanks event co-chairs Els Fonteyne and Laurie Scheck for organizing the show's Opening Night; Bill Simpson and Laura Eden for their wise counsel, advice and hard work and for organizing the show's Art Talk; and Michelle Niedermeyer and Kevin Riggott of Lost Acres Vineyard for hosting the show. Lastly, the GLT thanks Tony Capelli for his beautiful floral arrangements and Karen Rutigliano for creating delectable appetizers for Opening Night. ☺



Laura Holcomb Award, given by Nannie and Put Brown, for *Lampson Brook Farm*.



Kristen Cormier won the Salmon Brook Watershed Association Award for "Reflection #6."

In Memoriam

The Granby Land Trust lost some very good friends in 2016. They will long be remembered for their loyal and dedicated support; and we hold their families in our thoughts and prayers.

Lucy Holcombe, who was predeceased by her husband, Seth. Together, Seth and Lucy supported the GLT in many ways over the years. Upon Lucy's passing, the Holcombes left their spectacular, 150-acre farm to the GLT (see article on the Holcombes and their gift in this newsletter).



Ann Pelka. Ann was a member of the Pelka farming family, who owned and farmed a number of beautiful properties in North Granby. Upon Ann's passing, she left four significant parcels of land totaling 143 acres to the GLT (see article on Ann and her gift in this newsletter).



David Sterling, a dear friend and longtime supporter of the GLT. David and his son, Jonathan, worked together to steward one of our properties. They have always been model property stewards who shared a strong commitment to the GLT. We deeply appreciate all David did for our organization over the years.



Michael Austin. Michael and his wife, Sally, have been active and loyal supporters of the GLT for many years. Upon Michael's passing in November, the family asked that memorial donations in Michael's honor be made to the Granby Land Trust. We are humbled by this gesture and grateful to the family for determining the GLT to be an organization worthy of this support.





Annual Meeting

The Granby Land Trust held its annual meeting on October 23, 2016 at Holcomb Farm. It was a beautiful fall day and Leslie Judge took members on a great hike through Holcomb Farm and GLT trails. Upon their return, hikers were greeted with a delectable dessert buffet, including hot apple crisp, before settling down for the Annual Meeting. At the meeting, the *Mary Edwards Friend of the Land Trust Award* – the highest honor bestowed by the Land Trust – was presented posthumously to Ann Pelka for her incredible donation of 143 acres of farmland to the GLT.



A winter view from Mary's Rock on the Mary Edwards Mountain Property.



“In every walk with nature one receives more than he seeks.”

— John Muir

New Year's Day Hike

Twenty-five Granby Land Trust members and friends started the New Year right, enjoying the outdoors on New Year's morning. Led by Land Trust Board Member Fran Armentano, the walk took place on the spectacular Mary Edwards Mountain Property in North Granby. This was Fran's 9th year in-a-row leading this walk. If you missed it this year, we hope you'll join us next year!

GLT BIG PAINT is BIG HIT



"Morning Paint," the piece Catherine Elliott painted en plein air at this year's BIG PAINT, won the Dave and Sandy Schupp Award at the GLT Art Show.

Catherine Elliott working on her award-winning painting at this year's BIG PAINT.

Approximately 25 artists participated in the 2016 Granby Land Trust BIG PAINT plein air art event on the spectacular Mary Edwards Mountain Property on September 25. This annual event is a lead-up to the GLT Art Show; and artists from the Granby Artists Association and the Connecticut Plein Air Painters Society join us on a different property each year, to create art "en plein air." While most participants are painters, we have been thrilled to host other artists, including calligraphers, potters, photographers, and sculptors, as well.



Each year, artists arrive while the morning dew is still burning off the meadows, pull their easels, paints, and umbrellas out of their cars, and walk the property looking for the perfect view to capture.

On the Mary Edwards Mountain Property, views abound, and we had artists working everywhere: at the crest of the hill, in the woods, by the pond, and at Mary's Rock.

Once the artists have had a chance to set up their easels and get started on their pieces, we invite our members and friends to visit. People stroll across the property, stopping at easels, chatting with the artists, and watching beautiful art take form before their eyes. The event is always a hit with artists and visitors alike, and we already are looking forward to next year's BIG PAINT.

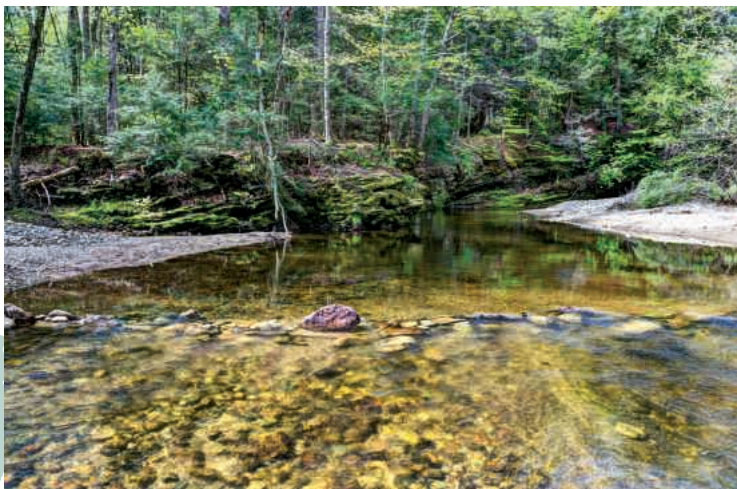
Laura Eden participates in the BIG PAINT.



Retired Kingswood-Oxford biology teacher Dick Caley.

GLT Plays Critical Role in Keeping Watershed Clean

Did you know that the Salmon Brooks are among the highest quality waters in the state? That's thanks, in part, to the Granby Land Trust's successful accession of many significant pieces of property. By keeping development away from many of the streams feeding the watershed, the water remains free of fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, road salt, and myriad other chemicals. This was one of the main points of a lecture given by retired Kingswood-Oxford biology teacher Dick Caley in October. A member of the Land Trust for many years and staunch protector of our streams and the life in them, Caley studies the macro-invertebrates that inhabit these waters and act as the "canaries in the mines" regarding the health of the streams. Caley is adamant that the future of Granby's watershed is tied to the continued success of the Granby Land Trust.



Salmon Brook on the Nuckols Family Preserve in West Granby.



Bobcats and Cougars

The GLT hosted a family-friendly, informative talk on wild cats of Connecticut in September. Led by Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Biologist and Granby resident Jason Hawley, this talk focused on the natural history of felids (wild cats) in Connecticut, their current status in the wild, the very common problem of misidentification, the potential for cougars ever to return to Connecticut, and the case of the cougar that dispersed from South Dakota to Connecticut (Mr. Hawley brought that cougar's pelt for all to see and feel!).



(Almost) Full Moon Hike

Nearly 30 people joined hike leader Dave Emery on his farm for an “Almost Full Moon Hike” in October. The hikers took a 45-minute hike to the top of Crag Mountain, where they enjoyed views of the Connecticut and Farmington River Valleys. Afterwards, they gathered by Dave’s cabin in the woods for a bonfire. The GLT had promised guests some post-hike popcorn popping, but some critters stole the popcorn before the hikers reached the cabin! Luckily, the critters didn’t get the wine, too....



Bird Walks

The GLT once again hosted two early morning bird walks. Led by Land Trust members and avid birders John Weeks and Christine Chinni, the walks were held on Jamie Gamble’s beautiful North Granby property on Loomis Street. Over the last decade, these popular walks have become a Land Trust tradition. Jamie’s property is perfect for birding, with woodlands, wetlands and a pond – a wide variety of habitats for migrating and nesting birds. And early May is an active time for birds, as they return from a winter away. We are grateful to John, Chris and Jamie for making this incredibly special event happen for us each year.

*The 2017 GLT Bird Walks
will be held on May 13 and 14.*

Property Stewards Invasive Species Training

One of the most challenging problems the GLT faces is the management of invasive plant species on the properties we own. So when GLT Board Member and Master Gardener Eric Lukingbeal offered to teach our property stewards about *Invasive Plant Species Management and Control*, we didn’t say, “Yes, please,” we said, “How soon can you do it?!” We thank Eric for leading a fantastic training session that: 1) gave property stewards the tools they need to identify these non-native plant species; and 2) taught responsible management solutions.





For a complete map, with property names and details, visit GranbyLandTrust.org.

GRANBY
Land Trust



Preserving Granby's Natural Heritage



*Help us preserve Granby's
natural heritage.*



*Join or renew your
membership today.*

(Membership materials inside.)

*For more information
visit GranbyLandTrust.org.*

Granby Land Trust

PO Box 23

Granby, CT 06035

www.GranbyLandTrust.org



Join the Granby Land Trust

✓ Mark Your Calendar

GLT Bird Walks

May 13 & 14

CT Trails Day

June 4

GLT Annual Meeting

October 22

GLT Art Show

October 26 – November 26

*For more details about these events and to
see the most updated list of
upcoming events, visit
GranbyLandTrust.org
and join us on Facebook!*



*"I go to nature to be soothed
and healed, and to have my
senses put in order."*

– John Burroughs



Yellow Warbler seen on 2016 GLT Bird Walk.



Printed on Recycled Paper