



The Lyme Land Conservation Trust

2013 Spring Newsletter

Land Trust Acquires New 100 Acre Banningwood Preserve on Roaring Brook in Hadlyme Area

During the last week of March, the Lyme Land Trust purchased a 100 acre tract in Hadlyme that it plans to call The Banningwood Preserve and maintain as a forested refuge open to the public for recreation.

The Banningwood acquisition is one of three important land purchases — largely underwritten by grants from the State of Connecticut — along Roaring Brook in the Whalebone Creek Watershed that will provide protection to the Whalebone Cove tidal marsh in Hadlyme that's fed by Roaring Brook.

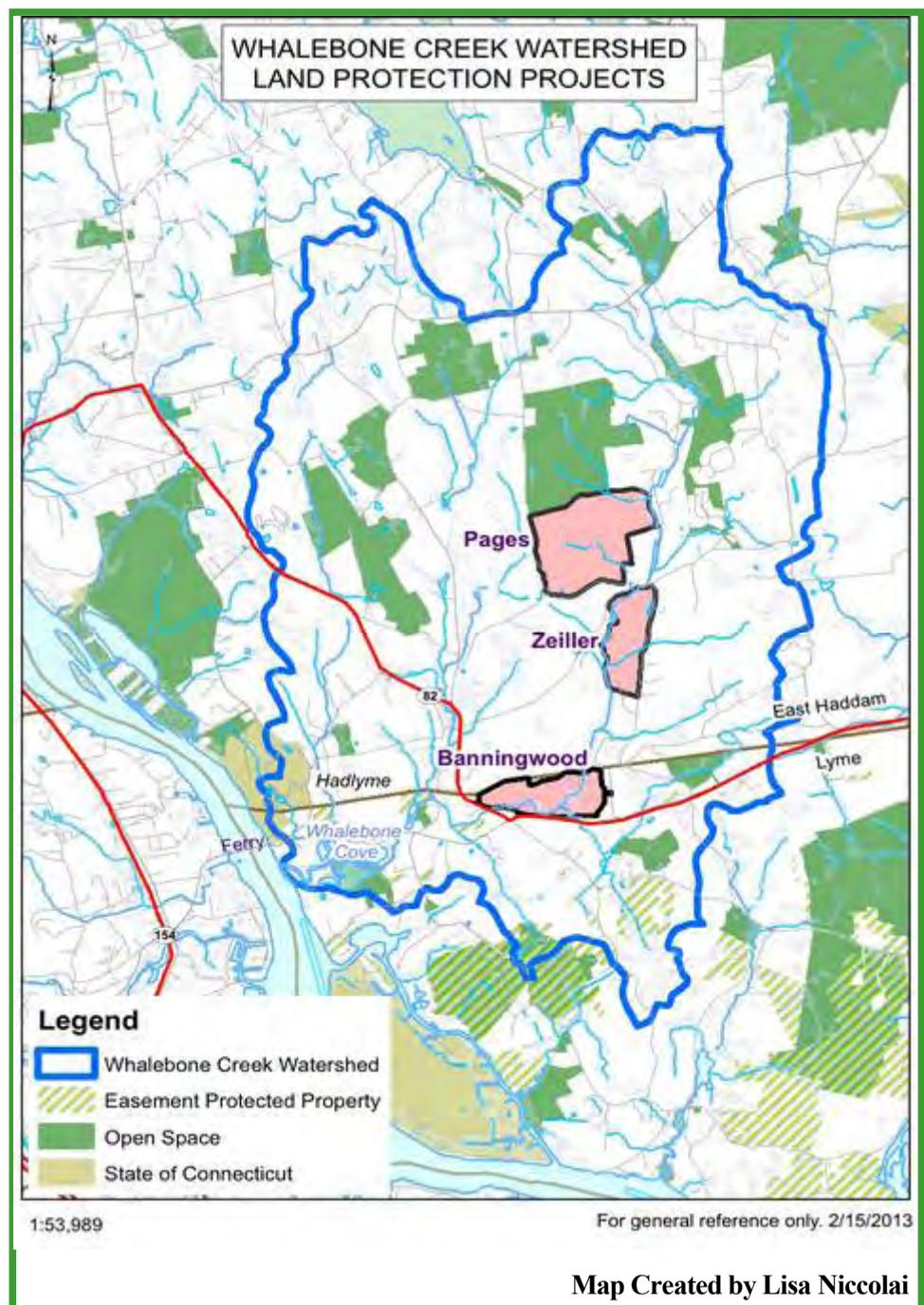
The Connecticut Nature Conservancy, which has made restoration and protection of the Connecticut River watershed one of its three long-term top priorities, calls the 25-acre Whalebone Cove “one of the most undisturbed and biologically significant freshwater tidal marshes on the Connecticut River.”

Taken together, the three new preserves will total 437 acres and will protect almost 2.5 miles of stream frontage on Roaring Brook.

The stream winds three-quarters of a mile through the Banningwood Preserve, which is located along Rt. 82 just north-east of the Hadlyme four corners.

The other two parcels are upstream in the Town of East Haddam (see map at right). The 238-acre Pages property has 1,500 feet frontage on the west bank of Roaring Brook, and the 98-acre Zeiller property has 4,000 feet on the east bank of the stream.

East Haddam voters approved
(continued on next page)



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purchase of the two new preserves by the Town in a referendum in early April.

When matched by the Land Trust, the State of Connecticut will provide half of the funding for Banningwood, whose purchase price is payable in five annual installments. The Land Trust must raise \$327,000 to match the state grant. It has already received \$120,000 in anonymous pledges and plans to launch a fund raising campaign to come up with the remaining \$207,000.

“The early commitments of \$120,000 in gifts for the Banningwood acquisition proves yet again how generous members of our community can be,” said Lyme Land Trust President John Pritchard in announcing the fund-raising drive. “We hope many others will help with this purchase that is perfectly designed for multi-year pledges.”

The property is made up of floodplain forest, wetlands, gravel deposits, fields, upland forest, rocky ledges and scenic vistas. Pritchard said the Land Trust plans to



Roaring Brook as it meanders through the new Banningwood Preserve.

develop hiking trails in the preserve.

“The importance to the community of maintaining Banningwood and Roaring Brook as they are cannot be overstated,” said Pritchard. “It will provide habitat for dozens of species, a flood plain to absorb

storm runoff, and a place where neighbors and visitors can be at one with nature.”

The property was given its name by Diana and Parker Lord, who sold it to the Land Trust, based on Banning Road that ran through it in the early 19th Century.

Would You Like to Support the Lyme Land Conservation Trust?

Use the convenient envelope bound into this newsletter to mail a donation today. 

President's Message

New Banningwood Preserve in Hadlyme Will Help Protect Whalebone Cove Tidal Marsh & The Connecticut River



John Pritchard
President

Coming hard on the heels of our purchase of the 40-acre Chestnut Hill Preserve on Sterling Hill Road in 2011 and the 46-acre Walbridge Woodlands on Gungy Road last year, the acquisition by the Land Trust of the new 100-acre Banningwood Preserve just northeast of Hadlyme four corners in late March (see story on page one) is another testament to our commitment to protecting the beauty and ecology of Lyme's natural places.

Banningwood encompasses about three quarters of a mile of Roaring Brook, which flows into Whalebone Cove, the majestic tidal marsh along the Ferry Road approach to the Chester-Hadlyme Ferry.

Banningwood is both beautiful and environmentally significant. Importantly, the Town of East Haddam is in the process of purchasing another 336 acres upstream on Roaring Brook, thus protecting another mile of its west bank. Protecting Roaring Brook will benefit not only Whalebone Cove (home to endangered

plants and wildlife), but the Connecticut River and Long Island Sound as well.

And this brings me to our Annual Meeting that will take place at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, June 14.

Our guest speaker will be Kim Lutz, Director of the Connecticut River Program of the Connecticut Nature Conservancy.

Come to our Annual Meeting and learn from Kim what has been accomplished, but more importantly, what remains to be done to restore the Connecticut River as nearly as feasible to a pristine condition.

Switching gears, the Tour de Lyme is nearly upon us, and you may be wondering what you can do to help make this a successful fund raising event. Consider any of the following: if you are a road or mountain bike rider, go to www.tourdelyme.org and register to ride; if you know others who ride, direct them to the website; even if you are not a rider, go to the website and make a donation to support the riders as well as the Land Trust; drive carefully on Saturday, May 11; and pray for good weather on event day!

The Lyme Land Conservation Trust Newsletter

Published by The Lyme Land Conservation Trust, Inc., PO Box 1002, Lyme, CT 06371 info@lymelandtrust.org Tel: 860-434-4639



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The First Tour de Lyme

A Cycling Event to Support Land Preservation

The first annual Tour de Lyme charity bike ride is nearly upon us.

The Land Trust has inaugurated this annual bike ride to raise funds to support its mission of preserving and protecting environmentally important land in Lyme.

The Tour de Lyme is intended for all to enjoy. It is not competitive (there will be no “races” or timed finishes), but rather is designed as a way to showcase and celebrate the preservation of Lyme’s spectacular natural beauty. While some of the courses will be challenging, there are others intended for casual cyclists, and there is even a family ride.

This year the ride — open to both mountain and road bikers — will take place on Saturday, May 11.

Riders will gather in the morning at the Lyme Consolidated School, ride one of several well marked routes, and return for a picnic lunch at the school.

Because the various routes are of different difficulty and distances, riders will leave at staggered times during the morning so that they will all return to the school grounds at about noon to enjoy a picnic lunch.

Tour de Lyme will raise money for the Land Trust in several different ways:

• **Sponsorships:** Local as well nationally recognized area businesses have stepped up to the challenge and are financially supporting the event as sponsors. (See “Sponsors” box). To date we have received over \$20,000 of support.

• **Rider Registration:** Many riders have already registered online. Rider registration is \$50 and all riders receive a free tee shirt and a picnic lunch.



Corporate Sponsors Underwriting Tour de Lyme

Platinum Sponsors

Essex Financial Services
Erik Block Design Build

Silver Sponsors

All Pro Automotive; Anthem BlueCross/
BlueShield; Bouvier Insurance, NRG
Energy; and Reynolds Garage & Marina

Gold Sponsors

Dominion Electric
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Supporters

Antonino Acura; Coca Cola Bottling Plant
of SE New England; Connaughty Chiro-
practic Center; and Connecticutcare Inc.

How you can help:

- Make a donation that the Directors' Fund will match at www.tourdelyme.org. Have fun – pick and support a team.
- Volunteer online to help us on event day or call George Moore at 860-227-0930.

• **Rider Donations:** Riders are being asked to make a donation or solicit donations to support the Land Trust's work. Those who raise or donate \$250 or more above the regis-

** The Special Tour de Lyme Jersey **



tration fee receive a special event cycling jersey (see below) and will be invited to a cocktail party Saturday evening at a Board member's home.

•Donations from Non-Riders:

Those wishing to support the work of the Land Trust are also encouraged to donate to the Tour de Lyme. Each dollar will be matched by the Director's Challenge Fund, so such gifts will have twice the impact in benefiting the Land Trust.

• **Director's Challenge Fund:** As an added incentive to encourage donations, the Directors of the Land Trust have established a special fund that will match all donations by riders over and above the \$50 registration fee (and non riders' donations from the first dollar) up to a total of \$10,000.

To learn more about the event, including the road and trail biking routes, go to www.tourdelyme.org.



Land Trust Creates Charitable Gift Annuity Program With Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut

The Lyme Land Conservation Trust, Inc. has announced creation of a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) Program in partnership with the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut (CFECT).

Charitable Gift Annuities permit individuals to make tax deductible gifts to qualified not-for-profits and still receive income from the gift for the rest of their lives. After their death, the income will then be distributed quarterly to the designated charities of their choosing.

The benefit for the donor is that he or she can continue to draw income (most of it tax-free) from the assets gifted to the annuity and enjoy immediate tax benefits associated with the gift.

The Lyme Land Trust program was adopted for those 60 years or older and for annuities of \$10,000 to \$1 million.

Charitable gift annuities are made under an easy to understand one page contract. The benefits are based on an individual's age when the contract is issued.

Charitable gift annuities are based on payment rates recommended by the American Council of Gift Annuities; have fixed

quarterly payments for life that are predominately tax free; and offer an immediate tax deduction.

Quarterly payments to the donor are based on the donor's age. The older you are; the higher the payment rate.

The annuity will be provided by the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut in New London, a \$42 million institution established in 1983. The Foundation's mission is to help keep our region flourishing through philanthropy.

As part of the CFECT annuity contract, you would select the Land Trust as the Designated Fund for the residual assets on your death. Thereafter, the Land Trust would receive an annual payment from the CFECT based on the remaining assets in the annuity. The CFECT Designated Fund distribution rate is typically 5% of the fund's value, which is subject to market conditions.

The benefits are possible tax advantages and a lasting gift that will provide annual income for the Land Trust. As with all transactions of this type, consult your legal and tax advisors.

New Land Trust "Heritage Society" To Recognize Deferred Giving

The Lyme Land Conservation Trust has established the Heritage Society to recognize members, neighbors and friends who have made plans to include the Land Trust in their estate plans through wills, trusts, charitable gift annuities, or life insurance. The importance of these future gifts to support the Land Trust cannot be overestimated. They will provide endowment so that the Land Trust will have the resources to fulfill its mission to steward the land entrusted to it in perpetuity.

Membership in the Heritage Society provides an opportunity for the Land Trust and the community it serves to say "thank you" to the generous individuals who have chosen to give back to the Trust through a deferred gift.

Those who notify the Land Trust that their deferred giving and/or estate plans include the Land Trust become members of the Heritage Society in recognition of their important future support.

If you would like to learn more about membership in the Heritage Society or would like information about an estate gift or annuity, please contact, email or have your attorney contact: Milton J. Walters, Lyme Land Trust Development Committee Chair; Tel. (203) 485-6070; Email: Milton.Walters@lymelandtrust.org

June 14 Annual Meeting Speaker Will Focus On Plans To Restore The Connecticut River

The featured speaker at the Lyme Land Trust Annual Meeting on Friday June 14 will be Kim Lutz, Director of the Connecticut River Program of the Connecticut Nature Conservancy.

The US Department of Interior (US DOI) has declared the Connecticut River and its 11,000 square mile watershed as the nation's first "Blueway," a new designation the will require that federal agencies work in concert on projects involving outdoor

recreation, environmental education, conservation and sustainable commerce in the watershed.

While working at US DOI, Ms Lutz helped design the "Blueway" program and a system she calls "bottom up" approval that will integrate land and water stewarding efforts with an emphasis on "source-to-sea" watershed conservation.

The Annual meeting will be at 6 PM in Lyme Public Hall, Rt. 156, Hamburg.



This NASA picture shows the Connecticut River choked in runoff after Hurricane Irene in 2011.

The New England Cottontail Threatened By Loss of Habitat

By Angie Falstrom

There are two species of rabbits now common to Connecticut.

The more prevalent is the eastern cottontail, introduced from the Midwest in the late 1800's and early 1900's. The other is our native New England cottontail, once common throughout New England, but now living in less than a fifth of its original range.

New England cottontails are on the brink of being classified as federally endangered, primarily because of habitat loss. They live where there are shrubs and dense thickets, such as in young forests or sandy coastal areas with low brush that provide shelter and food in the form of grasses, leaves, and fruit in warm months, and twigs and bark in colder months.

In older forests not enough light gets through the canopy to allow the understory to thrive, thus depriving the NE cottontail of its needed habitat. In the last 50 years, maturing forests and human development have contributed to an 86% decline in the NE cottontail population.

There are other pressures on the NE cottontail. While invasive species such as



Photo by Linda Cullivan, USFWS.

multiflora rose, honeysuckle bush, and autumn olive create shelter necessary for rabbits, they may not have the same nutritional value of native plants; the non-native eastern cottontail, adaptable to a wider range of habitats, competes with the NE cottontail for the same food; and over-population of deer depletes vegetation and destroys the density of shrubs and thickets that the rabbits rely on for cover.

While it's difficult to tell them apart, the NE cottontail is about 20% smaller than the eastern cottontail, with shorter, more rounded ears and a black spot between the ears, instead of the white one on most eastern cottontails. The two species are not thought to be capable of interbreeding.

Breeding season is from March to September. NE cottontails typically have two to three litters per season, averaging five young in each litter. Nests are built in brush or herbaceous vegetation on the forest floor and lined with fur and grass. Other than feeding, the babies get little maternal care and leave the nest when about two weeks old.

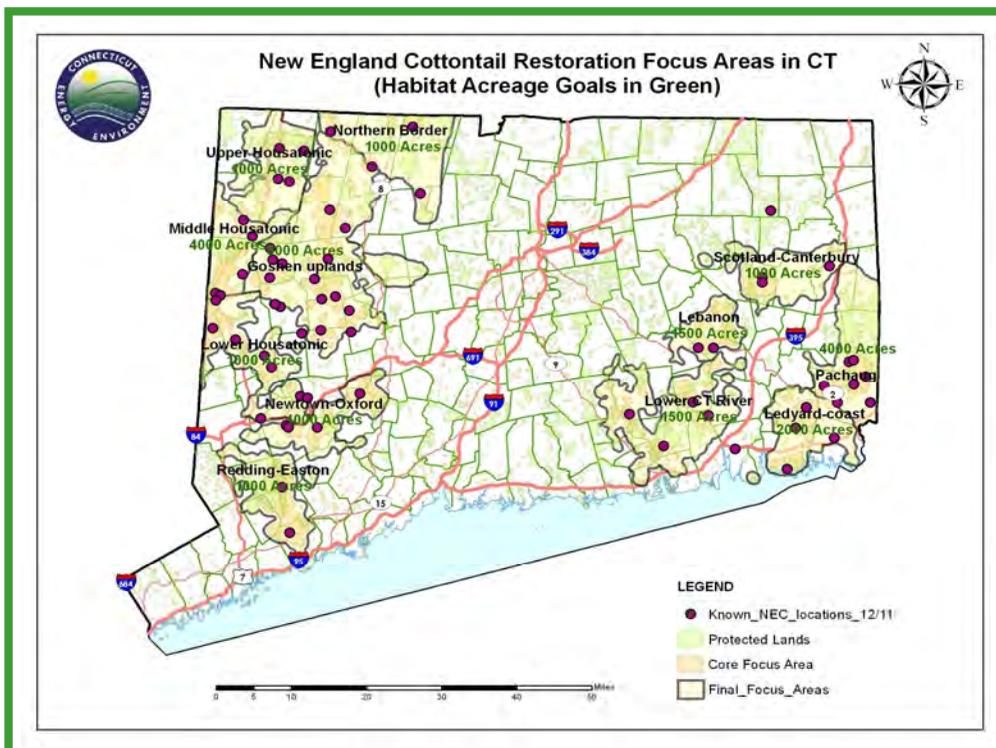
Predators are the biggest threat to both young and adult rabbits. Only 1 in 5 survives its first year. The average adult lives about 15 months. Coyotes, red fox, bobcats, fishers, weasels, owls and domestic dogs and cats are common enemies.

The NE cottontails need 10 to 25 acres or more of suitable habitat to maintain a viable population. Those in patches of 6 acres or less have twice the mortality rate as rabbits on patches of 12 or more acres. Suitable habitat can be created naturally by beaver activity, flooding, ice storms, wildfires, and insect infestations that clear large areas of forests. Abandoned farms, clear-cut timberland, and railroad and power line corridors are ways in which human activity has also created early successional forest habitat. However, in order to keep the NE cottontail from becoming endangered, natural and man-made habitat needs to be supplemented to assure the rabbits' survival.

Connecticut DEEP's Wildlife Division is conducting habitat enhancement projects. The map on this page shows twelve focus areas that have potential for habitat and population restoration, and work has begun in these areas.

Captive breeding programs at the University of New Hampshire, the University of Rhode Island, and Roger Williams Zoo augment the wild population.

Many state, federal, and private groups are working to restore habitat. Participation in these projects by landowners, businesses, and the public is important to their success. For information on how to help in saving the NE cottontail, contact the CT DEEP, Wildlife Division Habitat Unit at 860-295-9523.



8th Annual Land Trust Photo Contest Awards Presented Tony Sullivan Retires As Chairman

In early April the Lyme, Old Lyme, Salem, Essex and East Haddam land conservation trusts presented the awards for the eighth Annual Land Trust Photo Contest at a reception at the Lyme Old Lyme Senior Services Center.

The event marked the retirement of Anthony Sullivan of Lyme, the long-time contest chairman who was praised by the land trust leaders for his commitment to the contest and its purpose of celebrating the scenic countryside and natural beauty of southeastern Connecticut.



Photo Finish—Retiring Photo Contest Chairman Anthony Sullivan, right, holds an early photo reproduction presented by Lyme Land Trust Executive Director Geroge Moore, center. At left is the new Photo Contest chairman, George Miller of Old Lyme.

2013 Land Trust Photo Contest Award Winners

The Winning Photographs listed below can be seen at:
www.landtrustphotos.shutterfly.com

JOHN G. MITCHELL ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION AWARD

Mark Roger Bailey, California (formerly Essex).

LANDSCAPES/WATERSCAPES

1st: Skip Broom, Hadlyme; 2nd: April Surprenant, Salem; 3rd: Alexandria Hollwedel, Ivoryton; Honorable Mentions: Tom Nemeth, Salem; John Sargent, Quaker Hill; Gerry Graves, Old Lyme.

PLANTS

1st: Tony Sullivan, Lyme; 2nd: Cheryl Philopena, Salem; 3rd: Skip Broom, Hadlyme; Honorable Mentions: Jessica Nemeth, Salem; Linda Waters, Salem; Marian Morrisette, New London.

WILDLIFE

1st: Skip Broom, Hadlyme; 2nd: Harcourt Davis, Old Lyme; 3rd: Cheryl Philopena, Salem; Honorable Mentions: Marian Morrisette, New London; Hank Golet, Old Lyme; Mark Roger Bailey, California.

CULTURAL/HISTORIC

1st: Skip Broom, Hadlyme; 2nd: Carol Giese, East Lyme; 3rd: Mark Roger Bailey, California; Honorable Mentions: Lionel Williams, Essex; Jacquelyn Sanders, Old Lyme; Donald Quigley, Old Lyme.

YOUTH

1st: Emma Pennie, Old Lyme; 2nd: Meghan Buckley, Haddam; 3rd: Courtney Briggs, Old Saybrook; Honorable Mentions: Rebecca Johnson, Colchester; Samantha Barretta, Lyme; Hannah Patten, Old Lyme.

Third Annual Lyme Paint-out Scheduled For April 27 In Nature Preserves Along The Eightmile River



Sponsored by the Lyme Art Association (LAA), the Lyman Allyn Art Museum (LAAM), and the Lyme Land Conservation Trust, artists are invited to submit work created at this Paint-out in a juried exhibition that will be on view at both the LAA and the LAAM. The Paint-out is free and open to the public. For information: www.lymelandtrust.org. To register call: 860-434-7802.

Lyme Eagle Scout Candidate Designs & Builds Footbridge In Walbridge Woodlands



As his community service project for scouting's highest badge, Eagle candidate Trevor Kegley (center in knit hat) of Lyme-Old Lyme Troop 26 BSA spent the New Year holiday weekend with fellow scouts and friends building a footbridge across a hillside ravine in the Walbridge Woodlands Preserve. Thank you, Trevor & friends.



The Lyme Land Conservation Trust

PO BOX 1002, Lyme, CT 06371

Address Service Requested

Lyme Land Conservation Trust Calendar of Events

All events subject to change. Dates & times will be announced by press release and e-mail , and will be posted on the Land Trust website and Facebook page. Please consult the Upcoming Events page at www.lymelandtrust.org for the latest information. To reduce expenses & paper, the Land Trust no longer mails postcard notification of events. To receive email notifications, please send an email to: info@lymelandtrust.org with a request to be added to the events e-mail list.

Annual Lyme Paint-out

When - 9 a.m. Saturday, April 27

What - Sponsored by the Lyme Art Association (LAA), the Lyman Allyn Art Museum (LAAM), and the Lyme Land Conservation Trust, artists are invited to submit work created at this Paint-out in a juried exhibition that will be on view at both the LAA and the LAAM. The Paint-out is free & open to the public. Pre-registration required. For information: www.lymelandtrust.org. To register call: 860-434-7802.

Where - Park at Lyme Swimming Hole on the Eightmile River just off Macintosh Road. (Second right off Macintosh 75 yards from Rt. 156.)



Tour de Lyme Cycling Event



When - Saturday, May 11

What - There will be road or trail routes for all ages and abilities and a lunch for all at the end of the rides. For more information about team or individual registration see page 4 of this newsletter and visit TourdeLyme.org .

Where - Meet at the Lyme Consolidated School, Town Campus, Rt. 156.

National Trails Day - A Hobbit Adventure in Lyme's Middle Earth



When - 10 a.m. Saturday, June 1

What - Join the Lyme Land Trust for a Hobbit-inspired hike. We will set our imagination free to be transported to Middle Earth where we will help the Elves build a new section of the outpost at Rivendell. Along the way we will have a chance to look for Gollum in the swamps, climb around the Ents and generally explore the forest near the Misty Mountains.

Where - Beebe Preserve, Old Grassy Hill Road, half a mile on the left from Grassy Hill Road.