



SUMMER 2022

Pen and ink illustration by Margaret A. Race

Our Mission: The Winchester Land Trust serves as steward of the town's rural character and natural heritage, striving to foster the preservation of Winchester's unique lands forever. Working with government representatives and public and private landowners, the Trust informs and educates the community to promote the benefits of land conservation and balanced growth.

Winchester Land Trust To Be Awarded \$90,000!

by Jen Perga and Kamaren Suwijn

Winchester Land Trust (WLT) is one of 17 communities to receive grants from the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program, which is administered by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. WLT will use the grant to purchase and preserve the 60-acre Rosgen Property.

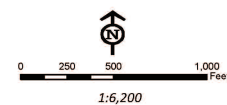
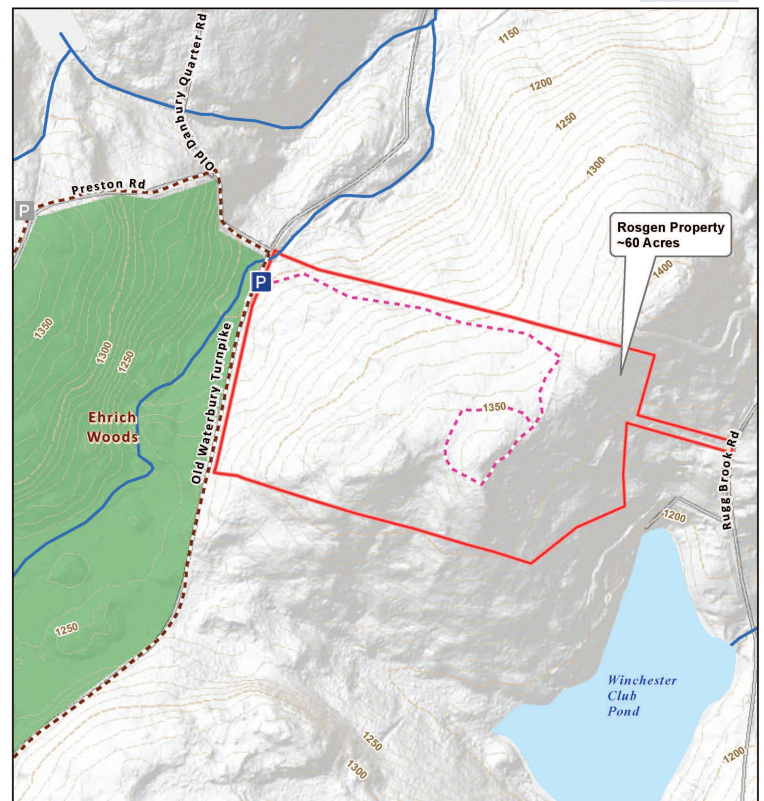
The Rosgen Property adjoins WLT's largest parcel, Ehrich Woods, and its acquisition expands Winchester Land Trust's holdings in that area to cover 300 acres of continuous, permanently protected core forest. Rosgen also abuts roughly 1,300 additional acres of forested land that protects both Rugg Brook Reservoir and Crystal Lake Reservoir, owned by the Town of Winchester.

Dave Rosgen, a local wildlife biologist has documented numerous bird species and other animals on his family property for decades. WLT Board members who visited the parcel with Dave could hardly walk a few steps before Dave heard a rare bird, or noticed signs of animal inhabitants. WLT looks forward to creating a trail so that people can explore the mixed hardwood and softwood canopy and beautiful stone walls. Future hikers will reach the high point, and then visit the massive 100-year-old Red Oak tree before returning to the historic Waterbury Turnpike.

While generous, the grant covers roughly 75% of the purchase price, survey, and closing costs of the Rosgen Property. For the remaining 25% of costs to support this project, the Winchester Land Trust is relying on community support from friends and neighbors like you. Please support WLT with a donation to help the completion of this parcel purchase so that we may all protect and enjoy this beautiful land for generations to come.

Public Access Rosgen Property

Rugg Brook Rd
Winchester, Connecticut
Winchester Land Trust



Dota Sources:
Contours/Roads: CT ECO (2021)
Parcel Boundary: Survey Map #1508
Protected Lands: HVA (2021)

Map Prepared by:
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860.672.6678
GIS Manager
HVA
Housatonic Valley Association

Map Date: 9/7/2021

Rosgen Property map with a proposed trail shown with dotted red line.

Our Benefit Event Was A Great Success!

by Kamaren Suwijn

Highlights of WLT's Benefit Event on May 25 at the Little Red Barn Brewery were the Silent Auction and Penny Auctions that featured gift certificates for food and experiences like horseback riding and go-karts, art by local artists, camping, boating, and outdoor equipment and gardening supplies.

Winchester Land Trust thanks the following supporters for their donated items:

Thorncrest Farm, Rooted Market, Mario's Tuscany Grill, R&B Sports World, Railway Cafe, Freund's Farm Market, Mad River Music, Millie's Handmade Shop, Little Red Barn, Moonracer Farms, Noujaim's, Robert Parker, Barbara Douglas, and Candy Perez.



Gerri Griswold was a great M.C.!



PHOTOS BY BARBARA DOUGLAS

Our auctions offered all kinds of items and services.



The weather and the turnout were perfect!



Frank and Sam added to the festivities.

Winchester Land Trust Helps To Educate Children & Adults

by Louise Van Alstyne



On Wednesday, April 2022, Miss Carrie from White Memorial and her menagerie of emerging spring animals engaged children and adults with educational information and hands-on or close-up views of a spotted salamander, garter snake and a barred owl. The Winchester Land Trust sponsored the presentation, which as held at Winsted's Beardsley Library.

CT Trails Day, June 4, 2022.
Hikers at the "Great Rock" on the Ruez Property.



Lights Out, Please: Why We Need Dark Skies

by Barbara Douglas

**Do you remember looking up at the night sky and wondering what it would be to travel to the moon?
Or float among the stars?**

Did you learn to name the constellations and their ancient stories?

We have come to learn that dark skies are not just important in myth and fairy tales, but they also play a crucial part in maintaining our health – and the health of our planet.

Humans evolved with the rhythms of natural light and darkness. Our production of natural melatonin and circadian rhythm is imbedded in our DNA. Studies suggest that artificial light at night can contribute to a multitude of health problems, including obesity, sleep disorders and cancer.



Protecting our own health will also protect our wildlife. Birds that hunt or migrate at night navigate by moonlight and starlight. Our lighting affects their navigation. According to BirdCast, on the night of May 20, 2022, 679,99 birds crossed our state of Connecticut.

We can do our part to protect our night skies by eliminating all unnecessary lighting in our community.

For more information and to learn what lighting is safe, go to www.darksky.org

For a live feed on bird migration, go to BirdCast and click on Migration Dashboard.

Be part of our mission. Stay in touch!

Please make sure we have your current contact information.



Winchester Land Trust

See the latest WLT information on our Facebook page

Visit our website: www.winchesterlandtrust.org.

Email us at winchesterlandtrust@yahoo.com

Call us at 860.379.9622.

Mail to P.O. Box 10, Winchester Center, CT 06094

Winchester Land Trust is grateful for the support to help preserve the beauty around us.

Board of Directors

Jennifer Perga, President

Doug Pfenninger, Vice President

Louise Van Alstyne, Secretary

Joey Pierce, Treasurer

Alan Colavecchio

Barbara Douglas

Gayle Moraski

Kamaren Suwijn

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The 2022 Annual Meeting of the Winchester Land Trust will be held on Sunday, August 28 at 4 pm in the gazebo on the Winchester Center Green.



P.O. Box 10
Winchester Center, CT

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Do you want to volunteer for Winchester Land Trust?

WLT needs property stewards: a board member will walk a property with you.

Then, as a steward of that property, you visit it at least once a year.

You can also volunteer on clean-up days or trail maintenance days.

Email: winchesterlandtrust@yahoo.com or look for updates on WLT's Facebook page.



PHOTO BY JEN PERGA

Civics students from Northwestern Regional HS repair bog bridges at Hurlbut Field.