



Photo: M. Burns, Looking South from Devils Hoopayard State Park Look Out

## **Lower Connecticut River Land Trust Annual Report 2019**

Mission (Revised 2/19/19)

*Amended From: The Lower Connecticut River Land Trust works to conserve and steward the natural and working lands and the historical, cultural, and scenic resources of the communities of the lower Connecticut River Valley Region and the organizations that contribute to this mission.*

*Amended To: The Lower Connecticut River Land Trust works to conserve, study, steward, and promote the unique values and scientific significance, natural and working lands, and historic, ecologic, cultural, and scenic resources of the communities of the Lower Connecticut River Valley Region.*

It was an organization building year for the Lower Connecticut River Land Trust which began 2019 with a clarification of its mission and ended with a significant development of its Board of Directors and membership. In total 11 new permanent members were accepted. Funding opportunities applied for included the Long Island Sound Stewardship Fund Competitive Grants Program and the submission of a Bafflin Foundation proposal for due diligence funding. The existing 2018 Fund Development Initiative with the land trusts of the Lower Connecticut River and Coastal Region Land Trust Exchange (LTE) was completed in January. The Board also completed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments concerning staffing and office space.

Due to the resignation of President Mike Maniscalco, East Hampton, an election for President and Secretary was held on July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The new Board of Directors and its officers included:

- \* President – Lauren Gister, Chester;
- \* Treasurer – Noel Bishop, Westbrook;
- \* Secretary – Ed Bailey, Middlefield
- \* At Large Member – Anthony Salvatore, Cromwell;
- \* At-Large Member – Cathy Iino, Killingworth;
- \* At-Large Member – Bonnie Reemsnyder, Old Lyme;
- \* Dr. Melvin Woody – Connecticut River Gateway Commission, and alternate Claire Matthews.



Photo: J. Preston, Lord Cove, Lower CT River

Bylaws were amended to hold the annual meeting of the membership in December rather than July. The 2019 Annual Meeting was held December 11<sup>th</sup> and the membership voted to approve the acceptance of 11 new permanent members of which 3 were elected to the Board of Directors to replace 3 existing Board members which chose to step down from their positions. New permanent members include:

- \* David Brown, Middlesex Land Trust
- \* Jenny Kitsen, Chester Land Trust
- \* Gail Reynolds, Haddam Land Trust
- \* Marilyn Gleeson, East Haddam Land Trust
- \* Nancy Rambeau, Essex Land Trust
- \* Tom Elliott, Westbrook Land Conservation Trust
- \* Michael Urban, Old Saybrook Land Trust
- \* Kristina White, Lyme Land Conservation Trust
- \* Ann Courcy, Deep River Land Trust
- \* David Bingham, Salem Land Trust
- \* Margot Burns, Lower Ct River Valley Council of Governments



Photo: USFWS, Mallards, Salt Meadow Unit, Westbrook



Photo: M. Burns, Clinton Land Trust, Elliot Preserve

Projects undertaken in 2019 included the wrap up of the Fund Development Initiative with Consultant Tom Curren and the land trusts of the LTE and the program to facilitate the inclusion of the region's land trusts as permanent members and Board of Directors. The LTE is an informal collaboration of the 14 land trusts of the lower Connecticut River region and coordinated by the Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments.

The Fund Development Initiative for 2019 consisted of the last workshop of the series begun in 2018 *Development Through the Land Trust Year*. The initiative was made possible by the Connecticut River Gateway Commission and the LTE land trusts.

In 2018 projects that were carried forward included website development, endowment creation for both the LTE land trusts and the LCRLT, due diligence funding, and proactive land owner outreach.

In 2019 2 applications for funding were submitted seeking funding for these projects. In March an unsuccessful grant application for these purposes was submitted to the Long Island Sound Stewardship Fund Competitive Grants Program entitled *The Lower Connecticut River Land Trust Collaborative Regional Conservation Communication Program*. In October a request for funding for a 1:1 matching grant proposal for due diligence purposes was submitted to the Bafflin Foundation.



Photo: J. Preston, Wild Rice, Lower Ct River