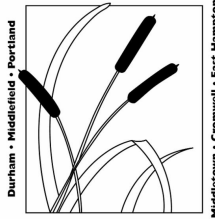


MIDDLESEX



LAND TRUST

The MIDDLESEX LANDSCAPE

Serving the towns of Durham, Middlefield, Middletown, Cromwell, Portland, and East Hampton



Selectmen's Stones at Mica Ledges, Durham; an aging oak at Union Hill, East Hampton; Hale Homestead Foundation at Collins, Portland.

Happy Summer!

It's been a strange year, but with the lifting of COVID restrictions in the state and the reopening of our offices at the deKoven House, we are excited to be getting back to doing things in a more normal way. Like many other organizations, the Middlesex Land Trust has continued to keep our initiatives moving with Zoom meetings, but those have their limitations. Fortunately, we were able to keep up with our outdoor Stewardship work, regularly visiting our preserves for general trail maintenance, storm clean-up, and a variety of other tasks necessary to make the properties accessible to the public.

And access you did! Many people enjoyed our preserves during the lockdown period. This was apparent to the Stewards, who noted trails on all our preserves have been well-used. Regular walking on trails naturally inhibits the surrounding vegetation from encroaching, making general trail maintenance much easier. Having this extra "help," along with knowing we provided folks with someplace to be safe and get a much-needed nature infusion boost, was very rewarding for all of us. Thank you for using our trails!

Sign Rehab in Portland

In June 2009, this sign was installed by Eric Harper as part of his Eagle Scout project. Located on the northern side of Route 66 in Portland in front of the large hayfield, it has called attention to our beautiful Palmer Preserve for over a decade.



Exposure had taken its toll on the sign, which started to fade and peel, but we were fortunate to have one of our dedicated Stewards, Robb Evans, volunteer to refurbish the sign and return it to its former glory. Robb sanded and repainted the sign during the favorable Spring temperatures, and we are thrilled to have the sign looking like new once again. Thanks, Robb!

Your support is needed to protect the natural areas that give our county its special character!

Become a Member

Collaboration with Everyone Outside and Fire Ring Farm

After a year of waiting and wondering, we are pleased to once again partner with Everyone Outside, who is offering programs for children on our Land Trust preserves. In addition to their school-year programs, this year Everyone Outside is offering 4-week Farm and Forest summer camp. Each day, the kids are enjoying activities at Fire Ring Farm and the neighboring Palmer Preserve on Middle Haddam Road. It is wonderful to see the children hiking and enjoying relaxed time exploring the preserve, especially since most children today no longer know how to play in the woods (and it is often not accessible or allowed). The children are developing the connection to the natural world that is needed for on-going stewardship. We protect what we love. This program also has a strong focus on equity and inclusion to support the diverse group of summer staff and children. The Middlesex Land Trust is providing scholarship funding to help make the program possible for more children.

Lucy Meigs and Lisa Liesener from Everyone Outside and Erin Livensparger from Fire Ring Farm are experienced teachers/naturalists/farmers with a lot to share. If you are interested in learning more about this program or other Everyone Outside offerings, visit their website at www.everyoneoutside.org or contact Lucy Meigs at Lucy@EveryoneOutside.org.



Ambling with Alan

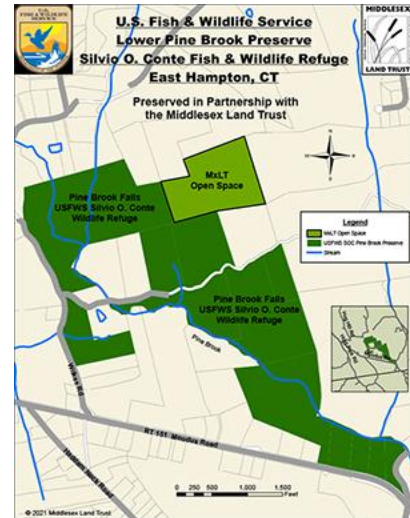
Our very own Steward, former Chair of the Land Trust board, and hike leader extraordinaire Alan Hurst is scheduling hikes on two properties in the next couple of months. If you have an interest in

experiencing their beauty and learning more about these preserves that you have helped to protect, **please contact Alan at 860-510-3870** and plan to join him for the following:



Lower Pine Brook Preserve, East Hampton – Friday, July 23 @ 8 am – Exploratory hike starting at the trailhead off Sexton Hill Rd. (directly off Rt. 151) in East Hampton. Hiking boots recommended, bring water and snacks. Kids and well-managed dogs are welcome. Approximately 4 miles. Steady rain cancels.

Palmer Preserve (Portland), starting in East Hampton – Saturday, August 28 @ 9 am – Starting at the Depot Hill Road parking lot for the Air Line Trail in East Hampton, hike to Portland(!) and take in the sights of the Palmer Preserve. Hiking boots recommended, bring water and snacks. Kids and well-managed dogs are welcome. Hike will be 4 – 6 miles with bailouts along the way. Steady rain cancels.

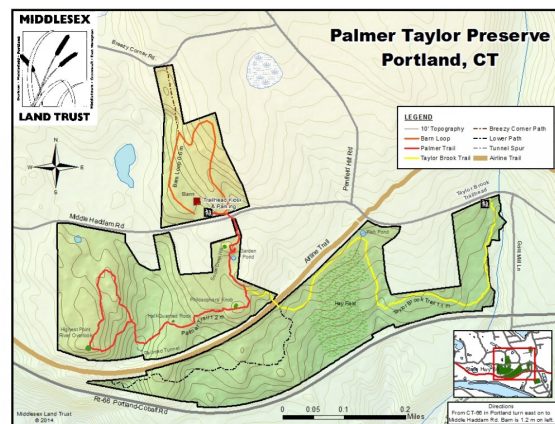


As a member-supported volunteer organization, we depend on your support.

Donate Now!

Women's Hikes at Palmer Preserve on July 18 & 20

Join Director of Everyone Outside, Mica Ledges Preserve steward, and naturalist, Lucy Meigs, for a 2- to 3-mile hike at the Palmer Preserve. To keep the groups small (maximum 12 women), Lucy is offering this hike on **Sunday, July 18 at 5:30 pm** and **Tuesday, July 20 at 8:30 am**.



In addition to hiking, the group will take the time to learn a bit about the local flora and fauna, some history, and appreciate the beauty around us and enjoy each other's company. Meet at the Palmer Barn, 258 Middle Haddam Road, Portland. Registration required; to register and for more information about these and other Everyone Outside offerings see [the event calendar on their website](#) or contact Lucy Meigs at Lucy@EveryoneOutside.org.

Chairman's Corner

I first got involved with the Land Trust when my wife was pregnant with our first son. Connecticut was coming out of its recession, and the development boom was on once again, enveloping farms, fields, and woodlands. I joined because I knew I could not face my children if they stepped into adulthood and we had allowed the disappearance of undeveloped land, and with it, the birds around us and fish in our rivers and oceans. The least I could do was to help protect some of our local natural places from development, in perpetuity, so that trees could provide habitat and clean water.

My two children are now stepping into adulthood, and Connecticut does have more conserved, public open space. Land trusts across the state have made big strides in land conservation. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife has quietly acquired property across the state, including some for the Silvio O. Conte Preserve in our region. The State has filled in some holes around its forests and parks, and even towns are slowly adding protected, undeveloped lands to their portfolio. Much of it forms a nice mosaic of larger blocks and greenways, but we are starting to feel the hammer of global climate change. For hundreds of millions of people across this world, most of who are less well off than we are, it is threatening their livelihood with sea level rise, bigger storms, longer droughts, and severely threatened biological diversity, which we depend on for life.

We can see that what we have done is not enough for species already pushed to the brink by climate change and man-made pressures. It is not enough to provide the ecosystems that support life on earth with a little space around the margins occupied people. We have to do better. We have to quicken the pace of adding lands that will permanently store carbon, while making big reductions to our use of carbon based energy and resource consumption. The Middlesex Land Trust, with your help, is continuing to work on land conservation with multiple conservation partners, and it is up to all of us to make meaningful reductions in our own lives and in our society. We can't fail the next generation.

From the land,

Stuart Winqvist
Chairman

Save the Date!

We look forward to holding our Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 2nd this coming fall and will send out details as we get closer. In the meantime, please save the date!

The Middlesex Land Trust is a non-profit organization whose mission is to preserve open space in northern Middlesex County (Durham, Middlefield, Middletown, Cromwell, Portland, and East Hampton).

Board of Directors

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David Brown, *Executive Director*

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