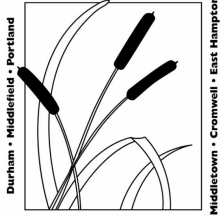


**MIDDLESEX**



**LAND TRUST**

# The MIDDLESEX LANDSCAPE

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

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## Our Project to Create a Flagship Land Trust Preserve is Fully Underway!

The Middlesex Land Trust is pleased to announce the purchase of a 147-acre property adjacent to Meshomasic State Forest for permanent protection as:

### The Rattlesnake Brook Preserve

The preserve is not yet open to the public due to a lack of available parking and the need to complete other infrastructure and improvements important to establishing a flagship preserve.



While we are enthusiastic about sharing this preserve, we ask for your patience while we prepare for public access. We are working diligently to create a wonderful preserve that is open to all people and protected in perpetuity. We hope to celebrate a Grand Opening in the near future.

[Learn more about this exciting project!](#)

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## The Importance of Protecting Ecologically Valuable Land in Middlesex County

Middlesex County is home to a variety of ecologically valuable land that includes forests, wetlands, and meadows. These lands provide important habitat for wildlife, clean air and water, and opportunities for recreation and education.

Unfortunately, Middlesex County is also facing a number of threats to its natural resources, including development, invasive species, and

climate change. We are working to protect ecologically valuable land in our community by acquiring it and placing it in permanent conservation protection.

Our work is essential to protecting Middlesex County's environment and ensuring that future generations can enjoy its natural beauty. Would you help MxLT protect Middlesex County's ecologically valuable land by donating today?



**Help Protect Ecologically Valuable Land Today!**

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## Annual Meeting Recap

The MxLT Annual Meeting, held on Saturday, September 23 at the DeKoven House in Middletown, was a success! The Land Trust's Chair, Stuart Winquist, called the meeting to order, and a slate of new directors and officers were approved and/or voted in for the coming year.

After the business meeting closed, Winquist and Executive Director David Brown took the opportunity to thank everyone who helped to make the past year a banner year for the Land Trust, including members, volunteers, donors, and directors.

Stewardship volunteers were honored at the meeting for their dedication and hard work. This year, they logged over 534 hours caring for the preserves, including clearing trails and debris, rooting out invasive plants, clearing timber blowdowns, maintaining parking and access areas, marking boundaries, and installing signage and kiosks.

Brown also highlighted the acquisition of two new preserves: the Rattlesnake Brook Preserve in Portland and East Hampton and the Roth Preserve in Middlefield. He also praised MxLT's ongoing and highly successful relationship with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), whereby MxLT has repeatedly quickly attained hundreds of acres of land in the Salmon River Watershed and Maromas areas and transferred them, fully conservation restricted, to the USFWS's Silvio O. Conte Fish & Wildlife Refuge.

The meeting concluded with a fascinating and informative talk by Tom Worthley, a UConn forester, about the current state of Connecticut's ever-evolving forested landscape.

After the formal gathering ended, the group continued to enjoy coffee, tea, and refreshments, followed by a short hike by a smaller group who braved the less-than-ideal weather at the Harris Preserve in Middletown.



Above: Tom Worthley presents at the Annual Meeting in September.

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## Hike at Mica Ledges Preserve in Durham

Sunday, Nov 12, 2023  
1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Join us for a 2- to 3-mile family-friendly hike at the [Mica Ledges Preserve](#) and the Mt. Pisgah Preserve led by Lucy Meigs.

Lucy is a naturalist, the Director of [Everyone Outside](#), and an MxLT steward.

We will take a look at the beaver activity along Chalker Brook and visit the beautiful Whitney Pond. This guided hike will be a combination of walking on old roads, narrow trails, and some off-trail walking to see beaver activity. No dogs, please. Registration is required. [Click here to register.](#)



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## Stewardship Volunteers Set a New Record

MxLT has long enjoyed the dedication of a robust, diverse, and generous group of volunteers who care for our many preserves in northern Middlesex County. Our stewards have logged over 530 hours so far this year clearing trails and debris, rooting out invasive plants, clearing timber blowdowns, maintaining parking and access areas, marking boundaries, and installing signage, kiosks, and trail maps. This is more than double the hours volunteered just four or five years ago – a truly Herculean effort that breaks all previous records!

Our team keeps its impressive schedule of tending to stewardship projects mostly on weekends. Clearly the camaraderie is appealing, as is being in the great outdoors and getting some decent exercise! And there is no shortage of projects, as the Land Trust has been adding properties at an impressive rate, especially in the last several years.

Under Matt Marrotte's and Andrew Meigs' leadership, the Stewardship Committee reports regularly to our Board at its monthly meetings, and the Board readily supports the Committee with the funds they require for tools, signage, and supplies.

## Help Us Care for Our Beautiful Preserves

We are always looking for new stewardship volunteers. No experience is necessary, and training will be provided. If you're interested in helping to care for Middlesex County's natural treasures, please contact the Land Trust at [stewardship@middlesexlandtrust.org](mailto:stewardship@middlesexlandtrust.org).

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**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

Stuart Winqvist, East Hampton (*Chair*) • Andrew Meigs, Durham (*Vice-Chair*) • Nicole Lee, Cromwell (*Treasurer*) • Ralph Urban, Marlborough (*Secretary*) • Diane Moore, Durham • Doug Bonoff, East Hampton • William Howard, Middletown • Thomas Heidel, East Hampton • John LeShane, Portland • Chris Dibble, Colchester • Jon Porzuc, Enfield • Matt Marrotte (*Alternate*), Middletown

### Staff

David Brown, *Executive Director*

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[www.middlesexlandtrust.org](http://www.middlesexlandtrust.org)

Stay up-to-date with our events on our Facebook page:



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