



# ANNUAL REPORT

A newsletter published by the **Darien Land Trust**, an independent, non-profit organization



Fall  
2016

## Our Mission

The DLT permanently preserves and restores open space, providing the community with environmentally rich habitats, scenic vistas, opportunities for educational experiences and the quiet enjoyment of nature.

## Dear Friends and Neighbors

From Flip Huffard, President

It has been a successful year for the Darien Land Trust (DLT) as we continue our efforts to preserve open space in Darien. The DLT now permanently preserves 207 acres, providing all of Darien with beautiful vistas and environmentally diverse habitats. In December 2015, we added our most recent property, 2.0 acres of coastal meadow on Long Neck Point – our first property in that part of Darien! Our search for land to conserve never ends, and if you have interest in preserving your land or are aware of parcels that we should consider, please contact us.

Our Stewardship group continues their active agenda – if you’ve driven by Waterbury Field you’ve seen the fruits of their labors with the river birch plantings and the native plant garden.

Our Outreach committee has really ramped up their game, with a fantastic Farm to Table Dinner and a very well received Trails Discovery Day in Dunlap and Selleck’s Woods, an event that is targeted towards families with younger children. These events are just a sample of the numerous things Darien Land Trust is doing to better engage with our members and Town residents.

We invite you to join us for our 2016 Annual Meeting, which will be held at 5:00 pm on Sunday, November 13 at the Wee Burn Country Club. We emphasize the importance of taking a “connected” view of the land we all preserve, whether it be woodland, meadow, river, pond or coastal habitats within our Town or a broader view within the regions in which we live. Our speaker will be Mary Ellen Lemay, who is Coordinator of the Fairfield County Regional Conservation Partnership. She will speak about how best to protect priority habitats and connectivity corridors within Fairfield County.

At our Annual Meeting we will also be saying goodbye to Karen Calby and Phil Meyer, who have both made tremendous contributions to the Darien Land Trust. Finally, we are very excited to be voting on the nominations of Michelle Imbrogno, MJ McNulty, John O’Brien and Anne Walker to join the Board. Please join us for what promises to be a very interesting evening.

Darien Land Trust P.O. Box 1074 Darien, CT 06820 • 203.655.4148 • [www.darienlandtrust.org](http://www.darienlandtrust.org)

YEARS ENDED JUNE 30 2016 AND 2015

**STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES****REVENUE AND SUPPORT:**

Membership	\$158,431	\$147,351
Investment income, including unrealized gains (losses)	24,576	17,269
Contributions and Grants	16,960	7,105
Contribution for Land Acquisition and Conservation Easements	1,661,229	481,815
Other Income	26,930	2,058
<b>Total Revenue and Support</b>	<b>\$1,888,126</b>	<b>\$655,598</b>

**EXPENSES:**

Program Services	\$160,868	\$108,229
Management and General	19,084	17,137
Fundraising	14,899	16,964
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$194,851</b>	<b>\$142,330</b>
<b>Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$1,693,275</b>	<b>\$513,268</b>
<b>Net Assets—Beginning of Year</b>	<b>\$26,839,137</b>	<b>\$26,325,869</b>
<b>Net Assets—End of Year</b>	<b>\$28,532,412</b>	<b>\$26,839,137</b>

**BALANCE SHEET****ASSETS****CURRENT ASSETS:**

Cash and Equivalents	\$450,556	\$403,402
Promises to Give	33,333	—
Investments	1,023,300	1,009,771
Other Current Assets	1,720	9,290
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$1,508,909</b>	<b>\$1,422,463</b>

**NONCURRENT ASSETS:**

Restricted Cash	—	14,091
Promises to Give	123,332	—
Land & Conservation Easements	27,097,113	25,435,884
<b>Total Noncurrent Assets</b>	<b>\$27,220,445</b>	<b>\$25,449,975</b>

<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$28,729,354</b>	<b>\$26,872,438</b>
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**LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS****LIABILITIES:**

Accounts Payable	2,725	1,102
Land & Conservation Easements Acquisition Payable	156,665	—
Accrued Liabilities	37,552	32,199
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>196,942</b>	<b>33,301</b>

**NET ASSETS:**

Unrestricted	\$1,435,299	\$1,389,162
Other Net Assets	—	14,091
Land & Conservation Easements	27,097,113	25,435,884
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$28,532,412</b>	<b>\$26,839,137</b>

<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$28,729,354</b>	<b>\$26,872,438</b>
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White heron at Valley Forge property.



## Darien Land Trust Donor List 2015-2016

**This annual report serves to recognize and thank the donors to our 2015-2016 Annual Campaign.**  
We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of this list and apologize for any inadvertent errors or omissions.

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## Corporate Sponsors

This Annual report also recognizes and thanks the corporations that have generously supported our events and mission throughout the 2015-2016 year.

Aquarion Water Company  
Fox Hill Builders  
Mystem Co.  
Nielsen's Florist and Garden Shop  
Wee Burn Country Club  
Whole Foods Market of Darien  
Horizon Foundation, Inc.

## Farm to Table Dinner Sponsors

The following donors generously lent their financial support to make the evening a success.

Baywater Properties  
BMW of Darien  
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Ring's End, Inc  
Darien Rowayton Bank



## 2016 - A Year of Accomplishments

Each year, the Darien Land Trust Board of Trustees devotes many volunteer hours to preserve and restore our land, connect with our community and gather support for our 207 acres of open space. And 2016 was no different as our volunteers worked hard in the following areas to continue the health and long-term viability of the DLT.

### PRESERVE:

- The Darien Land Trust accepted a two-acre Conservation Easement with donations from neighbors on Long Neck Point. This will be maintained as a coastal meadow and permanently preserved for future generations.

### RESTORE:

- We actively manage our properties to improve wildlife habitats and bio-diversity and in 2016 continued to plant native trees and a native pollinator garden at Waterbury Field on Hollow Tree Ridge Road and in our Nature Preserves at Dunlap Woods and Tokeneke Trail.
- We increased the number of bee-hives on DLT properties to a total of 15 hives.

### CONNECT:

- We hosted community-wide events at the Darien Library to educate and inform. We co-sponsored two documentaries and the lecture "Know your Trees" presented by Michael Wojtech.
- We gratefully accepted the help of scores of enthusiastic volunteers to help improve our properties. Volunteers from the Noroton Presbyterian Church, Whole Foods Market, Eagle Scouts from Troops 35 and 53 and the Friends of Selleck's Woods all contributed to these efforts and gave back to the land.



Photo courtesy of the Darien Times

### SUPPORT:

- Friends of the DLT opened their homes for evenings of fellowship that provided opportunities to explain our land management practices and to connect with our members and neighbors.
- The DLT was selected to be the recipient of the Darien Whole Foods Market 5% day which allowed us to receive a generous donation and to engage with customers by offering samples of honey from our meadow hives.
- Our second Farm to Table Dinner was a great success with more than 225 diners enjoying a perfect summer night under the stars.
- Our Trails Discovery Day in Dunlap and Selleck's Woods provided a Nature Trail for families to explore the woods and enjoy animal exhibits.

### SUSTAIN:

- In 2016 we launched the first stage of our Legacy Partners program to create a Land Endowment fund to support the Darien Land Trust in perpetuity. This will enable the DLT to take advantage of new land acquisitions should they arise and to support maintenance and special land conservation projects on our properties.
- For further information on any of these activities and ways to be involved please contact our Executive Director, Shirley Nichols at 203.655.4148 or [Shirleynichols@darienlandtrust.org](mailto:Shirleynichols@darienlandtrust.org)





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IN THIS ISSUE: Annual Report, 2016 Accomplishments, Annual Meeting and more!

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**Fall  
2016**

## PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING

### Establishing Common Ground:

**Collaboration and connectivity across town lines to preserve our wildlife, water and recreation**

**Mary Ellen Lemay, Coordinator of the Fairfield County Regional Conservation Partnership, will be our featured speaker. Mary Ellen has a strong record of support for local, regional and state environmental issues, and she will discuss how best to protect priority habitats that create connective corridors.**

Please join fellow Land Trust members on Sunday, November 13 at 5PM for the Darien Land Trust's Annual Meeting at the Wee Burn Country Club. A short business meeting will precede the presentation by Mary Ellen Lemay, and Darien Land Trust members will be asked to approve a slate of new Board Members including Michelle Imbrogno, MJ McNulty, John O'Brien, and Anne Walker. Refreshments will be available.



**We hope to see you on Sunday, November 13 at 5PM for the Darien Land Trust Annual Meeting!**