

D A R I E N



LAND TRUST

FALL 2009

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS,

Looking back and looking ahead – good themes for an annual report and a good discipline for a non-profit, such as the Darien Land Trust. As we approach our Annual Meeting, the Board has had the opportunity to look back over a year in which we made significant progress on a wide variety of initiatives:

- The successful completion of the Waterbury Field acquisition
- Major habitat restoration projects on several properties
- Expansion of our community and school outreach efforts
- Working more closely and effectively with the Town, community and other organizations to advance the mission of preserving and protecting open space in Darien

We have much good news to share and hope that all of you will join us on November 15th at Wee Burn.

Looking back and looking ahead comes naturally to us as an organization. For over 50 years, the Darien Land Trust has understood the long-term nature of our mission to preserve unique lands in our community and our obligation to care for them in perpetuity — for generations to come. We are well served in this regard by the commitment of our Board, many of whom devote long tenures to the work of the organization. This year we mark the retirement of three trustees, Kathy Blackman, Betty Jewett and Terrie Wood, whose individual contributions have been significant and whose mark on the Land Trust and this community cannot be overstated. We are grateful they chose to share their talents with us.

The past year saw the loss of several former trustees and/or longtime friends of the Land Trust, among them Stephen Mandel who had served as the organization's president. Our strength today is due to the foundation that was built by leadership like Steve's, and we acknowledge the legacy that he has given to us. That tradition of commitment is long and strong — three former presidents continued to serve on our board this year, providing continuity and experience.

We will elect two new trustees to the Land Trust Board at the Annual Meeting.

Katie Kidder brings a wealth of experience from serving organizations as diverse as Proctor Academy, the Farm Institute Board on Martha's Vineyard, the Darien Nature Center board, Person-to-Person and the Green Team, among others.

Gordon "Huck" Hough, a Darien native, has a professional background in international finance, been an active volunteer in youth and local organizations, and is an avid outdoorsman.

We are delighted to welcome them both and encourage all of you to attend the Annual Meeting. Your involvement and support is critical to the work we do, and the meeting is a valuable opportunity to **look back** at our successes and challenges and to hear from our membership and the community on where we should be setting our sights.

I **look forward** to seeing you there.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kaye Rabin".

Kaye Rabin

This annual report serves to recognize and thank the donors to our 2008-2009 Annual Campaign and to the Waterbury Field 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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D A R I E N



LAND TRUST

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Nancy & Christopher Carlson	in memory of Jinnie Oldrin
Roberta & Ed Clarke	in memory of Jinnie Oldrin
Suzanne & Michael Huebsch	in memory of Jinnie Oldrin
Margaret Macnair	in memory of Jinnie Oldrin
Terrie & Jay Wood	in memory of Jinnie Oldrin
Elizabeth Erwin	in memory of Jane Bennett Shutts
Barbara & Bruce Ferguson	in memory of Jane Bennett Shutts
Joanne & Tom Ferguson	in memory of Jane Bennett Shutts
J Crawford Noll	in memory of Jane Bennett Shutts
Terrie & Jay Wood	in memory of Jane Bennett Shutts
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Zangrillo	in memory of Jane Bennett Shutts
The Casciari Family	in memory of Dan Streeter



Darien Land Trust 2008-2009 Key Accomplishments

- Campaign completed to purchase Waterbury Field, preserving a two-acre property forever
- Pregnant Herring released at Olson Woods Lake, protecting biodiversity and health of Long Island Sound
- Wildflower meadow started at Brendan's Meadow on Nearwater Lane
- Horizon Foundation grant received for habitat restoration at Half Mile Road — project completed
- Installed Bluebird boxes on four meadows — nine nesting Bluebird pairs were observed
- Invasive plants removed on six acres of tidal salt marsh properties — habitat restoration
- Exhibition at the new Darien Library Gallery of paintings by local artists inspired by Darien's open spaces
- Over 120 elementary school children walked with DLT Trustees on field trips through Dunlap Woods



Your Continued Support of Our Work Is Appreciated!

Annual Dues (check one)

- | | | |
|---|----|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Naturalist | \$ | 50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Steward | \$ | 100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Protector | \$ | 250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmentalist | \$ | 500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservator | \$ | 1,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Preservationist | \$ | 1,500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Guardian | \$ | 2,500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other Contribution | \$ | _____ |

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____



DARIEN LAND TRUST FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2009 AND 2008

	2009	2008
	TOTAL	TOTAL
STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES		
REVENUE AND SUPPORT:		
Contributions—cash and real property	\$1,268,898	\$5,628,969
Membership	90,382	129,524
Investment income, including unrealized gains (losses)	(149,664)	31,585
Other income	3,271	2,260
Total Revenue and Support	\$1,212,887	\$5,792,338
EXPENSES:		
Program services	\$108,410	\$157,244
Management and general	19,691	18,513
Fundraising (includes Waterbury Field capital campaign)	9,230	11,510
Total Expenses	\$137,331	\$187,267
Increase (decrease) in net assets	\$1,075,556	\$5,605,071
Net Assets—beginning of year	\$20,801,586	\$15,196,515
Net Assets—end of year	\$21,877,147	\$20,801,586

BALANCE SHEET	2009	2008
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS:		
Cash and equivalents	\$1,256,493	\$378,597
Investments	191,678	2,086,085
Pledges receivable	10,000	20,000
Other current assets	2,302	2,302
Total Current Assets	\$1,460,473	\$2,486,984
Land and conservation easements	20,397,634	18,322,634
Total Assets	\$21,858,107	\$20,809,618
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
LIABILITIES:		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$965	\$8,032
Total Liabilities	\$965	\$8,032
NET ASSETS:		
Unrestricted	\$1,459,508	\$2,272,139
Temporarily restricted	—	206,813
Permanently restricted	20,397,634	18,322,634
Total Net Assets	\$21,857,142	\$20,801,586
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$21,858,107	\$20,809,618



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FALL 2009 NEWSLETTER



JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING

“Becoming a Positive Force for Nature”

Our stewardship projects are teaching us that Nature responds quickly and positively to conservation action. We are also learning that birds are environmental bellwethers — a healthy environment for young birds is a healthy environment for our children. Come and see the Cornell Lab of Ornithology film, “The State of the Birds” and discover what the DLT is doing to improve bird habitats in Darien. Paintings of our properties by local artists will add to the festive air and be for sale before and after the meeting. Discover too what you can do to become a positive force for Nature at our **Annual Meeting on November 15th at 5:00pm at the Wee Burn Country Club.**

Betty Jewett will be named Trustee Emeritus after many years of outstanding service to the DLT. We will also say farewell to two other long-standing Trustees, Kathy Blackman and Terrie Wood.

The DLT membership will then vote to elect two new Trustees, Katie Kidder and Gordon Hough, and to approve the re-election of the following trustees to new terms: Karen Calby, Margot Hand, Jim Millard, Kaye Rabin, Denise Sellhausen and Jim Tweedy.

The meeting is open to all, and we hope that everyone will come to learn how to become a positive force for Nature on their land.

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