

# FLANDERS NATURE CENTER & LAND TRUST

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2016

## WELCOME FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



As I stood out in the Studio parking lot on two recent occasions welcoming program attendees and directing them where to park, I was struck by how things have changed at Flanders Nature Center & Land Trust. For you see, the Studio parking lot is no longer large enough to accommodate everyone who is interested in attending our increasingly popular evening, weekend, and summer time programs.

Whether it's a program on bears, or a slide show about a recent trip to Iceland, or a winter hike through the fields and forests of the Van Vleck Farm & Nature Sanctuary, we have obviously struck a chord with folks who are now coming from far and near.

In this time of being stressed and wired 24 hours a day, we need a respite and a comforting place where we can sometimes escape and just get away. A sanctuary, if you will, that allows for quiet and contemplation, and a place where we can stretch out our legs. A place that teaches us about the world of natural things, or where we can listen quietly to the gentle rustling of the wind, the hooting of an owl, or the tree frogs tweeting the coming of spring. A place (and a time) that is being rediscovered for its beauty and wisdom in the natural order of things, and that renews those longings we feel instinctively and deep within our soul.

Take a peak at Flanders within these pages, then come out and take a taste. You'll soon see that the seasons of Flanders is your time and especially your place.

*Arthur J. Wilmas*

Executive Director



## VOLUNTEER OF YEAR LEADS DRIVE TO BECOMING A NATIONALLY ACCREDITED LAND TRUST



There were many important milestones you helped us accomplish in 2016. One of the most significant was becoming an accredited land trust. After years of hard work among committee members, staff and volunteers, Flanders

is now one of only 372 land trusts across the country who have celebrated this prestigious accomplishment. And leading us through that complex task was the 2016 *J. Warren Upson Volunteer of the Year* Sharon Feeley...her hard work and leadership will hold us in good stead as we continue our march to saving important open space and stewarding it for all to appreciate and enjoy. Thanks accreditation team, and thanks to all of our remarkable volunteers of this past year.

## INTERPRETIVE TRAIL TURNS MANVILLE KETTLE INTO DOWNTOWN COMMUNITY ASSET

Beyond working passionately to save treasured open spaces in our community, Flanders was blessed with impressive volunteer efforts at stewarding our 2300 acres. And in that regard, Flanders is fortunate because our land trust can call on the considerable talents and experience of our nature center to create an impressive team. Take for example one of Flanders premier properties... the Manville Kettle. Located just behind the post office in the center of town, Flanders went to work removing invasives (thank you Earth Tones Nursery), creating an interpretive trail system that included installing a boardwalk, and placing benches overlooking the wetlands of a geological treasure in order to enhance everyone's enjoyment for everyday use.





## OUR MISSION

*Flanders Nature Center & Land Trust acquires, preserves, and manages land; and uses the land to promote the understanding and appreciation of nature, art, and the environment.*



### STAFF

**Arthur Milnor**  
Executive Director

**Dianne Parmelee**  
Education

**Amber McDonald**  
Education

**Venisa Riebe**  
Finance

**Kirsten Marino**  
Development

**Nancy Robinson**  
Marketing

**Alex Thomson**  
Land Manager

## ACHIEVEMENTS YOU CAN BE PROUD TO "TWEET"

What a year it's been! Flanders has made some tremendous progress, which we are excited to share with you.

To help you get around, ***we installed new signs around the Van Vleck campus and updated our website.*** We also launched the "Ambassadors Program" to warmly introduce you to our expanding list of educational programs and inform you of upcoming events. During 2016 Flanders Ambassadors welcomed over 1,000 guests who attended over 67 adult and family programs.

The new Van Vleck Land & Facilities Committee was established to upgrade our expanding facilities, and properly steward the multi-faceted farm on Flanders road.

We hired a dynamic new Development Director, and repeated a successful event that ***engaged the community with a 5K run over our Fields and Forest--it even passes through the North Barn.***



In addition, there were many important milestones that you helped us accomplish in 2016. We assisted the town with its preservation of the newly named Trolley Bed Preserve.

Along the way we also upgraded several of our own hiking preserves, and ***proudly monitored and***

***maintained over 2,300 acres of open space lands.***

Our annual auction was replaced with a Farm to Table Dinner and Auction, and despite the rainy weather we all had a fun and delicious experience, and raised over \$30,000.



Summer camp enrollment was at an all time high, as ***we welcomed more than 800 students from across 21 towns and 3 states. We saw a significant increase in the number of adult/family program attendees,*** and this trend is continuing to rise as we broaden our program offerings.



### A CORNERSTONE OF FLANDERS EDUCATION PROGRAMMING

Under the leadership and direction of Michael Audette, Flanders, through its dedicated volunteers and staff, brought higher visibility and greater depth to its environmental education programming in 2016. When Michael thinks of Flanders "Nature" Center he imagines a place that seeks to integrate these elements – plants, animals and the landscape. ***He goes on to add, "I see Flanders teaching the value of nature through educational programs that help bring nature closer, make it more relevant, respected, and cared for... ultimately instilling a better environmental attitude and behavior in all of us. It seems to me that knowing more about nature and essentially how to better co-exist with it and within it, that one develops a stronger sense to protect it."*** Excellent thoughts for all of us Michael... thank you.





# THANKS TO OUR DONORS

## *Charter Oak (\$5000+)*

Bruce & Janet Bunch  
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***This list comprises of donations of \$100 or more made between 1/1/2016-12/31/2016. In addition to this we received many other donations under \$100 that we are incredibly grateful for. If you feel an error has occurred please call our office at 203-263-3711. Thank you.***

# THANKS TO OUR DONORS

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## 2016 AT A GLANCE

### FLANDERS NATURE CENTER & LAND TRUST, INC. Statement of Activities For the Year Ended December 31, 2016 (With Comparative Totals for December 31, 2015)

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total 2016	Total 2015
<b>SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>					
<b>SUPPORT</b>					
Grants	\$ 74,447	\$ 4,700	\$ -	\$ 79,147	\$ 83,040
Membership/Donations	56,286	69,999	-	126,285	118,066
In-Kind Donations	1,217	-	-	1,217	17,600
Special Events	49,120	-	-	-	-
Less: Direct Donor Benefits	(15,552)	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT</b>	<b>33,568</b>	<b>74,699</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>240,217</b>	<b>36,183</b>
<b>REVENUE</b>					
Programs and Products	195,625	-	-	195,625	195,670
Rental Income	17,538	-	-	17,538	15,091
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>213,163</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>213,163</b>	<b>210,761</b>
<b>OTHER INCOME/(LOSS)</b>					
Interest and Dividend Income	29,360	23,192	-	52,552	59,448
Realized Gain/(Loss) on Investments	97,330	76,889	-	174,219	32,588
Unrealized Gain/(Loss) on Investments	(28,786)	(23,531)	-	(53,317)	(154,937)
Other Income	21	-	-	21	-
<b>TOTAL OTHER INCOME</b>	<b>96,925</b>	<b>76,550</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>173,475</b>	<b>(62,901)</b>
<b>NET ASSETS RELEASED FROM RESTRICTIONS</b>	<b>69,542</b>	<b>(69,542)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>	<b>545,148</b>	<b>81,707</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>626,855</b>	<b>402,749</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
Land Management & Education	354,611	-	-	354,611	338,727
Management & General	138,150	-	-	138,150	145,214
Fundraising	31,265	-	-	31,265	45,914
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>524,025</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>524,025</b>	<b>529,855</b>
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>21,123</b>	<b>81,707</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>102,830</b>	<b>(127,106)</b>
<b>NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<b>5,808,393</b>	<b>896,053</b>	<b>2,548,397</b>	<b>9,252,843</b>	<b>9,379,949</b>
<b>NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 5,829,516</b>	<b>\$ 977,760</b>	<b>\$ 2,548,397</b>	<b>\$ 9,355,673</b>	<b>\$ 9,252,843</b>

### Statement of Financial Stability

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total 2016	2015
<b>ASSETS</b>					
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Cash	\$ 7,712	\$ 12,620	\$ -	\$ 20,332	\$ 42,589
Accounts Receivable	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>7,712</b>	<b>12,620</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>20,332</b>	<b>42,589</b>
<b>PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT</b>					
Lands Held in Trust	4,181,021	-	2,487,052	6,668,073	6,668,073
Buildings and Improvements	982,747	-	-	982,747	964,365
Equipment	76,960	-	-	76,960	81,959
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(701,476)	-	-	(701,476)	(701,476)
<b>NET PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>4,539,252</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,487,052</b>	<b>7,026,304</b>	<b>7,039,064</b>
<b>OTHER ASSETS</b>					
Collections acquired since Jan. 1, 2002 (Note 2)	73,433	-	-	73,433	71,595
Investments	1,218,597	965,140	61,345	2,245,082	2,114,831
<b>TOTAL OTHER ASSETS</b>	<b>1,292,030</b>	<b>965,140</b>	<b>61,345</b>	<b>2,318,515</b>	<b>2,186,426</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 5,838,994</b>	<b>\$ 977,760</b>	<b>\$ 2,548,397</b>	<b>\$ 9,365,151</b>	<b>\$ 9,268,079</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>					
<b>LIABILITIES</b>					
Current Liabilities:					
Accounts Payable	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 73
Accrued Expenses	9,478	-	-	9,478	15,163
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>9,478</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9,478</b>	<b>15,236</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>9,478</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9,478</b>	<b>15,236</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>					
Unrestricted:					
Undesignated	4,610,919	-	-	4,610,919	4,632,928
Designated: General Endowment	1,218,597	-	-	1,218,597	1,175,465
<b>Total Unrestricted</b>	<b>5,829,516</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,829,516</b>	<b>5,808,393</b>
Temporarily Restricted	-	977,760	-	977,760	896,053
Permanently Restricted	-	-	2,548,397	2,548,397	2,548,397
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>5,829,516</b>	<b>977,760</b>	<b>2,548,397</b>	<b>9,355,673</b>	<b>9,252,843</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 5,838,994</b>	<b>\$ 977,760</b>	<b>\$ 2,548,397</b>	<b>\$ 9,365,151</b>	<b>\$ 9,268,079</b>

Please note figures are awaiting final audit approval. Upon completion, our 2016 audited financial statements and form 990 will be available for review on our website, [www.flandersnaturecenter.org](http://www.flandersnaturecenter.org)

## CAMPER SPOTLIGHT

"For the past couple of summers I have had the opportunity to attend Flanders summer camp program. I loved working at the barn with Miss Dianne. She taught me so much about farm animals, and was one of the best counselors there. A day that I will always remember was the day I was able to be part of CC the goats first day of life. Flanders camp and all the counselors are what make my summers so great."

- Brian (pictured right)





# THANK YOU TO OUR 2016 SPONSORS



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Woodbury, CT 06798

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

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