



## **Mattatuck Museum Exhibit**

**Natalie Van Vleck: True To Her Art, Life & Land**

**December 2, 2018 thru February 24, 2019**

Organized by curator, Marc Chabot and Flanders Nature Center & Land Trust, the Mattatuck Museum presents more than 50 paintings, works on paper, hand carved wood frames, furnishings and archival materials by Flanders founder Natalie Van Vleck. It traces her commitment to an art career at age 14 and later study with Modernist masters, her evolution through cubist, abstract and precisionist styles and her gender-fluid persona. Her commitment to the environment and her transition in 1934 to farming, land preservation and the establishment in 1963 of Flanders Nature Center & Land Trust are also explored.



## **FLANDERS VISION**

Our vision is to safeguard a future in which our scenic landscapes, forests, wetlands, agricultural lands, and wildlife habitats are preserved forever, while being a leading center for environmental education for all ages, following best practices for land stewardship, and partnering with government, private organizations, and the community to conserve our natural heritage.

## 2017 / 2018 HIGHLIGHTS



### **Enhanced Educational Experiences!**

Flanders is proud to offer educational programs to children, families, and adults throughout all four seasons. **The Woodward Foundation & The Marzahl Memorial Fund** have been long-time supporters of Flanders and have generously provided funds for us to expand our school NGSS and community programming. A grant awarded from the **Connecticut Community Foundation** enabled Flanders and **The Quassapaug Sailing Center** to partner and offer the new summer program "Sails & Trails" to older children. This program combines learning to sail on Lake Quassapaug with exploration and hiking at Flanders' adjacent

Whittemore Sanctuary and is growing in popularity with an increased number of campers attending in its second year of 2018.

Flanders also launched **goat yoga**, a new adult and family offering and it has been a BIG success in attracting many new people to our programming. Classes are held outdoors at the North Barn overlooking the scenic landscape of the Van Vleck Farm & Sanctuary. Participants have enjoyed interacting with our Nigerian Dwarf goats while taking part in a gentle yoga class led by certified yoga instructors. The adult and family classes were so well received that we added preschooler goat yoga classes this fall as well as offering private goat yoga parties!



### **Restoration & Preservation Accomplishments**

With funds raised through the generosity of the **Salem Foundation** in addition to generous donations of time and talent from friends of Flanders last fall the **Van Vleck Committee** was able to complete the project of dredging our Botany Pond to restore its healthy ecosystem. The pond first created by Natalie Van Vleck and her friends in the **Pomperaug Valley Garden Club** has served as not only a welcoming reward for hikers at the top of the Botany Trail, but also as a treasure trove of discovery for students of all ages visiting Flanders. In addition to dredging the pond, a new "rock dock" was created for better accessibility for visitors to explore the pond to learn more about the vast array of all the healthy pond life that lives there.

The awarding of two grants allowed us the funds to help revitalize our Van Vleck campus. With a grant from the **1772 Foundation**, work completed included the rehabilitation of the North Barn, the painting of the exterior of the Art Studio, and roof replacements on our North Barn, South Farm House, and Garden Shed. **The Thomaston Savings Bank Foundation** awarded Flanders a grant that enabled us to enhance lighting at the Art Studio and repair the footbridge that serves as both a pathway on our hiking trails and a photo opportunity for visitors year-round!

## **VOLUNTEER POWER!**

**Volunteerism is the cornerstone of how we operate at Flanders Nature Center & Land Trust...and we have some of the best volunteers on the planet!**

**During 2018, Flanders hosted a variety of volunteer-led events including our Annual Field & Forest 5k Trail Run, Farm-to-Table Dinner & Auction, and Farmhouse Tea. Proceeds from these events raised over \$100,000 to support our mission!**



**Jodi Wasserstein** chaired our 5k event where 400 runners and walkers and hundreds of spectators enjoyed the picturesque Van Vleck sanctuary and post-race celebration with local food trucks and live entertainment.



**Eileen Reed** led our Farm-to-Table event which brought 200 guests together for an evening to experience the beauty of our scenic landscape, listen to great music, and enjoy the flavors of local harvests through a multi-course meal prepared by an amazing ensemble of esteemed area chefs.



**Joan Anthony**, Chair of the Art Committee, and **Marc Chabot**, Curator of Flanders Van Vleck Collections hosted 40 guests for a talk focused on one of Natalie Van Vleck's paintings followed by a delicious Tea featuring local jams and homemade treats.



## DONORS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

**Anne Slattery** has been a long time supporter of Flanders having served on the Board of Directors as well as having chaired the Education Committee among other volunteer duties. It is her love of farming combined with education, and her wish to keep our founder, Natalie Van Vleck's farming legacy alive that prompted Anne to further support Flanders. In August 2018, Anne established **The Farm Fund** and generously contributed \$10,000 toward that effort. Anne is committed to seeing the Flanders Farm Education Program grow and flourish and encourages you to join in her vision of reaching her goal of starting this fund off at the \$20,000 level.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Front Row:** Ingrid Manning (President), Anne Westerman, Deb Tietz, Larry Smotroff

**Back Row:** Kay Campbell, Frank Sherer, Peter North, Jodi Wasserstein (Secretary), Bill Anthony (Treasurer), Michael Audette, Sharon Feeley (Vice President), Bob Kolesnik

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Curator

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
<b>SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>				
Membership/Donations	\$77,053	\$57,075	\$	\$134,128
Grants	71,459	25,624		97,083
In-Kind Donations	1,431			1,431
Special Events	40,618			40,618
Programs and Products	192,107			192,107
Rent	16,238			16,238
Investment Income	29,259	28,525		57,784
Realized Gains on Investments	6,686	6,518		13,204
Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Investments	146,290	142,620		288,910
Net Assets Realised from Restrictions	67,360	(67,360)		-
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>	<b>648,501</b>	<b>193,002</b>		<b>841,503</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Facilities	60,967			60,967
Land Management	32,544			32,544
Education	212,859			212,859
Management & General	156,874			156,874
Fundraising	54,708			54,708
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>517,952</b>			<b>517,952</b>
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>130,549</b>	<b>193,002</b>		<b>323,551</b>
<b>NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<b>5,829,516</b>	<b>977,760</b>	<b>2,548,397</b>	<b>9,355,673</b>
<b>NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$5,960,065</b>	<b>\$1,170,762</b>	<b>\$2,548,397</b>	<b>\$9,679,224</b>

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
<b>ASSETS</b>				
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Cash	\$15,793	\$16,293	\$	\$32,086
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>15,793</b>	<b>16,293</b>		<b>32,086</b>
<b>PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT</b>				
Lands Held in Trust	4,181,021		2,487,052	6,668,073
Buildings and Improvements	1,013,823			1,013,823
Equipment	76,960			76,960
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(721,602)			(721,602)
<b>Net Property and Equipment</b>	<b>4,550,202</b>		<b>2,487,052</b>	<b>7,037,254</b>
<b>OTHER ASSETS</b>				
Collections	73,433			73,433
Investments	1,341,743	1,154,469	61,345	2,557,557
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	<b>1,415,176</b>	<b>1,154,469</b>	<b>61,345</b>	<b>2,630,990</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$5,981,171</b>	<b>\$1,170,762</b>	<b>\$2,548,397</b>	<b>\$9,700,330</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>				
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>				
Accrued Expenses	\$21,106	\$		\$21,106
<b>Total Accrued Expenses</b>	<b>21,106</b>			<b>21,106</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>				
Unrestricted				
Undesignated	4,618,322			4,618,322
Designated: General Endowment	1,341,743			1,341,743
Temporarily Restricted		1,170,762		1,170,762
Permanently Restricted			2,548,397	2,548,397
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>5,960,065</b>	<b>1,170,762</b>	<b>2,548,397</b>	<b>9,679,224</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$5,981,171</b>	<b>\$1,170,762</b>	<b>\$2,548,397</b>	<b>\$9,700,330</b>

# THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

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**This list comprises donations of \$100 or more made between Jan—Dec 2017. 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.**

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## Donate to Flanders Through Your IRA

Did you know you can donate up to \$100,000 a year of your IRA to Flanders, tax free? A 2015 tax law on qualified charitable distributions allows individuals 70½ years or older to give directly from their IRAs. Your gift to Flanders would help to protect our environment and promote conservation for generations to come.

For more information contact  
 Venisa Riebe, Director of Finance, at  
 (203) 263-3.711 x 11 or  
[venisa@flandersnaturecenter.org](mailto:venisa@flandersnaturecenter.org)



## MARZAHN REFUGE BRIDGE DEDICATION & HIKE



On a crisp, sunny Saturday morning in mid-October an enthusiastic group gathered together at Flanders' Marzahl Refuge to dedicate a new bridge to long time volunteers and supporters, **Guy and Allison Gabrielson**. The Gabrielsons embody the spirit of volunteerism. They began volunteering at Flanders over 30 years ago as a family bringing their sons along to collect sap and make maple syrup and still help with this age-old tradition. Guy played a central role in the construction of the new Sugar House as the architect of the building. Guy and Allison are vital members of the **Land Management Committee** and for many years coordinated the land monitors. In their role as Land Monitor Coordinators, they learned every single property that Flanders owns (over 40) and trained new monitors on how to properly perform their duties as a land monitor and insure that reports for each property were received annually. Most recently, Guy helped design and work on the new bridge that was built at the

Marzahl Refuge over Carmel Hill Brook. The bridge building team was led by land management volunteer **Mike Carlo**. Mike had a vision to make more of the beautiful Marzahl Refuge accessible to hikers. He worked tirelessly along with **Dave Terry, Richard Bartkus and other members of the land management committee** during cold winter months to construct the bridge and make his vision a reality. The bridge has allowed the hiking trail to be extended and increased enjoyment of this scenic property. Flanders is very appreciative of all the hard work on the property and cannot thank Guy and Allison Gabrielson enough for their many years of dedicated service and support to Flanders.

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