

AVALONIA LAND CONSERVANCY, Inc.  
P.O. Box 49,  
Old Mystic, CT 06372  
(860) 884-3500  
[www.avalonialandconservancy.org](http://www.avalonialandconservancy.org)

LINNEA RICHARDSON  
And  
PELTIER'S' LOST POND PRESERVES  
Site Management Plan

Town of Griswold, New London County, Connecticut  
**Linnea Richardson**  
Latitude: N 41° 31'49.6" Longitude: W71° 53'42.4"  
**Peltiers' Lost Pond Preserve**  
Latitude: N 41° 31'33.2" Longitude: W71° 53'58.7"

Property managed by the Avalonia Town of Griswold Committee  
Plan prepared by the Avalonia Town of Griswold Committee

Management Plan POC: Richard "Dick" Conant

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Management Plan Approval:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Site Information:**

**Property name and location:** The Linnea Richardson and the Peltiers' Lost Pond Preserves are contiguous Avalonia preserves accessed from Richardson Road, Town of Griswold, New London County, Connecticut. **See site maps in Avalonia office files and/or Dropbox location??**

**Directions to the property:** From Route 165 in the Town of Griswold take Richardson Road south until you see the signage for the preserves on the right side of the road.

**Land trust contact information:** AVALONIA LAND CONSERVANCY, Inc. P.O. Box 49, Old Mystic, CT 06372  
Landline #:(860) 884-3500 Website address: [www.avalonialandconservancy.org](http://www.avalonialandconservancy.org)

**Legal description from deed/survey:** See site maps and property deeds in Avalonia office files and/or Dropbox location??

### **Description of surrounding area:**

The immediate environ surrounding the contiguous 29.6 acre Linnea Richardson and 45.5 acre Peltiers' Lost Pond preserves is a mix of sparse residential development immediately adjacent to the preserves' access on Richardson Road and unmanaged upland wood lots interspersed with wetlands around the great majority of the preserves' perimeter.

The property has high conservation value for native raptors, woodpeckers, woodland birds, insectivorous birds and song birds. The wooded parcel supports a population of white-tailed deer and coyote while also providing upland woods for small mammals. The wetlands probably support an extensive amphibian population although no survey has been undertaken to date.

### **Acquisition history**

#### **Date of donation or purchase:**

The Linnea Richardson preserve was donated by Linnea C, Richardson on August 4, 2010. The Peltiers' Lost Pond Preserve as donated by Richard and Louise Peltier on February 4, 2010. The donors' expectations for properties and any restrictions placed on property at time of gift are included in the transfer documents. **See warranty deeds located in Avalonia Office or Dropbox location??**

### **Land use history**

Both properties support extensive upland woods consisting of mature 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> regrowth hardwood forest of approximately 75-100 years of age. The wooded areas were undoubtedly

used as pasture in the past centuries since the settlement of the Town of Griswold. The site contains an extensive palustrine forested freshwater wetland in the southwestern reaches with mature stands of red maple and an understory of high bush blueberry, sweet pepper bush, azalea, and viburnums. The site also contains the remnants of an earthen/stonework impoundment (Lost Pond) which has been breached and now is dominated by water primrose and sweet pepperbush. Supporting the wetland hydrology is a perennial stream draining the wetland to the south. Lost Pond drains along a perennial stream to the north and crosses under Richardson Road. The site contains dramatic topography in a series of bedrock ridges and wetland valleys. Rixtown Mountain dominates the preserves and contains an abandoned rock quarry on its western flank. No previous structures or foundations have been noted on the property, and there is no evidence of former household dumping. Extensive stone walls extend around the perimeter of the preserves and transect the interior.

### **Public Use Resources**

The property is open for foot access and observation although no established or maintained trails exist. There is the remnant of a former unimproved logging road or ATV track running south from the access point on Richardson Road to the center of the property. No other improvements have been made on the property. Permissible activities include hiking, nature study and wildlife observation. Prohibited activities include, but are not inclusive to, camping, cutting or collection of any vegetation, hunting or trapping, disposal of trash, litter, or vegetative debris, removal of rocks and/or cultural artifacts.

Avalonia signage has been posted along the property access points and boundaries and is excellent in its extent and condition. Note: The property boundary through the southwestern wetland has not been posted due to wetness and difficulty of access.

**Natural Resources:** On the Linnea Richardson and Peltiers' Lost Pond Preserves, the upland and wetland vegetative communities remain very healthy and have very few invasive species with the exception of some Japanese barberry and multiflora rose at the access point on Richardson Road. There has been no discernable stewardship efforts to date, although a half day effort to cut/treat/pull the invasives should be undertaken. The upland portions of the site support mature red/white/black oak with yellow and black birch and interspersed red maple, mountain laurel, sassafras, chestnut oak, mockernut hickory, sweet fern, huckleberry, white pine, and American beech. The wetland supports red maple, sweet pepperbush, water primrose, azalea, and high bush blueberry.

Raccoon, eastern grey squirrel, chipmunk, coyote, and white-tail deer have been observed either directly or indirectly (tracks) on the property. The wetland and former Lost pond probably support healthy populations of amphibians and reptiles. The properties do not contain any habitats of special concern as defined by the Connecticut Department of Energy and the Environment.

The property has steep topography throughout interspersed by wetlands and drainage courses running north and south from central highlands. Rixtown Mountain is a steep prominence on the eastern boundary. The central portion of the property contains streams and wetlands interspersed with exposed ledge upland ridges. A glacially deposited boulder field surrounds the drainage course leading from Lost Pond north to Richardson Road.

**Cultural Resources:** None noted aside from the extensive field-stone walls exist throughout the property.

## **Management objectives**

### **Protection:**

Management of the site would greatly benefit from a professionally prepared forest management plan and maybe a herp survey. The preserves should be protected from tree cutting/fire wood removal, hunting, dumping of brush and vegetative debris from adjacent residential neighbors, littering and damage to any cultural resources, artifacts, and stonewalls. An abandoned hunting platform is in a large red oak in the center of the property and should be disassembled. "No Hunting" signs should be posted.

### **Boundary identification and sign posting:**

Site access points and boundaries are fully posted and marked with Avalonia property boundary identification signs with the exception of a short stretch of property boundary through the southwestern wetland.

### **Surveillance objectives:**

The site requires periodic inspection for littering, defacing/removal of boundary and access signage, illegal hunting and unauthorized ATV use.

### **Protection of special natural and cultural features:**

Monitor site access and the old unimproved trail for ATV impacts or brush disposal

### **Public use and Restrictions:**

The site has no established and maintained trails, but is still open for public pedestrian access to provide the general public with opportunities to view passively the site's natural and cultural resources. No camping, cutting of firewood or vegetation, parking or encroachment by mechanized vehicles, dumping or disposal of litter or residential vegetative debris is authorized. No hunting is permitted. Public access to the preserves is from Richardson Road to the north and an old logging road coming into the southern portion of the preserves.

## **Implementing the plan**

### **Recurring and occasional requirements:**

Pursue annual assessment, and control/management of invasive species by mechanical and chemical strategies. Litter pick-up should be performed along property margins. Seek to budget for a forest assessment and management plan. Some barbwire along the stonewall perimeters represents a trip hazard for humans and wildlife and should be removed.

### **Annual obligations:**

Conduct a full boundary walk with GPS equipment. Install/replace/maintain signage as necessary. Produce a brief annual report capturing yearly management and stewardship work accomplished on the property and outlining management/stewardship priorities for the upcoming year.

## Floral or Faunal Species Noted On-Site

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	DATE OBSERVED	COMMENTS
<b>PLANTS:</b>			
White Pine		11/3/2015	
Hemlock		11/3/2015	
Sweet fern		11/3/2015	
Huckleberry		11/3/2015	
Sweet Pepperbush		11/3/2015	
Water primrose		11/3/2015	
Multiflora rose		11/3/2015	
Japanese barberry		11/3/2015	
Chestnut oak		11/3/2015	
Black Oak		11/3/2015	
Red Oak		11/3/2015	
White Oak		11/3/2015	
Yellow Birch		11/3/2015	
Black Birch		11/3/2015	
Witch-hazel		11/3/2015	
American Beach		11/3/2015	
Azalea		11/3/2015	
High bush blueberry		11/3/2015	
Mockernut hickory		11/3/2015	
Black gum		11/3/2015	
Royal fern		11/3/2015	
<b>MAMMALS:</b>			
White-tail deer		11/3/2015	
Chipmunk		11/3/2015	
Gray squirrel		11/3/2015	
Coyote		11/3/2015	
<b>REPTILES:</b>			
Expect painted turtles			
<b>INVERTEBRATES:</b>			
<b>BIRDS:</b>			
<b>AMPHIBIANS:</b>			
Expect frogs and salamanders in the pond and wetlands			

## **Site Surveys and Mgt. Plan Progress (annual update of work accomplished)**

- 1. See 2011 and 2015 Annual Boundary Survey – Avalonia Office Site Inspections Folder and Jotform records??**