

AVALONIA LAND CONSERVANCY, Inc. P.O. Box 49, Old Mystic, CT 06372 Phone 860-884-3500

Send email to <u>avalonialc@yahoo.com</u>
Website: <u>http://www.avalonialandconservancy.org</u>.

Great Cedar Swamp Preserve

Property Management Plan

57, 63, 70, 74, 79 82 Cedar Swamp Ledyard, New London County, Connecticut Map 9 Block 410 Lot 82 Map 20 Block 410 Lot 57, 63, 74, 79 Map 21 Block 410 Lot 70 Lat.: 4128'25.6" Lon.:71°57'50.4"

Ledyard Town Committee is responsible for stewardship of this property

Plan Prepared by: Karen Askins November 28, 2015

Approved by Ledyard Town Committee:	
Date	
Approved by Stewardship Committee:	
Date	



AVALONIA LAND CONSERVANCY, Inc. P.O. Box 49, Old Mystic, CT 06372

Overview

This preserve consists of 6 small pieces of property in the middle of the Winthrop Swamp in Ledyard, CT. These pieces do not abut each other. Most of the swamp is actually located within the Mashantucket Pequot Reservation which is held in trust by the United States for the Mashantucket Tribal Nation. There is no access by road. None of these properties is easily accessible. The closest road access is from the back of one of the parking lots of Foxwoods Casino or from a dirt track along the western edge of the swamp. In order to get to the properties one would have to cross other private properties, or reservation land. All of the properties are in the middle of a large wetland. The 0.47 acre Perkaski Tract as well as the 1.42 acre Gallup Tract were both donated to Avalonia in 1979. The 14.91 Holdridge Tract was donated in 1982. Richard Norman donated two parcels totaling 10.79 acres in 1992. The 6 acre Weduco Farms Tract was donated in 2015.

Site Information

The Property

Appendix I contains copies of the deeds with the legal description of each property.

This preserve is located within Ledyard's Winthrop Swamp, an area unusual for both its ecology and its history. The swamp was originally dominated by Atlantic white cedar (*Chamaecyparis thyoides*), although today, because of the removal of most of the cedars during colonial times, eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) and red maple (*Acer rubrum*) are the dominant trees. The understory contains dense stands of rosebay rhododendron (*Rhododendron maximum*).

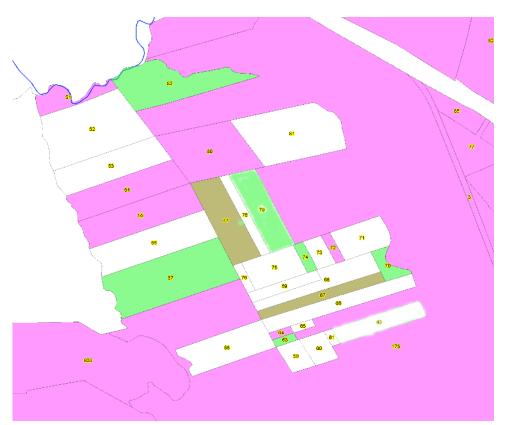
When English settlement of Connecticut began in the early 1600's, the area now called Ledyard was inhabited by the Mashantucket Pequot Indians. At the end of the Pequot War (1636-1638) some of the remaining Pequots were eventually given a reservation of 1,000 acres in the section of Ledyard that includes the Great Cedar Swamp Preserve. This was land that had little promise as farmland for the colonists because of its swampy and rocky nature. Over the next two hundred years most of this original 1,000 acres was sold by the colonial overseers of the reservation, and the number of tribal members on the reservation decreased to a handful. Beginning in the 1970's, remaining members of the tribe began a

movement to achieve legal recognition of the illegal sale of most of the reservation lands and to gain federal recognition as a tribe. Federal recognition was achieved in 1983, which enabled the Tribe to repurchase and place in trust the land covered by the original Settlement Act. Currently the reservation is 1,250 acres.

Land Use History

Because the Cedar Swamp was not suitable for agriculture, it was divided into many very small woodlots. These lots were used by local farmers as a source of building materials, especially fence posts and shingles. The lots would have been accessible for harvesting during the winter when it was frozen. Many of these lots were acquired by the Mashantucket Pequots when they began rebuilding their reservation. However, many of the lots remain privately owned. Six of these privately owned lots have been donated to Avalonia and two of them are owned by the Town of Ledyard. Because of the nature of the land there are no structures on or any current use of any of these properties.

Unfortunately, the property records of these lots are not straightforward and we believe the Town of Ledyard's records are not accurate. (See attached affidavit by Gerald Stephon.)



Location of Avalonia lots (bright green) according to Town of Ledyard. Pink is land owned by US in trust for Mashantucket Pequot Tribe.



USGS map showing Cedar Swamp 1983



Satellite image of lots in the Cedar Swamp according to the Town of Ledyard (2009)

Conservation Values

Atlantic White Cedar swamps comprise a very distinctive habitat that is restricted to a narrow band along the northeast coast of North America. They were formed in moraine hollows, glacial kettles or old lake beds as the glaciers melted. The poor-drainage soils caused standing water to form and thus many layers of peat were created as vegetation failed to decompose. The resulting acidic, nutrient-poor conditions restrict plant and animal communities to those able to tolerate these extreme conditions. One of the dominant tree species of this assemblage historically was Atlantic white cedar (*Chamaecyapris thyoides*) and this species is essentially restricted to growing under these conditions. Unfortunately, because they grow very straight and tall, beginning in early colonial times they were much sought after as ship masts, and most of the cedars were removed early on. This is the case for the Ledyard's Winthrop Swamp, and only a few Atlantic White Cedars remain. Eastern hemlocks (*Tsuga canadensis*) and red maples (*Acer rubrum*) have since become the most common tree. The understory is in part comprised of rosebay rhododendron (*Rhododendron maximum*). The herbaceous layer of these swamps is dominated by sphagnum moss, liverworts, ferns, insectivorous plants, and orchids.

Because of the difficulty in accessing these parcels, they have not been monitored by Avalonia. However, Atlantic white cedars are known to be the exclusive food source of one butterfly, Hessel's Hairstreak (*Callophrys hesseli*), a state endangered butterfly. Furthermore, a number of studies have shown this habitat to be an important nesting habitat for a number of birds.

Restrictions

There are no restrictions on any of the parcels.

Potential Threats to Conservation Values

The largest threat to this preserve is the proximity of Foxwoods Casino, owned by the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation. The parcels are surrounded by land held in trust for the tribe, and one of the world's largest casinos and its associated hotels are a stone's throw away. Fortunately the tribe opted to build a tertiary sewage treatment system for its facilities, but the water used by these facilities is from the aquifer under the cedar swamp. Although this system has been successfully in place for more than 20 years, with thousands of people daily using water and creating wastewater essentially next door, there is always a possibility that the swamp will be affected.

Although the inaccessibility of these parcels and the difficulty with boundaries made it clear this would not be a typical Avalonia preserve, we accepted these donations in order to have a voice of dissent in the event that the Tribe were to try to expand Foxwoods into the swamp, or to build something like a zip line.

Public Use Resources

The preserve is not open to the public.

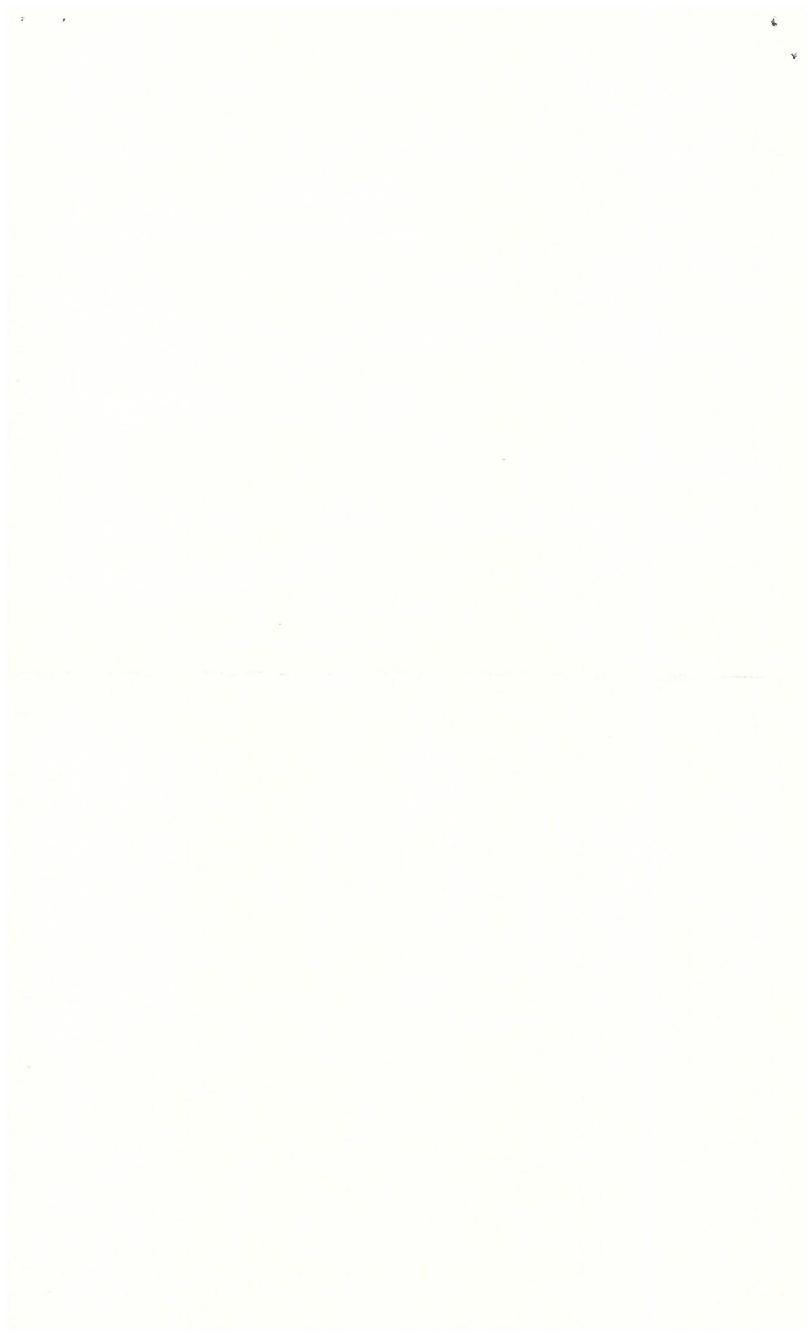
Overall Management Objectives

The primary management objective is to maintain the property as it exists today. The property is being left in its natural state and no efforts to enhance wildlife habitat, control invasive species, or control erosion are planned. Harvesting trees from the property is not planned and would be impractical. The property should be left as is after a large natural disaster.

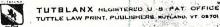
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A WALL		ON S	5-4-79 AT	10:05 AM	

NORWICH, CONNECTICUT 06360 ND LAUDONE, P. C.

1979 4 19 1/1 RDS Town Clerk



...113 ... 919



Know All Men By These Presents

With we, GRACE I. GALLUP of the Town of Norwich, County of New London and State of Connecticut; JOHN SHEA, JR. of Uncasville, in the Town of Montville, County of New London and State of Connecticut; MARGUERITE M. WALZ of the Town of Norwich, County of New London and State of Connecticut; and HAROLD L. MILLS of the Town of Auburn, County of Cumberland and State of Maine;

for divers good causes and considerations thereunto moving, especially for One Dollar received to my full satisfaction of

THE MASHANTUCKET LAND TRUST, INC., a Connecticut corporation having its principal office in Old Mystic, Town of Stonington, County of New London and State of Connecticut, (mailing address: P.O. Box 49, Old Mystic, Connecticut 06372)

have remised, released, and forever quit claimed, and do by these Presents, for myself and my successors, heirs, justly and absolutely remise, release and forever QUIT-CLAIM unto the said Releasee, THE MASHANTUCKET LAND TRUST, INC., its

successors

KENS and assigns forever, all such right and title as I

the said have or ought to have in or to

A certain tract of land situated in the Winthrop Cedar Swamp in the Town of Ledyard, County of New London and State of Connecticut, and containing about one and one-half acres, more or less, being bounded southerly by land now or formerly of John Woodmansee; westerly by land now or formerly of Seth Main; northerly by land now or formerly of S. H. Prentice; and easterly by land now or formerly of George Ayer.

"No Conveyance Tax collected

Town Clerk of Ledyard



Quit-Claim Prod

AT LEDYARD, CT.

1982 DEC 30 AN 11: 57

ATTESTIFICATION OF THE ATTEST OF THE ATTEST

MILDRED M. HOLDRIDGE

NO.

MASHANTUCKET LAND TRUST, INC.

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Dated

Received Secondary 30 19

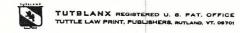
Recorded in Adult

LAND RECORDS

Hayel & Kumusky

BROWN, JACOBSON, JEWETT AND LAUDONE, P.C. 22 SHETUCKET STREET
NORWICH, CONNECTICUT 06380 +2

(NOL 127 PAGE 15



To all People to Whom these Presents shall Come, Greeting:

Know Dt. That I, MILDRED M. HOLDRIDGE, of the Town of Ledyard, County of New London and State of Connecticut,

for divers good causes and considerations thereunto moving, especially for ONE DOLLAR (\$1.00) and other valuable considerations received to my full satisfaction of

MASHANTUCKET LAND TRUST, INC., a Connecticut non-profit corporation,

have remised, released, and forever quitclaimed, and do by these Presents, for myself and my successors and heirs, justly and absolutely remise, release, and forever QUIT-CLAIM unto the said Releasee the

MASHANTUCKET LAND TRUST, INC.
and the survivor of them, and the heirs and assigns of the survivor of them forever all such
right and title as I the said

MILDRED M. HOLDRIDGE

have or ought to have in or to a certain tract of land located in said Ledyard, described as follows:

Being Lot No. 8 and part of No. 9 in Cedar Swamp, so-called, on the easterly side of Shewville Road in said Town and described in Volume 5, Page 386 of the Ledyard Land Records. Also referred to in Volume 15, Page 177 of same records.

Said tract being referred to in Volume 15, Page 601 of the Ledyard Land Records.

-\$ /10 Conveyance Tax received

Hozel 9 Guniskey
Gown Clerk of Ledyard

MASHANTUCKET LAND TRUST, INC.,

and unto their survivor, and unto such survivor's heirs and assigns, to the only use and behoof of the said Releasee,

and the survivor of them, and the heirs and assigns of the survivor of them forever that neither the said MILDRED M. HOLDRIDGE

nor any other person or persons in my name and behalf, shall or will hereafter claim or demand any right or title to the premises or any part thereof, but they and every of them shall by these presents be excluded and forever barred.

In Mitness Wherent. I this 30 day of December and eighty-two	have hereunto set my hand and seal in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred
Signed, Sealed and Delivered in presence of Leb Mak & Assels Delorah A. Wessels	Mildred M. Holdridge
Swan P. Mylen) Swan P. Nylen	
	·
State of Connecticut,	ss. Ledward
Mildred M	
In Witness Whereof. I hereunto set m	y hand and official seal.
RECEIVED FOR RECORD AT LEDYARD, CONN. ON /2 -30 -82AT //:57 A.M. ATTEST: Hazel J. Gunuskey, Town Clerk	DEBORAH H. VESSELS
State of Connecticut,	TAN COMMISSION EXPIRES 4/1/85
County of	
	, 19 , before me, the undersigned officer, personally appeared knowledged himself to be the
ac	progration, and that he as such pregoing instrument for the purposes therein poration by himself as
Latest address of Grantee:	
No. and Street	
City	

NALWALK,

To all People to Whom these Presents shall Come, Greeting:

Know He, Chat, RICHARD L. NORMAN of Norwich, New London County, Connecticut,

for the consideration of One Dollar and other valuable considerations

received to my full satisfaction of THE MASHANTUCKET LAND TRUST, a Connecticut nonprofit organization,

give, grant, bargain, sell and confirm unto the said THE MASHANTUCKET LAND doTRUST, INC.

Two lots in the Winthrop Cedar Swamp in the Town of Ledyard, as follows:

First Lot - Lot No. 8 as numbered off from the base line of Lot No. 22.

Beginning at the northwest corner at a post marked No. 7 in the northeasterly line of land now or formerly of George Henry Pratt Main, and running thence E. 10° N. by land now or formerly of Paul Kleeman 8 rods to a post marked No. 8 at other Kleeman land; thence S. 20° E. by said other Kleeman land to a post marked No. 8 and still other Kleeman land; thence W. 10° S./by said last mentioned land to a stake marked No. 7 at land now or formerly of Weduco Farms, Inc.; and thence by the last mentioned land and said Main land to the point of beginning. Containing about 1 acre.

Second Lot - Lot No. 29.

Beginning at a stake No. 2 in the northeasterly line of land now or formerly of Paul Kleeman, and running thence E. 9° N. by other Main land to a brook at a corner of said Main land; thence as the brook runs westerly and northerly by said Main land and land now or formerly of Sidney Hall until it strikes the path which runs through the swamp at other Main land; and thence southerly and easterly by the last mentioned Main land and said Kleeman land to the point of beginning. Containing 12½ acres.

Being the same premises conveyed to me by Certificate of Devise from the Estate of Hibberd R. Norman dated February 23, 1968 and recorded in Ledyard Land Records, Vol. 69, page 54-55.

The grantee assumes and agrees to pay the taxes levied against these premises hereinafter coming due.

NO Conveyance Tax Received

Patricia Karna

Town Clerk of Ledyard

STATE Conveyance Tax Received

Town Clerk of Ledyard



To Have and to Hold the above gro	anted and bargained premises, with the appurte-
nances thereof, unto the said g cessors and assigns forever, to its	rantee , its xkeirs, suc- and their own proper use and behoof.
	do for myself and my heirs,
executors and administrators, covenant with successors, keins and assigns, that at and unti I am well seized of the premises, as have good right to bargain and sell the same	
And Hurthermore, I, the s	aid grantor, do by these presents bind
WARRANT AND DEFEND the above granted said grantee ,its success mands whatsoever, except as hereinbefore n	heirs, executors and administrators forever to and bargained premises to the ors, heirs and assigns, against all claims and denentioned.
C4 2017	
In Witness Whereof,	
and seal this 24th day of Se hundred and ninety-two. Signed, Sealed and Delivered in presence of	eptember in the year of our Lord nineteen
Comment of the second of the s	
Claudette L. Haigh	Richard L. Norman
Karen L. Rein	
should complete the acknowledgment and aff which his or her commission expires. Under	sence of two witnesses and a Notary Public who ix his or her impression seal and the date upon the signatures of the witnesses and the Notary, in. The Notary may serve as one of the two wit-
State of Connecticut,	
County of New London,	Norwich September 24, A. D. 19 92
Personally Appeared Richard L. Nor	
	Transfer C.
Signer and Sealer of the foregoing Instrum free act and deed before me.	Clauditte - Ship
	Claudette L. Haigh
Latest address of Grantee:	Notary Public
No. and Street P.O. Box 49	My Commission Expires: 6/30/96 Title of Officer
City Old Mystic,	
City Old Mystic, CT Zip 06372	RECEIVED FOR RECORD AT LEDYARD, CT. ON 9-29-92 AT 11:45 A.M. ATTEST: PATRICIA KARNS, TOWN CLERK
	CONTRACTOR CONTRACTOR

960

Marranty Beed Winthrop Cedar Swamp

AT LEDYARD, CT.

RICHARD L. NORMAN

ATTEST: PATRICIA KARNS TOWN CLERK

92 SEP 29 1411:45

THE MASHANTUCKET LAND TRUST, INC.

TO

DatedRecorded in LEDYARD Received SEPTEMBER 24th, LAND RECORDS 11:45 A.M Town Clerk 1992 19 92

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Mathing (Maint)

EUGENE PEKARSKI

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THE MASHANTUCKET LAND TRUST, INC.

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LAW OFFICES BROWN, JACOBSON, JEWETT AND LAUDONE, P. C. 22 SHETUCKET STREET

NORWICH, CONNECTICUT 06360

7.5



Know All Men By These Presents

Ultit I, EUGENE PEKARSKI of the Town of Norwich, County of New London and State of Connecticut,

for divers good causes and considerations thereunto moving, especially for One Dollar received to our full satisfaction of

THE MASHANTUCKET LAND TRUST, INC., a Connecticut corporation having its principal office in Old Mystic, in the Town of Stonington, County of New London and State of Connecticut, (mailing address: P. O. Box 49, Old Mystic, Connecticut 06372)

have remised, released, and forever quit claimed, and do by these Presents, for myself and my successors, heirs, justly and absolutely remise, release and forever QUIT-CLAIM unto the said Releasee, its successors

EUGENE PEKARSKI

I the said have or ought to have in or to

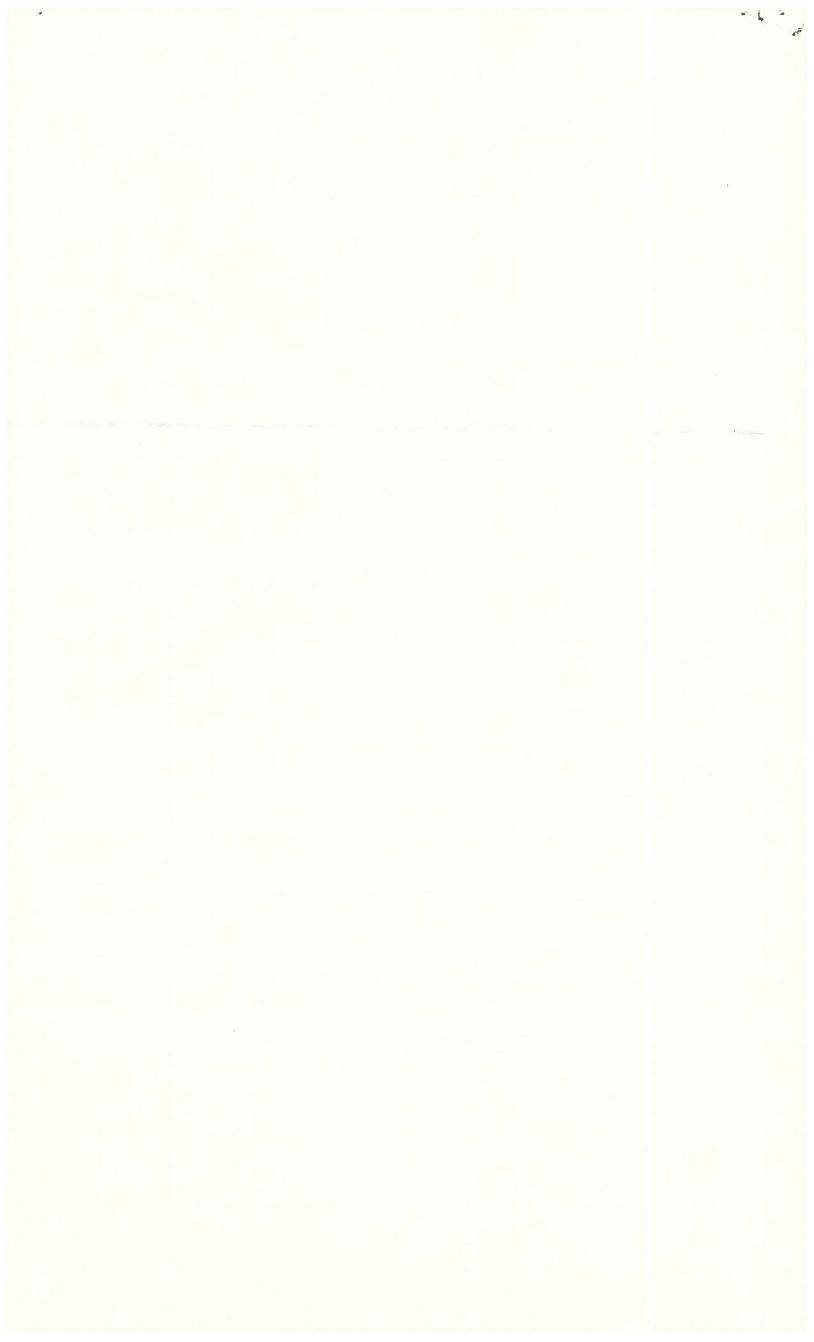
A certain tract or parcel of land consisting of approximately one-half acre, more or less, located in the Cedar Swamp, so-called, in the Town of Ledyard, County of New London and State of Connecticut, and more particularly described as follows:

Commencing on the base line stake number 11; thence northerly by the base line to a lot now or formerly of Nathaniel B. Geer; thence running easterly by said Geer line to a stake on the northeast corner of said lot; thence south by a lot now or formerly of Charles Hewitt to a stake which is marked; thence west in a straight line to the first mentioned bound; containing one-half acre more or less and being the same premises described in two deeds from William L. Cromwell, Administrator of the Estate of Leeds Main to Irving W. Foote.

Reference is made to the third tract in a Judgment in the of Enrico Santoro v. Thomas Piekarski, et al, recorded at Volume 22, page 544 of the Land Records of the Town of Ledyard.

"No Conveyance Tax collected

Town Clerk of Ledyard



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THE MASHANTUCKET LAND TRUST, INC.	A service of the serv	
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THE MASHANTUCKET LAND TRUST, INC., its		
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eirs and assigns forever, so that neither I the s	aid EUGENE PEK	ARSKI
nor any other person or persons in my name and beldemand any right or title to the premises or any part the shall by these presents be excluded and forever barred.	half, shall or will he ereof, but they and	reafter claim or every of them
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County of New London	Januar	у // А. 17. 18 /
Personally Appeared EUGENE PEKARSKI		
Toronany Tipponto House	Sire.	
		3/1-
Signer and Sealer of the foregoing Instrument, and acknowledge	roledged the same to	pernaga -
free act and deed before me.	T. A.	
	1 0× 14) <i>J</i>
A. K.	/ Ly = 1/	
	it a Stage	AT 1. D. III.
	it a Mazie	Notary Public
Latest address of Grantee:	Commissioner of the	
Latest adaress of Graniee:	Commissioner of the	
No. and Street P. O. Box 49 Old Mystic	Commissioner of the	Superior Court



Return to: O'Brien Stuart Eppinger & Collier, LLC 9 Masons Island Road Mystic, CT 06355

QUIT CLAIM DEED - STATUTORY

WEDUCO FARMS, INC., acting by MARY CLARK, its Secretary, duly authorized, of 3416 Bargaintown Road, Town of Egg Harbor TWP, County of Atlantic and State of New Jersey,

for the consideration of ONE DOLLAR (\$1.00) and other good and valuable consideration,

grants to AVALONIA LAND CONSERVANCY, INC., of the Town of Old Mystic, County of New London and State of Connecticut

with QUIT-CLAIM COVENANTS,

The property located in the Town of Ledyard, south of Connecticut Route No. 2 in the Winthrop Cedar Swamp, so-called, consisting of approximately six acres, and being a portion of the First Tract referred to in the deed from Nathan P. Geer, et al to Edward P. Hollowell, dated December 3, 1892, and recorded in Ledyard Land Records, Book 5 Page 739.

Meaning and intending hereby to convey all of the land and only such land as the Grantor now owns in the Town of Ledyard.

Reference is hereby made to Assessors' Map 44, Block 11, Parcels 62 and 79 in the Town of Ledyard.

Reference is hereby made to a certain Certificate of Devise from the Estate of Rebecca Hollowell Fitzgerald to Sophia Hollowell Burdick, dated March 1, 1963, and recorded in Preston Land Records, Volume 47 Page 54, North Stonington Land Records, Volume 3, Page 274, and Ledyard Land Records, Volume 46 at Page 316.

Being all and the same premises conveyed by Sophia Hollowell Burdick to Weduco Farms, Inc. in a deed dated November 15, 1963, and recorded December 31, 1963 in the Town of Ledyard Land Records in Volume 50, Page 48.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, WEDUCO FARMS, INC., acting by MARY CLARK, its

Secretary, duly authorized, has hereunto set her hand and seal this 28^{n} day of September, 2015.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered in the presence of:

Harrish Strank

WEDUCO FARMS, INC.

MARY CLARK, is Se

duly authorized

STATE OF NEW JERSEY)

COUNTY OF ATLANTIC)

September 2 &, 2015

Personally appeared, MARY CLARK, Secretary, duly authorized, of WEDUCO FARMS, INC., signer and sealer of the foregoing instrument and acknowledged same to be its and her free act and deed, before me,

HANNAH STRAUB STARY PUBLIC OF NEW JERSEY My Commission Expires 58/2020 Humah That

Notary Public

My commission expires:

This conveyance is accepted this Lad day of October, 2015, by Avalonia Land
Conservancy, Inc. acting herein by MICHELE FITZPATRICK, its President, duly authorized.

MICHELE FITZPATRICK, Presiden

AFFIDAVIT REGARDING NOTICE OF INTEREST IN LAND PURSUANT TO C.G.S. §47-33G PREPARED FOR AVALONIA LAND CONSERVANCY, INC

STATE OF CONNECTICUT)) SS: LEDYARD	March 18, 2016
COUNTY OF NEW LONDON	/	,
Personally appeared, of follows:	Gerald J. Stefon, who being do	uly sworn does depose and state as
A. I am over the age of eigh an oath.	nteen (18) years, and understan	nd and believe in the obligation of
the following facts which the Town of Ledyard, Co	h may affect title to, or interes	-12a, as amended, and in support of st in, real estate which is located in once known as <i>Winthrop Cedar</i>
	d Surveyor registered in the S is principally dedicated to his	tate of Connecticut since 1994. My storical title searching.
within Winthrop Cea	lar Swamp. This research exte	o research property that it owns ended back to the mid-1700's and in the towns of Ledyard, Groton and
the appended sketch		oximate locations as represented on was prepared from record research the result of a field survey.
	ative to the physical location of	ities and inconsistencies inherent in of those properties owned by
	Dated at Ledyard, Connecticu	nt this 18 th day of March 2016.
-	Gerald J. Stefon L.S.	
S	Subscribed and sworn to befor	re me this 18 th day of March 2016.
	Commissioner of the Superior	

SCHEDULE A

Avalonia Land Conservancy, Inc.
Properties Located in
Winthrop Cedar Swamp
Ledyard, Ct.

Weduco Farms under Great Codar need to find file

