

For Immediate Release

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## Wylden Abraham Scores Fifth Straight Victory; Runners Recognize Land Trust, Burley

ROXBURY – In Revolutionary Connecticut, Roxbury is in the upper-crust in open space and road races.

A land trust with three staff members and a raft of volunteers has amassed 32 preserves with a total of 4,000 acres of open space in a town of about 26 square miles.

A road race series, which is in its 50<sup>th</sup> season, staffed by volunteers, sponsors a 36-race schedule and other events – reportedly the most of any series on the East Coast – this side of Fresh Pond in Cambridge, MA.

With stages being erected at the Everett B. Hurlburt Community Park for the annual Roxbury Pickin' N Fiddling contest, the Roxbury Road Runners Club went to the Roxbury Land Trust's River Road preserve for its annual event to honor Bill Burley – who not only threw blocks to protest high school quarterback teammate Bill Parcells, but founded the race series in July 1977.

It was initially modeled after the Westport Summer Series, which began in 1963 and has attracted such notables as 1968 Boston Marathon winner Amby Burfoot and the late Jim Fixx, the author of the New York Times number-one best-seller, "The Complete Book Of Running."

Burley competed in the Westport series during a span when he completed the first two New York Marathons in less than three hours and qualified for the U.S. Olympic trials in race-walking.

Wylden Abraham, 17, of Roxbury, who is just weeks away from becoming a freshman at Gettysburg College, made it five consecutive victories at the series – save for June 13, when he was absent as he marched at his graduation from Shepaug Valley-Washington High School.

Abraham, who will run cross-country and track for the Bullets, was clocked over the three-mile route in 19-minutes, 11-seconds – a 6:24-per-mile pace.

Stephen Roszko, 39, of New Fairfield took second in 20:45. He had finished fourth last month at Roxbury over a 6.2-mile loop.

Miriam Acevedo tallied her ninth win in the women's division this year at Roxbury. She was eighth overall in 24:13.

The runners presented a \$500 check to Lisa Roush, the executive Director of the Roxbury Land Trust, which oversees the preserves from its office on Mine Hill Road.

The series will return to the community park on Saturday, July 18, 8:30 a.m. with a 6.2-mile event, which will include a trip up the long incline on Painter Hill Road.

There will be no race on Saturday, July 25, when the New Milford Parks & Recreation 3.1- and eight-mile races will be run.

The series, which is sanctioned by the Roxbury Recreation Commission, will again resume on Saturday, August 1, 8:30 a.m. with a race which will include a journey through part of the Brian E. Tierney Preserve.

Registration for the races is available through [Roxbury Road Runners Club](#).

Runners should arrive early and check in so that they are logged into the computer system.

Current and former military personnel, current and former first responders and youth entrants should inquire about discount fees. The general charge is \$45 for a season pass and \$10 for the weekly waiver.

The races, which are sanctioned by the Roxbury Recreation Commission, usually start and finish near the Everett B. Hurlburt community Park at 18 Apple Lane.

For more information, contact Scott Benjamin, the race director, at [ScottBenjaminWCSU2014@gmail.com](mailto:ScottBenjaminWCSU2014@gmail.com), (v/m) (860) 354-3521 or access the Roxbury Races Facebook page, [www.roxburyraces.net](http://www.roxburyraces.net) or [Roxbury Road Runners Club](#).

Full results from the July 11 race are available via [Roxbury Road Runners Club](#).