

Lipchus, Miller Prevail On Land Trust Loop

ROXBURY – Roxbury measures 26 square miles and seems to have more open space per capita than any of Connecticut's 169 municipalities.

On Saturday, July 10, Jeff Lipchus and Elizabeth Miller were the first overall male and female finisher respectively in a race that started on a dirt road and finished at the end of grass driveway at the open space preserve on River Road.

Their victories came in an event that recognized former Roxbury resident Bill Burley, who in 1977 decided to replicate a road race series he had participated in at Westport, where he had worked as a physical education teacher at the time. Less than a decade later the series grew from eight summer races to a 10-month format.

Lipchus easily took the overall crown in 20-minutes, 16-seconds - a 6:45-per-mile pace – in the annual Roxbury Road Runners Club series Bill Burley/Roxbury Land Trust MidSummer Championship.

Steve Leslie was second in 21:04.

Miller was first in the female division and eighth overall with a time of 22:44.

Since 2009 – with the exception of the 2020 pandemic – the series has held a race at the preserve and provided a donation to the land trust. This year it donated \$250 to the organization.

The series will return to its typical location – the Everett B. Hurlbiurt Community Park at 18 Apple Lane – on Saturday, July 17, at 8:30 a.m. for a 6.4-mile event that will include a trip along Falls Road.

Runners can enter through the \$25 season membership. They also can participate by completing the weekly waiver form and paying \$2 if they have a timing chip and \$5 if they don't already have a timing chip. Youth runners can participate for free after completing the weekly waiver form.

The races are sanctioned by the Roxbury Recreation Commission.

For further information, contact Scott Benjamin, the race director, at ScottBenjaminWCSU2014@gmail.com, (Voice-mail) (860) 354-3521 or access www.roxburyraces.net.