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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**LOCAL HISTORIC FIGURES NATALIE VAN VLECK AND REV. JOSEPH BELLAMY
FOCUS OF LECTURES
Part of "History Bites: Letters & Diaries" Series**

(Woodbury, CT) --- In 1963, Natalie Van Vleck founded Flanders Nature Center & Land Trust in Woodbury. An artist, farmer and environmentalist, Van Vleck was an intriguing individual and a central figure in Woodbury's history.

On May 20 at 12 noon, Marc Chabot, Curator, Flanders Nature Center & Land Trust will reflect on Natalie Van Vleck, her art and times, from the perspective of her diaries and oral histories. Chabot will also address works of art by Van Vleck that have been located, recently. Sponsored by Flanders Nature Center & Land Trust and the Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition, the presentation will take place at the Sugar House at the Van Vleck Farm and Nature Sanctuary, 5 Church Hill Road in Woodbury.

As background for the presentation, those interested may view selected works from the Van Vleck collection and learn more about Natalie Van Vleck's inspiration and legacy, by visiting Flanders' new website at www.flandersnaturecenter.org. For more information on the lecture, call (203) 263-3711.

On May 27 at 12 noon, Kristin Havill, Site Administrator of the Bellamy-Ferriday House & Garden will provide "Revelations Through Letters" --- a look at the life and times of Rev. Joseph Bellamy through an examination of his letters. Sponsored by the Bellamy-Ferriday House & Garden, the discussion will be held at the First Church of Bethlehem in Bethlehem. For more information, call (203) 266-7579.

Both sessions are part of "History Bites," an annual lecture series offering glimpses of history and culture from the Greater Litchfield Hills area. Those attending

either session are asked to bring lunch. Beverages and desserts are provided.

About Flanders Nature Center & Land Trust

Flanders Nature Center & Land Trust is a leader in the region in the conservation of open space and in the protection of valuable natural resources. Flanders became one of the first land trusts in the area in 1973, when it received its initial gift of land, the 6.5 acre Manville Kettle, located in the heart of Woodbury. Today, through direct ownership and conservation easements, Flanders manages more than 40 open-space properties, totaling more than 2,000 acres in Woodbury, Bethlehem, Middlebury and Southbury. These holdings include two popular nature preserves in Woodbury: the 200-acre Van Vleck Farm Sanctuary on Flanders Road and the 686-acre Whittemore Sanctuary on Route 64. To learn more about the history, traditions and program offerings at Flanders or to join, visit the organization's all-new website at www.flandersnaturecenter.org.