Birkins Annexes Third Title of 2019 At Roxbury Races; Former Season Women's Champion Mahrer Takes Distaff Crown

ROXBURY – Wade Birkins, 29, a Roxbury resident and Shepaug Valley High School graduate, easily took the checkered flag.

Mary Mahrer, 43, a weekend Roxbury resident and former women's season champion in the weekly running series, captured the female medallion over the 3.9-mile course.

Birkins was clocked in 23-minutes, 59-seconds – a 6:09-per-mile pace – along the route, which included a trip along the jeep trail near River Road, which includes rocks, roots, stumps, stone, gravel and sand. It was his third triumph this season at the Roxbury Road Races Club series.

Tim O'Shea, 29, was second overall in 25:52.

Mahrer placed ninth overall in 31:22.

The series will resume on Saturday, June 29, at 8:30 a.m. with a 6.5-mile event that will include a trip down the long hill on Hemlock Road and another journey along the jeep trail.

Runners can enter through the \$25 season membership or the \$2 weekly waiver. Youth runners can participate for free by completing the weekly waiver.

The 11th annual Roxbury Land Trust Race/Bill Burley MidSummer Championship will be run on Saturday, July 13, at 8:30 a.m. at the preserve on River Road.

The runners will present a contribution to the land trust during the post-race ceremony. The event is named after Burley, who founded the series in 1977 and was the director through 1979.

Also, there will be no race in the series on Saturday, July 27, in observance of the 52nd annual New Milford Village Fair Day races.

Except for annual land trust event, the races, which are sanctioned by the Roxbury Recreation Commission, start and finish near the Everett Hurlburt Community Park at 18 Apple Lane.

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

```
(photos below...)
```















