



Newsletter

Preserving open space since 1959

FALL/WINTER 2022

Giving Thanks

As I compiled the contents for this issue, a theme emerged: generosity. Throughout my first year as executive director, everywhere I look people are giving—from personal gifts of time, energy, passion, and expertise to tangibles that include equipment, materials, and a remarkable sharing of financial support. As I have walked our conservation lands, I have felt immense gratitude for the community of people who have worked to protect the ecological, cultural, and historical landscapes we value so dearly, including present Trustees and Directors and past board members, owners of conservation restricted land, conservation partners, and, of course, *you*, our members.

As our thoughts and attention turn toward thankfulness this holiday season, it seems fitting that the news of the last several months is about being grateful for the activities and actions you have supported. You are helping to take care of our precious open space and natural areas, and we are grateful.

Thank you, sincerely.

Jane Gruba-Chevalier
Executive Director



From Summer Intern to Full-time Coordinator, Sam Will Joins the CLCT Staff

AFTER graduating from college just five eventful months earlier, I walked into my first day as the Land Trust's summer stewardship intern. By week one, I already had my hands full with tasks, projects, schedules, and maps to help me navigate around a new area. As an intern, I had the pleasure of gathering, meeting, and working with our volunteers to steward the Land Trust's properties. I managed a variety of projects that ranged from invasive species control to trail maintenance and water chestnut harvesting. I worked to keep our trails open and accessible for all to enjoy!

In July, the Land Trust purchased an electric trimmer, which allowed me to operate more efficiently and cover more ground. With the success of the river steward program and the Miles of Trails Project, my summer filled up and each day offered me a new opportunity to carry out the Land Trust's conservation needs.

At the end of my internship I was excited to be offered the opportunity to stay on full-time through next summer as the Stewardship and Engagement Coordinator. I am spearheading a number of projects, including developing a youth corps of volunteers, implementing land management software, and further assisting in the Land Trust's communication needs (check out my posts and follow us on Instagram @concordlandconservationtrust). I am looking forward to this next year of working with the Land Trust and now feel fully equipped and prepared to start my new role here—a different stage in my career than where I was just five eventful months ago!



Sam Will
Stewardship and Engagement Coordinator



Guess How Many Miles of Trails?



SINCE ITS founding, the Concord Land Conservation Trust has acquired over 970 acres of land in fee and conservation restrictions on additional 375 acres. Over a year and a half ago, the Land Trust began the “Miles of Trails” project to determine exactly how many miles of trails we have on our lands, including properties where we hold conservation restrictions with trails open to the public.

Thanks to the efforts of several dedicated volunteers, we have now calculated that we steward a total of 25.97 miles of trails, *or just a few steps shy of a full marathon's worth!*

We gratefully acknowledge the following participants for their time and detailed reporting: **Sam Agranat, Webb Constable, Rhone-Ann Huang, Emlen Lease, Keira Lonadier, Alden Parker, Chiara Petracek, Jamie Richer, Penn Rogers, and Alex Vallee.** Additional thanks go to **Olivia Paulsen**, a trail steward and youth volunteer, for collating data, and to two summer interns, **Madison Brady** and **Sam Will**, for also logging miles in the project. Sam was able to finalize the project this summer after walking all of the Land Trust properties herself!

STEWARDSHIP UPDATES



CLCT volunteers and AMC crew members.

Check out the new and improved ‘red trail’ in the Wright Woods. In June, a new trail was constructed to replace a badly eroded section of trail in Wright Woods. The red trail, a key segment which bisects the main white trail system, was moved slightly east and uphill. The new ‘treadway’ or trail bed was cut across the contour of the hill, which allows water to flow over the trail rather than down it causing erosion.

Sustainability of trail systems is an area of conservation work that has evolved considerably. New techniques seek to work with the natural features of the land as much as possible, which over time requires less maintenance and helps trails last longer. This project was led and completed by a professional crew from the Appalachian Mountain Club with significant support from a hard-working group of volunteer participants, including **Annie Bailey, Tim**

Chevalier, Tricia Garrett, Bouke Noordzij, Lance Ramshaw, Polly Reeve, Art Schwope, Kevin and Lucy Ward, Meg and Penn Wickwire, and Sam Will.

Keep your feet dry on the new bog boards at a Garfield Road trail. Many thanks to neighborhood trail stewards **Art Schwope** and **Kevin Ward** (the Ward family owns the land and CLCT holds the CR and trail easement), as well as fellow trail steward **Bouke Noordzij**, for helping improve a notoriously wet and tree root-laden section of trail between Ferguson Land and Willow Guzzle. It is now possible to pass through this area and keep your feet dry and the surrounding environment untouched, a win-win for people and the ecosystem!

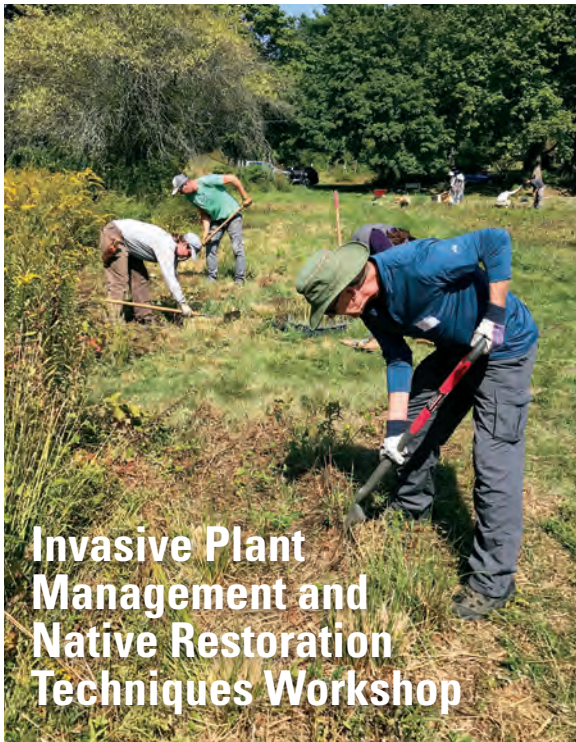


Volunteer Art Schwope laying bog boards.



Volunteer Kevin Ward removing black swallowwort.

It was a bad summer to be an invasive species in Concord! Sam and dedicated volunteers—**Molly Constable, Fiona Fitzgerald, Tricia Garrett, Inge Knudson, Clare Matthews, John Myers, Bouke Noordzij, Olivia Paulsen, Cris Van Dyke, and Kevin and Lucy Ward**—worked on several properties to manage the spread of invasive species. Buckthorn was manually removed from sections of Wright Woods, Chamberlin Woods, and Newbury Field. Multiflora rose and honeysuckle was trimmed back at Hosmer Land and Hallenbeck Land. Asian bittersweet and porcelain berry were uprooted from Brengle-Ham Field and Thornton Woods, respectively. Black swallowwort seed pods were clipped and removed from Corey Meadow before they were able to disperse their seeds. The Land Trust continued targeted treatment of invasive species at Wright Woods, Thornton Woods, Brooks-Hudson Meadow, and Ferguson Land.



Invasive Plant Management and Native Restoration Techniques Workshop

AS THE OWNER of 3.4 miles of riverfront and the holder of conservation restrictions on another 1.6 miles, protection and stewardship of the ecological, scenic, recreational, and cultural resource values of our rivers is a Land Trust priority.

This fall, we partnered with our consultant, Parterre Ecological, to offer a free workshop on invasive and native plant management. Held at Brooks-Hudson Meadow, the goal was to provide information about invasive and native species in a riparian, wet meadow habitat, and hands-on experience with invasive removal and native restoration techniques that can be used on Land Trust, as well as at participants' own, properties.

Participants learned to identify glossy buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*), Asian bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*), purple loosestrife

(*Lythrum salicaria*), porcelain berry (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*), multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*), and morrow's honeysuckle (*Lonicera morrowii*). Hand pulling and cutting techniques were demonstrated, along with cut and dab treatments. Recycling, removal, and disposal of invasive plant material was also covered.

The program also provided a tour of native plants (the good guys!) that are flourishing in the meadow in mid-September, including purple-stemmed American aster (*Symphotrichum puniceum*), small white American aster (*Symphotrichum racemosum*), spotted Joe-Pye weed (*Eutrochium maculatum*), buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), rough-stemmed goldenrod (*Solidago rugosa*), and common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) to name just a few.

The day ended by demonstrating how to properly plant plugs, hand-broadcast seed in disturbed soil, and how to plant live stakes. Participants

helped plant plugs of foxglove beardtongue (*Penstemon digitalis*), blue cardinal flower (*Lobelia siphilitica*), and blazing star (*Liatris spicata*), and spread a custom native seed mix.

The content of the program, from details about the existing and introduced plant species (including the contents of the native seed mix) to the management and restoration techniques demonstrated, was summarized in a handout given to each participant. You can view a copy of the handout by scrolling to the bottom of the "News & Programs" page on the Land Trust website at concordland.org.

The workshop was funded by a generous grant from SuAsCo CISMA, a partnership of organizations in the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord River watershed area that cooperate on managing and controlling invasive plant species.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Further information about events is available at concordland.org under "News & Programs."

Concord from Above the Trees: Copter Ecology Views

January 19, 2023 at 7:00pm
Concord Free Public Library
Goodwin Room

Richard T. T. Forman, professor emeritus at Harvard University, will present photographs he took from a helicopter above Concord! Learn about Concord's ecological landscapes and gain new perspectives of the Town.

Conservation of Native Pollination Systems

March 29, 2023 at 6:00pm
Concord Free Public Library
Goodwin Room

Dr. Robert Gegear, assistant professor of biology at UMass-Dartmouth and founder of The Beecology Project, will present research on plant-pollinator interactions and solutions to their decline. This program is co-sponsored by the Concord Library, Concord's Pollinator Health Advisory Committee and Natural Resources Division.

Subscribe to CLCT eNews and receive timely messages about events and programs. Send us your email at info@concordland.org.



Celebrating Assabet River Bluff

This fall, Assabet River Bluff in West Concord was officially deeded to the Town. The conservation restriction to be held by the Land Trust and Sudbury Valley Trustees is pending review by the state. Our thanks to GLENN and JULIANA MARMON for opening their home to project partners, donors, and neighbors who gathered to celebrate the success of the campaign. We are grateful to all who supported this project!

Stewarding for Invertebrates



We Saw Bees! This summer, the Land Trust began its Beecology citizen science program to learn more about the plant-pollinator interactions on several of our properties. We observed the common eastern bumblebee (*Bombus impatiens*), which is the most frequently seen bumblebee and whose abundance has increased from historical numbers, at five of the fields we monitored: Newbury Field, Corey Meadow, Brooks-Hudson Meadow, Shaw Land, and Brengle-Ham Field. The brown-belted bumblebee (*Bombus griseocollis*) was also found at Corey Meadow.

UMass-Dartmouth, biology professor Dr. Robert Gegear taught a group of us how to record videos of bumblebees for easier identification analysis. Following his workshop, the Land Trust held multiple outings to record sightings. Our thanks to **Jim Callahan**, **Mark Hanson**, and **Lucy Ward** for their participation. If you are interested in getting involved next summer, please contact the Land Trust at info@concordland.org.

'Flower Power' flourishes in Concord!

We also introduced a volunteer effort this summer to record flora (native and invasive) found at our pollinator-focused properties. Our thanks to **Kathy Angell** and **Janet Miller** for stepping up and documenting observations made at Brooks-Hudson Meadow and Newbury Field,



respectively. Kathy visited the Meadow in June and September and recorded 70 species, including wonderful natives such as buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), devil's beggar-ticks (*Bidens frondosa*), and American pokeweed (*Phytolacca americana*). Janet visited Newbury Field in July and August and recorded 36 species, including these natives: pickerelweed (*Pontederia cordata*), cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*), and white meadow-sweet (*Spiraea alba*). Of course, Newbury Field is famous for its little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) habitat as well.

Fiona Fitzgerald also helped map plant species in an area near the Corey-Bourquin Field that is not hayed. There is a small, overgrown herb and flower garden that neighbors refer to as "Rosie's Garden," named after Rosita Corey, who most recently kept the plot and whose family donated the parcels along this stretch of Barrett's Mill Road over the course of three decades.

By creating an inventory of plant life found at these locations, we are developing a richer understanding about habitat conditions. Loss of plant diversity is a primary cause of native bee decline.

A partnership to propagate local, native plant species is underway. The Land Trust partnered with the Concord Library and Natural Resources Division to further promote expanding native, pollinator habitat across Concord during the Library's annual Climate Preparedness Week this fall. After a presentation at the Library about the Seed Lending Library at Fowler

Branch and seed collecting and sowing native plant species, a group of volunteers led by presenters Jane Gruba-Chevalier (CLCT Executive Director), Delia Kaye (NRD Director), and **Isabel Bailey** (volunteer) collected and cleaned seed from five species of plants at Brooks-Hudson Meadow, including spotted Joe-Pye weed (*Eutrochium maculatum*), flat-topped golden rod (*Solidago graminifolia*), buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*), and broadleaf meadowsweet (*Spiraea latifolia*). Participants kept some native seed for their home gardens and other packets of



seed were donated to the Seed Lending Library. The remaining seed will be sown in milk jugs by volunteers this winter for the purpose of expanding habitat across designated conservation properties. The Land Trust is partnering with colleagues at the Lincoln Land Conservation Trust, who also began a seed collecting initiative this fall, for this part of the program series. Our thanks to Isabel Bailey for working with both Concord and Lincoln to help us with the milk jug sowing effort.

SEED COLLECTION GUIDELINES

- **Always obtain landowner permission**
Removing vegetation (or anything else) from conservation land is prohibited without permission.
- **Know your plants**
Never collect from or remove rare or state listed species.
- **10% rule**
Collect no more than 10% of the seed from any one plant.
- **Tragedy of the commons**
If everyone takes some, then there will be none. Seek permission and collect from healthier populations only (10–30 plus plants).



IN SEPTEMBER the Land Trust held its first volunteer recognition party! With help from the Chillwagon of Reasons to be Cheerful in West Concord, complimentary ice cream treats were provided in Wright Woods to say "Thank you!" to all of our wonderful volunteers.

Standing Ovations

Throughout the newsletter we have highlighted the names of Land Trust volunteers and shared the many ways they helped the success of our mission and work. We additionally want to acknowledge the following people who have also given their time, energy, and expertise in the last several months in a myriad of ways: **Richard T. T. Forman** (walk guide, authored the publication on Concord's old stone walls, and provides insights on the ecology of CLCT lands), **Peter Gifford** (mows the Gifford Land), **Sarah Huggins** (social media support), **Bob Kramer** (mows pathways at Upper Spencer Brook Valley), **Cheryl and John Mandler** (helped with weeding in Wright Woods), **Dinny McIntyre** (mows pathway at Brooks-Hudson Meadow and cleans the dog poop pail at Simon Willard Woods), **Ray Pavlik** (mows pathway at Kazmaier Land), **Colin Valentine** (donated landscape photography), and **Amity Wilczek** (walk guide). We also wish to welcome and thank new Trail Stewards **Peter Hoenig** and **Suzanne Parry**. And special thanks to professional painter **John Bach**, who brightened the Land Trust's office pro bono with a fresh coat of paint.

An Overflow of Generosity Keeps The Sudbury River Clear

FOR OVER 20 years, the Land Trust has been removing invasive water chestnut from the Sudbury River. Our River Stewardship Pilot Program this summer began in June and continued for nine weeks into August. Two days a week volunteers were on the river in canoes and kayaks, collecting and removing the invasive water chestnut plants. After more than 50 hours of work by 17 volunteers, 552 bushels of water chestnut were removed from the river along the Bigelow Woods property and 100 bushels were collected from Fairhaven Bay.

This year's efforts were so successful thanks to the hard work and generosity of our membership and community supporters. In June, long-time members **Karen and Bob Silver**, and Land Trust supporter **Fred Serr**, answered our call with donations of two canoes with paddles. Both canoes had provided years of recreational enjoyment to the owners (as a boy Fred paddled the boundary waters between Minnesota and Canada and the canoe still bears the stickered permits) and it was time for them to take on a new life and purpose. With help from trail steward **Bouke Noordzij** and his trailer, the boats were transported to Bigelow Woods, the hub of the Land Trust's water chestnut operations.

Also answering our call were volunteers — **Clare Matthews**, **Brian Mackintosh**, **Jodi Sperber**, **Betsy Olsson-Mackowski**, and



Inge Knudson — who worked side-by-side with Sam in the section of river between Heath's Bridge and the Route 2 Bridge.

As recommended by OARS, laundry baskets were a welcome, new addition to the work effort. Our thanks to member **John Hultgren** for donating baskets, and **Brian Mackintosh** for lending us his wheelbarrow for the duration of the work, which made hauling the plant material from the boats upland to the composting site much easier.

Additional thanks go to **Kathy Jorgensen**, who once again kindly gave us access to our boat launch site through her property — and a garden hose to wash off the muck! Many thanks to Trail Steward **Kevin Ward** and his son **Owen** for testing the boats at the beginning of the season and readying the equipment. Our appreciation goes out to long-time member and steward of the riverways, **David Witherbee**, for helping us scout out the population of water chestnut at the beginning of the season and for bringing our boats up river from the Wright Woods boathouse to the beach in Bigelow Woods.

Special thanks to **John Myers** and **Rachel Wheeler**, residents of Staples Camp just off of the Bay, for keeping the section of river from Fairhaven Bay up to the shores of the Town's well site clear of water chestnut. This year, John and Rachel alone pulled approximately 28 bushel-sized bins from the Bay! Once again we greatly appreciated working with **Concord's Natural Resources Division**, **Lincoln's Conservation Department**, and OARS who pulled 72 bushel-sized bins from the Bay and the River.

The outpouring of support and interest in the water chestnut work greatly exceeded our expectations, and we plan to introduce a full-fledged River Stewardship Program next summer. We also plan to expand our recruitment efforts to include high school volunteers, who may be looking for community service opportunities or simply an opportunity to get involved in environmental work in Concord. High schoolers or anyone else interested in getting involved can contact Sam at the Land Trust at info@concordland.org for more information.

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Executive Director
Jane Gruba-Chevalier

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Neither Rain nor Downpour Can Stop Us!

Despite a deluge, Land Trust members turned out in large numbers for the Annual Meeting held at Ferguson Land. It was wonderful to connect with friends and neighbors, and to celebrate this past year's accomplishments together. Trustees Polly Reeve and John Stevens were each renewed for three-year terms. Walks guided by Richard Forman and Andrew Joslin highlighted many of the ecological, historical, and cultural features that make the Garfield Road properties special.