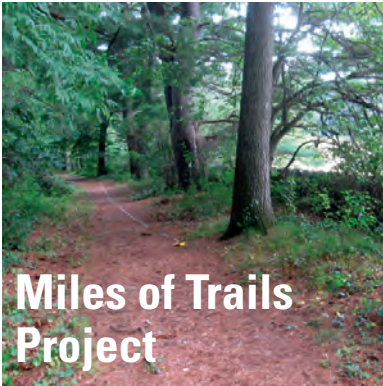




# Newsletter

Preserving open space since 1959

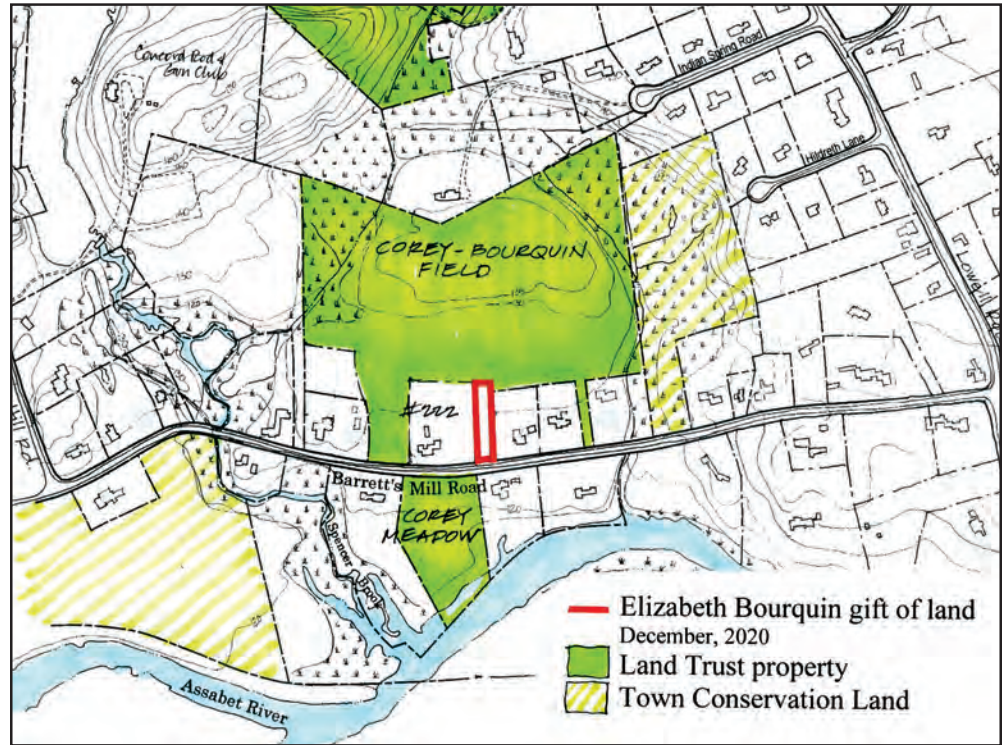
SPRING 2021



## Miles of Trails Project

Calling all trail users: The Land Trust needs your help in measuring the lengths of our trails. We would love to be able to finally answer a question that is frequently asked of us: how many miles of trails does the Land Trust own and maintain? This is especially great work for students seeking community service hours.

What would a Trail Measuring Volunteer need to do? First, they would select any trail on Land Trust properties to measure. Then, using a smart phone or other GPS/distance measuring device they would walk the trail, measuring distances as they go (most likely from trail head to trail end) and finally, report their measurements via the online reporting form available on the Land Trust website. For students seeking community service hours, an additional reporting form to confirm service hours completed is required. Please visit [www.concordland.org/projects-events](http://www.concordland.org/projects-events) for more details on how to participate and thank you!



## A Gift of Land on Barrett's Mill Road

As 2020 ended, the Land Trust was grateful to receive a gift of land from Elizabeth (Libby) Corey Bourquin: a small but lovely parcel on Barrett's Mill Road next to the historic house where she and her sister Rosita Corey spent much of their childhood.

The donation is just the last in a series of steps taken by Libby, her mother Dorothy and her sister to preserve the natural and historic landscape of Barrett's Mill Road. Her mother's gift of the Corey Meadow in 1985 was followed in 2006 by the bargain sale by Libby and Rosita of a large hayfield and woodland, now the Land Trust's Corey-Bourquin Field. The most recent gift is a

fitting addition to these almost 30 acres. Together, they create a scenic, natural buffer around the family homestead on Barrett's Mill Road that dates from 1671. The new, ½ acre parcel connects Barrett's Mill Road to the hayfield to the north and, according to Libby, is a popular neighborhood pass-through and wildlife corridor.

This is how land conservation often happens—by the acquisition of individual parcels over time, by the accretion of conserved lands into a meaningful whole—a landscape or a habitat—and, as in this case, through the foresight and generosity of one dedicated individual, Libby Bourquin.



# New Book Review:

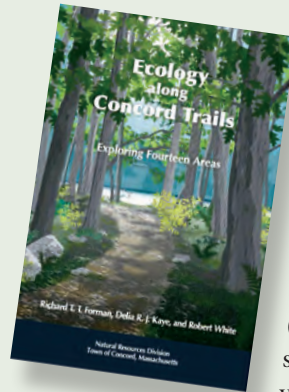
## *Ecology along Concord Trails*

BY LANEY WILDER

If you enjoy the wonderful varieties of trails in Concord and learning about the ecology of the area, then this is a great book to add to your shelves of bird and trail guides. *Ecology along Concord Trails* is an engaging guide that highlights 14 trails in Concord and their interesting historical and ecological features. It is written by eminent landscape ecologist Richard T. T. Forman, Delia R. J. Kaye, and Robert “Bob” White and published by Concord’s Natural Resources Division.

Each chapter of the book dives into one of the 14 trails. Several Land Trust properties are featured in this book, including the popular and beloved October Farm Riverfront (OFR). For this property, for example, there is an easy-to-read trail map highlighting numbered key sites, followed by a short history, the area’s ecology and descriptions of the features of the key sites. One excerpt reads:

*“Notice the pebbles/stones underfoot, typically on hillslopes of an esker left by a river/stream in the glacier. Consider why trees differ atop the six porous-soil hills. See if red-maple swamps, annually inundated for prolonged periods differ.”*



In this, I can hear Richard’s voice narrating the ecology and history of the area; Bob’s intimate knowledge of the trail systems and Delia’s expertise in caring for the lands and wildlife are woven into the text as well.

What a treat it will be to take this book along on an easy afternoon stroll to visit each of the key sites and immerse oneself in the nature of Concord!

Other Land Trust properties included in the book are those around Nashawtuc Hill (Rivers Confluence section) and at the Old Rifle Range (including the Land Trust’s parcel on Kennedy Pond). Other properties featured that were protected with the help of the Land Trust and our members include Mattison Field and Emerson-Thoreau Amble. You can purchase the book at the Visitors Center for \$15 a copy (you will need to call first at 978.318.3061 to make sure someone is in the office). Once Town offices re-open, you can also purchase a copy at the Natural Resources Department as well as at the Town House.



A frog in one of many vernal pools at OFR in the spring

### For the love of trails

During the past year, many of us have turned to nature for refuge and recreation. The Land Trust is welcoming record numbers of people on our trails, and we share their gratitude that these meadows, forests and farm fields still exist today for all to enjoy and explore. Our beloved trails need your help to care for them: picking up trash and branches is one easy way to help. Thank you! If you notice larger trail structure issues, such as wear and tear, degrading bridges, etc., please let us know at: [info@concordland.org](mailto:info@concordland.org).

### ONLINE FILM SERIES

**Climate Emergency:** Feedback Loops is a series of five short films featuring 12 world-renowned climate scientists. Produced by a local Concord resident and narrated by Richard Gere, these films are freely available for viewing now at <https://feedbackloopsclimate.com>

We recommend these films for a fascinating look at our changing climate from the perspective of feedback loops in forests, permafrost, atmosphere and albedo.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 1. ENJOY A SELF-GUIDED HIKE

The Land Trust is partnering with Concord Family Network to host self-guided walks on our properties: Corey-Bourquin in April and Newbury Field in May. Families can explore these two properties on their own time, with small, temporary signs along the trail pointing out interesting features of each location. Look for signs along the trails to participate!

### 2. TAKE A WILD ART WALK

Join in on the next Wild Art Walk through the Upper Spencer Brook Valley with the Land Trust and Musketaquid Arts and Environment Program! Sunday April 18, 2021 from 2pm–3:30pm. Details and registration: <https://theumbrellaarts.org/class/wild-art-walk-upper-spencer-brook-valley>

### 3. LEARN ABOUT THE HISTORY OF OCTOBER FARM RIVERFRONT

The Land Trust is partnering with The Concord Museum for a tour of October Farm Riverfront on May 1 at 11 am. Barbara Forman will tell stories about Brewster's childhood friendship with Daniel Chester French and his time on October Farm with his assistant Robert Gilbert. Registration required: <https://concordmuseum.org/events/brewster-and-the-birds-walking-tour>

### 4. VOLUNTEER STEWARDSHIP DAYS

Stay tuned to our website for opportunities this spring and summer to help us pull invasive species, fix trails, and possibly plant native plants as part of a restoration! More information on activities at [www.concordland.org/projects-events](http://www.concordland.org/projects-events)



BY JOAN FERGUSON

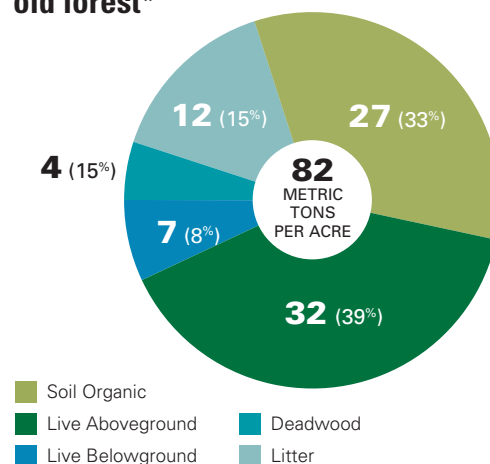
It's not just the Amazon basin that mitigates climate change. Even our temperate forests sequester and store significant amounts of carbon.

Forests are by far the largest component of the Land Trust's properties—about 75% of the 977-acre total. Roughly estimated, that's about 60,000 tons of stored carbon.

Of course, the value of the Land Trust's forests extends far beyond their carbon pool. Forests also provide recreation, habitat and water resource protection. Almost half of the Land Trust properties protect high or medium quality aquifers or the Zone 2's of town wells. The salamanders and wood frogs that breed in the 15 vernal pools on or adjacent to our properties spend most of their lives in the surrounding woods. And visitors enjoy the woodpeckers, warblers and other forest birds that they hear when walking our many miles of woodland trails.

At the same time, climate change is challenging the health of Concord's forests. Federal and state governments and universities are acknowledging this threat and promoting ways to improve forest resilience. Concord's own *Climate Action and Resilience Plan* calls for a broad Forest Management Plan.

### Carbon storage in an 80–100 year old forest\*



The Land Trust too needs to look at its woodlands through the lens of resilience. Management that makes forests less vulnerable to climate change includes diversifying tree species beyond typical oaks and pines, transitioning over time to less even-aged stands (the majority of trees on Land Trust properties are 60–80 years old) and controlling deer and invasive plants or pests that impede natural regeneration.

\* from *Forest Carbon: An essential natural solution to climate change*. This UMass publication is available at [www.masswoods.org/carbon](http://www.masswoods.org/carbon) or request a free copy by e-mailing Paul Catanzaro ([paulcat@umass.edu](mailto:paulcat@umass.edu)).

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## NOTES FROM THE FIELD

### Emerald Ash Borer in Concord

The Land Trust reported to the state the first observation of the Emerald Ash Borer in Concord in February 2021. The Emerald Ash Borer is an insect that feeds on ash trees, and is native to Asia. It was first found in Massachusetts in 2012, and is slowly being discovered in new towns every year. This insect can kill all varieties of our native ash trees found in our forests and suburban landscapes. What can be done about such invasive pests? Read more at [www.concordland.org/project/emerald-ash-borer-arrives-to-concord](http://www.concordland.org/project/emerald-ash-borer-arrives-to-concord)



Andrew Joslin points out a wolf tree.

### Trees Declining

The trees in our forests face many challenges: insects, disease, climate change, pollution and, in recent years, several New England-wide droughts. We are likely to start to see some trees weaken and come down in the near future due to the stress of these multiple factors. If you notice a tree down across a trail, please let us know at [info@concordland.org](mailto:info@concordland.org).



Photo by Juliet Wheeler

### Trees in Upper Spencer Brook Video

Created with the help of videographers Billy Hickey and Ximena Natera, a short video of the trees in Upper Spencer Brook Valley is viewable on the Land Trust's website. Andrew Joslin, a local and knowledgeable arborist, lent his deep understanding of trees and ecology to this short video. To view, visit our website at [www.concordland.org/projects-events/trees-in-upper-spencer-brook-valley](http://www.concordland.org/projects-events/trees-in-upper-spencer-brook-valley)