



Newsletter

Preserving open space since 1959

SPRING 2022

A New Field Guide about Concord's Old Stone Walls

The Land Trust is extremely pleased to share with our members a wonderful, new publication researched and written by eminent landscape ecologist and professor emeritus of Harvard, Richard T.T. Forman. *Deciphering Concord's Old Stone Walls and What They Indicate: A Field Guide* provides an illuminating discussion about the origin—geologic and human—of Concord's stone walls and their evolution over time. From animal corrals and retaining walls to machine-made and decorative structures, Richard provides a pictorial tour from his own photography of these compelling forms. On the pages in between, Richard answers long-held questions and engages the reader in the way only a skilled teacher can with insights and information. You will never look at a stonewall in quite the same way!

The *Field Guide* is available to download at concordland.org under "News & Programs" (scroll to "Newsletters & Publications"). CLCT members can request a hard copy by sending an email with their name and address to info@concordland.org. Look inside for further information about a scheduled walk with Richard this summer!



Christa Collins

On July 29 the lovely Assabet River Bluff in West Concord will be permanently preserved and Concord will gain five units of much-needed and ideally located affordable housing. This achievement never would have been possible without an outpouring of generosity from hundreds of members, neighbors, and others from Concord and beyond who saw the value in preserving this land for the community, and we thank all who supported this project. It also is the result of a unique and wonderfully constructive collaboration, of which the Land Trust is honored to be part. This group of partners, including the Concord Housing Development Corporation, Sudbury Valley Trustees, and the Town of Concord as well as CLCT, has worked together for many months to secure a future for the Bluff that benefits the community in multiple ways. We are grateful for the remarkable support shown by Concord's Annual Town Meeting on May 1 in approving both the Community Preservation Committee's recommendation for funding and the financing necessary to qualify for an essential federal grant.

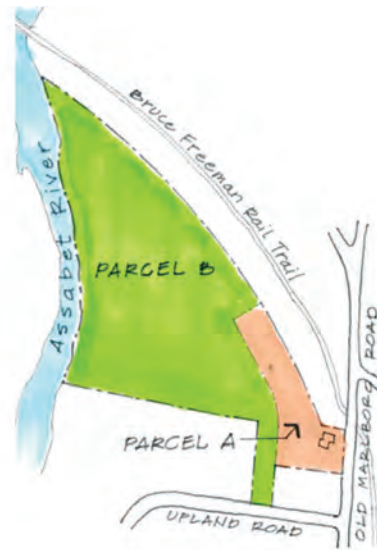
This land has been among the Land Trust's highest priorities for decades, because of its value to the West Concord community and its ecological significance as part of the Assabet River corridor. Bounded by the river and the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail with frontage on Old Marlboro and Upland Roads,

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the Bluff is a peaceful riverfront woodland within the residential neighborhoods of West Concord. It provides valuable open space close to the village center where both people and wildlife can find a refuge from the built environment.

For many years, the family that owned the land has kindly allowed the public to enjoy its trails and the spectacular view of the Assabet it offers. When it was offered for sale last summer, we feared that its high price of \$2.8 million would mean that this beloved community resource would be lost forever to private development. Local housing advocates also recognized the potential of this land as a location that could support economic diversity in the community. Believing that the land could provide BOTH permanently protected open space and permanently affordable housing, we decided to join forces, and the landowner generously gave us the time to come up



Parcel A is for housing, Parcel B is for open space.

with a solution that will be a true win-win for Concord.

Developing an achievable plan for dividing the land, and a funding plan to support it was a complex process involving raising funds from both public

and private sources. The one-acre lot set aside for development will be purchased by the Concord Housing Development Corporation, and the six acres of open space will ultimately be acquired by Concord's Natural Resources Division with a conservation restriction co-held by the Land Trust and Sudbury Valley Trustees. In order to fill the gap between anticipated available funds and the purchase price for this land, CLCT and Sudbury Valley Trustees joined together to raise \$1.2 million for the open space component of the project in private fundraising and grants.

The response was truly inspiring. Not only does it appear that the effort will meet its goal, but we expect to surpass it, enabling us to establish a stewardship fund to support trail improvements, invasives removal, and long-term ecological management of the property. Many thanks to all who have supported this important project!

— Polly Reeve, *Chair*

Permission to come on board! *New River Stewardship Pilot Program*



THIS SUMMER the Land Trust is launching a new initiative modeled on our successful volunteer Trail Stewardship program, a *River Stewardship* program! Each summer, the Land Trust works in coordination with other conservation organizations to remove invasive water chestnut (*Trapa natans*) from Fairhaven Bay and the Sudbury River. The aquatic invasive is an annual that forms dense, floating mats

that can clog and choke waterways and ponds. It can alter habitat and aquatic ecosystems by limiting light and oxygen, and by competing with native plants for nutrients and space. The Land Trust has been working to keep our waterways cleared for over 20 years.

Pull on your PFD, grab your paddles and boat, and volunteer with CLCT on the Sudbury River this summer! Water chestnut removal

begins in June and continues through early August. At least one day a week, weather permitting, the CLCT summer Stewardship Intern will take volunteers onto the river to remove plants. A personal kayak, canoe, or small, motorized watercraft is required. The Land Trust has a small number of boats it can loan. More information and sign-ups available at concordland.org under "News & Programs."



PROTECTING POLLINATION SYSTEMS THROUGH THE POWER OF CITIZEN SCIENCE

HOW MANY times have you heard someone say, “I see lots of bees!”? When we take a closer look, which “bees” we see can mean the difference between a healthy, biodiverse ecosystem or one that is lacking in species richness and abundance, genetic variety, and ecosystem diversity. Similarly,

when we say that we have blooming plants in our landscapes, it does not necessarily mean that we are meeting the ecological needs of our native pollinators. They have specific pollen and nectar requirements that not just any “bloom” can provide; additionally, certain pollinators need

specific host plants to complete their life cycle and nesting habitat is often overlooked altogether.

The Land Trust, in consultation with Dr. Robert Gegear (see the *CLCT Newsletter*, Fall 2021 issue), is seeking to know more about the plant-pollinator systems present at several of our conservation properties. Through observation and identification, and by keeping track of our findings, we will collect data on bumblebee and butterfly sightings. The collected data will also contribute to a larger body of scientific understanding about pollination systems in New England being researched by Dr. Gegear and his team.

This summer, become a Citizen Scientist volunteer! Learn to use the Beecology Web App at a workshop given by Dr. Gegear and record pollination system sightings at designated properties. A mobile phone or tablet is required. More information and sign-ups available at concordland.org under “News & Programs.”



UPCOMING EVENTS

Further information and registration for each event is available at concordland.org under “News & Programs.”



Two Part Trail Construction Workshop

The Land Trust is working with a professional crew from the Appalachian Mountain Club to fix and construct an eroded section of trail in Wright

Woods this summer. Learn the fundamentals of sustainable trail design and construction, and gain hands-on trail repair experience.



Trail Construction Workshop, Part I: Building and Maintenance Fundamentals with AMC

Tuesday, June 7 from 7:00–8:30pm over Zoom. This talk will be given by Matt Moore, a trail crew manager at AMC. All are welcome.

Trail Construction Workshop, Part II: Fieldwork Experience in Wright Woods

Sunday, June 12 between 9:00am–4:00pm in Wright Woods. Join Matt Moore and the AMC crew in reconstructing trails. Participants should attend Part 1. Limited to 20 participants per session.

“Wild and Noble Sites”: A Walk to Egg Rock

Saturday, June 18 from 1:00–3:00pm in Simon Willard Woods. As part of 2022 Riverfest, join Dr. Amity Wilczek, an evolutionary ecologist, and Richard Smith, an historian, for a guided exploration of the area. Limited to 15 participants.



Bumblebee and Butterfly ID Workshop

Thursday, June 23. Time to be confirmed. Dr. Robert Gegear, biologist at UMass-Dartmouth and founder of Beecology, will teach participants how to identify wild bumblebees and butterflies, and record sightings using the Beecology Web App. Priority will be given to Citizen Scientist volunteers. Limited to 15 participants.



Old Stone Walls and Other Discoveries with Richard T.T. Forman

Tuesday, July 19 from 8:30–10:30am in Chamberlin Woods (west section) and Newbury Field. Bring your *Field Guide* and a sense of adventure as we search for old stone walls and foundations, erratic piles and a cattail-less marsh, big hickories and twisting pitch-pine, and much, much more. Limited to 20 participants.



STANDING OVATIONS



The Land Trust gratefully acknowledges the generosity of **Helio Gomes of High Q Autobody in West Concord** for opening up parking to participants at our walks at Assabet River Bluff in support of the campaign.

Thank you to **CLCT members** who financially supported Lucas Herrero's bat habitat project for his Eagle Scout candidacy.

Special thanks go to **Birdie** (pictured above) and her owner and CLCT Trail Steward, **Molly Constable**, for pulling three bags full of garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) around the Land Trust's Nashawtuc Hill properties. Our sincerest thanks to all of our Trail Stewards for your outstanding work at keeping our trails marked, cleared, litter-free, and well-loved: **Annie Bailey, Tricia Garrett, Bill Huyett, Fred Mulligan, Bouke Noordzij, Olivia Paulsen, Art Schwope, Matt Solar, Joe Stein, and Kevin Ward & Family.**

What plant is that?

THE LAND TRUST is seeking volunteers skilled at plant identification to help with recording the flora found at a small number of our properties. Whether you are a generalist or specialist, the key is being able to accurately identify species. Observations can be made at your convenience, but regular site visits, especially in spring, summer, and fall, are needed.

This work dovetails with the plant-pollinator citizen science program and the data will also be used toward future initiatives. More information and sign-ups available at concordland.org under "News & Programs."



Meet Our Summer Stewardship Intern: Samantha Will



SAMANTHA "SAM" graduated from Cornell University this spring, majoring in Environment & Sustainability with a concentration in land, air, and water resources. She double minored in History and Climate Change. Sam will assist with managing CLCT properties and working with volunteers. Please join us in welcoming Sam and be sure to say "hello" when you see her on our trails and waterways!

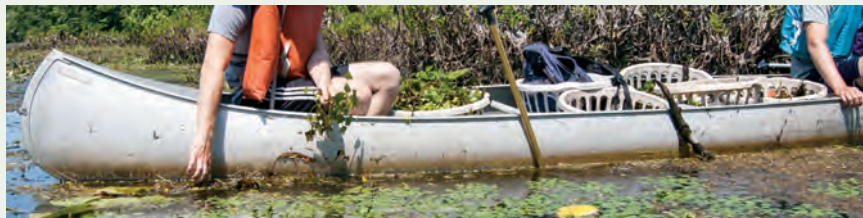


Turtle Nesting

NOW THROUGH EARLY JULY

FEMALE TURTLES have begun nesting in Massachusetts and you might spot one in a field or even in your own yard! It is not uncommon to also see turtles crossing trails, driveways, and roadways this time of year as they travel to and from nesting habitat. Please give them plenty of space by keeping pets and people out of the area and remember that turtles on land generally know exactly where they are going, they are not lost. If you are driving, please keep alert and watchful for turtles crossing roads. If you intervene to help a turtle across a road, please first look out for your own safety; the turtle will not know that you are trying to be helpful and snapping turtles can inflict dangerous bites. If you do move a turtle that is on a road, move it just across the road in the direction that it is trying to go. Do not relocate turtles, which can disorient them (they have strong homing instincts) and possibly cause harm to them or you, if they are not handled properly. To learn more, go to mass.gov/guides/turtles-of-massachusetts

- **Give space: keep people and pets back.**
- **Drive carefully: keep alert and watchful of turtles in roadways.**
- **Let it be: do not relocate turtles; they know where they are going!**



Do these items no longer "spark joy" for you?

Pass them onto the Land Trust so they may continue to fulfill their purpose!

1–2 canoes (with canoe paddles a plus!)

10 round or square laundry baskets, 1/1.25 bushel capacity

5 pairs of loppers, sharpened

1 electric string trimmer, plus batteries

All donated items should be in **good, repair-free condition**. The Land Trust will inspect all in-kind donations before accepting them. In-kind tax receipt provided. Contact the office at info@concordland.org or call 978-369-6526.

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Lucas Herrero

This Eagle is Saving Bats

THIS MAY, Concord youth and Eagle Scout candidate, Lucas Herrero, led his fellow scouts in constructing four bat houses that they installed at Corey Meadow. The installation was

the culmination of many months of detailed planning and careful budgeting by Lucas. Fred Mulligan, CLCT trustee and Eagle Scout, and Jane Gruba-Chevalier, CLCT executive director, helped Lucas site the boxes at a location near a water source and away from bright lights, just two criteria that will aid in the boxes' potential, successful habitation.

There are nine species of bats that live in Massachusetts, five of which are listed under MESA as Endangered. Of these, Little Brown Bats or *Myotis lucifugus* (endangered) and Big Brown Bats or *Eptesicus fuscus* (common) are the most likely species to roost in bat houses. Lucas chose this project because he is concerned about White-nose Syndrome, a disease that affects hibernating bats that often leads to their death. As Lucas explains, "Unfortunately, the cold and damp caves that bats usually hibernate in provide the perfect conditions for this fungus to thrive. These boxes

will each provide a warm and dry shelter for hundreds of bats. Having a healthy bat population provides the surrounding area with natural mosquito and pest control because one bat will eat over 7000 mosquitoes and other insects each night."

Congratulations to Lucas, who is on his way toward achieving his Eagle Scout rank! The Land Trust is delighted that Lucas approached us and that his project will serve all in Concord—people and wildlife alike!



Members of Troop 132 Concord, MA with adult helpers. Lucas is pictured at the far right.