

# Littleton Conservation Trust



Newsletter

Fall 2012

Dr. Ed Bell Forum—A Regional Environmental Forum

## Preserving Paradise — Gowing's Swamp/Thoreau's Bog

Naturalist, Educator, and Photographer Cherrie Corey Explores Thoreau's Paradise

Tuesday December 4, 2012, 7-9 pm

Indian Hill Music Center, 36 King Street, Littleton, MA

Free Admission and open to all—Light Refreshments

This year's Dr Ed Bell Forum will focus on one of Henry David Thoreau's most beloved areas to explore - Gowing's Swamp. Cited in



over 37 *Journal* entries, the iconic book *Walden*, and his essay *Walking*, Henry studied this immensely biological rich bog and vernal pool, rare for the southern New England environment. As historically rich as it is biodiverse, it has been explored and studied by many naturalists continuing to today.

Cherrie Corey, a noted naturalist, master photographer, and field educator has studied and photographed it for over three decades. Amongst her writings are an historic survey and botanic inventory performed for the Sudbury Valley Trustees (see [www.sudburyvalleytrustees.org/gowings-swamp-concord](http://www.sudburyvalleytrustees.org/gowings-swamp-concord)) and her own blog highlighting the natural wonders of Gowing's Swamp and Great Meadows NWR (see [sense-of-place-concord.blogspot.com/](http://sense-of-place-concord.blogspot.com/)).

Cherrie has also served as Executive Director for Harvard University's Museum of Cultural and Natural History, the New England Wild Flower



Cranberries with Pitcher Plant

Society's first Education Director, and as a founding Board Director for the Massachusetts Environmental Education Society.

If coming from Interstate 495, take Exit 30, and turn left. Westward from 495, go 0.6 miles on King Street (aka Route 110/2A) to Indian Hill Music Center at number 36. It will be on the right. Entrance and parking are in the rear of the building. The presentation will be held within the Camilla Blackman Hall.

LCT Trustees welcome all to attend this regional environmental forum which promises to provide stunning photographs and an inspiring presentation on one of the area's hidden jewels. This is a free event. Light snacks will be served. ■

## New Year's Day Open House

by Don MacIver

Start off the New Year right with a relaxing open house, hosted by the Littleton Conservation Trust, at New England Forestry Foundation's (NEFF) Headquarters at the Prouty Homestead, 32 Foster Street, from noon to 4pm. Parking available at the Fay Park-Fire Station Parking lot. Easy walk up Wilderness Road to NEFF Headquarters on the right.

Come and mingle with friends old and new, volunteer LCT Trustees and Land Stewards who monitor and protect the town's conservation lands, and others from the area. Enjoy the fire, hot beverages, snacks, possible games, and LCT led excursions in the surrounding Prouty Woods. All are invited. Event is free and open to all. Feel free to bring any holiday goodies to share with others. ■



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November 2012**

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[www.littletonconservationtrust.org](http://www.littletonconservationtrust.org)  
[www.facebook.com/littletonconservationtrust](http://www.facebook.com/littletonconservationtrust)

The Littleton Conservation Trust (LCT), distinct from the Town's Conservation Commission, is a private land trust formed in 1962 to promote Littleton's rural character; to preserve its water, plant, and wildlife resources and its unique views; and to provide environmental education. The LCT is caretaker of over 300 acres of property (all gifted from far-sighted residents) on which we manage a system of trails for public use.

## Littleton Conservation News

compiled by Don MacIver

- ➡ Current Eagle Scout projects include building a wildlife observation platform at Newtown Hill and constructing a wildlife fencing enclosure around the new Community Gardens at the Yapp Conservation Land
- ➡ The EPA and HUD just approved funding for the Comprehensive Agricultural Planning Program grant to serve Littleton and twelve other communities within the Metropolitan Area Planning Council's Minuteman Area ("MAGIC") subregion.
- ➡ In late September, some 37 land trust personnel and board members from across Massachusetts attended the Land Trust Alliance's national land trust conference in Salt Lake City. LCT President Donald MacIver attended, with travel grant assistance from Sudbury Valley Trustees's Allen Morgan Conservation Learning Award and the Littleton Rotary. Workshop sessions included best conservation techniques and trends, organization consensus building techniques, field studies, and case studies on risk reduction and community farms.
- ➡ The Littleton Community Farm, a new not-for-profit educational organization, was just launched with a founding Board of Directors and newly crafted set of bylaws. See associated article on page 4.
- ➡ LCT Trustees Rick Findlay and Don MacIver recently attended a daylong deer management program focusing on Weston's current initiative and sponsored by UMass Extension's Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Program. For more details see website [www.tinyurl.com/WestonDeerInfo2012](http://www.tinyurl.com/WestonDeerInfo2012)
- ➡ For the second year, LCT and Littleton Public School teachers, supplemented with Mass Audubon Naturalists, and parents/ chaperones will teach environmental education classes to all 4th grade classes at field stations on the Nashoba Woodlands/ Yapp Conservation Land during both fall and spring.
- ➡ LCT is working to connect the Sarah Doublet Forest and Nature Preserve, a core portion of the Native American Newtown Village and a remnant of the Nashoba Praying Indian Village, with Acton Conservation Commission's Land Stewardship Committee's "Trail Through Time", which connects Native American sites in Acton and Carlisle.

### Beaver Survey on Littleton Conservation Lands



Please join Peter Church on Sunday, December 9th at 1pm for a walk to search for signs of the industrious beaver at a couple of sites around Littleton. We will car caravan to a few stops where we will walk to look for beaver activity as they prepare for the winter. To register and for more details call Peter at 978-486-0995. (2 hours)

~ Time to Renew Memberships ~

**Littleton Conservation Trust Membership Form – 2012 / 2013**

☐ New      ☐ Renewal

Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
(Date determines year of tax deduction)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

(Provide your email address if you want to receive notification of upcoming walks and conservation-related events.)

- ☐ **Fiftieth Anniversary Membership** \$50
- ☐ Individual: \$25      ☐ Family: \$40
- ☐ Friend: \$100      ☐ Supporter: \$250
- ☐ Patron: \$500      ☐ Benefactor: \$1,000
- ☐ Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Gift to Permanent Fund: \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Please send me information about how to preserve my own land.

Please cut out this form and send it to:

Kathy Stevens, Treasurer  
Littleton Conservation Trust  
PO Box 594  
Littleton, MA 01460



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**A Tribute to Two Great Guys**      by Art Lazarus

On a sunny day after I learned of Ray Grande's death, I stood quietly on the footbridge that crosses Long Lake Brook at the 180-acre Long Lake Park. I couldn't help but think of the memories of Ray, Charlie Tirone and I working together to build the trail network here. This spot was a favorite for Charlie, often coming here alone to be at one with the stream and forest.

Ray, Charlie and I, all retirees, worked together for over 10 years, going out to various town conservation areas, developing and maintaining most of the conservation land in town. We shared a great love of the outdoors and were thankful that we lived so close to such unique and beautiful land. Ray was the Steward of Oak Hill and Charlie was the steward of Long Lake Park. Deep down we knew this arrangement could not last forever, but we were hoping that we could make this contribution for a very long time. Health problems became evident within the last several years with my becoming an oral cancer survivor. Charlie fought cancer until he passed away in December 2011. Ray had a terrible accident this fall, which resulted in his untimely

death. This year the Trust named Charles' favorite trail as the "Charles L. Tirone Trail" at Long Lake Park.

The pleasant memories of the three of us making new trails and maintaining historic ones will be with me for all time. ■

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**Updated Conservation Land Guide Available**  
by Art Lazarus

The "Guide to Conservation Land in Littleton" has been updated to September 2012, and is available at the Reuben Hoar Library for \$10. The cost covers the cost of copying. The updated version describes 21 conservation areas and includes new or modified trails with some new color maps. A description of the new cluster of conservation properties called Nashoba Woodlands is also included. Art Lazarus and Kimberly Harriman prepared the updated "Guide". ■

If you'd like advance notice of  
Littleton Conservation Trust events emailed to you,  
please send your email address to:  
fran.meyers@verizon.net

## Thank You to Land Stewards by Art Lazarus

The Littleton Conservation Trust operates an all-volunteer land steward program. The program includes all of the Conservation Trust and Town Conservation Commission properties and assists in the care of Prouty Woods, belonging to the New England Forestry Foundation. The Stewards perform periodic maintenance and improvement projects for their respective conservation areas. In addition, a few assist in leading public and school tours. Of the 21 conservation areas in town, 14 have assigned Stewards.

The Conservation Trust appreciates the work of the volunteer Stewards, and wishes to thank each of them. Four of the Stewards are Trustees of the Conservation Trust. Additionally, there are other folks in town who are unknown to us but do some forest trail clean up. The Conservation Trust would like to publicly acknowledge the contribution of the Stewards and other helpers. The following is a list of this year's Stewards with their respective conservation area:

Bumblebee Park - Clayton Keller, Andrew Sammarco

Cobb Preserve - Ray O'Neil, Jim Campbell, Ann Grace

Conant Park - Carl Rivenburg, Rick Findlay

Hartwell Preserve - Fran Meyers

Holly Park - Daniel Parvanov, Rick Findlay

Long Lake Park - Art Lazarus, Jim O'Neil, Karen O'Neil

Mill Hill - Andy Curran

Nashoba Wetlands - Andy Curran

Newtown Hill - Richard Buckles

Oak Hill - Bill Brown, John Zimmer

Prouty Woods - Art Lazarus

Whitetail Woods - Dick Andersen

Yapp Conservation Land - Calvin Yapp, Rick Findlay

### Conservation Volunteers Always Needed

LCT is always looking for volunteers.

For Conservation Land Stewardship, contact Art Lazarus.

For Trail Maintenance and non-native invasive plant management throughout all conservation lands, contact Rick Findlay.

To participate in work parties at Oak Hill Conservation Land, contact Bill Brown.

## Littleton Community Farm by Don MacIver

Just created in Littleton is a new non-profit, the Littleton Community Farm, with prime focus on charitable, educational, environmental, and historical purposes, including the preservation of open space, natural habitats, passive recreation, and farmland. The group has yet to acquire farmland and is in process of creating the organizational structure to allow them to promote farm-based education and operate within the stated purposes. As in many other communities, community farms are created not to compete with local farms but instead to promote them by providing residents with positive educational experiences and to better connect the public with the benefits of local farms and locally grown foods.

Fund raising has been launched. All donations are tax deductible while the 501(c)(3) approval is pending and they await an IRS letter of designation. Donations can be made to either: Littleton Community Farm, 3 Omega Way, Littleton, MA 01460 or directly to Middlesex Community Bank in Littleton, MA.

The newly created board of directors and respective officers include:

Amy Tarlow-Lewis – President

Jenna Brownson – Treasurer

Chiris Simone – Clerk

Liza Ahern - Education Director

Jennifer Stach - Education Director

Jo-Ann Dery - Conservation Director

MaryFran Mitrano - Fundraising Director



**Holiday Bazaar—Make Merry  
Saturday, December 1st!**

Find the LCT booth at the Holiday Bazaar held at Littleton Middle School. There will be a variety of nature-oriented gifts for purchase as well as the newly revised Littleton Conservation Land Guide.

The ever popular raffle will include a pickup load of seasoned firewood.



This August, the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was first detected in Dalton, Massachusetts in one of the over 700 purple panel traps that had been set up throughout the state to try and detect the beetle. The



Emerald Ash Borer

EAB is a wood boring insect from Asia that most likely was brought over in

packing crates. EAB was first detected in Michigan in 2002 and since then has spread east and west. This small beetle, which is metallic green in color feeds on all varieties of ash trees. An adult beetle will lay eggs on the ash tree and the larva will live in the tree feeding on the cambium. This impacts the uptake of nutrients through the tree and eventually will kill the ash.

It is estimated that millions of trees have been affected by the presence of EAB since it was first found in the US back in 2002 in Michigan. We are the 18<sup>th</sup> state to detect its presence, following both Connecticut and Kansas which identified EAB within their borders earlier this year. The impacts, both ecological and economic, have been substantial in many locations.



EAB Actual Size

The loss of ash trees in public and private forests and properties can affect eco-systems and habitats, and can also affect watershed filtration. Loss of ash trees in urban settings and local town centers can also affect the quality of life of residents. The beetle has a devastating effect on all types of ash trees. There are an estimated 45 million ash trees in our state, with 80% located west of the Connecticut River. Overall, ash makes up approximately 3-4% of trees in the state of Massachusetts.

Unlike another forest pest in Massachusetts, the Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB), which can be eradicated, the EAB is different from the ALB for a variety of reasons, – making it more difficult to contain. It is smaller than ALB; it is harder to detect on host trees and can fly much farther distances than

ALB. Unfortunately management strategies to control EAB are concentrated on trying to slow its expansion through the forests hopefully allowing time to develop effective strategies to eventually stop the spread of EAB.

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), in conjunction with the Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) and the US Forest Service and the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) have been working on a strategy to deal with this destructive pest. Public workshops have been and will continue to be held throughout the state to help people understand the impacts of EAB and what homeowners can do to protect their ash trees.

It is important to slow the spread of EAB which preserves the presence of Ash statewide as long as possible and allows wood producers in unaffected areas an opportunity to plan ahead, allows public and private property owners an opportunity to consider chemical protection of their specimen trees, and buys time for researchers and others to develop more effective strategies for eradication of the species.

If you suspect EAB contact USDA's EAB Hotline at 1-866-322-4512. ■

## Identifying Native Ash Trees (Green and White)

Branches, twigs, buds, and leaves are opposite one another. Leaves are compound with 3 - 9 leaflets.



3 - 7 Leaflets



5 - 9 Leaflets

For help in identifying Massachusetts native ash trees (e.g., White and Green/Red Ash. Mountain Ash is not a true ash tree) see the following website:

[Stopthebeetle.info/Identify\\_Ash\\_Trees.pdf](http://Stopthebeetle.info/Identify_Ash_Trees.pdf)

## For More EAB Information Visit these Websites

### Mass Introduced Pests Outreach Project:

FAQ Sheet - [massnrc.org/pests/pestFAQsheets/emeraldashborer.html](http://massnrc.org/pests/pestFAQsheets/emeraldashborer.html)  
How to Identify and Report EAB - [massnrc.org/pests/eabreport.htm](http://massnrc.org/pests/eabreport.htm)

### Emerald Ash Borer website for North America:

General Information for all of North America - [www.emeraldashborer.info](http://www.emeraldashborer.info)

## Simple Rules to Stop the Spread of the EAB

The Emerald Ash Borer beetle has killed tens of millions of trees, from forests to neighborhoods. Here's how you can help protect our trees:

1. Never Move Firewood (larvae live under the bark)
  2. Burn Firewood Where You Buy or Find It
  3. Report Beetle Sightings or Signs of Infestations
- (source: USDA [stopthebeetle.info](http://stopthebeetle.info) )

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*“Preserving Our Rural Landscape”  
for 50 Years*

### LCT New Year's Day Open House

Prouty Homestead

at NEFF Headquarters

32 Foster Street, Littleton

Tuesday January 1, 2013 ~ Noon - 4 pm



This newsletter is printed on recycled paper (20% post-consumer waste)

### The Book Corner

These and other books donated by the LCT are available at the Reuben Hoar Public Library

#### ***The Tree That Time Built: A Celebration of Nature, Science and Imagination***

by Mary Ann Hoberman (U.S. Children's Poet Laureate) and Linda Winston

*The Tree That Time Built* is a thoroughly delightful collection of short poems for children (and equally enjoyable for adults!) that includes a CD of 44 of the poems being read aloud, 18 of them by the poets. There are poems (or excerpts) from many well known poets including Walt Whitman, D.H. Lawrence, Langston Hughes, Sylvia Plath, Robert Frost, Isabella Gardner and more. The selected poems cover a wide variety of subjects with harmonizing themes of the science, wonder and our natural world: reptiles, dinosaurs, the oceans, bugs, animals, flowers, feathers, trees, the joys of discovery and more.

The poems are nicely arranged into general categories, and many of the poems are enhanced by interesting and informative comments on the bottom of the page that add to the reader's appreciation and understanding of the poetry. A glossary is included to help youngsters with some of the words and concepts found in the poems, and there is an appendix with brief biographical information about all the poets. This book offers a great introduction to poetry, and fosters interest in and appreciation of the natural world all around us. I am not a big reader of poetry, but I found myself enjoying page after page. ■

#### ***The Man Who Planted Trees: Lost Groves, Champion Trees and an Urgent Plan To Save The Planet***

by Jim Robbins

This book is almost a story within a story, the first one begins when New York Times journalist Jim Robbins decides to investigate trees and their importance in the world – how they communicate, die, filter water and air, and provide crucial support to life on Earth. The story within is about David Milarch, whose program to save trees becomes the focus of Robbins interest. Milarch, a Michigan nursery owner, had a “vision from angels” telling him to save the world's great trees which compels him to embark on a long-term tree cloning project.

Robbins interweaves the story of Milarch's now 20 year long project with this own wide-reaching research, and creates a book that is not just about the cloning and planting of trees. It is an in-depth look into the current state, and possible fate, of the world's trees and forests as we face the increasing temperatures of climate change. Robbins concludes that trees may be one of the most important resources in our entire global system to help us all survive and thrive. His argument is compelling. “When is the best time to plant a tree? Twenty years ago. The second best time? Today.” (Chinese proverb quoted in the book) ■

Reviews by Kathy Stevens