

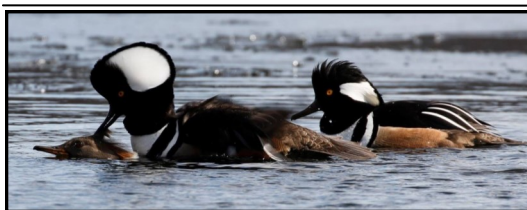
# Littleton Conservation Trust



Newsletter

Spring 2017

## Boxes for Littleton's Cavity Nesters: Ducks, Kestrels, Swallows, and Bluebirds by Dustin Neild



**Breeding Hooded Mergansers on Long Pond**

Photo by Dustin Neild, 3/18/2017

Early April has seen the 3rd year of LCT's formal nestbox program get off to a quick start. On April 4th,

Tree Swallows and Eastern Bluebirds were swarming all over Long Lake Park. All 16 nestboxes were seeing heavy competition from potential occupants. Conditions are excellent for seeing aerial flight displays nonstop up at Long Lake Park now thru mid-June. On Long lake, a cold March made for terrific viewing conditions of migrating waterfowl including Ring-Necked Ducks, Bufflehead, Common Mergansers, Hooded Mergansers, as well as our returning Wood Ducks, who are the primary beneficiaries of the 6 duck boxes placed there. As of this writing 3 of those 6 boxes are occupied with eggs, and one hen has already begun incubating her clutch. Hooded Mergansers have been so consistently present, and even observed mating, that there is an outside chance that one of the early nestbox occupants is Hooded Mergansers - also cavity nesters, they are notorious early season layers. Stay tuned to find out if this mystery reveals itself. Several of our followers and contributors have donated funds to the nestbox program or purchased photo prints at the Holiday Bazaar - those funds have supported the construction of 8 more duck boxes, now earmarked for installation at Cloverdale, Newtown Hill/ (to be acquired) Williams Land, and additional Long Lake locations.

Additionally, this year will focus on improving our success rate for American Kestrels in their existing nest box locations and installing some dedicated high posts specifically for this declining species. Gratitude and great appreciation goes out to those contributors for making this program a success for these native species, and the humans that enjoy observing them. Finally, please remember that Long Lake Park is also a ground nesting habitat for potential Bobolinks and other ground nesters like American Woodcock and Grouse. We politely ask that all dogs in Long Lake Park be kept on leash and on trail throughout the nesting season (now to July 15th). ■

## Please vote for Williams Land Acquisition (Art. 21)

On 5/1, please support Town Meeting (TM) Article 21 to acquire the 35.11 acre Williams Land for conservation purposes. Vote to accept the CPA committee's recommendations to expend existing CPA funds and borrow \$300,000. The selectmen have a strong LWCF grant application (administered by the state Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, EEA, and the National Park Service) to provide a \$300,000 reimbursement to immediately retire that debt without affecting taxes. We unanimously voted to acquire this land at the November TM. What happened? The vote was contingent upon a state grant from an underfunded program which could not cover all good proposals. EEA directed Littleton to apply for the LWCF grant based upon our proposal. At the previous STM, the surplused 5 acre state DOT land parcel was acquired and will provide parking and trail connections to the Williams Land and adjacent Newtown Hill Conservation Area.

Why should we acquire the Williams Land for conservation purposes? Willing land owner discounted the land's value, adjacent conservation lands, varied habitat with wetlands and successional forest, interconnected corridors for wildlife and people, and possible passive trail to the commuter rail for all!. And it will save the town taxes - the cost of providing community services for a potential 24 home development over 15 years approximates the land purchase price. ■

## Thank you to the LCT crowdfunding friends responding to the request for the Williams Conservation Land Campaign.

We met our stated goal of \$6,000! Those funds paid for a mandated property appraisal and helped defray needed surveying costs. Combined with a generous donation we have nearly met the total land transaction costs (\$15,500 survey and \$5,000 appraisal) leaving a debt of just \$3,000. Donations can be made at [www.LittletonConservationTrust.org/land-campaign/](http://www.LittletonConservationTrust.org/land-campaign/) Thanks! ■

## Inside this Issue:

**P2 Conservation News and Free Events**

**P2 Schedule of Outdoor Walks**

**P3 Map of Williams Land and Interconnections**

**P4 Map of Prouty Woods and Hidden Treasure Activity Areas**

**P5 Prouty Woods Hidden Treasure Activity Schedule (5/20)**

**P6 Two Conservation Book Reviews**



**LCT  
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April 2017**

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Judith Pickett *Counsel*

**[www.LittletonConservationTrust.org](http://www.LittletonConservationTrust.org)**

**[www.facebook.com/  
LittletonConservationTrust](https://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 (gifted from far-sighted residents) on which we manage a public trails system.

## Littleton Conservation News

compiled by Don MacIver

- ➡ **Littleton Trails**, a public group Facebook site is an interactive site to share stories, photos, and observations of Littleton's conservation lands and area wildlife. See [www.facebook.com/groups/639049749490984](https://www.facebook.com/groups/639049749490984)
- ➡ **Jim O'Neil, LCT Trail Crew Coordinator**, maintains a trail worker email distribution list. When work projects are planned, notifications and updates are distributed to its member list. Email [JFOneil63@verizon.net](mailto:JFOneil63@verizon.net)
- ➡ LCT Walks will be announced on the Littleton Conservation Trust website, listed in the Littleton Conservation Trust events calendar and automatically sent to the Littleton Conservation Trust email list. Sign up at [www.LittletonConservationTrust.org/contact-us/subscribe/](http://www.LittletonConservationTrust.org/contact-us/subscribe/)
- ➡ Regional Earth Day Events in Concord (Musketaquid) on April 22nd:  
([theumbrellaarts.org/arts-environment/musketaquid-earth-day-2017](http://theumbrellaarts.org/arts-environment/musketaquid-earth-day-2017))  
9:30-10:45am River Ceremony on the back lawn of The Old Manse (TTOR)  
11am-Noon Parade along Main St to Emerson Umbrella at 40 Stow St  
Noon-2pm Arts and Environment Festival on the front lawn

### LCT Calendar of Free Events

4/15	8-10am	Williams Land Birding and Nature Exploration Walk (at 31 Boxborough Rd)
4/22	All day	Earth Day 2017 Activities at Musketaquid (see above)
5/1	7pm	Town Meeting at Littleton Middle School. Vote for Williams Land Acquisition (Article 21) and Preservation of Nagog Pond Water Rights and Access (Articles 25 and 26)
5/6	9:45am - 1pm	LCT and AMC Family Outing Walk at Williams Land (register at <a href="http://www.outdoors.org">www.outdoors.org</a> )
5/11	7:30pm	Chuck Roth Memorial Lecture Series on <i>Wondrous World of Fireflies</i> by Professor Sara Lewis, Newbury Court in Concord (rsvp with <a href="mailto:jcrowley@newburycourt.org">jcrowley@newburycourt.org</a> or 978-402-8219)
5/13	8am-8pm	Tentative date for Littleton "Big Sit" - a birding and birders' fun social event. See LCT website for update
5/20	8am-3pm	Prouty Woods Hidden Treasure Event (see pages 4 and 5)
5/21	12:45 - 4pm	LCT and AMC Family Outing Walk at Oak Hill (register at <a href="http://www.outdoors.org">www.outdoors.org</a> )
6/10	9am-1pm	Zero Waste Day (ZWD) - Major regional reuse and recycling event at Littleton High School parking lot and Repair Café (Assisted Free Fix-it Event) at LHS Cafeteria. Details at <a href="http://www.littletonma.org/Sustainability">www.littletonma.org/Sustainability</a>
8/15	7pm	Creature Teachers - LCT sponsored Live Animal Program with Rick Roth, as part of children's summer reading program at Multipurpose Room (rsvp with <a href="http://www.LittletonLib.org">www.LittletonLib.org</a> )

For donations under \$1,000 we also accept credit card payments online <http://littletonconservationtrust.org/donate>

## Littleton Conservation Trust Membership Form – 2017

☐ New ☐ Renewal

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

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

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

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

Please provide an email address to receive notification of upcoming walks and conservation-related events.  
Checks should be made out to the "Littleton Conservation Trust " or just "LCT".

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual: \$25                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Family: \$40        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friend: \$100   | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter: \$250    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron: \$500   | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor: \$1,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: \$ _____                                       |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gift to Permanent Fund: \$ _____                      |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Please send me information on preserving my own land. |  |

Please send form to:

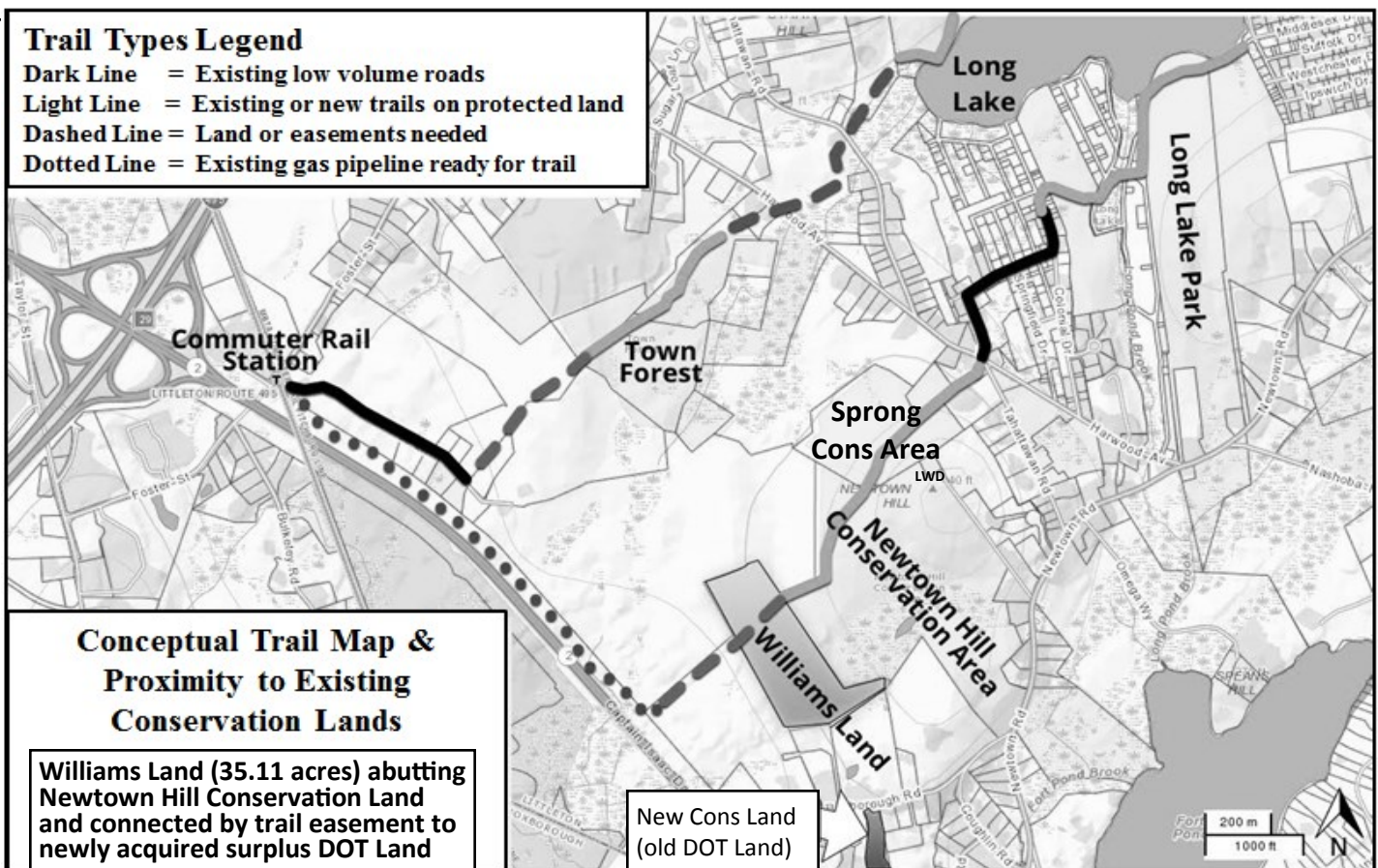
Kathy Stevens, Treasurer  
Littleton Conservation Trust  
PO Box 594  
Littleton, MA 01460

Imagine If Trees Gave Off  
Wifi Signals, We Would  
Be Planting So Many Trees  
And We'd Probably Save  
The Planet Too.

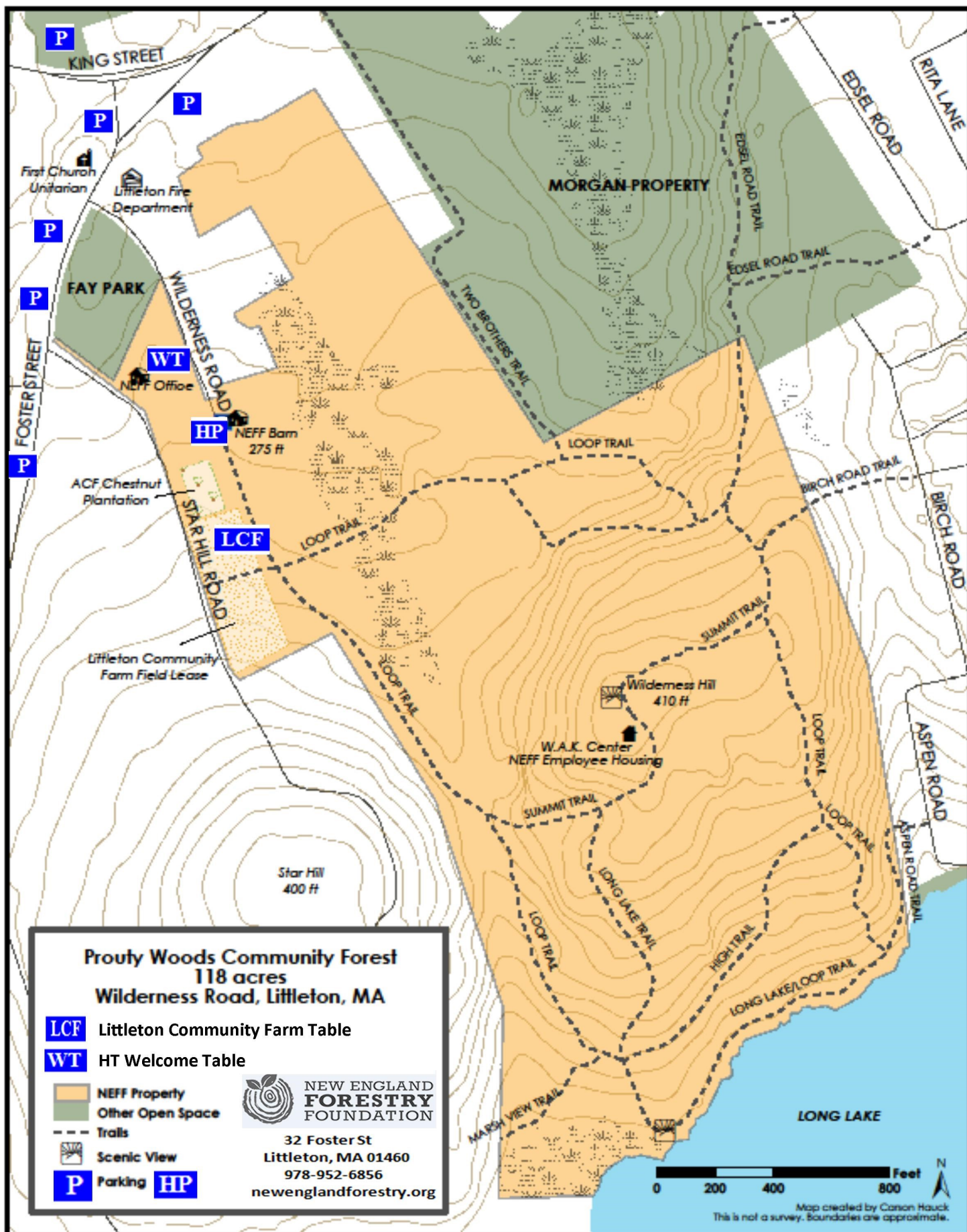


Too Bad They  
Only Produce The  
Oxygen We  
Breathe.

## Williams Land (Article 21) adds to Newtown Hill and connects paths







# Prouty Woods: A Family's Legacy ~ Littleton's Hidden Treasure

Saturday, May 20th, 2017 10 am - 3 pm

On Wilderness Road off 32 Foster St. Parking along Foster and Rogers Streets and at 300 King St Playground  
Additional footpath access via Two Brothers Trail opposite Congregational Church



Wilderness Hill Vista of Watatic-Monadnocks



Littleton Community Farm (LCF)



Prouty Homestead—NEFF Headquarters

## Prouty Woods Community Forest and Homestead

Welcome to Prouty Woods, home of New England Forestry Foundation (NEFF) and the Littleton Community Farm (LCF) at the historic center of Littleton. Explore Prouty Woods with guided walks, or posted trails. Enjoy the expansive views of Mount Watatic and Monadnock from Wilderness Hill. Hike trails to learn about the geology of drumlins and other glacial features. Walk to Long Lake for an Native American story and children's craft, recalling the Nashoba Indians who once lived here. Learn, Grow, Volunteer at LCF.

Sign up at [www.littletoncommunityfarm.org](http://www.littletoncommunityfarm.org) for a medicinal herb walk or children's farm class. Drop in for a tour and hands-on planting experience. Join NEFF for a tour of its forest management activities. Learn how the forest has changed over the centuries and how sustainable forestry practices promote a healthy forest and wildlife diversity. Visit the Prouty house to find out more about five generations of the Prouty Family that lived in Littleton.

For orientation and directions to activities visit the Hidden Treasures Welcome Table ("WT" on the map)

## Scheduled Activities

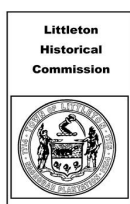
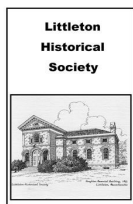
8-10am	Early Birds Bird Walk in Prouty Woods and Long Pond lakeside (WT)
10:30-12noon	LCF Medicinal Herb Walk (pre-registration at <a href="http://www.littletoncommunityfarm.org">www.littletoncommunityfarm.org</a> required, LCT Table)
10:30-12noon	NEFF Guided Walk, Forest Management, Wilderness Hill Views, and Geology (WT)
11-12noon	Native American Story and Crafts for Kids (WT)
1-2pm	LCF Kids' Herb Class (pre-registration at <a href="http://www.littletoncommunityfarm.org">www.littletoncommunityfarm.org</a> required, LCT Table)
1-2pm	Recollections of the Prouty Family— Meet Pamela Prouty Ikauniks (NEFF Headquarters, Conference Room)
2-3pm	Live Native New England Animals Presentation (WT)

## Ongoing Activities

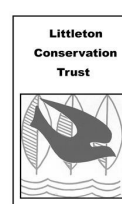
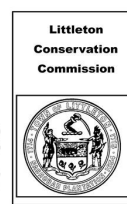
- Story Book Walk (WT)
- Drop in Guided Tours of the Community Farm (LCF Table)
- LCF Volunteering - Learn how to plant crops (LCF Table)
- Chestnut Tree Foundation- Visit the Chestnut Plantation and learn how to grow blight resistant trees (WT)
- Display of Prouty Family photos and artifacts (NEFF Headquarters)

**Freedom's Way** ([www.FreedomsWay.org](http://www.FreedomsWay.org)) connects the people, places and communities of the Heritage Area through preservation, conservation and educational initiatives to protect and promote our shared resources and to encourage residents and visitors to explore our landscape, history and culture. The Freedom's Way Heritage Association works in partnership with the National Park Service to support the Freedom's Way National Heritage Area in Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

For more details and any last minute updates please see [www.LittletonConservationTrust.org](http://www.LittletonConservationTrust.org)



NEW ENGLAND  
**FORESTRY**  
FOUNDATION



(Turn over for Prouty Woods Map)



Spring 2017

LITTLETON



CONSERVATION  
TRUST

P.O. Box 594  
Littleton, MA 01460

*"Preserving Our Rural Landscape"  
for over 50 Years*



Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Littleton, MA 01460  
Permit #6

**Postal Patron**  
Littleton, Massachusetts 01460

**VOTE**



*At Town Meeting  
May 1st, Support*

***Williams Land Acquisition (article 21)  
and  
Preservation of Nagog Pond Water Rights  
and Access (articles 25 and 26)***



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

**The Book Corner** *These and other LCT donated books can be found at the Reuben Hoar Library*

**Cattail Moonshine & Milkweed Medicine:  
The Curious Stories of 43 Amazing North  
American Native Plants** by Tammi Hartung

This fascinating book takes a look at 43 different native plants and their uses as food, medicine, dyes, tools, and building and crafting materials. In an engaging fashion, the author Tammi Hartung uses stories, facts, photographs and illustrations to delve into both historical and modern uses of these plants. The material is presented in an easy to use alphabetical format that presents each plants' story and properties in 5 to 6 pages. The variety of plants covered include herbs, trees, fruits, vegetables, wetland and desert plants, and grasses. There is a lot of practical information and inspiration for fun projects.

The plants included are not all native to the northeast, but many of them do grow (or are cultivated) here, making it a valuable resource locally. This book is a fun and informative way to learn about wild and cultivated plants, and add to the discovery and enjoyment of growing and using resources from the natural abundance all around us. ■

*Book Reviews by Kathy Stevens*

**The Curious Nature Guide** by Claire Walker Leslie

Claire Walker Leslie, a nationally known artist, educator and author of 12 books on connecting with nature and nature journaling, once again inspires us to observe and appreciate the world around us with her new book *The Curious Nature Guide*. With this colorful guide she teaches us how to explore the wonders of nature that are all around us, in ways big and small, whether we're in the country or living in an urban apartment. Through simple techniques of observing, listening, journaling and thoughtful reflection, she guides us to discover and explore more meaningful connections to the world around us.

This book is a feast for the eyes with beautiful illustrations, watercolors, and photographs on every page, as well as intriguing facts on the many natural features we're encouraged to explore, inspiring thoughtful moments and greater understanding. In her own words, Leslie asks you to "consider this book a companion", to keep it nearby to remind you to look outside, take a break, inspire dreams, and feel the rewards of appreciating the infinite beauty and variety all around us. ■