

Littleton Conservation Trust



Newsletter

Fall 2017

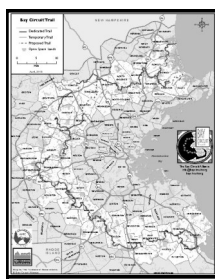
Bay Circuit Trail and Greenway Story



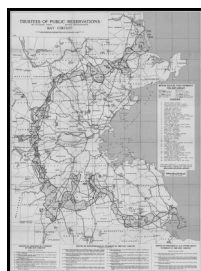
Al French

The Bay Circuit Trail and Greenway (BCT) is one of the state's best recreational trails, extending some 230 miles and extending through 36 towns. Nicknamed as the "Outer Emerald Necklace" it encircles the Greater Boston Area between I-495 and 128, running from Plum Island to the north to Kingston Bay in Duxbury to the south.

Originally conceived in 1929, it mirrors Boston's famed Olmsted-designed "Emerald Necklace" winding through Boston linking parks and open space parcels as its jewels. In 1992, the Bay Circuit Alliance (BCA) was formed to accelerate the BCT creation and close missing trail links. Al French chaired the BCA, working tirelessly to champion the organization's mission, retiring in 2012 earning the title "Mr. Bay Circuit". Al has relinquished the remaining efforts to the Appalachian Mountain Club and The Trustees of Reservations.



Current BCT (2016)



Original BCT Plans

The completion of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail segment through Acton, bridging across Great Rd (MA 2A/119), creates a nearby significant connector to the BCT and its many open spaces. This impressive multi-use recreational trail network provides exciting opportunities for many non-motorized activities from

walking, jogging, cross-country skiing, bicycling, and where appropriate rollerblading and horseback riding. Maps and trail descriptions can be found here: www.baycircuit.org/maps-guides/ ■

Annual Meeting ~ Multimedia Presentation

LCT Annual Meeting

November 16th, 2017

6 - 6:15 pm Business Meeting

6:30 - 8:30pm Multimedia Presentation

"Hiking the Bay Circuit Trail: A Video Journal"

Al French, Bay Circuit Alliance Founder/former Executive Director and legendary trail advocate

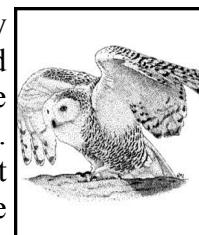
Dan and Marilyn Briellmann of e-Awakening.com, Multimedia educators focusing on the "Preservation of Nature and Protection of Resources"

Littleton High School Performing Arts Center
56 King St (Rt 2A/110), Littleton
(1 mile west of I-495, exit 30)

Free, open to all, accessible, light refreshments

Cloverdale Wins Boardwalk Trail Grant

In 2011, LCT volunteers, Rick Findlay and Jim O'Neil, began restoring the old Farm Pond area, now Cloverdale Conservation Area on Great Road. Findlay and O'Neil began clearing out the underbrush, dead trees, and invasive



See *Cloverdale* (continued on page 5)

Inside this Issue:

P2 Conservation News and Free Events

P2 Schedule of Outdoor Walks/Hikes

P3 Membership, Renewal and New

P3 LCT Logo Gifts Available Online and Holiday Bazaar

P3 LCT Photo Gallery

P1&5 Cloverdale Awarded Boardwalk DCR Trail Grant

P4 Tribute to Art Lazarus and His Work

P4 Garlic Mustard Pull Plans

P4 Littleton Little Town Tree Scavenger Hunt Launched

P5 Jim O'Neil, Named Director of Land Stewardship

P6 Nashua Canoe and Kayak River Guide Review



**LCT
Board of Trustees
October 2017**

Sam Bell
508 Great Road 486-9278

Bill Brown
7 Old Orchard Lane 486-3303

Gerard Cavallo
8 Uplands Road 486-9761

Rick Findlay
Vice President
46 Beaver Brook Road 486-4031

Scott Lewis
23 Nashoba Road 800-1638

Donald MacIver
President
43 Foster Street 952-2706

Grant Marley
212 Great Road 952-8151

Fran Meyers
Secretary
16 Valley Drive 486-3776

Jim O'Neil
Director of Land Stewardship
63 Great Road 486-3642

Dustin Neild
17 Lake Shore Drive 486-4507

Kathy Stevens
Treasurer
46 Shaker Lane 486-8847

Steven Sussman
32 Lake Warren Drive 486-9630

Dave Allen *Assistant Treasurer*
Scott Lewis *Webmaster*
Karen O'Neil *Facebook Administrator*
Jim O'Neil *Trail Crew Coordinator*
Judith Pickett *Counsel*

**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

- ➡ **Sustainability Committee** awarded \$10,000 state Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program grant for technical assessment of vulnerability to climate change impacts and for building community resiliency
- ➡ Newly updated and released **Wildlands and Woodlands, Farmlands and Communities Report** visioning the future of New England's conserved forests and habitats can be found here with accompanying 5 minute video: **(report)** wildlandsandwoodlands.org/
(video) www.youtube.com/watch?v=dKFuExOg7yk
- ➡ **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
- ➡ **Littleton Trails**, a public Facebook group is an interactive site to share stories, photos, and observations of Littleton's conservation lands and area wildlife. See www.facebook.com/groups/639049749490984
- ➡ **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/

LCT Calendar of Free Events

10/14	10-noon	LCT/SVT Fall Wildflower Walk at Yapp Conservation Land
10/21	1-3pm	Newtown Hill Walk Featuring Williams Land (photos, p 3)
10/28	1-3pm	Annual Cloverdale Rock (Picking and Hauling) Festival Party Like a Rock Star! (Join the Trail Crew Event)
11/4	1-3pm	Oak Hill Guided Walk
11/11	1-3pm	Nashoba Woodlands Guided Walk
11/16	6-6:15pm 6:30-8:30pm	LCT Annual Meeting - Littleton High Sch Performance Center "Hiking the Bay Circuit Trail: Multimedia Presentation and Video Journal" with Hikers Al French and the Brielmann's
11/18	1-3pm	Prouty Woods Walk
11/24	All day	Launch of Littleton Little Town Tree Hunt (see story, p 4)
11/24	1-3pm	Long Lake Park Walk
11/25	1-3pm	Sarah Doublet Hike (photography themed hike)
12/2	9-2pm	Littleton Holiday Bazaar, Russell St Middle School Gym (visit the LCT Booth to say "Hello" and check out gift items)

See more details for these walks/hikes and events on LCT webpage.
Find trails maps at littletonconservationtrust.org/trail-guide/

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

Littleton Conservation Trust Membership Form — Fall 2017

☐ New ☐ Renewal

Date: ____/____/____
(Date determines year of tax deduction)

Name: _____

Address: _____

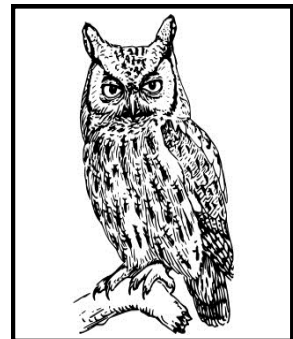
Phone: _____ Email: _____

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



Sample of LCT Logo Gifts Available Online



See www.cafepress.com/littletonconservationtrust

LCT Photo Gallery



See the new Cobb Memorial Path Trailhead Kiosk at the parking lot off Nashoba Rd. built by Eagle Scout Anson Staples

Tempe Staples, Littleton resident, TerraCorps / AmeriCorps Regional Conservationist at Sudbury Valley Trustees (SVT), a regional land trust. LCT will be working with Tempe.



10/21 Newtown Hill Hike at Wildlife Observation Deck

Renew your LCT Membership, Donate or Provide Memorial Gift: Continue and Expand Conservation in Littleton

As an all-volunteer nonprofit, every dollar you donate to the Littleton Conservation Trust goes towards conservation, events for the public to enjoy, conservation lands, and conservation education.

LCT memberships are tax deductible donations. Whether renewing your membership or simply donating, this is a good time of year to donate in order to claim a year-end tax deductible charitable gift donation.

Many LCT members join when our fall / winter newsletter is published so this is the time of year to renew. It always is a great time of year to gift others with membership on special occasions.

Please help us take care of the many protected lands in Littleton so that you, and future generations, can continue to enjoy the outdoors. You can join or renew either online or by mailing a check:

To join or renew online by credit card or through PayPal, go to: littletonconservationtrust.org/donate

To join or renew by check, use the above form.

Thank you for your continued support of conservation in Littleton and your all-volunteer Littleton Conservation Trust. ■

**Visit the LCT Booth at Littleton Holiday Bazaar
Dec 2nd, 9-2pm, at Russell St Middle School**

Tribute to Art Lazarus (1935-2017)



Art actively volunteered many hours as a hands-on conservationist during his 33 year Littleton residency. Parlaying his past experience as a Conservation Commissioner for the town of Raynham, professional abilities as a geologist and environmental consultant, and developing interest in forestry, Art served as Director of Stewardship coordinating town-wide land stewardship program, recruiting and training other volunteers as monitors for the town's publicly accessible conservation properties, and compiling land management plans for each parcel. Privately, Art would engage in rock collecting along with building a stone wall exhibiting unusual rock specimens and crafting stained-glass window hangings focusing on nature.

Art played major roles in characterizing the Oak Hill Conservation Land and geologic history, laying out trails on Long Lake Conservation Land, and managing the Cobb Land after the family donated portions to LCT and the town Conservation Commission for public conservation purposes. Art coordinated the cleanup of the debris remaining from the former Cobb Chicken Farm and constructed trails throughout. On other conservation parcels, Art would use his geologic expertise to identify notable features, such as evidence of historic quarry works and unusual mineral deposits. Additionally, Art became a Forest Steward for the Prouty Woods Community Forest, owned by New England Forestry Foundation (NEFF) with overlaid Conservation Restriction held by the town Conservation Commission.

Art compiled the town's conservation land and trail maps into a comprehensive Guide to Conservation Lands, annotated with descriptions and helpful details. This guide, available both in print and online, has been revised several times by Art. As a geologist, Art also compiled a comprehensive "Natural Resources Inventory for Oak Hill – Tophet Chasm", an unusual geologic plunge hole feature resulting from the sudden and forceful drainage of glacial Lake Nashoba.

Art's other local publications include a compilation of forestry resource materials and anecdotes into "Forest Tours: Edible, Medicinal, Poisonous Characteristics, and Historical Uses of Selected Trees and Shrubs" for the Prouty Woods Community Forest, and subsequent condensed brochure "A Self-guided Tour of the Wide Variety of Trees at Prouty Community Forest". As Art and his wife Jan addressed progressive medical challenges in later life, Art also issued the booklet "Walking for Recovery: A Guide for Easy Off-Road Walking in Littleton, MA" highlighting easy strolls on some of the town's less challenging conservation lands.

Art performed considerable volunteer conservation land work for the benefit of the Littleton community; inspired and recruited other volunteers; and collaborated with many others: LCT trustees, conservation land stewards, town Conservation Commissioners and agent, and land owners. His presence, energy, and determination will be missed by many. His beneficial impact to the community remains. ■



Invasive Aliens: Join the Resistance Part XIX – Call to Action! Garlic Mustard Pulls!

For many years the Trust, through this Newsletter, has strived to make Littleton residents aware of the threat that non-native invasive species bring to our native habitats. Now is the time to join other communities throughout Massachusetts in active management of some of these invaders on both a species and land parcel level.



This Spring we will join surrounding towns with a Garlic Mustard Pull designed to ultimately curb the threat of this species to our roadside and forests ecosystems. It will require long term monitoring and volunteers committed to the project.

On a parcel level, we hope to pursue the clean-up of an overgrown town owned parcel next to Nagog Pond, similar to what we have done with Cloverdale, on Great Road.

In both cases, we will be looking for volunteers. They can contact Rick Findlay at: riefin@comcast.net or 978-486-8482.

Littleton Little Town Tree Hunt 2017



Discovery of decorated tree during scavenger tree hunt on local conservation lands

On November 24th, the day after Thanksgiving, Littleton's own scavenger hunt for specially decorated trees on conservation lands, will be launched and extend through January 6th. Veteran Holiday Tree Hunters and Littleton residents Lynne Bourque and Alicia MacDonald are bringing this fun outdoor event to town, assisted by LCT volunteer Lori Pelrine. Details of this town-wide event shared by Tree Stewards who host a decorated tree on a conservation land and Tree Hunters to discover them can be found here:

www.facebook.com/LittletonLittleTownTreeHunt/

**"The earth
is what we all have
in common."
- Wendell Berry**



Explore Native American Nashoba Land with Local Historian and Videographer Electa Tritsch

"Nashoba" is a 27 minute on demand video of Sarah Doublet Forest and Nature Reserve, and environs. Electa onsite interviews author historians Dan Boudillion and John Hanson Mitchell, and displays maps of the historic Nashoba Village.

See www.concordtv.org/watch/video-on-demand then select for "Tracks in Time" and then click on "Nashoba"

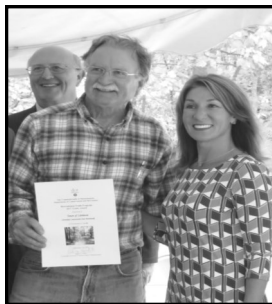
plants that had taken over the area in an effort to open up the view of the meadow and surrounding area. As their work slowly progressed on the property, the two men realized that the task ahead of them was daunting. In early 2014 a plan to restore the pasture area and eradicate the invasives was presented to the Community Preservation Committee. Community Preservation Act funding was voted on and approved at the May 2014 Town Meeting.

Restoration work began in the Spring of 2016 and was completed that Fall. The invasive growth was removed showcasing the diversity of the property. From a beautiful two acre open pasture to an open rolling terrain studded with several old apple, oak, and maple trees to a mixed pine and hardwood forest to a beautiful eleven acre abandoned beaver meadow with an unobstructed 1600 foot panoramic view, this property is one of Littleton's finest wildlife habitats.

In February of 2017 they applied to the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation for a trail grant for the construction of a series of four boardwalks to navigate the seasonally wet areas of the property. In September of 2017 at a gathering in Palmer, Massachusetts, Rick Findlay accepted the trail grant award on behalf of the Littleton Conservation Commission from Lt. Governor Karen Polito.

A 0.6 mile long perimeter trail has been started around the Cloverdale property and construction of the four boardwalks will begin early next year. Looking forward, one can just imagine driving into Littleton on Great Road and seeing beautiful trees and flowers surrounding the pasture and meadow. The planting of Spring flowering trees such as Crab Apple, and Dogwood, and flowers around the landscape to attract more birds and wildlife will transform this area into a beautiful gateway to our town.

Cloverdale is a wonderful place where children and adults can learn more about the resident wildlife species and their habitat. We currently have many hikers and birders using the accessible portions of the property.



Rick Findlay with Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito and DCR Commissioner Leo Roy

A local middle school teacher/naturalist has been conducting nature classes at the property on a regular basis. The landscape diversity has provided wonderful opportunities and teachers and students are looking forward to the new horizons provided by the boardwalks. The boardwalk construction will provide much better access to the area for stewards in the ongoing invasive control efforts.

The preservation of farmland along Route 2A/119 is one of the primary goals of Littleton's Open Space Plan. The restoration of Cloverdale Farm as our newest conservation area is an important step toward the success of that plan. ■



LCT Trustee Jim O'Neil, was recently named as the new Director of Land Stewardship, filling the vacancy left by longtime Trustee, Art Lazarus who passed away in July. A resident of Littleton for forty one years, Jim has been a volunteer

with the Trust for seven years during which time he has served as a land steward at Long Lake Park and more recently at Cloverdale Conservation Area.

His responsibilities as Long Lake Park steward have been maintaining trails and occasionally building new trails. At Cloverdale, O'Neil and Rick Findlay were responsible for acquiring CPA funding for the elimination of invasive plants, and restoration of the original pasture area. The two men also co- wrote an application for a trail grant from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation for construction of four boardwalks. They were awarded the grant in August and hope to begin the installation early next summer. The boardwalks will provide a continuous trail around the perimeter of Cloverdale.

In addition to his efforts at Cloverdale, O'Neil has led volunteers in the creation of trails at many of Littleton's conservation properties, including Long Lake Park, Hartwell Preserve, Sarah Doublet Forest and Mill Hill. He also created the trail leading to the Wildlife Habitat at Long Lake.

Jim also initiated the formation of the Littleton Trail Crew, which has grown to a corps of seventy volunteers, who tackle some of the more demanding trail related duties such as building boardwalks and bridges, cutting and removing fallen trees and clearing brush.

In his new role, Jim will continue to steward Long Lake Park and Cloverdale. He will also be responsible for managing and recruiting new land steward volunteers and will be involved in creating and monitoring conservation restrictions.

When asked about his new role, O'Neil said, "As a kid I spent a lot of time hiking the peaks and wandering the trails in New Hampshire's White Mountains. I often thought about a career with the U.S. Forest Service. Although those plans never materialized, I am, now, enjoying the opportunity to work on the trails in my hometown. That's pretty close to my childhood dream of becoming a Forest Ranger."

To volunteer as a Land Steward for a designated conservation land or join the town-wide Trail Crew please fill out the online form:

[Littletonconservationtrust.org/
get-involved/land-steward-program/](http://Littletonconservationtrust.org/get-involved/land-steward-program/) ■

Fall 2017

LITTLETON



CONSERVATION
TRUST

P.O. Box 594
Littleton, MA 01460

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



*Time to Renew
Membership*

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

Postal Patron

Littleton, Massachusetts 01460

LCT Annual Meeting 11/16/2017

6-6:15 pm Business Meeting

6:30 pm "Hiking the Bay Circuit Trail"

A Multimedia Presentation

Littleton High School Performing Arts Center

56 King St, Littleton, MA



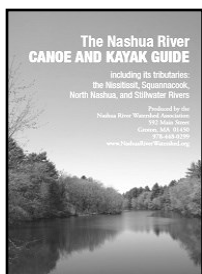
This newsletter is printed on recycled paper
(20% post-consumer waste)

The Book Corner

LCT donated books can be found at the Reuben Hoar Library

The Nashua River Canoe and Kayak Guide, including its tributaries: the Nissitissit, Squannacook, North Nashua, and Stillwater Rivers, 6th edition, 2017, by Nashua River Watershed Association (NRWA) Staff

NRWA's newly revised pocket-sized *Nashua River Canoe and Kayak Guide* provides clear and concise information on canoe put-ins and take-outs, river hazards like dams and rapids, portages, and mile-by-mile notes for all paddlable segments of the Nashua, Nissitissit, Squannacook, North Nashua, and Stillwater Rivers. The Guide is in full color, 120-pages, spiral bound for easy use, and pocket-sized to fit in your jacket pocket or backpack (4.5" x 6"). Price: \$16 per Guide plus \$3 S&H.



Available online at
www.NashuaRiverWatershed.org/
or onsite at NRWA, 592 Main St,
Groton, MA. (978) 448-0299 .

The newly revised guide includes field checking of all river segments for accuracy. Trips are suggested by skill level in addition to displaying sequential river segment maps accompanied with detailed narrative descriptions. This guide was funded in part by the Massachusetts and Groton Cultural Councils.

Below is a sample map of the popular "Lakes Region" spanning MA-119 downstream to MA-113 and paralleling the Nashua River Rail Trail. ■

