

# Littleton Conservation Trust



Newsletter

Spring 2018

## Let the Landscape Speak: The Importance and Meaning of the Indigenous Ceremonial Stones

On Wednesday April 4<sup>th</sup> over 100 regional residents packed the newly refurbished Discovery Museum in Acton to hear Doug Harris, Deputy Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Narragansett Indian Tribal Historic Preservation Office (NITHPO) present an illustrated talk about the Ceremonial Stone Landscapes and structures found extensively in our area and how local residents can help preserve them. These tribal ceremonial stones are sometimes found as animal effigies, sacred circles, aggregate piles stacked on top of large boulders or within split glacial erratics, or as stone rows with serpentine heads and tales. Doug Harris has been Tribally Certified in ceremonial stone identification for 16 years.

The forests of New England are dotted with living prayers of Ceremonial Stone Landscapes created by the Indigenous peoples of this region. The traditional belief is that these stone structures were placed to create and restore harmony between human beings and Mother Earth. The prayers they embody continue to live as long as the stones are kept intact.

Doug seeks to provide means for protecting tribal ceremonial stone structures through tribal collaboration with individuals, organizations, and municipalities through establishing a memorandum of understanding. His group supports private land ownership but hopes to be a resource for those private land owners interested in protecting ceremonial stones. Massachusetts municipal Historic Commissions have special capabilities to assist in this effort.

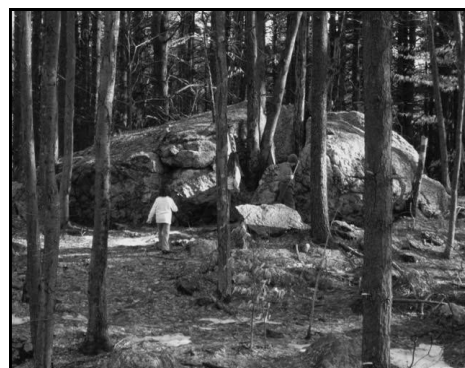


Turtle Stone Effigy  
NITHO courtesy photo ©

This regional presentation, was funded in part by a grant from the Littleton Cultural Council and was co-sponsored by three local all-volunteer organizations - Littleton and Acton Conservation Trusts, and the Friends of Pine Hawk, a regional archaeology public interest group. ■

## The Story of Fort Rock at Nashoba Woodlands

As the last glacier receded and melted, large heavy boulders which had been plowed along and were given a free ride on top of the glacier, were deposited on the underlying bedrock floor and are now referred to as erratics because they appear



to be out of place in the landscape. Such is Fort Rock. And over time, with weathering cycles of freezing and thawing, some rocks split open. Fort Rock at one time had been molten rock and it cooled very slowly so the minerals it contained collected together and formed large visible crystals. In Fort Rock's case large crystal deposits of shiny black mica, white quartz, and semi-opaque white feldspar formed as embedded crystals. Today it is a



special place, especially popular with kids as a walk through split rock serving as a play fort. Here children on top are seen making a temporary roof with pine boughs. Come see Fort Rock at Hidden Treasures on May 19th. See page 5. ■

## Inside this Issue:

- P1 Let the Landscape Speak - Indigenous Ceremonial Stones*
- P1 Story of Fort Rock at Nashoba Woodlands*
- P2 Schedule of Outdoor Walks/Hikes and Free Events*
- P2 Social Life of Bears - Chuck Roth Memorial Lecture* 
- P3 LCT Membership Renewals and New Members*
- P3 Nashoba Woodlands Map: Hidden Treasures & Trail Fest*
- P4 Nashoba Woodlands Trail Fest 2018: June 2, 2018*
- P5 Nashoba Woodlands Hidden Treasures: May 19, 2018*
- P6 Book Reviews - "Compact Farms" and "Into the Nest"*



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[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.

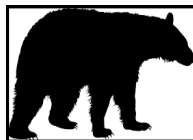
## Littleton Conservation News

compiled by Don MacIver

- ➡ **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).
- ➡ **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](https://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/](http://www.LittletonConservationTrust.org/contact-us/subscribe/)

### LCT Calendar of Free Events

5/19	9-3pm	Littleton Hidden Treasures at Nashoba Woodlands at 426 Newtown Road. Major event. See page 5 and LCT webpage.
5/26	10-3pm	Littleton Community Farm's Open House at 7 Wilderness Road. See <a href="http://LittletonCommunityFarm.org/events">LittletonCommunityFarm.org/events</a> for details.
6/2	9:30 - 3pm	Trail Fest 2018 - Cosponsored by Sudbury Valley Trustees, LCT, and Littleton Conservation Commission - Hiking, Music, Food, Games. Yapp Conservation Land, 426 Newtown Road. Small fee. See <a href="http://www.svtweb.org/TrailFest">www.svtweb.org/TrailFest</a> for details.
6/9	1-3pm	Long Lake Hike - see LCT webpage for details.
8/16	7pm	LCT sponsored Rick Roth of Creature Teachers displays native wildlife in the Town Administrative Building's Multipurpose Room as part of the Reuben Hoar Library's Children's Summer Reading Program. See <a href="http://www.littletonma.org/reuben-hoar-library">www.littletonma.org/reuben-hoar-library</a> for details.



### Social Life of Bears - Dr. Ben Kilham Chuck Roth Memorial Lecture, May 25, 7:30 PM, Newbury Court, Concord

Ben Kilham, well sought after author of several books on raising bears and their behavioral studies is this year's featured presenter at the Morrison Theater at Newbury Court Residence, 100 Newbury Court, Concord. National Geographic focused a full length film on his unique approach to understanding bear social life. Chuck Roth was a former LCT president and Mass Audubon's first Director of Education. To RSVP seats, email Jill Crowley with name and number of seats desired at [jcrowley@newburycourt.org](mailto:jcrowley@newburycourt.org). ■

See more details for these walks/hikes and events on LCT webpage.  
Find trails maps at [littletonconservationtrust.org/trail-guide/](http://littletonconservationtrust.org/trail-guide/)

For donations under \$1,000 we also accept credit card payments online [littletonconservationtrust.org/donate](http://littletonconservationtrust.org/donate)

## Littleton Conservation Trust Membership Form — Spring—2018

☐ New ☐ Renewal

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

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

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

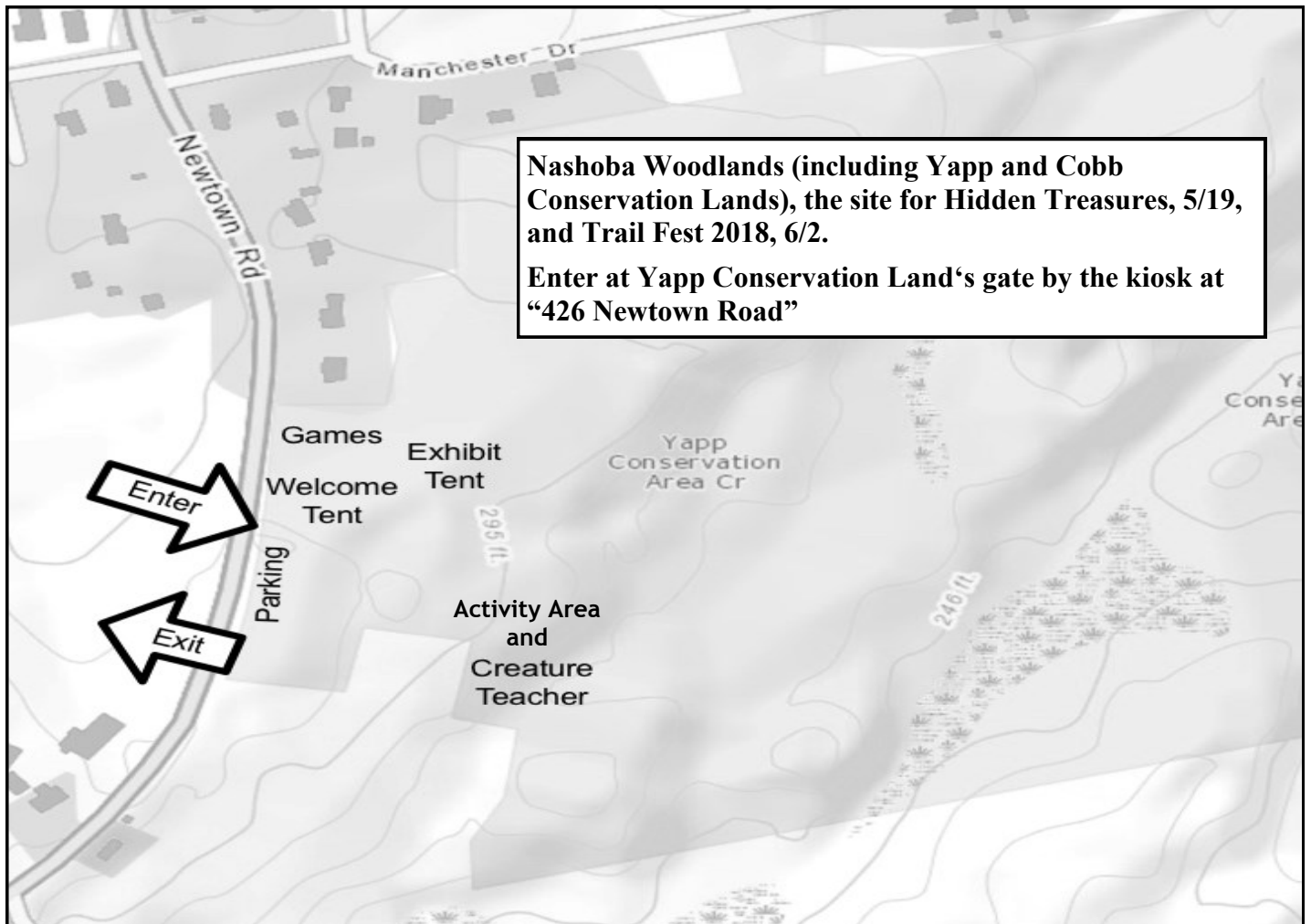
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*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:

Daedre Jones, Treasurer  
Littleton Conservation Trust  
PO Box 594  
Littleton, MA 01460





# Nashoba Woodlands: Featuring Yapp and Cobb Families' Conservation Areas ~ Littleton's Hidden Treasure

*Saturday, May 19th, 2018 ~ 9 am - 3 pm ~ 426 Newtown Road*



George and Lucy Yapp Conservation Land



Bunchberry with Lady Slippers



Fort Rock - Split Rock Serving as Children's Play Fort

## Nashoba Woodlands

Nashoba Woodlands are calling your name! Enjoy discovery activities for kids and adults throughout the day. Have a close encounter with New England local wild animals courtesy of Rick Roth of Creature Teachers; walk with botanist to see wildflowers bursting into bloom; join Audubon staff to learn about the wonders of a vernal pool in spring; go on guided walks, or on your own to experience nature and view geology/glacial sites. Kids get a close look at Fort Rock and spring wildflowers and trees along the way. See special spots enjoyed by children growing up on the Yapp farm. Learn from display how Cobb's Chicks became an international poultry company. Plus there is a continuous display of history and pictures in the Exhibit Tent, and on-going field activities provided by the Park and Recreation Department. Come spend an hour, or bring your lunch and stay all day. For orientation and directions to activities visit greeting guides at the Hidden Treasures Welcome Tent

## Scheduled Activities

9-10am	Discovery Walk for Kids to Fort Rock - Michelle Berry
10-11am	Meet New England Native Wild Animals - Rick Roth of the Creature Teachers
10-11am	Guided Nature Walk - Littleton Conservation Trust Naturalists
11-12 noon	Guided Walk - Vernal Pool Exploration: Session 1 - Mass Audubon's Drumlin Farm Naturalists
12n-1pm	Guided Walk - Vernal Pool Exploration: Session 2 - Mass Audubon's Drumlin Farm Naturalists
12n-1pm	Guided Walk - Spring Wildflowers - Neela de Zoysa, New England Wildflower Association
1-2pm	Guided Nature and Geology Walk of Yapp Conservation Area - Bill Vales
1-2pm	Discovery Walk for kids to Fort Rock - Michelle Berry
2-3pm	Closing

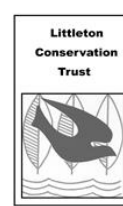
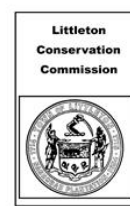
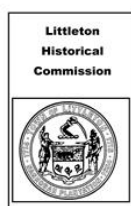
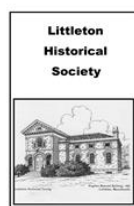
## Ongoing Activities

- Self-Guided Story Book Walk - Trail signs at special places enjoyed by children growing up on the Yapp Farm
- Field Activities provided by Littleton Park and Recreation Department
- Display of history and pictures in Exhibit Tent on how the Cobb Farm Cobb Chicks became an international poultry company

**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 all Hidden Treasures events see [www.discoverhiddentreasures.org/](http://www.discoverhiddentreasures.org/).

*Note: See Littleton's other Hidden Treasures event—Littleton Community Farm's Open House, Saturday, May 26th, 10am-3pm, at 7 Wilderness Road (for more details see [littletoncommunityfarm.org/events/](http://littletoncommunityfarm.org/events/))*

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







## Postal Patron

Littleton, Massachusetts 01460

### ***Littleton Hidden Treasures***

***Saturday - 5/19/2018 - pages 3 & 5***

### ***Littleton Trail Fest***

***Saturday - 6/2/201 - pages 3 & 4***

***Both at Nashoba Woodlands***

***(Yapp - Cobb Conservation Lands)***

***Access at 426 Newtown Road***

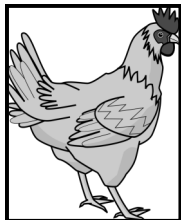


This newsletter is printed on recycled paper  
(20% post-consumer waste)

## **The Book Corner** *by Kathy Stevens*      *LCT donated books can be found at the Reuben Hoar Library*

### **Compact Farms: 15 Proven Plans for Market Farms on 5 Acres or Less**      by Josh Volk

In this book about farming on small land plots, author Josh Volk, owner of Slow Hand farm in Portland, Oregon, shows how 15 small farms across the country are thriving as vital parts of their communities and examples of sustainable, profitable ventures. It is full of information on all aspects of gardening: soil health, planning and planting techniques, various watering methods, equipment, and tools, as well as how to make a profitable business model. Anyone who gardens can find something here to help maximize their food production in a small amount of space, even if they aren't looking to market their garden produce. Veteran farmers like Eliot Coleman and newer growers alike share their tips and techniques, accompanied by photos



of infrastructure setups and illustrations of their farm features. Overall this is a great resource for practical advice and inspiration for growing fresh food just for your family or making it a business. ■

### **Into the Nest: Intimate Views of the Courting, Parenting, and Family Familiar Birds**

by Laura Erickson & Marie Read

This is a wonderful guide that lets us look at the "private" lives of 25 different birds, with extraordinary pictures that go right into their nesting sites. Focusing on courting, mating, egg production, nesting, hatching and parenting behaviors, this book is a good factual resource. It is also a visual treat for anyone interested in seeing intimate views of bird behavior and chicks right in the nest. While not a children's book per se, I think it's an excellent one for sparking and encouraging children's interest in nature in general, as well as the birds they can see in their own backyard. ■

