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

On Wednesday April 4th 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.

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.

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P4 Nashoba Woodlands Trail Fest 2018: June 2, 2018
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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

- **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/

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5/19</td>
<td>9-3pm</td>
<td>Littleton Hidden Treasures at Nashoba Woodlands at 426 Newtown Road. Major event. See page 5 and LCT webpage.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/26</td>
<td>10-3pm</td>
<td>Littleton Community Farm’s Open House at 7 Wilderness Road. See LittletonCommunityFarm.org/events for details.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/9</td>
<td>1-3pm</td>
<td>Long Lake Hike - see LCT webpage for details.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/16</td>
<td>7pm</td>
<td>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.</td>
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**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.
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

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”.*

- [ ] Individual: $25
- [ ] Friend: $100
- [ ] Patron: $500
- [ ] Other: $ _________
- [ ] Gift to Permanent Fund: $________________

Please send form to:
Daedre Jones, Treasurer
Littleton Conservation Trust
PO Box 594
Littleton, MA 01460

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**Nashoba Woodlands (including Yapp and Cobb Conservation Lands), the site for Hidden Treasures, 5/19, and Trail Fest 2018, 6/2.**

**Enter at Yapp Conservation Land’s gate by the kiosk at “426 Newtown Road”**
Trail Fest 2018
Hiking • Food • Music • Fun!
Saturday, June 2
Yapp Conservation Land, Littleton
Yoga and stretching, starting at 9:30 a.m.
Guided 6K and 3K walks, starting at 10:00 a.m.
Lunch, live music, a petting zoo, and more, starting at Noon

Co-Hosts: Sudbury Valley Trustees, Littleton Conservation Trust, Town of Littleton
SVT Members / LCT Members / Littleton Residents: $5 each/$15 per family
Others: $10 each/$25 per family

For more details and registration info:
www.svtweb.org/TrailFest
Nashoba Woodlands: Featuring Yapp and Cobb Families’ Conservation Areas ~ Littleton’s Hidden Treasure
Saturday, May 19th, 2018 ~ 9 am - 3 pm ~ 426 Newtown Road

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 ongoing 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 signs 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
11-12noon  Guided Walk - Vernal Pool Exploration: Session 1 - Maas 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 Zayas, 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.Freedom'sWay.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.discoverhiddenresources.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/)

For more details and any last minute updates please see www.LittletonConservationTrust.org
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.