

Chelmsford Land Conservation Trust

Promoting the preservation of Chelmsford's rural heritage and conserving open lands for the benefit of all

Annual Letter

www.chelmsfordlandtrust.org

May 2015

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As the Ice Age of 2014-15 melts into weather history, it is time to think Spring and watch for the annual meeting budding forth. This year's Chelmsford Land Conservation Trust Annual Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, May 27th at 7 p.m.** when New Hampshire native, Kevin Gardener will speak about stonewalls and their solid place in the New England landscape. Kevin is a builder/restorer of traditional New

England stone walls and author of the book "The Granite Kiss: Traditions and Techniques of Building New England Stone Walls." This program is open to the public of all ages, so tell your friends and join us to watch random stones become a wall and earn your "granite kiss."

The evening will begin at **6:30 pm at the Barrett-Byam House, 40 Byam Road, Chelmsford, MA.**

with some delicious refreshments, followed by a short business meeting open to all Chelmsford Land Trust members to receive reports, vote on directors, and hear of the events of the past year.

Be sure to visit our website – www.clct.org – for updates and more information about our schedule of events as well as photos of previous activities and items for sale.

Your commitment to our organization allows you and future generations to experience the joys of nature. Since we are a member-supported organization, I ask that you please renew your membership with the enclosed envelope to help achieve our goal of conserving open space in Chelmsford. Please share information about our organization and events with your friends and neighbors – we would love to have more members! If you are a Life member, thank you for your ongoing and valued support. Sincerely yours,

Dale Williams



Hardy Hikers to Skunk Island

Our Winterfest Walk to Skunk Island was a big success, with more snow on the ground than has been experienced in years! With the help of the Chelmsford Open Space Stewards (COSS) who broke trail and built the fire, more than 45 people enjoyed the hike and wildlife talk as well as the s'mores.

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2014 IN REVIEW

The usual events hosted over the spring, summer and fall fell peril to some ill-timed foul weather. Rain halted the annual Bird Walk, and Wildflower Walk while clouds prevented the August Star gazing program at Bartlett Park. We're quite certain that the odds are for more favorable weather for our 2015 events!

We did have a sunny, warm day in June when we planted a rose and peony garden at the Kroll, Calder, Larter Pasture in memory of June Cook, a founding director of the Trust. Open Gate Garden Club and COSS participated in the planting.

The Lt. Edward Hope Bovey Woodlot and the Harriet Bartlett Woodlot continue to be active paths for accessing the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail. It has become so popular that some soil erosion control will be needed in the near future.



Kroll, Calder, Larter Pasture

Double wall Hiking Trail

In November, Land Trust and COSS volunteers built a boardwalk over soggy soil along the Double Wall Hiking Trail at the Kroll, Calder, Larter Pasture. The boardwalk will be extended this year once the soil has dried out. The trail was originally constructed as Kyle Chagon's (Troop 81) Eagle Project.

CONTINUING PLANS AND PROJECTS

After many months of hard work, the Land Trust and Town of Chelmsford signed the Sheehan Farm Agricultural Preservation Restriction, which was recorded at the Registry of Deeds on January 29, 2015. The Grantor of this restriction is the Chelmsford Board of Selectmen. The signing of the APR continues a new duty for the Land Trust, allowing us to ensure the continued protection of valuable agricultural, conservation, and passive recreational land in Chelmsford. Also, we hold the Conservation Restriction on Pond Street (the old SCVIA beach property) with the Board of Selectman as Grantor. We are continuing to review the proposed conservation restriction(CR) for Sunny Meadow Farm. Liz Newland, of Massachusetts Audubon, is preparing Baseline Surveys for all 3 of these properties.

ACTIVITIES

UPCOMING 2015

- May 9th – Bird Walk starting on the bike trail behind Brick House Pizza at 7am
- June – Wildflower Walk, Kroll, Calder, Larter Pasture
- August - Star Gazing, Bartlett Park and Old Town Hall
- Summer – Plant a Butterfly/Monarch garden at Kroll, Calder, Larter Pasture