



# Chelmsford Land Conservation Trust

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

Annual Letter

[www.clct.org](http://www.clct.org)

May 2018

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This year's Chelmsford Land Conservation Trust Annual Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.** "Who's Watching You? Owls of the World" will be our program this year and introduce you to the owls of New England and beyond. Mark and Marcia Wilson will share the field marks, signs and naturalist skills that you can



use to find wild owls without disturbing them, while introducing you to **six live owls up close**. Everyone is treated to a hooting lesson, as well as tips on how to attract and

protect owls near you. This program is open to the public of all ages, so tell your friends and bring your kids.

**We will begin to assemble at 6:30 pm** for some delicious refreshments in the Ralph Parlee Agricultural Center on the lower level of the Barrett-Byam House, 40 Byam Road, Chelmsford, MA. After the talk, a short business meeting open to all Chelmsford Land Trust members will take place to receive reports, vote on directors, and hear of the events of the past year.



Be sure to visit our website- [www.clct.org](http://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

## Bartlett Woodlot Improvements

Improvements made to Bartlett Woodlot include a new shed to house a riding mower and tools used for maintenance of Bartlett Park. 240 ft. of split rail fence now ensures the users of the woodlot will not trespass on the neighbor's property. This will be especially important once the Village Center Walkway Committee completes their bridge over Beaver Brook and constructs a walkway/path through Bartlett Woodlot to Acton Road.





## Spring at Skunk Island

In March, we hosted a program about endangered New England native species. Our speaker was Bryan Windmiller, Director of Conservation at Zoo New England (Franklin Park and Stone Zoos). Bryan is applying for a grant from the Cricket Foundation to do a population study of three groups: endangered species, native plants, and vernal pools within Chelmsford's open spaces. These should include Land Trust properties.

If the Grant is approved, he will be asking for volunteers to assist in the observation and identification of species, checking traps, etc; as well as record keeping and cataloging of findings.

Training will be provided for novices, but volunteers with specific skills and expertise may be assigned more technical tasks. The survey should begin May, 2019 and last for an extended period of time. Opportunities for volunteers will be available throughout the survey period.

If you are interested in volunteering, we will have a sign up sheet for your contact information at the Annual Meeting so we can contact you next year. If you cannot attend the Annual Meeting, you can send us which study area you are interested in, your expertise, and contact information to the Land Trust email,

[Kelsi@Chelmsfordlandtrust.org](mailto:Kelsi@Chelmsfordlandtrust.org) and we will add it to the list.



## High Technology Lighting of Sunny Meadow Greenhouse

A new hydroponic greenhouse has been constructed at the Sunny Meadow Farm and is actively supplying fresh produce to area stores. The Land Trust holds the Conservation Restriction on the property and reviewed and approved Bill Evans' (the proprietor) construction plans and location. The use of LED lighting during the evening allows growing the produce in a shorter period of time.

The Board of Directors felt Mr. Evans' plans were in keeping with the Conservation Restriction and agricultural use of Sunny Meadow Farm. We wish him success in his venture!