



## ASSABET RIVER WALK



The Concord Land Conservation Trust will be hosting a walk as part of the 2013 Riverfest Celebration. The CLCT walk will take place on:

**Saturday, June 22nd**  
**9:00 a.m.**

Park along the Nashawtuc Road causeway and meet at the corner of Nashawtuc and Musketaquid Roads. The walk will be approximately 1.5 hours, followed by refreshments.



Riverfest goes on all weekend long with events held in many different towns. For a full list of what is happening go to the SuAsCo website at:

[www.sudbury-assabet-concord.org](http://www.sudbury-assabet-concord.org)

## The Giffords Make An Additional Gift of Land

In 1994, I had the honor of succeeding Chandler “Tinny” Gifford as a trustee of the Land Trust. I admired Tinny not just for his commitment to preserving public open space but also for his care in maintaining his own land. Tinny managed his woods as parkland, keeping the underbrush down to preserve long sight-lines, much the way the Native Americans kept these woods 400 years ago and the way the Swiss keep many of their beautiful forests today.

Thanks to the generosity of Tinny, his wife Barbara, his son Peter and Peter’s wife Holly, the Land Trust is now the owner of the greater part of the land that Tinny tended so lovingly. The land came to us in a series of gifts—three acres from Peter and Holly

in 2003, seven acres from Tinny and Barbara in 2004 (which continue to be held by them in a life estate) and five acres from Tinny and Barbara in 2012. These 15 acres stretch from Monument Street to the Estabrook Woods. Together with adjoining protected land, they provide an important wildlife corridor from the Woods to the Concord River and contribute to the integrity of the Estabrook Woods as the town’s largest contiguous woodland. Because of wetlands near Monument Street, public access for walkers will be from Punkatasset and through our Hutchins Land on Two Rod Road.

We hope you will all join in expressing our gratitude to the Gifford family.

*-- John M. Stevens, Chairman*



*View of Gifford land recently donated to CLCT*

## Members Having Fun - Tracking, Snowshoeing and Walking



*Examining animal bones and other artifacts  
Photo by Lydia Rogers*

### Tracking Lecture

On January 22nd, tracker David Brown addressed a packed house at the Harvey Wheeler Community Center. The talk, titled “Using animal tracking techniques to discover hidden life in suburban woodlands”, was co-sponsored by Walden Keeping Track. As an addition to CLCT’s annual lecture series, it offered an extra opportunity for local residents to learn about finding signs left by the animals around us. During a brief pre-program session, visitors viewed skulls, pelts, and feet while awaiting the program.

By 7:30 Harvey Wheeler custodians posted signs announcing that the room was filled to capacity!

For over an hour the audience was treated to wonderful photos of wildlife and their tracks—enough to make anyone get out in the snow to see what critters had visited the area. As a bonus, David Brown allowed up to 20 people to sign up for a February 2nd tracking trip—first come, first served. Both the lecture and trip were energizing ways to get folks outdoors to explore CLCT lands!



*Snowshoeing along Two Rod Road*

### Winter Walk

Friday, February 8, 2013: A big snowstorm was coming, and Governor Patrick declared a state of emergency and a travel ban. Over the course of the next two days almost two feet of snow fell and many power lines came down. On Sunday, however, the sun was shining, the sky was a clear blue, and for those who could escape their house it was a glorious day to

be outdoors. CLCT just happened to have its winter walk scheduled for that Sunday. Unsure if anyone would show up, we decided to go ahead with the walk. We were rewarded for our perseverance when at least fifteen people joined us to explore what was truly a winter wonderland in the Estabrook Woods.

### Annual Meeting

On November 4, 2012 over 75 people attended the Concord Land Conservation Trust’s annual meeting and fall walk. The walk included a loop through our newly acquired Gowing’s Swamp property as well as a foray into the nearby Minuteman National Park. A business meeting was held afterwards to elect board members, discuss the events of the last year, and preview the work in the coming year.



*Gathering at the Ripley School for a walk through Gowing's Swamp*



## Phragmites Control

If you look to the south of Route 2 between Emerson Hospital and Sudbury Road, you'll see an area of Phragmites, a 10 foot tall reed that invades and takes over wetland habitats. This colony is on our Soutter Field-Bigelow Woods property and has been noticeably expanding. Starting in July, CLCT is beginning what will be a 3 to 5 year effort to eradicate it. A licensed contractor will be injecting an herbicide into the cut stems of the Phragmites, working from the outer fringes of the colony inward. The work is permitted under an Order of Conditions issued

to CLCT by the Concord Natural Resources Commission. Why are we targeting this invasive species, one that is difficult and expensive to eradicate? The Sudbury River corridor is a priority ecosystem and by controlling this patch, we hope to prevent its gaining a toehold throughout Concord.



## Please Do Not Pass the Garlic Mustard

For the past few years, we have watched with alarm as the invasive plant known as garlic mustard has arrived in Concord and surrounding communities. It is most common along roadsides but is now taking over woodlands as well. As our members learned at one of the Land Trust lectures several years ago, secondary compounds in garlic mustard can cause a decline in tree seedlings and grasses in the woodland understory by disrupting the mycorrhizal fungi with which their germination is associated. It is an increasing threat to the diversity of our forest ecosystems.

Identified by a swirl of heart-shaped, slightly serrated edged leaves low to the ground, garlic mustard can be pulled gently from the ground such that the white taproot comes out with the plant.



The plant grows from 6 to 24 inches tall, and then produces a small cluster of white flowers. By the time this newsletter is mailed, most seeds will have matured. However, as a rule, the flower should not be allowed to develop its seed



Pods: when they burst open wind will spread next year's crop widely. Surrounding the plant you may notice many small single-leaf plants beginning to emerge. These will produce next year's seed crop. They can be destroyed just by disturbing them with your hand or garden tool, or with an herbicide.

Once you have collected the plants, they should be bagged. You may dispose of them free of charge in the Invasives Bin at the Concord landfill.

## Thank You To...

- The Garden Club of Concord for a grant of \$750 to help us clear invasive plants in our Newbury Field.
- The Cedar Tree Foundation for a generous supporting grant.
- Michael and Sally Schnitzer for the grant of an access easement to enable the Land Trust to more easily manage the Newbury Field.
- The Emerson family for allowing us access to their land during our winter walk.
- Nancy Newbury-Andresen for a generous gift in memory of her parents.
- The Elm Brook Reunion Group for their contribution in memory of Allen Nixon Rodday and Ian Gunn.
- Walden Keeping Track for co-hosting a tracking lecture and making a donation.
- Donors to the Boathouse Fund in Nat Marden's honor. With these gifts the Land Trust was able to realize Nat's hope of restoring the boathouse (see photo below) on Fairhaven Bay.





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#### **Trustees of the Concord Land Conservation Trust**

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Lynn G. Huggins  
Jonathan M. Keyes  
Pauline Cross Reeve  
Gordon H. Shaw  
John M. Stevens, Chairman

#### **Directors of the Concord Open Land Foundation**

John Bemis  
Joan D. Ferguson  
F. Robert Parker  
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### **Return Service Requested**

## **Improving the Wright Woods Forest**

**F**or a number of years, we have been aware that white pine seedlings and saplings have proliferated in the Wright Woods. This is likely the result of a Gypsy Moth infestation a number of years ago that caused vast defoliation and, in turn, increased sunlight. When



*An area in the Wright Woods: the left hand side has been thinned and the right hand has not.*

we called in John Robbins, who has worked for us in these woods for 20 years, he wrote: “[Wright Woods] is an outstanding property that can be sustainably managed as a healthy forest that provides diverse wildlife habitat, recreation, and natural beauty.” We share his vision for this, our largest and one of our most beautiful properties.

He recommended selectively thinning the pine seedlings to give the healthiest trees enough growing space to develop and to maintain the roads and trails in an open condition. Thinning would also reduce the fire hazard that is created when the dense saplings are weakened due to overcrowding and fall over and die off.

We have begun the thinning effort on the main trail (adjacent to Fairhaven Road), cutting 20 to 30 feet either side



*Volunteers John Myers and David Bell assist John Robbins with thinning of the Wright Woods.*

of the trail and leaving sound saplings appropriately spaced for future growth. Volunteers follow behind collecting and piling together what John has cut.

We would welcome people who could volunteer a few hours to join us when this cutting is being done.