

Conserving the North Corner Parcel —A Successful Campaign!

In late April, CLCT members stepped up quickly and generously to fund the acquisition of the North Corner parcel. As many of you know by now, this 5.6 acre woodland is located close to the intersection of Garfield and Sudbury Roads. It is an important piece of the larger landscape of the Nine Acre Corner agricultural area, a landscape that CLCT and so many others have worked to preserve for the past twenty years.

The North Corner also plays an important role in the trail system that runs through 25.8 acres of CLCT-protected land along Garfield Road. While trails in this area are convenient to residential neighborhoods, they are remote from houses and pass through a varied landscape that includes ledge

outcrops and open views of agricultural fields. The possible development of the North Corner would have greatly diminished the trail experience, and preserving it ensures that visitors can continue to enjoy the same lovely and natural walk that they do today.

One of the reasons that the seller accepted the Land Trust's offer to purchase the North Corner parcel over that of another party was our promise of a quick, non-contingent closing. This left us with a two month window for fundraising—a challenge that was accepted with enthusiasm by the many neighbors and members who made donations. Thus, it is with great appreciation for this support that we announce the successful preservation of the North Corner.



The North Corner parcel recently acquired by CLCT is shown in red on the map.



CLCT Trustee John Stevens points out the North Corner boundary line adjacent to our trail on the Ferguson Land.

As with so many of the meaningful areas of open space in Concord, this one is the result of acquiring smaller, contiguous parcels over many years. Once each parcel is assigned its own name, reference to the area as a whole becomes cumbersome. We will continue to use the individual names for the four separately acquired properties along Garfield Road, but we will be calling them collectively 'Garfield Woods.'

An opportunity and challenge: planning a site restoration project in the Wright Woods



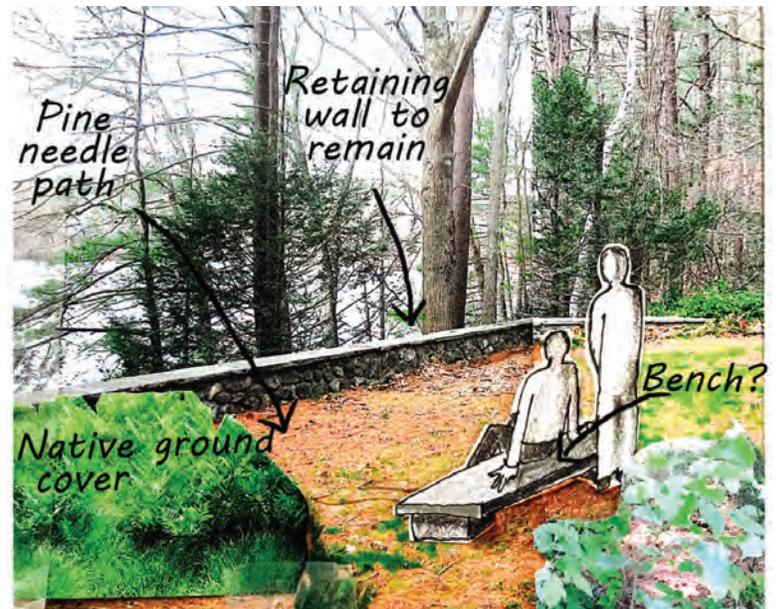
As was described in our last newsletter, the thinking of the Trustees about how to manage and use the Wright Woods continues to evolve. We believe that management should be directed towards preserving the experience of quiet and tranquility that is afforded by the size and remoteness of this, our largest property. It is our vision that, over the long term, it will be possible eventually to close down all but a fire road through this land, remove the utility poles and power lines and return the woods to their natural state, while enhancing and enriching access at its periphery. Over the near term, the Trustees will begin this fall to remove one of the residential structures that was included in the original gift of land and to restore its site overlooking Fairhaven Bay to a more natural condition.

The restoration of the site creates a number of opportunities that we will be exploring as the planning process moves forward: the chance to open up a part of the woods that hasn't been available to visitors until

now, to recognize the legacy of Helen Robinson Wright's gift, and to provide interpretive materials about the history of the site.

Mrs. Wright donated 239 acres of what we now call the Wright Woods to the Land Trust between 1959 and 1978, including several "camps." One of these, named Harvey Camp, was taken down by the Trustees soon after the land it stood on was gifted in 1977. Another was Bay House, the summer home of Helen Robinson Wright. Nat Marden, Mrs. Wright's grandson, lived in Bay House and managed the land for CLCT until he passed away in 2012. It is this structure that we are planning to remove. The charming stone boat house that walkers pass by on the trail along the shore of Fairhaven Bay was also a part of Mrs. Wright's summer home and will remain. The Land Trust stabilized the boat house in 2012 and plans to provide information on its origins and use as part of the restoration.

The site's new life will be as a secluded and tranquil spot for quiet reflection or perhaps a picnic. Although planning is in the early stages, we anticipate restoring the area with native plants and providing a place where interpretive information is available. We are enjoying the historical and family documents that we have received from various members of Helen's family and hope to enlist their help in creating interpretive materials. We believe that this beautiful spot, so close to the hustle and bustle of modern life and yet



Sketch of new overlook of Fairhaven Bay

so removed, will provide a welcome respite for generations to come. We look forward to updating you on our progress over the coming year.

The Land Trust would prefer to see Bay House moved and reused, and will make it available at no cost if this can be accomplished at minimal impact to the woods and in a timely manner. In July, we placed a notice in the local paper soliciting proposals from interested parties to relocate the house (call the CLCT office at 978.369.6526 for more information). If this solution is not forthcoming, however, we will remove the house, salvaging and recycling whenever possible.

Events Roundup: A Very Busy Spring!



CLCT's spring walk took place on May 3rd when an enthusiastic group (a few pictured above) walked from the Ferguson Land, past the North Corner parcel for which there was an active fundraising campaign (see related article on front page), and then along the ridge to the Thornton Woods property on Garfield Road. We were fortunate to have naturalists Cherrie Corey and Peter Alden on the walk. They pointed out the only native stand of sugar maples in Concord, a lovely wildflower commonly known as wood anemone, and many other features.

For Willard School's Day of Service in May, students from the 5th grade helped clear brush, stones and tree limbs that were hindering land management efforts in the field on CLCT's Thornton Woods property. Thank you, students!

In April, CLCT hosted the Richard Taylor Environmental Lecture, an annual event in memory of Professor Taylor who was a leading force in protecting the Estabrook Woods. This year, Andy Biewener, Harvard Professor of Biology, described his research into animal movement and how it can inspire biorobotics. The audience was captivated by his video footage showing how an emu manages to stabilize itself after encountering an unexpected hole while running, how mountain goats scale a dam, and literally a bird's eye view of flight taken from a camera attached to a falcon. The corresponding lessons used in programming robots were equally fascinating. Our thanks to long time Land Trust supporter and Concord resident, Professor Biewener, for sharing his research.



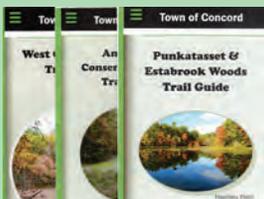
As part of CLCT's partnership with the Musketaquid Arts and Environment program, Morningstar Medaye led a scavenger hunt through the woods and along the fields of the Miller Farm property; a deer skeleton, grass blade whistles and salamanders were some of the many highlights. The partnership is intended to create opportunities for families and children to explore the outdoors.



The Land Trust joined in the annual Riverfest celebration by hosting a walk that touched all three of Concord's rivers from properties around Nashawtuc Hill. Often, the attendees (in photo above) at our Riverfest walks are first-time visitors to the area and the walk is a good introduction to how rich its historical and natural resources are.



Starting in March, the Concord Environmental Consortium continued with its lecture series, including a lecture by Andrew Vitz (above), the State Ornithologist, on bald eagle restoration in Massachusetts. The Consortium is a cooperative program by biology teachers at Concord's three high schools, sponsored by CLCT.



Town of Concord Issues New Trail Maps

The Town of Concord's Division of Natural Resources (DNR) and Trails Committee recently released new maps for six town-owned conservation properties, with three more to come. Copies are available at trailheads, the DNR office (141 Keyes Road), or may be downloaded at concordma.gov under the Natural Resources department. If you prefer an overview, a new large format townwide trail map is available for purchase at the DNR office or the Town House.



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Chandler Gifford: Accomplished the Trust's Mission in More Ways Than One

On June 21st, Father's Day, Chandler Gifford passed away. Chandler, known to many as "Tinny", served as a Trustee of CLCT for 17 years, eight of those as Chairman. If you consider what happened during his watch, you will understand how much he contributed to conservation in Concord.

In the early 1980s he was instrumental in the decision to hire John Lambert, a forester and Concord resident, to prepare a forestry survey of our largest holding, the Wright Woods. This work was the first building block for our management practices on that land which continue today.

Chandler recognized the development pressure on valued open space especially as the real estate market took off in the 1980s. One threat in particular that he took on

was the "Concord Commons"— a proposed development of 251 homes on Bear Garden Hill near Wright Woods. CLCT joined with other local



conservation groups and successfully opposed the project. The property was purchased as conservation land by the Walden Woods Project (with which

Chandler was also involved) in 1990. During this time, CLCT established an affiliate called the Concord Open Land Foundation (COLF) to give us more flexibility in responding to this rapid land development. Its mission was to offer landowners a way to realize some equity from their land while at the same time maximizing the preservation of open space.

In addition to his leadership on the board of the Land Trust, Chandler also led by example as a citizen and landowner in Concord. In 2004 and 2012 he and his wife Barbara donated portions of their property off Monument Street to the Land Trust—12 acres in total. We, and everyone who enjoys open space in the Town of Concord, are indebted to him for his hundreds of hours of volunteer work and the land he gave to all of us.