



*The 2010 Richard Taylor  
Environmental Lecture Series*

Tuesday, April 13th  
at 7:30pm

“Ecological Impacts  
of Extinction  
and Climate Change  
in African Savannas”

by

Dr. Rob Pringle

Concord-Carlisle  
High School,  
in the Little Theatre



*Dr. Rob Pringle. Courtesy photo.*

Rob Pringle is a Junior Fellow in the Society of Fellows at Harvard University. His work is aimed at unraveling the basic structure and functioning of ecosystems, with an eye towards understanding how these systems will respond to anthropogenic impacts on biodiversity and climate.

## Deer Management



Whitetail deer were abundant when the first colonists arrived. Massachusetts moved to protect this valuable source of meat and hides, passing the first regulation limiting the taking of deer in 1698. In 1739, alarmed by the continued decrease in numbers of deer, the General Court appointed “deer-reeves” to protect them, but despite this, deer had all but disappeared by about 1900. Biologists estimate there were fewer than 5,000 in Massachusetts in 1906. Today, there are close to 100,000! Deer are back, and best of all, the deer are healthy and in balance with their environment.... well almost....

Deer are in balance with the biological carrying capacity of the land (the largest number that can survive the hardest time of the year in good condition), but they are often not in balance with the social carrying capacity (the largest number that can survive in an area without causing

loud and frequent complaints from the public). Nor can extremely large numbers of deer survive in an area without impacting the native woodlands and the other species that live there.

A recent column in the Worcester Telegram & Gazette trumpeted: “deer love wildflowers - but wildflowers don’t love deer!” They munch fragile, tasty items like pink lady’s slipper and trilliums, and avoid plants with chemical defenses like skunk cabbage, goldenrod, or glossy buckthorn: plants that spread more easily once their competition has been eaten. USDA Forest Service botanist Tom Rawinski has studied this issue since 1980, documenting what happens when deer eat the native flora, and how it is replaced by hardy, fast-growing, invasive plants. You can read his overview of the problem and how it affects everything from ground cover to birds to trees at [http://www.na.fs.fed.us/fhp/special\\_interests/white\\_tailed\\_deer.pdf](http://www.na.fs.fed.us/fhp/special_interests/white_tailed_deer.pdf).

Deer love young trees, too. Saplings are highly desirable deer foods – so much so that in the late 1980s foresters overseeing Quabbin Reservation became alarmed when high deer

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### Volunteers Needed

*CLCT has a few projects this spring where some helping hands would make a big difference. See inside for more details.*

## Deer Management

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densities prevented the growth of young trees. To protect the Quabbin watershed limited deer hunting was permitted. Today Quabbin's lush forests protect both water supplies and wildlife, including deer.

Keeping wildlife populations in balance with the land and the needs of people is the responsibility of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife (DFW). The agency manages deer as a valuable natural resource, working toward density goals established in 1983 for each of 15 wildlife zones. Where density adjustments are needed, the DFW modifies deer hunting regulations and the number of antlerless deer permits allotted to hunters.

In most parts of the state, deer populations are healthy and close to their density goals. However, east of Rte. 495 deer densities are far higher than the goal of six to eight deer per square mile of deer range (forest). This is especially a problem in suburban areas that offer wonderful food resources: well fertilized farm crops, flowers, and landscape trees and shrubbery that provide excellent, high-quality deer fodder. Conservation lands here, especially woodlands, also generally offer protection from hunting. Environments such as these become pockets where deer breed, thrive, and spread to other areas. But the situation is improving as landowners and towns begin to work with the DFW on land access issues.

In 1997, in an effort to assist local landowners whose plantings were being impacted by deer, CLCT agreed to give hunters who already had permission from a landowner abutting our Wright Woods preserve, limited permission to pursue deer on certain

adjacent portions of CLCT land where deer trails meandered across privately-owned and CLCT lands.

Six hunters obtained such permission that first year and although they hunted hard, they did not take any deer. CLCT has continued to grant permits to five to six hunters/year to use some small portion of CLCT land adjacent to the lands on which they have landowner permission, and luck has improved. Between 2001 and 2010\* the hunters, all area residents who use the venison to supplement their meat supplies, took 47 deer (venison is delicious, low-fat, additive-free meat).

Last fall five hunters hunted for over 100 hours on lands abutting Wright Woods. Nat Marden, CLCT's Property Manager, posts trails in those areas so that walkers and joggers are aware of the possible presence of hunters (permission is granted only to bowhunters and is valid weekdays from sunrise to 9am and 3pm to sundown). Those five hunters took seven deer and reported seeing 30 – a sign that the area is still well above projected density goals. While the harvest of seven deer may be of small effect on the statewide level, it is significant in that it documents more than a decade of working with local landowners to help ensure that Wright Woods does not become a "biological wasteland" due to heavy deer foraging, and it underscores the fact that CLCT lands can and do accommodate a wide variety of uses.

*- Ellie Horwitz, CLCT Trustee and Chief of Information & Education for the Mass. Division of Fisheries & Wildlife in Westborough.*

\* Records for 1998 – 2000 were lost due to a computer malfunction



## Winter Walk

On Sunday, February 7th, about 30 members joined us for a winter walk through the Hosmer Woods and Mattison

Field. We found evidence of otters near the Sudbury River and coyotes throughout the woods. Hot chocolate and homemade ginger cookies were enjoyed after the walk.

## Hubbard Brook Trail

Nat Marden, CLCT's Property Manager, and Gordon Shaw, Trustee, spent many hours last spring creating a new trail along the edge of the Hubbard Brook Farmfield. Following this trail will bring you to the treeline at the back of the property and down to the Sudbury River through the Bigelow Woods.



*Atticus Kaye gets a ride from COLF director John Bemis on our winter walk.*

# Living with Beavers

For the past several years, beavers have lived in the Spencer Brook. Their lodges were just upstream of the Lindsay Pond Road bridge. They dammed the culverts under the bridge to such a degree that the resulting pond became a serious nuisance to abutters and in high water threatened traffic on the road. Regular attempts were made to breach the dam and reduce the flooding.

In the past two years, beavers moved downstream to the Land Trust causeway over to Newbury Field, where they built dams underneath two wooden bridges. The flooding threatened to close off our access. We took away the damming branches daily and every night the beavers would replace that material with new branches! This struggle went on over a period of several weeks each year. Finally, this past spring, we explored several alternatives to see if we could reach some mutual compromise, but the beavers declined our offers and did not give up. It was only when summer and low water made it difficult for them to bring in replacement materials



*View of the pipes and cage looking north from the causeway.*

that we had a chance to install what is known as the pipe and cage method of beaver control or what is commonly called a “beaver deceiver.”

This concept is used successfully elsewhere. The nearest one we have seen is on Hutchins Pond, originally built as an ice pond for Hutchins Dairy, where beavers dammed the outflow. Nat Marden, CLCT Property Manager, did some research and fabricated a similar device for our Newbury causeway.



*Even if the beavers rebuild their dam under the bridge, the water can still flow through the pipes.*

The idea is to set pipe(s) down in the water through the dam area extending them up and downstream. The open ends are then protected with a heavy duty wire cage so that beavers are not able to block the pipes and water will continue down under our bridge. The beaver can still build a dam around the pipes but sufficient water passes through the pipes to avoid significant stoppage of the flow. The picture at left is taken from the bridge looking up Spencer Brook at the two pipes with the cage just below water level. We’re looking forward to spring, when beaver activity recommences and we can gage whether our solution will be successful.

## Volunteer Opportunities

### Meet the Beetles

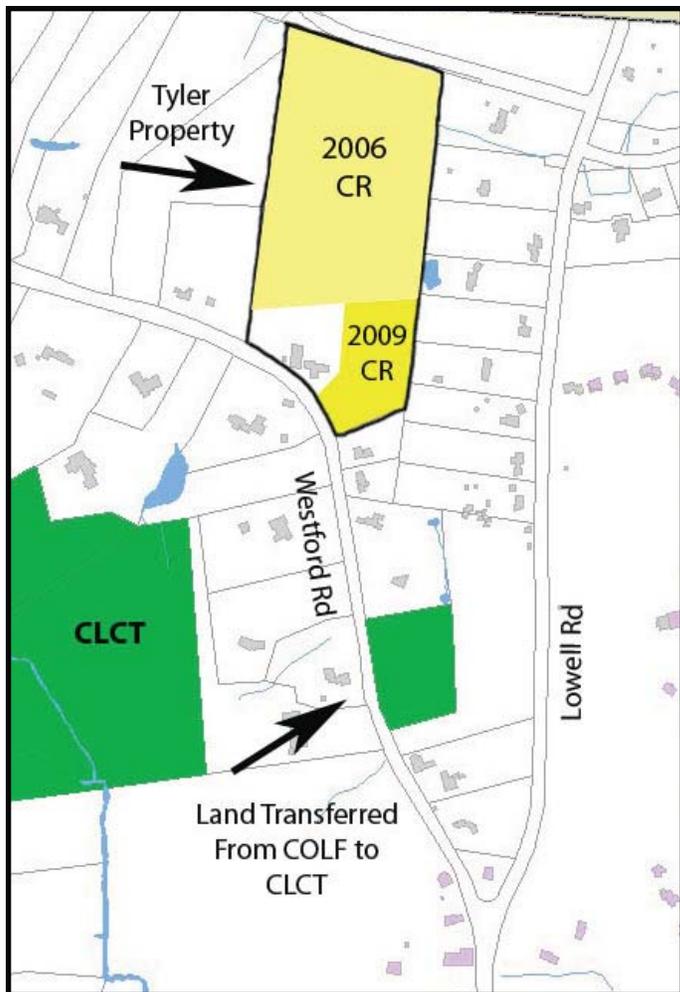
CLCT is planning to release beetles into its French’s Meadow property to control the purple loosestrife that has invaded the flood plain there. (This is part of a Cooperative Invasive Species Management program for the SuAsCo Watershed.) We hope that some of our members will volunteer to help release the beetles and monitor their success in the spring through fall of 2010. If you think you might be interested in this slightly different type of stewardship activity that may involve getting wet, please contact our office.

### Trail Clearing

Grab some loppers and a pair of gloves and join us to clear a trail leading to our Hosmer Land off of ORNAC.

To volunteer for either of these, please call our office at 369-6526 or e-mail us at [info@concordland.org](mailto:info@concordland.org)

## Adding to the Protected Land in Concord



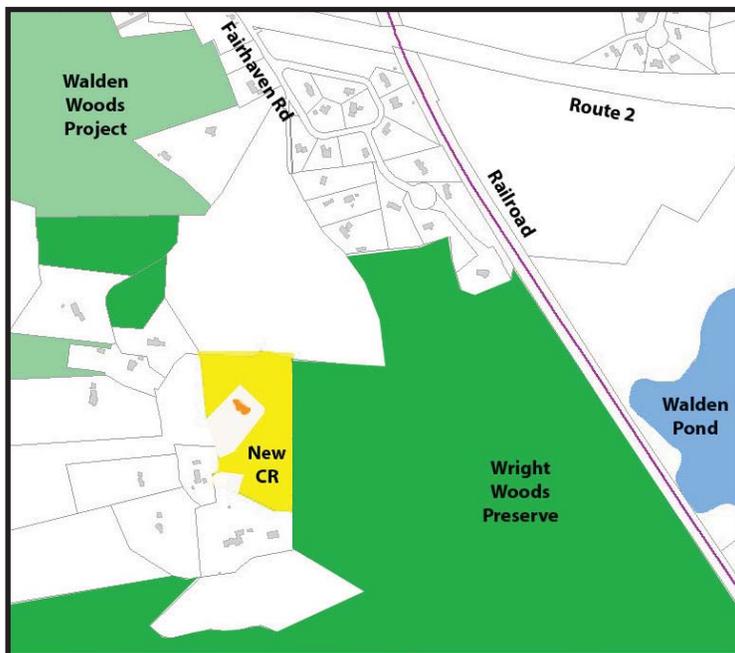
### 2.9 Acre Conservation Restriction Given by Vic and Mary Tyler

We are pleased to announce that the Land Trust has received a conservation restriction from Vic and Mary Tyler on a 2.9 acre farmfield on Westford Road. Combined with the 12.1 acres of farmland that they restricted in 2006, this 15 acres constitutes a scenic, historic, and agricultural resource that will now be preserved for generations to come.

### Additional Open Space - Upper Spencer Brook Valley

In 2009, the Land Trust added a new parcel of open space to its holdings in the Upper Spencer Brook Valley. The parcel is 2.7 acres of old field and wetlands on Westford Road originally purchased by its affiliate, the Concord Open Land Foundation.

COLF has more flexibility than CLCT to acquire, hold and sell property as part of land conservation projects. In this case COLF purchased a parcel with the intention, initially, of giving it to Middlesex School for faculty housing or playing fields; in return, the School would limit development within the Estabrook Woods. Later, another opportunity to use this parcel to leverage additional open space in the area also fell through. Thus, it was felt that the time had come for COLF to transfer the property to the Land Trust for permanent conservation.



### New Conservation Restriction on Fairhaven Hill

At the close of 2009, the Land Trust and the Walden Woods Project jointly purchased a conservation restriction on approximately 10 acres of oak-pine forest near the top of Fairhaven Hill.

The CR is contiguous to over 260 acres of conservation land owned by CLCT (our Wright Woods preserve). It is also near to 66 acres owned by the Walden Woods Project, to Walden Pond State Reservation and to the Adams Woods (owned jointly by the Towns of Concord and Lincoln).

The trail easement associated with the restriction offers the prospect of additional trail linkages through the Wright Woods between Walden Pond and the Sudbury River.

## Preserving a Homestead, Turf and Twig



*A view of the newly restricted 2.9 acre farmfield.*

What inspires landowners to decide to preserve their land? After spending over 50 years living and raising their family on their property on Westford Road, Vic and Mary Tyler recently donated two conservation restrictions on 15 acres of their farmland. I had the pleasure of sitting down with Vic Tyler to talk about the evolution of his and his wife Mary's interest in permanently protecting their land.

When the Tylers first moved to their "fixed-up farmhouse" and 17 acres in 1958, they arranged to have their fields hayed by area farmers and the hay sold to nearby horse farms. When the last farmer could no longer continue, around 2000, Vic bought the equipment – the mower, baler, tractor and wagon – and began to do the haying himself. He continues to enjoy this annual activity, as well as the diverse wildlife that is

supported by the fields and the woods and wetlands at their edges.

Also 10 years ago, Mary became interested in researching the history of their property. She and Vic have been able to trace the ownership and use of the land beginning in 1654 when it was part of a 180 acre farm. It was probably at its most prosperous in the mid-1860's when Hiram Jones ran a dairy operation at "Elm Farm," but even so historic records such as revenue lists suggest that farming was a hard life.

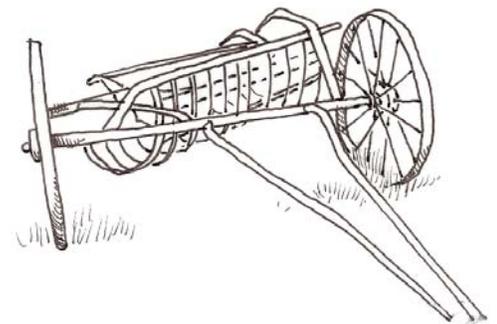
Concord's Historical Commission notes the rarity of the 18<sup>th</sup> century house type and the early 19<sup>th</sup> century barn. The Tylers appreciate the house, barn and fields as examples of what a typical farm would have been like.

The final impetus for thinking about restricting their land occurred when the Tylers began receiving inquiries from

real estate developers. They came to the realization that if they didn't take steps to preserve their land, it would probably eventually be subdivided into six house lots. Working with CLCT and Matlock Associates, a land planning firm, the Tylers placed a conservation restriction on their farmland in two phases. The terms of both restrictions permit only agricultural and horticultural uses and allow CLCT to keep the fields mowed if some future owner does not continue with farming. The Tylers continue to explore how they can also protect the historic characteristics of the house and barn.

A term in one of the earliest deeds caught Mary's eye: "delivered by turf and twig according to the law." This is an old English assurance to the recipient that the physical land is actually being delivered, and not just a paper document. The term not only has a nice cadence, but is descriptive of the physicality of land ownership. By living on the land, farming it, knowing its history and observing its wildlife over many years, the Tylers have come to fully understand it "turf and twig." We thank them for having acted to permanently preserve this timeless landscape.

*- Joan Ferguson  
CLCT Trustee*





## Annual Meeting 2009

The Land Trust marked its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at its Annual Meeting on October 24, 2009.

The meeting took place on a viewpoint overlooking Fairhaven Bay on a lovely autumn afternoon. Approximately 80 people attended the event. Highlights included a walk prior to the meeting that showed off a new conservation restriction on Fairhaven Hill which CLCT holds jointly with the Walden Woods Project.

Gordon Shaw and Ellie Horwitz were each elected to new three year terms on the board. John Stevens, the chairman of CLCT, acknowledged the many years of hard work the current board members have given and asked that all members begin thinking about who in the next generation will step up to lead the Trust in the coming years.

On this occasion, Marian Thornton, who had stepped down as Chair of the Land Trust in 2000, announced her resignation as a director of COLF. For most of the Land Trust's first-half century, Marian has been the heart and soul of land preservation in Concord. All of us who treasure the Town's open land owe Marian Thornton a sizable debt of gratitude.



## Pictures from the Annual Meeting in the Wright Woods



**CONCORD LAND CONSERVATION TRUST**

Statements of Financial Position  
September 30, 2009 and 2008

<b>Assets</b>	2009	2008
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,696,059	\$ 1,581,188
Pledge receivable-restricted to future land purchases	50,000	161,382
Pledge receivable-unrestricted	-	88,618
Due from affiliate	217,653	217,653
Property, net	29,946	32,759
Land - held as open space	19,927,855	19,927,855
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$ 21,921,513</b>	<b>\$ 22,009,455</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accrued Interest due to Carlisle Conservation Foundation	\$ 22,194	-
<b>Net assets</b>		
Unrestricted	1,751,661	1,979,650
Temporarily restricted	219,803	278,456
Permanently restricted	19,927,855	19,751,349
<b>Total liabilities and net assets</b>	<b>\$ 21,921,513</b>	<b>\$ 22,009,455</b>

Statements of Activities  
For the Years Ended September 30, 2009 and 2008

	2009	2008
<b>Contributions and other revenues</b>		
Direct public support	\$ 126,211	\$ 147,347
Other contributions, bequests and receipts	52,439	5,415
Rental income	22,061	22,061
Investment return	15,773	70,953
Contributions for land campaigns		
Hubbard Brook Farmfield	-	3,443,346
Thornton Land	-	916,977
Assabet Woods	8,850	-
<b>Total revenues and other support</b>	<b>225,334</b>	<b>4,606,099</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Program services		
Land Protection	125,113	-
Property maintenance	47,797	41,534
Insurance	10,215	5,761
Annual Meeting and Events	7,904	-
Real estate taxes	5,855	5,535
Education studies	4,342	3,606
Depreciation	2,813	2,813
Donations and Organizational Dues	1,800	-
Turtle study	-	6,000
Support services		
Salary	21,583	21,495
Accounting	7,225	-
Printing and postage	6,387	8,637
Office rent and utilities	7,350	6,200
Payroll taxes and fees	3,000	3,062
Office supplies and services	2,034	2,128
Telephone	724	1,023
Legal fees	481	157
Professional fees	-	5,887
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>254,623</b>	<b>113,838</b>
<b>Increase (decrease) in net assets</b>	<b>(29,289)</b>	<b>4,492,261</b>
Refund due to Carlisle Conservation Foundation	(80,847)	-
Temp. restricted net assets applied to amount due from affiliate	-	(185,986)
<b>Net assets at beginning of year</b>	<b>22,009,455</b>	<b>17,703,180</b>
<b>Net assets at end of year</b>	<b>\$ 21,899,319</b>	<b>\$ 22,009,455</b>



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#### Trustees of the Concord Land Conservation Trust

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Joan D. Ferguson  
Eleanor C. Horwitz  
Jonathan M. Keyes  
Pauline Cross Reeve  
Gordon H. Shaw  
John M. Stevens, Chairman

#### Directors of the Concord Open Land Foundation

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Gordon K. Bell  
John Bemis  
Joan D. Ferguson  
Thomas C. Tremblay

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## A Welcome Sign

In commemoration of our 50th anniversary, CLCT began installing new property signs at some of the lands we own. With consistent signage on a greater number of properties, we hope residents will be more aware of where our properties are and where they can take walks, and that these woods, meadows and farmfields represent permanently protected open space.

We owe the **Garden Club of Concord** a big thank you for awarding us a grant to begin this process and the picture below shows the result. We expect the rest of the signs to go up this spring.

