

Join us for
CLCT's
50th Anniversary
Annual Meeting
and
Fall Walk
in the
Wright Woods

Sunday,
October 25th
at 1:15 p.m.

Park along Arena Terrace off
Fairhaven Road. Look for a
postcard from us soon with
more details.



Photo by Alan and Ruth Bragg

*Sudbury River downstream of
Fairhaven Bay. Invasive water
chestnuts cleared by Concord's NRC,
the Town of Lincoln, CLCT and many
volunteers. For more pictures of the
water chestnut clearing please go to
www.concordland.org/steward.html*

What the Future Holds

Major anniversaries are occasions to look back and reflect. On its 50th, the Concord Land Conservation Trust can do so with a fair degree of satisfaction. During its first 50 years, the Land Trust preserved almost two square miles of Concord's woods and fields. Beginning as a private alternative to the Town for the receipt of donations of open land for the public benefit, we grew to an active organization that identified important tracts of woodland and farmland, solicited donations and, if necessary, purchased these priority parcels for preservation. But we cannot let satisfaction make us self-satisfied, and anniversaries have to be times for looking forward as well as backward.

Looking forward, the Land Trust will have to be prepared for different challenges. As long as unprotected open land was fairly abundant, our principal aim was to protect additional land. That task is not yet done. But as opportunities for acquisition inevitably become fewer, the Land Trust's priorities necessarily will change from acquisition to management.

One management goal--already underway--is to make the Land Trust's properties more accessible and useful to Concord's residents. The 2005 map booklet was a start. More prominent and informative signage is about to appear.

Increasingly, cedar planks cover wet spots on our trails. More trail improvements ought to follow. Should it prove infeasible to acquire ownership of - or conservation restrictions on - parcels that separate our properties, we should try to achieve linkages by obtaining public rights of passage across or around those intervening parcels.

Other management priorities are less clear. Are any of our woodland properties large enough to make it sensible to halt active management and let nature take its course? Is that course consistent with control of invasives? What balance should we strike between keeping our hay fields productive and managing them for wildlife habitat? The answers to these and similar questions will evolve over time.

What is clear is that the current membership and management of the Land Trust and the Open Land Foundation will not be making all of these decisions over the next 50 years. The continued management of open land for the public benefit over that period will require the active involvement of two more generations of Concord residents. Keeping CLCT vibrant requires making these new residents as excited by - and committed to - Concord's natural landscapes as have been the first two generations of Land Trust members.

- John Stevens, CLCT Chairman

Concord Land Conservation Trust

1959-1969

281 acres acquired.

The launch of the Concord Land Conservation Trust coincided with the first of many generous land donations by Helen Robinson Wright. Over 19 years Mrs. Wright gave CLCT 240 acres of land in the Fairhaven Hill area.

During this time trustees also helped raise funds to complete the acquisition and establishment of Harvard University's Concord Field Station, a biological research area of about 700 acres in the Estabrook Woods.

This decade marked our first land acquisition campaign. \$1,350 was raised to purchase French's Meadow (29 acres on Nashawtuc Road) in 1961.



Helen Robinson Wright (on the right) shown here with her two sisters - Mary Harvey Conant and Ruth Wheeler

Correction: Our apologies to the family of Helen Robinson Wright whose name was inadvertently transposed in the last newsletter.

1970 - 1979

109 acres acquired

21 acres under Conservation Restriction (CR)

Our conservation work in the Spencer Brook Valley began during this time. Donors of land included Henry Keyes, Winifred and Russell Clark, and Chapie and Alan Bemis. With the purchase of 17.5 acres (for \$14,259!), the acquisitions totaled 47 acres -- all in the upper Spencer Brook watershed.



Views of the Spencer Brook Valley



It was at this time that CLCT began receiving donations of Conservation Restrictions (CRs) under the state's 1969 enabling legislation which authorized restrictions "in perpetuity". Over the years, CRs have proven to be an invaluable tool for preserving open space. For example, a later donation by Mardi and Pete Perry of a CR on their land significantly increased the protected area in the upper Spencer Brook watershed.

1980 - 1989

27 acres acquired

68 acres under CR

A hallmark of this decade was the partnerships formed with other organizations.

CLCT helped raise funds for the Adams Woods (half of which lies in Concord and is now owned by the Town of Concord), a project spearheaded by the Lincoln Conservation Commission to protect 87 acres of woodland bordering CLCT's Wright Woods.

Acting as agent for the Town of Concord, CLCT helped raise funds to successfully acquire Agricultural Preservation Restrictions on 66 acres of farmland at Nine Acre Corner.



Working with the Friends of Heywood Meadows, CLCT helped preserve the land at the corner of Heywood Street and Lexington Road.

Concord Open Land Foundation (COLF), a sister organization, was formed in 1988. Its role is to take an aggressive approach in the preservation of open land by competing directly with developers for key parcels. In doing so COLF seeks to satisfy landowner needs while at the same time maximizing conservation values.

Fifty Years of Land Protection

1990 - 1999

*299 acres acquired
119 acres under CR*

Continuing the conservation work in the Spencer Brook Valley, Anne Newbury donated 40 beautiful acres west of Lowell Rd. in 1990. Six years later, her children donated another 60 acres east of Lowell Rd.



Anne Newbury

COLF spearheaded this work with Anne Newbury. A few years later, COLF worked with Jane Hallenbeck to create a limited development plan of her property whereby she donated 16 acres of land to CLCT and provided for restrictions on an additional four acres.

One of CLCT's most significant endeavors was the "Campaign for the Estabrook Woods." This was a cooperative effort that included the Carlisle Conservation Foundation, The Trustees of Reservations, Harvard University, government agencies and many others. The result was that 1,072 acres of the Estabrook Woods were signed into permanent protection on January 13, 1997.

2000 - 2009

*185 acres acquired
64 acres under CR*

One of the most notable donations of land during this time came from the Poutasse family. Their donation of over 60 acres in the Nine Acre Corner area was an extraordinary gift. This includes agricultural land that continues to be farmed by Steve Verrill and Chip Poutasse.

Later in the decade, CLCT continued its efforts to preserve agriculture in town with the acquisition of the 25 acre Corey-Bourquin land and the 17 acre Hubbard Brook Farmfield. Most of our farmland continues in active agriculture by local farmers.

CLCT also launched several fundraising campaigns for land during this time, including the Simon Willard Woods, 65 acres of white pines and wooded



*Above: the Corey-Bourquin Land
Below: the Hallenbeck Land*



floodplain extending to the Assabet River. Twenty-six acres were purchased from the Garth family for \$3.3 million and a Conservation Restriction on another 39 acres was generously donated by Marian Korbet and her son Benedict Koehler.



Views of Simon Willard Woods



A Note of Thanks

The Concord Land Conservation Trust received a very generous bequest this year from the Estate of Eric Parkman Smith. Mr. Smith was a longtime member of CLCT and a land donor. In 1991, Mr. Smith donated 10 acres of land to CLCT. The land is located on Fairhaven Hill and is adjacent to our Wright Woods property. We extend our condolences to the Smith family and sincere appreciation for all that Mr. Smith did for the Land Trust and the Town of Concord.



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Newbury Field Fire

A grass fire broke out on the Newbury Field and an adjoining field off Lowell Road on the afternoon of March 25th. Thanks to the quick response of the Concord Fire Department and five neighboring communities there were no injuries or damage to homes in the area.

A few trees and juniper shrubs were lost but overall the field is recovering nicely and enjoying healthy new growth as shown in the pictures below. CLCT has been managing this field for little bluestem, a native grass that is adapted to a fire regime.



View of Field 3 days after the fire

View of Field 2 months after the fire