

Gowing's Swamp Land Purchased

On July 4, 1998, Concord's first Biodiversity Day, the first day on which more than a thousand species were identified in a single town on a single day, the Land Trust's Chairman Marian Thornton looked at the noontime tally and saw that no one had yet recorded a black spruce, a sundew or other plants that tend to flourish in bogs. Marian knew just where to find them. After lunch, she led me to Gowing's Swamp, an ecological treasure tucked away between the Ridge, Ripley School and St. Bernard's Cemetery. There, we observed the bog vegetation and added several plant species to a

list that, by the end of the day, totaled 1,905. After that experience, the bog was on the Land Trust's short list of important sites for conservation.

It took more than a decade, but the Land Trust is delighted to announce

that – thanks to the generosity of Paul and Susan Ware and many other contributors – Gowing's Swamp and the walking trails that circumnavigate it have been preserved in their entirety. The greater part of the Swamp has been protected for some years by the Sudbury Valley Trustees and the condominium association for Merriam Close. Until the end of 2011, the remainder was owned by the Wares.

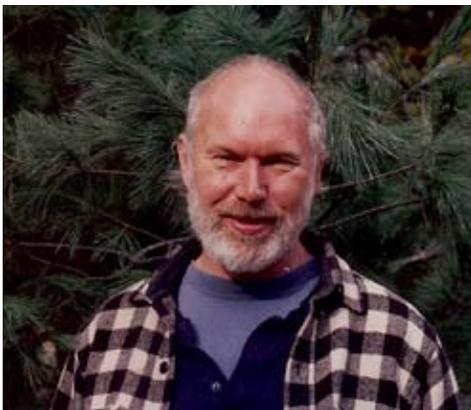
In 2010, the Wares secured permits to develop a residential cluster on the part of their property containing a portion of Gowing's Swamp and a house lot

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Nat Marden Remembered

Nat Marden's relationship with the Land Trust began in the spring of 1975 when he offered to help keep an eye on the Wright Woods during Concord's bicentennial celebrations. His grandmother, Helen Robinson Wright, was the donor of the 240 acre Wright Woods. Nat lived in her



Nat Marden

summer house on Fairhaven Bay until he died this year on June 1st.

The relationship between the Land Trust and Nat evolved over time. He started a landscaping business, and the Land Trust became his largest client. Nat managed all of our lands – eventually almost 900 acres. He fought a tenacious battle with the invasive water chestnuts in Fairhaven Bay. For his work to eradicate them, he was honored by the Daughters of the American Revolution with their Conservation Medal in 2003 and received the River Stewardship Award at the Riverfest celebration in 2010.

Nat mowed our fields, maintained trails, and built bridges. As our Property Manager, he solved engineering problems such as how

to convey a granite bench a quarter of a mile across a woodland trail and up a hillside, how to outsmart beavers so our land did not become impassable, and how to coax the water chestnut harvester to life each spring. He supervised countless Eagle Scout projects on Land Trust lands. And when there wasn't enough money in the budget to do something, Nat often volunteered his time.

For 37 years Nat kept faithful watch over Concord's open land. He particularly treasured the Wright Woods and Fairhaven Bay. For many years to come, the bench that the Land Trust will place in Nat's honor will look out over the Woods and the Bay. Please remember Nat, enjoy the bench, and help keep the watch.

Q & A With Our Two New Board Members:

Lynn Huggins



Did I hear correctly that you grew up in Concord? Yes. Other than being away during college and graduate school, my husband, Chuck, and I are life-long Concord residents (both CCHS graduates). We have two daughters, Alyssa (21) and Sarah (17).

How have you enjoyed your time outdoors in Concord over the years? My husband and I have always been drawn to the outdoors and grew up running and walking on the trails around Concord, canoeing on the rivers, swimming in the ponds, and cross-country skiing in the Estabrook Woods. The years that we spent living away from Concord led us to fully appreciate the beautiful rivers and waterways, open spaces, farm land, and natural resources that we took for granted growing up here.

What skills do you bring to the board? I have a good understanding of how Concord's town government works. I have held several volunteer positions here including time on the Planning Board and the Community Preservation Committee. I am also an avid gardener and long-term member of the Garden Club of Concord so I should be able to help with plant identification! In addition, I am a staff attorney for the justices of the New Hampshire Supreme Court and expect those skills will come in handy as well.

Why did you agree to join the CLCT board? I have enormous respect and gratitude for those Concordians who have led the effort to preserve and protect Concord's natural spaces for our own enjoyment and the enjoyment of generations to come. Being a CLCT Board member will give me the opportunity to carry that work forward.

Rob Parker



How long have you lived here and what attracted you to Concord? My wife Lindsey and I moved to Concord from Cambridge in 2003. While the schools and the town's reputation for high civic engagement were important, the other thing that really attracted us to Concord was the town's combination of open spaces and well-planned public and commercial areas. That combination

is (unfortunately) relatively rare, and it's one of the things that makes Concord pretty special.

Have you always been interested in land conservation? I have always been an outdoorsman, and it's through those experiences, and seeing the places where I grew up and played as a kid change, that I came to my interest in land conservation.

Do you think your professional background will be helpful to the board? I am a commercial real estate lawyer by training, and so I expect my legal skills might be helpful when it comes to land transactions or even conservation restriction monitoring.

Are there outdoor activities that your family enjoys doing together? We enjoy skiing and swimming, and we just tackled our first "real" mountain hike together as a family (our kids are 7 and 9) this spring, on Mt. Monadnock. Of course, we also like just heading out the door and exploring the many trails (CLCT's included) that run along the fields and woods near the Assabet and Sudbury Rivers right here in town.



Tick Awareness

CLCT has joined the effort by the town’s Board of Health to make people more aware of ticks and the



A smart (but not in the fashion sense) participant on our spring walk.

diseases they carry. You may have noticed the signs we have placed at the beginning of many of our trails. We hope soon to have some boxes as well with information you can take with you. And don’t forget to tuck in those pants!

Who’s Camping Out on the Soutter Field?

Steve Verrill’s cows grazed on the Soutter Field long before Mrs. Soutter gave the land to CLCT. Starting last summer, however, the cows got new neighbors. Pete and Jen’s Backyard

Birds, in cooperation with Verrill Farm, started keeping chickens on the land. Several chicken “coops” on wheels are placed on the field and are moved around frequently to provide the chickens with a constant supply of insects and plants. Their fertilizer improves the pasture which in turn provides quality forage for the cows. After just one year, the field is looking healthier and we hope it will look better still at the end of this season.



Chicken “Coops” on Soutter Field

Update on the Rogers Land

Just over a year ago, Land Trust members helped the Town purchase and preserve the Rogers land – a five acre parcel of old field and riverfront in West Concord. Since then, the Town has begun the process of rehabilitating the property so it can be put to the open space and agricultural uses for which it was acquired. The Town has cleaned up some (minor) contamination, and a spring work party helped clear debris so that the overgrown farm field could

receive the first of several renewal plowings. A conservation crew has also been removing invasive species from the property and will brush hog the site in the coming weeks. Next up: the removal of tons of old farm debris and a failing retaining wall and slope restoration efforts.



Thank You To...

- The Garden Club of Concord for a grant of \$750 to help us clear invasive plants along Route 2 at the Soutter Field.
- The Cedar Tree Foundation for a \$5,000 grant to be used on invasive plant removal.
- Cherrie Corey for her help on the Gowing’s Swamp project including the use of her photos in our brochure and other materials.



Riverfest Walk



Stopping to investigate on French’s Meadow

On June 23rd, CLCT joined in the Riverfest 2012 celebration which took place in Concord and surrounding towns. CLCT trustees led a walk along the Assabet River and, thanks to an unusually dry spring, participants had the rare opportunity to cross French’s Meadow next to the Sudbury River.



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they had acquired on Independence Road. A few months later, they expressed an interest in conveying just over seven acres to the Land Trust at a price that was a fraction of the value of the property as permitted. Residents of Independence Road and the surrounding neighborhood – many of them Land Trust members – made generous commitments toward meeting the bargain price and were invaluable in helping to organize the subsequent fundraising.

Ultimately, 7.2 acres of Gowing's Swamp and its watershed were acquired. This includes the northwestern corner of the bog itself as well as access from Independence Road and a trail to the Revolutionary Road neighborhood. Every conservation project is different,

but the lesson we always learn is how generous and supportive our members are.

We hope that everyone will find the time to visit Gowing's Swamp. Parking is at Ripley School on Meriam Road. Walk through the playground on the south side of the school to the trail, and follow this in a clockwise direction around the Swamp. Or call the Land Trust office and we'll be happy to take you there.

John M. Stevens, Chairman

*Sphagnum found
at Gowing's
Swamp (Photo by
Cherrie Corey)*

