

The Richard Taylor
Environmental Lecture
Series concludes on:

April 14th
7:30 pm at
Middlesex School
“Climate Change At
Walden:
The Lesson Thoreau
Never Intended”

A lecture by
Charles Davis



THE CLCT NEWSLETTER

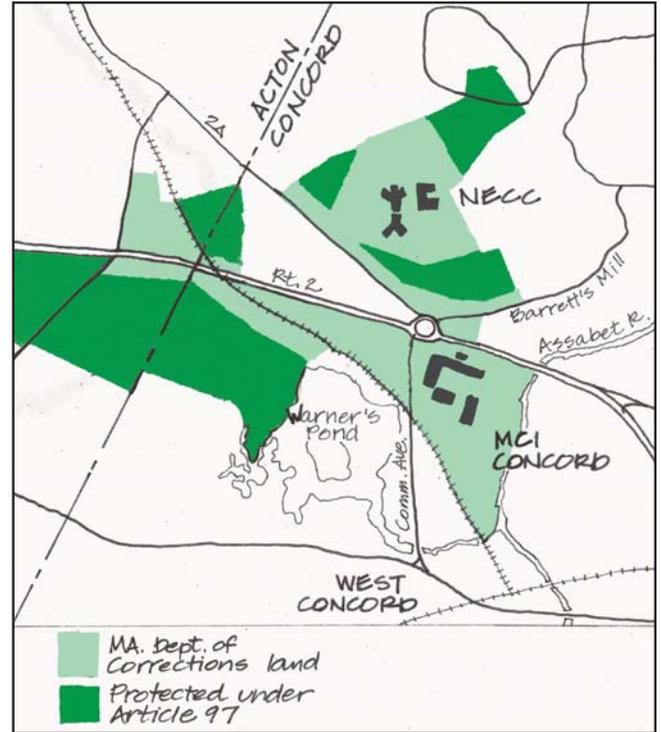
Inside This Issue:

- Page 2.....50th Anniversary
Page 3.....No Child Left
Inside
Page 4.....Notes from the
Field
Page 6.....Annual Meeting
Photos
Page 7.....2008 Financial
Statements
Page 8.....Tax Incentives

Prison Land Protected

What if the Commonwealth of Massachusetts decided to shut down the Northeastern Correctional Center, declare the land surplus and sell it to the highest bidder? What would become of the beautiful rural landscape that greets travelers coming east on Route 2 as they approach Concord? This seemed a very real possibility a few years ago when the state was actively surplusing its property.

Thanks to the hard work of a number of private and public entities, 215 acres of this agricultural vista (108 of which are in Concord) are now under Article 97 protection. This means that this land, which will remain in the care and control of the Dept. of Corrections (DOC), may only be used for conservation, recreation, open space, and agricultural purposes. Currently, much of the now protected prison land in Concord is used for prison farm purposes or is leased for agriculture (other parcels were retained for DOC needs, Rt. 2 improvements and future rail trails).



Spearheaded by Sudbury Valley Trustees, it took many years and the determined efforts of the Concord Land Conservation Trust, Acton Conservation Trust, town officials, the DOC and our legislators – Pam Resor, Susan Fargo, Cory Atkins and Jamie Eldridge – to get this legislation passed. It was signed into law on August 15, 2008 by Governor Deval Patrick.

With increasing pressure to develop our last remaining open spaces, this is exactly the type of creative thought, collaboration and perseverance that we need to preserve Concord's most important landscapes, and the Land Trust is very pleased to have been part of this initiative.

50 Years and Counting

A reflection on the first 50 years of the Concord Land Conservation Trust by Marian Thornton, Chair of CLCT from 1989 to 1999.

Yesterday, as I sped along on my skis up Two Rod Road in the Estabrook Woods in the fluffiest powder snow, I was reminded of a time when I encountered, in that hemlock forest, more than 50 chickadees gathering seeds from fallen hemlock cones. The forest was abuzz with their happiness and I was filled with thanks to past Concordians who had preserved these woods for the chickadees and me!

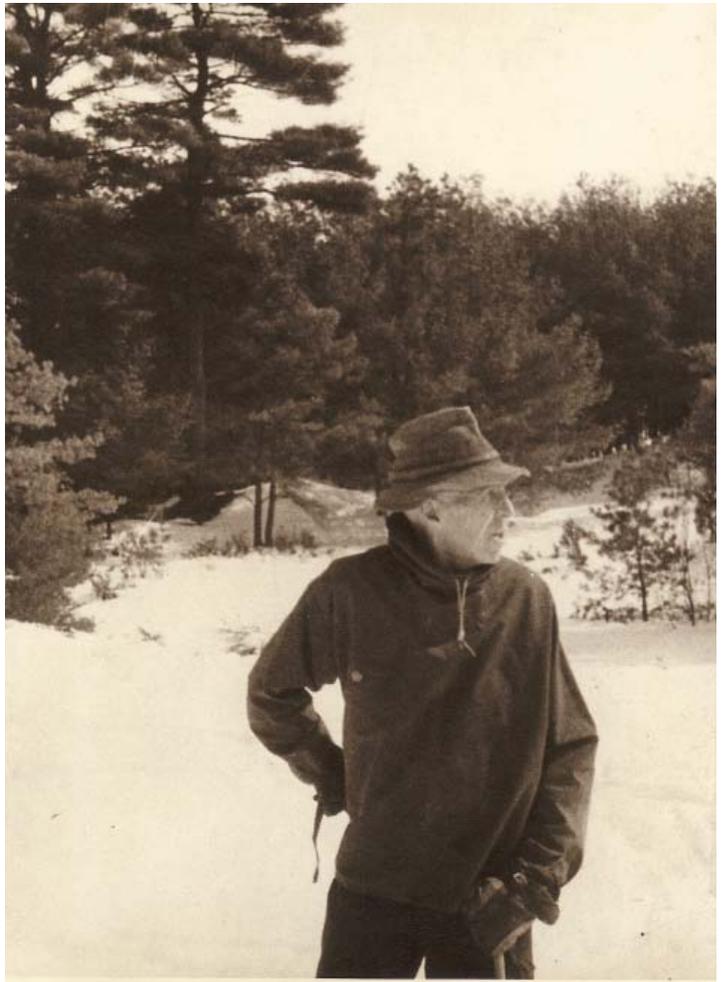
Who were the Land Trust's Founding Fathers and Mothers and how did they do it? Shortly after the Town of Concord formed a Conservation Commission in 1959 our founders -- David Emerson, Caroline Buttrick, Robert J. Rodday, and Tom Flint -- created a private nonprofit corporation, the Concord Land Conservation Trust, to complement the Conservation Commission. This would provide a private entity that could move quickly and not be dependent on waiting for a Town Meeting vote of approval.

With the new private Land Trust, trustees and friends moved rapidly to protect a great deal of Fairhaven Hill, through the deliberate kindness of the three Robinson sisters including Helen Wright Robinson for whom our property is named. Next the Land Trust raised funds to save a part of the Estabrook Woods owned by the Buttrick and Hutchins families. It became part of Harvard University's Museum of Comparative Zoology, thanks in part to Barbara Schevill, a local resident. These first protected areas started the ball rolling and throughout the next 50 years CLCT and its members have saved over 900 acres in fee, and 290 acres in conservation restrictions, reflecting and protecting Concord's historic and rural past.

As this year unfolds we will plan occasions to celebrate our 50th. However it is the 50 chickadees in the hemlock forest, the 100 robins eating berries in

the Spencer Brook Valley in the wintertime, and the moment I came to a junction of paths in the Fairhaven Woods and thought "Oh Gosh, I think I am lost!" that are the real celebrations. I mean, isn't it wonderful to be lost in the woods in a town only 15 miles from Boston?

In celebration of our 50th, I wish you, our members, would send in your memories of being on Land Trust land. By your support you have helped us to succeed, and we want to celebrate YOU!



Gordon Hutchins standing at the bottom of the Punkatasset ski slope around 1960. Mr. Hutchins owned and operated the dairy farm and orchard known as Punkatasset Farm. Much of Estabrook Woods was part of that family farm. CLCT helped raise the funds for its protection.



The following is an interview with CLCT trustee Ellie Horwitz.

Ellie is the Chief of Information & Education for the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife in Westborough. In this role she oversees preparation and

production of all of the agency's publications.

I hear the phrase “No Child Left Inside” all the time these days. Where did it come from?

The phrase was coined by Connecticut's Department of Environmental Protection in 2005. They were trying to encourage families to use the state parks and the catch phrase on their promotional t-shirts was No Child Left Inside.

The phrase plays off the federal government's education initiative entitled “No Child Left Behind” and couples it with the concept of “nature deficit disorder” which Richard Louv brought to everyone's attention in his book Last Child in the Woods.

“Nature Deficit Disorder”? Sounds bad. Is it contagious?

As a matter of fact it is. If your friends are not out exploring the woods then you're probably not doing it either.

Outdoor play helps children develop observational skills, imagination and basic physical fitness. It can lead to a lifelong connection to the natural, physical world and the opening of the mind to numinous moments of natural beauty. It is also a great de-stressor!

But kids have always loved playing and exploring outdoors. Why doesn't this happen as much anymore?

Parents and supervisors are fearful about children's safety. Not long ago, children could explore (and were *encouraged* to explore) outdoors on their own. This is often no longer considered safe by parents. There is fear about the increase in mosquito and tick-borne diseases. And of course the major concern is fear of other people. Also, there are now many more activities scheduled into kids' lives leaving children without much free time.

The substitution of ‘virtual experience’, first on television and now on the internet, for actual experience outdoors is a major cultural shift that has occurred in less than two generations. Our society is dividing into “indoor people” and “outdoor people.”

Reversing these trends is a pretty tall order. What's being done?

I think there is a growing recognition of the fact that this is a problem. One of many positive efforts is the development of a “No Child Left Inside” coalition, a broadly based, national advocacy group (www.nclcoalition.org). That membership, which is growing steadily, includes groups which represent the environment, education, business, public health, outdoor recreation and conservation interests.

What is the coalition working on?

The Coalition's focus is passage of a federal No Child Left Inside Act. This legislation would provide major new funding for states to provide high-quality, environmental instruction. Funds would support outdoor learning activities both at school and in non-formal environmental education centers, teacher training, and the creation of state environmental literacy plans.

Continued on Page 4

Continued from Page 3

How's the outlook for passing that act in the new administration?

The House of Representatives passed it in September with a fully bi-partisan 293-109 majority. With a new Congress in place, the process has to begin all over again. A bill has been prepared for reintroduction and there is little doubt that the bill will pass. Finding funding will, however, be another story.

Do you have children?

Yes, three great young adults aged 27 to 38. All of them enjoy outdoor activities including snowboarding, hiking, camping and kayaking. Sometimes they just like to be outdoors reading or soaking up some rays.

Did they like to play outside when they were young?

They certainly did and yet even they spent less unstructured time outdoors than the kids in my generation.

What do you suggest to parents and grandparents who want to encourage a child's relationship with nature?

In 2007 and 2008, Massachusetts' Department of Conservation & Recreation developed a program called the Great Parks Pursuit, encouraging families to visit the state's many exceptional parks. It's a great inducement to see some of the treasures Massachusetts offers. For those who want to stay close to home, what better place to "Leave No Child Inside" than on the wonderful natural areas secured by the Concord Land Conservation Trust? And when it comes to unstructured activities...there's no place like home!

Special thanks to Kat Edwards for her work on our website and other projects!



Encroachment

We constantly combat the spread of exotic invasive plants that take over our land and even our water bodies. The water chestnut threatens to choke the Sudbury River (which we combat in Fairhaven Bay) and other water bodies in our watershed while on land we struggle with glossy buckthorn, multiflora rose and oriental

bittersweet. These latter plants crowd into our trails and also spring up at the edges of and across our fields, even the ones we mow regularly.

We welcome volunteers who are willing to help in our efforts to dig up and at least cut back the plants before their seeds ripen and are dispersed by birds. We are especially thankful for the Fenn School Green Team that turns out four times each in the Spring and Fall with about ten students and a teacher. While swinging on vines of bittersweet is fun, the boys are also willing to struggle pulling out their red roots! This past fall these boys were relentless in clearing the edges of the Corey/Bourquin hay field and in rooting out buckthorn around rock ledges in the Newbury Field.



The Fenn School Green Team:

Hunter, Nathaniel, Daniel, Teitus, Max, Gavin, Cormack, Reid, Sam and Nick

Asiatic Longhorned Beetle (ALB)

We should all be aware of the devastation that has taken place in greater Worcester and surrounding towns where 16,000 trees are being removed to prevent the spread of the ALB. Recently, the Town of Lincoln Conservation Department and the Lincoln Conservation Trust invited those interested in learning more about the ALB to a presentation by Robert Childs of UMass Extension at UMass Amherst. He was called in to confirm the identity of the ALB when a resident of Worcester called in to report her find mid-summer. The shocking news was that they estimate the beetles had been present in Worcester for 12 years! The picture to the right will help you know what to look for in your back yard and when walking in the woods.

Childs reports that of the over 600,000 trees needing to be surveyed, 40,000 have been and over 7,000 were confirmed infested. So far, 6,200 trees were taken down and chipped in January within a 2.2 square mile area believed to be the epicenter of the infestation in the northern, more heavily treed portion of Worcester.

Blanding's Turtle Research

Research on the population of Blanding's turtles in the Great Meadows area of Concord continued in 2008 with trapping of new turtles, radio-tracking of nesting females, nest protection and "head-starting" of turtle hatchlings. This year residents of the nearby Peter Spring Road neighborhood got the chance to become involved in the effort when Blanding's turtles were found digging their nests in people's yards. According to Bryan Windmiller, wildlife ecologist, the number of mature females appears to be stable at approximately 25. However, the long term health of the population will depend on active management to increase the number of younger, reproducing individuals. CLCT has been supporting this research on one of Concord's threatened wildlife species for the past 5 years.

Disposal of Brush

We accumulate quite a bit of brush from pruning along our trails and fields and clearing the occasional storm blowdowns. For environmental reasons, the Trust has decided that it will no longer burn this brush.

We are now trying to cut and pile this material back in the woods where it will provide habitat for critters and will not contribute to air pollution and carbon release. There may be exceptions where the effort needed to transport the brush from a field into a woodland may not be worthwhile.

Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB)



What to Look For:

1. Adult beetles: Individuals are .75 to 1.25 inches long.
2. Oval to round pits in the bark: These egg-laying sites or niches are chewed out by the female beetle.
3. Oozing Sap: In the summer, sap may flow from egg niches, especially on maple trees.
4. Accumulation of coarse sawdust: Look for sawdust around the base of infested trees, where branches meet the main stem, and where branches meet other branches
5. Round holes: 3/8 inch in diameter or larger on the trunk and branches. These exit holes are made by adult beetles as they emerge from the tree

[This information was published on the USDA Forest Service website -- www.na.fs.fed.us]



Meeting in the Jeans' barn



Admiring a champion oak



Gordon Shaw, Trustee

ANNUAL MEETING OCTOBER 26, 2008

The Concord Land Conservation Trust's annual meeting was held on a glorious fall day and was hosted by Michael and Rosemary Jeans of Westford Road. Over 75 members attended, enjoying a walk in the Upper Spencer Brook Valley followed by refreshments and a short business meeting in the Jeans' barn.

John Stevens, the Chairman of CLCT, reported on the successful protection of both the Hubbard Brook Farmfield and the Thornton Woods this year. Richard Forman spoke for the Nominating Committee which recommended that Joan Ferguson and Jonathan Keyes both be elected to another three year term on the board.



*Richard Forman,
Nominating Committee*



*Steve Irza-Leggat enjoying the walk
with his sons James and Charlie*



Refreshments, Maps and Conversation

2008

CONCORD LAND CONSERVATION TRUST
Statements of Activities
For the Years Ended September 30, 2008 and 2007

	2008	2007
Contributions and other revenues		
Contributions for land campaigns		
Hubbard Brook Farmfield	\$ 3,443,346	\$ 10,000
Thornton Land	916,977	10,000
Direct public support	147,347	363,386
Investment return	70,953	72,086
Rental income	22,061	22,061
Other contributions and receipts	5,415	3,459
Total revenues and other support	<u>4,606,099</u>	<u>480,992</u>
Expenses		
Program services		
Property maintenance	41,534	39,386
Turtle study	6,000	1,000
Insurance	5,761	5,139
Real estate taxes	5,535	5,432
Education studies	3,606	2,000
Depreciation	2,813	2,813
Support services		
Salary	21,495	20,800
Printing, postage and membership	8,637	6,714
Office rent and utilities	6,200	6,195
Professional fees	5,887	6,600
Payroll taxes and fees	3,062	2,877
Office supplies	2,128	6,160
Telephone	1,023	757
Legal fees	157	306
Total expenses	<u>113,838</u>	<u>106,179</u>
Temporarily restricted net assets applied to amount due from affiliate	(185,986)	-
Increase in net assets	4,306,275	374,813
Net assets at beginning of year	17,703,180	17,328,367
Net assets at end of year	<u>\$ 22,009,455</u>	<u>\$ 17,703,180</u>

CONCORD LAND CONSERVATION TRUST
Statements of Financial Position
September 30, 2008 and 2007

	2008	2007
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,581,188	\$ 1,208,232
Pledge receivable-restricted to future land purchases	161,382	-
Pledge receivable-unrestricted	88,618	-
Investments	-	346,823
Due from affiliate	217,653	403,639
Property, net	32,759	35,572
Land - held as open space	19,927,855	15,708,914
Total assets	<u>\$ 22,009,455</u>	<u>\$ 17,703,180</u>
Net assets		
Net assets		
Unrestricted	1,979,650	1,847,712
Temporarily restricted	278,456	464,442
Permanently restricted	19,751,349	15,391,026
Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$ 22,009,455</u>	<u>\$ 17,703,180</u>

A complete copy of our audited financial statements is available upon request.

FINANCIALS



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

Directors of the Concord Open Land Foundation

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

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Tax Incentives Extended

Congress has authorized another year of increased tax incentives for landowners who claim a charitable deduction for the donation (or bargain sale) of a conservation restriction. For 2009, landowners can deduct up to 50% of their Adjusted Gross Income (up from the previous allowance of 30%) and can spread the deductions over 15 years (rather than five).

A conservation restriction (CR) enables an owner to continue to own the property while permanently restricting the future development of some or all of it. CLCT holds restrictions on 290 acres of private land, protecting open fields, wetlands and

woodlands for their scenic, habitat and recreational values.

This tax incentive was also in effect for 2006 and 2007, and proved to be effective in protecting open space across Massachusetts. A comparison of state records for 2000 through 2007 shows that there were 266 CRs granted in 2007, up from an average of 140 per year since 2000; 11,101 acres were placed under CR in 2007 compared to the previous average of 3,684 acres per year. At the same time, additional revisions to IRS forms and instructions were put in place to insure that the restricted land represents meaningful open space and that the values of the deductions are based on legitimate appraisals.