

Upcoming Events

A Primer on Making Hay: September 10th, 1pm

Morris Tyler, who owns hayfields adjacent to the one described in the article on the right, will talk about the process of haying and the history of the area. Park in the field across from #107 Westford Rd.



Volunteer at October Farm: August 26th, 9am-1pm

Join our Land Manager, Rich Vautour, at October Farm Riverfront to work on the trail around Holden Hill. Sturdy shoes, water, and bug spray are recommended. Due to the limited parking, we are asking people to register by sending an email to info@concordland.org or calling us at 978.369.6526

Musketaquid Wild Walks

On **September 10th**, have a field day making mud faces on tree bark while learning about tree identification.

On **October 15th**, learn to read a map, make a map, use a compass, and orient yourself in unfamiliar terrain.

To register for a Musketaquid Wild Walk (co-sponsored by CLCT) go to www.theumbrellaarts.org and click on Arts and Environment.

A Missing Link in a Green Corridor

With your help, CLCT has protected 172 acres in the upper Spencer Brook Valley over the past 40 years. These properties preserve the water quality and watershed of Spencer Brook; they provide a habitat corridor that runs the length of the brook; and they offer an extensive recreational trail system within which we are continually working to build connections.

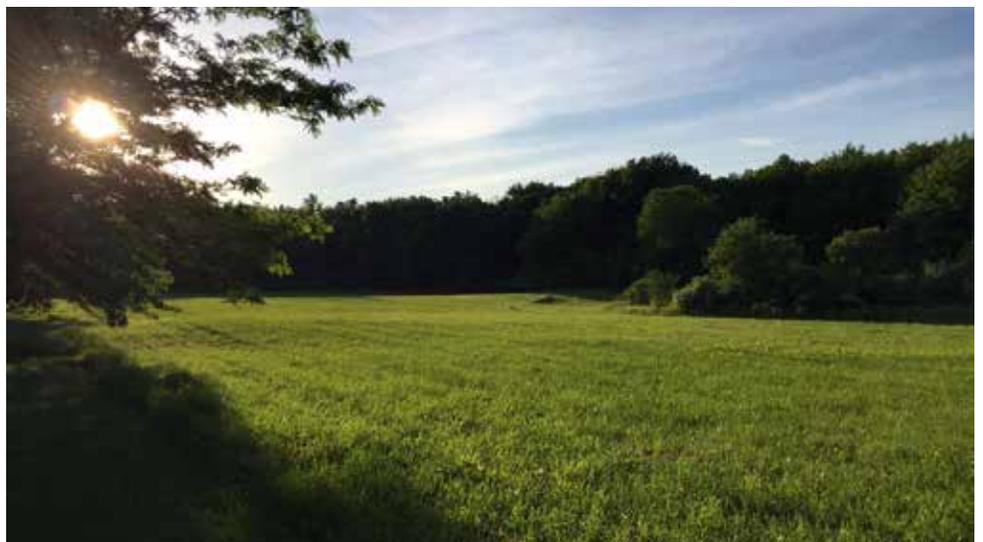
In aerial maps of the area, you can spot a parcel of land near the Carlisle town line that represents a missing link in a green corridor of conservation land extending all the way from Strawberry Hill Road well into Carlisle. CLCT is undertaking to acquire this property, which we are calling Hartwell Meadow. These scenic, 5.3 acres are located on the west side of Lowell Road at the Concord-Carlisle town line. Where it touches Lowell Road, the property features a lovely meadow which slopes down to a productive hayfield that is surrounded by woods. On the north side, the property is mostly bordered by land owned by the Town of Carlisle.

Because of its use as a hayfield, the

property has qualified for enrollment in the Chapter 61A program for many years. As a condition of enrollment and in exchange for a reduced property tax, owners of Chapter 61A land must offer the Town of Concord a right of first refusal at the time they intend to sell the land for another use. In April 2017, the Town received this offer when it was notified that the owners had entered into a Purchase and Sale Agreement to sell the property for development for \$775,000. As permitted under the Chapter 61 statute, the Town has assigned its right of first refusal to purchase the property at this price to the Land Trust.

We are asking for support from our members and from the nearby Concord and Carlisle neighborhoods for the acquisition of Hartwell Meadow. Our goal is to raise the \$775,000 purchase price, plus another \$25,000 for estimated transaction costs, within the three months to close on this purchase allowed by law. Fortunately, we have received generous pledges from several Land Trust members that lead us to believe that, with additional fundraising, we can reach our goal. An

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The sun sets on recently hayed Hartwell Meadow.

Nancy Nelson Joins Our Board

Nancy Nelson, recently retired as Superintendent of Minute Man National Historical Park, agreed to join the Board of Directors of the Concord Open Land Foundation, sister organization to CLCT. We asked Nancy a few questions about herself.

Why did you agree to join the board?

Two things quickly drew me to the CLCT after I arrived in Concord as Minute Man National Historical Park Superintendent in 1994: the people affiliated with the Land Trust and the mission. I first learned about CLCT while attending Concord's Conservation Coffees where I met Gordon Bell, Gordon Shaw, Marian Thornton and others. These people soon became my role models and, happily for me, my mentors. I admired the people and I loved the mission. It is truly an honor to be able to serve with this organization in the company of so many dedicated and effective people.

What is your favorite Land Trust land?

I have enjoyed many - but not all - Land Trust properties but, right now my favorites are those closest to my home on Lowell Road...the Newbury Land and the Upper Spencer Brook Valley. Incredibly, I have yet to see all the lands, and I am very eager to become intimately familiar

with each and every one of CLCT's properties!

How do you think the skills you bring will help carry out the work of the Land Trust? My educational background is in Political Science, Planning and Landscape Architecture. My professional experience included nearly 40 years with the National Park Service with



more than 20 years as Superintendent of Minute Man National Historical Park. Over the years, I developed strong skills working with organizations and citizens with diverse goals to solve problems and

capture opportunities collaboratively. I have considerable patience when pursuing long term goals with benefits for this and future generations. I hope that my experience working with private parties and organizations as well as government agencies at all levels will benefit the complex work of the Land Trust.

How long have you lived in Concord? Tell us a little bit about your neighborhood.

My family first moved to Concord in 1994, when I became superintendent of the national park. We lived in the Elisha Jones House (Bullet Hole House) before moving permanently to Lowell Road - where the road can be a significant impediment to neighborly interaction. Middlesex School is nearby and enlivens the neighborhood as does a walking path along the road and, in good weather, scores of Harleys pass by on their way to new adventures. But, what is so special about this location is that tranquility and quiet usually predominates. The landscape is beautiful and varied - wetlands, woodlands, agricultural land - and there is a wonderful diversity of wildlife - including the occasional bear!



A Hunter's Tale of Wright Woods

Our spring walk was transformed into a whole new experience of the woods as we were escorted by three of our hunters and led by one of them, Frank Patterson. Patterns of animal instinct and behavior were revealed by observing travel paths, resting areas, "rubs" and "scrapes". Keys to communication and interaction like leaving a scent through the orbital glands and male behavior in the "rut" became clear. A very special treat of grilled venison tenderloin concluded an informative, enjoyable hike. Thank you, Frank!

- Fred Mulligan



Frank Patterson responds to a question from the crowd, while his son and grandson look on.



A Fortuitous Coincidence

This spring, Bryan Windmiller and I explored some of the vernal pools at October Farm Riverfront. Not

only did we find wood frog tadpoles and fairy shrimp but, while standing at the edge of one of the kettlehole ponds, I looked down and saw a Blanding’s turtle! Bryan has been studying this state-listed threatened species for many years. By noting where the shell had been notched, he



was able to identify this as male #2004, known to have lived across the river at the Great Meadows wildlife refuge in 2003 and now probably residing at October Farm Riverfront. It was a thrill to come across this turtle and what luck to be with someone who knew him personally.

- Joan Ferguson



Water Chestnut Time Again

One of the valuable programs that is made possible by your contributions is managing the water chestnuts in Fairhaven Bay and the Sudbury River. In 2001, the Bay was completely covered by water chestnut. After 10 years of mechanical harvesting, we are able to control this invasive species through annual hand pulling by interns and volunteers. This year, we are paying for OARS interns to help with hand

harvesting water chestnuts near our properties. Shown in the photo is one of the interns as they head back to shore with a full load. If you are interested in spending some fun and productive time on the water, give us a call!

Volunteer Days

Our volunteers are an important and much-appreciated part of our stewardship efforts. A few of the tasks that volunteers accomplished this spring were Moving Giant Logs (yes, that is the actual gift of the trunks!); Attacking Invasive Buckthorn; and Bridging Muddy Spots.



Probably a few sore backs in this crew the next morning. (L to R: Art Schwope, CLCT’s Rich Vautour; Dutch Leonard and Rich Higgins)



Buckthorn plants cover at the sight of the Fenn Green Team.



Walking the plank: AMC volunteers stay above the mud by walking the planks they just installed at Chamberlin Woods.

Our Thanks To:

Ponders Hollow for donating thermally modified wood (TMW) for our new property sign at October Farm Riverfront. TMW takes advantage of



underutilized Massachusetts wood species, such as ash, to create value added products that replace imported exotic wood, such as Ipe from South America. TMW from Ponders Hollow was used for the decking at the new Walden Pond visitor center.

Matt Solar for getting the Land Trust up and running in the world of social media. We’re not sure Matt knew what he was getting into when he emailed us about volunteering and we found out he had a background in marketing! Follow us on Instagram:

@concordlandconservationtrust

Peter Alden for leading, as well as joining, so many walks on CLCT properties. Peter’s presence enriches everyone’s experience.

Appalachian Mountain Club and its volunteers for installing planks along a trail at CLCT’s Chamberlin Woods (photo at bottom left).

Did you know...

When you order from Amazon, they will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to us if you start your shopping at smile.amazon.com and choose CLCT from a list of eligible charities.



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Trustees of the Concord Land Conservation Trust

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Hartwell Meadow

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envelope is included in this newsletter for those of you who would like to contribute.

Why is the Land Trust undertaking to preserve Hartwell Meadow? In addition to its obvious value as part of the conservation corridor in the upper Spencer Brook Valley, it is part of the historic and still-active agricultural landscape of its neighborhood. The property was under cultivation beginning in the late 1600s and was part of a productive agricultural area in northwest Concord from the 17th to the 20th century. Today, this farming heritage has been thoughtfully preserved thanks to the foresight and generosity of neighboring landowners who placed conservation restrictions on a number of fields and meadows, including the 15 acres of hayfield immediately adjacent to Hartwell Meadow that were preserved by Vic and Mary Tyler. By acquiring the Meadow, and continuing to have it hayed or put in some other agricultural use as time and

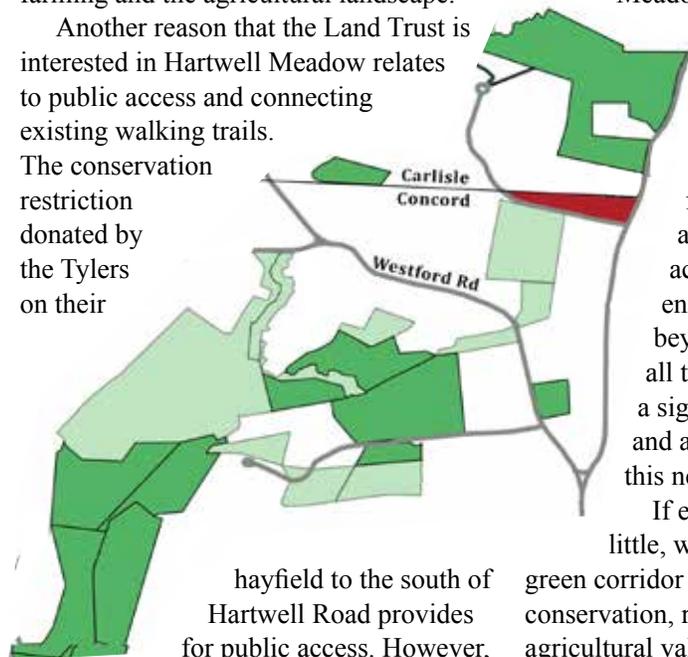
demand suggests, we will be adding to a significant commitment that the Land Trust and neighbors have already made to farming and the agricultural landscape.

Another reason that the Land Trust is interested in Hartwell Meadow relates to public access and connecting existing walking trails. The conservation restriction donated by the Tylers on their

between the Tylers' land and Hartwell Road that is part of Hartwell Meadow would guarantee that the

public access across this strip of land continues. In addition, if the Land Trust is able to acquire the Meadow, the Tyler family has offered an additional access easement across their land that will enable walkers to continue beyond the restricted hayfields all the way to Westford Road, a significant benefit to Concord and anyone who likes to walk in this neighborhood.

If everyone pitches in just a little, we can close the gap in this green corridor and preserve forever the conservation, recreation, historical and agricultural values of Hartwell Meadow.



hayfield to the south of Hartwell Road provides for public access. However, there is a narrow strip of land