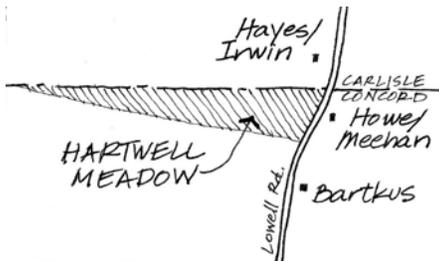


## Hartwell Meadow Preserved

With the help of our members and neighbors, CLCT has successfully completed the acquisition of Hartwell Meadow, a scenic and productive 5.3 acre hayfield at the border between Concord and Carlisle.



This was the first time that CLCT purchased land by exercising the right of first refusal (ROFR) under Chapter

61A, the agricultural land tax. In doing so, we had to match the price that the owners had received through a bona fide offer to purchase – \$775,000 for the single family house lot that was the permitted use of this land under a prior subdivision approval. Fortunately, we had received generous pledges from several members that led us to believe that, with additional fundraising, the purchase was within reach. The ROFR process is set by law, and ultimately we had only 90 days to raise the remainder of the funds. Once again, we were heartened by the commitment shown by our members and the neighbors to preserving open space, including the

farmland, trail system, and historic and agricultural landscape that this property exemplifies.

Since the purchase was accomplished, we have started to work on a conservation restriction for Hartwell Meadow; this is a requirement of exercising the ROFR that adds an additional layer of protection to the property. We will also be working with the Tyler family to extend a trail easement through their abutting land that will connect this property to Westford Road and then to all our upper Spencer Brook valley trails. Finally, the Duffy family will continue to hay the field for their dairy farm.

## The View from Across the Street

To learn more about the recent history of the meadow, we turned to Betty Meehan who grew up in the house on Lowell Road across from Hartwell Meadow.

Betty's parents, Ruth and Ralph Howe, bought their 25-acre property in 1929, attracted by its diverse apple orchard. From the house, Betty could see only three structures across this open, rural landscape: the Jones (now Tyler) barn to the west, the Bartkus house with its chicken farm to the south, and the Hayes house to the north. The field across the road was owned by the Hayes and grazed by their dairy herd. The Hayes' niece, Reena (Alexandrina) MacGuinness, grew up with them in the house at 1140 Concord Street in Carlisle and eventually inherited the property. It was from the estate of Alexandrina Irwin that the Land Trust purchased Hartwell Meadow.



*View from Betty's house of hay bales on Hartwell Meadow. (Photos courtesy of Betty Meehan)*

Betty remembers sitting on her front porch and calling to Reena, who was sitting on her stoop across and up the road, exchanging the lines to a song that began "playmate, come out and play with me." She remembers sledding on the hill behind the Hayes house with the Bartkus children and exploring a cranberry bog in the nearby woods with Mrs. Hayes.

When pasteurization became popular, the Hayes could not afford the equipment it required and gave up their cows. The field was then used by Guy and Dot Clark to grow corn for their dairy farm in Carlisle. But Betty remembers that for much of her life, Hartwell Meadow has been a hayfield. We like to hope that in conserving this land, we have helped retain a sense of what was once a quiet and pastoral neighborhood.



*Ralph and Ruth Howe tilling soil across the street from Hayes farm. Ralph is driving the tractor and Ruth is handling the plow behind it.*

## Nature in Our Lives

Recently I came across a report titled “The Nature of Americans: Disconnection and Recommendations for Reconnection” by Dr. Stephen R. Kellert (April 2017). I read it with great interest and through the lens of an organization whose leadership understands that engaging youth and their parents in the natural world is critical to preserving all the ecological, recreational, scenic and historical values that it provides. I believe that many of its findings have relevance for the Land Trust. Here are just a few.

- Children’s connection with nature was often local – in nearby yards, woods and streams. And children’s special experiences were essentially social, taking place with family and friends.
- Adults in the research often believed that ‘authentic’ nature is distant and

pristine, and this can get in the way of enjoying nature locally.

- Connections to nature—as opposed to simply experiencing nature—emerge when adults and children are more actively involved with a particular landscape, through exploring, stewarding or observing it.

- In order for people to benefit from their connection to nature, it is important to foster routine and habitual engagement with the outdoors.

The Land Trust creates the opportunity for people to connect to the natural world through its trails, trail guides, organized walks and volunteer activities. We also partner with the Musketaquid Program for the Arts and Environment, as described below.

– Joan Ferguson, CLCT Chair

## Musketaquid Wild Walks

Dusk fell and the moon became visible from our vantage point on the knoll of an open field. This was the full Harvest Moon and, as it rose, we couldn’t contain ourselves – we had to howl. Adults and kids tipped their chins to the sky and let loose.

Such are the adventures of Wild Walks, a CLCT collaborative family program with The Umbrella’s Musketaquid Arts & Environment. With the goals of encouraging exploration of Land Trust properties and connecting people to place and nature through the arts, the program is in the midst of its fourth year of offerings. From learning orienteering to bird watching to lighting a campfire for a cookout, participants have acquired new skills and visited seven of the Trust’s properties.

Led by Musketaquid artists and naturalists, each outing follows a pattern of observation and learning, time for reflection and exploration, and then an art/creative-play project of some kind.

There have been some magical moments on these walks. Paddling across Fairhaven Bay at dusk with a full moon rising. Tim Swanson leading kids on a

tracking expedition and eating skat – or rather a tootsie roll posing as skat. Making journals out of twigs, paper, and rubber bands. Discovering tree bark patterns while making a mud face gallery. Sitting in a field on a summer’s evening, with leaves and paints and crayons and making prints.

Why do we so rarely indulge in a guided walk – or allow ourselves the time for creative play? What makes us think rushing around all day makes our lives more fulfilled?

Giving ourselves permission to learn, play and make things outside can be calming – opening us to discovery, reconnecting us to nature and leaving us feeling happier.

So get your inner explorer and creative spirit outside and join us! We greet Spring with a May 6 exploration of Vernal Pools with Bryan Windmiller and “plein air” watercolor play, and a bird walk June 3 with Peter Alden at Miller Farm. To register for these Musketaquid Wild Walks visit [www.theumbrellaarts.org](http://www.theumbrellaarts.org).

– Nancy Lippe, Director, Musketaquid Arts and Environment



Photographs from the recent survival skills Wild Walk held on January 28th at CLCT’s Hallenbeck land.



### The Wall Gets Fixed

When Bay House was taken down a few years ago, visitors to our Wright Woods were afforded an impressive view of Fairhaven Bay from the terrace. This was the good news. The bad news was that the fieldstone retaining wall that supported the terrace was determined to be failing. How do you stabilize a ten foot high masonry wall? With a system of helical screws that go through the wall and anchor it deep into the subsoil, a method commonly employed in the construction industry. The girders that now brace the front face



Girders on the front of the retaining wall facing Fairhaven Bay

of the wall are clearly visible and we hope will weather over time, but we are glad to know that the view and the site of Helen Robinson Wright’s summer house will be able to be enjoyed for the foreseeable future.

### Beavers Deceived (We Hope)

Walkers on the Land Trust’s Newbury Field property will have noticed two large drain pipes and a mesh cage at the wooden bridge over the Spencer Brook – a ‘beaver deceiver’. Constructed almost ten years ago, it has successfully prevented beavers from building a dam and blocking the sole access to the upper field. However, with last spring’s heavy rains, the pipes were dislodged, carried

downstream and then stranded on the bank when the water finally receded. The photo shows us moving them back into



Rich Vautour and Bill Walker wade right in.

place, ready to discourage beavers this spring when they come scouting for dam locations.

### October Farm Riverfront: Parking Area and Holden Hill Trail

Much has been accomplished in the year since the October Farm Riverfront was successfully preserved. Conservation Restrictions have been recorded that add an extra layer of protection. The trail around Holden Hill has been re-



Volunteers at work on the trail around Holden Hill

established. A new system of color coded trails has been added. The survey and planning work for a more formal parking area is done and we hope to see it in place by the end of 2018.

## Our Thanks To:

Liam Beguhn for stacking a recent delivery of cedar planks to be used in wet areas of trails.

Nate Bartlett, Art Schwope, the Currie Family, Adam Simon, Michael Burns, and Lawson Brouse for trail clearing at October Farm Riverfront.

Bill Walker for wading into the waters of the Spencer Brook to help us reconstruct our beaver deceiver.

Kent Dayton for working with Matt Solar on a video project for CLCT. Stay tuned!

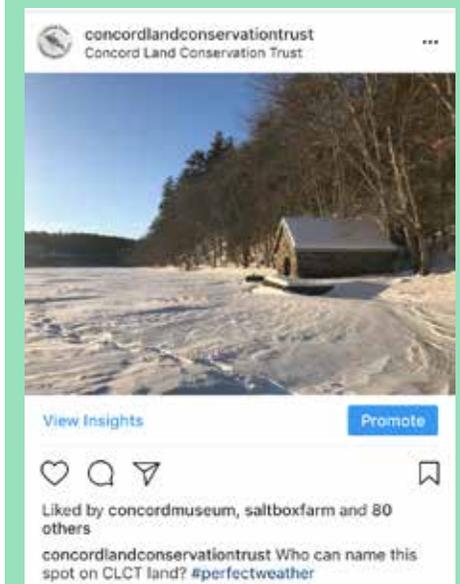
Rachel and Bob Kramer, Michael Giniger and Suzanne Revy for hosting neighborhood gatherings in support of the Hartwell Meadow project.

Carlisle Conservation Foundation for their financial support of the Hartwell Meadow project.

### What Are Your Notes From the Field?

Tag us on instagram with photos taken on Land Trust land!

@concordlandconservationtrust





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## Gordon Shaw, Our New Trustee Emeritus

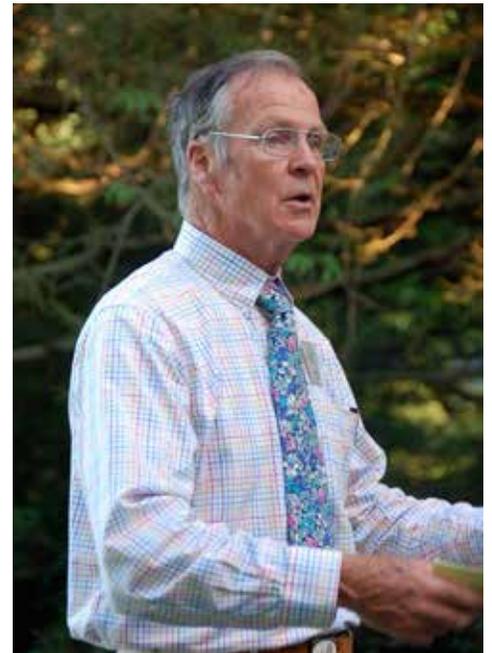
When Gordon Shaw asked to step down from the CLCT Board last year, we reluctantly agreed, but on the condition that he remain as a Trustee Emeritus. We couldn't let go of his 45 years of institutional memory, his exceptional expertise in land stewardship and the clarity of his vision about the role of the Land Trust in preserving Concord's natural resources.

John Stevens reviewed Gordon's many contributions to our organization at the Annual Meeting in November. When Gordon joined the Board in 1973, CLCT owned 15 properties, all the result of gifts. He soon led the Board in setting priorities, taking the initiative and—a radical idea at the time—buying land when necessary. He understood that with every land acquisition, we needed to raise enough money to pay the seller, cover the costs of the transaction and enable us to take care of the land into the

future – an apt goal from the man who was the Land Trust's treasurer for 25 years. As treasurer, he wrote thousands of sincere and gracious thank you notes and always reminded us that the Land Trust is nothing without our members and supporters.

Gordon did more than anyone to take good care of our land. He spent inestimable hours on tasks ranging from clearing trails to pulling invasives, often accompanied by our property managers, the Fenn School 'Green Team', or volunteer stewards. And he taught and inspired us all, teaching by example (pull from the roots! stack cut branches in the same direction!) and by telling the stories behind the places where the work was being done.

The end of John's comments on 'the occasion of Gordon's retirement from the Board' was marked by extended and enthusiastic applause from the crowd,



*Gordon speaking on the occasion of CLCT's 50th anniversary. (Photo by Rik Pierce)*

a fitting tribute to Gordon for his many years of service and in anticipation of many more as Trustee Emeritus.