

BARRINGTON LAND CONSERVATION TRUST



Photo by Amy O'Donnell
taken at Doug Rayner Wildlife Refuge at Nockum Hill

Trail Challenge... Can you find these things?

The BLCT wants to invite families to use the trails on the public BLCT properties. A walk in the woods or along the water can be a great boredom buster and believe it or not there are plenty of things to see if you look closely. Dig out your long underwear and bundle up the kids with hats and gloves and go for a scavenger hunt! Here are a couple of things you might set out to discover on a walk sometime soon.

- Native plants and animals have interesting ways of adapting to the cold weather. Can you find plants using the following strategies?
 1. Dying back and going to seed (look for dried branches and left over seed pods such as milkweed pods)
 2. Going into dormancy - these are your deciduous trees, the ones that lose their leaves as they 'sleep' through winter
- 3. Insulating and growing slowly- needle shaped leaves and antifreeze are ways to keep the water inside from freezing- look for evergreens
- Can you find an animal using some of these strategies?
 1. Insulating by adding extra feathers, fur and fat- birds fluff up to catch and heat up a layer of air beneath their feathers that helps keeps them warm.
 2. Changing diets – almost all animals that stay around for the winter change their diets. Can you find someone eating a winter meal?
 3. Hibernating – can you find a good place for a salamander, toad, chipmunk or other animal that sleeps most of the winter to curl up?
 4. Overwintering- look for cocoons or crevices where insects are waiting out the cold
- Look out for tracks - 'reading the clues' left behind by animals can be interesting and challenging! Try to figure out who made the tracks and what was going on.
- What's the poop? Try to find some scat and figure out who might have left it behind? (Rule of thumb: Herbivores have round droppings, carnivores are tubular and omnivores are irregular- oval or oblong).
- While the snow lasts, find a place untouched by human footprints- these are the prettiest scenes!

If you do go on a scavenger hunt, please post a message and/or photos on our Facebook page and let us know how it went. Add to our scavenger hunt if you have other ideas of things that can be found!

Visit the Barrington Land Conservation Trust online at www.BLCT.org and on Facebook.



Thank you for your memorial donations in memory of Fred R. Tripp!

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Extending the Classroom – Investigations in the Field

The BLCT is excited to deepen our relationship with the public schools with the help of a \$2,500 grant from the CVS/Caremark Charity Classic. The grant was awarded late in 2013 to help the BLCT and the public schools leverage the use of outdoor spaces to invigorate the science curriculum with authentic field research opportunities for students starting in the elementary grades.

The grant money will be used this spring for a pilot program at Nayatt Elementary School. Our work will center around designing and implementing one or more project-based extensions to the existing science curriculum that allow students to collect data as field scientists and analyze the information they gather to better understand ecological processes.

The BLCT is hopeful that these age-appropriate field research extensions will be an exciting and memorable part of our children's first experiences in science and encourage students to explore and question the world around them. We see the opportunity to work with teachers as an excellent complement to the Land Trust's other research and conservation efforts such as the Diamondback Terrapin Project. Our hope is to develop a partnership with the schools that encourages children to explore their world and helps foster an appreciation for the landscape of habitats we enjoy here in Barrington. Thank you CVS/Caremark!



February 4, 2014 Walk at Rayner Refuge at Nockum Hill :

Melissa Hayden
(District Conservationist,
USDA-NRCS), Charlotte
Sornborger and Pete
McCalmont met
to discuss obtaining a
grant to remove some
trees that are shading
one of the nesting
sandpits on the refuge.



HIGH MOON OWL PROWL SUNDAY, MARCH 9TH AT 6:30PM VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK

Get in the spirit of the coming spring with an early evening walk through one of our town's best kept secrets, Veterans Memorial Park.

The Land Trust has worked for many years with the Town, the Bayside Y and many local partners and volunteers to improve the trails system at this large red maple swamp in the heart of Barrington. In fact, we are looking for trail team volunteers for our next round of trail projects in 2014.

But this evening, we'll look and listen for great horned and screech owls 'who' should be particularly active as this is their breeding season. Owls will often perch along the vernal pools to proclaim their territory. If weather is clear, our way will be lit by a high first quarter moon.

Bring a flashlight, wear outdoor clothes appropriate for the day's weather and sturdy shoes. This is an easy level walk, but if there has been recent rain, sections of the trail may be soggy. Park in the Town/Bayside YMCA parking lot and we'll meet at the stone pillars at the entrance to Veterans Memorial Park at the bend in West Street near the ball field.

If you have any questions, or if you would like to volunteer for the Town Trails Team, please contact Helen at helen@acornnpsolutions.com or 401-480-8329.



Sowams – A National Heritage
Thursday, May 1st at 7:00 PM
Barrington Public Library
Auditorium

Sowams Woods – Layers of Heritage
Sunday, May 4th at 2:00 PM
Sowams Woods
(Rain date: Monday, May 5th at 6:00 PM)

Come rediscover Sowams and our national heritage. We will look backwards and forwards to gain a broader perspective, highlighting some of the Pokanoket places in our community such as Mussachuck Creek and Scamscamuck Spring. Take a virtual walk and a real walk to come away with a new appreciation for this place called Sowams. Learn about renewed protection efforts and the proposed national heritage district. This is a joint event with the Barrington Preservation Society.

Parking for Sowams Woods: Meet at Sowams Woods sign on South Lake Drive, off of Washington Road. Please park on Tallwood Drive, Spinnaker Drive or Lighthouse Lane. (No parking is permitted on South Lake Drive or Washington Road)

Any questions, please contact Helen Tjader at helen@acornnpsolutions.com or 401-480-8329.

On January 8th, a frigid, clear morning, Steve Reinert, Charlotte Sornborger, Peter McCalmont, and Peter Burke joined Wenley Ferguson from Save the Bay on the ice-covered marsh at the Johannis Farm Wildlife Preserve to discuss ways to drain impounded water on the marsh and improve the overall health of this magnificent marsh that borders the Palmer River.



**Thank You to Frerichs Farm
for mowing the tall grasses at PIC-WIL!**

Picture Perfect Barrington

Another reason to get outside this winter and take a closer look is our 'Wild' Barrington Photo Contest.

The BLCT is challenging members to share what you see outdoors within our community by snapping a picture of a *plant*, an *animal* or a *natural landscape* in Barrington.

Please email your photo submissions to info@blct.org. The pictures will be shared on the BLCT Facebook page and the winners from each category (plant, animal, landscape) will grace the BLCT Spring newsletter!



Photo by Michel Corbin taken in the woods behind the Bayside YMCA

Clip-out Membership Form

Make Check Payable To:

Barrington Land Conservation Trust

Mail To: PO Box 324

Barrington, RI 02806-0324

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ - _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Membership Categories

Life Member \$1,000 ☐ I'd like to volunteer

Benefactor \$500

Conservator \$250 ☐ I'd like information

Patron \$100 on donating stock

Sponsor \$50

Family/Friend \$35

Other _____

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