



BARRINGTON LAND CONSERVATION TRUST

Volume 20, Number 1 Fall 2011

WELCOME SUPPORTERS!

With shorter days and busier schedules we at BLCT have hit the ground running. Together we have built the first and only land trust specifically dedicated to conserving and protecting open space in Barrington. It is our belief that growing a strong bond between families and our natural environment through passive recreation and education empowers the next generation of conservation leaders. Cultivating relationships with our residents and their families solidifies the permanence of land trust work. Consider joining us on one of the upcoming walks listed in the newsletter or on our website. If we have your email address we will be sure to notify you of upcoming educational programs, walks, or talks.

We have expanded our board to better serve our membership. Keep an eye out for the brief introductions in the coming newsletters to learn more about this diverse group of amazingly dedicated volunteers.

Whether you are an intern, steward, volunteer, board member, or donor, you are the reason for our success. We work to maintain the quality and character of Barrington's landscape because we are proud to be a part of our community. Enjoy the changing beauty of the landscape as we transition through the fall. We hope to meet you outdoors sometime,

Blakely (Szosz) and Beth (Rondeau), Co-Presidents

.. AND WELCOME TO TWO OF OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBERS:

TIM FAULKNER is a writer and editor for *ecoRI News*, a non-profit environmental news website covering Rhode Island. He worked as a community newspaper reporter in Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts for five years. For three years, he was a staff writer for the Taunton Daily Gazette. He spent 10 years in the financial services sector before earning a graduate degree in writing and publishing. He grew up in Barrington, where he lives his wife Erica and two daughters, Maggie and Helen. Tim developed an appreciation for the outdoors as a member of Troop 2. He earned his Eagle badge in 1984 and performed his service project at Veterans Memorial Park.

JACKIE SENICH moved to Barrington from West Chester, Pennsylvania three years ago. Her professional career has been spent in the publishing business, and presently, she works for Pearson Publishing in the math and science division. Initially, Jackie was interested in BLCT activities through Charlotte Sornborger's work with the terrapins at Nockum Hill. Becoming a board member of BLCT seems like a natural fit for Jackie who has a strong desire to become involved in her community. She feels lucky to live in such a beautiful place, and she is happy to be a part of maintaining its beauty.

JOIN US ON NEW WALKS!

VETERANS DAY TRAIL WALK - VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK - SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12 - 10AM - RAIN OR SHINE

Come join us for a fall walk along the newly renovated green trail and see our trail 'burrito' and new sign kiosk in the park that honors all veterans. The projects in the park are the work of a partnership with the Town of Barrington, Barrington Conservation Commission, Barrington Preservation Society, Bayside Family YMCA, Boy Scout Troop 6 and the National Park Service's River and Trails Program. Dress warmly for the day's weather. Insect repellent is recommended year-round for tick protection. Round out your walk with visit to the Barrington Public Library and the Barrington Preservation Society's exhibit of veteran's uniforms which will be open from 11 to 4 pm. Park in Veterans Memorial parking lot behind the Bayside Family YMCA or in the town and Y parking lot off West Street.

SOWAMS WOODS FIFTH ANNIVERSARY WINTER SOLSTICE WALK - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 - 3PM - RAIN OR SHINE

Come out to celebrate the acquisition anniversary a few days early - (record that Patriots game). We'll walk the newly completed Eagle Trail, check out the new stairs, restoration plants and tree ID signs, listen for the owls and learn a little about Native American solstice traditions. If there is interest and enough daylight, we will choose to walk over to either Lombardi Park or Pic-Wil Nature Preserve and then round out the day with cider and other seasonal treats. Dress warmly for the day's weather. Insect repellent is recommended year-round for tick protection. We will meet at the Sowams Woods sign on Washington Road. Street parking is available at Tallwood Drive, Lighthouse and Spinnaker Lanes. (No street parking is allowed on Washington Road or South Lake Drive.)

For more information or to volunteer for future projects, please contact Helen Tjader: helen@acornnpsolutions.com or [401-480-8329](tel:401-480-8329).



Purple Martins in our midst!

PURPLE MARTINS FLOCKING TO BARRINGTON PIC-WIL REFUGE

A new, very extended family has taken a serious liking to Barrington. These avian settlers are in fact colonies of a rare birds known as the purple martin.

Noted for their steel-blue sheen and diet of flying insects, purple martins have found much hospitality in our bedroom community. Barrington now hosts one of the largest purple martin destinations in the region, much to the credit of the Land Trust and several other volunteers.

Bird lover Ray Marr, a relative newcomer to Barrington himself, has guided the project by helping volunteers install and maintain clusters of the special bird houses favored by purple martins.

The nearly 8" long member of the swallow family migrates from as far south as the Amazon basin, spreading across much of North America from late April until mid-August. Yet purple martins are very finicky about nesting, preferring pod-like cavities to nests in trees or standard birdhouses. Their population declined dramatically during the last century as invasive European starlings muscled in on most purple martin nests. By the 1980s their population nearly vanished.

Thanks to efforts to replicate these nests with both real and artificial gourds—all outfitted with starling-proof entrances—their numbers have rebound dramatically in recent years.

In 2011, 49 pairs of purple martins produced 170 chicks at four main nesting sites in town, including BLCT's PIC-WIL Nature Preserve. The Moakler home on County Road, RISD-Tillinghast Estate and Rhode Island Country Club host the other big colonies.

Marr, an active member of the Purple Martin Conservation Association, said he doesn't know of any communities in New England with more purple martins. "Barrington will be the purple martin capital of New England, and will draw purple martin fans from nearby states."

The birds are long-gone by autumn, migrating south fast enough to cover hundreds of miles in just a few hours. Yet they return each year to the same breeding ground. Next year Marr expects the purple martin population to reach 80 pairs.



"A warm spring and summer produced a record number of chicks and we should see them back in great numbers," he said.

He's already fielding calls from birders looking to visit, as well as from residents offering to provide sanctuary for more purple martins.

Since 1992, Marr has rebuilt purple martin colonies in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and New York, mainly by providing the large gourds and large aluminum bird houses, which can be bought or handmade. The recent addition of special entrance holes that only allow martins to enter has been a big factor in their recovery.

In all, some 125 nesting pairs were counted in Rhode Island during the 2011 season. Outside of town, colonies are reporting similar success in Richmond, Hope Valley, Point Judith, Smithfield, as well as sites in Seekonk and Rehoboth, Mass.

"Barrington is a wonderful example of what can happen with just a few minor changes," Marr said.

He's glad to share his knowledge. "Anybody can do it," he said. "The thing is you need to talk to someone like myself." Bird lovers of all experience levels wishing to manage purple martin housing can reach Ray at 401-359-7601 or rmarr2@cox.net.

-Tim

A generous donor has started a fund to pay for a "rack" of gourds at the Doug Rayner Refuge at Nockum Hill to accommodate the growing number of purple martins in the area. Residents interested in adding to the fund are encouraged to send checks (small or large) to the Barrington Land Conservation Trust at PO Box 324, Barrington RI 02806, with the designation for the gourd project.

THANKS TO ALL OUR STEWARDSHIP VOLUNTEERS FOR YOUR GREAT WORK!

Hundred Acre Cove East – Dave Parkhurst and his daughters trimmed back invasive vines and planted beautiful native clethra and sweetspire shrubs onto the slope at Acre Ave.

Lombardi Park – Nathan Lapides completed his senior project by removing many invasive plants this spring. Thanks also to Karen Keohan for tackling the roses and vines!

Veteran's Memorial Park – Big trail and plant clearing was accomplished this spring thanks to: Bob and Sam Read, Jimmy Thayer, Kelvin and Klein Misiurski. Trash and litter cleanup and rehabilitation of trails cut into vernal pools was accomplished by: Teresa and Christopher Sarli and Phil Hervey. Awesome work!

Mussachuck Grove – Sandy Patrick and Norm Dudziak participated in several onsite stewardship planning meetings – thanks!

Annawamscutt Brook – Earth Day Cleanup – What a great turnout with help from the Friends of Haines Park and St. Luke's School: Scott Matthes, Andrew Kumiega, Steve Clemens, Emily Baker, Jessica DeMela, Doreen and Bridget Schiff, Terry and Molly Leary, Gregory Nigidula, Bill Oehklers, Charlene, Noah and Blakely Szosz and Sandra Wyatt.

Sowams Woods – A special thanks to the Town of Barrington Department of Public Works for their very timely assistance in removing several hazardous dead pine trees. We were then able to install two sections of restoration planting successfully in late spring.

Deep Meadow Extension - Eagle Scout, Josh Eller, led volunteers from Troop 6 in removing large dumped debris from the slope of this coastal property along Hundred Acre Cove: refrigerators, mattresses, an

oven and tires along with smaller dumped materials. Thanks to volunteers: **Greg Niguidula, Harry Lico, Jason Greenberg, Sandy Greenberg, Zach Mumbauer, Max Augustin, Walter Fitzhugh, Patrick Fitzhugh, Michael Peck, Dan Mumbauer, Marc Millspaugh, Craig Eller and Amelio Augstin.** Thanks also to property neighbor, **Mary Anne Brady**, who assisted again with access for this clean up!

Sowams Woods – Eagle Scout, **Dylan Vanasse**, led volunteers from Troop 6 in building a stair to bridge a large elevation drop along the Rustic Trail. This beautiful and heavy-duty staircase with handrail will help control soil erosion. Thanks to: **Ari Berkowitz, Ed Morrisette, Jason Greenberg, Sandy Greenberg, William Stockhecker, Josh Eller, Brandon Purcell, Jonathan Cavanagh, Robert Sasse, Zach Mumbauer.**

Heritage Woods – Everyone enjoyed the history walk and trail visit led by **Charlotte Sornborger** and **Peter Burke**. Lots of blooming lady’s slippers too!

Mussachuck Grove - **Saundy Patrick** and **Helen Tjader** spent a long afternoon repairing the trails, filling in damaging bike pits and replacing property signs so that everyone could enjoy the woods all summer! **Will Barbeau** rescued our volunteers with ice cold lemonade – thanks!

Veterans Memorial Park – Eagle Scout, **Zach Mumbauer**, led a pre-summer project completing a brand new trail between Brickyard Pond and the East Bay Bike Path, picking up litter and cutting back invasive plants, too. Troop 6 adult and scout volunteers included: **Stephen Allen, Taylor Medeiros, Russell Allen, Harry Lico, Jason Greenberg, Joshua Eller, Craig Eller, Brandon Purcell, Ian Millspaugh, Scott Johnson, Zachary Brennan, Daniel Mumbauer and Greg Nicadula.** Great job!

Veterans Memorial Park - The Land Trust has been one of the partner organizations leading work to improve trails at the park as part of a two year grant from the National Park Service Rivers and Trails Program. On National Trails Day, June 4th, working with **John Monroe**, of the NPS, volunteers rerouted a trail off private property and onto the town land. Work included the relocation of a large wooden bridge onto the new trail. Thanks to: **Jean Robertson, Cyn-dee Fuller, Ramon and Arlene Garcia, Phil Hervey, Bob and Bobby Robertson, June Speakman, Bill Yost, Bob Read, Patrick Mahoney, TR and Helen Tjader** for getting all this work done in time for summer hikers!

Sowams Woods – Eagle Scout, **James Cappelletti**, led a project to create the final new trail at Sowams Woods. The orange trail will be

known as the Eagle Trail in recognition of all the scout projects at Sowams Woods. Thanks to super volunteers: **Joseph Cappelletti, Mathew Barry, Mathew Roza, Jesse Blasbalg, Jeff Tien, Josh Ray, Briana and Jennifer Cappelletti!** Be sure to check out the new tree ID signs along the Eagle Trail on your next visit.

Lombardi Park – Restoration plants were added in areas cleared of invasive plants. Special thanks to the **Curry Family** who provided access and water for the shrubs and trees to make all the heavy lifting involved much easier!

Deep Meadow Extension – **Lily Sawyer** and **Becca Gasperoni** shine for their good deeds to remove more dumped bottles and junk from this scenic shoreline along Hundred Acre Cove. Thanks!

Veterans Memorial Park – What a Great Day of Service we had for our Beyond Our Walls project on Columbus Day! Thanks to all our volunteers who helped before and on that day: **Bill Rupp, Stephanie, Lauren, Heidi and Ted Grove, Karen Keohan, Elizabeth Murtha, Mary Waters, Nicco Palmisano, Sandy Greenberg, Paul, Patrick, Brian, Kieran and Conor McGartoll, Jean, Mary and Matthew Ernster, John and Jessica Murphy, Nicole Smith, Wendy, Michael, Joshua and Sarah Zucker, Sue Mark, Blakely Szosz, Tom Rimoshytus, Phil Hervey and Helen Tjader.** Please enjoy the new trail between Bosworth Street and the East Bay Bike Path!

Greg Niguidula served as the Land Trust's first **stewardship intern** this past summer. Greg did an outstanding job preparing two management plans for our **Tall Cedars** properties and **Palmer River** properties. These new, up-to-date plans will guide our work in stewarding these properties. Thanks for a job well done!

Thank you to our BLCT summer intern, **Olivia Griot**, a senior at Barrington High School. Olivia worked on the terrapin project at the **Doug Rayner Wildlife Refuge at Nockum Hill.** Along with the other terrapin volunteers, she tracked and identified the turtles, protected some of the nests with excluders and checked for hatchlings at the end of the season.



Olivia Griot

BARRINGTON LAND CONSERVATION TRUST FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FY 2011 AND 2010.

<i>Income by Program and Source</i>			
	2011	2010	Inc/(Dec)
Membership	\$ 8,255	\$ 7,901	\$ 354
Annual Appeal	7,871	6,105	1,766
Memorial Gifts	12,765	3,575	9,190
Other	148	719	(571)
CVS Grant	5,000	-	5,000
Town Grant	30,000	30,000	-
Stewardship Grant	-	1,500	(1,500)
Restricted Allin's Cove	-	847	(847)
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 64,039	\$ 50,647	\$ 13,392
<i>Expenses by Program</i>			
	2011	2010	Inc/(Dec)
Acquisition & Planning	\$ 2,200	\$ 168	\$ 2,032
Stewardship	6,386	4,218	2,168
Education/Communications	4,345	4,260	85
Administration	2,306	2,580	(274)
Fundraising	692	1,616	(924)
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 15,929	\$ 12,842	\$ 3,087
Payment of Debt	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 0
NET INCOME	\$ 18,110	\$ 7,805	\$ 10,305



BARRINGTON LAND CONSERVATION TRUST

Box 324, BARRINGTON RI 02806

NONPROFIT ORG

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

BARRINGTON, RI

PERMIT NO. 35

Clip Out Membership Form

**Make your check payable to:
Barrington Land Conservation Trust**

And mail to:

**BLCT, PO BOX 324,
BARRINGTON, RI 02806-0324**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ - _____ (9 digits ideal)

Email _____

Phone _____

Membership Categories (circle one)

Life Member \$1000

Benefactor \$500

Conservator \$250

Patron \$100

Sponsor \$50

Family/Friend \$35

Other \$ _____

____ I'd like to volunteer,
please contact me.

____ I'd like information
on donating stock.

We're on the web at

WWW.BLCT.ORG

**JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST
FOR NEWS OF SPECIAL
EVENTS -SIGN UP at our
website or contact**

INFO@BLCT.ORG



We solicit funds to help maintain our properties via an Annual Appeal in December. Membership dues are solicited in May and are for that current calendar year.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Beth Rondeau, Co-President

Blakely Szosz, Co-President

Charles Saunders, Treasurer

Pat Sullivan, Secretary

Nancy Burlingame, Recording Sec'y

Virginia Brown, co-Chair Acquisitions

Clare Durst, Membership Chair

Will Fairbrother, at large

Tim Faulkner, at large

Maureen Johnson

George Lieberman, at large

Don Leighton, co-Chair Acquisitions

Chad Mollica, at large

Jan Reitsma, at large

Ed Schottland, Stewardship Chair

Jackie Senich, at large

Charlotte Sornborger, at large

Julie Glosson Vainer, at large