



BARRINGTON LAND CONSERVATION TRUST

• ESTABLISHED 1979 •

PRESERVE. ADVOCATE. EDUCATE. ENGAGE.

Featured Property: Sowams Woods



Photo: Lenny Rumpler



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Story by Mary Grover

On a crisp fall day when the leaves are starting to change color, a peaceful connection with nature is a wonderful remedy for a hectic digital day. As Henry David Thoreau said, “I took a walk in the woods and came out taller than the trees.” Luckily an outdoor walk in the woods is only a short drive away. Sowams Woods is the perfect place for a quick dose of nature. This lovely 12 acre site is a mix of deciduous woodland and evergreen trees bordering Echo Lake. The property has several short trails which provide a pleasant walk across rolling terrain and is appropriate for all ages and dogs on a leash.

Trails lead into the woods and will guide you to Echo Lake, which provides interesting water and wildlife views. This beautiful location provides important habitat for bird migration. It is a stopping place for 130 species of birds. The great horned owl can be found living in these woods. The Sowams Wood property also includes two distinct vernal pools. In spring the pools are important to the natural ecosystem, providing hatching grounds for peepers, salamanders, turtles and other amphibians.

Sowams Woods is one of the 70 properties protected by the Barrington Land Trust. BLCT chose to preserve this property for its natural and historic qualities. Support from

the community has made its preservation purchase possible. Sowams Woods was purchased in 2006 with major funds provided by the federal and state governments, in addition to donations by members of the RICC and private citizens. A dedicated team of BLCT volunteers monitors Sowams Woods, maintains trails, and removes litter & invasive plants. Scout volunteers have helped clear trails, build stairs and construct a trail kiosk. Today, Sowams Woods is protected for all to enjoy year-round.

Sowams Woods has a long and fascinating history dating many years before the Town’s formation. Sowams Woods is part of the heartland for the Pokanoket tribe of the Wampanoag Nation, an Algonquian People. The property has special significance to the native Pokanoket Tribe, as Sowams Woods is believed to be an area set aside hundreds of years ago by the Native population for women and for childbirth, a place of peace. Sowams Woods is also part of the brickworks history in town. Brickworks in Barrington created Echo Lake and Brickyard Pond through digging brick materials. When the brickyard was in operation, bricks were hauled on ox-drawn barges to the canal in the Big Mussachuck Flow Path, which runs along Sowams Woods, to a lock on Narragansett Bay and loaded onto

Cont. on next page

from the prev. page... steamboats. In 1895, Charles Merri- man, a golf enthusiast, purchased a large property between Nayatt Road and Big Mussachuck Creek. Sowams Woods was part of this land; the remainder became Barrington's first 9-hole golf course and is now part of Rhode Island Country Club.

BLCT hopes you will visit Sowams Woods in spring to hear the peepers and catch a wildflower in bloom. Or go escape the summer heat under the cool shade and canopy of the tall pine trees. This October, BLCT invites you to enjoy a colorful fall stroll with children in Sowams Woods for an outdoor Storybook Walk in partnership with the Barrington Library.

For directions to Sowams Woods, please see the back page of this newsletter.



Photo: Lenny Rumpler

BLCT Needs Your Help - Please Give Generously!

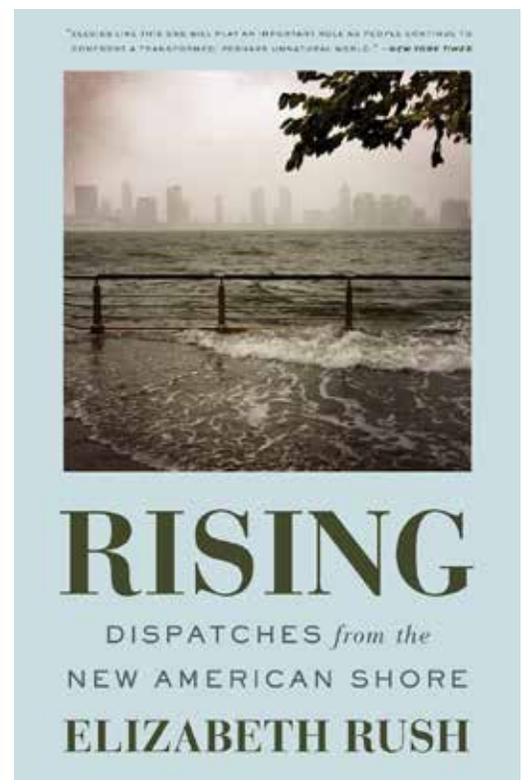
The Barrington Land Conservation Trust depends upon the generosity of its members and friends for the funds necessary to steward the 76 properties it has conserved, to protect the animals and plants that live within those properties, and to share the natural wonders associated with this flora and fauna with school children and residents of Barrington.

Please help to ensure that BLCT can continue the types of activities featured in this newsletter in the future by making a donation today. The Barrington Land Conservation Trust and all those who depend on its efforts appreciate your support!

Elizabeth Rush Interview on Rhody Radio

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 restrictions, the Barrington Public Library had to cancel the March talk by author Elizabeth Rush. Ms. Rush was scheduled to speak about her book *Rising: Dispatches from the New American Shore*. Luckily, Ms. Rush had the opportunity to speak with Rhody Radio and you can listen to her interview by going to www.rhodyradio.org and scrolling down to the interview, recorded on 9/15/20. Don't miss the additional podcast of Ms. Rush reading an excerpt from the book!

Also - Keep an eye on Rhody Radio for a mid-October release of an interview with BLCT board members Melissa Horne, Cindy Pierce and Victor Lerish!



Outdoor Family Scavenger Hunt

October 22 at 4pm

Stroll the library grounds with Barrington Land Conservation Trust educators and discover natural treasures in our beautiful, scenic town. Scavengers will explore terrain near the duck pond and Barrington River. To ensure the safety of all, masks are required. Online registration begins on October 1; space is limited. Registration is required, please register through the Barrington Public Library website. Please forfeit your reservation and stay home if you or anyone in your party is not feeling well. The rain date for this program is Tuesday, October 27 at 4 pm. All ages are welcome.



Paddle Hundred Acre Cove

Celebrate RI Land Trust Days with a self guided paddle on Hundred Acre Cove in Barrington. Hundred Acre Cove is the third largest salt marsh estuary in Rhode Island and home to the largest known nesting site of the northern diamondback terrapin. The Cove is tidal, and paddling north is easiest during slack tide headed into a low tide. There are two upcoming dates where this happens:

Saturday, October 17th 9:00am
 Sunday, October 25th 4:30pm

Please double check the tide before launching. A good reference is <https://www.us harbors.com/harbor/rhode-island/barrington-warren-ri/tides>. Please note that

Hundred Acre Cove is 10-15 minutes behind this table.

Access to the Cove is from the Walker Farm Boat Ramp off Route 114, just north of the White Church Bridge (Federal Rd. intersection) in Barrington.

No guide will be present, this is a self-guided event. Bring your own kayak or canoe and a personal floatation device.



Photo: Cindy Pierce

Give the Gift of BLCT Properties!

Take care of your Holiday shopping and support local conservation! The BLCT is selling photographs of Barrington Land Trust properties taken by local artist Lenny Rumpler. Approximate final size is 19" x 25". Prints are available in 2 options:

Matted Print: \$150
Framed Print: \$250

All proceeds benefit the BLCT. Orders must be placed by December 1st, 2020. Please direct all orders and questions to info@blct.org. Barrington orders will be hand delivered, pickup will be arranged for orders outside of Barrington.



Osamequin 4



Mussachuck Creek 2



Sowams Woods 3



Johannis Wildlife Refuge 4



Allin's Cove (No. 16)



Pic-Wil 3



Johannis Wildlife Refuge 2



Deep Meadow 1

BLCT recognizes and thanks the stewards who monitor its 70+ properties for the benefit of the plants and animals and people who utilize them.



Photo: Lenny Rumpler

Public Service Announcement: The BLCT is currently working to improve our newsletter recipient database, in hopes of increasing the number of subscribers receiving the newsletter via email, and decreasing the number of print subscribers, helping the BLCT save money. This reorganization is a work in progress, and we appreciate your patience as we fine-tune our communication practices. If you would like to transition from print to digital, please visit blct.org/blct/recent-newsletters/ and enter your info in “Existing recipient paper opt-out.”

Property

Fiedler Marsh
 Little Mussachuck Creek
 Broomhead/McCamish Marsh
 DiOrio Marsh
 Andreozi Nature Preserve
 Lowe Marsh
 Seaview Marsh
 Gibbs/Barton Land
 Bourne Lane Marsh
 Fain Marsh
 PIC-WIL Nature Preserve
 Heritage Woods
 Little Mussachuck Grove
 Little Muschuck Creek West Beach
 Rumstick Point/Papazian Marsh
 Little Mussachuck Creek
 Gilbert Marsh (Calf's Tongue)
 Stanley
 Deep Meadow Bluff
 River Oaks
 Calf's Tongue
 Johannis Farm Wildlife Refuge
 Lionshead
 Beech Tree Court
 Bullock Ave, Kaplan
 Annawamscutt Brook
 Winquist Marsh
 Tall Cedars South Extension
 Allin's Cove East & West
 Heritage Woods Extension
 Calf's Tongue
 Hundred Acre Cove East & North
 Tall Cedars North Extension
 Nugent Wetland
 Robertson Wetland
 Johannis Farm Addition
 Brickyard Pond Addition
 Heritage Woods Addition
 Orchard Avenue
 Shepperton Marsh
 Burrows Beach Mussachuck
 Mary Paine Marsh
 Esther Hill Marsh
 PIC-WIL Addition
 Grant Woodland/ Johannis
 Bullock Ave, Davidson
 Aurora Neck
 Long Swamp Addition
 Pine Top Wetland
 Gordon Simard Grove
 Aurora Point
 Lombardi Park
 McCaffrey Woods
 Gardner Woods
 Rayner Refuge, Nockum Hill
 Sowams Woods
 Deep Meadow Ext.
 Almeida Woods
 LaFrancois Point
 St. Andrew's Farm
 LaFrancois Dante Triangle
 LaFrancois Woods
 Allins Cove West Razzi
 Fain Marsh Addition
 Beech Tree Court
 Osamequin
 River Oaks
 Federal Road Farm

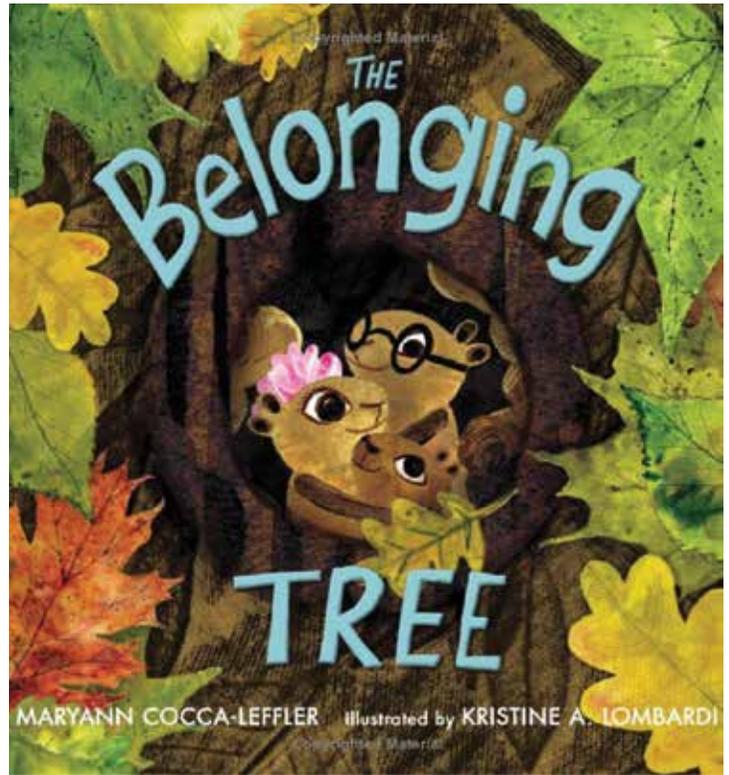
Steward

Norman Dudziak
 Clyde Haworth
 Dan Horne
 John Memoli
 John Colitri
 Dan Horne
 Norman Dudziak
 John Memoli
 Dan Cullman
 Dan Horne
 Peter Burke
 Jeff Brousseau
 Ann Brouillette
 Clyde Haworth
 Dan Horne
 Clyde Haworth
 Charles McCoy
 John Memoli
 Elin Millspaugh
 John Memoli
 Charles McCoy
 Bill Kirkpatrick
 Frank Hearn
 Bill Kirkpatrick
 Cindy Pierce
 Colin Shaw
 Norman Dudziak
 Frank Hearn
 Dan Horne
 Jeff Brousseau
 Charles McCoy
 Jeff Brousseau
 Frank Hearn
 Victor Lerish
 Victor Lerish
 Bill Kirkpatrick
 Victor Lerish
 Jeff Brousseau
 John Memoli
 Bill Kirkpatrick
 Clyde Haworth
 Dan Horne
 Jeff Brousseau
 Peter Burke
 Bill Kirkpatrick
 Ian Donahue
 Norman Dudziak
 Norman Dudziak
 Richard Jaffe
 Ian Donahue
 Norman Dudziak
 John Colitri
 Victor Lerish
 Victor Lerish
 Peter McCalmont
 Ellen Berren
 Elin Millspaugh
 Victor Lerish
 Norman Dudziak
 Virginia Brown
 Norman Dudziak
 Norman Dudziak
 Beth Rondeau
 Dan Horne
 Cindy Pierce
 Victor Lerish
 John Memoli
 Peter Burke

Story Walk at Sowams Woods

October 9 – October 30

Take a family hike this October and enjoy a special Story Walk at Sowams Woods, sponsored in collaboration with the Barrington Public Library. Stroll this one-mile loop and read "The Belonging Tree" by Maryann Cocca-Leffler while you enjoy the beautiful trails of this protected property. Registration is not required.



Directions to Sowams Woods: The Woods are located at the corner of South Lake Drive and Washington Road in Barrington. Please park on Spinnaker Drive or Lighthouse Lane and start the walk on Washington Road.



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