



BARRINGTON LAND CONSERVATION TRUST

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PRESERVE. ADVOCATE. EDUCATE. ENGAGE.

The Buzz About Bees

By Ann Brouillette. Photos by Mary Grover

Most of us who have heard that bees are in trouble think of honey bees. Honey bees are used all over the world to pollinate agricultural crops and, of course, to make honey. While honey bees are in trouble, they are not native to North America and they are not the bees we are talking about when we encourage people to plant native plants and preserve native habitats. We are talking about native bees. There are about 4000 species of bees native to North America and their populations have declined by as much as 50%. The decline is caused by habitat loss, use of pesticides, and introduced diseases.



Native bees come in many shapes and sizes. There are the bumble bees, which have been called the teddy bears of the bee world, and there are bees that are so tiny it is hard to see them. Some bees are specialists – they only eat the nectar or pollen from one species of plant – and some are generalists and will feed at many different plants. Unlike honey bees, 90% of native bees are solitary – they do not live in colonies and do not produce honey. And unlike honey bees they will only sting if you grab them.

Why are native bees important? They pollinate nearly all of our native flowering plants. Without pollination, plants don't make seeds, and seeds are one of the most important food

sources for birds and many other animals. Bees are the most important pollinators, but other pollinators – wasps, moths, and butterflies – are in decline also. It is not a coincidence that the number of song birds is estimated to have decreased by one to three billion since 1970 as the loss of habitat and pollinators has occurred.

You can help to solve the pollinator crisis in a meaningful way by planting native plants in your yard. Even adding a small area of native perennials, or a native shrub or tree, will help. You can create nesting sites by leaving some leaves in your beds over the winter. Many bees nest in the ground and leaves left on the ground help keep them warm enough to survive the winter. By not using pesticides you can contribute to the health of all of our native fauna as well as bees.

If you want to learn more about native bees, the following books are excellent: *Buzz* by Thor Hanson and two books by Heather Holm: *Pollinators of Native Plants* and *Bees*. Pollinator-pathway.org has excellent information about pollinators and pollinator plants, and if you plant some natives, you can put your property on the Barrington Pollinator Pathway map on this site. Another excellent source of information is beecology.wpi.edu.



BLCT is Thankful for Legacy Gifts

By Melissa Horne

The Barrington Land Conservation Trust gratefully acknowledges two supporters, Priscilla Randall and Robert Faulkner, who left legacies to BLCT to continue their long-term support of environmental conservation.

Priscilla Randall was a landscape architect whose work can be seen throughout the world. She spent the last years of her life in a cottage on the edge of Allins Cove. When faced with a terminal illness, Ms. Randall drafted her will to include several bequests intended to benefit land conservation and landscape architecture focusing on environmental sustainability. Following her death in April 2020, BLCT was honored to receive a substantial donation for the purpose of protecting Allins Cove.

Robert Faulkner, who passed away in February 2021, was an ardent patron of land conservation. He was a long-time donor to and supporter of the Barrington Land Conservation Trust.

Bob often attended the annual meeting and other BLCT events, always nattily attired in a fedora and often accompanied by his wife Pamela and his son Tim, a past-president of BLCT. BLCT greatly appreciates Mr. Faulkner's decision to support its mission posthumously. Consistent with Mr. Faulkner's wishes, BLCT will utilize his bequest to continue its mission of preserving Barrington's natural resources.

Legacy gifts like those made by Robert Faulkner and Priscilla Randall help BLCT fulfill its obligation to steward conserved lands forever and provide the donor with the knowledge that our protected places will continue to be protected and maintained. Creating a lasting legacy for BLCT is easier than you might think. And, depending on how a planned gift is structured, it may offer tax benefits to you or your estate. Your financial and legal advisors can help you determine what form of planning giving to BLCT is right for you.

Volunteer Spotlight: Sara Horvet

When Sara Horvet speaks of her affiliation with the Barrington Land Conservation Trust (BLCT), her enthusiasm and excitement immediately inspires and motivates one to consider getting involved. When Sara moved to Barrington in 2012, she wanted to become involved with and help make a difference in her new community. With a marine science background and working in a lab at UMASS Dartmouth in the School of Marine Science, Sara sought out opportunities that would allow her to broaden her science background to include other areas. The BLCT was a great fit as it allowed her to learn more about land conservation and the process behind protecting open spaces. Following is our interview with her.

For me, the BLCT means.....

BLCT is an amazing organization that is helping protect Barrington and all of its beautiful open space.

I decided to volunteer for the BLCT because....

I moved to Barrington in 2012 and wanted to become involved with the land trust to meet new people and to help make a difference. It has been a great opportunity for me and I am so grateful for this experience. I work at UMASS Dartmouth at the School of Marine Science and I wanted to broaden my science background to include other areas. The land trust has allowed me to learn about land conservation and the process behind protecting open spaces. I have also learned a lot about fundraising, maintaining databases and the importance of community outreach.



A few of my favorite projects have been....

I love all the projects I am part of. One of my favorites is working with the endangered terrapin turtles. It has been amazing learning how much dedication goes into keeping these turtles protected. Volunteering during May and

watching the turtles come to lay their eggs is such a cool experience and then being able to come back in August to help the hatchlings emerge and get released is so rewarding. It is amazing that there are volunteers monitoring the site every single day during the egg laying and hatching seasons. I also loved going to Waddington School in East Providence and joining a class during one of their Annawamscut Creek stream sampling events. I brought water quality equipment and showed the kids some of the sampling methods I use in my lab at UMASS Dartmouth. Seeing the excitement from the children made my heart happy.

Why should others volunteer for the BLCT.....

Volunteering with the land trust has been a fantastic experience. I think the coolest part about it is how there are people from many different backgrounds. It doesn't matter if you have a background in environmental science, political science, education, finance or with computers. There are so many different volunteer opportunities. Some volunteers are busy creating and maintaining our website, others are helping maintain trails located on the land trust properties, some are working on building up our

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from the prev. page... membership, while others are focusing on fundraising. I have learned so much and have been able to step outside of my comfort zone and learn some new skills.

Favorite BLCT property? Activity?

That's a tough question! Each property has their own unique beauty. I love Nockum Hill in the Spring. My daughter and I love to go and watch all the Swallows nesting in the houses. We also love walking along all the beautiful trails full of wildflowers and pollinators. I love Sowams Woods in the fall. The colors of the trees are beautiful and I love how one of the trails goes along Echo Lake. Another one of my favorite locations is Allin's Cove. It is such a peaceful place to walk and has a wonderful view of the sunset.

Is the BLCT for young people? Families? People of all ages?

The land trust is for everyone! I have a family with two small children and we have been able to enjoy many of the volunteer opportunities together. My daughter has been a terrapin volunteer with me since she was two years old. I was also able to do other volunteer tasks from home when my children were very small. During nap time I would write out the land trust thank you notes and help stuff newsletters. No matter your age or your abilities there are opportunities to become involved.

If Sara's story has inspired you, and you are interested in getting involved, please email info@blct.org.

Guess That Plant!

Answer on Page 6



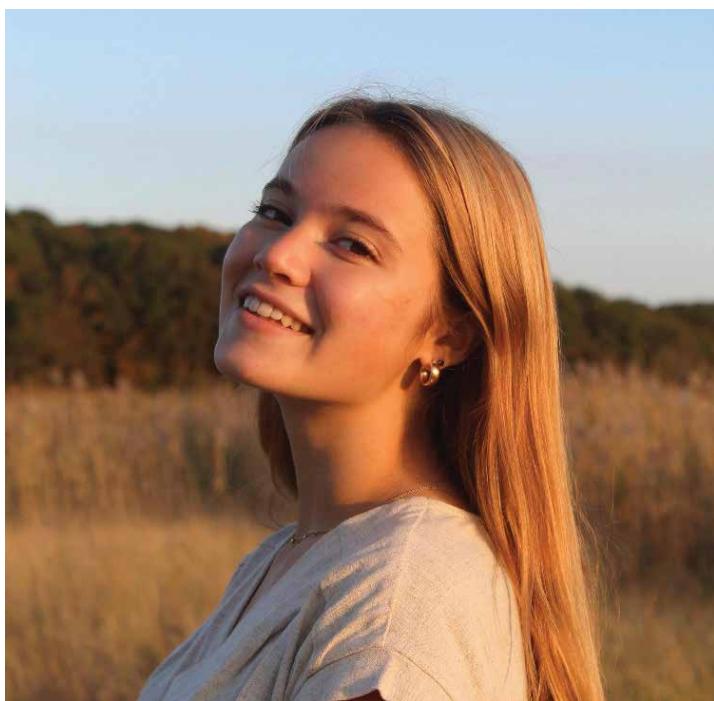
Introducing Nicole Texeira BLCT Scholarship Winner

By Melissa Horne

The Barrington Land Conservation Trust awards an annual scholarship to a graduating Barrington High School senior who demonstrates a dedication to environmental conservation. BLCT is pleased to announce that the 2021 scholarship was awarded to Noelle Texeira.

Noelle Texiera is a life-long environmentalist who demonstrated her commitment to environmental conservation through her service as president of the BHS Environmental Club. In that role, Ms. Texiera successfully led a program in which club members cultivated seeds for distribution to BHS students and teachers, initiated a letter writing campaign to politicians about environmental issues, and kicked off an environmental awareness segment on the BHS Sunrise show. Ms. Texiera also volunteered with the Southside Community Land Trust, assisting with fundraising, community outreach, and farming at the Trust's urban farm in South Providence.

Noelle Texiera maintained an excellent scholastic record at BHS, where she also competed in field hockey and track and was president of the French Club. She will attend Barnard College of Columbia University, where she will study biochemistry and French. BLCT wishes her great success!



Photos from the BLCT

BLCT owns and manages some very beautiful properties. This year, with so many people escaping the isolation of Covid by visiting our properties, we decided to host the inaugural BLCT photo contest.

We had 26 beautiful entries submitted by 12 photographers.

Lenny Rumpler, a local professional photographer who has taken many beautiful photographs on BLCT's properties and made them available for display and sale by BLCT, served as our judge for the contest

We are happy to announce the following winners:

Landscape: Sara Horvet – Sunrise at Brickyard Pond; Elisa Black – Palmer River

Plants & Animals: John Sampieri – Looking for Breakfast; Sal Capirchio – Red-headed Wood-pecker

People Enjoying Nature: Olivia Pawlyk – Be Free Turtle; Turtle

Best in Show: Gail Mowrer -- Robin's Nest

We hope you will join us next spring for the 2nd annual BLCT Photo Contest. Keep an eye on our blog, the Facebook page, and this newsletter for more info.

**Best Animals - Sal Capirchio,
Red Headed Woodpecker**



Best In Show - Gail Mower, Robin Nest



**Best Landscape - Sara Horvet,
Sunrise**



Inaugural Photo Contest

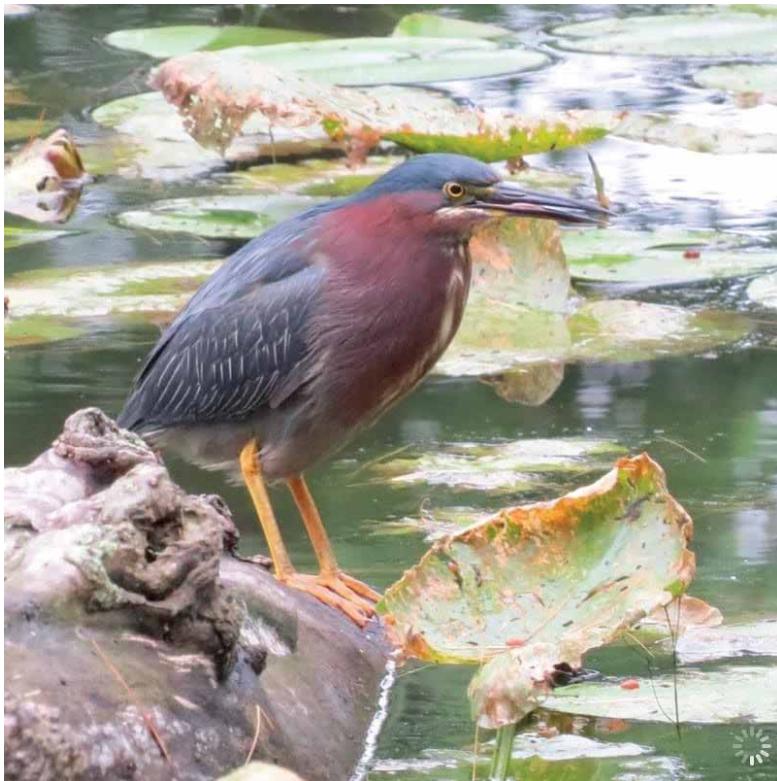
**Best Landscape - Elisa Black,
Palmer River**



**Best People, Olivia Pawlyk,
Turtle**



**Best Animals - John Sampieri,
Looking For Breakfast**



**Best People, Olivia Pawlyk, Be
Free Turtle**



Nature Needs You - Please Give Generously!

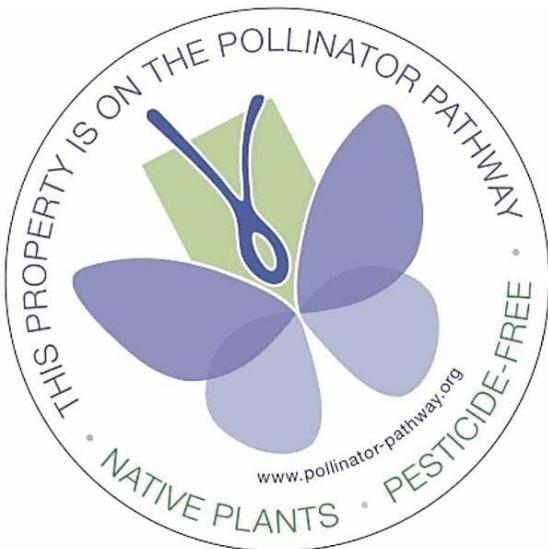
Your support of the Barrington Land Conservation Trust enables:

- *Pollinator plants to grow.
- *Our community to have access to open space for exploration and education on trails maintained by the Tuesday Trails volunteers.
- *Flora and fauna species to thrive in Barrington in spaces where our Education Committee conducts numerous community programs for all ages, all year long.
- *Numerous birds and animals to have open space homes and sanctuaries.

Can the Barrington Land Conservation Trust count on your support this spring to ensure that we are able to continue to offer our members and friends access to the natural world in our town and continue to benefit from restorative power of the natural world?

Please support BLCT by taking a moment today to make a tax-deductible donation at the most generous level possible. Your donation will help ensure that BLCT will have the funds necessary to continue to protect Barrington's special places and keep its properties open and available for recreational and educational opportunities. Thank you!

You can scan the QR code below to go straight to the BLCT donation page at [Paypal.com!](https://www.paypal.com)



Are you on the Barrington Pollinator Pathway map? Please join us and learn more about how you can help at www.pollinator-pathway.org

If you've got a new neighbor, please share this newsletter once you've had a chance to read it.

Guess That Plant Answer



By Sara Horvet

Asclepias tuberosa (also known as butterfly weed) is a species of milkweed native to eastern and southwestern North America. It is often called butterfly weed because of the numerous butterflies that are attracted to the plant by its color and its abundant production of nectar. Monarch caterpillars feed exclusively on the leaves of milkweed and is therefore critical for their survival. Without milkweed, Monarch Butterflies cannot complete their life cycle and their populations decline. The good news is that planting milkweed is one of the easiest ways that each of us can make a difference for monarchs as well as other important pollinator species. <http://www.xerces.org/milkweed/milkweed-seed-finder> is a great resource to find local milkweed seed vendors.

Learn about Soil Solarization During RI Land Trust Days

Learn about this environmentally friendly technique used in site preparation for planting a wildflower meadow.

Location: Pic-Wil Nature Preserve, Washington Road, Barrington

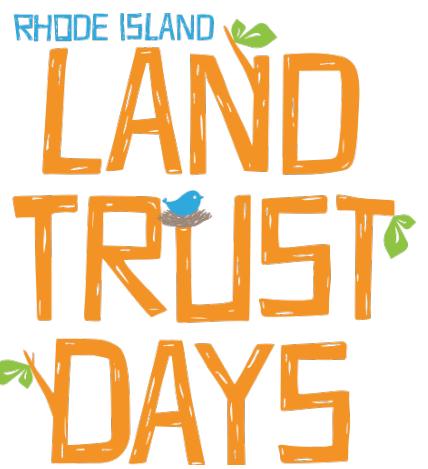
Date: Sunday Sept. 26, 1- 3pm

This event is FREE. Please register by emailing: www.education@blct.org
BLCT invites you to the Pic-Wil Nature Preserve to view a pollinator meadow experiment using the soil solarization technique on a small 10'x20' plot. This effective, environmentally friendly method is used to control weed growth in preparation for planting a meadow as site preparation is one of the most important components to a meadow's success. It is done by placing clear plastic over the soil's surface and using the sun's radiation to heat the soil and eliminate weeds and weed seeds. This special nature preserve is normally closed to the public and a tour will be available at the conclusion of the event.

Pic-Wil Preserve is flat with uneven terrain. Be sure to wear comfortable walking shoes and bring bug spray. Please follow tick preparedness procedures. Rain date: None.

Dogs are not allowed in the nature preserve.

Parking for event: Tallwood Drive or Spinnaker Drive off Washington Road.



Audubon Pollinator Garden Learning Tour

Please join us for an informational tour of the Palmieri Pollinator Garden at the Audubon Nature Center in Bristol. The garden was designed as a model for rewilding backyards by providing habitat for wildlife. Rewilding reintroduces native plants to residential landscapes in an effort to increase diversity and mitigate climate change. Led by Barry Cohen, Land Steward of the grounds at Audubon, the tour will provide practical tips to help you add native plants to your existing gardens or create new "wild" areas in your yard as well as how to prepare your gardens for winter so they continue to benefit wildlife.

The tour will be on September 22 from 1:00–2:00 p.m.

Cost is \$5.00 per person

This is a special event for members of the BLCT, the Barrington and Hameho Garden Clubs, and members of the Barrington Pollinator Pathway. Interested friends are also invited.

Please email education@BLCT.org to register. Registration is limited to 20.

Payment will be accepted at the door.



Don't Miss These Upcoming Events!

We've got two great events coming up this month, and you can find more details inside on page 7.

Soil Solarization

Sunday September 26, 1-3 PM

Pic-Wil Nature Preserve, Washington Rd,
Barrington

Learn about using soil solarization to control
weeds when creating your own pollinator
pathway.



Audubon Pollinator Garden Learning Tour

September 22 from 1-2 PM

Audubon Nature Center in Bristol

This tour will demonstrate techniques for adding
native plants to your existing gardens or new
“wild” areas.



CONSERVATION TRUST
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