

BARRINGTON LAND CONSERVATION TRUST



Northern Diamondback Terrapin Population Study – 24th Year

The population may be increasing and is at least sustaining itself is the definitive news to come out of the 24th year of the Terrapin Study at the Rayner Wildlife Refuge on Nockum Hill. From the first nesting on May 31 to the last nesting on July 12, 169 terrapin were identified, compared to 179 last year. From the number seen this year, an annual “guesstimate” of the cove population is 399 mature females, +/-200 mature males, and an unknown number of juveniles – for a total of possibly 500. Of note, female #1 was seen for the first time since 1990.

A possible future worry is the rising water levels and slumping of the marshes in the cove and how it might affect the food supply of the terrapins. A positive occurrence was the placement of a wire fence along the guardrail on Wampanoag Trail and likely the reason for no terrapins killed on that road. RIDOT did this to mitigate the effects of the new White Church Bridge to be built this fall.

For all their help in supporting the Terrapin Project, we would like to thank 1) the Barrington Land Conservation Trust for sponsoring this study, 2) two BLCT interns: **Emma Peloquin**, a student at Lincoln School and **Greg Niguidula** from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, 3) volunteers from URI - **Dr. Peter Paton**, **Dr. Nancy Karraker**, and student **Meghan Beatty**, 4) volunteers - **Dianne Abuelo**, **Bob Caron** (Bristol MA Community College), **Susan Hoagland**, **Don LaBerge**, **Butch and Cindy Lombardi**, **Pete McCalmont**, **Amy O'Donnell**, **Marcus Paiva**, **Lori Vastano**, and **Chuck Nemitz**, 5) the **Barrington Police Department**, which scheduled their use of the pistol range to accommodate this study, 6) **Steven Reinert**, our scientific advisor, 7) the **Town Council**, for supporting our efforts by developing protective ordinances, assigning the management to the BLCT, and approving a conservation easement on the entire 72 acre Rayner Wildlife Preserve to be held by the BLCT with the Nature Conservancy as reverter, 8) the **Harbor Commission** for enforcing the 5 mph speed limit on the upper cove and river, 9) the **Nockum Hill Management Committee** led by **Pete McCalmont**, responsible for keeping areas open for terrapin nesting and for good wildlife habitat, and 10) **Charlotte Sornborger**, Terrapin Project leader.

The data from the study is filed with the RI Natural History Survey at URI. Permission for this study is granted by RIDEM Fish and Wildlife.



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



Spring and Summer 2013

Thanks to all volunteers for your good work!

Osamequin Nature Preserve – Teddy Kurkoski completed his Eagle Scout project clearing trail and invasive plants and hauling out large items left along the shoreline from the major winter storms.

Andreozzi Nature Preserve – Matt Barry removed invasive plants and cleared trail at the preserve. A contractor had dumped lawn and other brush clipping in a pile about 5 feet high and 10 feet long that had blocked an entire section of the trail. Thanks to Matt's shoveling and hauling this short wetland trail is now reopened.

Veterans Memorial Park – Thanks to all who helped with spring cleaning at the park in advance of Memorial Day: **Jenny Flanagan, Matt Barry, Bob Read, Sandra Wyatt and Helen Tjader**. **Jake Ray** completed his Eagle Scout project on the western side of the park, clearing the seriously overgrown trail, removing large debris and many invasive plants –thanks! The Land Trust also hosted to **Land Trust Days** walks in August partnership with the **Bayside YMCA**. Over 40 people attended the walks enjoying late summer flowers and a full moon. Thank you: **Heather Ivil, Wendy Kirchner, Tim Faulkner, Blakely Szosz and Helen Tjader**.

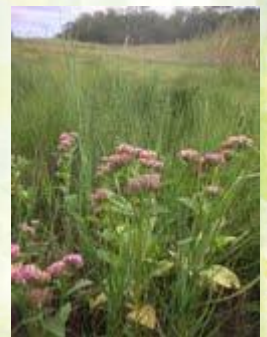
Haines Park – 'Chainsaw guys' **Dave Gardner and John Wood** worked to remove a fallen tree from the trails this past spring – thanks!

Gordan Simard Grove - Eagle Scout, **Lucas Bledsoe**, cleared the overgrown Land Trust right of way to the Grove. **Greg Knight, Bob Read, Sandra Wyatt and Helen Tjader** assisted in planning this project. Thanks to Lucas and the scouts, access for our members has been restored!

Tall Cedars Conservation Area – Eagle Scouts, **Jake Gorton and Matt P** worked to remove invasive plants and to clear overgrowth from several of the main trails. Winter storms took a toll – one bridge had to be reset on its foundation and fallen trees blocked sections of trail. The **Town Trails Team** did both a site inspection and a trail work day in June – volunteers for these days included: **Beth Welch, Matt Barry, Jordan Verner, Norm Dudziak, Sandra Wyatt, Bob Read, Dan Horne and Helen Tjader**. The Trails Team also wrote a letter to the Town detailing some of the dumping and encroachments that are such a challenge at this property. Future volunteer projects will include the installation of new trail markers and the Town will work on enforcement issues.

Deep Meadow Extension and La Francoise Point benefited from some TLC from our two stewardship interns, **Sandy Greenberg and Teddy Kurkoski**. Lots of old dumped tires and were removed from the woods at Deep Meadow. A large dock that had washed up at La Francoise Point over the winter took many hours of saw and sledgehammer work along with assistance from **Dan Horne and Helen Tjader** (*see before and after photos below*).

To volunteer for future projects of the **Town Trails Team**, contact Helen Tjader, 401-480-8329 or helen@acornnpsolutions.com.



The dock started to create an artificial upland habitat by blocking the salt water where it had come to rest on the edge of the phragmites border. By removing it, restored salt water washing through this spot should discourage the phragmites and favor the native, desirable coastal grasses.

The marsh pictures on the right are from Columbus Avenue's LaFrancoise Point which is along the Palmer River. Along with Hundred Acre Cove, the Palmer River is one of the top 50 coastal habitats from Long Island to Cape Cod – and the furthest inland of any of the top quality habitats. Barrington is very fortunate to include both of them!

CO-PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

This year marks the 35th anniversary of the founding of the Barrington Land Conservation Trust. As we enter this new year, we are excited to focus on and celebrate three major initiatives:

1. 25 years of ground-breaking Diamondback Terrapin research at Nockum Hill.
2. A renewed effort to promote the work of and conservation successes of our organization.
3. A continued focus on connecting our members and the larger community to the land we manage and protect and to the value of the conservation work of the organization

Throughout this next year we will be celebrating the successes of our Diamondback Terrapin monitoring and management project at Nockum Hill through public programs and events that highlight this exciting research. We view the Diamondback Terrapin as a keystone species for Barrington and for our organization, one that thrives here as a result of the hard work of so many scientists and volunteers from our community. Additionally, the Land Trust believes that a major responsibility of our organization is to ensure that both our members and the community are aware of the work that we do and how integral it is to the quality of life for Barrington residents, and that connecting people to the land itself in a variety of ways will result in a more informed community and a better future through land conservation, stewardship, and education.

ED SCHOTTLAND AND GINGER BROWN
CO-PRESIDENTS

FADING LIGHT FULL MOON OWL PROWL

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH AT 4:30PM
VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK

Get in the spirit of the season of fading light with a late afternoon 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. We'll look and listen for Great Horned and Screech Owls which often perch along the vernal pools. If weather is clear, we'll be treated to a rising full moon melting out amongst the bare tree trunks.

Bring a flashlight and 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.

Thank You and Welcome To BLCT's New Members 2012-2013!

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| Ann & Margaret Boyajian | Arlene & Craig Mulligan |
| Barrington Garden Club | Benoit and McCardle, PC |
| Bleu & Christy Grijalva | Bruce Saunders |
| Bruce Tillinghast | Burton Van Name Edwards |
| Carol Dorros | Cynthia Fuller |
| Cynthia Johnson | Derek Lightbown |
| Dorothy G. Child | Elaine Tobey |
| Evelyn Cuddigan | Harold O'Hare |
| J. Parker & Claudia Scott | Jack O'Donnell |
| James & Elizabeth Barker | Janet, Richard & Thomas Wagner |
| Jean & Justus Anderson | Joseph & Lois Lombardi |
| Joseph & Patricia Mundy | Kathy Philips |
| Kenneth & Ann Morrill | Kenneth & Lisa Foppema |
| Kenneth Carlsen | Lynne, Elizabeth & Justus Jr. Anderson |
| Lynne Barry Dolan | Marcus Paiva |
| Margaret Viera | Nancy Wing |
| NE Vegetable & Berry Growers (John Howell) | Peter & Patti Cerilli |
| Peter Burke | Rodney Jacques |
| Ronald & Jane Massa | Ronald & Melinda Swann |
| Roy Babbitt | Ryan Wellnitz & Associates (Hugh Ryan) |
| Steven & Eleanore Clegg | Thomas Clegg |

SEEDS AND SPORES FOR FAMILIES

Saturday, November 2nd ~ 10:30 – 12:00 noon

Rain date: Sunday, Nov 3rd ~ 12:30 – 2:00 PM

Meet at the Sowams School Parking Lot

Come join the BLCT on a walk through the forest, field and marsh at the Johannis Farm Wildlife Preserve. In the spirit of the harvest season, families will collect different types of seeds, fungi and 'fruit cases' and learn about the different strategies plants and fungi use for spreading their seed and spores. The walk will begin with a short hands-on encounter with a gallery of specimen. Kids will test seeds to see if they are designed to fly, float or hijack a ride and witness puff balls sending up smoky plumes plus much more. Bring your tote bag, magnifying lens and curious mind along for an autumn walk-about!

Contact Amy O'Donnell with questions (aodonnell@ritesproject.net).

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 _____

Board of Directors

Ginger Brown, Co-President

Ed Schottland, Co-President

Tim Faulkner, Vice President

Lynne Barry Dolan, Secretary, Nominations

Patti Cerilli, Treasurer, Finance

Peter Burke, Stewardship

Bleu Grijalva, at large

Melissa Horne, Acquisitions

Rodney Jacques, at large

Maureen Johnson, Development

Wendy Kirchner, at large

Amy O'Donnell, at large

Andrew Reich, at large

Beth Rondeau, Recording Secretary, Membership

Charles Saunders, at large

Jackie Senich, Education

Charlotte Sornborger, at large

Blakely Szosz, at large

Barrington Land Conservation Trust
PO Box 324, Barrington, RI 02806

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