Winter 2013 VOLUME 21, ISSUE 2

Barrington Land Conservation Trust

Lombardi Park Dedication

More than 20 members of the Lombardi family, across three generations, joined the Nov. 10 dedication and celebration of Lombardi Park.

James Lombardi delivered moving remarks about the history of the 3-acre park and his grandfather's immigration to Barrington from Italy in 1924.

The property includes Little Echo Lake, where many members of the Lombardi family swam in their youth. Nearby is the site of a bygone icehouse.

A stone bench, stone steps and a bike rack were installed thanks to the Land Trust, the Trails Team and the Town of Barrington. The CVS Caremark Charity Classic and BLCT donors funded the project.

Nearly 50 guests in all attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony, including Town Council President June Speakman, Janet Coit, Director of the Department of Environmental Management, state Rep. Joy Hearn and James Campagna of CVS Caremark.

The 3-acre park overlooks Little Echo Lake and is accessible through the East Bay Bike Path.

Senior Project

Barrington High School student Michaela Hurley wrote her senior thesis "Diamondbacks in the Rough" about her studies of diamondback terrapins with the BLCT at Nockum Hill last summer. Read her report at www.BLCT.org

Upcoming Events

Annual Meeting
Tuesday, June 11 at 7 p.m.
Barrington Public Library
Auditorium

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

Thank You

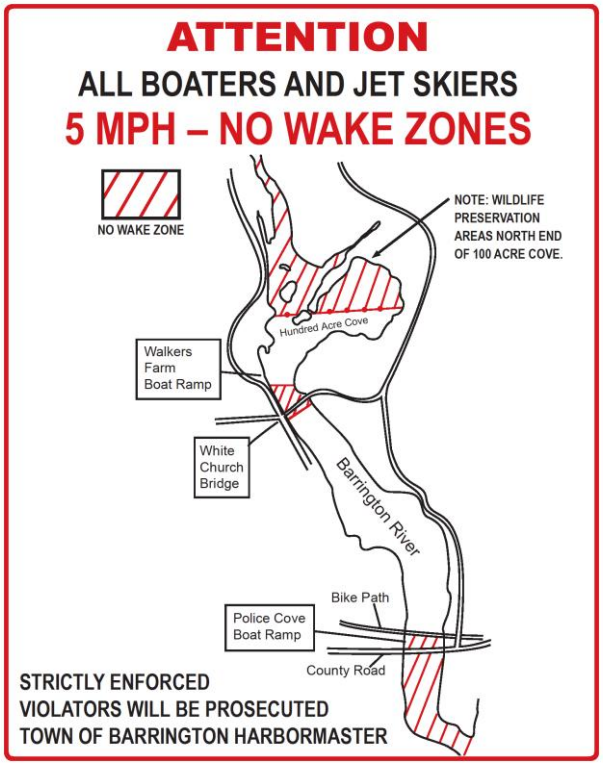
New England Vegetable and Berry Growers Association for donating in memory of Frank Jackson Clegg.

CVS Caremark Charity Classic for their $5,000 grant to assist the BLCT effort to connect people with the land. In 2013 our aim is to increase our community outreach efforts 1) by engaging and educating more school and civic groups in our conservation projects and 2) by raising awareness of the amazing properties that are available to the entire community to walk, hike and enjoy.

Tracy & Bill Daugherty, Patty & Pete Deal, Jennifer Gass, Jim Fingleton, Janet & Bob Hoder, Laurie & Nick Ward, the neighbors of our Marshland-Bourne Lane property for their generous support of Owen Jackson's Eagle Scout project—the construction of an Osprey Nest and perch.

Chris and Tommy Clegg and the Clegg family for volunteering to maintain the Doug Rayner Wildlife Refuge.

David Frerichs of Frerichs Farm in Warren generously donated his services and tractor to mow the PIC-WIL Nature Preserve.



New Buoys and Fence to Protect Terrapins

Plans for the construction of the new White Church Bridge and its increased 2-foot clearance brought to the attention of the Department of Transportation the need to take protective measures for the diamondback terrapin population in Hundred Acre Cove.

The requirements requested were more buoys in the cove and river to demark the 5 m.p.h. speed limit for motorboats and water skis; more frequent visits to the cove of the Harbor Patrol boats; a fence to go along the guard rail on the Wampanoag Trail (across from Vitullo Farm) to prevent terrapins from crossing the road to nest; and signs at both Walker Farm and Police Cove to alert boaters to the speed regulations.

The Land Trust and Terrapin Team appreciate the support and cooperation of the environmental advisor and the project manager of DOT, the Barrington Harbor Master and Pare Engineering. Eugenia Marks of RI Audubon and Wenley Ferguson of Save The Bay made helpful contributions to the plan. We also thank Lori Vastano, graphic artist and member of the Terrapin Team, who designed the signs which will be erected in the spring.

Plant Profile: Skunk Cabbage

By Amy O'Donnell

What is reddish-brown, smells rotten and attracts flies? The skunk cabbage flower, of course.
A walk along a swampy path in early March may reveal a teardrop shaped chamber, speckled maroon and brown emerging from the muddy soil. This is the reproductive structure or flower of the skunk cabbage, a plant whose large bouquet of leaves dots the soft edges of swamps from Nova Scotia to Tennessee.

Skunk cabbage is an apropos name. This plant is a stinker, but an embrace of its fetid odor is part of the plant's appeal and one of a suite of adaptations that allow skunk cabbage to burst onto the scene earlier than other flowering plants.

What are its challenges?
First, is the temperature.
Early spring is unpredictable but usually damp and chilly and sometimes even snowy, not the weather that favors flowers and pollinators. Skunk cabbage has not only adapted to the frosty temperatures but has even figured out a way to exploit this environmental condition to its advantage by using a process called uncoupled respiration to create heat.

Wildlife photographer and BLCT volunteer Butch Lombardi snapped the pipevine swallowtail butterfly and the lupine and daisy at the Doug Rayner Wildlife Sanctuary. The sharp-shinned hawk was photographed at Osamequin Park.

This heat allows the plant to create a microclimate inside and around its flower some 20 degrees warmer than the ambient temperature.

Scientists believe this heat helps the plant in several ways. Warming the soil and air around the plant, the flower can melt away icy barriers and warmer localized air helps volatilize or disperse the chemical signals released by the flower. The heat also creates a welcoming environment for pollinators who are encouraged to linger in the warm sheltering flower.

See the full article about skunk cabbage at www.BLCT.org

Clip-out Membership Form

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