



THE BARRINGTON LAND CONSERVATION TRUST

Volume 18, Number 2 Spring 2010

ANNUAL MEETING

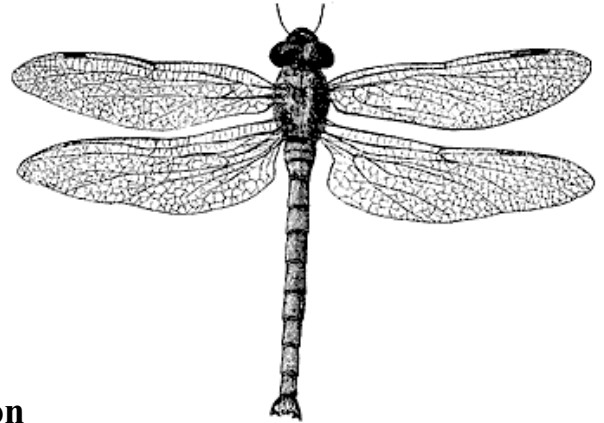
Tuesday, June 15 at 7:00 PM
Barrington Library Auditorium

DRAGONHUNTERS

SKIMMERS

AND EMERALDS

**Dragonflies and Damselflies in Your Backyard:
Their Natural History, Ecology, and Conservation**



This illustrated talk by Ginger Brown will include identification, natural history, behavior, ecology, and conservation of dragonflies and damselflies, with emphasis on local species.

Ginger has been studying dragonflies and damselflies for nearly 30 years, focusing on inventory and monitoring of rare species, conservation, and ecology. She was principal investigator for the Rhode Island Odonata Atlas, a multi-year inventory of dragonflies and damselflies in Rhode Island, from 1998-2004. She wrote "Dragonflies and Damselflies of Cape Cod" which was published in 1991 and reprinted/revised in 1997. Her second book, about Rhode Island's dragonflies and damselflies including results from the Odonata Atlas project, is in progress.

TRUST HONORED FOR SOWAMS WOODS PROTECTION AND RESTORATION

On April 30th, the Barrington Land Conservation Trust was honored by the Environmental Council of Rhode Island for permanently protecting and restoring Sowams Woods. Protected in December 2007, this popular property is enjoyed by many visitors each day. The Trust project was nominated for the Chafee Award by Save the Bay.

This effort would never have succeeded without our partners: the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, the Town of Barrington, the Pokanoket Tribe of the Wampanoag Nation, The Nature Conservancy and our many land trust and community supporters including Senator Lincoln Chafee, the Norman E. and

Dorothy McCulloch, Jr. McAdams Charitable Trust, and the Rhode Island Foundation. We are grateful to the Rhode Island Country Club members who voted to sell the property to the land trust below its appraised value.

Sowams Woods is a key parcel within a 700 acre patchwork of open space in Barrington proposed to be part of the Sowams National Heritage District. This district, included in the town comprehensive plan, will also be part of its open space plan. The concept could be expanded to include other significant natural and historic parcels within Sowams, the homeland of the Pokanoket Tribe of the Wampanoag Nation, which includes (con't)

(con't) lands in both Rhode Island and Massachusetts. The goal of the heritage district would be to organize protected properties within a framework to increase awareness and appreciation of these natural, scenic, recreation and historic resources. Additional properties should be considered for protection with trails eventually connecting these public lands.

In the three years since acquiring the property, the Land Trust has worked with numerous volunteers from Beyond Our Walls Great Day of Service, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, National Honor Society and individual volunteers to remove trash, litter, and invasive plants, and to improve the walking trails. If you haven't visited the property recently, be sure to check out the new trail map (www.blct.org) before your visit!

CONGRATULATIONS TO HELEN!

Although the Land Trust received the John H. Chafee Conservation Leadership Award in April for the purchase of the Sowams Woods property from the RI Country Club, it was Helen Tjader's unstinting efforts to raise the \$2,000,000.00 purchase price that made it possible.

This 12 acre jewel of mixed deciduous woodland property and evergreen trees on Echo Lake next to PIC-WIL nature preserve, is the location of ancient Native American ceremonies, vernal pools, and stopping place for 130 species of birds.

Helen and her troops of local volunteers have launched restoration work to curtail invasive growth in the woods and complete a lovely series of trails for the public to enjoy.

Thank you, Helen, for all your effort in acquiring and continuing to maintain this lovely property.

ALLIN'S COVE UPDATE

After several delays due to permit processing, work will begin in July on invasive control at Allin's Cove. This three year project, funded by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) and funds from the RI Habitat Restoration Fund, will treat knotweed at Byway Road and Pleasant Street extension and phragmites on the upland between Willow Way and Third Street. Warm



Abhinav Gautam, Scott Cipoletti, Chris Halladay

season grasses will be replanted on the upland, and trees and shrubs will be planted to replace the knotweed along the banks at Byway and Pleasant.

The emerging salt marshes east of the upland and along Byway Road have had a tough time due to increased storms and tidal surges. Predictably, the sand spit has migrated into the cove. However, the speed and extent of movement caught us by surprise and covered approximately eight feet of new salt marsh. It damaged fencing around the new marshes erected to exclude geese predation. These are gradually being rebuilt and, in the case of Byway Road, will be relocated farther from the sand spit.

Every year in early summer tides bring in new salt marsh grass (*spartina*) seeds which sprout tiny plants that would mature into a thick, healthy salt marsh were it not for geese predation. The voracious geese devour the plants whose roots are rich in nutrients. Thus the need for fencing. The plan, at the end of the three years is to have eradicated at least half of the invasives that surround the cove, establish a beautiful upland grassy knoll and be well on the way to establishing healthy salt marshes at the two sites.



Charlotte at Predator Excluder Box.

SAVE THE DATE!

A great opportunity to see terrapin at the height of the nesting season!

Charlotte will lead a guided walk through Doug Rayner Wildlife Refuge at Knockum Hill

**11:00 AM SATURDAY,
JUNE 26
(RAIN DATE, SUNDAY,
JUNE 27)**

THE TERRAPIN WATCH

The “terrapin team” will start its 21st year in early June, watching for the first Diamondback Terrapins to nest at Rayner Refuge on Nockum Hill. Our goal is to protect enough egg nests from predators so that some of the hatchlings produced will be able to grow to maturity in Hundred Acre Cove to sustain the current population - perhaps even to increase it so that some turtles may venture to other possible nesting areas on the Barrington and Palmer Rivers. Loss of habitat due to development has, however, drastically reduced the possible nesting sites.

Participating interns this year are BHS sophomore Evan Bulman, Roger Williams University junior Brian Williamson and Cranston West freshman Emily Tilton (Bristol Community College intern). Other watchers will be science teacher Lori

GIFTS

IN MEMORY OF E. DOUGLAS RAYNER

The Land Trust is very grateful to the Rayner family for naming the Trust as recipient for gifts in memory of Doug. We thank the following additional donors: Mrs. Barbara Colvin, Nick and Julia Clifton, April Carleton, Charles and Harriet Dunham, Steven and Beverly Reinert, Jane Blunt, Carl Furtado, Richard Philbrick, and Mary Jo Simon.

IN MEMORY OF BARBARA F. SKERRY

Mrs. Otto Johnson

Vastano, refuge manager Pete McCalmont, Bob Caron and Charlotte Sornborger. Besides protecting nests, the team will continue adding to one of the longest consecutive records of a DB terrapin population. Some of the terrapins we have seen nesting many times over the years are nearly certain to be well over 40 years old! The smoothness of their shells recorded 20 years ago indicated that they were at least 20 years old at that time. Your support as Land Trust members and donors enables us to finance this endeavor.

Charlotte Sornborger





THE BARRINGTON LAND CONSERVATION TRUST
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Membership Categories (circle one)

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 please contact me.

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WWW.BLCT.ORG

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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.

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