



# Barrington Land Conservation Trust

Spring/Summer 2012

Volume 21, Issue 3

## EVENTS

**Tuesday, June 12  
7 p.m.**

*Annual Meeting/Lecture*  
Science writer Todd McLeish gives talk titled "Rare Wildlife in Southern New England at the Barrington Public Library

**Wednesday, June 20  
6:30 p.m.**

Summer Solstice Hike at the Seekonk Meadows and the Charles Mararian Farm. 6:15 registration at Seekonk Library.

**Saturday, July 15  
10:30 a.m.**

Dragonfly Walk at Echo Lake

**Land Trust Days** run from August 10 to September 30. This is the first annual statewide Days with a roster and calendar of events posted at [landtrustdays.org](http://landtrustdays.org). We encourage everyone to get outdoors for Barrington's events and activities statewide

## On The Web

See the latest photos, maps, and videos of BLCT projects, cleanups and wildlife online at our facebook page and at [www.blct.org](http://www.blct.org).

## Middle School Science Classes Study Nockum Hill

**M**iddle school science classes visited Nockum Hill during the first week in May to conduct outdoor field experiments and get to know one of Barrington's largest protected areas.

"It was pretty interesting to see all the different ecosystems combined," said Sidney Davis, 13.

Teams of seventh graders used nets to collect and count shrimp, minnows and fiddler crabs along the shore of Hundred Acre Cove.

They also analyzed plants and soil samples, called quadrants, in the meadow and wooded areas within the 73-acre Doug Rayner Wildlife Sanctuary at Nockum Hill.

"In order to understand a large area, you have to look at a small area," said Ginger Brown a scientist with the Audubon Society of Rhode Island and Barrington Land Conservation Trust board member.

Over three days, some 200 students applied many of the classroom concepts, like food webs, with science and math.

The program, in its sixth year, helps students discover and appreciate the remaining open space in densely built communities like Barrington.

"We also want them to know this beautiful place and come back with their families and care about it," said Lisa Maloney, an Audubon education specialist.

The Doug Rayner Wildlife Sanctuary at Nockum Hill has hiking trails that are open to the public. It is located near Four Town Farm on George Street.

E. Douglas Rayner, a distinguished naturalist and native of Barrington, knew the area well and played a significant role in its protection.

The annual Middle School program is funded by the BLCT.



# Presidents' Message

As a supporter, you are a leader in Barrington land conservation. Together we see the big picture and our members enable us to respond more effectively to the needs and issues of our community. While open space in Barrington becomes less available it becomes more desirable.

Our community is clearly passionate about the future of our town and preserving its charm and character, and unique, diverse ecology. The pride and passion we share brings us together to help shape Barrington's future.

We hope you might join us for one of our walks or lectures. And don't forget to bring a friend to help grow the BLCT partnership!

Blakely Szosz and Beth Rondeau

Co-Presidents BLCT



## Purple Martins Are Back

The once-rare purple martins are back in large numbers and nesting around Barrington. Bird expert Ray Marr said the first purple martins returned in early April and stay through mid-August. Marr recommends viewing purple martins at dusk at the PIC-WIL Nature Preserve on Washington Road and across from the Rhode Island Country Club on Nayatt Road.

Purple Martins nest in special gourd-shaped houses designed to keep out competing birds. So far, 69 of the 88 houses scattered around Barrington are occupied and should be full by the end of June. Their population declined dramatically during the last century as the invasive European starlings took over purple martin nests. By the 1980s their population nearly vanished. Marr has been aiding the recovery of purple martins since 1994. "The birds are making a huge comeback," he said.

Anyone interested in hosting a purple martin house can contact Ray at [rmarr2@cox.net](mailto:rmarr2@cox.net) or 401-359-7601.



Osprey nest at Allin's Cove

## Allin's Cove Wildlife Report

It's been an active year at Allin's Cove, one of BLCT's most diverse waterfront habitats located near the Alfred Drowne and Bay Spring neighborhoods. Here's just some of the progress chronicled by land steward Sandra Wyatt,

- Ten volunteers planted 700 beach grass plants on the bank of Byway Road. Save The Bay provided the plants, which offer protection for fiber-filled coit logs recently installed to lessen wave and tidal impact.
- A long horned owl became trapped by its wing in the baffle string on the goose excluder fence around the salt marsh at Byway Road. The state Department of Environmental Management took the owl to wildlife rehabilitators in Saunterstown for treatment by raptor specialists. Only feathers were damaged. Its flight ability was not impaired. The owl was returned to Allin's Cove on April 6.
- Four baby ospreys fledged in the last year. The osprey poles were installed in 2005 by the Army Corp of Engineers.

## Earth Day Cleanups

Barrington Land Conservation Trust sponsored two cleanups to celebrate Earth Day. Allin's Cove beach and marshland drew residents from the Third Street and Bay Springs neighborhoods on April 21 and 22 to collect trash, remove fallen trees and clear invasive vines along the Third Street path.

On April 29, about a dozen BLCT members fanned out across the trails of Veterans Park and shoreline of Brickyard Pond to collect litter.

All were organized by Helen Tjader, past president of BLCT. "It's great to have everybody out for an Earth Day project," Tjader said.

An April 22 cleanup at Sowams Woods was postponed due to rain.

The brush and trash was collected by the Barrington Department of Public Works.

Watch a video of the cleanups with Helen on the Barrington Land Conservation Trust Facebook page.



### Turtle Time



Charlotte Sornborger tends to one of the first terrapin to nest this season. She records the code on the terrapin and moves its eggs into an excluder.

Charlotte, a BLCT board member and past president, is an expert on the terrapin. Barrington has the only established terrapin habitat in the state.

BLCT held a terrapin walk June 9 at the Doug Rayner Wildlife Refuge at Nockum Hill.



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