

BARRINGTON LAND CONSERVATION TRUST

STEWARDSHIP FUNDS -- THE KEY TO MAINTAINING CONSERVATION VALUES



Sowams Woods
Photo courtesy of Helen Tjader

The Land Trust fulfills its mission of protecting Barrington's natural resources through fee ownership and conservation easements over undeveloped, environmentally sensitive property. Because such properties are entrusted to the Land Trust to maintain their conservation value, the Land Trust must commit itself to perpetual stewardship of the properties in order to maintain that value. As explained in an article published in the Winter 2010 *Barrington Land Conservation Trust Newsletter*, stewardship means many things, including enjoyment of the properties through observation of the plants, birds and animals that inhabit them and fostering positive relationships with land owners and the community.

The most significant aspect of stewardship, however, involves monitoring and maintaining each property to safeguard its flora and fauna, prevent potential injury to visitors and avoid encroachments and easement violations. Failure to properly fulfill stewardship responsibilities may result in a degradation of the property's conservation value and damage the community's respect for the properties and the Land Trust.

Because of the critical, perpetual nature of the stewardship obligation, land trusts need to implement long term plans to fulfill this obligation. Although some stewardship responsibilities may be filled by volunteers, other tasks must be delegated to paid professionals. These functions include performing surveys, preparing baseline documentation, installing/repairing signs, fences and bridges, maintenance such as mowing and tree maintenance, and the removal and control of invasive species, and legal defense of encroachments and easement violations. In addition, land trusts must purchase liability insurance to cover all of their properties. As a result, a land trust's stewardship plan necessarily must include a plan for raising the funds necessary to finance its stewardship obligations.

Ideally, a land trust should establish dedicated funds reserved specifically for stewardship expenses. The money for stewardship funds may be raised from a variety of sources, including stewardship fundraising and the allocation of portions of unrestricted donations to a single stewardship fund intended to provide management for all properties. An increasingly common practice involves establishing a long-term stewardship budget for individual properties at the time of acquisition, and building that cost into the acquisition of the property. In such cases, the donor may be asked to endow the stewardship fund at the time of the donation, or the necessary funds may be obtained through fundraising targeted at preserving that specific parcel.

The Land Trust takes its stewardship obligations very seriously. Over the next few months, the Land Trust will be evaluating its stewardship practices and procedures to ensure that it is forever able to fulfill its obligations. The Land Trust is committed to maintaining the conservation value of the properties entrusted to it and we hope we can count on considerable help in achieving that goal from the community which it serves.

➤ Melissa Horne



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



Thank you for your memorial donations in memory of Fred R. Tripp!

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A NOTE OF THANKS:

A major thank you to Bob Choate of *Choate Tree Services* for removing 8 large oaks at Rayner Refuge. This great gift has opened up a big sunny area for terrapin nesting. Our turtles appreciate your help!

SAVE THE DATE: BLCT ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, June 10th at 7:00 PM

We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Nancy Karraker as the featured speaker at our Annual meeting. We will hold a brief business meeting at 7:00 followed by Dr. Karraker's talk at 7:30.

Creeping Creatures in the Northeast and Far East: Studies of Amphibians and Reptiles

Dr. Nancy E. Karraker
Assistant Professor of Wetland Ecology
Department of Natural Resources Science
University of Rhode Island

Approximately 16,000 species of amphibians and reptiles have been documented in the world, but most remain poorly studied because of their secretive and often nocturnal habits. In addition, between 30-40% of these animals are threatened by the activities of humans. Nancy has spent the past 13 years studying frogs and turtles in China, Malaysia, and Thailand, and also closer to home in New York and Rhode Island. Do you wonder what to do when you come face to face with a 12-foot long reticulated python in Thailand? How do you get a 30 pound snapping turtle out of a trap in Rhode Island? Have you ever wondered which species are calling in a chorus of frogs in your backyard? Why do turtles cross the road? How can the tiny spring peeper survive our frigid Northeast winters? Nancy will talk about some of the species she has studied and landscapes where she has worked, discuss amphibian and reptile natural history, and share important conservation concerns for these animals in the Northeast and the Far East. (Photos below courtesy of Dr. Karraker.)



A Special Thank You to the BLCT Stewards – our all-volunteer workforce!

**Thank you for your efforts in monitoring the 73 properties
under the BLCT's care! We truly appreciate
the considerable time that you spend as a volunteer to
monitor your respective property!**

Helen Tjader
David Parkhurst
Jan Reitsma
Peter McCalmont
Ginger Brown
Norman McCulloch
Sandra Wyatt
Bleu Grijalva
Norm Dudziak
Charles McCoy
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Lyn Cleary
Beth Rondeau
Michel Corbin
Melanie Millspaugh
Kathleen Philips
Charles Sherman

MEET ONE OF BLCT'S NEW BOARD MEMBERS – MELISSA HORNE



Melissa joined the Board in 2012 and recently became chairperson of the Acquisition and Planning Committee. She, her husband Dan, and son Ian have lived close to the Little Mussachuck Creek properties since 2000; their explorations of that area quickly gave them a great appreciation of the Land Trust's conservation efforts. While Dan and Ian have volunteered their services on trail maintenance projects, Melissa has been able to utilize skills developed during her career as an attorney to advise the Land Trust regarding the acquisition of new properties and maintenance of the conservation value of existing parcels.

Melissa is counsel to Higgins, Cavanaugh & Cooney, LLP, where her business law practice includes advising clients undertaking responsible construction in coastal environments. Before joining the Land Trust Board, she was a long-time member and chairperson of the Barrington Parks & Recreation Commission. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time on the water, gardening and attending Colorado College soccer games.

Melissa believes that protecting Barrington's natural resources for the enjoyment of its current and future residents is key to maintaining a balanced perspective. "Development and technology are making the world an increasingly stressful place. Access to scenic and natural sites, and the plant and animal life found there, provides an important respite from that stress and reminds us of our connections with the natural world."

COME WALK WITH US!

*Sunday, June 8th from 10 AM – 12 Noon
Prince's Pond and St Andrews Forest Walk*

This walk will be led by Saundy Patrick, local nature enthusiast. We will start with Prince's Pond. Folks can opt to end after that or to continue further with those who want to include St Andrew's Forest. Both are lovely walks through Barrington Forests that most people don't know even exist. Saundy is a fabulous tour guide and will include some history of these areas as well.

Meeting Location: Parking lot of the White Church at the intersection of County Road, Massasoit Road and Federal Road.



Clip-out Membership Form

Make Check Payable To:
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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
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Conservator	\$250	___ I'd like information
Patron	\$100	on donating stock
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