



BARRINGTON LAND CONSERVATION TRUST

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PRESERVE. ADVOCATE. EDUCATE. ENGAGE.

Featured Property: Hoder Marsh

By Victor Lerish and Ian Donahue.

Our featured property is the newly acquired Hoder Marsh. Robert and Janet Hoder raised three children at their home on Adams Point Road. Bob was an avid gardener, and he filled the yard with roses, much to the delight of neighbors and passersby when they bloomed each June. Bob passed away in 2018, and when it came time for Janet to downsize from the Adams Point Road property, she decided to subdivide the 5-acre property and donate a portion to the Barrington Land Conservation Trust.

Now known as Hoder Marsh, the 3.5-acre property is located on Adams Point at Bourne Lane and Oyster Shell Lane. The property is a nice complement to the adjacent Marshlands property. As their names suggest, these properties are marshy and not easily accessible by people, but they do provide wonderful habitat for birds, amphibians and small mammals.

Hoder Marsh is officially a salt marsh. As Save the Bay explains, a salt marsh is a wetland area located between the land and the ocean, with plants that can handle regular tidal flooding by salt water. Salt marshes are highly productive systems that produce more basic food energy per acre than any other known ecosystem, including tropical rain forests and freshwater wetlands. They also serve as a buffer between land and sea, filtering nutrients, run-off, and heavy metals, even shielding coastal areas from storm surge, flood, and erosion.

During times of natural sea level rise, the increased tidal flooding and standing saltwater causes salt marshes to move inland. Normally, this migration of the healthy organisms occurs over a long period of time.

With sea level now rising at an unprecedented rate, salt marshes are threatened and need all the help they can



get if they are to remain healthy and expand their boundaries inland. Hoder Marsh is one such area, identified as ideal for salt marsh conservation and migration in a new mapping project out of URI. In fact it is one of 18 properties in Barrington given "top tier" status for conservation purposes in this project.

Salt marsh migration is made even more difficult when sea walls, bridges, and other manmade structures block this natural movement. Save the Bay has been working throughout Narragansett Bay to fight the effects of climate change on salt marshes. In some cases, existing but degraded salt marshes can be restored by adjusting the water flows in the marsh. In other cases, Save the Bay advocates removing barriers to salt marsh migration. The best strategy, however, is to ensure that existing salt marshes remain healthy and have room to migrate as sea level rises.

Janet Hoder's gift to BLCT has helped to preserve Hoder Marsh as a productive ecosystem that will

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be protected forever in its natural and undeveloped condition, ready to serve as a buffer between the land and Narragansett Bay and a habitat for the flora and fauna that inhabit salt marshes. We hope that Hoder Marsh and all of the salt marshes in our corner of the world will continue to thrive.

Thank you, Mrs. Hoder, for this generous gift!

To visit this property, head down Adams Point Road and turn left onto Bourne Lane. The Hoder Marsh is the property on the left, and Marshland is on the right.



View from Hoder Marsh across to BLCT's Marshlands property

Save The Trees

Do you love receiving our newsletter, but worry about how much paper it takes to produce this wonderful publication every three months? Then send us your email address and we will send the newsletter straight to your inbox! Just go to **bit.ly/blct-newsletters** and fill out the form (and check out our older newsletters while you're there). We will never give your info to anyone else, so don't worry about email spam.

Guess That Plant!



Photo: Olivia Pawlyk

Answer on Page 6

Is Your Backyard Bay-Friendly?

By Sara Horvet and Cindy Larson.
Photos by Cindy Larson

It is impossible to live in Rhode Island and not feel a strong connection to water. In a town like Barrington, made up of 8.2 square miles of land and 7.2 square miles of water this connection is particularly evident. Everything we do with the land really matters, not only on the thoughtfully maintained BLCT properties, but also right in every one of our own backyards.

In the fall edition of our newsletter we talked about a new ordinance the Town of Barrington had enacted to limit fertilizer use within the boundaries of town. That's a great first step, but there's lots more that can be done. Lawn fertilizer, garden pesticides, and yes, even our beloved pets can be sources of pollution to our local waterways. With a few simple actions, you can do your part to prevent water pollution to our harbors, coves, and rivers.

Our friends at Save the Bay produced a wonderful resource called Bay Friendly Living. We strongly recommend downloading a copy for your own use here <https://tinyurl.com/4jz7yjhd>. Below we summarize some of the ways we can all start to be more Bay Friendly in our own backyards!

Five Steps for More Bay-Friendly Living:

1. Reduce Fertilizer Use:

Use only as much fertilizer as you need. More fertilizer doesn't make your lawn extra green; it will just run off and pollute our waters.

Limit fertilizer applications to 1-2 times per year. Use an organic, slow-release, water-insoluble fertilizer. Fertilize in the fall, rather than in spring.

Don't fertilize before a rain storm or when the ground is frozen.

Keep fertilizer off pavement.

Test your soil to see how much fertilizer your lawn really needs. By knowing your yard's soil type, you can keep it healthy and prevent pollution.

If you live on the water, avoid fertilizing too close to the edge of the water.

2. Stop Polluted Runoff

Redirect downspouts away from pavement. This small change will prevent runoff.

Pull weeds by hand instead of spraying

them with pesticides.

Fix car leaks so oil, antifreeze, and other toxic substances stay out of our water.

Wash your car on grass or gravel instead of in your driveway. This will allow soapy, dirty wash water to soak into the ground, rather than letting it run off into storm drains.

Install a rain barrel on your downspout. Not only will this stop runoff, but you can use the collected water for your garden.

If you live next to the water, plant a buffer of trees and shrubs along the edge of your property. Plant buffers can dramatically reduce the amount of pollution flowing into our local waterways.

3. Save Water

Don't overwater your lawn. Your lawn requires only one inch of water per week. Any more than that will create runoff.

Water your lawn once per week in the early morning. This is the best way to help your lawn grow deep, healthy roots.

4. Plant and Grow Native Plants

When landscaping, choose native flowers, trees, and shrubs. Native plants require less maintenance and provide better habitat for wildlife.

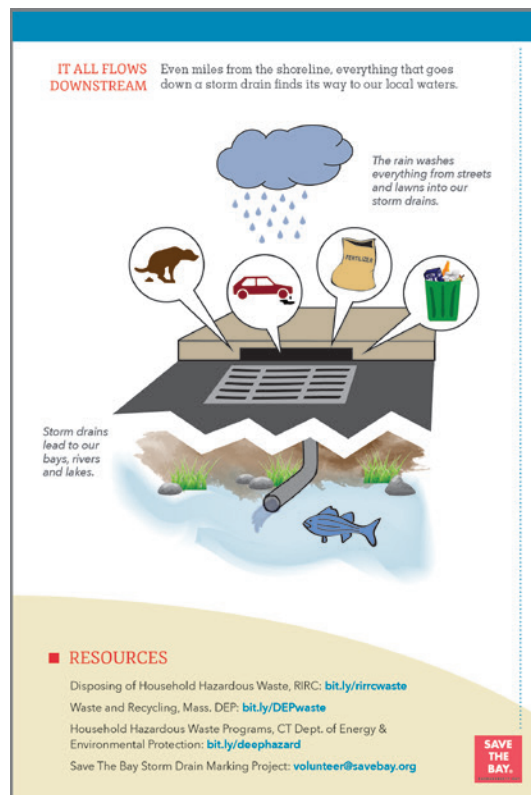
Reduce the size of your lawn by creating new gardens filled with native plants.

Create a rain garden to capture runoff from your yard. You can fill your rain garden with native plants, and it will attract beneficial birds, butterflies, and honeybees.

5. Pick Up After Your Pet

Pick up dog waste in your backyard and in your neighborhood. Dog waste can lead to bacterial contamination and nitrogen pollution in our waterways.

Thanks for joining together with members of the Barrington Land Conservation Trust to protect all the parts of our beloved community. Remember, it all runs downstream!

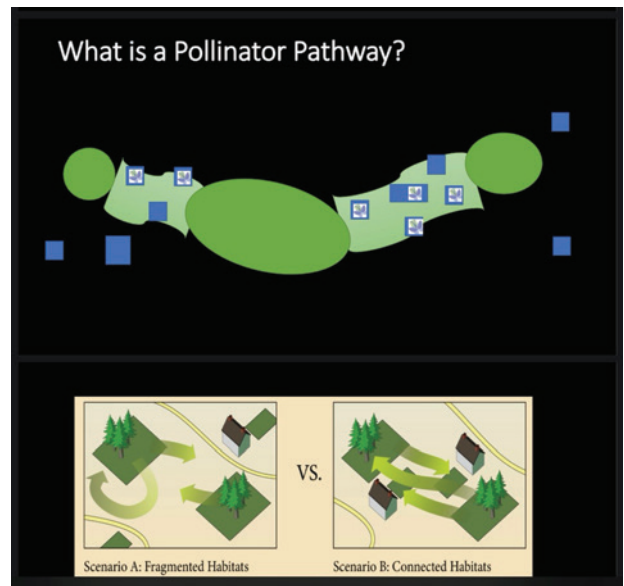


Things are Buzzing with the Barrington Pollinator Pathway

By Cindy Pierce and Cindy Larson

Nearly 60 residents tuned in to the Barrington Pollinator Pathway kick-off meeting on April 14th. If you missed the event, you can view a recording on the Land Trust website at www.blct.org. Pollinator pathways focus on connecting conservation spaces across towns and regions with private properties as depicted in the diagram below. Habitat in our region has grown too fragmented to rely solely on spaces such as those maintained by the Land Trust. By encouraging pollinator friendly practices in yards and other properties across town, life supporting pathways can be created.

There are three essential steps to creating a pollinator friendly habitat; rethink your lawn, plant native plants and eliminate the use of pesticides. As of this writing 21 properties across town have been added to the pathway. And the number is growing every day. You can view the map, and sign up too at www.pollinator-pathway.org. The pathway movement is just getting underway in town. Stay tuned for more events, activities and ways to connect. Follow us on Facebook @BarringtonLandTrust to see the latest news.



The Message is Simple

Rethink your lawn	Plant Native Plants	No Pesticides
Reduce the size of your lawn, mow less, and use organic lawn care practices	Native plants bring the pollinators and the birds, and increase the biological diversity of your land	Pesticides negatively impact the health of us all.



Great Green Heron, in the pond at Town Hall

Photo by John Sampieri



Ruby throated hummingbirds have returned from their winter migration journey. Look for them on land trust properties and right in your own yard! Photo: Cindy Larson

The Terrapin Conservation Project Reports Another Successful Year

Story by Melissa Horne

The volunteers leading the Terrapin Conservation Project faced multiple challenges in 2020 but still managed to fulfill its goal of encouraging the reproduction of the endangered Northern Diamondback terrapin at the Doug Rayner Wildlife Refuge.

Heading into the 31st year of terrapin conservation efforts, Pete McCalmont, Kathryn Beauchamp, and Madeleine Linck took over the management of the project following the retirement of Charlotte Sornborger. The first hurdle for the new team was to address the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Based on CDC guidelines, the committee developed a protocol to keep the Terrapin Conservation Project volunteers safe and healthy throughout the nesting and hatchling emergence season. Another issue related to the pandemic was a significant increase in the number of visitors to the Rayner Refuge. Realizing the impact this could have on nesting terrapin, the committee worked with Rhode Island DEM's Division of Fish & Wildlife to develop a strategy to close off access to the nesting area during critical periods of the nesting season.

Despite these challenges, the 2020 season was a highly successful one. During the nesting period between June 6th and July 7th, a total of 237 terrapin nested in the Rayner Refuge. Eighty-eight percent of the terrapin were identified as repeat visitors; the remaining 29 terrapin came to nest for the first time. Returning terrapin are identified by markings in their shells; twenty-eight terrapin nesting for the first time were fitted with a Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tag provided by DEM. This device will help reduce errors associated with ambiguous or altered markings and will improve terrapin researchers' ability to positively identify individual

terrapins.

After many of the terrapin nests were protected by devices intended to exclude predators, such as raccoons and skunks, from disturbing the eggs, a total of 1453 hatchlings emerged from the nests between August 2nd and October 1st. Some of these hatchlings were fitted with PIT tags or tiny radio transmitters so that Carolyn Decker, a URI Biological & Environmental Sciences graduate student, can continue her two-year study of post-emergence movements of the terrapin hatchlings.

Animal predation is a major threat to terrapin nests, resulting in the loss of 406 nests this season. With the help of DEM, various strategies to combat predation are being explored to increase the likelihood that more hatchlings will survive.

The Terrapin Conservation Project is grateful for the assistance of Scott W. Buchanan, Ph.D. (Herpetologist, RIDEM, Division of Fish & Wildlife); Liam Corcoran (DEM Wildlife Technician); Richard Mercer (DEM Coastal Fellowship), and Kate Eller, an intern who has worked with the Terrapin Conservation Project for the past several years. The efforts of 32 volunteers were especially valuable, because, in addition to helping the terrapin have a productive nesting season, they collectively donated sufficient time and energy to earn a \$7,000 DEM matching grant for the Terrapin Conservation Project to use on future conservation efforts.

BLCT congratulates the Terrapin Conservation Project for shepherding the terrapin through another successful nesting season. We are proud to continue our support the Project's efforts financially and through the efforts of our volunteers.



Photo credits: Sara Horvet

Nature Needs You - Please Give Generously!

Your support of the Barrington Land Conservation Trust enables:

- *Pollinator plants to grow.
- *Our community to have access to open space for exploration and education on trails maintained by the Tuesday Trails volunteers.
- *Flora and fauna species to thrive in Barrington in spaces where our Education Committee conducts numerous community programs for all ages, all year long.
- *Countless species of birds and animals to have open space homes and sanctuaries.

Can the Barrington Land Conservation Trust count on your support this spring to ensure that we are able to continue to offer our members and friends access to the natural world in our town and continue to benefit from restorative power of the natural world?

Please support BLCT by taking a moment today to make a tax-deductible donation at the most generous level possible. Your donation will help ensure that BLCT will have the funds necessary to continue to protect Barrington's special places and keep its properties open and available for recreational and educational opportunities. Thank you!

You can scan the QR code below to go straight to the BLCT donation page at [Paypal.com](https://www.paypal.com)!



Wildlife Habitat at Pic-Wil

During meadow maintenance, the Tuesday Trails volunteers created wildlife habitat structures in the form of brush piles made from sticks and tree limbs. These structures create nesting and escape cover for small mammals, reptiles and birds in the nature preserve.

Photo:
Mary Grover

Guess That Plant Answer

This plant is the common reed also known as the invasive non-native *Phragmites australis*. It is found growing near rivers, bays, ponds and even along our local highways. Many Rhode Island marshes (including the marshes in Barrington) have an invasion of *Phragmites australis*. *Phragmites* prefers freshwater habitats that are high in nutrients and its presence is often a sign that a marsh is of poor quality. Unfortunately, this invasive plant has effectively choked out much of our native *Phragmites*, as well as other native marsh grasses, reducing wildlife habitat value, plant diversity and species abundance. There have been multiple projects over the years working to eliminate *Phragmites* and to help restore Rhode Island marsh habitats (including one in BLCT's Little Mussachuck Creek). If you would like to learn more visit: <http://www.edc.uri.edu/restoration/html/project/lessons2.htm#mon> and https://www.savebay.org/bay_issues/habitats-and-wildlife/.



Photo: Olivia Pawlyk

Don't Forget to Submit your Pics to the Photo Contest!

The BLCT is sponsoring its first-ever photo contest, so send us those great pics you've taken on BLCT properties! Photographers of all ages may submit as many as 3 photographs in any of the following categories: Landscape; Plants and Animals; and People Enjoying Nature. All eligible photos must have been taken on a BLCT property. Local artist Lenny Rumpler will choose two winners in each category from among the photos submitted by adults and by students under the age of sixteen, as well as a "Best in Show" entry. Here are the rules:

1. Photographs may be submitted between April 1, 2021 and 11:59 p.m. on May 31, 2021, but the photos do not need to have been taken during that time frame.
2. Photographs can be color or black and white.
3. All photographs must be submitted to BLCT by utilizing the address photos@blct.org.
4. All submissions must include the photographer's name, a title, the location of the photo and the month in which it was taken. Photos entered in the student category must include the student's age.
5. By submitting a photograph, you warrant that the photograph is your own work and that you alone own the copyright.
6. While photographers will retain complete copyright over their entries, BLCT will acquire a royalty-free right of use, display, and reproduction of all photos for purposes of publication in all media, including but not limited to BLCT's website, social media, exhibitions, slideshows and fund-raising items. Every effort will be made to credit the photographer for such use.
7. Winners will be notified by email, and announced at the BLCT Annual Meeting.
8. BLCT may request a larger, higher resolution file of the winning images.
9. Wildlife cannot be enticed, restrained, or put in any type of jeopardy for photographs submitted to this contest.

Your submissions to the 2021 BLCT Photo Contest will help the Barrington Land Conservation Trust continue to fulfill its mission of preserving open space and the plants and animals that inhabit these special places. Thank you for helping to further our mission through your photography.



Above: The osprey have returned to Barrington for summer breeding season and are busy building nests on Land Trust properties across town. Photo: Ed Moura

Below: When visiting Land Trust Properties be sure to look up, too. You never know who might be watching you. Photo: Cindy Larson



The appearance of Fiddleheads is a definite sign of spring! Photo: Sara Horvet

Don't Miss the 2021 BLCT Annual Meeting!

The Barrington Land Conservation Trust will host its annual meeting on Tuesday, June 22, at 6:30 PM. We traditionally hold this meeting at the Library, but even with the the end of Covid-19 on the horizon, we have decided to host the meeting via Zoom. Following some quick BLCT business, including announcements of the Volunteer of the Year and the winners of the Photo Contest, Gary Casabona from the Natural Resources Conservation Service will be making a presentation. Please join us for the meeting, and stay after for a question and answer session. If you would like to attend, the Zoom meeting ID is [852 6979 5176](#) and the passcode is [780096](#). Or you can go to www.blct.org and the link will be on the front page. Hope to see you there!



A Red Headed Woodpeckers that has taken up residence in Sowams Woods

Photo by Kathy Bartels



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