



# BARRINGTON LAND CONSERVATION TRUST

• ESTABLISHED 1979 •

PRESERVE. ADVOCATE. EDUCATE. ENGAGE.

## BLCT Hires Executive Director



The Barrington Land Conservation Trust welcomes Cindy Elder as its first executive director. In this role, she'll work closely with the BLCT Board of Directors, volunteers and the community to preserve Barrington's precious open space.

"Every time we protect a natural place, it's

a gift to our children," she says. "It's so easy to let it slip away, and then all you have are memories. I'm excited to be part of an organization that's taking the long view about preservation and working to save as much open space as we can."

A long-time member of the Trust and resident of Barrington, Cindy worked most recently as chief of business development for the RI Department of Environmental Management's Division of Parks & Recreation. She has also served as executive director and a board member of Coggeshall Farm Museum, and director of communications with the RI Community Food Bank.

Cindy grew up in Barrington and attended the public schools, while studying dance and music. She spent many summers with her grandmother in Wyoming, where she learned to love the wide open spaces so plentiful in that state. She also visited the Adirondacks, learning to hike, canoe and camp at an early age. These days, you're likely to see her in her garden

...cont. on next

... from the previous page

on the edge of Hundred Acre Cove or sailing in Narragansett Bay with her husband, Bob.

Although she has lived in other states, Cindy came home for higher education, earning a bachelor's in communications from Roger Williams University (back when it was a college) and a master's of public affairs from Brown University. She and Bob have lived in Barrington since 2008 with their two daughters, Emily and Elizabeth, both of whom have graduated from college and are working in the education and health care fields.

Cindy encourages BLCT members and anyone interested in preserving open space to reach out to her with questions, ideas and hopes for the future. You can reach her at [cindyelder@BLCT.org](mailto:cindyelder@BLCT.org).

## Name That Plant

*Answer on page 4*



Photo by Cindy Larson

## 2022 BLCT Scholarship Winner

The Barrington Land Conservation Trust awards an annual scholarship to a graduating Barrington High School senior who demonstrates a dedication to environmental conservation. BLCT is pleased to announce that the 2022 scholarship was awarded to Haley LaVena.

Haley has been involved in beach cleanups and volunteered at the Barrington Farm School Stand. She will attend Boston University next year and hopes to help out with clean ups and help spread environmental awareness in Boston.

Haley will study Health Sciences with the goal of transitioning into orthopedics.

BLCT wishes her success in her future endeavors!





# Ready to Join the Pollinator Pathway? Visit the Barrington Farm School for Some Inspiration!

*By Cindy Larson*

On July 21, 2022 the International Union for the Conservation of Nature placed the migratory monarch butterfly on its Red List of threatened species and classified it as endangered. Migratory monarch butterflies have been overwintering in the forests of Mexico for generations but during the last three decades, the eastern migratory monarch butterfly population has decreased by more than 80%, according to WWF monitoring reports. This iconic orange and black butterfly is resilient enough to make a remarkable 3,000-mile migratory journey but has not been resilient enough to withstand a dramatic loss of habitat, increasing use of herbicides and pesticides and the residual impacts of a changing climate.

News like this makes Barrington's growing Pollinator Pathway effort seem all that much more urgent. Two years ago a committee of the BLCT launched the Pathway effort here in town, building upon the energy of the Northeast Pollinator Pathway effort spreading throughout more than 200 communities in neighboring states. In order to thrive, pollinators need connected corridors of habitat, more than can be provided simply through conservation lands. Forming these pathways requires joining private and public properties together with conservation spaces to establish pollinator-friendly habitat and food sources for bees, butterflies, hummingbirds and other pollinating insects and wildlife along a series of continuous corridors. Since the initiative launched, 40 properties across Barrington have popped up on the Pathway Map. This includes several of BLCT's properties, dozens of private residences and a fabulous pollinator garden at the Barrington Farm School.

If you are looking for inspiration to start your own pollinator garden, we recommend a visit to the Farm School to see what the buzz is all about. In 2021, volunteers Blaise Rein and Felipe Ferreras began work in an unused section of the farm. They augmented their natural creativity and green thumbs with lots of research and supportive mentorship from Farm

School Board Member Gail Read. The results in just one year are amazing. The photos here give a glimpse into the progress, but experiencing the sights, sounds and smells of a late summer pollinator garden first hand can't be beat. Make time for a visit. The pollinator garden at the Farm School is nearly 90% native plants, which are at the heart of a



well-rounded pollinator habitat. The Farm School garden also follows other essential pollinator habitat guidelines including providing pollen and nectar sources with a succession of blooms from early spring to late fall, choosing a diverse color palette to appeal to an array of pollinators, planting in large groups and drifts and only using organic garden practices.

The Barrington Farm School operates on the 3.24-acre former Vendituoli Farm. In 2018, with the generosity of many donors, BLCT was able to purchase this parcel of land, ensuring its protection from development and securing a permanent operating base for the Farm School which leases the site from BLCT. The site had been operated as a single family farm since 1894 and, in addition to farmlands, contains a corridor of wildlife and wetland habitat that runs through the center of town into Narragansett Bay. When the property went up for sale in 2018 it was a prime spot for development. This treasure could easily have been lost but for the support of the many donors and volunteers who worked together to save the farm. It's this spirit of working together to save things that matter that we need to channel again to grow the Pollinator Pathway movement across Barrington.

Pollinator Pathways are all about connections: the connection of public and private places to form habitat, the connection of neighbors working together to preserve biodiversity and the connections made with nature right outside your own door. Ready to get connected? Email [education@blct.org](mailto:education@blct.org) to sign up for Barrington Pollinator Pathway news and add your property to the map at [www.pollinator-pathway.org](http://www.pollinator-pathway.org).

# Nature Needs You. Please Give Generously!

Have you ever wondered about the gourds at Mussachuck Beach and Pic-Wil Nature Preserve that enable the purple martins to thrive?

Are you curious about how the trails at Sowams Woods are so well marked and accessible throughout Barrington's four seasons?

Is the post Thanksgiving walk at Johannis Farm a part of your family tradition, but you are not sure how it comes together?

The answers to these questions and more are: your support makes ALL of this happen!

As the outside world continues to play a role in our lives locally, we hope you will make a gift to BLCT to help us continue to bring the best of nature to our community.

Please take 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 for supporting BLCT.

*You can scan the QR  
code below to go  
straight to the BLCT  
donation page at  
PayPal.com*



## Name That Plant *Answer* Eastern Prickly Pear Cactus



Eastern Prickly Pear Cactus. Photo by Cindy Larson

The Eastern Prickly Pear Cactus Patch (*Opuntia humifusa*) is native to the lower 48 states of the United States. It is not only a beautiful plant, but it is also edible, provides food and protection for wildlife and can be used in native landscaping. It's considered endangered in MA and rare in RI. Small patches still exist in the wild and it can be increasingly spotted in native plant gardens throughout New England. This indigenous plant is truly at home in Rhode Island. Watching pollinators and wildlife interact with it further confirms it. When you start to realize this, it opens your mind to a whole new way of looking at and thinking about how we garden.



# 2022 BLCT Volunteer of the Year

During the BLCT Annual Meeting in June, the land trust named Ann Brouillette the 2022 Volunteer of the Year. Since starting as a Tuesday Trails Team volunteer, Ann has expanded her BLCT involvement to include membership on our Stewardship Committee, becoming the steward for our Mussachuck Grove property and representing BLCT on the Town of Barrington Open Space Committee. She is an active participant in our Johannis Farm NRCS Grant working group and has recently mentored a middle school student on a service project at Mussachuck Grove and Beach. Ann is a master gardener and frequently lends her expertise about plants to our conservation efforts. We presented Ann with some gardening supplies to show our appreciation for all her hard work to the BLCT and the rest of the community. Thanks Ann!



## Barrington's First Brickyard: Remnants of the 17th Century

***Sunday, October 16 at 10 am***

### ***Johannis Wildlife Refuge***

Join the Barrington Land Conservation Trust and the Barrington Preservation Society for a walk through the Johannis Farm Wildlife Preserve to view the remnants of Barrington's first brick-making operation, dating back to the late 1600s. Learn about the site's claypits, brick piles and transport canals, as well as the surrounding flora and fauna.

A half hour trek through the Preserve's protected meadows, salt marsh and woodlands, bordering the Palmer River, will cap off the event.

The terrain is mostly flat and of medium difficulty. Please be prepared for wet conditions.

**Registration is required. Please email [education@blct.org](mailto:education@blct.org) to secure a spot.**





# BLCT Summer Walks

BLCT and the Barrington Public Library cosponsored two walks this summer on Land Trust properties usually closed to the public. The Johannis Wildlife Preserve was the location for the first walk on July 9. Participants walked through the meadow, along the salt

marshes of the Palmer River and through the woods of this special property, which is located in the northeast corner of Barrington. At over 32 acres, Johannis is the largest of the over 70 properties BLCT stewards here in Barrington.



Pic-Wil Preserve was the location for the second walk on Aug 13. The humidity lifted that morning, and we had beautiful weather for a walk through the fields and forest of this 17-acre property located off Washington

Rd. The tide was high that morning, but a brave few made it all the way to Mussachuck Beach through the salt marsh to view the large colony of purple martins that nest there.





# Welcome NEW BLCT Board Members



Bill Kirkpatrick



Charlie McCoy



Drew Curtis



Steve Boyajian

Bill Kirkpatrick is a native of Barrington, and a proud grandfather of twins. Bill has more than 44 years of experience in health and behavioral health social work. He enjoys hiking, photography and American history. Bill has been a steward for the Johannis Wildlife Refuge for 6 years.

Charlie McCoy has been practicing Nephrology in Rhode Island for 34 years, and has been a steward for 5 years. Charlie also owns and manages the "McCoy Community Farm," a volunteer organization that grows fresh vegetables and distributes them to East Bay food Pantries.

Drew Curtis joined the Tuesday Trails team in the fall of 2020 as the resident expert in chainsaw use, and has been the steward for Allin's Cove since 2021. Drew's hobbies include anything outdoors, but especially White Mountain hiking and flying, and has had many roles in the finance world. He is pictured with his wife Alexis, and his dog Newman.

Steve Boyajian is a lifelong resident of Barrington who started losing his sneakers in the muddy bottom of Allin's Cove around age 6. During his time in local government he led efforts to preserve 12 acres of open space at Nockum Hill and along the Palmer River and to reduce nutrient pollution in local waters from fertilizer use. In his spare time he enjoys gardening, boating, fishing and coaching baseball. He lives on Oak Manor Drive with his wife Sarah, son Maxwell (13), daughter Harper (11) and their Vizsla Penny.

## International Coastal Cleanup. Barrington Town Beach

Join the International Coastal Cleanup at Barrington Town Beach! This cleanup is hosted by Save The Bay and Barrington Land Conservation Trust. Shoreline trash is ugly and dangerous to wildlife, and shoreline cleanups are a great way for volunteers to make a difference. We will divide into small teams to pick up trash and record what we find. The data will be included in the Ocean Conservancy's annual report on marine debris.

**WHEN:** Saturday Sept 24th from 10 am - 12 pm

**WHERE:** Barrington Town Beach, 88 Bay Rd, Barrington, RI 02806. Continue straight past this address to reach the beach parking lot. Keep an eye out for Save the Bay signs!

**Registration** is required: [https://volunteer.savebay.org/need/detail/?need\\_id=722817](https://volunteer.savebay.org/need/detail/?need_id=722817)





**Registration is required.** Please follow this web link to the Library site for more information and to register: <https://barringtonlibrary.libcal.com/event/9401039>

