

Lincoln Land Conservation Trust & Rural Land Foundation

2014 Annual Report

The LLCT and RLF are two sister private non-profit organizations working together along with the Conservation Commission to preserve Lincoln's rural character through land conservation and responsible development.



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We're on the web!

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Our Missions

The LLCT strives to preserve the rural character of Lincoln; to acquire and maintain undeveloped lands in town; to develop walking trails therein; to promote sound conservation practices; and to encourage preservation, enjoyment, education, and scientific study of Lincoln's natural areas.

The RLF's mission is to preserve the natural beauties and rural character of the Town of Lincoln through protection of open space for recreation and conservation of land, forestry and wildlife; promotion of responsible real estate development and sound conservation practices; and research in land use and land use planning.

What's LOVE Got to do With It?



Summer Sodano of Waltham holding up her LLCT Kids Passport to the trails.

Everything. Your support for the LLCT by being a member of our organization shows how much you love Lincoln for its rural character.

But what is "Rural Character"? What separates Lincoln from any of our neighboring towns? You'll be hard pressed to find another community in the MetroWest area with as much permanently protected open space, extensive trail network, working agricultural land, and conservation and house restrictions. All of those pieces fit together to create a sense of "rural character".

The pressures to develop every last corner of open land are constant. The Lincoln Land

Conservation Trust (LLCT) and its sister organization, The Rural Land Foundation (RLF), keep a vigilant watch over these potential encroachments while also maintaining the assets we have already protected.

This was a year of new and continued partnerships, trail connections and people connections, acquisitions and stewardship, each activity a confirmation of the LOVE we all have for the land. As we review all that has happened in 2014, we look to the future and see your continued support and involvement as a vital piece of the work that we do for the love of the land. 🌿

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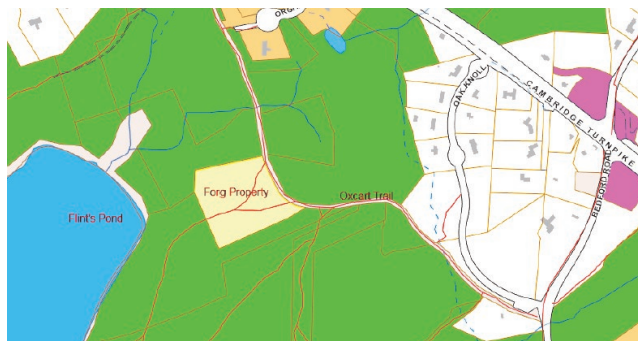
Your Support = Land Protection

Lincoln Locks-In Important Watershed Parcel

LWalking along the Oxcart Path into the woods surrounding Flint's Pond (the main water supply for Lincoln) you would not have known you were entering private property. The

Forg Family had long owned this 5-acre parcel and though the legal access to the parcel was complicated, the potential was always there for the family to exercise their right to develop this pristine spot deep in the watershed woodlands. The parcel had been identified by the Town in many past Open Space Plans as "a parcel of conservation interest" and Geoff McGean of the Rural Land Foundation had been in contact with members of the Forg family for many years.

Finally after years of discussion and negotiation, the Forg Family agreed to not pursue potential development of the lot and sell the property for conservation purposes at its assessed value (\$148k). Recognizing the importance of this parcel for watershed protection, the Water Department stepped up and contributed half of the funds necessary for the purchase while Town Meeting also approved the recommendation from the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) to fund the other half of the purchase.



Your Support = Stewardship and Land Management

We participated in the **6th** annual Garlic Mustard Pull Day.



We covered over **500** acres as we monitored **32** conservation properties.

Our dedicated volunteers attend to trail maintenance year-round.

Grace Chapel Volunteers



We worked with over **50** volunteers to clear invasives from conservation land.

THANK YOU!
To all our volunteers and helpful neighbors.



Our Land Management Interns attended to **60** miles of trails.

This year we launched an *Adopt-A-Trail* pilot program with trustees. Adoptees scout specific sections of trails performing light trail maintenance tasks and reporting issues.



We replaced over **150** feet of duck boards on our trails.

We raised **5,000** beetles for purple loosestrife biocontrol for the Sudbury-Assabet-Concord Rivers watershed.

2014 Year in Review

Your Support = Educational Programs for All

Movie Nights: Informative, Interactive, and Fun

On cold, snowy evenings from November to March interested residents gather in a cozy atmosphere for a variety of fascinating films covering environmental issues or natural history. This LLCT tradition, complete with popcorn, allows folks to mingle before and after the films. In addition, we sometimes bring in a local expert to share his/her expertise and to discuss some of the issues raised in the movie. --“Pale Male”, Tufts U. student films “Turning the Tide” and “USDA Incorporated”, and “The Incredible Journey of the Butterfly” to end the 2013-2014 winter series and then “From Billions to None” to start the 2014-2015 winter series.



Talks: Where Knowledge and Appreciation Merge

The saying, “You don’t know what you don’t know” applies to many of us when we think about the natural world. And even for the amateur naturalist, there’s always more to learn from the folks who dedicate their life to that work. We were proud to sponsor a number of captivating talks, bringing the experts to Lincoln.

Joan Walsh, from Mass Audubon, explained the state wide tracking of bird populations and her work with the publication of the “State of the Birds” report. **Dick Walton**, local researcher and naturalist, was our guest at the Annual Meeting sharing with us his passion for rare birds, butterflies, and jumping spiders.

Rick Roth and the Cape Ann Vernal Pool Team brought their amazing collection of snakes from the Northeast and around the world which delighted a packed house of kids and adults. We were lucky to secure State Wildlife Biologist **Laura Conlee** who treated us to an excellent, data and photo packed presentation on the state’s growing population of black bears. And finally, expert naturalist **Mary Holland** regaled us with a photos and stories of the natural occurrences that happen all around us throughout the year. Her personal collection of skeletons, pelts, and artifacts brought her subjects event more to life for all who attended.



Rick Roth entertains and informs curious kids and adults

Walks: Let’s See what we can See!



Ellen Meadors leading the Fall Plant Walk

wild flower field in two seasons. **Gwyn Loud**, trustee and chair of the Education committee, led a Spring Bird walk during a peak migration time for many birds. **Michele Grzenda** led a Fall Foliage Ramble on a route through many different habitats at a busy and beautiful time of year. And, last but not least, **Sue Klem**, trustee and author of “*The Nature of Lincoln*” led a popular walk through the deCordova Sculpture Park delving into the geologic and landscape history which now mingles with the art.

Let’s face it, looking at a picture can be great but it just isn’t the same as seeing the real thing. Our Walks bring you out with the experts to experience what makes the land so important to the creatures that call it home. **Matt Burne** of the Vernal Pool Association and the Walden Woods Project had participants scooping up samples and looking through magnifying lenses at the plethora of organisms (including salamander eggs) that call vernal pools home. The Spring and Fall Plant walk led by **Ellen Meadors**, trustee and botany specialist, lead dozens of interested residents to look at the same



Matt Burne leading the Vernal Pool walk

Preston Continues Family's Conservation Legacy



Beaver Pond Photo by Sue Klem



Bill Preston circa 1960, courtesy of Katharine Preston



The vision which still guides us to keep Lincoln a rural, agricultural and forested community, with trails open for all, is built upon a foundation of creative effort by many leaders in a generation which is passing on. To keep the spirit of these conservation pioneers alive, we honor their efforts and recognize their successes. Every day, we all enjoy the rewards of being part of the priceless legend of conservation in Lincoln, brought to us by people who contributed time, property and resources to save our landscapes and habitat.

One example is the family of William (Bill) Preston, who arrived in Lincoln shortly before World War II as an academic, working in Cambridge. The Lincoln Land Conservation Trust was formed in 1957. This was a time when land conservation was not a buzz word, and old farms and estates were quickly being consumed by the newest form of American ingenuity, suburbia.

Bill Preston joined the trust in 1959. He was a member of the board for 29 years, serving as chair for more than a quarter century. Many of the neighborhood trails in town and the first town-wide trail maps are a testament to his commitment and his precision. In 1969, his wife Jean Wood Preston, preserved the land around Beaver Pond, known to neighbors as the Preston Woods. Their daughters Annie Raker Knowlton and Katharine Preston settled in Lincoln as adults to raise their families. Annie granted an important trail easement to the Trust connecting Lincoln to the Weston Town Forest and the Old Sudbury Road trails via Stonehedge Road in the early 1980's, while Katharine joined the LLCT board in 1995, serving until 2004. The chair of the board said of her as she stepped down, "...She has been our soul and conscience".

Ten years ago, Katharine relocated to a farm in Essex, NY with her husband, John Bingham. She continues conservation work by currently chairing the board of a local land trust, Champlain Area Trails. Katharine kept her house in Lincoln, (now rented to a town employee), and frequently visits family in Lincoln and the Boston area. With her mind and heart still focused on conservation she decided express her love of Lincoln by preserving her 3 acre house lot on Lincoln Road from the threat of re-development. In recent correspondence Katharine writes, "My soul was set on its journey by Lincoln - its fields and woods and streams and ponds - and the people it nurtured. I grew up birding with my father on early mornings and helping him cut trails. I was also raised by an activist mother who cared deeply for justice issues - including affordable housing. It made sense,



Katharine (Kitty) Preston (9 yrs.) with Jean W. Preston in 1958 on "Folly Pond", a dammed part of Stony Brook. It was called "Folly" since it rarely stays full all summer season. The pond is now on LLCT land adjacent to the Berry's horse farm. Courtesy of Katharine Preston

therefore, as the owner of property in the center of town with a modest house, to make sure my legacy preserved both open space and options for people of more modest means.”

Working with the LLCT, she recently donated to the LLCT a Conservation Restriction (CR) on her property that included permanent restrictions on the size and location of the current or future building. We are so pleased to help her carry her family’s legacy forward and protect Lincoln’s rural character into the future. The location of her property is important and strategic as we strive to protect the historic center of Lincoln. 🌿

(We) Love Connections

If you explore the trails in Lincoln, chances are you have used trails that connect conservation lands but do not have temporary or permanent legal status. These trails remain open due the graciousness of particular landowners but are at risk of disappearing should a new owner decide against the trail.

The LLCT has an active committee that looks at all of the trails, their legal status, and works with land owners to place appropriate protections on the trails. This year, with veteran trustee Sue Klem at the helm, the committee worked with three willing property owners to permanently protect the trail connection from the Mt. Misery fields to Adam’s Woods. The Todds, Clark-McHughs, and Taschioglous are long-time residents who decided to make their revocable agreements for public trail access permanent, ensuring generations will be able to make this important connection.



We also worked with Doug Adams on Granville Road to secure a trail license on a previously unlicensed connection between Baker Bridge Fields to the end of Granville Road and the Pine Hill trails. We are so thankful to these visionary residents who can see the enormous value and benefit their contributions have on the entire trail network in Lincoln.

Budding Partnership: FOMA and RLF

The RLF and LLCT are in good company with many other Lincoln non-profits working from different angles to help preserve the rural character of the town. It all stems from a love for this town, its history, its personality and its character. The Friends of Modern Architecture (FOMA) work to preserve some of the country’s best examples of modern houses located right here in Lincoln. The RLF is working with FOMA on house conservation projects that include house restrictions and, potentially, land conservation restrictions.



Gropius House

The Gropius house, managed by Historic New England, is perhaps the best known local example of early modern architecture but with almost 70 modern houses identified in Lincoln, we may have the highest concentration of modern homes in the MetroWest region. By their very nature Modern house design fits well with the values of Lincoln. 🌿

2nd Annual Scarecrow Classic 5K

On a glorious late October morning in Lincoln, over 400 runners and walkers gathered at Lincoln Station to participate in the second annual Scarecrow Classic 5k to benefit the Lincoln Land Conservation Trust. The race route highlights the beautiful fields, forests and wetlands that have been preserved through the years thanks to the efforts of so many committed town residents. Guided by a number of hand-made, life-sized scarecrows and eager volunteers, participants finished the race returning to Lincoln Station for some post-race festivities.



Live music from local band, White Collar Crime, kept everyone's spirits high while they enjoyed delicious soup from Donelan's and fresh cider donuts from Wilson Farm. Friends and strangers chatted while gathering around a comforting warm fire. Several local residents were winners in their particular age group and everyone who finished was smiling. We also announced the winners of the top prizes of our popular Scarecrow Classic Raffle and picked the winning tickets for the remaining 30 quality prizes.



Pete Cadieux of Maynard with son

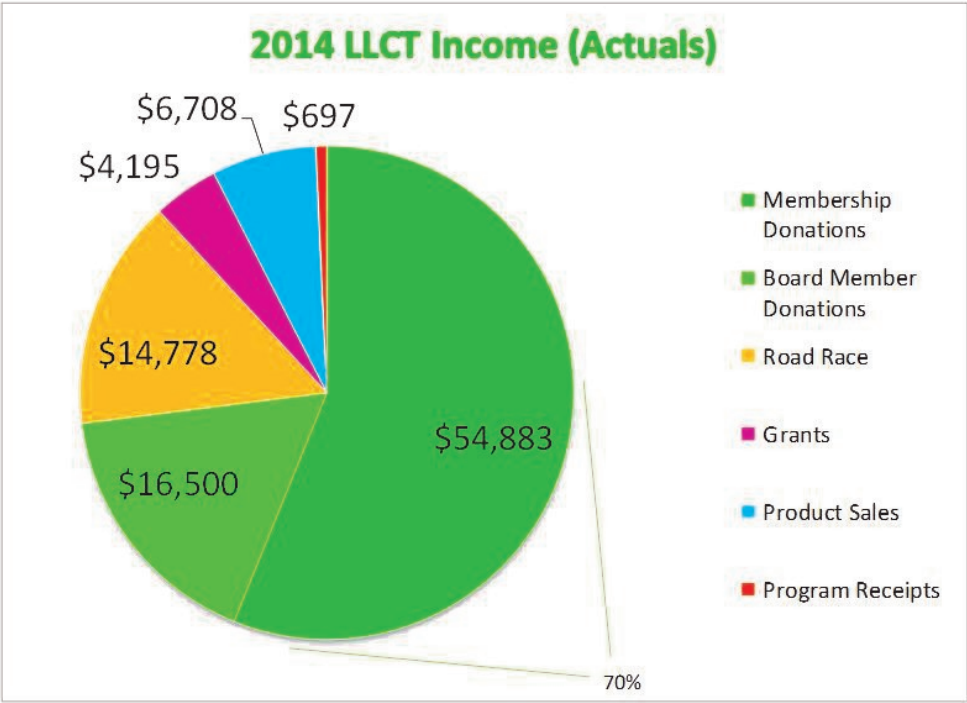
The LLCT wants to thank all of the participants, volunteers and business sponsors who helped make the event a resounding success. Over 60 local and regional businesses generously supported the event with financial and in-kind contributions, including our lead sponsors Bransfield Tree Co., Barrett Sotheby's of Concord, Benchmark Senior Living at The Commons, Cranberry Hill Associates, and Iemello Landscape. Proceeds from the race will help support the LLCT's stewardship, land acquisition and education work.

The Scarecrow Classic is a fun annual event for the Lincoln community and an important fundraiser for the LLCT. This year's race is already scheduled for Sunday morning, October 18. Mark your calendars and for more information on the race, please visit the race website (www.scarecrowclassic.com) and the LLCT web site (www.lincolnconservation.org). Also, look for information soon on our town-wide Scarecrow building contest! 🍂

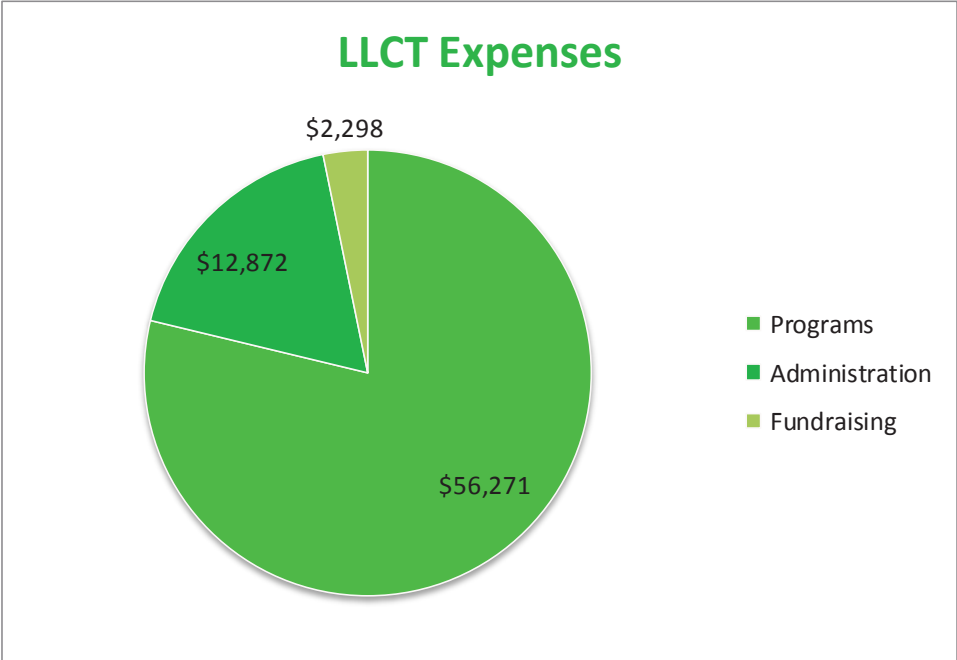


Racers enjoying post-race refreshments and their accomplishment!

2014 Lincoln Land Conservation Trust Financials



Total Donations: \$71,383



2014 Membership

Total Number of Members

319

Leadership Level (\$1000+)

23

Friend (\$500-999)

17

Sustaining (\$250-499)

39

Supporting (\$100-249)

123

Family (\$75-99)

29

Individual (\$35-74)

67

Other

10



A Fresh Look at Shopping in Lincoln

There are many good reasons to “shop local” wherever you are, however, in Lincoln, there is an invisible added benefit. When you shop at the Mall at Lincoln Station, you are helping to protect Lincoln’s open spaces! Proceeds from Lincoln Station help fund the conservation activities of the Rural Land Foundation (RLF) whose mission is to help preserve the rural character of the town. Many years ago the Board of RLF decided that it would be better for the townspeople to control the commercial center. Today the RLF board of trustees (17 Lincoln residents) owns and operates Lincoln Station for the benefit of the community.

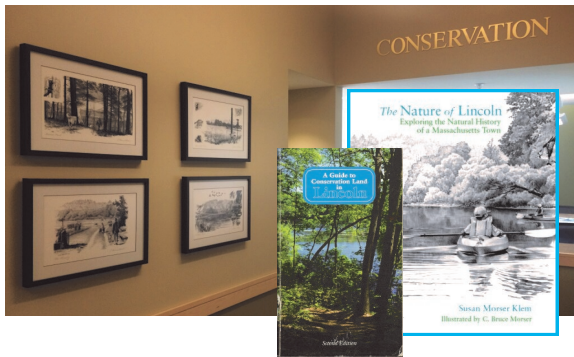
Because of this, the RLF Board was eager to host our community Farmer’s Market on Saturdays from 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. which will again be starting up on June 20. Many of Lincoln’s farms participate including Lindentree Farm, Codman Farm and Blue Heron Organic Farm, along with Matlock Farm providing their fresh meats. Shoppers will often find fresh fruits and vegetables, eggs, beef, specialty foods, fresh honey, homemade breads, homeopathic herbal



remedies, watercolors and even hand-dyed Alpaca yarn. Of course the best part of a Farmer’s Market is the human to human interactions. You will see people sharing cooking tips and recipes, catching up with old friends, and making new ones, all with music and laughter in the background. These are all part of the Farmers’ Market experience.

We hope you will join us on Saturday mornings and also remember that it has been an especially tough winter for many small businesses, so please think more than ever about supporting our community’s businesses. You will also be helping to protect and preserve the beautiful open spaces that so many of us enjoy!

Lincoln Conservation Publications



Nature of Lincoln Prints, Book and A Guide to Conservation Land in Lincoln

The LLCT aims to provide access to the wonders of conservation land in Lincoln by protecting and stewarding land, providing educational programming and through our publications. We were very pleased to have our limited edition prints of the artwork from the LLCT’s latest book *The Nature of Lincoln*, by Sue Klem, hanging in the renovated Town Offices in the hallway adjacent to the Conservation Department. Copies of these prints, by award –winning artist Bruce Morser, are available at the Old Town Hall Exchange and the LLCT offices along with the book, a must-have for Lincolnophiles. Lincoln’s 2013 Trail Map and companion book, *A Guide to Conservation Land in Lincoln* are still available and continue to be an excellent resource that enhances exploration of Lincoln’s conservation lands. We

are also responsible for the popular wildlife column for the Lincoln Journal, written by Gwyn Loud, once a month. Send your wildlife sightings to her at gwyn_loud@comcast.net. We just released our second edition of Lincoln Nature Photography Note Cards and were proud to display the photographs of more than 20 local photographers in our 2015 Open Spaces Calendar. These publications make great gifts and also support the work of the LLCT.

2014 Lincoln Land Conservation Trust and Rural Land Foundation Trustees

Susan Allen	James Henderson	Rachel Munn
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Daniel England	Meghan Lytton	Andrew Stevenson
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