

# Lincoln Land Conservation Trust & Rural Land Foundation

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.

## 2015 Annual Report

### YEAR IN REVIEW:

#### ACQUISITION &

#### STEWARDSHIP

#### EDUCATION

#### SPECIAL EVENTS

#### MEMBERSHIP

#### FINANCIALS

#### LINCOLN STATION &

#### LLCT STORE

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## Sue Klem: A Professional Volunteer and Her Craft



Sue Klem volunteer staffing the LLCT table at the Scarecrow Classic 5K race.

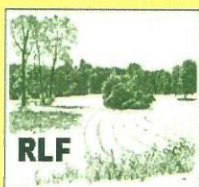
Only recently in its long history has the Lincoln Land Conservation Trust (LLCT) benefitted from employing staff to help accomplish its goals as a local land trust. As the LLCT looks toward its sixth decade, it is important to note that much of the work that the Land Trust is known for can be credited to the tireless work of volunteers. At the 2015 Annual Meeting, the LLCT honored long-time Trustee Sue Klem, as she cycled off the LLCT/RLF board. The LLCT was lucky to have benefited from Sue's passion and leadership as a professional volunteer.

Sue joined the board in 2000. Already an active volunteer at that point, having served on the League of Women Voters and the Wildlife Advisory Committee, her involvement with the Land Trust was a natural fit due to her love of outdoor recreation and Lincoln's conservation land. She was moved to join the board by her desire to learn more about the land she enjoyed and to be a part of the decisions regarding that land. Her popular wildlife column for the *Lincoln Journal* was started through the Wildlife Advisory Committee, but Sue continued to write the column and collect residents' wildlife sightings for many years while on the LLCT board. "I wanted to remind people these things are all here! Just look around. I thought, 'if they know it's here, they'll be more likely to see.'" Years later, she compiled (continued on page 4)



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We're on the web!

[www.lincolnconservation.org](http://www.lincolnconservation.org)



### 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.

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# Your Support = Land Protection

## City of Cambridge Partners to Protect Important Watershed Parcel

**W**ith the help of the City of Cambridge Water Department (CWD), one of the largest remaining unprotected parcels in Lincoln is now permanently conserved. The 55 acre parcel off of Winter Street owned by the Jerodel Realty Trust has been identified as land of conservation interest on the Town's Open Space Plan since the 1970s. After years of discussion and negotiation, the Jerodel Realty Trust (Stankard, Cotoia and Shaw families of Lincoln) agreed to a bargain sale of the property (\$210k). The CWD stepped forward and agreed to contribute over 1/3 of the funds while Town Meeting, through the CPC, agreed to contribute \$100k and RLF funded the rest. "This was another example of generous partners coming together to help permanently protect Lincoln's valuable open spaces" according to Geoff McGean, Executive Director for RLF. The landowners were generous in offering the land at well below market value. "The City of Cambridge once again helped protect Lincoln land as part of their watershed and Lincoln residents, through town meeting, recognized the importance of protecting this land" said McGean. The 55 acre parcel creates one of the largest contiguous corridors of open space in Lincoln stretching from the Waltham border east to Weston Road and beyond.



# Your Support = Stewardship & Land Management

## *Lythrum salicaria* or Purple Loosestrife Control

**T**he Lincoln Land Conservation Trust finished up its second year of a two year grant project in 2015 to raise a special beetle used to help control populations of the invasive plant *Lythrum salicaria* or Purple Loosestrife. *Gallerucella* beetles are the bio-control for purple loosestrife and have successfully controlled populations of loosestrife all around the state and country. After extensive research and testing, the beetles were approved for this use in 1992. They only feed on purple loosestrife and cannot reproduce on any other plant.

The project was funded by a grant through the regional Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA) for the Sudbury, Assabet and Concord Rivers (SuAsCo) watershed.

SuAsCo CISMA received money through the Nyanza superfund clean-up award to raise 50,000 beetles for habitat restoration purposes (among other items) and called upon its members to help fulfill that requirement. CISMA re-distributed the funds

to member organizations who wished to participate in the form of a grant. The Town Conservation Department also participated.

Kiddie pools were used to mimic the wetland environment in which purple loosestrife are found. Plants were dug out of wetlands on Conservation Land (with permission) and were potted in order to grow the food that feed the beetles. The LLCT received a shipment of 500 adult beetles at the beginning of June which were placed on the plants. Netting was then used to cover the pots to keep the beetles in and their predators out. The beetles mated and reproduced to create upwards of 5,000 beetles that were successfully released into the wild along the Sudbury River.

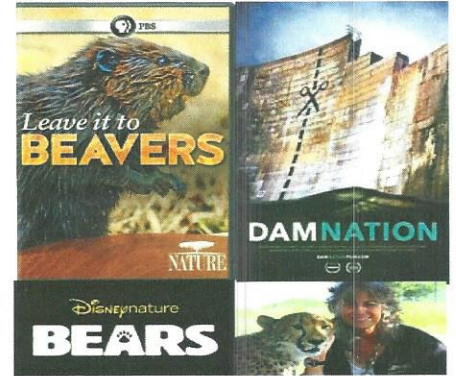


About 6-7mm long, the beetles are small.



## Movie Nights: Captivating, Compelling and Conversational

**O**n long winter evenings from November to March, movie-goers gather in a cozy atmosphere for a variety of fascinating films that cover environmental issues or natural history topics. This LLCT tradition, complete with popcorn and apple cider, attracts a wide audience including those interested in environmental and conservation issues, animal and wildlife lovers, and viewers who may have a lot of knowledge about a film topic and others who are brand new to the subject matter. The series this past year included: "The Greatest Return," "DamNation," Disneynature's "Bears," Nature's "Leave it to Beavers" and "A Sense of Wonder."



## Talks: Expertise and Engagement Abound

**T**he LLCT was proud to sponsor several captivating talks with experts on a wide variety of topics engaging experts and novices alike. **Cherrie Corey**, naturalist and photographer, was our guest speaker at the Annual Meeting sharing with us her highlights from years of seeking communion with wild places in her community, including many of Thoreau's haunts. Naturalist photographer **Sam Jaffe** and his helpers brought along live specimens of native caterpillars for a show-and-tell presentation during *Caterpillars LIVE!* which delighted a packed house of kids and adults. And finally, eastern coyote/coywolf expert **Jonathan Way** fascinated attendees with a multimedia presentation about these populations, including research about how much of our coyote population is actually a hybrid of the eastern red wolf and the eastern coyote.



*Sam Jaffe delights curious kids and adults.*

## Walks: Look, Listen and Ask Lots of Questions



*Mark Fraser leading the beaver walk.*

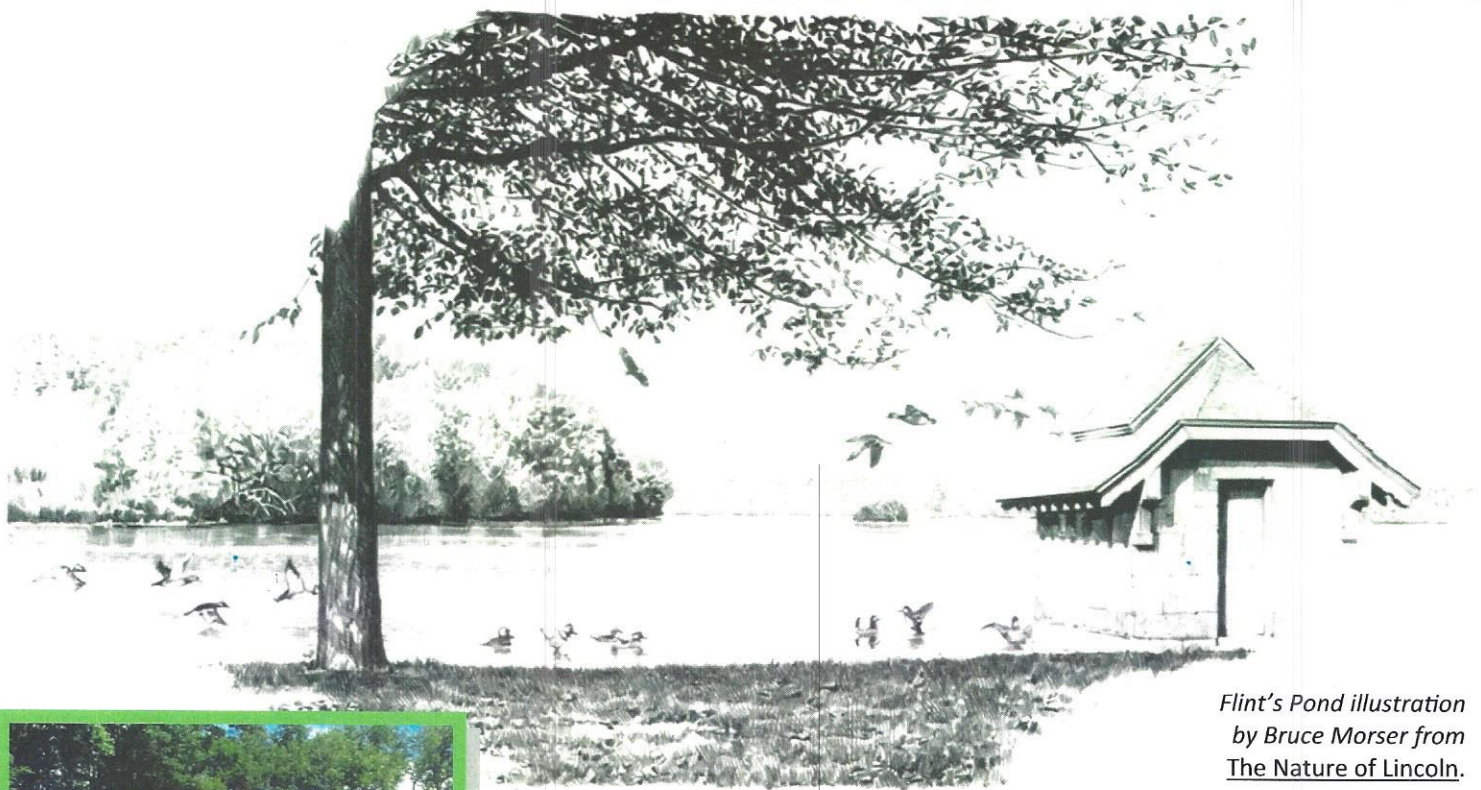
Looking at photographs and watching documentaries can be pleasurable and fascinating, but getting out into nature to make one's own discoveries is often even more rewarding. LLCT walks, led by local and regional experts, happen in fall and spring. In 2015 we began with **Matt Burne** of the Vernal Pool Association and the Walden Woods Project who captivated participants with frog and salamander egg samples, as well as fairy shrimp specimens, at a local vernal pool. **Gwyn Loud**, trustee and chair of the Education Committee, along with other local birders **Vinny Durso**, **Norman Levey**, **Neil O'Hara** and Trustee **Nancy Soulette**, led a Spring Birding Series during a peak migration time for many birds. **Ellen Meadors**, trustee and botanist, led participants on a walk to look at wetland plants along the trail area of Silver Hill bog. **Mark Fraser**, executive director of Nature Walks Conservation Society, engaged a large group of adults and children on the topic of beavers by exploring local habitat in Lincoln and showing participants how to look for signs of beaver activity, as well as how to protect these beloved creatures. **Eric Smith**, Lincoln native and wildlife photographer, taught a two-part digital photography class to an engaged group of middle schoolers.

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*Vernal Pool participants.*





*Flint's Pond illustration  
by Bruce Morser from  
The Nature of Lincoln.*

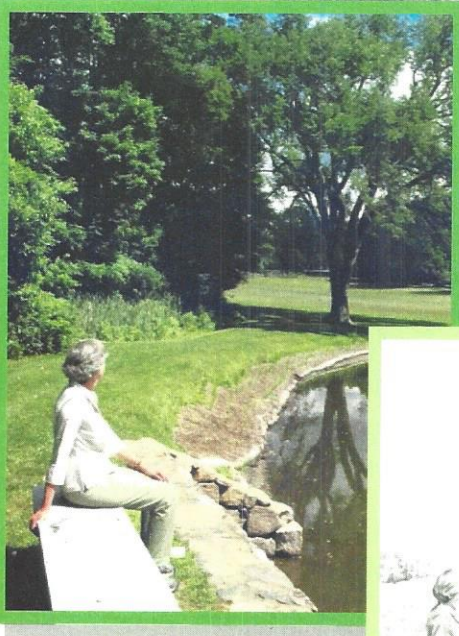
a selection of her columns into a book for the benefit of the LLCT called The Nature of Lincoln, which was also beautifully illustrated with scenes of Lincoln by her brother, Bruce Morser.

Sue was not only an exemplary volunteer because of her efforts to connect people to the land, but also because of her initiatives to connect people with the Land Trust. She organized and executed many programs which have had lasting effects. For a number of years the LLCT had neighborhood meetings, largely organized by Sue. They were a way for the Land Trust to introduce itself to the community and, more importantly, to listen to the issues and concerns that neighborhoods were having in regard to their relationships with conservation land, trails, and land users. Sue chaired a sub-committee, which looked specifically at the legal status of the trails in the LLCT network, and, once vulnerable trail connections were identified, sought their permanent protection. She sat on the Education Committee of the LLCT for many years and developed a lay-

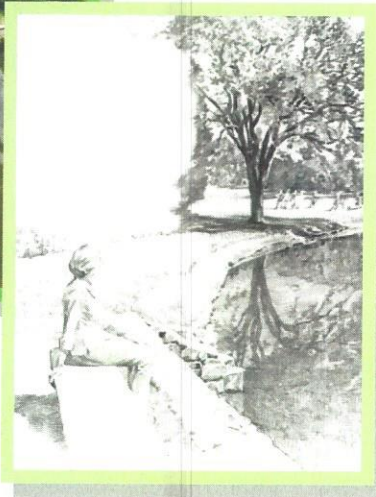
man's expertise on Lincoln's geology. She shared her knowledge on many LLCT walks, and even developed training for deCordova tour leaders that focused on the landscape around the museum's grounds. *And this is only what she was doing for the LLCT!* During her tenure at the Land Trust, Sue also served on the Farrington Memorial board as the chair for a time.

Over the years, Sue explored all corners of Lincoln's trails and open space, and that interest informed her work on the board. She knows our conservation land locally and in many towns. She believes Lincoln's mix of habitats and landscapes, and the myriad trail connections, make for the best hiking and x-country skiing around!

Of course, now that Sue is not volunteering (actively) for the LLCT, she has joined the Green Energy Committee and is also sitting on the Conservation Law Foundation's Massachusetts Board. When asked about what is in her future, Sue can't imagine not serving as a volunteer in some capacity and considers herself very lucky to be able to say that. "Being a



*Sue Klem poses at the Pierce House pond for illustration by Bruce Morser for her book.*





professional volunteer is a privilege. You work for amazing organizations doing good work; meet incredible people; and can work around your family's needs."

Lincoln is fortunate to have professional volunteers like Sue, and the LLCT thanks and appreciates all that she has done for our Land Trust community. 🌿



## Community Connections

In spring of 2015 the LLCT was approached by the Birches School in Lincoln with the idea of planting a pollinating meadow on conservation land. Activities of the Land Trust include encouraging community involvement in land conservation and a partnership was created. Soon additional organizations and individuals joined in and the People for Pollinators project was established. Participating organizations, in addition to the Land Trust and Birches School, include the Lincoln Garden Club, Lincoln Conservation Commission, Lincoln Agricultural Commission and Stonegate Gardens. Additionally, a grant submitted by the LLCT brought on further support from a MassLIFT-AmeriCorps member, Alicia Coleman, through the summer of 2016.

Many challenges are threatening pollinators including pervasive use of pesticides, habitat loss, parasites, disease and climate change. In May 2015, the Pollinator Health Task Force, called into action by President Obama, released *The National Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators*. One of the three primary goals called for increasing and improving pollinator habitat through combined public and private action. People for Pollinators, a combination of private, educational, municipal, and commercial entities, is taking action to promote, protect, and create native habitat that supports the vitality of pollinators including bumblebees, butterflies, moths, birds, insects, and honey bees.

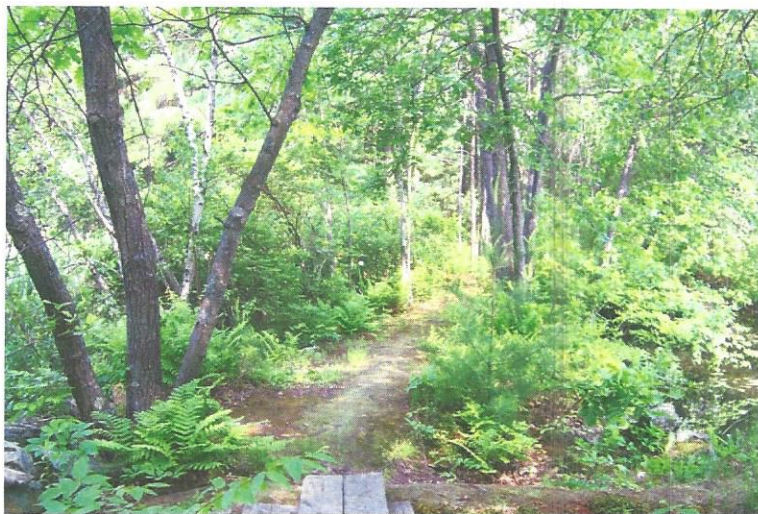
On June 4, 2016 the People for Pollinators is planting a mix of native and naturalized seed and plant plugs, that are protected from pesticides, to establish a perennial meadow on a quarter acre of land protected by the LLCT. The meadow is located in a hay field adjacent to the Smith Building at the Lincoln Schools campus. It will both feed and provide healthy habitat for local pollinators. All in the community are invited to help install and care for the meadow.



*Birches School students raking and helping to prepare the meadow site.*

## Key Trail Connection Preserved

Thanks to the generosity of landowners and residents Lincoln's Open spaces are connected by a vast trail network that we all can enjoy. The recent acquisition of the former Schmid parcel off of Silver Hill Road helped preserve a key trail connection into the Pigeon Hill and Silver Hill Bog conservation lands. The key to the acquisition of the 3.5 acre parcel was a partnership between a generous landowner, the Town of Lincoln, neighbors, RLF and the LLCT. The permanent public trail passes through a beautiful meadow, upland forest and wetlands.







## 3rd Annual Scarecrow Classic 5K



*A photo finish!*

Lincoln, Bransfield Tree Company, BMW of Sudbury, Barrett Sotheby International and Iemello Landscape. Proceeds from the race support the LLCT's stewardship, land acquisition and education work.

In addition to our very popular Scarecrow Classic raffle held on race day, the LLCT collaborated with the Lincoln PTO and Stonegate Gardens to introduce the first Town-wide scarecrow building contest. Children built scarecrows at Stonegate Gardens as part of an LPTO fundraiser and many displayed them for judging on Ballfield Road adjacent to the Lincoln Public Schools. Creativity was in top form as upwards of 40 scarecrows were built with more than half entered into the contest.

The Scarecrow Classic is a fun annual event for the Lincoln community and the 2016 race is already scheduled for Sunday morning October 16. Mark your calendars and for more information, please visit the race website ([www.scarecrowclassic.com](http://www.scarecrowclassic.com)) and the LLCT web site ([www.lincolnconservation.org](http://www.lincolnconservation.org)). Also, look for information soon on this year's scarecrow building contest! 🐦

For a third straight year, a glorious late October morning greeted over 450 runners and walkers who gathered at Lincoln Station to participate in the Scarecrow Classic 5k to benefit the LLCT. Once again the race route highlighted the beautiful fields, forests and wetlands that have been preserved thanks to the efforts of so many committed town residents.

Guided by numerous hand-made life sized scarecrows and eager volunteers, participants finished the race by passing the Farm Meadow hay field and returning to Lincoln Station for some post-race festivities.

Local band, White Collar Crime, kept everyone's spirits high and delicious soup from Donelans, with cider donuts from Wilson Farm, were comforting as runners gathered around a warm fire.

Several local residents were winners in their particular age group and everyone who finished had a smile on their face. 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: Thoughtforms, Munroe Tree and Landscape, Cranberry Hill Associates, Benchmark Senior Living at the Commons in

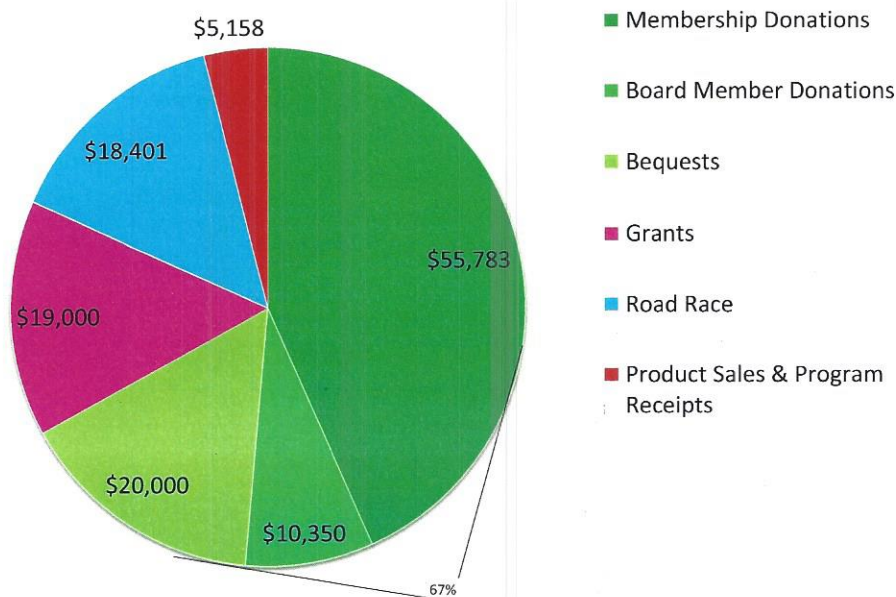


*A scarecrow building contest winner.*



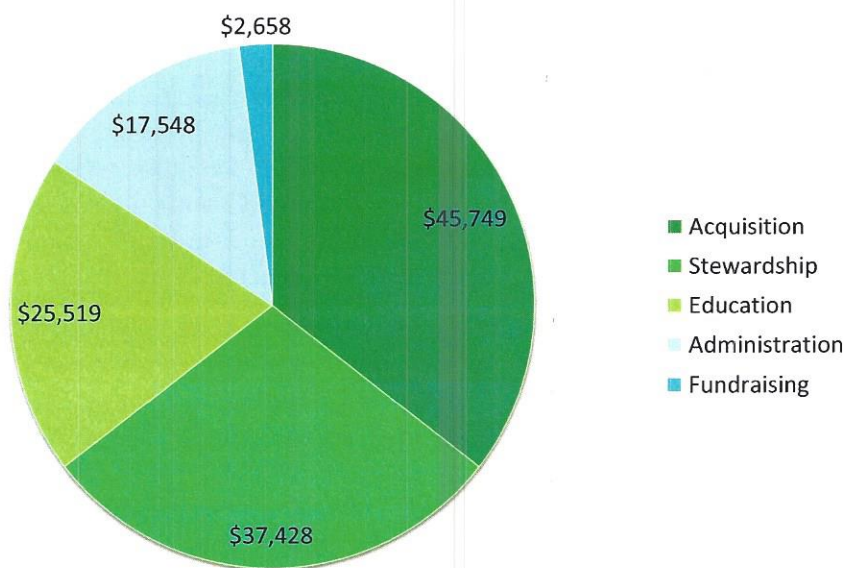
# 2015 Lincoln Land Conservation Trust Financials

## 2015 LLCT Income



**Total Donations: \$86,133**

## 2015 LLCT Expenses



## 2015 Membership

### *Total Number of Members*

**301**

*Leadership Level (\$1000+)*

**25**

*Friend (\$500-999)*

**19**

*Sustaining (\$250-499)*

**34**

*Supporting (\$100-249)*

**121**

*Patron (\$75-99)*

**31**

*Basic (\$35-74)*

**65**

*Other*

**6**



*Thank you for your continued support!*





New owner and operator of Sky Salon, Jeanine Adipietro. Photo by Carol Kendrick.

## The Sky's the Limit for New Lincoln Station Tenant

The Rural Land Foundation is excited to welcome Sky Salon as a new tenant to Lincoln Station. The full service salon is located on the second floor of the Post Office building. New owner and operator Jeanine Adipietro uses only organic color and skin care products. A perfect fit for Lincoln!

Reflecting on her client base and Lincoln's rural character, Jeanine commented: "I appreciate that our clients, especially those from Lincoln, relate to the mission statement of the salon. Our client base is interested in the things we're interested in, like natural products, protecting the environment, and doing things a little bit differently than others — even if they're the first to try our natural alternatives. The more I learn about the history of Lincoln's foresight about land conservation and the concern residents have for its future preservation, the happier I am to be here. I couldn't have asked for a better fit." Jeanine also notes that "Lincoln gives people coming from other towns a sense of tranquility and a welcome escape from the city." The business is growing and we



Kristen and Angela at the front desk. Photo by Carol Kendrick.

wish her continued success!

Sky Salon's mission is to provide natural and non-toxic alternatives to traditional hair color, make up, skin and nail care in a friendly, artistic environment.



Get your bandana at the LLCT or Conservation

## Shop the LLCT Store

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. On occasion, we offer something entirely new through our store, which was the case in 2015 when we designed a new bandana with Lincoln's Conservation Commission! Popular with both kids and adults, the bandana features silhouettes of popular Lincoln sightings from birds to horses and hikers to cyclists.

Lincoln's 2013 Trail Map and companion book, A Guide to Conservation Land in Lincoln, continue to be an excellent resource for exploring great trails and waterways throughout Lincoln's conservation lands. The Nature of Lincoln, by Sue Klem, and the limited edition prints of artwork by award-winning artist Bruce Morser, are available at the LLCT office and remain a must-have for all those who love the rural landscape and character of Lincoln.. LLCT is responsible for the popular monthly wildlife column in the *Lincoln Journal*, written by Trustee Gwyn Loud. (Send your wildlife sightings to gwyn\_loud@comcast.net.) Lincoln Nature Photography Note Cards and the 2016 Open Spaces Calendar, which feature photographs by local photographers, make great gifts and also support the work of the LLCT.

## 2016 Lincoln Land Conservation Trust and Rural Land Foundation Trustees

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