

2019 Annual Report

Lincoln Land Conservation Trust & Rural Land Foundation

Photo by Corey Nimmer



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

About Us

The LLCT protects and stewards deeded conservation land, conservation restrictions, and trail easements on public and private land. The organization seeks to connect the community to the land through membership, volunteer opportunities, and events.

The RLF conserves land through smart development and creative land planning. RLF then donates the land to LLCT to hold in trust, or deeds land to public agencies, such as the Town of Lincoln.

Mailing: P.O. Box 10
Lincoln, MA 01773

Office: 145 Lincoln Rd.
Suite 102A
Lincoln, MA

www.lincolnconservation.org
781-259-9251

Printed July 2020.

LLCT/RLF Staff

Geoff McGean,
Executive Director

Bryn Gingrich,
Outreach Director

Sara Lupkas,
Stewardship Director

Jane Layton,
Stewardship Coordinator

Owl Mania!

2019 was the year of the owl for LLCT! In February we sponsored the *Eyes on Owls* Program for grades 1-4 at the Lincoln Public Schools. The **LPTO** was an invaluable partner in coordinating this program. Special thanks to **Liz Lieblich, Cathie Bitter, Hannah Stevenson, and Caroline Nordstrom.**

In the program, owl experts **Marcia and Mark Wilson** dazzled students with photos of owls in action. Students then had a chance to meet owls up close! They learned that these owls are unable to return to the wild and are now ambassadors to inspire young wildlife lovers like themselves.

Mark and Marcia have been presenting since 1994 and have honed a funny, entertaining, and highly educational program that appeals to people of all ages. We had so much fun in February that we asked them to come back to Lincoln and present to the public in November 2019. More than 150 people packed Bemis Hall on a sunny, fall afternoon to meet the owls, including a Barred owl, an Eastern screech owl, a Barn owl, and a Snowy owl.

Live-animal programs like *Eyes on Owls* are a critical entry point to increased awareness of conservation. Charismatic ambassador animals introduce bigger issues such as pollution and pesticides in the wider ecological food web, the impacts of habitat loss and fragmentation, and how climate change is already affecting wildlife. 🦉



(Left) A crowd at Bemis meeting a Snowy Owl. (Right) Children get up close and personal with a Barred Owl. Photo by Corey Nimmer.



(Left) Student Artwork, (Right) a student makes owl calls at the February Owl Program. Photos by Hannah Stevenson.

Land Protection

The Bigger Picture

Protecting land is one of the most important actions land trusts can undertake to mitigate the effects of climate change. Not only does conservation land reduce green house gasses in the atmosphere by sequestering carbon, it also protects biodiversity which is critical for the overall health of ecosystems and the services they provide to wildlife (and us)! 🌿

Connecting Neighbors

From 2018-2019, the **Rural Land Foundation** partnered with the **Walden Woods Project**, the **Town of Lincoln Conservation Commission**, and **more than 30 neighbors and conservation friends** to save a critical trail connection and a four acre parcel of developable land at the end of Granville Road. This project was also made possible by a grant from the **Ogden Codman Trust** and the generosity of **Doug and Trish Adams**, long-time Lincoln residents.



In 2019, the deed was transferred to Walden Woods Project, and the conservation restriction (CR) and trail easement were signed and recorded. Not only did this project save a critical connection between many nearby conservation areas, the initiative united an entire neighborhood around Lincoln's legacy of conservation, and we extend a warm thank you to all those who contributed to this effort. 🌿



Lincoln's Agricultural Legacy

In 2019, Lincoln Land Conservation Trust acquired a conservation restriction (CR) for a 1.3-acre parcel adjacent to the Osborne Farm Conservation Area. LLCT Trustee **Ken Bassett** and his wife **Mary Helen Lorenz** were looking to sell their property and found a buyer interested in placing a CR on a portion of the much larger area, known as the Page Road Fields, ensuring its permanent protection. Thanks to the hard work, generosity, and conservation-mindedness of Ken and Mary Helen and the



new owners **Micah and Catherine Remley**, the CR was signed and recorded at the end of 2019. The conserved field and field edge are now a permanent part of Lincoln's agricultural heritage. Heartfelt thanks to both families for their dedication to conservation in Lincoln. 🌿

Lincoln Station and Conservation

Did you know? The Mall at Lincoln Station is owned and operated by the Rural Land Foundation of Lincoln (RLF). Proceeds from the Mall directly support conservation projects in Lincoln. By shopping local you are supporting small family-operated businesses and conservation at the same time!

RLF would also like to express appreciation for **Carol Kendrick** who retired at the end of 2019. Carol worked for William Jackson Associates as a Property Manager for the Mall at Lincoln Station. Every day, Carol went above and beyond to create a warm and friendly Mall for tenants and shoppers. She was invaluable for the planning of LLCT's annual Scarecrow Classic 5K and helped push forward many Mall improvement projects during her 25 year tenure with Jackson Associates. A new grandmother, she is now enjoying time with family. For more 2019 updates from the Mall, see page ten. 🌿



Carol Kendrick and Bill Jackson at the 2019 Scarecrow Classic 5K

Stewardship & Land Management



*After photo of trail maintenance
near Silver Hill Bog.*



LLCT and the Town's Conservation Staff **Stacy Carter** and **Emma Coates** built a new bridge at Adams Woods in the spring.



*Removing fencing from
Chapman Pasture*



LLCT summer interns **Andrew Fasciano** and **Graham Clarke** focused on invasive plant management around Lincoln, pulling water chestnut, buckthorn, bittersweet, and burning bush from many conservation areas. They also helped Town Conservation build water bars at Pine Hill to prevent erosion on a steep section of trail. Other projects included trail maintenance at Silver Hill Bog and removing old fencing from Chapman Pasture.

Stewardship & Land Management

In early spring, LLCT planted a native woodland-edge shrub layer behind the Pollinator Meadow. These plantings will provide critical habitat for wildlife and increase the resiliency of that local ecosystem.



Volunteers from **AMC** helped remove invasive plants at the LLCT Pollinator Meadow to prep the site for these new shrubs. Invasive plant removal is an integral part of LLCT's land management strategy, as invasives spread aggressively and prevent native plants (and the wildlife they support) from flourishing.

The AMC volunteers also completed major trail work by removing rocks along the Scarecrow 5K route!



Educational Outreach

Out on the Trails

In April and May, Trustee **Gwyn Loud** and other local birders **Vincent Durso**, **Nancy Hammond**, **Norman Levey**, and Trustee **Nancy Soulette** led the Spring Birding Series at birding “hot spots” around Lincoln.

In early May, **Rob Todd** and **Gwyn Loud** led a History and Nature Walk at Adam’s Woods. These woods were once an important site for agriculture, commerce, transportation, and philosophy. Now they are a haven for wildlife, and walkers enjoyed historical anecdotes and bird song as they took in this familiar landscape with fresh eyes and a new perspective.

LLCT and **Lincoln’s Council on Aging** once again offered a Spring and Fall Noticing Walk Series with naturalist **John Calabria**. Since 2017, these walks have been a popular way to connect with nature and others on some of Lincoln’s wonderful trails. 🐾



(Left to Right) Pausing on the trail during a Spring Birding Walk, Annie Knowlton hugs a tree, Noticing frogs at Codman Estate, Gwyn Loud and Rob Todd lead a walk at Adam’s Woods.

Vital Vernal Pools

In May at the LLCT annual meeting, members and friends enjoyed a fantastic presentation by **Matt Burne**, Conservation Director for the Walden Woods Project (WWP) and Vice-President of the Vernal Pool Association. Matt spoke about the “wicked neat” biodiversity in these ephemeral pools. Special thanks to **Jennie Cook**, Parish Administrator, and **Selina Rossiter**, LLCT Education Committee Member, for helping to secure the beautiful meeting space at St. Anne’s-in-the-Fields.

Just a few weeks earlier in April, Matt and his colleague **Whitney Retallic**, Director of Education for WWP, led our annual joint Vernal Pool Walk! Nearly 30 people turned out to see fairy shrimp, wood frogs, salamander eggs, and more! 🐾



(Left) LLCT Members and Friends listen to Matt Burne at the Annual Meeting. (Right) Matt Burne shows event attendees a wood frog during the Vernal Pool Walk. Photo by Whitney Retallic.

Educational Outreach

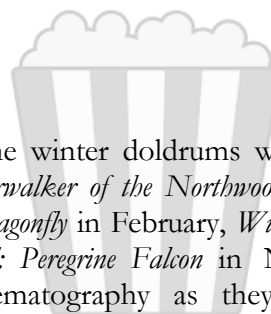
Lecture Highlights

At the end of January, LLCT kicked off our 2019 lectures by inviting **David Kaplan** to Lincoln. Kaplan is the Watershed Manager for the Cambridge Water Department and shared the fascinating history of the Cambridge Reservoir and how it's managed today. He also highlighted the collaborative relationship between land conservation and watershed protection.

In March, **Marianne Long** from the Atlantic White Shark Conservancy gave a thrilling presentation about shark research and conservation efforts, as well as public safety tips. This was a blast for the many families in attendance, as we learned how researchers tag sharks and what areas of Cape Cod have the most shark sightings and why. Spoiler: Warming waters and returning seal populations are factors!

In September, Drumlin Farm's **Tia Pinney** joined LLCT for a lecture all about bird feeding in an era of climate change. Attendees learned the dos and don'ts of keeping feeders. Pinney also highlighted the importance of creating bird-friendly habitat in back yards. The program wrapped up with a lively discussion about managing squirrels at the feeders and plenty of anecdotes from the audience.

(Left to Right) David Kaplan speaks about the Cambridge Reservoir to a crowd at Bemis Hall, Marianne Long starts her presentation with some misconceptions perpetrated by Jaws, Tia Pinney speaks about the impact of climate change on migratory birds.



Popcorn Time!

LLCT beat the winter doldrums with a great movie night series, watching *Bearwalker of the Northwoods* in January, *Sky Hunters: the World of the Dragonfly* in February, *Wild Amazon* in March, and *World's Fastest Animal: Peregrine Falcon* in November. Attendees enjoyed beautiful cinematography as they learned about the featured mammals, insects, and birds. **Tom Gumbart** gave a special appearance after *Sky Hunter* and shared slides of dragonflies he's seen around Lincoln. 🐉

Making Mud

In July, LLCT and the Lincoln Public Library held an outdoor story time. Led by librarian **Sarah Feather**, kids heard stories about nature, sang songs, and even danced. Then, they got to play in the mud a little! Everyone had a chance to make their own "tree face" using natural materials such as pine cones, pebbles, leaves, and acorns. 🐉



Educational Outreach

Terrific Turtles

In late-April, LLCT welcomed **Alexxia Bell** and **Natasha Nowick**, founders of the **Turtle Rescue League** for a live-animal program at St. Anne's-in-the-Fields. Families got to see these amazing reptiles up close and learn about the important role turtles play in the cycling of nutrients in wetlands. 🐢



Summer Fun at the Pollinator Meadow & Beyond



(Above) Trustee **Ellen Meadors** and LLCT Staff **Bryn Gingrich** and **Jane Layton** participate in the “Bioblitz” at Walden Woods Project, leading groups on nature walks at Pine Hill Conservation Area. Attendees learned to use the iNaturalist App to identify plant and animal species that they saw.



(Right) Lincoln Summer Campers planted fifty native milkweed plugs at the Pollinator Meadow. Summer intern **Andrew Fasciano** led the group planting activity. By the end of the summer, the monarch caterpillars were munching away happily! Additional thanks to **Becca Fasciano** and **Joe Colombo** for coordinating this activity.



(Bottom Right) Program Attendees take photos in the Pollinator Meadow during a Photo Scavenger Hunt focused on pollination systems and nature observations. Creativity was encouraged with open-ended prompts such as seasonality, shadows, and self-portraits. 🐢

7th Annual Scarecrow Classic 5K



Racers leave their water bottles at the finish line.



Volunteers from Mothers Out Front monitored compost bins during the party, helping everyone figure out which bin to put their compostable cups and food waste into. Compost was brought to the transfer station to be collected by Black Earth Compost.



This year's shirts were made of a recycled plastic and cotton blend, and were produced using less water than conventional tech-shirts.



Winners received a Norfolk Pine in a custom Scarecrow Classic Pot. Even the ribbon was recyclable!



626 Racers



115 Sponsors



50 Volunteers

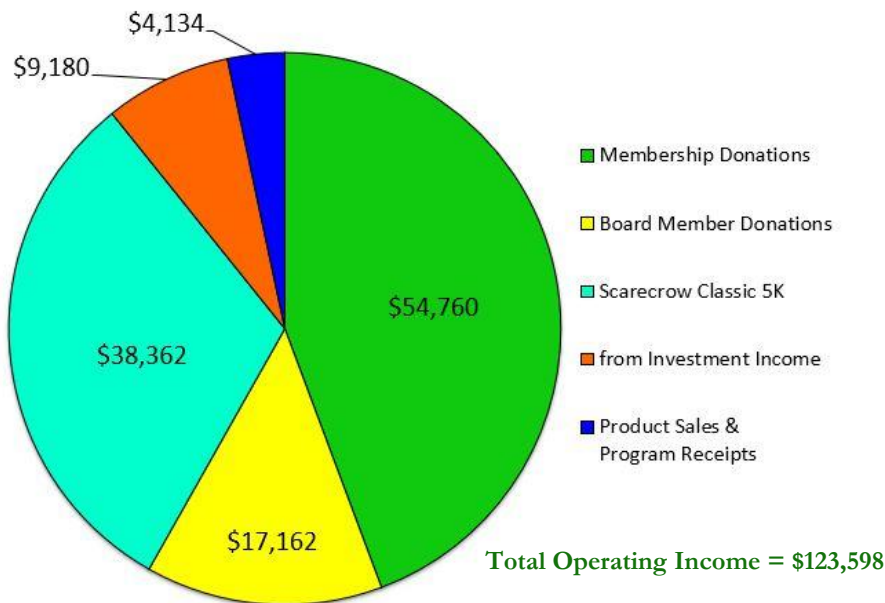


We can't wait to see you on
October 18, 2020
We're working to adapt the
race to ensure a safe
experience for everyone at this
community event. Stay tuned!

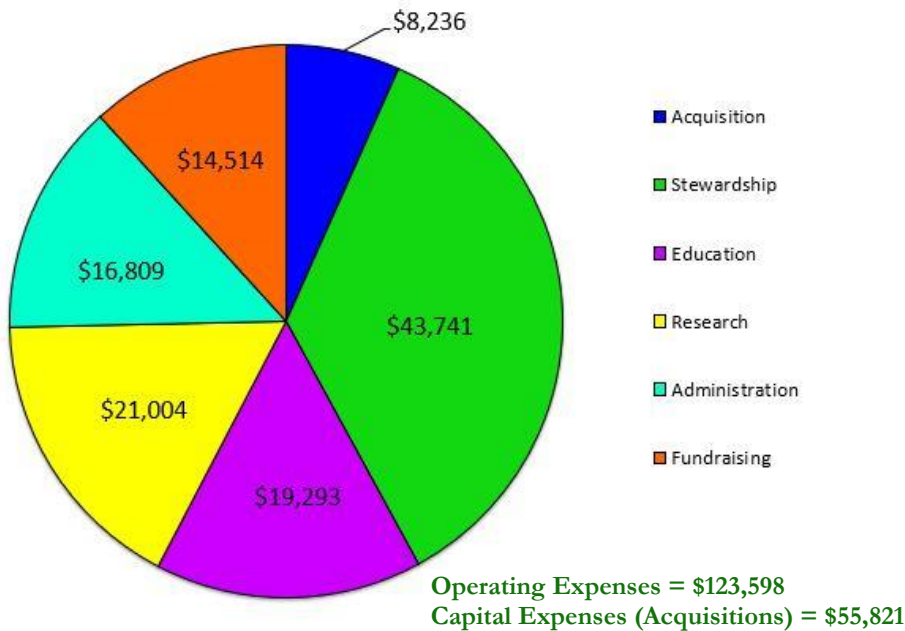


2019 Lincoln Land Conservation Trust Financials

2019 LLCT Operating Income



2019 LLCT Operating Expenses



2019 Membership

Total Number of Members

274

Leadership Level (\$1000+)

21

Friend (\$500-999)

20

Sustaining (\$250-499)

31

Supporting (\$100-249)

122

Family (\$75-99)

12

Individual (\$35-74)

68

*Thank you for
your continued
support!*

Lincoln Station

Art, Food, and Community...

Second graders in **Colleen Pearce's** art class at Lincoln Public School created a beautiful art display for Lincoln Station using plastic materials and recycled LLCT Scarecrow Banners. The finished ocean scenes highlighted plastic pollution and the importance of clean water for marine life. A second featured display in 2019-2020 was created by the Magic Garden Sunshine Class after a visit to the Pollinator Meadow. Students created colorful paintings of flowers, butterflies, and bees. 🐝



(Top Left) Second Grade display on ocean plastic.
(Top Right) Magic Garden pollinator art display.

(Bottom Left) Members of First Parish install a Little Free Library at Lincoln Station. (Bottom Right) Girl Scouts pose by a newly built, painted, and installed bench in the back green at the Mall. Both these projects were heartwarming moments of community connection at Lincoln Station.



Photo courtesy of Girl Scout Troop 82742



(Left) Drumlin Farm delivers fresh produce to REAL. (Right) Patrons line up for lunch orders at Twisted Tree Café. Both these food establishments have brought great food and drink and vibrancy to the Mall this past year.

2019 Lincoln Land Conservation Trust and Rural Land Foundation Trustees

Susan Allen, *Vice-Chair*

Michelle Barnes, *Chair*

Kenneth Bassett

William G. Constable, *President*

Patricia Donahue

Daniel England

Andrew Falender

Andrew Gnazzo, *Vice Treasurer*

James Henderson

Weston Howland, III

Meghan Lytton

Gwyneth Loud

Bob Mason

Ellen Meadors, *Treasurer*

Paul Shorb

Nancy Soulette, *Secretary*

Andrew Stevenson

Susan Welsh

LLCT 2020 Updates



(Left) Signs posted at trailheads, (Right) a Lincoln resident demonstrates proper trail usage with her dog on leash and mask at the ready! Thank you!



Trail Use and COVID-19

Throughout the spring and summer, we've seen crowds at popular trails on the weekends. Even as some state-wide restrictions ease, temporary trail guidelines remain in place, and all trail users are asked to comply so that everyone can enjoy the trails safely.

With more than 80 miles of trails in town, LLCT and Town Conservation are hard at work this summer keeping the trails in good shape!



LLCT to Launch Trail App

Looking for more ways to enjoy Lincoln's trails? Stay tuned! LLCT is launching an interactive trail app this fall.



Summer Stewardship

We are pleased to welcome **Ella Houlihan** as a Summer Intern this year. Ella is a rising senior at Middlebury College and will be working on trail maintenance, invasive species removal, and other special projects this summer, including advancing LLCT's Pollinator Action Plan.



LLCT 2020 Updates

Why are you receiving LLCT's annual report and 2020 update in the mail?
We miss you! We've postponed our Annual Meeting until September (virtual meeting date TBA), and in the meantime, we wanted to share some highlights from the past year and a half with you!

Welcome to New Stewardship Director



In May 2020, LLCT welcomed **Sara Lupkas** to our team. As Stewardship Director, Sara will be taking the lead on many new and exciting stewardship projects, including a trail app and an expanded volunteer program, as well as supporting LLCT's annual conservation restriction monitoring and land management priorities. Sara will also be focused on LLCT's Pollinator Action Plan and the habitat enhancements that are planned for several conservation areas.

Sara moved to Lincoln with her family two years ago. She's spent much of her career in the non-profit sector and land conservation. A native of eastern Long Island, NY, Sara attended Smith College in Western Massachusetts. She is an avid trail runner and gardener, and in addition to land preservation, Sara is passionate about food justice, community gardens, and getting outside on the trails.

LLCT's Pollinator Action Plan

In January, LLCT launched a new initiative to promote pollination systems in Lincoln. **Dr. Robert Gegear** kicked off the year with an amazing lecture on the importance of native bumblebees and functional diversity for healthy ecosystems. In early March, landscape designer **Evan Abramson** unveiled his preliminary plan for a pollinator demonstration garden at Birches School.

In the spring and summer, we went virtual for a "drive thru" plant sale. Nearly 70 LLCT members participated and will collectively plant nearly 2,000 native plants of high value to at-risk bumblebees. As you drive around town, look for pollinator pathway signs!

We are incredibly awed by the community's response to this initiative, so stay tuned for more programs and opportunities to get involved.



LLCT Staff prepare plant kits in May for drive-thru pick up.