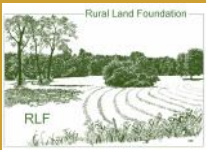


Photo by Monica Manandhar



*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.*

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#### LLCT/RLF Staff

**Geoff McGean,**  
Executive Director

**Bryn Gingrich,**  
Outreach Director

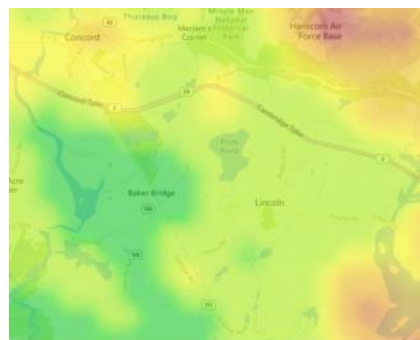
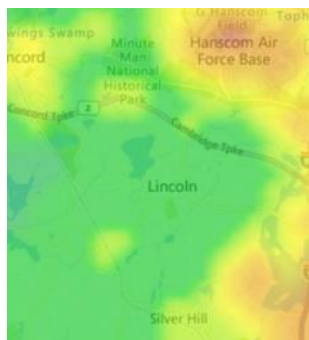
**Sara Lupkas,**  
Stewardship Director

**Joe Miller,**  
Land Steward & Ranger

## Dark Skies for Wildlife

Lincoln Land Conservation Trust (LLCT) focused on dark skies in 2022. Lincoln prides itself on being a dark sky community, however over the last ten years there has been a significant increase in ALAN or *artificial light at night* in Lincoln.

Why is ALAN a problem? At a January fireside chat, **Professor James Lowenthal**, an astronomer and dark sky activist, spoke about the negative impacts ALAN has on wildlife and humans alike: nocturnal pollination, seasonal migrations, and even human circadian rhythms see abnormalities.



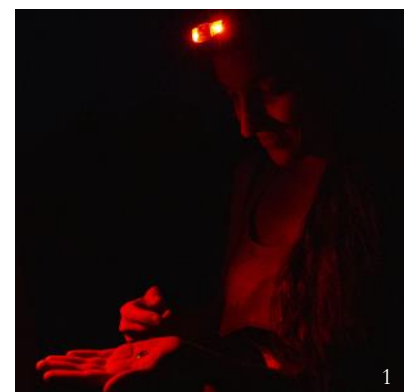
*Light pollution in the Lincoln area in 2012 (left) and 2021 (right), provided by Lowenthal.*



**Dr. Avalon Owens** continued this conversation about ALAN at LLCT's Annual Meeting in September. Her research on fireflies in Lincoln reveals how ALAN disrupts their reproductive success. There's good news though. ALAN is easily reversible: it's as simple as turning off the lights. Additionally, fireflies don't travel very far, so "backyard" changes can have immediate, meaningful, positive impacts on local firefly populations.

The best way to reduce ALAN is to limit outdoor illumination. Motion activated lights or lights on timers can assuage safety concerns while also ensuring lights are only on when needed. Swapping to red bulbs, shielding lights, and closing curtains all help to reduce impacts to wildlife. LLCT plans to continue community outreach efforts to encourage the reduction of light pollution throughout town.

*Avalon Owens holding a firefly.*



# Land Protection & Staffing Updates



## Land Protection

Lincoln looks the way it does, with beautiful fields, forests, wetlands, trails, and scenic vistas, thanks to the commitment and generosity of so many who have contributed to the town's conservation efforts since LLCT and RLF were founded.

LLCT also gratefully acknowledges the indigenous people, including the Massachusett, Agawam, and Pawtucket, who were forcibly displaced from their unceded land, which we now call Lincoln. LLCT acknowledges this history of violence and is committed to supporting the indigenous people in and around our community, particularly with regard to land access.

LLCT and its sister organization, RLF, continue to work to preserve land of conservation interest, as identified in Lincoln's 2017 Open Space Plan. Just in the last twenty years, over 900 acres of additional conservation land have been permanently protected. Conserving open space not only creates more opportunities for people to engage with the land, it also remains one of the most effective ways to mitigate climate change at the local level. Natural spaces sequester carbon, filter the air and water, and support biodiversity.

## Thank you Jane, Welcome Joe

After 30 years as the Town Ranger and another five years as LLCT's Stewardship Coordinator, **Jane Layton** retired in September 2022 to focus on wood carving, hiking, and camping. In her time with LLCT, Jane prioritized invasive plant management, leading the summer land stewards into some of Lincoln's thorniest areas. She most enjoyed seeing the community-wide effort to create healthier environments for our native plants and guiding the summer interns as they began careers in conservation. She is particularly proud of building the new pollinator pavilion. Jane remains an active volunteer, so don't worry, you'll still see her pulling garlic mustard every spring!

**Joe Miller** joined LLCT as a Summer Land Steward in 2021 and 2022 before stepping into a permanent role as Land Steward and Ranger in September. Joe majored in environmental studies and politics at Brandeis University, taking special interest in how governing bodies, from local to multinational, can contribute to conservation efforts. In his free time, Joe enjoys making music with his band, State of Nature, and freshwater fishing. Some of his favorite projects so far with LLCT include maintaining and expanding the many pollinator gardens around town and leading and participating in educational walks.



*Top: Joe and Jane in 2022 after constructing a new kiosk at the Stony Brook Trailhead. Bottom: A group photo of LLCT and TOLCD Staff, taken during Jane's celebratory retirement hike and picnic at Tippling Rock. Pictured are Will Leona, Sara Lupkas, Joe Miller, Stacy Carter, Ryan Brown,*

*2 Jane Layton, Geoff McGean, and Michele Grzenda. Photo taken by Bryn Gingrich.*



# Stewardship and Land Management



## Monitoring & Invasive Management



*Summer Land Steward Maddy pulls garlic mustard along a trail.*

LLCT staff continued to complete annual monitoring of deeded conservation land and conservation restrictions for both LLCT and the Town of Lincoln Conservation Department (TOLCD). Annual monitoring is critical for tracking changes to the landscape and ensuring that protected conservation values are upheld.

LLCT once again shared Summer Land Stewards with the Town, a model that offers more hours to the interns and facilitates collaborative land stewardship projects.

In 2022, **Sara Lupkas** and **Ryan Brown** launched *Field Work Fridays* and *Stewardship Saturdays*, a series of group volunteer work days. This dedicated group tackled bittersweet, buckthorn, garlic mustard, and many other species on various conservation parcels throughout the spring and summer. *Pictured above: Debra Daugherty, Jane Layton, Ryan Brown, Bob Mason, Diana Jong, and Jim Meadors. Photo taken by Sara Lupkas.*

## Trail Maintenance

LLCT Staff worked with volunteers and TOLCD Staff on annual maintenance of Lincoln's trails, removing downed trees and pruning back vegetation. Particular thanks to **Peter von Mertens** for leading a group of volunteers in building new duckboards in the Pigeon Hill and Stony Brook Conservation Areas. The new duckboards offer better treadway for trail users in perennially muddy areas, keeping shoes dry and protecting wetland habitat at the same time.

After hearing of imminent structural failure on the Osborne Bridge, **LLCT Trustee Tony Howland** applied for and received a grant from the Osborne Trust to help fund bridge repairs. Thanks to the generosity of the Trust and several neighbors, the bridge was repaired and can continue to be a critical trail connection through the Osborne Conservation Area.





# Stewardship Cont'd



## Community Projects



**Top and Left:** Lincoln Sudbury Regional High School Seniors installed new duck boards on trails behind the Lincoln Public Schools and near Flint Pond during their annual day of community service.



**Middle:** Members of the **Lincoln Garden Club**, Staff from LLCT and TOLCD, and **Annie Knowlton and Katherine Preston** gathered for the dedication of a new bench overlooking Beaver Pond. Funded by the Garden Club, the bench now offers a place for trail users to pause and enjoy the view.



**Right:** **Chris Bursaw** helped LLCT Staff install a plaque describing the Garfield Cellar Hole, located along a trail in the Stony Brook Conservation Area. The plaque was **Nathan Soukup's** Eagle Scout project and has been installed in his memory.



## Trails For Everyone

**Left:** In 2022, **Patti Cable** monitored 10 nest boxes on conservation land, documenting 14 nesting attempts, 23 Eastern Bluebird fledglings, and 11 Tree Swallow fledglings. LLCT's Nest Box Monitoring Program is a reminder that humans share open space with wildlife. It's their home too, so please stay on the trail and don't approach wildlife.

**Right:** LLCT and TOLCD Staff revised Lincoln's trail guidelines in 2022 to ensure that all trail users can share the trails amicably. New signage and trail markers are improving navigation and clarifying expectations about universal trail etiquette.



# Pollinator Action Plan



## LLCT Pollinator Meadow

LLCT continued to advance the Lincoln Pollinator Action Plan in 2022, adding more than 200 perennials and shrubs to existing pollinator sites. At the LLCT Pollinator Meadow, LLCT Staff undertook both a spring and fall planting, adding species to the area that was sown in Fall 2021 and to an area of the meadow that was overgrown with non-native grasses.

In April, LLCT finished construction on a new pavilion at the meadow with the help of numerous volunteers and TOLCD staff, with particular thanks to **Jane Layton, Norman Levey, Myra Ferguson, and Ryan Brown**. The structure offers shade for visitors, and rainwater is collected into four rain barrels. With a solar panel and pump attached, LLCT Staff will be able to easily water the entire site. *Pictured below: Sara Lupkas and Ryan Brown finish the roof, rain barrels are installed, Joe and Alex (Summer Land Stewards) lay stones underneath the pavilion.*



With the new pavilion in place, LLCT was able to expand community programming at the meadow. LLCT collaborated with **Concord Land Conservation Trust** to host **Dr. Gegear** at the meadow for a bumblebee identification workshop. Later in the summer, students (pictured at top) from the **Lincoln Summer Camp** helped mulch and water at the meadow. In the fall, LLCT, in collaboration with **Codman Community Farms** and **Lincoln Common Ground**, hosted a seed collection workshop at the meadow. Participants learned the ins and outs of wild seed collection and storage. In December, participants were invited to Codman Farms for a milk jug sowing workshop using those seeds. Many thanks to **Isabel Bailey** and **Jane Gruba-Chevalier** for helping to organize the sowing workshop.







## Chapman Pasture



At Chapman Pasture, LLCT conducted a second prescribed burn to further reduce the thatch in the field and improve the diversity of plant species. LLCT sowed cover crops and planted shrubs in the spring. In the fall, LLCT contracted with **Jim Henderson, LLCT Trustee** to mow and till a portion of the field for a fall wildflower sow. *From left to right: Chapman Pasture after the prescribed burn, watering a butterfly weed, fall mow and site prep, LLCT Staff sow a half acre corner of the pasture.*



## Additional Demonstration Sites

Thanks to the dedication of volunteers, LLCT's demonstration pollinator gardens flourished this summer. Volunteers **Isabel Bailey, Terry Green, Mike Luneau, and Mike Murray of Organic Soil Solutions** jumped into action to help LLCT rescue some parched plants this summer, and helped with ongoing weeding and maintenance at the sites. Throughout the summer, LLCT's Land Stewards checked in on the sites and kept the water barrels full. *From left to right: LLCT welcomed visitors to the Lincoln Station Garden in June as part of a Native Pollinator Task Force Tour, Hairy Beardtongue blooms at the Codman Island Garden, Shubby St. John's Wort and Joe-Pye Weed bloom at the Lincoln Station Garden, Foxglove Beardtongue and Scarlet Bee Balm bloom at the Harrington Garden.*





# Pollinator Action Plan & Publications



## Pollinator Plant Sale

LLCT offered a third annual pollinator plant sale in the spring. Once again, more than 100 members participated in the sale, collectively adding 1,200 native perennials and 500 shrubs and trees to gardens in Lincoln and neighboring towns. After three years of offering the sale, an estimated 230 unique participants have joined the “pollinator pathway”. With permission from the Town, LLCT was able to use the commuter lot on a Friday to organize and distribute the plants. Many wonderful volunteers helped throughout the day. *Pictured below are Mike Luneau, Joe Miller, Bob Mason, Jane Layton, and Andy Falender. Thanks also to Isabel Bailey, Diana Jong, Nancy Soulette, Charlie Sinkler, and Belinda Gingrich.*



## LLCT Publications

LLCT continued to publish a monthly wildlife column online, written by **Gwyn Loud, LLCT Trustee**. In her column, Gwyn shares seasonal flora and fauna highlights. A network of contributors send in observations, photos, and videos to illustrate the article. *Particular thanks to Carol Roede, Norman Levey, Will Leona, and Ron McAdow for their frequent contributions.* In September, LLCT published the 2023 Open Space Calendar. The cover featured a photo of Monarch butterflies in flight taken by Marcia Gnagey.





# Educational Outreach



## Trail Walks & Workshops

For Winter Carnival, LLCT once again worked with students at **Birches School** to create art for a scavenger hunt on the trails. Participants used the OuterSpatial Trail app to complete the hunt.

**Matt Burne** and **Michele Grzenda** led LLCT's annual vernal pool exploration. A group of 25 enjoyed learning about wood frogs, fairy shrimp, and salamander eggs.

In the Spring, LLCT collaborated with **Codman Community Farms** and **Lincoln Common Ground** to offer a series of in-person workshops focused on soil health. Participants learned about soil structure and microbiology and explored the connection between soil health and carbon sequestration. **Rachel Neurath** kicked off the series with an introductory zoom and then trained a group of dedicated volunteers to facilitate the workshops. The effort continued in the fall with two eco-gardening tours led by **Robin Wilkerson** and **Diana Rice-Sheahan** and a sheet mulching workshop led by **Jess Myles**.

LLCT's annual Spring Birding Series was led by local expert birders: **Gwyn Loud**, **Nancy Soulette**, **Ron McAdow**, **Norman Levey**, **Nancy Hammond**, and **Michele Grzenda**. Each of the four walks brought participants to a different "hot spot" in Lincoln. **Corey Nimmer** finished out the birding season with an extra walk focused on bird photography.

In the fall, **Will Leona** co-led a family fungi walk with LLCT. LLCT continued to offer spring and fall Noticing Walks on Lincoln's trails. Led by **John Calabria**, each walk focused on mindfulness in nature and were co-sponsored with the **Council on Aging and Human Services**.





# Educational Outreach



## Virtual Programming

Throughout the winter, LLCT continued to offer *fireside chats* featuring **Barbara Peskin** (wildlife photography), **Matt Burne** (vernal pools), and **John Calabria** (spring emergence).

LLCT collaborated with the **Town of Lincoln Conservation Department** to host monthly conservation coffees featuring a local speaker and updates from both organizations. A few of the topics included American Chestnuts, winter insects, bird migration, and Lincoln's water infrastructure.

The **On Belonging Speaker Series** returned, featuring **Kareemah Batts** and **Scott Edwards**. Kareemah, a paraclimber and activist, spoke about accessibility in outdoor spaces. Scott, a professor of ornithology, shared his experience biking across the U.S. with a Black Lives Matter sign. LLCT was thrilled to once again work with the other host organizations to organize the series: **Farrington Nature Linc**, **deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum**, **Mass Audubon**, and the **Walden Woods Project**. The **Ogden Codman Trust** generously sponsored the Spring 2022 series.

In December, **Douglas Tallamy**, author of *Nature's Best Hope* and *The Nature of Oaks*, made a compelling argument for the importance of backyard biodiversity and a homegrown national park in a Zoom program for LLCT.

## Community Collaborations

LLCT celebrated Earth Day with the **Town of Lincoln Conservation Department**. After a town-wide clean up, volunteers received a free serviceberry seedling at a community gathering at Lincoln Station.

In June, LLCT brought **Rick Roth and Snakes of New England** to the Brooks Gym, where LEAP students and the public enjoyed meeting a variety of snakes. Thanks to the **Parks and Recreation Department** for co-sponsoring the program.



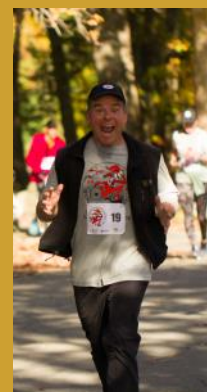


# 10th Annual Scarecrow Classic 5K

## 50 Volunteers



## 600 Runners



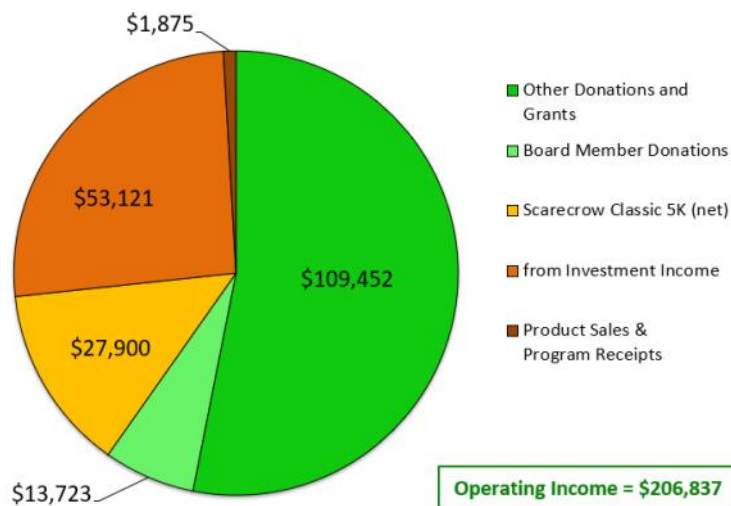
## 40 Sponsors



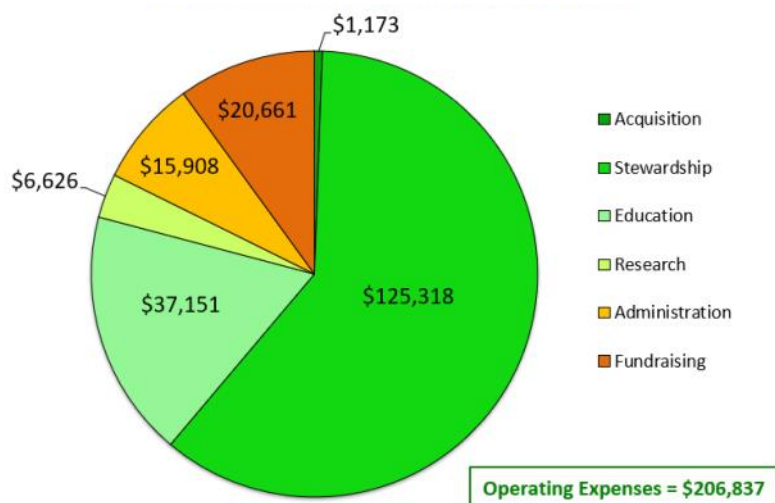


# 2022 Lincoln Land Conservation Trust Financials

## 2022 LLCT Operating Income



## 2022 LLCT Operating Expenses



## 2022 Membership

### *Total Number of Members*

304

### *Leadership Level (\$1000+)*

33

### *Friend (\$500-999)*

24

### *Sustaining (\$250-499)*

44

### *Supporting (\$100-249)*

104

### *Patron (\$75-99)*

21

### *Individual (\$35-74)*

78

*Thank you for your continued support!*

Photo by Barbara Peskin



# Lincoln Station



## Tenant Updates

In 2022, RLF was pleased to welcome two new tenants to the Mall at Lincoln Station. **Meghan Lytton**, former Trustee, opened **Lincoln Dog Training**. Lincoln Dog Training offers private training sessions using a rewards-based approach. Meghan has more than 10 years of experience in the field and is thrilled to share her expertise with the community.

**Mike Culpo** opened **The Tack Room** in early 2022. The restaurant offers elevated comfort food, beers on tap, fun cocktails, and a great atmosphere. Since their opening, the restaurant has expanded their offerings to include brunch, outdoor seating, and occasional special events.

## Shop Local

RLF owns and operates the Mall at Lincoln Station for the benefit of the Town of Lincoln. Shop local to support the small businesses at the Mall and to support conservation in Lincoln. Proceeds from the Mall are either reinvested into the space or are allocated for conservation projects.

*In 2022, the Lincoln Arts and Farmers Market offered fruits, vegetables, crafts, and other local products each week on the Green. Photos by Jocelyn Finlay.*

## 2022 Lincoln Land Conservation Trust and Rural Land Foundation Trustees

Susan Allen, *Vice-Chair*

Michelle Barnes, *Chair*

Kenneth Bassett

William G. Constable, *President*

Daniel England

Andrew Falender

Andrew Gnazzo, *Vice Treasurer*

James Henderson

Weston Howland, III

Diana Jong

Gwyneth Loud

Bob Mason

Ellen Meadors, *Treasurer*

Paul Shorb

Nancy Soulette, *Secretary*

Andrew Stevenson

Susan Welsh