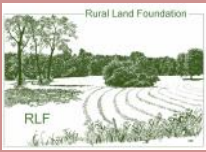


# 2023 Annual Report

Lincoln Land Conservation Trust &  
Rural Land Foundation

Photo by Norman Levey



*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 creative land acquisition projects. RLF donates acquired land to LLCT to hold in trust, or deeds the 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](http://www.lincolnconservation.org)  
781-259-9251

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## *LLCT/RLF Staff*

*Geoff McGean,*  
Executive Director

*Bryn Gingrich,*  
Outreach Director

*Sara Lupkas,*  
Stewardship Director

## Backyard Biodiversity

How does land management contribute to healthy ecosystems, improved biodiversity, and climate change resilience and mitigation? Lincoln Land Conservation Trust (LLCT) launched 2023 with the production and town-wide mailing of a one-page brochure full of backyard land management practices that support wildlife and sequester carbon. Arranged seasonally, the brochure is intended to be a handy reference throughout the year.

### Biodiversity Tips:

- Reduce lawns & plant native species
- Go pesticide free
- Leave the leaves, stems, and berries for wildlife

In the spring, LLCT collaborated with *Lincoln Common Ground* to welcome **Dr. Rachel Neurath**, a soil microbial ecologist and Lincoln Resident to a community Zoom program introducing *No Mow May*, an initiative to encourage residents to delight in their unmown lawns.

LLCT continued to work with *Lincoln Common Ground* in the summer to offer two eco-garden tours featuring the gardens of **Diana Rice-Sheahan** and the **Gingrich Family**. In September, **Rachel Neurath** offered an introductory Zoom on the importance of leaf litter to soil microbiology. This presentation was followed in November by an in-person lecture featuring **Kathy Connolly**. Sponsored by the *Lincoln Garden Club* and with support from LLCT and Lincoln Common Ground, Kathy's program elaborated on how standing stems, berries, and leaf litter provide critical habitat for wildlife throughout the year. *(continued next page)*







1



2



3



4

(continued from previous page) LLCT wrapped up the year's focus on backyard biodiversity by hosting a winter sowing workshop in December. Participants started milk jug greenhouses which will naturally cold stratify seeds. In the spring, participants will plant the native, perennial seedlings in their own gardens. The workshop space was provided by *Codman Community Farms* and the program was taught by **Isabel Bailey** and volunteers from the *Concord Pollinator Health Committee*, *CCHS Green Team*, and the *Concord Free Public Library*.

## Land Protection

For the last 60 years, RLF and LLCT have helped Lincoln preserve its rural character through conservation land acquisition, creative planning, and conservation-minded development.

Our community cherishes Lincoln's fields, forests, wetlands, trails, and scenic vistas. Past land acquisition projects have shaped the town's character and reinforced its values. Future projects depend on our community's ongoing commitment and support for open spaces.

RLF and LLCT continue to pursue conservation acquisition projects that are listed as land of conservation interest in Lincoln's 2017 Open Space Plan.





# Stewardship & Land Management

## Annual Maintenance & Monitoring

LLCT staff conducted 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.

200  
Volunteer  
Hours

LLCT shared Summer Land Stewards **Matt and Sasha** with the Town, a model that offers more hours to the student workers and facilitates collaborative land stewardship projects.

**Sara Lupkas and Ryan Brown** organized 15 stewardship work days. A dedicated group of volunteers tackled bittersweet, buckthorn, and garlic mustard, and also participated in planting efforts and trail maintenance projects, contributing more than 200 total hours to land management priorities. Ongoing maintenance of Lincoln's 80+ miles of trails continued to be a priority in 2023.

## Trail Highlights

Staff rerouted a trail on the hill above Wheeler Field. With the help of TOLCD, LLCT also replaced a bridge in the Wheeler Farm Conservation Area. Near Silver Hill Road, staff worked with neighbors to reroute a trail away from a shared driveway and build stairs to reduce erosion on the slope.



In the spring, LSHRS Seniors installed new duckboards at Pigeon Hill during their annual day of service. The sixteen students made light work of moving all that lumber!

300ft  
of repaired  
duck boards





# Stewardship & Land Management



## Nip the Knotweed

TOLCD and LLCT began a new program to control knotweed in Lincoln. Pictured at left is Summer Land Steward Matt with a mountain of knotweed removed from Stony Brook Conservation Area.

## New Trail Map Published!

After more than a year of careful deliberations, LLCT and TOLCD were pleased to publish a new edition of the Lincoln Trail Map in September 2023.

The last comprehensive update was in 2013. LLCT and TOLCD worked tirelessly to incorporate ten year's worth of changes, including the newly updated rules and regs.

Trail maps are available for sale at the LLCT and TOLCD offices, online, and at local retailers.



## 2023 NEST BOX SEASON

34

### EASTERN BLUEBIRD FLEDGLINGS

8 documented Eastern Bluebird nesting attempts, resulting in 39 eggs and 34 fledglings. In 2022, there were 23 documented fledglings.

### TREE SWALLOW FLEDGLINGS

4 documented Tree Swallow nesting attempts, resulting in 25 eggs and 14 fledglings. In 2022, there were 11 documented fledglings.

14

### TARGET SPECIES EGGS

The first Eastern Bluebird clutch was laid in mid-April and the first Tree Swallow clutch was laid in mid-May. Both clutches hatched two weeks later and the first fledglings left the nest on May 20th and June 20th respectively. The nesting success rate for both species was around 75%.

64

### SITE VISITS

Patti Cable, LLCT Volunteer, began site visits in mid-April and continued them twice per week until mid-August, totaling 150 individual nest box visits. By monitoring twice a week, she was able to closely track each nest's progress.

150

### NEST BOXES

Patti monitored 10 boxes, 8 in Chapman Pasture, one near Twin Pond, and one in a field along Tower Road.

10





# Pollinator Action Plan

## Pollinator Presentations

In March, **Norman Levey** offered a Zoom Fireside Chat on wild bees in the backyard, celebrating the incredible diversity of native bees found in Massachusetts. In March, LLCT Staff **Sara Lupkas** and **Bryn Gingrich** gave both a Conservation Coffee presentation and an evening presentation for *Freedom's Way National Heritage Area* documenting the LLCT's Pollinator Action Plan progress since 2020. **Diana Rice-Sheahan** wrapped up spring lectures in May with a Zoom program on pocket meadows and lawn-to-meadow conversions. LLCT closed out the year with a fireside chat featuring **Dr. Robert Gegear**, who has been conducting research at the LLCT Pollinator Meadow near the Lincoln Public Schools. His experiments confirm the importance of the specific relationships between insects and plants for pollination.

## 4th Annual Plant Sale



**1,300**  
Perennials



**100**  
Members



**200**  
Shrubs



**10**  
Volunteers

## Maintenance Matters

Volunteers gathered in the spring to cut back standing stems and refresh the mulch at several of LLCT's pocket pollinator gardens. LLCT also added 20-50 perennials at the Codman Island, Stony Brook, and Lincoln Station sites to increase each location's biodiversity and ensure that each site offered pollen and nectar to insects throughout the growing season.





# Pollinator Action Plan

## New Gardens

In May, volunteers planted **180 perennials** at a new demonstration garden near Codman Community Gardens. The *Lincoln Garden Club* generously awarded a grant to LLCT for the initial planting, and Town Conservation assisted with the site prep. The garden now beautifies the roadside path.



250+ Plants

*Hannan Agro Farms* planted their own pollinator garden at Umbrello Field with **67 perennials** donated by LLCT. **Tom Flint and Mohammed Hannan** organized their farm volunteers to plant and maintain the space. "Hedgerow" gardens like this one can improve the pollination of agricultural crops.



*Lincoln Common Ground* also added a roadside garden near Doherty's Garage. Designed by **Diana Rice-Sheahan**, the garden further improves the pollinator pathway along Lincoln Road.



20 Student Helpers



## Programming at the Meadow

During the summer, LLCT hosted a Beecology Workshop with *Concord Land Conservation Trust* and held an open house for the *Native Pollinator Task Force*.

Students from the *Lincoln Summer Camp* spent an afternoon helping install permanent mulched paths through the meadow. This effort was continued in the early Fall by *LEAP* students. Several layers of cardboard and wood chips will help suppress weeds and create a more welcoming and easy to navigate meadow.

LLCT Staff finished out the year at the meadow by adding **50 perennials** in spots that had been cleared of bedstraw.







## Chapman Pasture

At Chapman Pasture, LLCT continued to implement the Lincoln Pollinator Action Plan. During the summer, staff prepared a new area for planting and installed a temporary deer fence. In the fall, volunteers added 350 perennials to the fenced area. This planting was generously funded with a grant from the *Virginia Wellington Cabot Foundation*. The grant also covered the purchase of a seed mix. Volunteers returned in late fall to sow the area and cover it with straw mats.



*Continued thanks to the volunteers who showed up to weed, water, mulch, plant, and sow in 2023!*

350  
Perennials





# Educational Outreach

## Thank you Partners

### Spring Birding Leaders

Gwyn Loud, Norman Levey,  
Ron McAdow, Corey Nimmer,  
and Nancy Soulette

### Spring & Fall Noticing Walks

John Calabria  
*Town of Lincoln COAHS*

### Winter Carnival

Lincoln Public School Art Classes

### Vernal Pool Exploration

Will Leona, *TOLCD*  
Matt Burne, *BSC Group*  
*The Walden Woods Project*

### Fall Family Fungi Walk

Will Leona, *TOLCD*

### Eyes on Owls

*Farrington Nature Linc*



15  
Trail Walks



## Firefly Fun in the Field

In June, LLCT offered an evening firefly walk in Smith-Andover Field led by **Dr. Avalon Owens**. Owens coordinates a team of graduate students conducting research in the field. During the walk, participants learned how to identify firefly species by their flash pattern and observed a tagged (painted) female flashing from the ground to attract a male of the same species. Owens also emphasized the importance of dark skies. Although some “crepuscular” fireflies benefit from areas of perpetual “dusk”, most firefly species are negatively impacted by lights at night.

## For Young Naturalists

In April and May, LLCT collaborated with the Lincoln Public Library to welcome **Clare Walker-Leslie** to a public after-school nature journaling workshop. Although storms kept participants on the Library’s back porch, participants observed the changing skies, flocks of geese flying, and unfurling beech leaves.

LLCT and the *Lincoln PTO* then brought Walker-Leslie back to town for an in-school enrichment program. Walker-Leslie led three groups of 6th graders on an exploration of the trails and boardwalks behind the schools. Students saw frogs, songbirds, and spring blooms on their outing.



6  
Family  
Programs





# Educational Outreach



## Connecting People to the Land

LLCT continued to co-lead the *On Belonging in Outdoor Spaces* speaker series. In February, **Claudia Fox Tree** spoke about decolonizing Native American achievements. In March, **Leah Penniman** shared highlights from her book *Black Earth Wisdom*, and **José Gonzalez** presented on his organization *Latino Outdoors*. The series continued to highlight important stories of connection to the land for people of color. Spring 2023 sponsorship was provided by *Freedom's Way National Heritage Area*, the *Lincoln Cultural Council*, and the *Ogden Codman Trust*. LLCT is also grateful to our fellow host organizations *Farrington Nature Linc*, *deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum*, *The Food Project*, *The Walden Woods Project*, and *Mass Audubon*.

LLCT held its Annual Meeting in early October. After the business meeting, **Gwyn Loud** gave the slideshow presentation: *50 years of Lincoln's Changing Flora, Fauna, and Landscapes*. Using photos and stories from her years of collecting wildlife observations, Gwyn gave a sweeping celebration of Lincoln's biodiversity. A perfect topic for the meeting, the presentation reminded attendees why the work of land conservation is important and what the positive impacts on Lincoln's wildlife (and people) have been. Throughout the year Gwyn continued to publish a monthly wildlife column. Warm thanks to the more than 60 people who gathered with LLCT, to St. Anne's-in-the-Fields for the use of their space, and to LLCT's Staff, Trustees, and Education Committee for organizing the event.

LLCT published the 2024 *Open Spaces Calendar* in October, with the cover featuring a hummingbird moth photographed by Michael Sheahan. The calendar remains a popular membership gift and celebration of local photographers.



## Thank you Partners

### Winter Lectures

Ron McAdow on Trail Cameras  
Dave Goulson on Pollinator Decline. Hosted with the Massachusetts Pollinator Network, Lexington Living Landscapes, and Mass Audubon

### Hydrology Series

Max Rome, Charles River Watershed Association  
Martin Briggs, USGS  
Hosted with the Water Commission, the Conservation Commission, and the Agricultural Commission

### Bi-Monthly LLCT/TOLCD Conservation Coffees

Pilar Garro, deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum  
Mike Callahan on Beaver Ecology and Management  
Stacy Carter on Unusual Plants of Lincoln and Beyond  
Meredith Gallogly, Grow Native

17  
Presentations







## 11th Annual Scarecrow Classic 5k



**676 Runners**



**50 Sponsors**



**5 Kilometers**



**50 Volunteers**



**600 Cider Donuts**

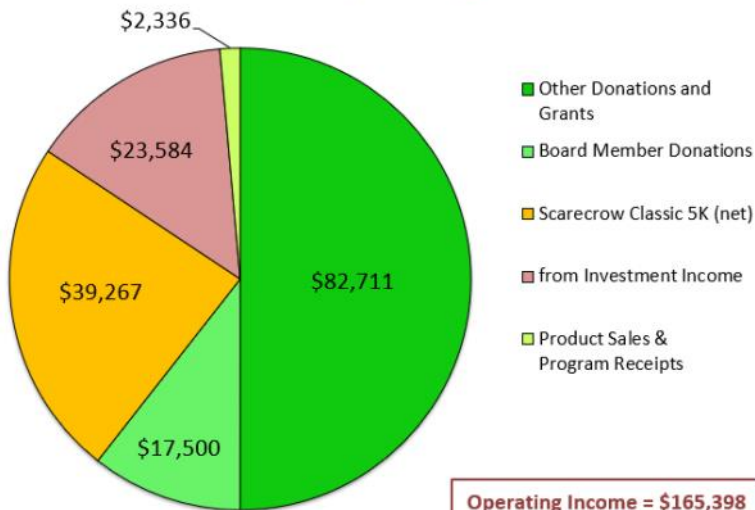


**Thank you, and see you  
next year on October 20th!**

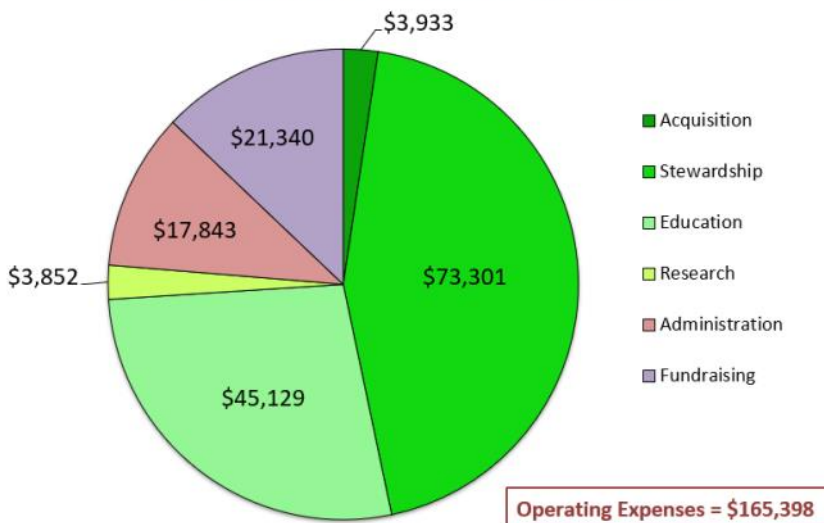


# 2023 Lincoln Land Conservation Trust Financials

## 2023 LLCT Operating Income



## 2023 LLCT Operating Expenses



## 2023 Membership

### *Total Number of Members*

307

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

36

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

25

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

32

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

132

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

20

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

62

Thank you for your continued support!



# Lincoln Station

## Tenant Update

RLF welcomed **Nosy Crow** to Lincoln station in 2023. Nosy Crow is an award-winning, independent children's publishing company.

**John Mendelson** is both Nosy Crow President and Lincoln resident. Nosy Crow participated as a lead sponsor in the Scarecrow Classic 5K in October.

John Mendelson writes: "as we approach our one-year anniversary, we are so grateful for our *Crow's Nest* at Lincoln Station. Since we launched in May 2023, we've published over 50 books and have found a warm and receptive local community. One our newest books, *Up High*, features a father and son out on a walk, connecting with nature and each other. I think it really captures the joys of being outside that LLCT/RLF have done so much to foster here in Lincoln."



## Community Art

In April, LLCT visited LEAP (Lincoln's after school program) to have a conversation with students about Earth Day. After story time, students create Earth Day Pledges which were displayed at Lincoln Station in April. Thank you to **Meghan Lytton** for allowing RLF to temporarily use one of **Lincoln Dog Training's** windows.



## Local Retail

A warm thank you to the community for their continued support of local businesses at Lincoln Station. RLF owns and operates the Mall at Lincoln Station for the benefit of Lincoln residents. Shopping local at Lincoln Station supports many small businesses, and proceeds from the Mall are reinvested into the space and support RLF's conservation land acquisitions.

LLCT and RLF share a volunteer Board of Trustees who are all Lincoln residents and care deeply about Lincoln's conservation lands.



## 2023 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