



The

Volume 10, Issue 1 Spring 2013

NRT Report

Natural Resources Trust of Mansfield

Upcoming Events

42nd NRT Annual Meeting
April 25th, 7:00 PM
Mansfield Historical Society
Jenny Copeland House
53 Rumford Avenue

The public is invited.

Refreshments will be served
after a short meeting.

Check Facebook and our web
site for upcoming trail walks.

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Great Woods Boardwalk Completed

The NRT finished construction of a 250 foot boardwalk along the Red Trail in the Mansfield Great Woods. The walkway, which crosses a wet area over the Blueberry Brook, was funded by the Town of Mansfield Non Profit Gift Fund. The area had been impassable in the spring, due to high water. The new walkway will allow walkers to access the entire length of the Red Trail to the southern end of to the White Trail.

The project was spearheaded by NRT members Colin Cauldwell and Lou Andrews. Colin did the construction, and volunteers helped to move the materials hundreds of feet to the project site. A special thank you goes to helpers Jerry, Gus, and Joey Huiskamp; Tom and Roger Hellard; Tod Snyder; Carl Lambrecht, and Janice and Charles Meszoely.

This completes the third major project by the NRT, over the past two years, to improve access to the conservation areas. The NRT replaced the bridge across the Rumford River last year and reconstructed a bridge in the York Conservation Area this year. (see article on page 5)



The NRT plans to build two smaller boardwalks in the Great Woods, and other trail maintenance projects in 2013.

Walk the trails using our maps at which can be downloaded at www.nrtma.org.

President's Award Given to Michele White

The Natural Resources Trust of Mansfield (NRT) conferred the President's Award to Michele White at a recent board meeting.

As a member of the Conservation Commission, Michele was the "go to" person when the town needed to get things done on our conservation land. As a member of the commission, Michele worked with Mansfield school students on conservation projects in the Corporal Hardy, the Marie Streese, and the Great Woods conservation areas. She coordinated with Keep Mansfield Beautiful in cleaning up conservation areas. Michele updated our trail maps by GPS'ing the Corporal Hardy Conservation Area trails and marking the trails of the Sweet and Marie Streese Conservation areas. In addition, she installed signage on many town owned conservation areas.

Michele also worked with the YMCA to make the community garden on Essex Street a reality. She is highly educated in the conservation field, with a B.S. in Environmental Science and an M.S. in Soil Science.



Editorial by *President Lou Andrews*

It's been a tough year for Mansfield's Conservation Commission. There was the failed effort at last year's town meeting to revoke our wetland by-law. The Selectmen then decided not to reappoint Michele White to the commission. The town recently completed its strategic plan, yet no one from the conservation community was appointed to the Strategic Plan Implementation Committee. There were unsupported and undefined accusations against the commission, and numerous comments from Selectmen Koslowski to push the commission in a "different direction." What that direction will be is unclear, since the only proper direction of the Conservation Commission is to enforce the by-laws that protect our land. Ultimately, these months of pressure and harassment have led to the resignation of Elizabeth Leidhold, our hardworking conservation agent.

We can expect more pressure on the commission as there are fewer parcels of undeveloped land that do not have wetlands. Despite the pressure the commission's duty is to insure that further development does not negatively impact our natural resources. All of Mansfield's water comes from wells, and we have to thank the foresight of our predecessors who protected these valuable resources that replenish our aquifers. We hope that we will continue to protect this legacy.

The NRT has always supported a balanced approach toward development and land protection. It's important that this balance does not tip in a way we will come to regret in the future.

We shall continue to be vigilant in our support of the Conservation Commission, and insure that we don't lose the gains Mansfield has made to protect our wetlands, aquifer, and drinking water.

Commentary by *Leonard Flynn*

We in the NRT are fortunate to have recently added a number of young, highly skilled and dedicated conservationists to our Board of Directors. It is gratifying to have new members help out with the never ending challenge of protecting and maintaining Mansfield's public open spaces.

One of these new members is Michele White, an environmental and soils scientist and past member of the Mansfield Conservation Commission. Michele and I attended the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition (MLTC) annual meeting in Sudbury last month where I was pleased to introduce her as my replacement on the MLTC Steering Committee. While I commended Michele for her past service to the conservation commission and the NRT board, it's easy to understand how her talents will be of value to the MLTC. Her willingness to accept this position augurs well for the NRT and the other Massachusetts land trusts.

The MLTC is a voluntary association of non-profit land trusts founded to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and information, to increase the effectiveness of the Massachusetts land trust in working with the state legislature and environmental agencies, and to promote high professional standards. The Coalition has played a crucial role in supporting key conservation legislation and has become an important networking resource for the state's land trusts. MLTC counts over 146 organizations as Members and Friends, land trusts as well as watershed associations, open space committees and advocacy groups

I hope to continue as an NRT board member and maintain some involvement with MLTC. However, I am confident that Michele will make outstanding contributions in the name of conservation and we in the NRT can be assured she'll do the "heavy lifting" for some time to come!



**In memory of
Margaret "Pegge"
Flannery**
*Past Secretary, Director &
Conservationist.
Director from 1972 to 2012*

This year we lost a valuable member of our board. Pegge passed away after a long illness. Pegge was a board member since 1972 and our secretary for many years. Pegge always had a smile and she will surely be missed.

Membership

Your membership is important to help us keep up the fight to protect our natural resources. This year more than ever we need your support to help us protect our open space, wetlands, and aquifers.



Membership is only \$25.00 per year.

For an additional \$25.00 donation we will send you an NRT hat.

(see page 6 on how to renew or join the NRT)

Thank you for your support



Codding Farm Sign Destroyed

Sometime last fall vandals destroyed the sign leading to the Codding Farm site in the Great Woods. The sign was erected by Boy Scouts last year.

A project this year will be to reinstall the sign in concrete.



Codding Farm Site – Old Barn Foundation



FINALLY!

The sign dedicating the Leonard F. and Marydee Flynn Greenbelt was installed on Route 106 across the street from the highway garage entrance. As the sign reads, the area was dedicated to the Flynn's back in 2004 for their lifelong efforts in conservation.

“A town is saved, not more by the righteous men in it, than by the woods and swamps that surround it. ... I would not have every man nor every part of a man cultivated, any more than I would have every acre of earth cultivated; part will be tillage, but the greater part will be meadow and forest, not only serving an immediate use, but preparing a mould [sic] against a distant future....”

Excerpt from Walking, Henry David Thoreau

Four generations of Great Woods activists

(right to left)

Harry Chase, Founding and Charter Member of the NRT Harry has camped, hunted, surveyed, mapped and observed plant and animal life in The Great Woods for over 70 years.

Leonard Flynn, NRT Past President, SERPED and CRAAC member. Lenny was instrumental in acquiring the Scott/Goyea Farm and negotiated the transfer of 61 acres in the Great Woods from Fleet Bank.

Colin Cauldwell, NRT vice president, Conservation Commission, vice chairman. Colin leads our Great Woods walks and was the key mover to construct the bridge over the Rumford River and our new red trail boardwalk.

Lou Andrews, Founding member and current NRT President. Lou was a past chairman of the Great Woods Study Committee which developed the plans and initiated the acquisition of the Great Woods Conservation Area.



Odds & Ends

Updated Great Woods Maps

Our maps have been updated to show the newly marked "Purple Trail" in the northern section and the corrected location of the white trail. Also added is the new boardwalk along the Red Trail and the bridge across Blueberry Brook, along the White Trail. New 24" x 20" maps were installed at both entrances. Copies are available at our web site www.nrtma.org.

NRT Receives Certificate of Appreciation.

President Lou Andrews accepted a Certificate of Appreciation for the NRT, from the Canoe River Aquifer Advisory Committee (CRAAC) at their 25th anniversary celebration. The NRT has supported the committee since its inception. The CRAAC purpose is to educate the public about the benefits of protecting the Canoe River Aquifer. This regional committee is comprised of 15 members, three from each of the five communities the river passes through (Sharon, Foxboro, Easton, Mansfield, and Norton).

NRT Installs Duck Boxes

Colin and Greg Cauldwell risked life and limb installing over 20 wood duck boxes along the Canoe River and Mill Pond. The boxes were built at our conservation fair with materials donated by Cauldwell Building and Construction. Let's hope that they will increase our wood duck population.



95.6 More Acres Protected this Year

Four more parcels of land are now under the care and control of the Mansfield Conservation Commission. The NRT led the effort to transfer a 12.7 acre parcel on Essex Street, within the Canoe River Aquifer, and two parcels totaling 21.5 acres, off Plymouth Street, abutting the soccer fields and NRT properties. The Conservation Commission also received a Conservation Restriction on 61.4 acres in the rear of Gilbert Street.

NRT replaces Gate to Scott/Goyea Farm

Lou and Colin built and installed a new gate at the Oak Street entrance. We tried to duplicate the original gate installed by Janet Goyea's father in the '70's.



Tree Dedicated to Vicky Connor

Members of Vicky Connor's family were on hand when the NRT dedicated a tree in her honor. Vicky passed away in 2011. The tree now stands to the right of the town's war memorial on West Street.

Vicky was a founding member of the NRT and past treasurer.



Vicky Connor's family members gather around the new tree.

Passing the Reins

Lou Andrews announced the appointment of Michele White as the NRT's representative to the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition Steering Committee. She replaces long time committee member Leonard Flynn who had served on the committee for over 10 years. (see Commentary on page 2)



A Tough Year on Our Trails

Winter storms have wreaked havoc on our trails. The Taylor's Hill and York properties have been especially hit. We will be looking for volunteers in early spring to clear the trails on all our properties. So sharpen your chain saws.



New Bridge for the York Conservation Area

The Dorothy L. York Conservation area has a new footbridge thanks to Boy Scout Troop 51 and their helpers. Eagle Scout Nick DeMassi spearheaded the project to replace the rickety old bridge. The bridge crosses wetlands along the orange trail. Over a three weekend period the old bridge was removed and a new one constructed. The bridge was designed by Natural Resources Trust of Mansfield President Lou Andrews with the help of Vice-President Colin Cauldwell. The materials were donated by Mansfield Crossing owners WS Development. The scouts also installed permanent markers along the trails. The Troup 51 Scouts who assisted Nick DeMassi were Brendan McCormick, Joseph Greene,



Old Bridge



Matthew Greene, Patrick Daly, Jim Daly, and Owen Haynes. Along assisting were Joseph and Gus Huiskamp. Supervising the project were John DeMassi, Gerry Huiskamp, Colin Cauldwell, and Lou Andrews. Residents are welcome to visit the York Conservation Area on Branch Street and walk the beautiful trails. A map can be downloaded from the NRT web site at www.nrtma.org.

Paul Boyden Honored

The Natural Resources Trust of Mansfield and the Mansfield Conservation Commission honored Paul Boyden for his service to the town at Monday's commission meeting. Paul was first appointed to the Mansfield Conservation Commission in 1969. During his over 40 years tenure, Paul has been involved in protecting the town's natural resources, and has been a consistent supporter of conservation efforts in Mansfield.

Paul has spent many hours in the town hall covering the conservation department during periods where there was no staffing for the commission, volunteering nearly 40 hours a week during the summer months to help the residents of Mansfield to get their various permits.



Front row (l-r) Colin Cauldwell, Paul Boyden, Lou Andrews; back row (l-r) Commission members Mike Healey, Carole Matthew, Joseph Mulkern, Jim Turnbult and Chris Marcheselli.



(l-r) State Senator Jim Timilty, Paul, State Representative Jay Barrows

Paul has been a fixture in the town hall over the years, frequently with a mischievous twinkle in his eye, or a quick wink and a joke. He shall missed.

On hand to honor Paul were State

Senator Jim Timilty and State Representative Jay Barrows to present proclamations from the Massachusetts Senate and House. Commission Vice-Chairman Colin Cauldwell read a proclamation from the Selectmen, and Natural Resources Trust President Lou Andrews presented a plaque honoring Paul's service.

Your membership is important to us. It allows us to continue our work protecting Mansfield's natural resources. If you are a member, thank you, and please renew your membership. If not, we always welcome new members. See page 6 on how to join.

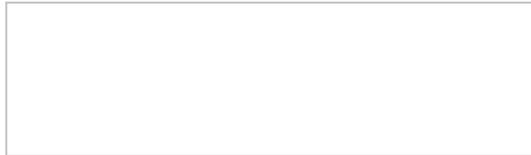


Natural Resources Trust of Mansfield

255 Fruit Street
Mansfield, Ma 02048



*"To acquire and preserve natural resources
for the use and enjoyment of present and
future generations"*



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We're on the web: www.nrtma.org

2012 Officers and Board of Directors

Officers

President: Lou Andrews
Vice-President: Colin Cauldwell
Secretary: Meredith Holford
Treasurer: Deborah Snyder

Board of Directors

Lisa Dye
Leonard Flynn, Acquisitions Director
Marydee Flynn
Mary Kate Flynn
Robert Goldman
Steve Holford
Gerry Huiskamp
Janice Meszoely
Charles Meszoely
Betty Roche
John Russo
Jane Sheehan
Tod Snyder
Michele White



Membership

Please renew your membership.

Individual and Family Membership
is only \$25.00 per year.

The NRT welcomes new members!

Mail your dues to the
NRT
255 Fruit Street,
Mansfield, MA 02048

or pay on line with PayPal at our web site:

www.nrtma.org.

The NRT is a 501(C)(3) Corporation

We're on Facebook.

Send us your thoughts. Just log in to your Facebook account and search for Natural Resources Trust or go to our web site, www.nrtma.org, and click on:

