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Volume 13, Issue 1 Spring 2016

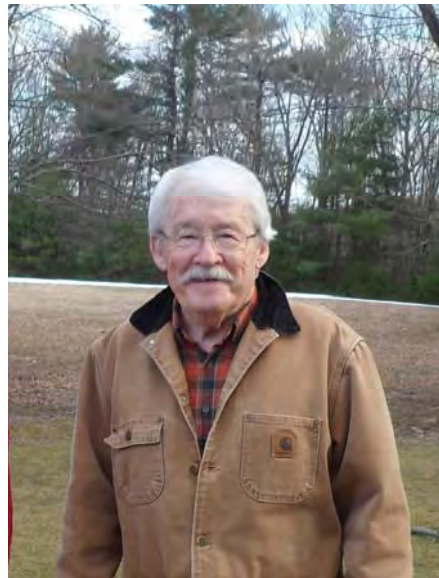
# NRT Report

## Natural Resources Trust of Mansfield, Inc.

### Upcoming Events

- 📅 45th NRT Annual Meeting  
April 27th, 7:00 PM  
Mansfield Historical Society  
Jenny Copeland House  
53 Rumford Avenue  
The public is invited.  
Refreshments will be served.
  - 📅 Great American Cleanup  
April 30th. See page 4 for details.
  - 📅 Family Fun Night - July 12th,  
6-9 PM Downtown Mansfield
- Check our [website](#) or [Facebook](#) for upcoming nature walks.
- 📅 Great Woods Walk - this spring
  - 📅 York/Strese Conservation Areas Walk - this fall.

## Announcing the NRT Leonard Flynn Environmental Scholarship



The NRT Leonard Flynn Environmental Scholarship is a \$1,000.00 scholarship awarded by the Natural Resources Trust of Mansfield to a Mansfield student who has demonstrated a commitment to the environment.

Leonard F. ("Lenny") Flynn was a lifelong conservationist and tireless advocate of preserving and protecting the environment. He was a founding member and past president of the Natural Resources Trust of Mansfield, whose goal is to preserve and protect natural resources for future generations. Under Lenny's leadership, the NRT of Mansfield, working with the Mansfield Conservation Commission and other agencies, has acquired over 800 acres of land for passive recreation in Mansfield. Leonard Flynn lived in Mansfield for 48 years and died in 2015 at the age of 81. This scholarship is dedicated to Lenny's passion for land conservation.

### Inside this issue

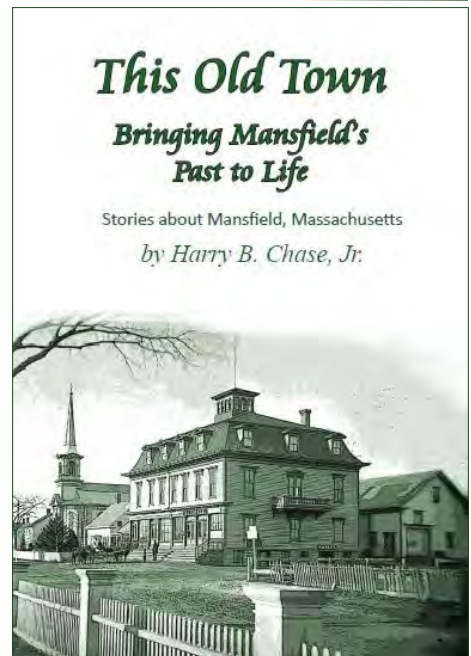
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### NRT to Publish Book

The NRT will be publishing a book of "This Old Town," stories written by town historian Harry Chase. A committee was formed to bring the stories together in book form. Committee members are Lou Andrews, Jane Sheehan, and John Southard. Books will be available for sale this spring.

Lou Andrews said, "We have gathered over 150 enjoyable stories, that "Bring Mansfield's Past to Life," from over the 400 written by Harry."

The back cover, written by Jane Sheehan, reads "This collection of Harry Chase's articles, mostly from The Mansfield News from 1967-2016, includes stories from its earliest settlement and history, its people and how they lived, its geography, natural features, climate and weather, its early coalmines and railroads, and Harry's own memories of growing up in This Old Town." There is much to enjoy in reading Harry Chase's stories."



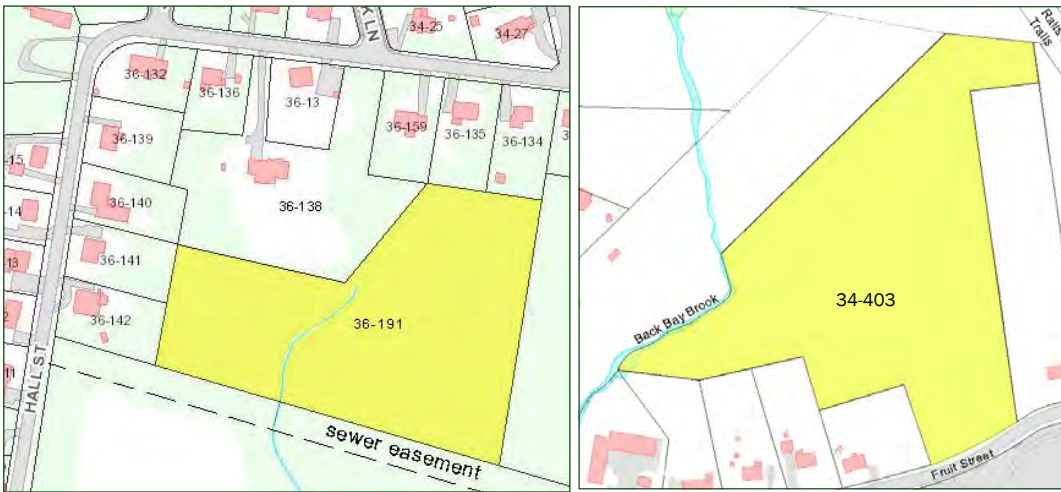
### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

*You membership is important to us. It allows us to continue our mission to increase Mansfield's open space and maintain the many miles of trails on our conservation land. Please renew.*

*Details are on page 6.*

*Thank You*

### Acquisitions Update – *Tod Snyder, Acquisitions Director*



## NRT Acquires New Properties

The NRT received two donations of land in 2015, thanks to gifts from Donald Rung and Elizabeth Watkins of Hall street, and from Ken and Lorraine Williamson of Fruit Street. The Hall Street parcel (36-191) is 4.21 acres and the Fruit Street property (34-403) is 11.95 acres.

The Rung/Watkins parcel can be accessed from the roadway to the animal shelter and is wooded with a stream and wetland.

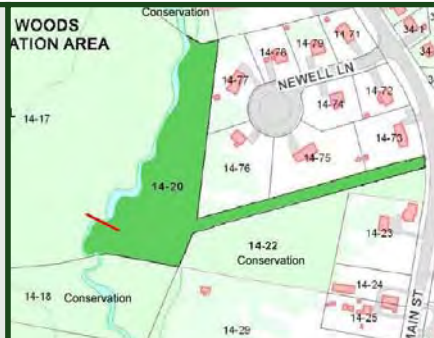
The Williamson property is south of the NRT owned WWII Veterans’ Memorial Nature Trails property and to the west of the rails-to-trails. The area is heavily wooded with wetland. The committee is working on acquiring additional parcels along the WWII Veterans' Memorial Trail with the hope of adding trails from our property to the north to Fruit Street.



*Acquisition Committee members walking to the Hall Street property prior to acquisition.*

### Annual Town Meeting Vote

Please attend the Annual Town Meeting and vote for article 18 to transfer parcel 20 map 14 from the control of the selectmen to the care and control of the Conservation Commission. The property has an entrance on South Man Street (see map) and could allow another access to the Great Woods Taylor’s Hill land. Check the local papers or town web site for the meeting date.



Get future newsletters by e-mail.

Send us an e-mail at [info@nrtma.org](mailto:info@nrtma.org)  
Thank you.

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

### VOTE TO TRANSFER LAND

The board of directors voted to transfer property in Norton to our sister organization the Land Preservation Society of Norton (LPSN). The property was acquired by the NRT in 1974.

A majority vote of the members in good standing attending our annual meeting is required to finalize the authorization.

The property is shown in red on the map to the right. It contains 4 plus acres. Transfer of the property will not affect our standing in the area, and will give the LPSN standing they don’t have.



## Outreach Committee Report - *by Sally Fehervari, Outreach Chairperson*

2015 was an exciting year for the Outreach Committee. The NRT Club at MHS grew and continued its efforts under the leadership of Mary Kate Flynn and Gerry Huiskamp, with Gus Huiskamp being the student leader. Michelle White led our Creating Natural Habitats program, creating literature for distribution. John Shannon joined us at Family Fun Night, representing the Canoe River Aquifer Advisory Committee, educating people about preserving our water source.

We held our first Open House in May. It was a big event, and thanks to everyone, we pulled it off without a hitch. Even so, the weather was iffy, the town was busy, and, alas, attendance was less than stellar. Sigh, we walk forward.

This year, the Committee is planning a Fall Photo Contest, and a youth Passport Program. The photo Contest will kick off with a photography nature walk in September and have categories for youngsters and adults. The Passport Program will have a self-guided tour of the parks with a badge or something as a prize for completion.

As for our ongoing efforts, we will be expanding our information tables, popping up at town events throughout the summer. The tables are an efficient way of directly talking with our Mansfield neighbors and friends, answering questions, giving them maps, finding the woods closest to their homes, etc.

Another new initiative is introducing the NRT to realtors and the business community. I walked into a realtor's office recently, and was greeted enthusiastically. My pitch was that with so many condos being sold, the NRT is another way to market our town. We will be establishing a connection with the Tri-town Chamber of Commerce and the town's realtors so that we are known to new residents.

Unfortunately, most Mansfield residents do not know about us, and that according to last December's Strategic Plan Update Report, we need to do more to promote the our green spaces across town, and show the value of these spaces to our residents. That with all of our efforts, we still have a ways to go before we are fully integrated into town life.

One approach to spreading the word about the NRT is to link the town's healthy life-style activities with our open spaces. There is an increasing awareness of the health benefits of walking in the woods. This year's "The Quiet Earth", Massachusetts Audubon Society's annual book, [www.massaudubon.org/news-events/publications](http://www.massaudubon.org/news-events/publications) annual-member-publication/the-quiet-earth-nature-and-human-health, is subtitled "Nature and Health". John Hanson Mitchell closes the Preface, "Green Health", with "...the basic fact that nature is good for us. It is preventative medicine, and it has a multiplicity of healing effects—yet one more good argument for preserving nature. Nature cures, and in order to maintain its benefits we have to save it—all of it—rocks, trees, wind, and water."

The National Park Service has implemented a program, "Healthy Parks, Healthy People", [www.nps.gov/public\\_health/hp/hphp.htm](http://www.nps.gov/public_health/hp/hphp.htm). This national program integrates health practices and walking in the woods. From park to park, this is slightly different, but the basics remain. The booklet I have from the Cape Cod National Seashore includes trail guides, but also a "Park Prescription"; health pointers about weight control, good eating, and even meditation.

On April 2nd, the Keynote Address at the Mass Land Conservation Conference will be given by Dr. M. Sanjayan, a global conservation scientist and executive vice president at Conservation International. According to the conference's website, he "will discuss reframing conservation by making it about human wellbeing. He will talk about how human communities are helping nature thrive and how bringing people into the picture—that is, emphasizing that humans are a part of our world's natural systems and not separate from them—complements traditional conservation tools such as protecting important natural areas." Michelle White and I will be attending, and will report back with our findings.

Here in Mansfield, we would like to adapt these programs to our NRT, putting together a brochure highlighting the health benefits of being in the woods, collaborating with the Parks and Rec Dept., the COA, and others.

*Thank you for your support as we move forward*

## Conservation History – 1974



The Natural Resources Trust and Conservation Commission plan the first conservation fair.

Pictured NRT directors (1) Janice Meszoely, (2) Doris Webb, (5) Betty Roach; (4) Selectwomen Joan Secher; (3) Conservation Commissioners Debbie Button and (6) Walter Burke

Youth NRT Club Report— *by Gus Huiskamp*

The Youth Natural Resources Trust was founded as a club at Mansfield High School last Spring to offer conservation opportunities to high school students and provide labor for various N.R.T. projects. Since its creation, the club has completed eight projects including participating in the Mansfield Cleanup, clearing trails at the WWII Memorial Trail paths, and constructing a bridge with senior members in the North Great Woods.

In all of our projects, we're able to experience our town's natural lands and to enjoy preserving them as we explore conservation in a practical way. With about 25 members, we have a substantial labor force for projects of any nature.

We like working in the woods, but it's not all work. The club also recently hosted a presentation on public land policy at the high

school, given by Wheaton professor, Brad Bishop, an expert on environmental politics and public policy. We hope to offer similar events in the future. The ultimate goal of the youth club is to engage high schoolers with environmental conservation through projects and other experiences in order to broaden their perspectives on natural preservation. We also are invested in our community, and see this as a way to give back to the town in a tangible way.

The club will continue to complete projects throughout this spring and summer. We hope that we are building an organization that will last after we graduate, offering the same opportunities and experiences for high schoolers for many years to come. As part of our efforts to make that a reality, we're now working with students and teachers at Qualters to start a Middle School NRT Club.



The Youth NRT club members line up for photo at the NRT's WWII Vets' Memorial Trail. (l-r) Gus Huiskamp, Faiyaz Raman, Emily Aarons, Jess Whall, Alex Murray, Kyle Amerantes, Cam MacIntyre, Elias Solis, Andrew Guthrie, Ted Harrington, Jed Tolbert, Jay Rathbun, and Ian Bruner.

Great American  
Cleanup April 30th


Once again this year Michele White will be organizing the NRT clean up the Corporal Hardy Conservation Area. Volunteers are needed. For more information e-mail [info@nrtma.org](mailto:info@nrtma.org) or just meet at the Maple Street entrance at 9:00 AM





<< Big haul  
last year


Stewardship Update—by Colin Cauldwell, Stewardship Director


During the past year the Stewardship committee undertook the following projects.

-  **WWII Memorial Nature Trails:**


  - The northern bound of the property was surveyed, allowing for the completion of the red trail. The NRT high school youth club was instrumental in this process.
  - Trail maps were installed at all trail junctions.
  - Several trees, that had fallen across various trails, were removed.
-  **York Property:**


  - Large amounts of debris were removed from the property. Again, thanks to the NRT club.
-  **Williamson Property:**


  - NRT signs were placed along Fruit Street to mark this new acquisition.
-  **Mill Pond:**

  - A ConCom sign was installed along East St. near the entrance to the property.
-  **Corporal Hardy Conservation Area:**

  - The annual cleanup of this area, organized by Michele White, was again undertaken with the help of the NRT youth club.
  - Trail maps were installed at trail junctions.

-  **Great Woods:**

  - The Codding Farm informational sign, which had been previously vandalized, was replaced.
-  **Taylor's Hill:**

  - Steps were added to the bridge over Rumford River.
  - A walkway was placed over a small wet depression on the yellow trail.
  - Trees were removed to facilitate trail access.
  - An informational sign was placed at Devils Rock.
-  **Plymouth St. property:**

  - The Holford Trail was extended to the soccer complex entry road, and an NRT sign was placed nearby.
  - A new trail was explored and mapped. Its potential for development is being explored.

In general, much was accomplished during the past year both on our own property and on Conservation Commission property. During the next several months we hope to reinvigorate the Conservation Commission's interest in maintaining the land under their control. We are in the early stages of this process, and the outcome is far from certain. I would like to thank all those who helped out on projects during the past year. With your help next year should be even more productive.

Downtown Family Night Contest Winners—Sally Fehervari presenting prizes



Congratulations to winner Adam Johnson of Norton. Adam correctly named all the birds pictured at the Mansfield Family Fun Night NRT table.

Adam is 9 years old and attends St. Mary's Catholic School, grade 4. Adam likes to read and learn new things. He really likes all kinds of sea creatures and turtles, and he loves to fish. He has learned a lot about honey bees, and is interested in most types of animals. He enjoys camping and hiking. His favorite bird is the Osprey; his favorite fish is the Brook Trout; and his favorite plant the Venus Fly Trap.



The winner is Allie Colasanto of Mansfield. Allie is 6 years old and will be entering the first grade. She enjoys nature. Allie and her brother have put together a "nature bowl" with things they have found in their backyard... an empty bird's egg is the jewel of their collection, which also includes a variety of interesting looking fauna. They enjoy nature hikes as well.

The prize was a National Geographic Kids' Bird Guide of North America. The prize was put to good use watching their backyard and bird feeder to identify the birds she has seen: a cardinal, blue jay, chickadee, robin, sparrow, goldfinch, and also a hawk and mourning doves perched on their swing set.



Natural Resources Trust of Mansfield, Inc.  
255 Fruit Street  
Mansfield, MA 02048



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



## 2015-16 Officers and Board of Directors

### Officers

President: Lou Andrews  
Vice-President: Gerry Huiskamp  
Secretary: Meredith Holford  
Treasurer: Deborah Snyder

### Board of Directors

Colin Caldwell, Stewardship Director  
Tod Snyder, Acquisitions Director  
Lisa Dye  
Sally Feherari, Outreach Chair  
Marydee Flynn\*  
Mary Kate Flynn  
Sharon Friedman  
Robert Goldman  
Janice Meszoely (Life member)  
Steve Pyne  
John Russo  
Jane Sheehan (Life member)  
John Southard  
Michele White, Membership Chair

\*Director Emeritus:  
Harry Chase  
Pegge Flannery  
Leonard Flynn

A color version of this newsletter is available on our [website](#).

## Membership

### The NRT welcomes new members!

Your membership is important to help us maintain our quest to protect Mansfield's natural resources.

Individual or Family Membership is only \$25.00 per year.  
Lifetime membership is \$500.00

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

or pay on line with PayPal at  
our web site: [www.nrtma.org](http://www.nrtma.org).

The NRT is a 501(C)(3)  
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donations are tax-deductible.

*Thank you for your support.*



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](http://www.nrtma.org) and click on:

