



Letter from the President by Rita Gibes Grossman

The Boxborough Conservation Trust held its 8th annual meeting on April 2 at the Sargent Memorial Library. With some 30 members in attendance, we took the opportunity to review what the BCTrust has accomplished in the past year to support our mission of "preserving and protecting Boxborough's undeveloped land."

In our mission to "protect the Town's natural resources including agricultural and open spaces, wetlands, wildlife habitat, and important features of historical or geological significance through preservation," we have:

- Continued to work with land owners to preserve undeveloped land.
- Participated in the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition Conference.
- Voted to adopt the Land Trust Alliance's Standards and Practices.
- Raised funds to achieve our goals through private donations, membership fees, BCTrust apparel sales, annual Red Sox tickets raffle, and a June benefit concert by folk singer Carolyn Currie.

In our mission to "educate residents about the Town's natural resources," we have:

- Sponsored a guided hike with board member Anne Gardulski, chair of the geology department at Tufts University, on the geological history of Patch Hill.
- Presented a lecture on "Living with Wildlife: Reviving the Land Ethic in Suburbia," by Allen T. Rutberg, Ph.D., Research Assistant Professor of Environmental and Population Health at the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine, Tufts University.

- Published and distributed this quarterly newsletter to every Boxborough resident.
- Redesigned and expanded the information on our web site: www.bctrust.org
- Sponsored annual writing and T-shirt design contests at the Blanchard Memorial School.
- Hosted information tables Fifer's Day and Oktoberfest.

I'm encouraged by our increased membership and how many people approach me with comments or questions. In response to the most frequently asked question: the BCTrust is a private, non-profit, 501 (c) (3) organization dedicated to preserving open space. We are a land trust, entirely separate from the Conservation Commission, which is a regulatory body appointed by the Board of Selectmen. However, our members often work with Conservation Commission members and with their land stewardship subcommittee (LanSCoM) to preserve and maintain town land.

We are grateful to Catherine Christensen, our outgoing graphic designer. Catherine has contributed many years of service to the BCTrust, and we are very thankful to her for designing our logo and layout of this newsletter, and for many other graphic design tasks. Thank you, Catherine! I'm pleased to announce that Anna Bograd will be our new graphic designer.

And thank you to Mary Fuhrer. After stepping down from the board in 2004, Mary continued to provide a great service to the BCTrust as publicity coordinator, a position she relinquished this past spring.

BCTrust Gains 82 Acres in Nature Conservancy Transfer

For the full story, see page 6

Q&A

Green Is Good ... and Cost Effective

by Andy Covell

Q. Everyone likes the idea of organic lawn and garden care, but isn't it more expensive?

A. Organically managed lawns and gardens are less expensive in the long run. The goal of an organic program is to create healthier, more productive soil by building up the level of organic matter. Depending on the current quality of your soil, it may take a couple of years to reach a healthy level. During this time an organic program may be slightly more expensive than a synthetic program (e.g., Scotts four-step program). However, once the soil is rich with organic matter, you'll spend less money on an organic program because less organic fertilizer is required to maintain the healthy soil. A synthetic four-step program does nothing to improve the soil and needs to be applied annually, year after year. The cost of a synthetic program will never decrease.

Q. What are the advantages of organic fertilizers? How are they different from synthetic fertilizers?

A. Healthy soil produces healthy plants. Healthy plants require less maintenance at a lower cost. Organic fertilizers actually improve soil quality, which benefits the long-term health of plants, making them more disease and pest resistant. Unlike synthetic fertilizers, organic fertilizers provide nutrients for the soil's microorganisms. These microorganisms are essential for healthy plants because they help plants absorb the elements they need from the soil, primarily nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium. Synthetic fertilizers (like Scotts and Miracle Gro) contain nutrients that are quickly metabolized by the plants and provide a short-term lawn green up or boost to flowers, with no

(continued on page 3)

Take a Hike with the BCTrust



Wolf Swamp

**Saturday,
September 16, 1-3PM**

Meet hike leaders Jeff
Coldwell and Diane Friedman
at Burroughs Road entrance

Rain Date: Sunday, Sept 17

Call Jeff at 978-266-2858 to confirm.

Wolf Swamp Conservation Area (229.09 acres) was the largest parcel of town-owned conservation land until 2002, when it was surpassed in size by the Patch Hill Conservation Area (283 acres). Wolf Swamp still has the most frontage on a town road: 2,125 feet along Burroughs Road. One of the largest areas of wetlands in Boxborough, Wolf Swamp provides habitat for an incredible variety of birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. Wolf Swamp is located at the headwaters of Beaver Brook and also sits atop one of the town's three major aquifers, an important resource in a town where private wells are the only water supply. Moose sightings are reported from time to time.

Recreational Uses—Hiking, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, bird watching, and other nature study.

Parking—There are three parking areas. One is located on Burroughs Road approximately one-quarter mile from the Route 111-Burroughs Road-Hill Road intersection. Parking is also available on the side of Old Harvard Road approximately one-fifth mile from the Burroughs Road-Old Harvard Road junction. A third parking area is located another seven-tenths of a mile further down Old Harvard Road toward the Boxborough-Harvard town line.

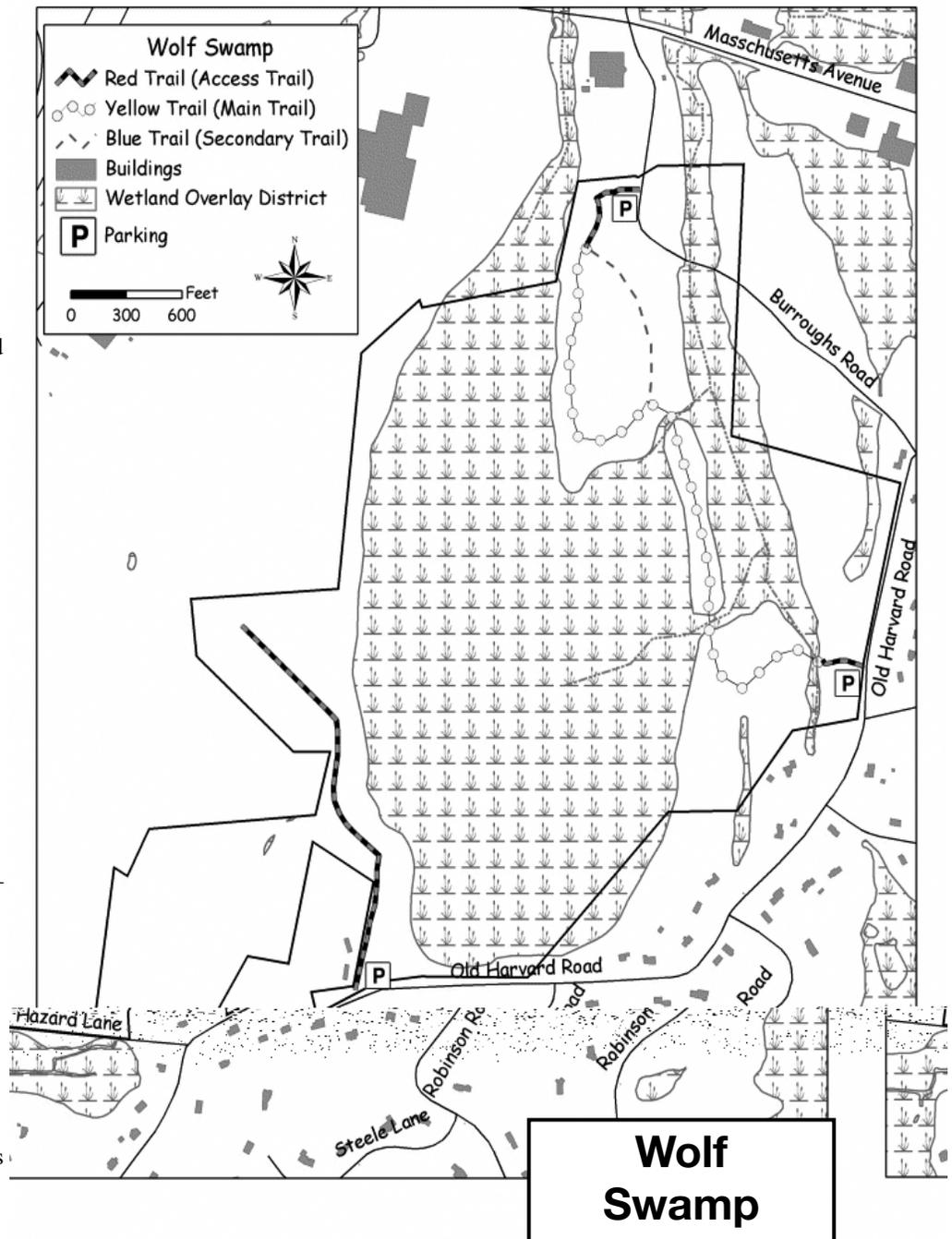
Trails—There is a trail of approximately one mile in length (including the loop) running between the Burroughs Road parking area and Old Harvard Road. There is a half-mile dead-end trail into the preserve from the second Old Harvard Road parking area.

Cautions—Biting insects, such as mosquitoes and black flies, can be found in swarms near such a large wetland, so bug repellent is highly recommended during spring and summer months. Sections of the trails can be wet and muddy in spring, and poison ivy is common off the trails.

History—The town purchased the initial 200-plus acres for \$40,000 in 1972, and was reimbursed \$18,000 by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts under the Self-Help Program. An adjoining 4.8 acres was added in 1982 in exchange for the town's grant of a sewer-line easement to Gerald Hines. An additional 22.07 acres were donated by the Sudbury Valley Trustees in 1999.

Authorities on Boxborough's history have said that the name "Wolf Swamp" was given by local Native Americans centuries ago, very likely because wolves actually lived in this area during those times.

Source: Town of Boxborough and BCTrust web sites.



2006 Annual Meeting

Membership Is Up, Finances Are Strong

The BCTrust held its annual meeting on Sunday, April 2, at the Boxborough Public Library with more than 30 members in attendance. As required by the BCTrust bylaws, the agenda included a business meeting to review the organization's goals, accomplishments, and financial health. Following the meeting, Dr. Allen Rutberg, PhD, Tufts University's Cummings Veterinary School, gave a presentation on "Living with Wildlife: Reviving the Land Ethic in Suburbia" (see page 7 for excerpts).

President Rita Grossman, who opened the business meeting, thanked members for their support during the past year. The order of business included a vote to reelect four board members whose terms had expired: Hugh Fortmiller, Rita Grossman, Jeanne Kangas, and Francie Nolde. Contributing members were also recognized and welcomed: Diane Torres,

new member of the board, and Margo Dushin, coordinator for the T-shirt design contest and BCTrust apparel sales.

Treasurer Ruth Zimmerman joined Rita to report on the trust's business picture in 2005. Overall, it was a good year:

- 155 members, the highest since 1997
- \$23,000 in contributions, including an anonymous contribution of \$5,000 to set up a Land Stewardship Fund

The business meeting report also answered a question often asked by BCTrust members and neighbors in the community: Where does the trust get its funds and how is the money spent? About 90% of the trust's income in 2005 was from donations. Operating expenses focused on three goal areas during the year:

- Land management (50%)
- Communications (26%)
- Fees and supplies (24%)

Boxborough Conservation Trust Board of Directors

Rita G. Grossman, president	264-4077
Ruth Zimmerman, treasurer	263-3139
Dave Bull, secretary	263-5607
Scott Bundy	263-5811
Jeff Coldwell	266-2858
Fred Dushin	263-4404
Jeff Fuhrer	263-3284
Hugh Fortmiller	929-2552
Anne Gardulski	263-5716
Jeanne Kangas	263-8594
David Koonce	263-1052
Frances Nolde	929-2556
Eric Tornstrom	263-2783
Diane Torres	635-0471

For email contact information, go to www.bctrust.org/DirectorsBylaws.html

Common Ground is mailed quarterly to all Boxborough residents, free of charge.

Editorial Staff:

Lynn Stahlberg, editor
Tara Zantow, special projects
Glynis Hamel, staff writer
Anna Bograd, layout
Hugh Fortmiller, Board liaison

The Boxborough Conservation Trust is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Q&A (continued from front page)

residual benefit to the soil or long-term benefit to the plant. Synthetic fertilizers require frequent application. If discontinued, plants will quickly lose their healthy appearance.

Q. What about organic compost? Can it be used instead of organic fertilizer?

A. Applying compost (decayed vegetative matter) is an excellent way to instantly increase the level of organic matter in the soil. Compost can be added to soil when new plants are planted, or can be applied as a top coating around existing plantings. Compost is more difficult to apply to lawns, however, as it is moist and clumping. The benefit of organic fertilizers, such as North Country Organics Nature's Turf or Pro Gro, is that they contain a higher concentration of nutrients than compost. They are granular and can be easily sprinkled around shrubs, trees, and garden plants, or applied to a lawn in a spreader.

Q. Are organic products really safer for our health and water supply?

A. Yes. Synthetic pesticides are particularly harmful and the evidence of danger is growing. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) states that "most pesticides—despite having an EPA regis-

tration—have not been adequately tested to determine their effects on people or the environment." The National Cancer Institute reports that children are six times more likely to develop leukemia when lawn pesticides are used. Dogs are four times more likely to develop canine lymphoma where the common herbicide 2-4-D is used. Many synthetic lawn care chemicals remain toxic long after the 24-hour re-entry period. They remain in the soil and make their way through runoff to our drinking water supply—a particular concern in a town like Boxborough where we all have private wells. The naturally occurring ingredients used in organic pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides do not remain active in the soil and do not pollute our water supply. For more information visit: www.healthylawnsforhealthyfamilies.com.

Q. Are organic pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides really as effective as synthetic counterparts?

A. Yes, there are many excellent alternatives to synthetics. Neem oil-based pesticides are highly effective against a wide range of common insect pests. BT is an excellent weapon against caterpillars such as tent caterpillars and gypsy moth caterpillars. BurnOut is excellent for spot treatment of weeds such as dandelions, plantains, and even poison ivy. Sulfur and copper-based fungicides work well on black spot, powdery mildew, and other fungal diseases.

Q. Other than switching to an organic fertilizer program, what are the top 3 things I can do to improve my lawn?

A. First, overseed your lawn. Applying more grass seed will build up the thickness of the turf and prevent weeds and crabgrass. A thick, healthy lawn can out-compete the weeds. Late summer/early fall is the best time to overseed. Second, mow higher. Raise the level of your mower to cut the grass at 3 inches. This helps prevent weeds and crabgrass because these weeds need lots of sunlight at the soil level for germination. Third, use a mulching mower to leave the grass clippings on your lawn. The clippings will return organic matter to the soil and reduce the need for fertilizer.

Andy Covell is the owner of The Bird House Garden Center in Boxborough and a member of the BCTrust. For more information, you can contact him directly at The_Bird_House@comcast.net or 978-263-1628.

Annual BCTrust Writing Contest

Blanchard Students Get Creative About Recycling

by Tara Zantow

More than 90 students from grades 3, 4, 5, and 6 at Blanchard Memorial Elementary School submitted essays and poems this spring to the fourth annual BCTrust Writing Contest. For their topic this year, students were asked to explain why we all should recycle and how it benefits the environment.

This topic was selected to kick-off a paper recycling project at Blanchard that will begin in September. Under the direction of IT specialist Liz Sheldon, and assisted by Janet LaVigne and Pam Eisenberg, the entire school will participate in a yearlong project-based learning experience. Math, history, science and other subjects will be integrated to engage kids in researching and solving real-world problems.

Working on small teams, the sixth graders will begin by researching various aspects of recycling: alternatives, costs and benefits—most notably, reduction of energy consumption, and preservation of plant

and animal habitats. They will use their research to share the importance of recycling with the younger grades.

Throughout the school year, students will measure and weigh the paper collected each week from each grade, and track usage on spreadsheets and graphs. They also will document their project through digital photos and video. Finally, at the end of the school year, the results of this yearlong project will be presented to the entire school.

Classrooms and offices will be equipped with large recycling receptacles, purchased through a Community Service Learning grant provided by the Massachusetts Department of Education. Ken March, director of the Boxborough DPW, will provide the students with guidelines of what is acceptable to recycle, and he will take care of transporting paper to the transfer station.

The BCTrust congratulates all the students who submitted entries to this year's writing contest and is pleased to announce these four winners:

Madhavi Muralidharan, Grade 6,
Dear Human Race

Jennifer Duffy, Grade 4,
Recycling

Rohan Kadambi, Grade 4,
Recycling in the Life of a Water Bottle

Emma Waligory, Grade 3,
Recycle

Honorable mention goes to the following students: Angela Zhao, Neil Sharma, and Will Farmer from Grade 4, and Julie Cotillo from Grade 3.

The BCTrust thanks the teachers and administrators at Blanchard Memorial for their partnership in our community and for supporting this contest each year.

Liz Sheldon contributed to this article.



Emma Waligory, Grade 3, Rohan Kadambi, Grade 4, Madhavi Muralidharan, Grade 6, and Jennifer Duffy, Grade 4, earned recognition from the BCTrust for their entries in the 2006 writing contest. At the Blanchard Memorial School in June, BCTrust president Rita Grossman and contest coordinator Tara Zantow presented the students with framed awards and two book about Walden Pond for the school library.

Recycle

by Emma Waligory
Grade 3

Recycling helps you and me
in every single way.

It makes the world strong and clean
so you can go out and play.

Recycling paper, glass and plastic
helps our earth, and that's fantastic.

Recycling saves the trees,
water, grass and air.

Do your part and show your care.
Please help the world in every place:
recycle, reuse and don't just waste.

Make the world big and strong.
Do your part to move recycling along.

Dear Human Race
by Madhavi Muralidharan
Grade 6

Dear Human Race,

This is a letter of utmost appeal, for the paper clan is in dire distress! We are pleased that your kind still finds us useful.

However, you seem to be forgetting our source, and that it's limited. I still remember my days of youth when young Alice bought me. My cover was shiny and my pages crisp and clean. Alice had such fun with me, and when it came time to part with me, I was mortified, for instead of disposing me properly, she simply tossed me in the trash! This was my first life, and I still feel that it was an inconsiderate disposal. Now, I can never serve another human, and this makes me depressed! Further, the efforts of those who nurtured and brought me up (the trees) are wasted.

Please! Have consideration and remember to recycle us, so we can continue to serve you!

*With deepest gratitude,
Paper Kind*

Recycling
By Jennifer Duffy
Grade 4

There was once an old woman who always recycled. She saved every piece of scrap paper she had. Her recycling room was full of cans and bottles she had recycled over the years. She saved her money by reusing her stuff, and she gained five cents for every can or bottle she brought back to the store. A small boy who lived across the street never recycled. The old woman told the young boy to recycle or he would be in trouble. The boy did as the old woman said. The more the boy recycled, the more he saved his environment. That is why we should recycle. "It saves our environment and animal habitats," said the little boy when he was telling his friend to recycle. And his friend did recycle. He told someone else, who told another person, and the trail still goes on to this day.

Recycling in the Life of a Water Bottle
by Rohan Kadambi, Grade 4

Once an empty water bottle was thrown into a dump. He wanted to restart and be recycled. Soon he rolled into a different pile and saw an old newspaper. The newspaper also wondered why he was there. The water bottle found many items that wondered why they were here. So they made piles of things to be recycled. Soon people started to notice the piles. So they started recycling.

All the pieces of trash the water bottle saw were recycled. His first friend, the newspaper, was transformed into a dictionary. Some good wires from a TV went into a Dell hard drive. Some ink cartridges were refilled. Even the water bottle himself was recycled. He was turned into a milk jug. The water bottle was glad to have been recycled. He didn't even mind the cold refrigerator.

2006 BCTrust T-shirt Design Contest

Boxborough fourth graders Kayla Parker (second runner up), Catherine Neyland (winner) and Richard Coffey (first runner up) model the winning design for this year's BCTrust T-shirt.

To order BCTrust T-shirts, contact Margot Dushin at mkdushin@comcast.net.

\$15 for shirt with Design Contest artwork

\$10 for shirt with BCTrust logo



BCTrust Gains 82 Acres in Nature Conservancy Transfer

A winding stream, rare species habitat, five major plant communities, and a 65-foot high glacial esker are among the features of an 82-acre parcel of conservation land transferred from The Nature Conservancy to the Boxborough Conservation Trust in July.

The Conservancy acquired the 82-acre Beaver Brook Valley Preserve in five separate land transactions between 1965 and 1975, including two land gifts. In addition to deeding over the preserve, The Nature Conservancy provided the Boxborough Conservation Trust with a \$5,000 endowment for stewardship expenses associated with managing the preserve. The BCTrust, a private, non-profit organization focused on protecting Boxborough's open space, received a matching \$5,000 gift from an anonymous donor who hoped to spark additional donations.

"Whenever The Nature Conservancy acquires land for conservation purposes, whether by gift or by purchase, our foremost concern is to assure that it remains protected always—even if we no longer own it," said Wayne Klockner, The Nature Conservancy's Massachusetts State Director. "In this case, we are confident that the Boxborough Conservation Trust will serve as competent and enthusiastic stewards of this unique parcel, and we're pleased to put the Beaver Brook Valley Preserve in their capable hands."

In addition to the winding stream called Beaver Brook, the preserve's most prominent aspect is the esker, a high, narrow ridge of gravel deposited by meltwater from a retreating glacier. Flanked on both sides by wetlands, the esker is topped by a large kettle hole—another ice age remnant. The preserve harbors a wooded swamp, a marsh, an open field, and both coniferous and deciduous forest. Its wetlands provide habitat for two state-listed species. Close to Route I-495, the land surrounding Beaver Brook Valley

for the opportunity to continue the outstanding stewardship that they have practiced in Beaver Brook Valley," said Jeff Fuhrer, past president and board member of the BCTrust.

The Nature Conservancy is a leading international, non-profit organization established in 1951 to preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. To date, the Conservancy and its more than one million members have been responsible for the protection of more than 15 million acres in the U.S., and have helped through partnerships to preserve more than 102 million acres in Latin America, the Caribbean, Canada, Asia and the Pacific.

The Boxborough Conservation Trust was formed in 1997 to protect Boxborough's open land for conservation, recreation, and other public benefits. With more than 100 members, the BCTrust provides educational opportunities for town residents; sponsors educational walks and conservation programs for students; provides funding for conservation land stewardship; and works with property owners interested in exploring various options for preserving their land. The BCTrust is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) non-profit organization managed by a board of directors.

Reprinted from July 27, 2006 press release.



SAVING THE LAST GREAT PLACES ON EARTH

Preserve faces strong development pressures, while invasive species are a concern in the preserve itself. The Nature Conservancy has maintained and improved a series of trails through the preserve since 2000.

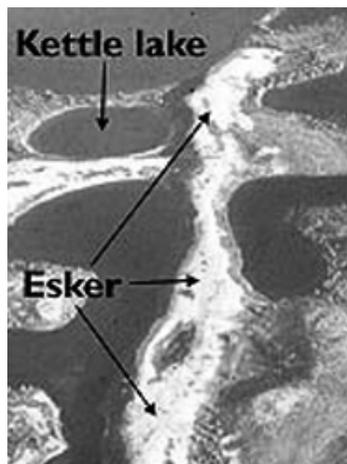
"It has been a pleasure to partner with The Nature Conservancy during this transaction as both of our organizations have the same vision for this land: that it will be geologically and biologically preserved as open space in perpetuity," said Rita Gibes Grossman, BCTrust president.

"We are extremely grateful to the Conservancy for looking to us as they sought a new custodian for the land, and

Eskers: A Brief Introduction

Eskers (from the Gaelic eiscir, meaning "ridge") are long, winding ridges of stratified sand and gravel that occur in glaciated and formerly glaciated regions of Europe and North America. They are frequently several miles in length and, because of their peculiar uniform shape, somewhat resemble railroad embankments. Eskers are the deposits left by streams that flowed within and under glaciers. After the retaining ice walls melt away, the stream deposits remain as long winding ridges.

Sources: Wikipedia and the Department of Geography, Michigan State University.



Hike the Boxborough Esker on October 28

Join BCTrust board member Anne Gardulski, chair of the geology department at Tufts University, on a guided hike of the Boxborough Esker on Saturday, Oct. 28, 1-4 pm. Look for details in *The Beacon* and at www.bctrust.org. A detailed field report on the Beaver Brook esker is available at a web site maintained by Daniel V. Boudillion: www.boudillion.com/journal/journal.html. In his field report after a site visit in December 2001, Boudillion wrote, "The Boxborough Esker is prominently featured in the book *Manitou* by James Mavor and Byron Dix. They consider it a significant Native American site in the Hopewellian tradition."

The Land Ethic: A Call to Guardianship

by Allen T. Rutberg

In the 1930s until his death in 1948, Aldo Leopold was a leader and leading thinker in the field of conservation and wildlife biology.

His swan song was the book *A Sand County Almanac*. One chapter of that book is called The Land Ethic. Here is the heart of The Land Ethic: “*A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise.*”

This is a radical piece of writing, especially when you realize that it was written in 1947. This was quite radical in the context of justifying the protection of natural resources as resources. As Leopold notes, a land ethic cannot

I’m starting to use the word “guardianship” in this context. The reason I use “guardianship” is that the term includes three components:

- Responsibility
- Connectedness, a recognition, as Leopold says very explicitly, that we are citizens of the earth. We are not controllers of the earth. We are of it, and our actions necessarily affect it, and vice versa.
- Finally, what I like about the term “guardianship” is the implication of care and compassion, that the land matters, that animals matter, and that it’s our responsibility to care of the land and the animals.

To take responsibility, we need to see the link between our land use actions and their impact on wildlife. In

mals, there are too many animals for us. Rarely is it the case that these wildlife populations that are described as overpopulated are themselves unhealthy.

We cannot blame animals for their over-abundance any more that we can blame them for their scarcity. It’s the same reason. There are few piping plovers in the world because of what we’ve done to our coastal habitats. There are many deer in the world because of what we’ve done in our suburbs.

As wildlife guardians, we need to adopt our land use patterns in a way that allows people and wildlife to live together.

“A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise.”

— Aldo Leopold

prevent the alteration, management, and use of these resources. In fact, he himself was a hunter and active land manager and, therefore, quite willing to support the use of these resources. But, as Leopold wrote, “it does affirm their right to continued existence, and, at least in spots, their continued existence in a natural state.”

Leopold is talking rights language ... in 1947! He is talking about land as part of a whole biotic community. Unfortunately, it’s not language that has ever caught on widely beyond the narrow confines of people who are land managers, and other people who talk to land managers. But in that language, it seems to me, is the heart and core of something that we probably ought to be going back to in rediscovering our own ethical base.

Massachusetts, the Audubon Society estimates that 40 acres of habitat a day are lost to development, transformed for residential or commercial use. And some species do extremely well when we transform habitat. Raccoons do well almost any where. But in the Northeast, the species that people are most concerned about are beaver, Canada geese, deer, and coyotes. These are all animals that thrive in the landscapes that we, ourselves, have created – anywhere there’s a lot of grass and water right next to the grass, which describes 90% of that we build in the suburbs.

So in two senses, it’s people who cause wildlife overpopulation. First, we have created landscapes that these species can thrive in, really thrive in. Second, wildlife overpopulation really means that we think there are too many ani-

Allen Rutberg is research assistant professor of Environmental and Population Health at the Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine. This article is an excerpt from his presentation at the BCTrust’s annual meeting.

Aldo Leopold (1887-1948) was a professor of wildlife management at the University of Wisconsin in Madison and a founder of The Wilderness Society. The complete text of “The Land Ethic” is available online at www.luminary.us/leopold/land_ethic.html.

Who Won the Red Sox Tickets?

Nathan Pieri of Depot Road won two front-row, right-behind-first-base seats in the BCTrust's annual summer Red Sox ticket raffle. Thank you, board member Scott Bundy, for donating the tickets. Thank you, Sox fans, for helping the trust raise \$1,382!

Welcome, New Members!

The BCTrust received contributions from these new members since the last issue of *Common Ground*. Thank you!

Brolin Family

Kristine Burgess & Jim Comolli

Susan Evans

Kristen Hilberg

www.bctrust.org

Please take a look at our redesigned website:

- **Color photos of town conservation lands**
- **Back Issues of *Common Ground***
- **Links to a variety of conservation websites**
- **New member registration**

Take a Hike with the BCTrust

Wolf Swamp

Conservation Area (easy terrain)



**Saturday,
September 16, 1-3PM**

Meet at the Burroughs Road Entrance. Hike Leaders: BCTrust board member Jeff Coldwell and Diane Friedman, co-steward for the Wolf Swamp area. For hike details, see page 2.

The Nature Conservancy Transfers 82-Acre Beaver Brook Valley Preserve to BCTrust

The BCTrust enthusiastically accepted transfer of the Beaver Brook Valley Preserve from The Nature Conservancy (www.nature.org) in July. Located just west of I-495, this 82-acre parcel includes the winding Beaver Brook, rare species habitat, five major plant communities, and a 65-foot high glacial esker. The Nature Conservancy also provided a \$5,000 endowment for the BCTrust's stewardship fund, which was generously matched by an anonymous donor. Please join BCTrust members this fall for a guided walk of the preserve. Date and time will be announced in *The Beacon*. For the complete text of the press release announcing this transfer, see page 6.



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