



**Citizens for  
Lexington  
Conservation**

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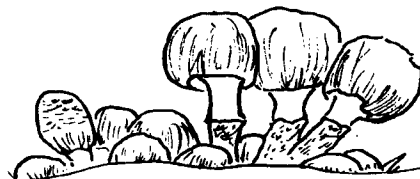
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

September, 1999  
Kate Fricker, Editor  
Eileen Entin, President

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## **CLC Fall Walks – 1999**

### ***Meagherville Trail Walk***

Saturday, October 2, 10 am-12 Noon

Follow a newly established trail past stone walls through old farm land that has now turned to forest. Meet at the Garfield St. ball field, corner of Garfield and Hickory (Bedford St. to Reed to Garfield). Walk leader, Bart DeWolfe.

### ***Waltham Farms Conservation Area***

Saturday, October 16, 1-2:30 pm

Walk the fields and forest edges of one of the last working farms in Lexington in the company of a member of the family that actively farms this area. Park along Brookside Ave (entrance to Clark Middle School off Waltham Street). Walk leader, Dennis Busa.

### ***Seed Gathering***

Saturday, October 23, 1-3 pm

Learn to identify and gather seeds of threatened native grasses that will then be sown in disturbed areas on town conservation land for stemming the invasion of non-native exotics. Meet at Lincoln Park car park off Lincoln Street (Marrett Rd or Worthen Rd. to Lincoln St.). Walk leader, Nell Walker.

### ***Town-wide Clean and Green Day***

Saturday, November 6

Participate in a town-wide cleanup day targeting town conservation lands, the Bikeway, and other areas to be announced. Sponsored by the Conservation Commission, CLC, Lexington Conservation Stewards, Friends of the Bikeway and others. Meeting points and further particulars to be announced in the Lexington Minuteman in October. Contact the Lexington Conservation Commission at 862-0500 ext. 226

### ***Fall Ducks at Arlington Reservoir***

Sunday, November 7, 8-10am

Observe and identify several species of ducks and other waterfowl that utilize the resources of the Arlington Reservoir as a critical stopping place on their annual fall migration. Meet at the Rindge Park basketball court (Massachusetts Avenue in East Lexington to Bow Street to South Rindge Street). Walk leader, Chris Floyd.

For further information on all events, contact  
Keith Ohmart at 781.862.6216  
All events will be held, rain or shine.

## Paper-less School Lunches in Los Angeles

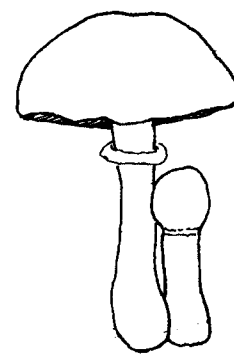
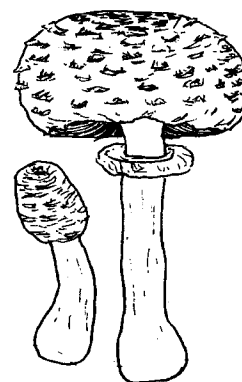
School is starting back up and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (DPW) is continuing its efforts to educate elementary school aged children about the Three R's - Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. School children can actively participate in the fight to reduce waste everyday by limiting the amount of trash produced by their lunches or by bringing what is referred to as a "paper-less lunch."

"Every year, the 120,000 pounds of waste produced by the average school in Los Angeles goes straight to our landfills," said Menerva Daoud, director of Environmental Education Programs, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works. "Kids can make a difference by taking simple actions to reduce waste by following the Three R's concepts and bringing a paper-less lunch to school."

A paperless lunch is simply not having any waste to throw away when you're done. By using alternatives to disposable brown bags, plastic bags and beverage containers for your children's lunches, you can substantially reduce waste going to landfills.

To help parents and kids in the County prepare for the coming school year, the DPW has these tips to pack a paperless lunch:

- Use a lunchbox instead of a disposable bag. A reusable soft vinyl lunch sack or metal/hard plastic lunchbox will not only reduce waste, but will save you money.
- Drop a reusable ice pack in the lunch box to keep food cold until lunchtime.
- Pack only what your child will eat, so food is not wasted.
- Use a thermos to carry beverages instead of buying individually packaged drinks.
- Food will stay fresher and insulated longer if it is packed in reusable plastic containers. Plastic containers come in all shapes and sizes, so they are suitable for all lunchboxes. (In fact, over the long run, plastic containers are cheaper than plastic baggies.)
- Buy food products in bulk quantities instead of individually packaged products to reduce waste. For example, buy raisins in bulk amounts and bring a serving in a plastic container instead of buying individual snack size boxes.
- Buy products that are recyclable and are made from recycled materials.
- Always recycle soda and other beverage cans, bottles and plastic containers.
- Bring metal silverware from home or wash and reuse your plasticware.
- Use a cloth napkin and wash it after use instead of throwing away paper napkins.



These paperless lunch tips are designed to help the County reach state-mandated reductions in the amount of waste going to landfills. The program includes a school assembly and a teacher education component as well as a community outreach effort.

## Message to CLC from Kay Tiffany, ShhAir Acting President

The events of the last few weeks have been tumultuous for ShhAir. The tragic death of Ed Lieberman has left us all personally saddened and at the same time challenged to carry on during this emergency with the proposed change to commercial use of Hanscom.

Hanscom has always been a general aviation airport, serving private pilots, corporate aviation, flight schools, charter operations and light cargo flights. Despite years of assurances from Massport that Hanscom would remain a general aviation airport, and in a dramatic departure from the Master Plan, Massport has granted a license allowing Connecticut-based Shuttle America to operate commercial passenger service using 50-seat Bombardier Dash 8-300 planes.

Shuttle America will initially operate 8 flights daily in and out of Hanscom, but it is clear they won't stop there. If Shuttle America is successful at Hanscom, other airlines will follow. We can look to Westchester Airport as a frightening example. Both Hanscom and Westchester began as 500-acre military airports in the 1940s. After World War II, both became general aviation airports servicing up to 200,000 flights annually. However, in the late 1980s, while the Hanscom communities successfully fended off Continental Airlines, Westchester began commercial passenger service. Westchester's airport now serves one million passengers annually with 640 daily commercial flights!

Bedford, Concord, Lexington and Lincoln have hired the law firm of Hale & Dorr and have filed suit against Massport, charging them with violating legal obligations and established airport use policies when it granted a license to Shuttle America to operate commercial passenger flights from Hanscom Field. ShhAir is also actively involved in the legal actions against Massport. We have signed on as a friend of the court with an amicus curiae brief and have filed notice to Massport of our intent to sue if necessary. We are assisting the towns with legal research in support of their suit.

Here are the things you can do:

- Come to the Rally on Tuesday morning, September 28 to protest the first flights of Shuttle America.
- Get signatures on petitions. We want to get thousands of signatures. Pick them up from Kay Tiffany's front porch (109 Reed St.) (Anyone can sign this, including children and non-citizens; signers need not be registered voters.)
- Put a bumper sticker on your car (Kay's front porch.) Take a car top sign and put it on your car for trips around town or place it on your car in your driveway for visibility.
- Join the sign holding visibilities and write letters to the newspaper. People thinking of flying on Shuttle America need to be constantly reminded of the community opposition to passenger planes at Hanscom.
- Work with the Steering Committee. We are inviting people to come to open meetings of the Board and to get involved. Call Margaret (781-862-2637) or Kay (781-862-4726) if you are interested. To receive e-mail alerts, send your name and e-mail to Margaret at [mcoppe@prime-x.net](mailto:mcoppe@prime-x.net)
- Last, but not least, give your financial support to both ShhAir and to the Selectmen's legal fund. Both are tax deductible. Checks to ShhAir go to P.O. Box 441, Concord 01742. Checks to the town go to Town of Lexington - Hanscom litigation. If there were ever a time to make an investment in Lexington, it is now.



## Sending the Wrong Message?

The Rhode Island Public Transit Authority is running a contest to promote Express Travel, "a new program to encourage commuters to use public transit." (See their website at <http://www.ripta.com>). The prize: an automobile!

(Reported on the Sierra Club Forum on Transportation, 4/14/99)

## Thank You

CLC thanks our generous friends who led the Spring Walks. We are grateful to Nell Walker, Chris Floyd, Mary Rines and David Williams. We also Thank Soheil Zendehe for the attractive flyer that we use to describe and publicize our CLC walks.

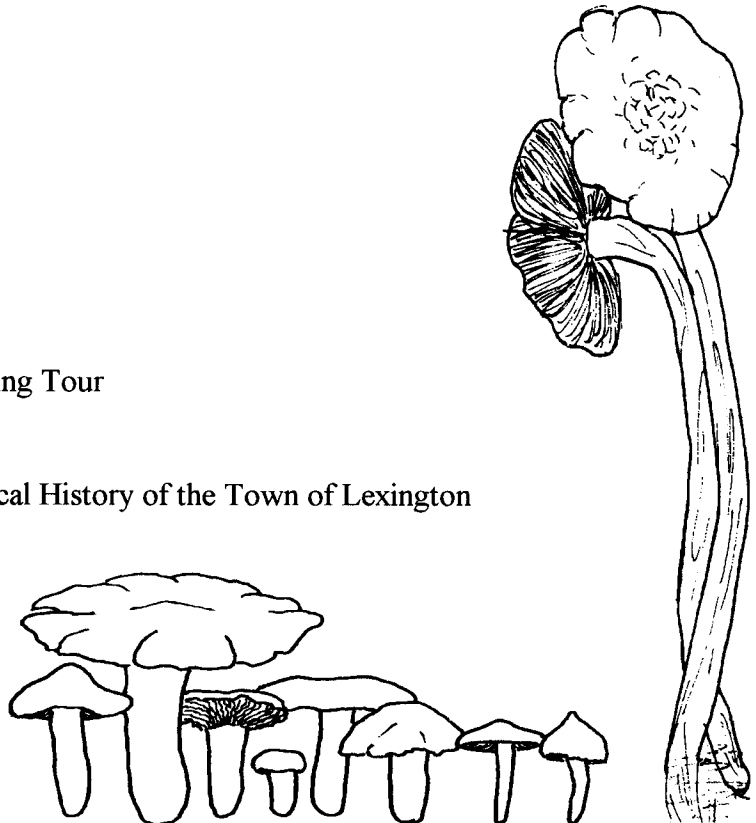
## Larger Wildlife Returning to Lexington

We hear that both coyotes and deer have been seen regularly inside route 128, in the Willards Woods area.

## Download CLC Publications, Free

The CLC web site now has almost all of our publications available in PDF format for downloading. These booklets are free if you download them yourself and print them out. If you do not have the Acrobat Reader, you can get it (also free) from the Acrobat web site. Instructions are on the CLC web site: <http://www.lexingtonma.org/clc/HomePage.htm>. The following publications, including maps and graphics, can be found there:

- Birds of Dunback Meadow
- Birds of The Great Meadow
- Birds of Whipple Hill
- Building a Brush Pile
- Checklist of Lexington Birds
- Discovering the Paint Mine
- Flowers & Shrubs of Whipple Hill
- Ferns of Whipple Hill
- Guide to the Great Meadows, a Walking Tour
- The Gypsy Moth
- Hayden Woods Conservation Area
- The Last Billion Years of the Geological History of the Town of Lexington
- The Red Fox in Lexington
- A Wildflower Walk at Whipple Hill
- Wildflower List for Lexington
- Winter Feeder Checklist



## **Help CLC Save Paper and Postage**

If you would like to receive your CLC newsletter as a PDF file attached to an e-mail, ask Kate Fricker at [kfricker@tiac.net](mailto:kfricker@tiac.net). All formatting and graphics will be identical to the snail mail version, and you will receive yours before anyone else. In addition, CLC will save about \$1.00 per issue for each person who elects to receive the e-mail version.

## **Hazardous Waste Reduction Web Page**

The Town of Lexington web site has information on hazardous waste reduction and disposal. This page provides information on the Minuteman Hazardous Household Products Facility. It also has tips for reducing the generation of hazardous materials. The URL is:

<http://patriot.ci.lexington.ma.us/OCD/Health/HazWaste.htm>

## **Arlington Reservoir Dam**

There is an active committee from Arlington studying the options available for bringing the dam which creates the Arlington Reservoir up to the condition required by the Dept. of Environmental Management. Apparently the dam is not in immediate danger of failing, but the DEM says that something must be done eventually, and their proposal involves cutting down all the trees on it. Arlington would like to keep the trees if possible. The reservoir straddles Lexington and Arlington (and thus concerns Lexington), but the dam is on the Arlington side (so Arlington has to make the decision about what to do). Another proposal is to decommission the dam and let the water out of the reservoir. This would seriously change the wetlands and the waterfowl habitat.

## **CLC Annual Meeting**

CLC will hold its annual meeting in November. As soon as the date for the meeting and the speaker have been identified, we will publicize that information on our website and in the Minuteman. Please watch for details about the meeting. If you have any questions, or need transportation, please contact Eileen Entin by telephone at 862-6418 or by e-mail at [ebe@ALPHATECH.com](mailto:ebe@ALPHATECH.com).



## **Lexington Solid Waste Forum: Trash, Cash and Toxic Ash**

*Oct. 27th at 7:30 p.m. in Estabrook Hall , 1625 Mass. Ave.*

With the impending end of Lexington's 20-year trash incineration contract, Lexington faces some major decisions on how to manage its solid waste. Join local experts George Woodbury, Director of the DPW, Dr. Jill Stein, co-chair of Lexington Solid Waste Action Team (SWAT) and John Andrews, co-chair of SWAT in a discussion of the very real impacts that our trash policies have on our finances, our health, and the environment. How can Lexington contain its trash disposal costs? How can we keep our food and water from being contaminated by incinerator emissions and ash landfills? How do trash stream pollutants such as mercury affect our children's ability to focus and learn? How will new state policies on recycling affect what we put out on trash day? Join us and find out some answers to these critical questions.

Co-sponsored by Lexington League of Women Voters and Lexington SWAT

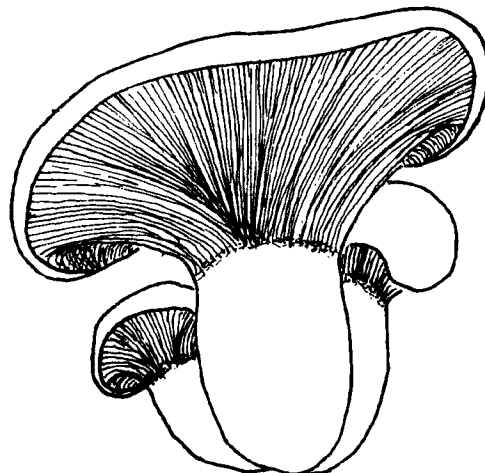
### **Take a walk in Minute Man National Park**

**Saturday, September 25 with Bill Brace: Concord Grasses**, 11am – 12:30 pm at North Bridge. Share in Mr. Brace's fascination with the amazing variety of grasses found on the hillside overlooking the North Bridge.

**Saturday, September 25 with Laurie Butters: A Quiet Congregation of Trees**, 3 – 4:30 pm at North Bridge. Discover the story of the Old Manse grounds from Native American times through the Emerson and Hawthorne years to the stewardship of the Trustees of Reservations.

**Saturday, October 2 with Peter Alden: Alien & Native Plants & Birds**, 11 am – 12:30 pm at Meriam's Corner. Explore the natural environment with the author of The National Audubon Society's Field Guide to New England.

**Sunday, October 3 with Ed Grabhorn: The Beautiful Trees**, 9-10:30 am at North Bridge. This walk combines a tour of the trees, discussion of techniques and a demonstration of watercolor painting.



## **The Community Preservation Act**

The Community Preservation Act, S. 1988, was passed on September 16 by the State Senate and now moves on to the House. This act allows any community to establish a fund to protect open space, provide affordable housing opportunities, and preserve historic sites. The bill provides for funding the community preservation by a local real estate transfer tax and/or a property surcharge tax if voted by a local referendum.

It appears that the House might try to eliminate the possibility of a local real estate tax being used to provide funding. Massachusetts realtors have been strongly opposed to this provision, feeling that it might affect the number of houses sold. Massachusetts Audubon Society, on the other hand, states that the property tax surcharge provides sustained funding for annual open space acquisition, while the transfer tax provides a boost in funding for land protection that is proportional to rapid growth demands.

If you are in favor of this bill, you could call your Senator, Robert Havern (617-722-1432) or Susan Fargo (617-722-1572), to thank them for voting in favor (They both did.), and call your Representative, Jay Kaufman (617-722-2017), to support him for his vote in the near future.

## **Bottle Bill Under Attack**

Mass PIRG reports that there has been a late filing for a bill to eliminate the Bottle Bill. It is bill number H4552, and was sponsored by Colleen Garry, representative from Dracut. Currently it is in the Energy Committee, which is headed by Susan Fargo (617-722-1572). A public hearing will be held at the State House on Tuesday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm. in Room 222 of the State House.

## **CLC Joins Solid Waste Activist Coalition**

CLC has joined with a coalition of groups spearheaded by Clean Water Action in requesting that five principles of Solid Waste management be inserted into the Commonwealth's Solid Waste Master Plan:

1. Waste Reduction
2. Reducing the Toxicity of the Waste Stream
3. Maintaining the Moratorium on Disposal Expansion .
4. Enforcement of the current Recycling Rules / Waste Bans
5. Increasing the State's Financial Commitment to Waste Reduction and Recycling

The new Solid Waste Master Plan for Massachusetts, which is now being formulated by the State Department of Environmental Protection, will chart the Commonwealth's course for the next decade (2000 - 2010) on issues such as recycling, reducing waste, landfilling and trash incineration. A draft of the plan is expected some time this Fall with public hearings to follow. The plan is expected to be in effect as of January 1st, 2000.

