



**Citizens for
Lexington
Conservation**

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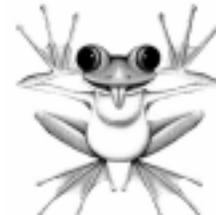
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

April, 2001
Kate Fricker, Editor **Eileen Entin, President**

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Have You Renewed Your Membership?

Citizens for Lexington Conservation is a non-profit organization that relies on dues paid by members to cover its expenses. Look at your mailing label to check your membership status. If it says "Dues paid 2001," you are up to date. If it says "Dues paid 2000" (or earlier), then it is time to renew your membership for 2001. If it says "Complimentary Copy," you are receiving a complimentary copy of our newsletter because you are a Town Meeting Member or other public official in Lexington. We hope that those who receive complimentary copies will find our organization of value and will become dues-paying members. To join CLC or renew your membership, please send \$7.00 for a regular membership or \$10.00 for a sustaining membership to CLC, P.O. Box 292, Lexington, MA 02420-0003. Include name, address & email address.

Help CLC Save Paper and Postage

If you would like to receive your CLC newsletter as a PDF file attached to an email, ask Kate Fricker at kfricker@alum.swarthmore.edu. All formatting and graphics will be identical to the snail mail version, and you will receive yours before anyone else. In addition to avoiding paper waste, CLC will save about one dollar per issue for each person who elects to receive the email version.

CLC Publications

These publications are available free on our web site,

<http://www.lexingtonma.org/clc/HomePage.htm>

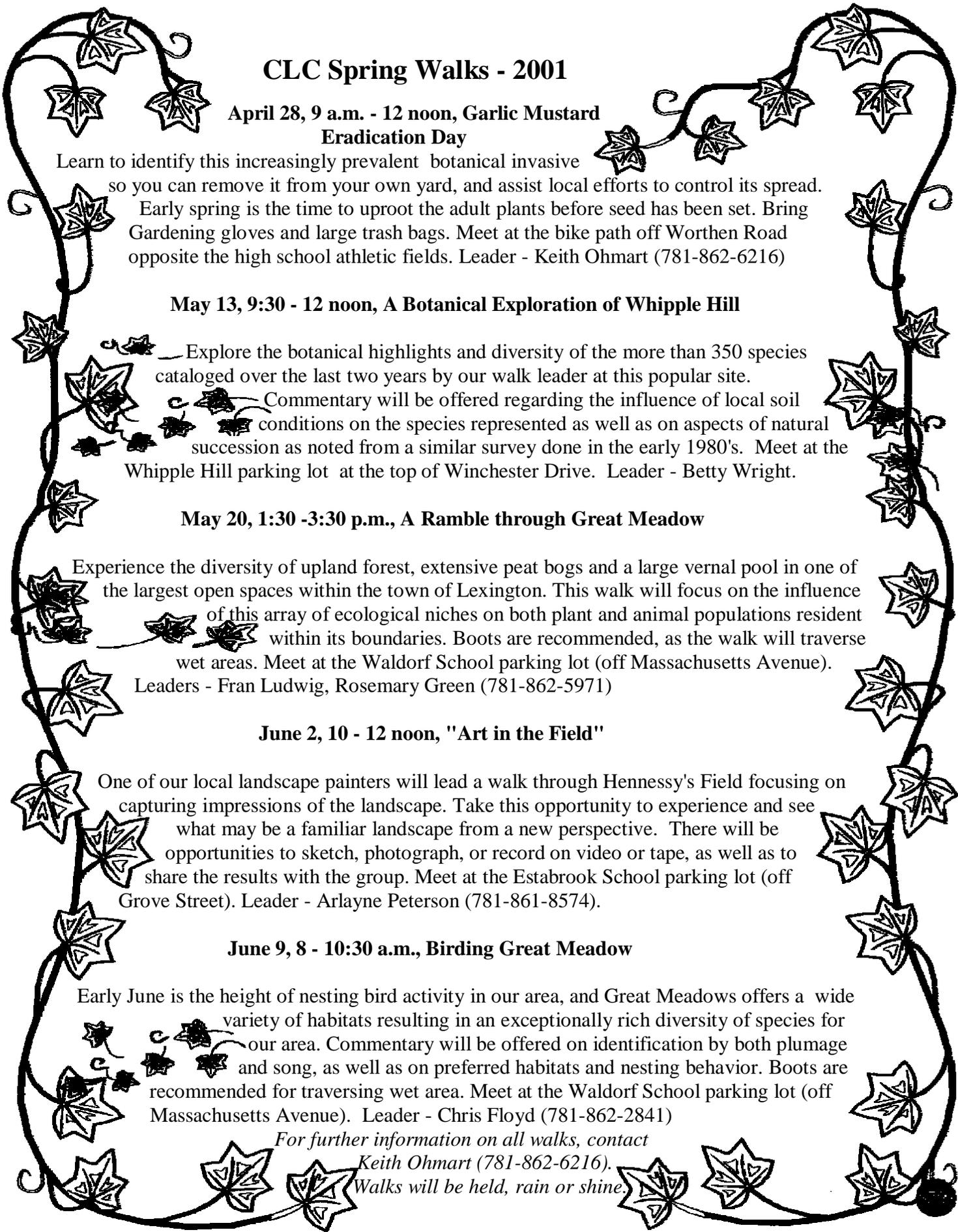


Birds of Dunback Meadow
Ferns of Whipple Hill
Introduction to Hayden Woods
A Wildflower Walk at Whipple Hill
Discovering the Paint Mine
Building a Brushpile
The Red Fox in Lexington
Insect Pests of Shade Trees
Winter Feeder Checklist
Checklist of Lexington Birds
Wildflower List for Lexington
Checklist - Birds of Whipple Hill
Flowers and Shrubs of Whipple Hill, 1982
Flowers & Shrubs of Whipple Hill & Locke Farm, 2000
Geological History of Lexington
Checklist of Birds of the Great Meadows, Lexington
Guide to the Great Meadows: A Walking Tour.



Contact Us

Use our web site comment page to send in interesting conservation-related happenings or sightings of unusual birds or other wildlife that we can use in our web site and our newsletter: <http://www.lexingtonma.org/clc/Comment.htm>, or contact Eileen at ebe@aptiva.com, or Kate at kfricker@alum.swarthmore.edu.



CLC Spring Walks - 2001

**April 28, 9 a.m. - 12 noon, Garlic Mustard
Eradication Day**

Learn to identify this increasingly prevalent botanical invasive so you can remove it from your own yard, and assist local efforts to control its spread.

Early spring is the time to uproot the adult plants before seed has been set. Bring Gardening gloves and large trash bags. Meet at the bike path off Worthen Road opposite the high school athletic fields. Leader - Keith Ohmart (781-862-6216)

May 13, 9:30 - 12 noon, A Botanical Exploration of Whipple Hill

— Explore the botanical highlights and diversity of the more than 350 species cataloged over the last two years by our walk leader at this popular site.

Commentary will be offered regarding the influence of local soil conditions on the species represented as well as on aspects of natural succession as noted from a similar survey done in the early 1980's. Meet at the Whipple Hill parking lot at the top of Winchester Drive. Leader - Betty Wright.

May 20, 1:30 -3:30 p.m., A Ramble through Great Meadow

Experience the diversity of upland forest, extensive peat bogs and a large vernal pool in one of the largest open spaces within the town of Lexington. This walk will focus on the influence of this array of ecological niches on both plant and animal populations resident within its boundaries. Boots are recommended, as the walk will traverse wet areas. Meet at the Waldorf School parking lot (off Massachusetts Avenue). Leaders - Fran Ludwig, Rosemary Green (781-862-5971)

June 2, 10 - 12 noon, "Art in the Field"

One of our local landscape painters will lead a walk through Hennessy's Field focusing on capturing impressions of the landscape. Take this opportunity to experience and see what may be a familiar landscape from a new perspective. There will be opportunities to sketch, photograph, or record on video or tape, as well as to share the results with the group. Meet at the Estabrook School parking lot (off Grove Street). Leader - Arlayne Peterson (781-861-8574).

June 9, 8 - 10:30 a.m., Birding Great Meadow

Early June is the height of nesting bird activity in our area, and Great Meadows offers a wide variety of habitats resulting in an exceptionally rich diversity of species for our area. Commentary will be offered on identification by both plumage and song, as well as on preferred habitats and nesting behavior. Boots are recommended for traversing wet area. Meet at the Waldorf School parking lot (off Massachusetts Avenue). Leader - Chris Floyd (781-862-2841)

For further information on all walks, contact

Keith Ohmart (781-862-6216).

Walks will be held, rain or shine.

Thank you

CLC thanks our generous friends who led the CLC Fall Walks: Nell Walker, Fran Ludwig, Gretchen Denison, Eileen Entin, Kate Fricker, and Keith Ohmart.

Spring Sing A Survey of Lexington Amphibians

By Fran Ludwig

Have you heard a frog sing yet? Soon Lexington's amphibians will be waking up to greet spring. The Citizens for Lexington Conservation (CLC) and Lexington Public Schools Elementary Science Program are teaming up to sponsor a Spring Sing Survey of Frogs and Toads. All members of the community are invited to report the sights and sounds of amphibians in Lexington.

Lexington vocalists and their sounds include:

Frogs:

wood frog (quacking ducks)
spring peeper (sleigh bells)
green frog (twanging banjo)
grey tree frog (trill, slower than toad)
bull frog ("jug-of-rum")

Toads: American toad (high trill)

Other amphibians: red backed salamanders, yellow spotted salamanders



To hear the most common "spring singers" in Lexington go to:
<http://hastings.lexingtonma.org/frogs> on the Internet.

Male frogs and toads vocalize by vibrating air in their throats. This sound is made louder by bubble-like pouches. The sound helps females of the same species find a male. It also is used to warn other males to keep away. Wood frog calls can be heard as early as mid-March, on the night of the first warm (above 40 degrees) spring rain, when these frogs breed. They are followed soon thereafter by spring peepers. Spotted salamanders breed about the same time and in the same pools as the wood frogs. Because there are so many different kinds of frogs, each species must have its own distinct call in order to attract the right mates. In fact, frogs' ears are specially "tuned" to absorb the sound of the call of their particular species. World wide, amphibians seem to be on the decline. Is this true for Lexington? Information about the presence of frogs and toads this season is valuable in helping us establish a baseline. Perhaps you have lived near a wetland for a number of years and can offer your opinion as to whether changes in the number of frogs are taking place.

In response to interest in documenting the number of different species of plants and animals (biodiversity) in Lexington, the CLC is enlisting the help of students and interested community members to report amphibian observations. Of course, it is important not to disturb the animals. If you would like to help, please look and listen and report your amphibian findings at <http://hastings.lexingtonma.org/frogs> or use the following form:

AMPHIBIAN REPORT FORM

Name:

Address:

Phone or e-mail address:

Date(s):

Location :

Type of wetland:

Temp. (if possible):

Amphibian(s) observed:

Type of Observation: (sight) (sound) (both)

Intensity of sound: (National surveys rate sound this way)

- 1 Individual calls can be counted; there is space between calls (1-5 individuals).
- 2 Some calls are overlapping; but individuals are still distinguishable (6-12 individuals).
- 3 Chorus is constant, continuous and overlapping; impossible to count individuals.

Comments: (comparisons to earlier years, any unusual circumstances, etc.)

Report directly on the Internet or send your hard copy report:

Fran Ludwig

K-5 Science Specialist

Harrington School

146 Maple St.

Lexington, MA 02420



Recycling TVs and Computer Monitors

As of April 1, 2000, cathode ray tubes (television screens, computer monitors and video games) are no longer accepted at Massachusetts incinerators or landfills. The new regulations were necessary because of the amount of lead and mercury that is released into the environment when these tubes are crushed in landfills or burned in incinerators.

The State DEP is promoting the recycling of electronics by providing subsidies for the infrastructure to either repair them and resell them or recycle the copper, gold and lead in them. More information is available at <http://www.state.ma.us/dep/recycle/crt/crthome.htm>, or by calling 617-338-2255.

In Lexington, working computers and television sets may be left at Goodwill Industries at the attended trailer next to Walgreen's from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The next Lexington CRT collection day for broken TVs and computer monitors is April 21 from 8 am until 1 p.m. at the DPW Facility, 201 Bedford Street.

For yet more information, check these web sites:

<http://www.state.ma.us/dep/recycle/crt/crthome.htm> (Massachusetts information on recycling CRTs)

<http://ci.lexington.ma.us/DPW/Documents/recycle.pdf> (Lexington recycling info.)

<http://ci.lexington.ma.us/OCD/Health/HazWaste.htm> (Lexington Haz.Waste Information)



Pat Doherty Wildflower Meadow

By Nell Walker



Last fall CLC gave a contribution to the Lincoln Park Fitness Trail Trust in memory of Pat Doherty, a founding member and past president, which enabled the design and installation of a small meadow garden in Lincoln Park.

The area, about 6,000 square feet, was prepared by hand digging out small woody plants and invasive weeds. Half of the contributed funds were spent on labor (3 workers and 2 volunteers) for site prep and planting. The other half was budgeted for sedges and native grass seed (Little Bluestem, Indian Grass and Northern Dropseed). Some of the grasses were seeded in the fall of 2000 and the remainder will be seeded this spring. Seventeen species of wildflowers, selected for a range of bloom from late spring to late fall, were purchased and planted in October, 2000. Some of the 150 seedlings may bloom this year, but it will probably take three years for the real show. In addition some native shrubs were transplanted and placed at the edge of the woods on the south side of the plot. In late fall volunteers hand collected ripe seed from grasses and forbs elsewhere and scattered them in Pat's Meadow. Finally, the bare areas were mulched and flower groups spot identified.

At present the area is still under snow and needs to dry out. After this, weeding and seeding is a first priority. For the first 2-3 years the new meadow will need weeding, perhaps watering the new plugs if there is an unusual drought, and hand mowing. The annual yearly high-cut mowing by machine will suffice in the future.

A sign similar to the interpretive signs that edge the meadow path and boardwalks, is planned for the area. The subject of the sign could be the importance of native plants, what is a weed, plant succession in New England or any similar educational theme.

Weeders for late April, and May would be welcome! Contact nelwalk@earthlink.net or leave message at 781-674-2705.



Garlic Mustard

By Nell Walker

Again this year insidious garlic mustard will invade Lexington. Residents should be aware of its ability to regenerate and spread into corners of every yard and the shady areas of public open space. Because it regenerates so easily and spreads its tiny seeds so efficiently, it is becoming the dominant plant in shady uncultivated areas of Lexington. It can put out a second bloom and seed pod if mowed or weed-whacked. It can set seed even if the blooming plant is pulled out by the roots and left on the ground. I believe it is spread by mowing, also, especially when it is forming seed pods from June to August and after seed set. It is spread, too, by being picked up by passersby (two and four-footed and even insects, such as ants). The little seeds, like finely ground pepper, stick to shoes, paws, bike tires, etc., and then release conveniently in your own yard or along a shady trail. A perfect example of an incipient Garlic Mustard invasion is in the Paint Mine Conservation Land. The trail leading from Estabrook School into the woods has Garlic Mustard on either side of the trail for the first 100 yards. At this stage it would be easy to pull out by the roots in late April. Do not compost it. Bag it and dispose for incineration.

Hazardous Household Product Collections for 2001

The Minuteman Hazardous Household Products Facility on Hartwell Avenue has announced the year 2001 dates for collection of household hazardous products: April 28, May 19, June 16, July 21, August 18, September 15, October 20, November 17

The operation of this facility depends on the help of volunteers, shared by each of the member towns. Lexington's first turn is on October 20. If you would like to help out (and gain a closer look at the interesting operation of this collection) call Beverly Anderson at 862-0500 ext. 237, or Marge Daggett at 862-1651. Volunteers are welcome at the other dates also.

Below are some general instructions on what products you may bring. More specific details are at the Board of Health Internet site: <http://ci.lexington.ma.us/OCD/Health/HazWaste.htm>

- **Cleaning Products:** Bathroom cleaners, drain openers, oven cleaners, metal or furniture polish, spot removers
- **Automotive Products:** Motor oil and oil filters, brake or transmission fluids, antifreeze, solvents, auto batteries, polishes and wax
- **Mercury:** Thermometers, blood pressure cuffs, thermostats, mercury in a container.
- **Pesticides:** Weed killers, fungicides and herbicides, insecticides and pest strips, fertilizers with weed killer, wood preservatives, rat poisons
- **Paint and Paint Products:** Paint and paint thinners, paint removers, stains and varnishes, aerosol cans (but put empties in with the regular trash.), epoxies and adhesives
- **Other Products:** Alkaline Batteries from before 1994 (The newer ones are safe to throw out in the trash.), fluorescent lights, thermostats, driveway sealer, pool chemicals, hobby or photography chemicals, waste fuels (e.g. gasoline), propane tanks (up to 22 lbs.)
- **Do Not Bring:** Ammunition, fireworks, explosives, asbestos, commercial hazardous waste, empty aerosol cans, construction waste, CRTs or TVs, fire extinguishers, gas cylinders (other than propane), infectious or biological wastes, medicines or syringes, PCBs, radioactive materials, smoke detectors, tires.

To learn more about the disposal of these materials see the Web site: <http://ci.lexington.ma.us/OCD/Health/HazWaste.htm>, or call Beverly Anderson at the Town of Lexington Health Department, 781-862-0500 Ext. 237.

Yard Waste Pickup

By Kate Fricker

Yard waste curbside pick up will be on the weeks of April 23, April 30 and May 14 on the regular trash day.

Of course you can compost yard waste yourself on your own property, instead of buying the bags, filling them and lugging them to the roadside. All it takes is an out of the way corner, preferably hidden by bushes. Yard waste decomposes naturally over time, even without special composting bins. Just pile the leaves and plant debris (but nothing containing weed seeds) and forget it. Even the biggest pile sinks down to ground level as the material decomposes. In a year or two you can scoop out the rich humus from the bottom of the pile to add to soil for potting plants or growing flowers or vegetables. There is no need to send all those nutrients and that nice soil conditioner away to Hartwell Avenue.

Web Sites

By Kate Fricker

There are many interesting and informative environment- and conservation-related web sites.

- <http://www.lexingtonma.org/clc/HomePage.htm>
CLC (Citizens for Lexington Conservation) Website
- <http://www.lexingtonma.org/conservation> Web site of Lexington Conservation Commission
- <http://mrines.com/Birds/> - Marj Rines, of Arlington, has links to interesting bird Web sites and some of her own photos of local birds.
- http://www.listbot.com/cgi-bin/subscriber?Act=view_archive&list_id=Arlingtonbirds
Information on birds seen in Arlington
- <http://www.capecod.net/~bnikula/masslist.htm> - Dragonflies and damselflies of Massachusetts. Hundreds of beautiful photographs.
- <http://invasives.fws.gov> - Information on invasive species
- <http://lichen.com> - Information and lovely photos of lichens
- <http://www.concordma.com/nature> - Information about the natural history of Concord.
- <http://www.lexingtonma.org/swat/HomePage.htm> Check out Let's Talk Trash articles.
SWAT Website, Lexington's Solid Waste Action Team
- <http://ortho.mit.edu/nsdi/draw-ortho.cgi?image=225910> - link to satellite photo of the center of Lexington. Maps # 229906 and 225906 also contain part of Lexington. Courtesy of MIT and Mass. GIS. Click on Imagery overview to see how to get to other views of eastern Mass.
- <http://www.state.ma.us/dep/recycle/crt/crthome.htm> - The State DEP official information on recycling television sets and computer monitors. At this site you can also download a file of questions and answers about CRTs.
- <http://www.lexingtonma.org/swat/TrashTalk.htm> - Let's Talk Trash, articles by Laura Dickerson. The SWAT site contains information on recycling, waste prevention, and waste management.
- <http://ci.lexington.ma.us/Selectmen/PAYTAC/PAYTAC.htm> - The Official Lexington Pay-As-You-Throw web site



Time's fun when you're having flies.



The Western Greenway

By Keith Ohmart

October 14 of last year dawned warm and sunny for 35 residents of Lexington, Belmont and Waltham who participated in the area's first Western Greenway Walk. Beginning at Mass Audubon's Habitat property in Belmont, our walk wound its way through land owned by McLean's Hospital, the Rock Meadow Reservation in Belmont, the Met State property (shared

by all three towns), and ended on the far side of the Olympus Hospital grounds (the former Middlesex Hospital) astride the Lexington/Waltham town line.

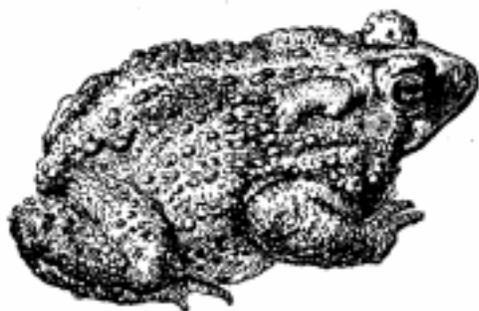
In the space of just over three hours we traversed a wide variety of ecological habitats ranging from upland forest, through open meadows, past various wetland parcels, across one stream (Beaverbrook), and ended by skirting the shores of a man-made pond. During the course of our travels we crossed but two roads, and throughout our trip were rarely in sight of houses or other signs of human habitation.

The Western Greenway concept is an attempt on the part of conservation-minded citizens of the three towns to think strategically about these existing open space parcels, some protected and some in private hands, lying along the shared boundaries of the three towns. Taken together, these existing parcels total in excess of 1200 acres, one of the largest contiguous stretches of open space in the western suburbs. The purpose of the walk was to highlight the strategic importance of this remaining open land and to foster future networking amongst the various local conservation-minded groups in these neighboring towns.

Participating in the walk were members of the Belmont Land Trust, the Waltham Land Trust, Waltham's Hardy Pond Association, Massachusetts Audubon, the New England Mountain Bike Association, the McLean Open Space Alliance, CLC, and various other representatives from both local and state government.

As this newsletter goes to press, a follow up meeting to discuss future possibilities is being planned for April 11 from 7-9pm at Habitat headquarters, 10 Juniper Road in Belmont. Participation by interested members of the community is encouraged. Further developments will be reported in the fall edition of our newsletter.

For those wishing to experience this walk first hand, Massachusetts Audubon's Habitat is adding a guided walk through this area to its spring roster of activities. This walk will be led by Roger Wrubel, Habitat's director, who will offer a running commentary on the ecological significance of the areas traversed during the course of the walk. Meet on May 6 at 8:30 a.m. at Habitat headquarters, 6 Juniper Road, Belmont. Habitat-sponsored activities carry a suggested donation of \$20 to further the work of the Habitat organization. Call 617-489-5050 for additional details.



Support for Pay-As-You-Throw

By John Andrews and Eileen Entin

Pay as you throw (PAYT), the revised solid waste disposal system that will be implemented in Lexington this July, provides an incentive for *all* households to take full advantage of Lexington's recycling program and to reduce the amount of non-recyclable trash they generate. Under PAYT most of the solid waste disposal cost will continue to be paid out of the tax levy, but a small portion, approximately one third, will be paid for by tags or stickers that residents purchase and affix to their trash. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

(DEP) estimates that a PAYT system can reduce trash by a minimum of 27 percent in communities like Lexington that have curbside pickup. The waste reduction achievable through PAYT is an important step toward addressing the environmental problems caused by incinerator air emissions, incinerator ash disposal, and leaking landfills. Lexington's Solid Waste Action Team maintains a web site (<http://www.lexingtonma.org/swat>) that includes detailed research on the merits of PAYT, as well as information about how it will be implemented here.

PAYT has been endorsed by the Mass. DEP and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). A striking aspect of the recent PAYT discussion in Lexington was that every organization that took the time to study and take a position on the issue determined that PAYT was preferable to 100% tax subsidized disposal. At the local level, PAYT was endorsed by the:

- Lexington Solid Waste Action Team
- PAYT Advisory Committee
- Lexington Board of Selectmen
- Lexington Board of Health
- Lexington Appropriations Committee
- Lexington League of Women Voters
- Citizens for Lexington Conservation

Further concurrence on PAYT is evident in the almost total lack of cases where towns got PAYT up and running and then reverted back to a 100% tax-subsidized system. About 1 out of 20 towns attempting a conversion to PAYT fail, usually because of faulty financial planning. Such mistakes are readily avoided if communities take advantage of Massachusetts DEP guidance regarding how PAYT programs should be designed.

During the discussion about PAYT, some residents asked whether trash reduction could as easily be achieved by better publicity and education about Lexington's recycling program. Experience of other communities that have recycling programs suggests that education plus PAYT is more effective than education alone in reducing the waste stream. In addition, evidence suggests that a PAYT system encourages people to actively look for ways to reduce the volume of material they consume – for example, by packing school and work lunches in reusable rather than throw-away containers. PAYT may even motivate some folks to ask manufacturers to use less wasteful packaging.

The hostile criticisms of PAYT that we experienced in Lexington are not surprising - they are quite typical of communities that have adopted PAYT. But now we are entering a new phase, where people see PAYT in action. And this is what typically happens: They find that compliance with the program is simple and convenient. They see that the horror stories of the PAYT critics fail to come true. They see less trash at curbside. They see that PAYT is saving money by cutting waste disposal expenses. They take pride in recycling and doing their part to clean up the environment. They sense fairness in the fact that people who don't reduce waste have to pay a little more of the cost of disposal. They begin to wonder why their neighboring communities don't go to PAYT. This is the future that is now within our reach. The CLC Board urges all our members to support the implementation of PAYT in Lexington.

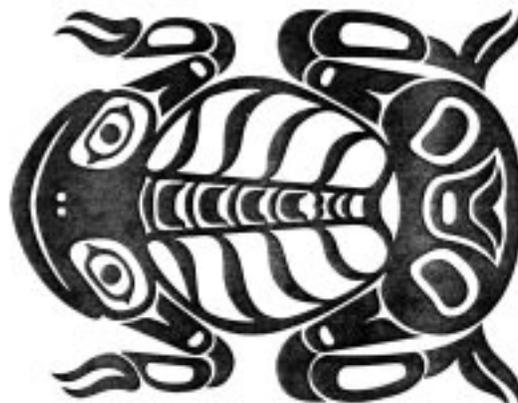


Lexington Conservation Stewards

By David L. Kaufman

If you have noticed someone picking up branches or trash on a trail in a Lexington conservation area you may have seen a conservation steward at work. Lexington's conservation lands are mainly cared for by a group of volunteers since the Conservation Commission has only two regular paid employees, Karen Mullins, the Conservation Administrator, and Linda Gaudet, a part time clerk. The Commission also usually does have a summer trail crew of three, paid out of a conservation trust fund. The stewardship program is a joint effort of the Lexington Conservation Commission and Citizens for Lexington Conservation. Stewards help to care for areas that they visit frequently. They pick up trash, help keep the trails clear, conduct nature walks in the areas, and generally act as the eyes and ears of the Conservation Commission by reporting problems and suggesting actions needed to keep the areas in good condition. There are fall and spring meetings of the stewards, usually with a guest speaker on some environmental or conservation topic, and a fall and spring newsletter.

At present there are about 100 stewards in the program, with some larger areas like Willards Woods quite well tended by 10 or more stewards, some areas with only one or two, and some areas have no active stewards. If you would like to join the stewardship program, or want more information, contact the Conservation Commission's office in the Town Office Building (781)862-0500 extension 226 or send an E-mail To: "David L. Kaufman" <dlk@world.std.com>. The Conservation Commission is also actively looking for college age students who are interested in the trail crew jobs for this summer.



For more information on Conservation areas in Lexington check the Commission's web site at <http://www.lexingtonma.org/Conservation/Lands/Conslandkey.html>.

The stewards welcome any volunteers who will help with the protection of the areas, especially, since the budget cuts in the DPW are impacting the routine care of all the areas. After the recent storms many areas have trees and branches blocking trails. The stewards are very grateful to anyone who assists in keeping Lexington's conservation lands' trails open and free of litter.

Discovery Day

The old Discovery Day, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce will no longer occur. Instead, there will be a New Discovery Day on May 26 in the parking lot between Waltham Street and Muzzey Street. CLC again plans to have a table. Please look for us.

The Lexington DPW and the Board of Health will have a mercury thermometer exchange at the site. Anyone bringing in a mercury thermometer can turn it in for a new digital thermometer. The costs of this exchange are born by Wheelabrator, the owner of the incinerator used by Lexington, as a part of their settlement for exceeding mercury emissions in the air.

The DPW also hopes to have a demonstration of the use of compost bins on Discovery Day.

Area Activities of Note

May 6, 8:30 -12 noon, Walk the Western Greenway

Massachusetts Audubon will be sponsoring a walk traversing the open space between its Habitat reservation in Belmont and the grounds surrounding the Olympus Hospital complex (former Middlesex Hospital) in Waltham. The open spaces owned by Maclean Hospital, the Rock Meadow Reservation and the grounds of the former Metropolitan State Hospital will be crossed during this walk. Sturdy shoes or boots are recommended. Transportation to return to the starting point will be arranged the day of the walk. A donation of \$20 to further the work of Massachusetts Audubon is requested. Meet at the Habitat headquarters, 10 Juniper Road, Belmont.

May 12, 9 - 12 noon, Jack Eddison Bikeway Cleanup

Join this annual effort to "spring clean" one of the most popular open spaces in Lexington. Meet at any of the following entrances to the Bikeway, Bow Street, Waldorf School, Seasons Four, Merriam Street parking lot, or Bedford Street. Bring gloves and enthusiasm. Leadership and plastic trash bags will be provided. This effort also qualifies for Lexington High School Community Service hours. Light refreshments will be available in the Merriam Street parking lot following the cleanup.

Meet Karen Mullins

By Kate Fricker

Lexington has a new Conservation Administrator. Karen Mullins grew up next door to Lexington, in Burlington, then went to Maine for her college education at the University of Maine, Orono. After conservation-related jobs in Orono, Maine, Gardner, Massachusetts, and Burlington, Massachusetts, she became Conservation Administrator of Reading, Massachusetts in January, 1999. She came to Lexington early this year. Her work here involves the enforcement of wetland laws, the management of conservation land, and preparation of the paper work and inspections required by the Conservation Commission. She also makes recommendations on land use and grant proposals.

When asked about her particular areas of interest, Karen mentioned soil and water conservation, stormwater management, and public outreach and education. She is impressed by the amount of open space that has been preserved and protected in Lexington, and by the number of citizens who are very active in protecting these areas and who volunteer their time to help maintain them.

In her spare time, Karen enjoys outdoor activities, such as hiking, backpacking, biking, skiing and kayaking. She lives in Belmont with her husband, Mark. If you have information, ideas, or questions for Karen, you can contact her in the Town offices by phoning 781-862-0500, ext. 226, or by email at kmullins@ci.lexington.ma.us.

