



**** Citizens for Lexington Conservation Newsletter (clclex.org/newsletters) ****

Citizens for Lexington Conservation

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Eileen Entin, President

SEPTEMBER 2024

Ruth M. Ladd, Editor

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CLC BOARD

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CLC TREASURER POSITION

CLC is looking to recruit an interested individual to become its next treasurer. The number of annual transactions required are modest, consisting largely of processing the receipt of approximately 90 members’ annual dues and issuing 20-25 vendor payments.

Annual responsibilities include filing the IRS 990e postcard filing, the MA Department of State Annual Report, and preparing an informal treasurer’s report listing the fiscal year’s expenses and income for submission to and review by CLC’s Board of Directors.

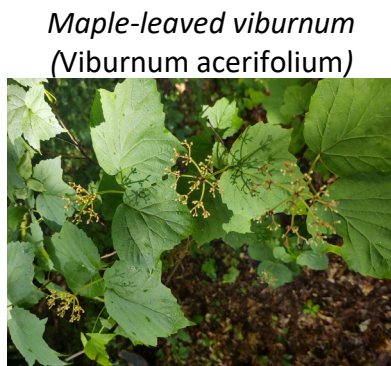
Additional duties include regular monitoring of the CLC post office box and serving on CLC’s Board of Directors, which meets in-person on a bi-monthly schedule.

For the first annual cycle, CLC’s current treasurer will provide guidance and answer questions that arise. If you are interested in learning more about this position, please contact Eileen Entin, CLC President, at: eileenhome@gmail.com.

CRANBERRY HILL CONSERVATION LAND— June 2022



American chestnut
(*Castanea dentata*)



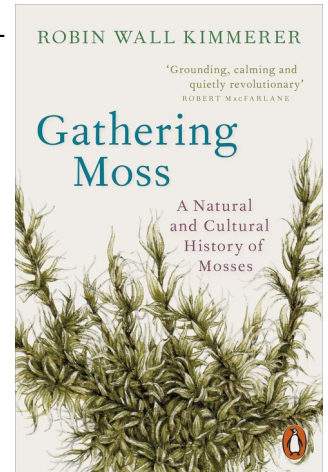
Wild sarsaparilla (*Aralia nudicaulis*)

BOOK REVIEW

Ruth Ladd

***Gathering Moss* by Robin Wall Kammerer**

Some may be familiar with the author from her book *Braiding Sweetgrass*. Dr. Kammerer is both indigenous and a Ph.D. botanist and both aspects of her life are woven into her books. This one about mosses is intriguing because we see mosses around but don't truly SEE them—nor understand them. Although there is plenty of scientific information, this is a very easy read. Warning: you may become entranced by mosses!



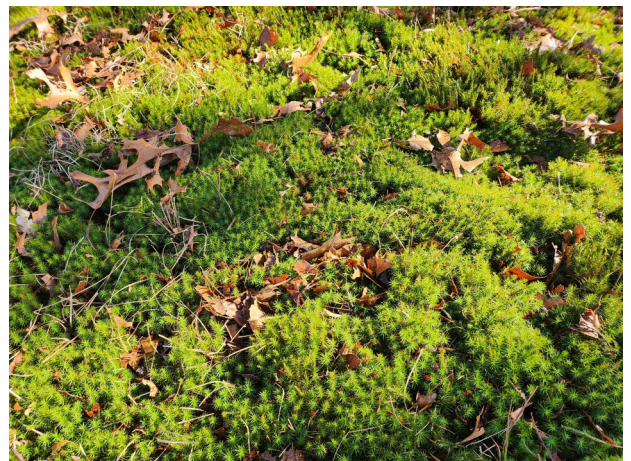
There's no way I can make this as interesting as she did, but here are some tidbits I picked up:

- The chlorophyll in mosses is different from that in trees so that it can absorb light that is filtered through trees and isn't direct.
- There are 22,000 species of moss.
- Mosses have no vascular system and no roots.
- Mosses live in the "boundary layer" where CO₂ is about 10 times higher than in the ambient atmosphere and it is moister.
- Reproduction can be sexual (with spores usually dissipated by the wind from little stalks or setae) or asexual.
- There is no evidence that mosses harm roofs! It is better to let them be and enjoy their beauty.
- Mosses are excellent at purifying water and are being studied for wastewater treatment.
- Mosses are more sensitive to air pollution than more advanced plants. Sulphur dioxide is especially bad because mosses are just a cell thick.
- There is a fascinating chapter on sphagnum mosses in bogs.

* * * * *



Tangled thread moss on the Concord Ave. conservation land



Haircap moss at Joyce Millers meadows

LECTURE:



October 17, 7:00—8:30 pm
Cary Hall, Lexington

In 2024, Minuteman National Historical Park and Walden Pond were named as among the top 11 endangered historic sites in America, in part due to climate change. The alterations to our natural environment during the climate crisis have far-reaching consequences to the preservation of history as well as the natural landscape.

More than 40 years ago, the park ranger Jon Waterman took his first journey to Alaska’s Noatak River. Astonished by the abundant wildlife, the strange landscape, and its otherworldly light, he spent collective years of his life exploring Arctic North America on extended sea kayaking, packrafting, skiing, dogsledding, and backpacking journeys—often alone for weeks at a time. After three decades away from the Noatak, he returned with his son, and amid a now-flooded river bereft of the once-plentiful caribou, he was shocked by the changes. The following year, 2022, he took one final journey to film and document the climate crisis across the North in his new book, [Into the Thaw \(Patagonia Press\)](#)—the subject of his October 17 image-intensive presentation. A frequent National Geographic grantee and NEA Literary Fellow, Waterman (Lexington High class of 1974) is the author of 17 books.

\$10 Lexington Historical Society members, \$15 nonmembers

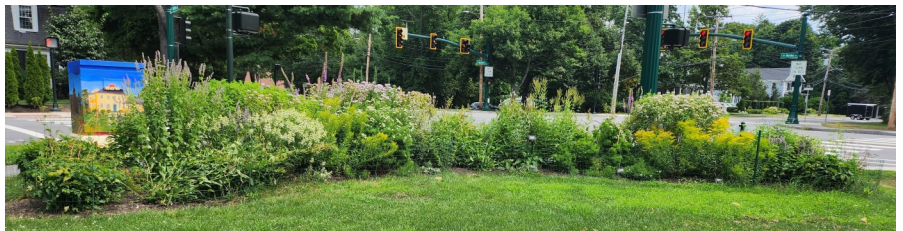
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NEW TOWN POLLINATOR GARDEN!



Lexington’s pollinator garden at the junction of Mass Avenue and Worthen Road, looking towards Hastings Park

Looking at pollinator garden from Hastings Park toward the lights at Mass Avenue and Worthen Road



DID YOU KNOW THAT. . .

...CLC welcomes donations from people through their estate planning? It enables us to do projects such as install memorial benches in conservation areas and provide educational signage about our varied natural (and historic) resources.



...CLC can't operate without the volunteer efforts of many and the more there are, the lighter the efforts needed. We encourage anyone even slightly interested to contact Eileen Entin, President, to learn more. (781-862-6418, eileenhome@gmail.com)

- ◆ **Publicity Coordinator** is another position we need filled. This would involve getting information on our walks and annual meetings or other events out to social media, print media (Lexington Times), and the town for their weekly emails.
- ◆ **One-off jobs** (these are NOT a board positions!) such as:
 - ◆ working with a small group on a sign about the biology (and sometimes the history) of a conservation area. Such as the sign at Parker Meadow:
 - ◆ helping to prepare conservation restriction documents and conduct annual monitoring for one of the town conservation lands funded with Community Preservation Act funds for which CLC will be the easement holder (see article below).



...Lexington Conservation has two parcels south of Concord Avenue and adjacent to Waltham conservation land? A management plan has been developed by Massachusetts Audubon in preparation for development of a trail to tied the Greenway to Concord Avenue and an ACROSS Lexington route. There are some lovely large trees on the eastern parcel.

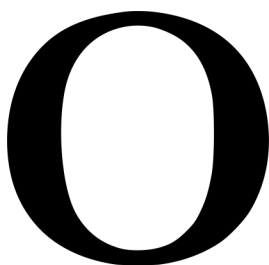


Large Black birch (Betula lenta), Paper birch (Betula papyrifera), and a 'lone wolf' Red oak (Quercus rubra) with a person for scale

...Lexington Conservation rules for conservation lands permits just two dogs per person and they must have full control of both dogs by voice, or by leash?



...There is a new ACROSS Lexington Route O?



The Greenways Corridor Committee is pleased to announce the installation of Route O, providing a walking loop which connects from existing Routes L and M at the Bowman School, continues under Route 2 along Pleasant Street, then over to Concord Avenue via Stearns and Webster Streets and Blossom Park, then on to Route M at Waltham Street. The new route is just under 3 miles in length including the overlapping portion along Route M.

A map of the new route is not currently available but will be posted to the Greenways Committee web page on the Town web site later this fall. In the meantime the best starting point to walk this new route will be at the ACROSS trail junction for Routes L/M in front of the Bowman School. Walking the entire route will return you to your starting point.

Route O is ACROSS Lexington’s first route serving Lexington neighborhoods south of Route 2. The Greenways Committee is currently working with the Conservation Department to develop an additional route that will complement Route O by connecting to the Western Greenway Trail on DCR’s Beaver Brook North property via the Conservation parcel on the south side of Concord Avenue. It is hoped that this additional route can be completed in calendar year 2025.

You can view a map of all the ACROSS Lexington walking and biking routes excepting Route O at lexingtonma.gov/227/ACROSS-Lexington-PDF-Brochure-Map.

UPDATE ON CLC’s CONSERVATION RESTRICTION RESPONSIBILITIES

By Eileen Entin and Keith Ohmart

In 2017, following an initial inquiry from and subsequent discussions with Lexington’s Conservation Department, CLC agreed to assume the responsibility of holding Conservation Restrictions on five of the Town’s conservation parcels that were purchased using, in part, Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds. CLC was brought into this because municipalities that purchase open space using CPA funds with the intention of maintaining these properties as conservation land must enter into a third party arrangement with an independent non-profit organization that will hold a Conservation Restriction on the property and conduct annual monitoring visits to ensure that the terms of the Conservation Restriction are being maintained by the Town as owner and manager of the property.

In the ensuing years a small number of CLC members have been working with the Conservation Department to file the necessary applications for four of the five original properties, i.e., Cotton Farm, Leary property and Goodwin properties 1 and 2. Work on the application for the fifth original property, Wright Farm, is ongoing. A sixth property, Busa Farm, has now been added to this program, with the primary intent of that Conservation Restriction being to permit the continued operation of a working farm on the property.



Cotton Farm—pond and overlook



Wright Farm—wet meadow

This program is now at the point where annual monitoring visits for these six properties should commence beginning late this fall. The monitoring visits will require a minimum of two volunteers per property who will review the conservation restriction documentation for the property, schedule a half-day site visit to inspect the property, and then write up their findings using a Conservation Restriction Monitoring form. CLC will provide full instruction and support for the initial monitoring visits including the site visit itself.

Ideally CLC would eventually like to create “permanent” teams for each of the properties to conduct these annual monitoring visits and complete the monitoring report. Anyone who has an interest in learning more about this opportunity should contact us through the CLC website or contact Keith Ohmart (kohmart@verizon.net) directly through email.

Two additional properties, Sherburne Road and 39 Highland Avenue, have been acquired by the Town using CPA funds to be maintained as Conservation properties. Therefore, after the Wright Farm conservation restriction documentation is completed, these two will also need to be documented. Applications for Conservation Restrictions on each of these properties will be prepared within the next 1-2 years and these two properties will then be added to the list of properties requiring annual monitoring site visits.

WALK SUGGESTIONS AND LEADERS ALWAYS NEEDED!

What Conservation properties would YOU like to explore or revisit? What topics are you most interested in learning more about? Give us a shout with suggestions at clclexington@gmail.com. Don't worry, we won't make you lead the walk(s) you suggest unless you want to!

THANK YOU TO OUR WALK LEADERS!

Gali Diamant

Our most sincere thanks to CLC's spring 2024 walk leaders. Guided walks would not be possible without the donation of their generosity, time, and expertise. Their volunteer efforts make Lexington a very special place in which to enjoy the outdoors! Many thanks as well to town employees (including Susan Bennett/Transportation, Link to Lexington, and Amber Carr/Conservation) for their efforts in coordinating, scheduling, and advertising CLC's walks and other activities, and in maintaining our natural spaces.

CLC FALL '24/WINTER '25 WALKS

Gali Diamant

All walks are free and open to the public

Please note that dogs, other than service dogs, are not allowed on any CLC-sponsored walks. Thank you for honoring the needs of all walk participants by leaving your pets at home.

Across Lexington Route L

Saturday September 28, 9 am

Join this walk to discover ACROSS Lexington Route L. This 4.4 mile loop goes through residential streets and several conservation areas including Dunback Meadow, Upper Vine Brook and Daisy Wilson Meadow. The walk is not suitable for assistive walkers, strollers or baby carriages as there are some steep sections and uphill climbs. Wear comfortable clothing and walking footwear. Thunder/heavy rain cancels. Meet at the playground of Bowman School, 9 Philip Road.

Leader: Miriam Boucher - 781-248-6695, mdcb16@verizon.net

Plants and Insects of Arlington's Great Meadows

Saturday October 5, 10 am



Join us for a fall walk around Arlington's Great Meadows. This 183-acre property is owned by Arlington and located in East Lexington. Wear long pants and have bug spray in reserve. More than light rain cancels.

Meet at the end of Emerson Gardens Rd. off Maple St. in Lexington. Some public parking is available just past the entrance to Lexington Meadow townhomes. Use Emerson Gardens Rd for overflow parking.

Leader: Andrea Golden - andgold@comcast.net

Fall Goat Pasture Walk at Chiesa Farm

Sunday October 13, noon—2 pm

Rain date: Monday October 14, noon—2 pm

Come and join the local Lexington goats for their daily pasture walk through the fields and woodlands at Chiesa Farm. Each season the land provides them with diverse plant life. The goats are very specific to what they need to eat depending on many factors. We will have two Lexington herds, totaling 15 dairy goats, with some young kids in tow. Learn about the goats and how they are working to keep invasive plants in check.

All adults and children are welcome. No dogs please. Note rain date. Park at Diamond Middle School using the Hathaway/Sedge Road entrance or park at Fiske school and walk across to the pastures.

Guides: Halé Sofia Schatz and Laurene Beaudette. Contact: laurene@iwebinsight.com



Walk in My Moccasins

Monday October 14, 9 am



View the Paint Mine conservation area through the eyes of Native Americans who lived here before the colonists came. Find out how Indigenous people used plants, animals, and minerals from this special place for food, clothing, shelter, medicine, toys and ceremonies. This conversation area includes a hilly upland forest, a wetland area under the power lines, and a ten-acre meadow and is beautiful in all seasons.

Children and adults welcome. Severe inclement rain or lightning cancels. Meet at the parking lot of Estabrook School, 117 Grove St.

Leader: Fran Ludwig - [Fludwig12@yahoo.com](mailto:F Ludwig12@yahoo.com), 781-861-7231

Woolgrass in Paint Mine under power lines

Fall Bird Walk at the Arlington Reservoir and Lexington Community Farm

Saturday October 19, 8 —10 am



We'll be looking for migrating sparrows and late warblers like Orange-crowned at the farm and for arriving winter ducks at the reservoir. Bring binoculars, wear footwear for possibly damp or muddy ground. Meet at the gym set area of Rindge Avenue Playground.

Leader: Chris Floyd - hchrisfloyd@outlook.com

Edible Plants - Fall Edition

Sunday November 3, 10—11:30 am

Lexington is home to over 70 species of edible wild plants, both native and non-native, including plants considered to be weedy or invasive. Some are more nutritious and/or flavorful than their cultivated counterparts. This time of year offers a great opportunity to highlight late berry, root and nut harvests.

Limited to 15 participants. **Registration required.** See announcement in the Walks/Events section of the CLC web site.

The walk is friendly to well behaved and attentive children and dogs.

Dress appropriately for weather and bring water bottle and harvesting bags. Meet at the Fitness Trail entrance at the crosswalk on Worthen Road across from the Lexington High playing fields. Heavy rain cancels.

Leader: Emily Carvalho - rootedoutside@gmail.com, 857-334-3978



Common pawpaw in September at Lincoln Park

iNaturalist Observation Walk at Whipple Hill

Sunday November 17, 12—1:30 pm

This walk is an opportunity to learn to use iNaturalist to observe and share biodiversity information in Lexington's conservation land. iNaturalist is an online social network of people who care about biodiversity and want to contribute to knowledge and learn from each other. So far, people in Lexington have made over 25,000 observations comprising over 2,700 species of plants, birds, bugs, fungi, etc. in iNaturalist. This is a hilly walk that will take about 1.5 hours.

Please download the iNaturalist app to your phone (iPhone or Android) and create an account before you arrive. No dogs please.

Meet at the Whipple Hill Parking Lot on Winchester Drive. Limited parking, more available across the street on Berkshire Drive. Heavy rain cancels.

Leader: Barbara Katzenberg -

barbara.katzenberg@lexingtontmma.org

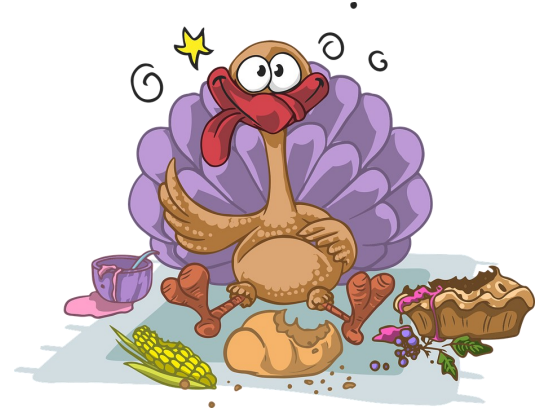


Turkey Trot Walk – Willards Woods/Chiesa Farm

Saturday November 30, 1—3:00 pm

Work off the excesses of your Thanksgiving dinner by joining CLC on its annual Turkey Trot walk. This year’s walk will loop through Willards Woods and Chiesa Farm for a distance of about 3+ miles. Walking sticks recommended if conditions are icy underfoot. Meet at the Willards Woods parking lot on North Street opposite 44 North Street. Heavy rain or snow cancels.

Leader: Keith Ohmart - kohmart@verizon.net



WAKE UP AND WALK!

Peggy Enders

Wake Up and Walk was begun in September 2021 by two Lexington residents as a weekly occasion to join others on an early morning one-hour group walk. Peggy Enders interviewed Bob Haussein to remind each other how the program started and why they have never cancelled a walk in three years.

Bob, what inspired Wake Up and Walk in the first place?

This all started three years ago when we were still COVID-sensitive but felt the need to get outside for some exercise and some group socializing. You had spent some time in Davis, California earlier that year and joined a program of early morning walks that took place three days a week. The walks were brisk, and the group of mostly older adults welcomed anyone who wanted to join them. We talked about introducing a program like that here in Lexington, but we decided to add some variety to the walks and hikes since we have so many trails in the area, including trails that can be done in a loop and last about an hour or so. We picked Wednesday mornings, starting at 8 am and planned them to last an hour or a bit more, so walkers could return home in time to begin the rest of their day.

We played around with different names for the walks, first it was “brisk walks in the woods,” and then I came up with “wake up and walk,” which sort of describes exactly what we had in mind.

So how did you decide where to walk?

Our first walk was on trails in Arlington’s Great Meadows. Four people joined us on September 29, 2021, and that’s when we took our first group picture. As of September 4, 2024 we will have led 153 walks!

We listed walks for every week in October and November, and there was such enthusiasm we decided to keep going into the winter; people showed up to walk even in the coldest days in January and February. We have never cancelled in case of rain or snow because we learned that everyone’s threshold is different, and some like the idea of walking in the woods in the rain. If no one else showed up, the leader could choose to walk alone, but that’s never happened in all three years: we’ve always had at least the leader and one other person and often more even in a downpour or on very cold days.



We mostly do loop or out-and-back walks, but several times we've done a one-way walk that involves shuttling where we place cars at the end and shuttle back and it's worked out well for Hayden Woods and the Western Greenway trail through to Waltham.

Do you stay in Lexington for the walks?

In the beginning we hadn't intended to go outside of Lexington — we have plenty of trails here — but we realized that adjacent towns had many walking trails, and for both of us it was a great adventure to try out new trails in the area. We've been lucky to be joined by others who know even more places to walk — especially Ruth Ladd and Laurel Carpenter. One of the nice things about rotating leaders around the group is that some have expertise in an area like geology, history, flora or birds that they share. They've introduced the group to trails through woods and farmlands in areas and on trails we weren't familiar with. So we expanded where we go, and that's been just wonderful. Over time we've led hikes in all the towns that touch Lexington — great trails and routes in Waltham, Woburn, Bedford, Arlington, Lincoln, Winchester, Belmont and Burlington, plus we've done many walks in Concord and a few in Weston and Cambridge.



At the marker where Lexington, Burlington, and Bedford meet

Do folks mind traveling outside of Lexington during commuter and school rush?

We've tried to limit travel time to a 15-20 minute drive during rush hour, and we've usually been good at that except when there are backups from school bus and car traffic or other unexpected traffic, which grew heavier as we left COVID behind.

What are walks and hikes that you particularly like or are particularly memorable?

We've done a number of walks on trails around many of the old reservoirs in the area, no longer operating as town water supplies because so many towns switched to the MWRA and converted their old reservoirs to open space with lots of woods and trails.

One of the walks we never tire of is October Farm River Front in Concord. It's a combination of Concord conservation land along the Concord River and recently added Audubon land and makes for fabulous trail walks of all varieties. As is the case with many of our walks, October Farm is rich in the history of who lived on the land or what was there before it was donated to the town (e.g., the story of the Landlocked Forest in Burlington and the fight to save it from development is worth a Google search).

We take advantage of parts of many ACROSS Lexington trails. For example, the walk around Arlington's Great Meadows uses sections of an ACROSS route but not all of it. Same with the trails in the Lower Vine Brook.

Each week before the walk the leader scouts the route to explore its condition and ensure we can do it in an hour. We also try to cover a bit of the history and geology as we walk, giving folks time for a breather and a chance to take a group picture!

Horn Pond in Woburn has been a surprise to many. It's a favorite because of the many trails. "Horn Pond Mountain" has an interesting history: it was once a tourist destination as it was part of the Middlesex Canal system, and at one point a mayor of Woburn decided to develop a ski area on Horn Pond mountain. It didn't

last long, but the remnants of an old ski lift remain at the top as well as another old reservoir! Horn Pond itself is an emergency reservoir with a history that includes association with the old Middlesex Canal. There's an area called the lagoon which is full of interesting trails and mature piney woods that are a delight. It feels like you're deep in the woods — but you're not too far from bustling Woburn streets!

The first time we did Horn Pond as a group was in the middle of our first winter (2021-22) and I was leading it, had gone there to scope out the walk two days before, and it was fine. In the intervening period there was a sleet storm which melted and then froze. Long story short, all the trails, particularly the paved path around the pond were covered with ice. We were slipping and sliding, and almost all of us slipped or fell over at least once, except Peggy who had yak tracks on her hiking shoes so was spared a fall (she was the best salesperson for yak tracks because everyone went out and bought a pair). However, everyone was full of humor and good sport, as has been the case on all our walks winter and summer.

In early September we went to another beautiful place, this time in Waltham — Prospect Hill Park — which isn't a popular place perhaps because the publicized starting area is a long uphill slog on pavement. There are other locations you can park where it's higher up the hill. There's still some climbing to get to the top, with a spectacular view of Boston, but it's mostly a gentle walk through deep woods of old pine forests — very close to 128!

Something has happened recently that we can't account for. During the first two years or more, even in the coldest of winter (one morning it was below zero, and 10 or more people showed up to walk), we enjoyed the company of 10-15 people on a walk, sometimes more. Our walkers are mostly older adults, and it's brisk walking, but that didn't deter folks in the past. Given lower attendance at many of our recent walks, even in the best of days on a local walk, despite our publicizing the walks on the Lex List, we ask ourselves, "is it time to change something that might result in attracting the group sizes we were used to — like another day of the week, or longer walks?" Since we don't want to break this uninterrupted streak of 153 walks to date — we've never cancelled a walk in three years despite some bad weather — we're thinking of trying out an extra day just to see if another day is better for some. And doing some of our classic walks on trails in Lexington — Arlington's Great Meadow, trails in Lower Vine Brook, Whipple Hill, Willards' Woods, and on some interesting roads with history, old homes and the growing number of large new McMansions.



What do you like best about leading trail walks early in the morning?

I like the social aspect of leading walks with a group of others who may be strangers when we start out but quickly get to know each other as we walk along. One of the benefits of having a regular series of group walks is that there are some in town who, for one reason or another, have been pretty lonely, maybe they've lost a spouse or all their friends have moved away, or they can't find anyone to join them on longer walks early in the morning. What I like about the walks is that, if someone feels like they want to talk to others, they can, but, if for some reason they're not in the mood to talk, no one will think they're weird for being quiet. All on the same day, I might be in a talkative mood or a quiet mood; that's the beauty of being with others when hiking — there's no anxiety about "dead air."

If you'd like to be added to the *Wake Up and Walk* google group to receive weekly emails about the week's walk, write Peggy Enders, peggyenders@gmail.com.



BLACK SWALLOW-WORT

IS IT INVADING YOUR YARD?

EMERGES: MID-SPRING

SEEDS: SUMMER



MONARCH BUTTERFLIES

Contributes to the decrease of endangered Monarch Butterflies.



DIMINISHES BIODIVERSITY

Outcompetes native vegetation, and disrupts the food chain.



SPREADS RAPIDLY

More difficult to control as time passes. Best to remove now.

THREATS

HOW TO REMOVE



DIG UP ROOT SYSTEM

Use a spade or shovel to dig up the crown of roots and all connecting rhizomes. Look for rhizomes in a 6"-12" radius of the plant. Those secondary roots are how it survives weeding!

HOW TO DISPOSE



DO NOT PUT IN YARD WASTE

Many cities compost yard waste for use in schools, community gardens, and parks. We don't want that compost to spread invasive plants!



DO BAG AND TRASH

This plant should be bagged and thrown in the trash. Disposing of invasive plants in the trash will stop them from reseeding.

SLOW THE SPREAD



PULL VINES BY HAND

Slows formation of seed pods.



REMOVE SEED PODS

Prevents the pods from seeding.



WEAR GLOVES

Some people experience a rash from skin contact with black swallow-wort. Wear gloves to protect your hands.

PRO TIP

ID ME



TINY FLOWER



LEAF



ROOTS



SEED PODS

FOR BEING A STEWARD
Thank You!
OF OUR ECOSYSTEM

Fall and Winter Bird Migration in Dunback Meadow

Bobbie Hodson

Although spring bird migration is well known, there are many fascinating migrating birds in fall and winter. This year you can enjoy these birds as they move toward warmer climates as the weather cools and insects and plants become less available for consumption. Luckily for us, several decades ago the Lexington Conservation Commission saved Dunback Meadow, a large open area near Clarke School, from development. Today this conservation site is a fall and winter birding mecca for those yearning to see these active migrants.

Why Dunback Meadow? The varied habitat here, including pine woods, grasslands, wet meadows, Clematis Brook, and mixed forest, provides the plant and animal life that birds need for shelter, nesting areas in spring, and food sources throughout the year. Although many colorful warblers pass through in spring in their hurried journey to insect rich breeding grounds in northern New England and Canada, these same birds return more slowly in fall with their young. During this southern migration, the birds take time to eat foods rich in nutrients for their continued journey south. Due to the changed plumage of adult warblers and the presence of young birds, birders refer to the different (and difficult to identify plumages) as “confusing fall warblers.” Give yourself a challenge and try to find several this early fall.



Let's start with the birds which journey to us to breed here, usually from the southern US, and then migrate back in late summer and early fall. These include, among many others, the Red-winged Blackbird, Gray Catbird, and Common Grackle. Also migrating after breeding here are the colorful Baltimore Oriole and Rose-breasted Grosbeak, which are tropical birds during our winter months, and have bred here because of the presence of food for their young. The round trip journey of thousands of miles is balanced by the wealth of insects to feed the young.



Those confusing fall warblers migrate in early fall from the near to far north, and include Cape May, Blackpoll, and Palm warblers. These three are quite different from spring plumages. While extremely secretive and difficult to find, the presence of a Connecticut Warbler in Dunback Meadow causes great excitement among birders seeking this white eye-ringed, ground-walking warbler in rather muted colors. If interested in seeing this rarity, look low in dense bushes.



Worth noting in late September and October are the sparrows, often as many as ten different species. Those of us who visit Dunback Meadow in the spring and summer are familiar with the lovely song of the appropriately named Song Sparrow. In October it's worthwhile to try to hear/see Fox, Lin-





coln's and White-crowned sparrow. If especially interested in this family group, it's worthwhile to visit the nearby corn fields.

There are several winter migrants who breed north of us, but come for our "warm" weather in the late fall. The Junco often arrives before any snow and leaves in April, when it is possible to hear its sweet breeding song just before it heads north. Arriving most winters are American Tree Sparrows and White-throated Sparrows and, when we are fortunate, there are also the rare migrants from farther north: Common Redpoll eating seeds in the birches, and Northern Shrike perched on the power lines.



Due to the rapidly changing climate with increased warmth and more intense storms, birds are in increasing danger of loss of nesting opportunities and loss of insects and plants which aren't able to tolerate the warmth. For a moment think about all those insects which hit the windshield in our cars years ago. That is another indication of the loss of bird food due to many facets of human development. How can you help these migrants to survive? Here are three simple ideas: turn out unnecessary lights to decrease window strikes, plant native species for the seeds they prefer, and work to stop global warming.

Here's hoping you are able to spot several of these migrants this fall and/or winter in Dunback Meadow.



Another fall migrant: Monarch butterfly under the power lines in Simonds Brook conservation land