

LOWELL PARKS & CONSERVATION TRUST

WINTER 2016 NEWSLETTER

Winter 2016 Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



LP&CT past president Matt Donahue and Nancy Dubner present the Jollene Dubner Conservation Award to Newell Flather (photo courtesy of Harkins Photography).

The Little Engine That Could

On Friday, October 16, 2015, many of our closest friends, members, and community leaders gathered to celebrate our 25th anniversary. The ballroom at UMass Lowell's Inn & Conference Center was decorated with beautiful grasses and floral arrangements generously donated by Mahoney's Garden Center.

We were delighted to present Newell Flather with the **Jollene Dubner Conservation Award** to honor his tireless support and advocacy in our early years while we were finding our footing, picturing us as what he called "the little engine that could." Jollene's family came from New York to celebrate her legacy with us in bestowing Mr. Flather with this award.

Older teens in the after-school program, TREES, spoke poignantly about the impact of the program on their lives. The evening also included a silent and live auction presented by State Representative Tom Golden, a "wine-grab" fundraiser and lively music from the band, Testify. Thank you to all of our guests, sponsors, and especially the volunteers who worked tirelessly to make the occasion a success!



Transition in Leadership

Two members of our board of directors have transitioned off the board, opening the door for new leadership at the Trust. (cont. p2)

EVERY KID IN A PARK

Discovering Lowell: Field Trip Grant Will Reach 400 Fourth Graders

Fourth graders in Lowell will have a unique opportunity to experience the Lowell National

Historical Park this year. Thanks to a grant from the National Park Foundation, LP&CT and Lowell NHP will partner to offer the Discovering Lowell program.

The partnership project will reach at least 400 fourth grade students in the City of Lowell through youth-serving agencies, Lowell Public Schools, and the Lowell Community Charter Public School. During the program, students will travel to the park for a two-part program with the first visit to learn about Lowell's history and then they will return for a Riverboat tour on the Merrimack River, highlighting pre-colonial Lowell.

"Lowell is all about industry and the industrial revolution, but there's so much more," said Lowell NHP Superintendent, Celeste Bernardo. "The river, its ecosystem and impact on the city are a hidden gem in Lowell and providing the opportunity to work with our partners at Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust will open up a whole new world to the students."

Other 4th grade groups are welcome to participate, please call (978)934-0030.

<section-header>

<u>Thank you</u> to everyone that joined us for our semi-annual Walk from Lawrence to Lowell—ten miles of adventure along the Bay Circuit Trail route that follows the Merrimack River. We thank Rich Bizzozero, a steward for Deer Jump Reservation for generously sharing his time to introduce us to AVIS (Andover Village Improvement Society) and their properties. The event concluded with everyone gathering for a spirited Annual Meeting pizza lunch.



PRESIDENT'S LETTER, cont.

LP&CT Board members, Bill Martin and Stephen Conant.

(cont.) Bill Martin and Stephen Conant helped found the Trust and served 24 and 25 years on the board, respectively.

We can't thank them enough for their contributions toward improving the quality of life in Lowell. Their vision and leadership has had a tremendous and very visible impact on the landscape in Lowell. They will both stay involved with Trust activities, but will now take on a less formal role.

Two **new board members** have rotated onto the Trust's board of directors, after serving a year as associate board members. **Jonathan Geer**, is a retiree after a 38-year career with the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs and other state environmental agencies. He is the president of the Belvidere Neighborhood Association and former president of Keep Lowell Beautiful. **Christine McCall**, is currently an Assistant Planner at the Department of Planning and Development for the City of Lowell and previously worked in Senator Eileen Donoghue's office.

We thank Steve and Bill for the commitment to our mission for so many years and welcome Christine & Jon to the board! hast la Qr

mark Pouranoury

LP&CT RECEIVES SIGNIFICANT GRANT SUPPORT FROM:



City of Lowell CDBG Program Massachusetts Cultural Council/ Youthreach Program

Alliance for Community Trees/CBS EcoMedia/Lahey Health

Constellation, an Exelon Company

Aubert J. Fay Charitable Fund Richard K. Donahue Sr. Park Maintenance Fund & Alfred H. and Kathryn E. Coburn Park Fund

of the Greater Lowell Community Foundation

Joseph P. Donahue Charitable Foundation Trust

Greater Lowell Community Foundation Land Trust Alliance

Lowell Public Schools 21st Century Program/MA DESE ASOST Saab Family Foundation

Votze Butler Charitable of the GLCF





AFTER-SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS



Lowell Leaders in Stewardship Fall 2015

Throughout Lowell's after-school program you can find students exploring Lowell's environment and gaining STEM skills through **extended learning in the outdoor classroom**. This past fall we offered programs at **six locations**: Greenhalge Elementary, McAuliffe Elementary, Shaughnessy Elementary, Robinson Middle, Freshman Academy and Lowell High School.

Led by the talented education staff at LP&CT and Mass Audubon's Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary, all of our students were able to practice a variety of scientific skills and gain a better understanding of Lowell's natural resources. Some highlights from this fall:

- C3 McAuliffe: 3rd/4th- graders met a painted turtle, some mice, a groundhog, and a screech owl, and wrote stories about these **animals native** to Lowell.
- C3 Shaughnessy (photo above): 4th-graders are creating their own field guide to the trees around their school.
- **C3 Robinson**: 5th/6th- graders are learning about the **wildlife and habitats** around their school, including collecting data about a red maple tree that was planted by prior students.
- C3 Freshman Academy: Students are exploring Lowell's watershed, performing water-quality testing on the Concord River and learning what we can do to protect it.
- C3 TREES: Our oldest students successfully applied for their own grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council (Amplify Youth Voices). The group drew upon their personal experiences with "Environmental Adventures" to identify a need in their community: they decided that not enough people in Lowell were aware of the urban parks and green spaces that they have been able to explore. Look for their activities as a part of the city-wide Earth Day events!

This project is supported in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, which receives support from the State of Massachusetts and the National Endowment for the Arts.



National Endowment for the Arts

SPALDING HOUSE UPDATE

WINTER/SPRING 2016 PROGRAM SERIES



Fence Damage Repairs

If you've driven down Pawtucket Street within the last few months, you may have noticed a section of the Spalding House fence that is looking a little worse

for wear. A car accident in November left the last section before the chain link severely damaged, and we have removed it. Fortunately, no one was injured in the accident, and we've been working with insurance companies to ensure its repair. So not to worry—we'll have the fence back up as soon as we can!

You can also expect to see continued improvements to the back yard as well as upgrades in the bathroom and storage area.

THANK YOU 25TH ANNIVERSARY SPONSORS!



PLEASE RSVP (978) 934-0030



Eco-Film: Tiger Tiger Tuesday, March 29, 2016 6:30 PM**

With only 3,000 tigers left on Earth, Dr. Alan Rabinowitz travels to Asia in a race against time to discover how land conservation could protect the majestic jungle cat. **Guest speakers**: hear from two local fifth-graders about what they've been doing to save their favorite animal (89 min).



Earth Day Parade & Festival Saturday, April 23, 2016 11AM – 3PM At the UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center

LowellEarthDay.org for Earth Month programs



April Eco-Film: Short Films Tuesday, April 26, 2016, 6:15 PM

Including UML student climate films

In honor of Earth Day, join us for an evening of short films! From superstorms to ancient trees to unique man-powered vehicles, these films offer a window to environmental wonders around the world and how different people are reacting to today's environmental crises (94 min).

**All films take place at <u>6:30 pm</u> on the <u>last Tuesday</u> of the month (Jan-June 2016) at the Lowell National Historical Park's Visitor Center (free parking off Dutton St).









Whitewater Rafting Season begins April 2, 2016 Weekends in April & May

Weekends in April & May Trips run at 9:00 AM & 1:00 PM

Raft the Class III & IV rapids of the Concord River! RESERVATIONS (Proceeds support LP&CT): www.zoaroutdoor.com/concordrafting.htm

<u>PLEASE CALL</u> FOR LOCK TENDER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES! Exciting opportunity to learn and share a historic skill. Mentorship and safety training.

"I NEVER WOULD HAVE THOUGHT..."

ANNUAL FUND GIFTS, CONT.



On Giving Tuesday (the Tuesday after Thanksgiving), we received the following e-mail from member Rachel McCord about her experiences enjoying Lowell's green spaces and the Concord River Greenway with her young son.

"I have been meaning to donate for quite a while now... as a little thank you for the work you have done and are doing which has made our 3 years in Lowell more enjoyable. We enjoy so much being able to walk by the Concord River, hiking, and all the other green spaces in Lowell. **I never would have thought** "oh, of course I would want to have raise a toddler in Lowell." But then we soon learned about all the beauty and history of Lowell.

On my maternity leave, **I loved walking the greenways** and canals. And now that my son is 2, we love being able to walk to playgrounds and down to the Concord River. And it completely made his day when he saw the whitewater rafters coming down the river into the locks! "People in boats! Have Helmets!" he shouted.

So, we have benefitted so much from the work that groups like yours have done to protect conservation lands, making Lowell much more than a former industrial city, and we wanted to give a little acknowledgement of our thanks.

I wish you all the best in your future efforts to preserve land and eventually connect the Concord River paths. I hope that someday when we bring our son back here to visit his birthplace, we will be able to say "this river path wasn't complete when we lived here, but look what they've done with it now!"

DOUBLE YOUR DONATION

Ask your employer about its Matching Gift Program.

Please remember to submit your **matching gift form** with your next donation to LP&CT.

Current business participants include: Aspect, Autodesk, Inc., Bristol-Myers Squibb, Constellation, Dell, Eastern Bank, Constellation, Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc., HP, IBM, Juniper Networks, Medtronic, Millipore, National Grid/MA Electric, New Balance, Oracle, Polaroid, Sun Microsystems, Tufts Health Plan Fndn. and Verizon.

FIND US ON:

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WE THANK THE FOLLOWING FOR SIGNIFICANT IN-KIND SUPPORT:

Anstiss & Co., P.C. Eno, Martin & Donahue LDFC/Lowell Plan UMass Lowell Inn & Conf. Center Frank Makarewicz, Carol & Robert Marchand, Christine McCall, Ruth Messer, Edward Parsons, Richard & Nancy Pitkin, Anastasia Porter, Ann Romanowsky, Jack & Michele Reynolds, Norma Ricci, Sally

tasia Porter, Ann Romanowsky, Jack & Michele Reynolds, Norma Ricci, Sally Riddle, Joseph & Donna Smith, Mary & John Splaine, Sandra Tainter, Germaine Vigeant Trudel, John Wooding, **Zoar Outdoor**

Annual Fund \$1-49

Newt & Janet Akashian, Cheryl & George Brunelas, Robert and Sonja Cahill, James Campbell, Sheila Carman, Ms. Nancy Carringer, Mrs. Pauline Cloutier, Alice G. Danas, Sandra & Thomas Eagan, Tina Freitas & Gloria Parker, David & Kathleen Gwiazda, Carol Ann Hayton, The Ibarra-Mah Household, Raymond Houde, Lynnda Ignacio, Donald H. & Vanessa Johnson, Dan & Lisa Johnson, Stavros & Donna Kanaracus, Stephen and Mary Kandrotas, Stephanie Karakantas, Peter & Martha Kaselis, Sheila Kirschbaum, Gwen Kozlowski, David LaBrode, John Lawlor, Melia Mahoney, Michele & Frank Marino, Judy & Gerry Miller, George Montminy, O.D., Kathy Muldoon, Frances Nowak, Virginia & Robert Powers, Cecile Provencher, Helen Regan, Maria Robarge, Bruce Robinson, Louise Saulnier-Andrews, Joellen Scannell, Mr. Edward & Barbara Scollan, Jr., Barbara Sherman, Deborah Sofia, Eleanor Sullivan, Daniel Tenczar, Naomi Title, Mr. Jason Vinas, Reginald & Ruby Walker, Dan Wells, Patricia Williams

Etsy — Mark Romanowsky



Help us to protect special places... Mark Romanowsky's 'Special Places'

painting collection

is <u>now available</u> on **Etsy**:

www.etsy.com/shop/MarkRomanowskyLPCT

Thank



Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped us to realize our mission this fall!

Volunteer Land Stewards: Bruce Cote, Sheila Hallissy, Rachel Hervieux, Martha Iarrapino, Helen Littlefield, Jack Moynihan, Jennifer Ruth, and Barbara Whitney

Office help: Constant Contact employees, UMass Lowell's Sigma Beta Rho (above), Rita Anderson, and Helen Littlefield

Park Stewardship Volunteers: Chelmsford High School students, Constellation, an Exelon Company, Harbor of Hope Christian Church, LifeVision, Lowell Canalwater Cleaners, Pyne Arts School, Sigma Beta Rho, UMass Lowell's Student Veteran's Organization, and the following individuals: Lauren Baker, Long Chu, Brian Dagley, Bob Gagnon, Stephen Greene, Ami Hughes, Patricia Russell, Bill Walsh, and Barbara Whitney

Can your group help make a difference?

Contact: cmeklenburg@lowelllandtrust.org

PLEASE NOTE: ALL DONATIONS LISTED BELOW WERE RECEIVED BETWEEN

June 30, 2015—December 31, 2015

Please support those businesses that support our work (bold).

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Sustaining members provide ongoing *monthly* support. Donations noted below are annualized.

We've now made it easier for you to become a sustaining member (monthly donor)!

Click 'Donate Now' on our website!

Sustaining Members \$2,000+

Bruce & Joann Conant, Mark & Renee Romanowsky

Sustaining Members \$500+

Stephen A. Conant & Nancy Rourke, Lisa A. Gwiazda & Matthew Donahue

Sustaining Members \$250+

Walter Bacigalupo, Charlie & Phyllis Cutler, Laurel & David Martin, The McCauley Family, Johanna Bohan Riley

Sustaining Members \$100-249

Prudence Brighton, Walter & Lynne Cole, Janice Dudevoir & Bruce Cote, Carla Corey & Paul Buckley, Beverly Coughlin, Elaine Demetroulakos, Joni & Jonathan Dubner, Allegra & David Fieldsend, Robert & Jane Gilmore, Gerald & Betty Holling, Anthony & Martha Iarrapino, Sheila Kirschbaum, Laura & Greg Lamarre Anderson, Phillipe and Jennifer Loher, Christine McCall, Maria McGarry, John Moynihan, Melissa & Steve Pennell, Bernard & Kathleen Petruzziello, Richard & Nancy Pitkin, D. J. Prowell, Doug Preble, TechLaw Inc., Carolyn Walsh, Susan Zacharer

Sustaining Members \$1-99

Brian & Amy Cutler, Bob & Sue Dandaraw, Sherri DeCarvalho, Gwen Kozlowski, Louise Saulnier-Andrews, Lisa FitzGerald Wagner

RENEWING MEMBERS

Please support those **businesses** that support us! **BOLD** = new members

Renewing Members \$500 +

Anonymous, Nancy Dubner, Lowell Five, Evan Schapiro and Belinda Juran

Renewing Members \$250 +

Centennial Island Hydroelectric, Evan Coravos D.M.D., Kay & William Doyle, Nancy Dubner, James L. Cooney Insurance Agency, Lowell High School, Lowell Sun Charities, Gail-Ann Brodeur & Howard Martin, Mill City Environmental

Renewing Members \$100-249

Anonymous, Clementine & William Alexis, Mr. Reed Anthony, Robert Bassett, Law Offices of Karen M. Bolton, David Braslau, Donna & Daniel Brennan, Robert Caruso, Peter & Elizabeth Cole, Joanne Doherty, George & Carol Duncan, Christine Dunlap, Gath Insurance Agency, Inc., Robert & Sarah

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Wiring Co., Inc.), Lowell Central Electric Co., Charles McColough, Kate McLaughlin & Nate Soucy, Martha McGowan, Richard & Martha McLarney, Mark and Virginia Meyer, James & Anabel Milinazzo, William Mitchell, Rosemary Noon & Paul Marion, Modern Kids Design, Jack & Therese O'Connor, J.F. **O'Donnell & Sons Funeral**

Home, Edward Parsons, Pawtucket Pharmacy, John Pearson, Jr., James Saalfield, Sagendorf, Taupier and Assoc., Sally Seaver, James Tessier, Margarita & David Turcotte, David Tweed & Mark Vincenzes, James Walmsley, Linda & Emmet James Whitehead, Ruth Evans & Charles Worsley

Renewing Members \$50-99

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Renewing Members \$1-49

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& Rebecca Pike, Peter & Lucille

Richards, Joellen Scannell, Mr.

Edward & Barbara Scollan, Jr.,

Bill & Marie Sweeney, Daniel

Ventura, Mary Ann Visniewski,

Cynthia Wilkening, Seth Wilpan,

Tenczar, Mark Turner, Peter

We just moved to Lowell a little over a year ago and we get a lot of donation requests... When you are able to give to your local community, especially conservation, you're giving to something that impacts the entire community, young and old, and that could have an effect on future generations in the long-run. - Cynthia Ibarra, new member

Jollene Dubner Park Maintenance Fund

First Parish Unitarian Universalist, David and Maria Reiter, Jeanne Thompson

Norma Vonfricken

Special Places Contributions

Stephen DeLuca, Sally & Peter Farrow, Eleanor Janeczko

Bunker Hill Honor Roll Restoration

Lowell Heritage Partnership Order of the Fathers of Patriotic America Pollard Memorial Library Trustees Tewksbury Historical Society Tewksbury Library

ANNUAL FUND GIFTS

Donations to the Annual Fund are above and beyond annual membership dues. We thank the following for the contributions, which provide critical unrestricted support.

Annual Fund \$1,000+

Nancy Donahue

Annual Fund \$500+

Jeanne D'Arc Credit Union Marty Meehan for Congress

Annual Fund \$250+



Gail-Ann Brodeur & Howard Martin, **Centennial Island Hydroelectric** Company, Mill City Environmental, Christine Cole, Bruce & Joann Conant, Nancy Dubner

Annual Fund \$100-\$249

Robert Bassett, Nancy Bump, John & Ellen Coppinger, Kay & William Doyle, Beverly Woods, Bob & Marianne Innis, John & Pat Crane, Sr., Dolores & Matthew Czyzycki,

Brian & Chrisanne Douglas, George & Carol Duncan, John Foresteire, Alan French, Ms. Colleen Fuller, Jon and Jan Goplerud, Maureen Hancock, Margaret & Robert Hartwell, Keep Lowell Beautiful, Ginny & Joe Lafreniere, Lowell Central Electric Co., Elinor P. Lynch, Mark and Virginia Meyer, Tom Michelman, Jack Moynihan, Patricia & William M. Nickles, Sally & Dick Pratt, Mark & Renee Romanowsky, Michael and Caroline Rider, Thomas Sheehan Jr., Robert Slezak, TEC, Inc., Washington **Savings Bank**

Annual Fund \$50-99

Ms. Suzanne Anderson, Anonymous, Kathleen & Brian Barry, Mr. and Mrs. Curtis B Barton, Bob & Rita Bowen, Robert & Ellen Bowles, Charles & Phyllis Cutler, Deborah Finch, Richard Gardner, Bill Gerber, Richard Howe, Jr., Helen Littlefield, (cont. p4)

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Yes, I want to support the Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust! □\$250 □\$100 □\$50 □\$25 □\$15 □\$			Notecards: #sets (\$10/set + \$2/shipping)		
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Name & address:		Would you like to make a special donation?We have established endowment funds to supportthese projects, above and beyond membership dues:LP&CT Endowment FundJollene Dubner ParkSpalding House FundHawk Valley FarmLiberty ParkKittredge Park			
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Winter 2016 NEWSLET

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Whitewater Rafting Season begins April 2, 2016 Weekends in April & May Trips run at 9:00 AM & 1:00 PM

RESERVATIONS: www.zoaroutdoor.com/concordrafting.htm

PLEASE CALL FOR LOCK TENDER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES! Exciting opportunity to learn and share a historic skill.

Winter 2016 Events

Please **RSVP** (978)934-0030 or cmeklenburg@lowelllandtrust.org

Eco-Film: Tiger Tiger Tuesday, March 29, 2016, 6:30 PM

Rafting Season Begins! Saturdays & Sundays, 9AM & 1PM April 2, 2016—late May 2016

Earth Day Parade & Festival Sat., April 23, 2016, 11AM– 3PM LowellEarthDay.org for Earth Month

Eco-Film: Short Films Tuesday, April 26, 2016, 6:30 PM *Including UML student climate films*

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