**President’s Letter**

**Greetings!**

My father was a sportsman for all seasons. The 4 AM mid-winter call to wake up was not easy. We would drive hours north to fish on the wide expanses of frozen lakes surrounded by the mountains. There was no shelter from the elements other than our clothing. It seemed a bit harsh! However, when the sun came up and warmed our faces and the ice and snow became so bright we needed to squint and the trees in the mountains took on a burned sienna tone we felt very special and privileged to experience the season.

For some winter in New England is a trying endurance with the cold, ice, and snow. For others it is a chance to experience the ‘cool’ side of Mother Nature. The early morning sun adds a brilliant white with ultramarine shadowing to the outdoors. The scenes of snow on boughs and children frolicking in the snow await those who appreciate them. This may be from their windows or from being completely immersed in the elements.

The Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust was founded on the broader concept of ‘conservation.’ Aldo Leopold described this as “the harmony between men and land.” We welcome our members and the community-at-large to steward our properties and projects. Winter provides a wonderful time to look at the land without its canopy of leaves. Seen from a different view, the contours of the landscape and wildlife adaptations can best be appreciated.

We challenge those of you that are committed to the land to share your passion with friends and family. Help us share our mission of conservation education. Through education we can better appreciate the science of the land and how it effects the community. We hope you can take advantage of our eco-film series dedicated to contemporary environmental issues—or join in a special winter vacation program.

Let us all take the time to appreciate our winter. As in art, the greater the contrast in shadowing, the brighter the colors. How beautiful our spring will be after a cold and snowy winter.

Best regards,

p.s. Great news! It appears that the funding for the Concord Greenway is near at hand to work towards its completion. Also, our accreditation process continues to move ahead. But, within the landscape of Lowell, there remains much work to be done to which we are staunchly committed. We appreciate the great support that our membership provides both financially and through volunteerism. You are the backbone of the LP&CT!

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**Look for Emerald Ash Borer**

On December 9th, 2013, state officials confirmed the presence of the invasive Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) in the town of North Andover. Previously, EAB had only been found in Massachusetts in Berkshire County. Although Emerald Ash Borer only attacks ash trees, it kills them within just 3-5 years of infestation, making it a very destructive pest. As you enjoy the outdoors this winter season, be on the lookout for these three signs of EAB infestation, and report any possible sightings of damaged ash trees. Look for upcoming trainings nearby!

- “Blonding” of ash trees, caused by woodpecker damage as they remove bark to eat the larvae/pupa, exposing blond wood.
- S-shaped galleries under the bark, caused by EAB larvae feeding on the wood, visible when bark falls off or removed.

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**Merrimack River Hike**

Thank you to the adventurers who joined the Trust to hike a section of the Bay Circuit Trail along the Merrimack River in mid-November. Above, participants enjoyed a break on a bridge at the scenic Deer Jump Reservation.

Our trek started in Andover and we traveled along the Merrimack River into Lowell. Participants enjoyed the sights, sounds, and serenity of this hidden treasure along the river. The excitement was captured best by the youngest participant, just five years old, who hiked the whole trip and skipped with enthusiasm to the end of the journey.

Those that joined us after hiking the 8+ miles from Andover into downtown Lowell enjoyed a tasty pizza lunch, great conversation, and a brief, casual Annual Meeting. Thank you to all who made this local adventure a success!
The Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust has been accepted to become a member of Earthshare New England, which is part of a nationwide federation of the country’s most respected environmental and conservation charities. Contributions to Earthshare New England support a broad range of charities committed to protecting public health and our air, land, water and wildlife.

Does your workplace giving program include Earthshare? Supporting Earthshare is one of the easiest and most convenient ways that your company can support the Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust.

If you or your company would like to support the Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust through Earthshare, please contact us at info@lowelllandtrust.org or call Jessica Wozniak at info@earthsharenewengland.org You can also visit EarthShare New England's web site at: www.earthsharenewengland.org. We can help you establish a workplace giving campaign. If you already give to Earthshare, a portion of your gift will now come back to LP&CT.

LP&CT RECEIVES SIGNIFICANT GRANT SUPPORT FROM:

Theodore Edson Parker Foundation
City of Lowell CDBG Program
Massachusetts Cultural Council
Aubert J. Fay Charitable Fund
Demoulas Foundation/Market Basket
Joseph P. Donahue Charitable Foundation Trust
EnTrust Fieldstone Foundation
Greater Lowell Community Foundation
Massachusetts Environmental Trust
The Stevens Foundations
The SuAsCo Wild & Scenic River Stewardship Council

WE ALL NEED SHELTER, FOOD, AND WATER

The Lowell Leaders in Stewardship Program expanded once again this fall with the addition of after-school programming at the Stoklosa Middle School and Shaughnessy Elementary School. Environmental Educator Vicki Pattison-Willits joined the LP&CT staff in October and, in partnership with Mass Audubon's Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary, is reaching over 75 students every week. Vicki hails from the UK and also works at Drumlín Farm as a teacher-naturalist. She brings strong experience in environmental education, birding, and waste management.

Students at the Stoklosa Middle School have spent time learning, sharing, and thinking about where we live and how our connections to the world help shape the environment around us. Youth are exploring what makes up a habitat and what we as humans, as well as our native wildlife here in Lowell, need in order to survive – shelter, food, and water. Students have considered questions such as:

- How do both humans and our native wildlife meet our survival needs?
- How does our need for resources affect an animal’s own habitat and resources?
- How have rivers helped shape the growth of Lowell as a city?
- How do we interact with local wildlife?

All after-school students participate in outdoor hands-on activities at nearly every session. At the Shaughnessy Elementary School students are exploring ‘habitats’ within their school grounds, looking for clues from animal activities (tracks, scat, and getting food). Visits from a screech owl (at left), a corn snake, a skunk, a Canadian Goose, and chickens have helped students learn about the differences between domestic and wild animals and native and invasive species. As part of a citizen science project, students made winter bird feeders to take home or put in the school grounds. A week later the children shared what visitors that came to their feeders - a list which included robins, sparrows, blue jays and cardinals!

With each of our programs and projects we hope to spark our students’ interest and enthusiasm for science, whether they are interested in learning more about native animals or helping to improve the community. Students have gained confidence in studying nature and science, and over the course of the term their curiosity about the world around them has increased immeasurably. Journals are used to record observations, ask questions and write down thoughts and ideas all of which, as the students have learned, contribute to ongoing citizen science projects. This helps them improve their data collection, scientific and nature discovery, and observation skills. One of the simple things that all of the students have enjoyed is watching and recording some of the beautiful sunsets and seeing the moon!
**Eco-Film Series Returns**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>An Eco Film Series: Land, Air, and Water</th>
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<tr>
<td>Join us for the continuation of our popular Eco-Film Series. All films take place at 6:30 pm on the last Tuesday of the month (January-June 2014) at the Lowell National Historical Park’s Visitor Center (free parking off Dutton Street). The first film in the series, Island President, will be presented on January 28, just as this newsletter is hitting the press. For complete series details, please see <a href="http://www.lowelllandtrust.org">www.lowelllandtrust.org</a>.</td>
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**Winter 2014 Program Series**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Please RSVP (978) 934-0030</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Special Places Exhibit @ Brew’d Awakening Coffeehaus</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 25 - February 14, 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>61 Market St., Lowell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stop by anytime to have your brew while enjoying Mark Romanowsky’s paintings (originals available for purchase, commissions upon request, proceeds support LP&amp;CT).</td>
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</tbody>
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| River Keepers: Turtles & Feathered Friends  |
| February 18 & 20, 2014, 1PM  |
| Location: Mogan Center, 40 French St, Lowell, 1st Fl.  |
| River Keepers: Turtles (Feb. 18) will explore our rivers and who uses these important habitats. Meet a live, native turtle and then head outside for a walk along the Merrimack River to look for other animals!  |
| River Keepers: Feathered Friends (Feb. 20) will explore how birds survive in winter. Enjoy a scavenger hunt along the Merrimack River and make a bird feeder to take home! Be prepared for indoor and outdoor activity for both days.  |
| Program for ages 5-12. Please RSVP: gwen@lowelllandtrust.org |

| Wildlife Tracking  |
| Saturday, February 22, 2014 9-10:30AM  |
| Hawk Valley Farm ~all ages~  |
| In partnership with Mass Audubon’s Drumlin Farm  |
| Venture out with us for a winter exploration of historic Hawk Valley Farm. Learn the signs of wildlife, including deer, fisher, fox, skunk, opossum, and more! There is plenty to explore as a winter naturalist. Join in Lowell’s Winterfest activities afterward. FREE but RSVP required, gwen@lowelllandtrust.org, space is limited.  |

| Maple Sugaring  |
| Saturday, February 22, 2014 12-1:30pm  |
| Rogers Fort Hill Park ~all ages~  |
| In partnership with Mass Audubon’s Drumlin Farm  |
| Explore maple sugaring in a historic park. Learn how to identify a sugar maple tree, how to tap it for its sap, and how to turn the sap into syrup. Enjoy taste testing – can you tell the real stuff from the fake? This is a fun hands-on activity for the whole family. Meet at the granite pillars on Park Avenue, middle of the lower park. Join in Lowell’s Winterfest activities afterward. Wear warm clothes and boots (we’ll meet rain, snow or shine). FREE but RSVP required, gwen@lowelllandtrust.org, space is limited.  |

| Lock Tender Training  |
| You can be part of history! Learn a unique skill while helping promote Lowell’s natural resources. Training is Saturday, April 5th. Let us know if you’re interested and we’ll send you details.  |
**Test Your Tracking Skills**

Who’s been in our woods?
Match the tracks to the name of the animals you think made them.
- Coyote
- Deer
- Muskrat
- Crow
- Opossum
- Squirrel
- Raccoon
- Fox

(SPOILER ALERT!) **Answers:** (Top Row) Opossum, Squirrel, Muskrat, Coyote; (Bottom Row) Crow, Raccoon, Fox, Deer.

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**Endowment Gifts**

Thank you for the following gifts to our endowment funds, which are held at the Greater Lowell Community Foundation. Other funds held include those for funds for: Coburn Park, Kittredge Park, Donahue Park, and the Spalding House.

Jollene Dubner Park Endowment
David and Margaret Reiter
*In memory of Joseph Brodeur:*
   - Nancy Dubner, Jonathon & Joni Dubner, and Paul D. Williams

LP&CT Endowment
Martha Mayo

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**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 (*new):

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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

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**Greenway Progress**

Celebrating the awarding of PARC and Gateway grants for the Concord River Greenway Park are (l-r): Jane Calvin, LP&CT Executive Director; Melissa Cryan, EEA PARC Grant Administrator; Rachel Agiorgitis, Landscape Planner, City of Lowell; Diane Tradd, Deputy Director Planning and Development, City of Lowell; and Richard K. Sullivan, Jr., Secretary of the MA Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

Next Phase of Greenway Construction

The City of Lowell has received $1,350,000 in PARC and Gateway grant funds to enable completion of the Concord River Greenway Park. A new bridge will be placed at the end of the Lawrence Street section, crossing over the Concord River to Centennial Island. From there this multi-use recreational trail will travel on the Lawrence Street side of the Concord River down to Jollene Dubner Park at Rogers Street, then cross the river and travel down the eastern bank of the river to Andover/Church Street. Wopo Holup’s stone carvings and three additional multi-lingual informational signs are ready to be installed. We’ll keep you posted as construction progresses!

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**Interns**

**During the fall of 2013 two interns from UMass Lowell took on two important projects for LP&CT.**

River Meadow Brook: **Trevor Cullen** took on the daunting task of culling down historian Gray Fitzsimons’ lengthy River Meadow Brook land history research into a more accessible brochure. The brochure highlights significant areas of the landscape along River Meadow Brook that tell interesting stories about Lowell’s history. We plan to use the brochure for public tours and to complement the city’s economic development of this area. Parts of this area play a significant role in connecting the Concord River Greenway Park to the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail. **Thank you, Trevor**, for creating a polished, well-written brochure that will be put to good use!

News Archives: **Ashley Coleman** contacted us with an interest in learning more about what it’s like to work for an environmental organization like ours. Ashley learned about LP&CT through her Geochemistry class at UMass Lowell and took an interest in our work. Ashley is volunteering one afternoon a week throughout the school year to archive our 20+ years of press articles and board minutes into a digital archive. **Thank you, Ashley**, for your initiative and attention to detail on this project.
PLEASE NOTE: ALL DONATIONS LISTED BELOW WERE RECEIVED BETWEEN July 1, 2013 - December 31, 2013
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 $500+
Stephen A. Conant & Nancy Rourke

SUSTAINING MEMBERS $250+
Walter Bacigalupo, Charles & Phyllis Cutler, Matthew C. Donahue & Lisa Gwiazda, Nancy & Henri Marchand, Laurel & David Martin, The McCauley Family

SUSTAINING MEMBERS $100-249

SUSTAINING MEMBERS $1-99
Brian & Amy Cutler, Elaine Demetroulakos, Bill Reedy & Darren End, Phyllis Linane, Phililppe and Jennifer Loher, Ruth Murray, Lisa FitzGerald Wagner

RENEWING MEMBERS

RENEWING MEMBERS $500 +
Gururaj & Jaisree Deshpande, Evan Schapiro and Belinda Jurin, Lowell Five Cent Savings Bank

RENEWING MEMBERS $250 +

* In memory of Ichabod Stratton and Elizabeth Hildreth, married in 1709, Chelmsford, MA.
** For Mrs. Roy Lent in honour of Earl & Edith Gregg

Renewing Members $50-99

Renewing Members $1-49

Annual Fund Donors $500 +
Richard K. & Nancy Donahue, Lowell Five Cent Savings Bank, Lowell General Hospital, Mark & Renee Romanowsky

Annual Fund Donors $250 +
Centennial Island Hydroelectric Company, Nancy Dubner, Lowell Sun Charities, Martha Mayo

Annual Fund Donors $100-249

Annual Fund Donors $50+

Annual Fund Donors $1-49

Thank you!
Support the Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust. Become a member or renew today!

The Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust relies on membership dues for continuing our mission to protect the parks and open spaces of Lowell. If you haven’t already, please consider joining the Trust today or renewing your membership.

Yes, I want to support the Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust!

☐ $250  ☐ $100  ☐ $50  ☐ $25  ☐ $15  ☐ $_______  Notecards: #___ sets ($10/set + $2/shipping)

☐ Please send me the NEW Special Places Print Brochure  ☐ I’ve enclosed a matching gift form from my/my spouse’s employer.

☐ I’d like to become a sustaining ‘green’ member and donate $____ monthly through my credit card

☐ Please call or email me about volunteering: __________________________ (mailings, land stewards, lock tending, etc.).

Payment method:  ☐ Check enclosed  ☐ Charge my credit card:  ☐ Visa  ☐ MasterCard  ☐ AmEx

Account #________________________________________  Exp. ________  Signature_______________________________________

Name & address: ________________________________
______________________________________
______________________________________

(For LP&CT e-news!) EMAIL:______________________________

Please mail to: LP&CT, PO Box 7162, Lowell, MA 01852

Winter 2014 Events

Special Places Exhibit
January 25-February 14, 2014
@ Brew’d Awakening

Kids Week Programming
See Calendar of Events

Wildlife Tracking
Saturday, February 22, 2014  9-10:30pm

Explore Nature in Winter
Thursday, February 21, 2014  2-3:30pm

Maple Sugaring
Saturday, February 22, 2014  12-1:30pm

Eco-film Series: Elemental
Tuesday, February 25, 2014  6:30pm

Does your company have a workplace giving program?
We can help you establish one through Earthshare New England.

Plus, your payroll contribution via Earthshare also makes you automatically eligible for membership with LP&CT.

Would you like to make a special donation?
We have established endowment funds to support these projects, above and beyond membership dues:

☐ LP&CT Endowment Fund  ☐ Jollene Dubner Park
☐ Spalding House Fund  ☐ Hawk Valley Farm

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