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)
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!

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

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:

- 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.
- Shaughnessy (photo above): 4th-graders are creating their own field guide to the trees around their school.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
**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.

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**Spalding House Update**

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**Winter/Spring 2016 Program Series**

**PLEASE RSVP (978) 934-0030**

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**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).

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**Earth Day Parade & Festival**

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

LowellEarthDay.org for Earth Month Lowell Inn & Conference Center

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**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 6:30 pm on the last Tuesday of the month (Jan-June 2016) at the Lowell National Historical Park’s Visitor Center (free parking off Dutton St).**

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**Whitewater Rafting**

Season begins April 2, 2016
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

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

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
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 Romanowski

Sustaining Members $500+
Stephen A. Conant & Nancy Rourke, Lisa A. Gwiazda & Matthew Donahue

Sustaining Members $250+
Walter Baciaulupgo, Charlie & Phyllis Cutler, Laurel & David Martin, The McCauley Family, Johanna Bohan Riley

Sustaining Members $100-249

Sustaining Members $1-99
Brian & Amy Cutler, Bob & Sue Dandara, Sherri DeCarvalho, Gwen Kozlowski, Louise Saulnier-Andre, Cathy Fitz-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

Renewing Members $50-99

Renewing Members $1-49

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

Special Places Contributions
Stephen DeLuca, Sally & Peter Farrow, Eleanor Janecczo

Bunker Hill Honor Roll Restoration
Lowell Heritage Partnership
Order of the Fathers of Patriotic America
Polland 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

Annual Fund $50-99
Ms. Suzanne Anderson, 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)
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.

Is your membership current? Please see your address label.

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

☐ $250 ☐ $100 ☐ $50 ☐ $25 ☐ $15 ☐ $________

Note cards: # __ sets ($10/set + $2/shipping)

☐ 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 2016 NEWSLETTER

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

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Matthew C. Donahue, Esq.
Jonathan Geer
Sheila Kirschbaum (Clerk)
Christine McCall
Jamie O’Hearn
Dr. Mark Romanowsky (Pres.)
Sopheap Theam

Jane L. Calvin, Executive Director
Carolyn Meklenburg,
Stewardship & Education Manager
Stephanie Jones, Environmental Educator
Bora Poun, Environmental Educator

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