



Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust

Spring 2009 Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

Finally, winter is over. Sort of. It's April 11 and as I write it's still cold and damp with snow showers possible! No matter, the spring cycle has begun and there will be no more shoveling and sliding. It's time for potting and planting.

Executive Director Jane Calvin and I had a nice hike through Hawk Valley Farm in March. The light snow cover was marked by numerous wildlife tracks, including deer, and we spotted a pair of hawks circling directly above the farm. Their timing couldn't have been better and I took it as a welcoming sign.

With the usual great cooperation and effort by city officials, and in partnership with The Trustees of Reservations and Louisa Varnum, we now hold a **conservation restriction on 4.8 acres of this historic farmland** located between Varnum Avenue and Regatta Field. **Hawk Valley Farm** brings the total of our protected open space in the city to 13 acres. This fabulous piece of land will be opened up and made accessible for nature walks and environmental education. As it abuts Clay Pit Brook, its protection will also help mitigate flooding issues in the area.

This is a **new land preservation approach** for us that will hopefully serve as a model for future preservation efforts, efforts made possible by our many and generous members and our active and dedicated board. Again, many thanks for all your support!

As we celebrate the completion of the Hawk Valley Farm project, we're not sitting still. Among our other efforts, we're breaking ground with our "**Urban Land Protection Council**" and an upcoming Urban Land Protection Forum in May. We're also organizing several land trusts in eastern Massachusetts, exploring ways we can share resources and develop even more cooperative initiatives.

As the community catalyst on the **Concord River Greenway Park** we look forward to having two sections completed by the end of June with the 3rd section currently in the design phase! And we'll be planting new trees throughout the city, adding to our urban forest.

Good thing winter is over. There's a lot of work to do to help make Lowell an attractive and livable environment for residents, workers and visitors. And for a pair of happy hawks.

Kind regards,

Henri Marchand, President

WHITewater RAFTING—CONCORD RIVER

It's whitewater rafting season again! This unique adventure, right in your backyard will certainly exhilarate you. Rafting trips will run as long as the spring brings enough rain, so we encourage you to call and make your reservation soon. **Trips are operated in partnership with Zoar Outdoor on Saturdays and Sundays in April and May.**

All trips include two runs down the river through three sets of rapids (Class III and IV). At the end of the second run, you'll get to experience 'locking out' through the historic lock chambers behind the DoubleTree Hotel (kindly providing space for rafting this year!). Locking out includes maneuvering the boat through a pair of lock chambers built in 1850. **LP&CT's faithful locktending volunteers help provide this unique experience!** With the season already underway, we're pleased to have our largest, most enthusiastic corps of lock tender volunteers.

If you would like to raft as part of a **group reservation**, we have marketing DVD's that we can mail out to help you learn more about the trips. Please call us for this 3-minute video of an adventure of a lifetime 'right in your own backyard'.

Rafting, right here in Lowell, has been featured in a live WCAP "Fun Friday" radio broadcast and on the adventure blog of Nashua Telegraph reporter Andrew Wolfe. Even the Lowell Sun's own David Pevear braved the rapids. We've also been pleased to provide a new experience for folks from the Androscoggin Land Trust in Lewiston, Maine as they visited Lowell to learn more about our work.

All rafting proceeds support our work to establish the Concord River Greenway!



Youth from Lowell's Spindle City Corps assist with a clean-up along the Concord River Greenway. This summer, LP&CT will venture into a more formal expansion of our programming with Spindle City Corps youth. Look for their "action project" to be implemented this August along the Greenway corridor.

SAVE THE DATE

Summer Solstice Soiree

Saturday, June 13, 2009

YOUTH PROGRAM EXPANDS

This year LP&CT is taking big steps to bring *Stewardship Through Leadership: Backyard Adventures!* (STL) environmental education program to a whole new level. Starting later this spring, thanks to a MA Cultural Council YouthReach grant with Mass Audubon, we'll begin working with high school-age youth from Spindle City Corps (SCC). The youth will formulate an 'action' project, to be implemented along the Concord River Greenway this summer that will make a difference to the local environment and community health. Projects may include, but will not be limited to: ecological inventories, invasive plant assessment and management, human impact assessment and outreach. Long-term goals for this expansion of STL are to create a project this summer that may be replicated and further expanded with next year's group and potentially fit into a regional curriculum with similar youth groups within the Merrimack River watershed associated with the Gulf of Maine Institute.

LP&CT RECEIVES SIGNIFICANT GRANT SUPPORT FROM:

Theodore Edson Parker Foundation
City of Lowell CDBG Program
Massachusetts Cultural Council



Art and Community Landscapes
 (a partnership of the National Endowment for the Arts,
 the National Park Service and the New England Foundation for the Arts)
 1772 Foundation
 Aubert J. Fay Charitable Fund
 Cultural Organization of Lowell
 Richard K. Donahue Sr. Park Maintenance Fund &
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WE THANK THE FOLLOWING FOR SIGNIFICANT IN-KIND SUPPORT:



Anstiss & Co., P.C.
Eno, Boulay, Martin & Donahue
LDFC/Lowell Plan

WINTER EDUCATION EVENTS

In an effort to warm up the season, LP&CT offered two winter education programs in February including "Wildlife Tracking" and "Maple Sugaring: From Sap to Syrup." Both programs attracted dozens of hearty souls which braved the wintry weather to learn about Lowell's special natural resources.



During our **Wildlife Tracking** event, we identified the tracks and signs associated with several animals including fox and fisher along the Concord River Greenway and within Lowell

Cemetery. We even spotted a beautiful pair of common mergansers at Wamesit Falls. If there is one thing for sure, after an exciting tracking event such as this, it is the reassurance that there is indeed a rich abundance of wildlife living in Lowell to be observed. (Above) **Debbie Stein with Mass Audubon investigates animal tracks along the Greenway corridor.**

Maple sugaring is an age-old tradition, unique to northeastern North America, New England in particular. Making maple sugar is a skill that was transferred from Native Americans to early colonial settlers. Today, this is a fun activity for the whole family! Folks learned how to identify sugar maple trees in Rogers Fort Hill Park, how to tap them for their sap, and how to turn the sap into syrup. Whether you run a sugar shack or boil down the sap on your own grill, making maple syrup is a traditional activity that anyone may take part in. (Below) **Sally Farrow from Mass Audubon and LP&CT project specialist, Brian Cutler, show how to grade maple syrup.**

Thank you to our valued LP&CT members and our dedicated partners who helped to make these programs possible: Mass Audubon Society-Drumlin Farm, Lowell Cemetery, and The Friends of Rogers Fort Hill Park.



QUALITY OF LIFE CAMPAIGN

WHAT DOES QUALITY OF LIFE MEAN TO YOU?

We thank the following 2008-09 donors to our Quality of Life Campaign, which will provide important discretionary funds to expand our diverse programs and projects. Please let us know if you would like to invest in Lowell's "Quality of Life"; we can send you information or meet with you in person.

James Calvin & Kamala Madhu
James Cooney Real Estate & Ins.
Courier Corporation
Gururaj Deshpande
Demoulas Foundation
George & Carol Duncan
Enterprise Bank
Lowell Five
Lowell General Hospital

EBAY & facebook



Now, you can sell any item on eBay and donate from 10% to 100% of the net proceeds to benefit the Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust. Visit www.missionfish.org and search under "Lowell Parks" to start selling!

Join us on facebook!

<http://apps.facebook.com/causes/199173>

Special Places Notecards & Prints



Now available!
Make a great gift!
\$20/set or print

Our new Special Places Notecards and prints include prints of oil paintings by LP&CT Director, Dr. Mark Romanowsky. Images include the Spalding House, Wamesit Falls on the Concord River, and Pawtucket Falls on the Merrimack River.

Call LP&CT to order (978) 934-0030

or see the order form at the back of this newsletter.

WISH LIST

Please let us know if you have any spare binoculars for our environmental education programs with youth.

UPCOMING EVENTS

PLEASE RSVP (978) 934-0030



Whitewater Rafting
We are currently rafting!
Saturdays/Sundays through May.
Trips run at 9:00 am & 1:00 pm
Class III & IV rapids on the Concord River in Lowell

Our spring Concord River Whitewater Rafting season is now underway. The Concord River offers excellent rafting conditions. Experience Lowell's rivers like never before. Rafting right in your backyard—you don't need to drive to Maine or western MA. Beginners and experienced rafter welcome!

For further information, visit www.lowellandtrust.org or you can make your early reservations now by calling 800-532-7483.

We are still accepting volunteers for our "lock tender" program. You'll learn how to operate the historic canal locks of the Pawtucket Canal for our rafting trips.



Great American Cleanup

Saturday, May 2, 2009 (9am-12pm)

Pick a site and join in "The Great American Cleanup in the Neighborhoods". Contact Steve Greene at greenesh@comcast.net for tools, gloves and bags.

**DOORS
O-P-E-N
L O W E L L**

Spalding House Open House

Saturday, May 16, 2009 (3-6pm)
 383 Pawtucket St., Lowell

Enjoy a tour of Lowell's third oldest home (c 1760) and explore Lowell's pre-industrial history! Meet Window Woman and see our completed window restoration project! Doorsopenlowell.org—celebrate National Preservation Week.



Riverfest on the Concord!

At the Muldoon Park Boat Launch, Billerica St.

Saturday, June 13, 2009 (10am-2pm)

FAMILY FLOAT TOUR ON THE CONCORD RIVER. Join the Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust and other organizations for this city-wide Riverfest event. Hop on board for a float tour on the Concord River (ages 5 and up). Learn about the ongoing construction of the Concord River Greenway! Bring a picnic and a t-shirt for fish and nature printing. We'll also have other family activities (live animals, fishing clinic, make a dream catcher, face painting, a recycling challenge, and rock skipping) on land with other local area organizations, music, and fun.

CONCORD RIVER GREENWAY NEWS

Construction on the Greenway is moving ahead! The City of Lowell is overseeing construction of two sections of the Greenway this spring, including the northern-most end at the Davidson Street parking lot and at the southern-most end near Lawrence Street and the Lowell Cemetery.



Local artist Jay Hungate, at work on a sculpture, designed by Wopo Holup, for the Lawrence Street gateway to the Concord River Greenway. This project is supported in part by a grant from the Lowell Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. Partial funding is also provided by Art and Community Landscapes (a partnership of the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Park Service and the New England Foundation for the Arts) and by Fund for the Arts, a restricted fund of the NE Foundation for the Arts.

URBAN LAND PROTECTION

Urban land protection has always been a bit of an oxymoron to some. Here at LP&CT, we clearly, believe that this is a misperception. To that end, we've been working with some great partners in Massachusetts to coordinate an Urban Land Protection Council (ULPC), including Groundwork Lawrence, the Greater Worcester Land Trust, and the Waltham Land Trust. With support from the Jessie B. Cox Charitable Lead Trust, we've been meeting regularly and visiting each others' communities to learn more about how we all work to protect our more urbanized areas. While much has been documented about more traditional land protection of larger parcels through the land trust community nationally, very little research has gone into the more complex, smaller scale projects we all tackle. A great example of this in Lowell was our work to protect the 1-acre former Red Cross property. Its critical location at Pawtucket Falls and abutting the historic Spalding House tells a unique story of Lowell's pre-industrial history that was more than worthy of being protected. But many communities like Lowell don't have the local capacity of an organization like LP&CT to advocate for such a project.

Other communities throughout Massachusetts and New England will also be learning through ULPC's efforts. In February, executive director Jane Calvin was invited to speak at the Androscoggin Land Trust's Annual Meeting in Lewiston, ME. In turn they've brought board members and staff down to Lowell to tour our projects, meet city officials, and go rafting. This **May 19th**, ULPC will be hosting an **Urban Land Protection Forum** in Leominster. Fitchburg's Mayor Lisa Wong will be the keynote speaker. If you'd like to register, please visit our website at www.lowellandtrust.org.

JOLLENE DUBNER PARK

- We thank Richard Hansen, with **Soluz, Inc.** and his son Richard for upgrading our solar lighting system at Jollene Dubner Park to newer LED technology. We appreciate this volunteer effort!
- We're looking forward to a reunion of Jollene's 2nd grade class this August. We'll get word out as the event draws closer.

LOWELL GARDEN CLUB & LOWELL CEMETERY NEED YOUR HELP

The **Lowell Garden Club** is seeking a park steward who would be interested in maintaining Liberty Tree Park on Arcand Drive, adjacent to Cobblestones Restaurant. The Garden Club has maintained the park since its inception in 1976 in collaboration with the City of Lowell. With their membership aging and the City facing a fiscal deficit that will preclude park support, they are seeking a community-minded steward who would be willing to mow the grass and provide routine maintenance including planting and pruning throughout the growing season. It is their aim to insure that this lovely little hidden jewel remains an inviting place for the people of Lowell to commune with nature. The Garden Club will provide guidance, support and materials (mulch, plants, etc.) and, in exchange, would offer our Liberty Park Steward complimentary membership in the Lowell Garden Club. They would also continue to take part in routine spring and fall clean-ups. Please call Judy Blackburn, President, Lowell Garden Club, at 978-452-1181.

The **Lowell Cemetery** is seeking individuals interested in providing historic tours of the cemetery. You'll be helping carry on a strong tradition, led by Catherine Goodwin, author of *"Mourning Glory"*, the story of The Lowell Cemetery. To learn more, upcoming tours will be held on Friday, May 1st at 1 PM & Saturday, May 9th at 10 AM. The tours will begin at the Lawrence Street Entrance to the Cemetery. Visit www.lowellcemetery.com.

GREEN BUILDING FILM SERIES

The Lowell Film Collaborative is partnering with the **Lowell Green Building Commission (GBC)** for a first-ever "Green Building" film series. Documentary films have been selected and will be screened at various locations in downtown Lowell. All screenings are **FREE** and **open to the public**. Each event will include guest speakers and additional educational components. Learn more about the **Lowell Green Building Commission!** Visit <http://greenbuilding.lowellma.gov>. Please visit our "Events by Date" page for program updates and venues. The next upcoming films include:

Going Green: Every Home an Eco-Home
Thursday, May 21, 2009 6:30 - 9PM

A Convenient Truth:
Urban Solutions from Curitiba, Brazil
Thursday, June 18, 2009 6:30 - 9PM

PLEASE NOTE: ALL DONATIONS LISTED BELOW WERE RECEIVED BETWEEN **Jan. 1, 2009-March 31, 2009**

SUSTAINING "GREEN" MEMBERS

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

Sustaining Members (\$250+)

Walter Bacigalupo
Stephen A. Conant & Nancy Rourke
Matthew C. Donahue
Nancy & Henri Marchand
The McCauley Family

Sustaining Members (\$100-249)

Andrew Brennan
Cynthia & Charles Calvin
Jon & Joni Dubner
Robert & Jane Gilmore
Sheila Kirschbaum
DJ Prowell

Sustaining Members (\$1-99)

A'ndrea & Brian Cutler
Elaine Demetroulakos
Laurel & David Martin
Lisa FitzGerald Wagner

ENDOWMENT SUPPORT

Jollene Dubner Park Maintenance Fund

Philip Dube
Maureen O'Donoghue - Sack

ANNUAL FUND DONORS

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

Annual Fund Donors \$250-\$500

Watermark Environmental, Inc.
Bickling Financial
Lowell Sun Charities

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Nathan Moore & Heddi Nieuwsma
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Annual Fund Donors \$50-99

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Frances Nowak
Catherine O'Donnell
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Renewing Members \$250-\$499

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Mr. Kenneth Kriedberg, Leo & Deborah Krygowski, David LaBrode, **Lenzi's Catering**, **Lowell Spinners**, Michael Lumenello, Frank Makarewicz, Lynne Maniscalco, Michele & Frank Marino, Thomas McCall, William & Janet McMahan, Mary Ann McNamara, Suzanne Molleur Beebe, James Moloney, George

"I'm very impressed with Lowell and the work of the LP&CT. Great stuff going on there, with an active community with vision and the ability to work together to accomplish long-term goals. Hopefully we'll be able to get a group of people from Lewiston-Auburn down there to see it first-hand. I'll be checking your web site periodically to watch your progress on the Greenway."

Marnie Coleman, President
Androscoggin Land Trust

Montminy, O.D., Leslie Morin, Richard Muehlke, Richard & Deborah O'Brien, William O'Connell, Barbara Page, Edward Parsons, Daniel & Barbara Pearl, James & Helene Petersen, Richard & Mary Picardi, Donna Power, **Proprietors of the Lowell Cemetery**, Cecile

Provencher, Kathleen Quill, Connie & Francis Raymond, Tim Rayworth, Michelle Ritchotte, Maria Robarge, Ann Rollins, Mary & James Scanlon, Vito & Vasiliki Selvaggio, George Stamatoyanakis, Virginia Stowell, Dorothy Stys, Charles & Joyce Sullivan, Eleanor Sullivan, Mary Ann Szufnarowski, Mary Trombly, Evelyn Trudel, Bernice and Leslie Tye, Marc & Geraldine Vagos, Ms. Frona Vicksell, Mary Ann Visniewski, James Waters, Esther & Frederick Wikander, David Willey, Patricia Williams, Amy Woo Skinner

MATCHING GIFTS

Double your donation through your employer's **Matching Gift Program**.

Current business participants include:
Arbella, Aspect, Autodesk, Inc., Bickling Financial, Ca, HP, IBM, Juniper Networks, Millipore, National Grid/MA Electric, Polaroid, Sun Microsystems, and Verizon.

Ask your employer about its Matching Gift Program.

Please remember to submit your **matching gift form**

Thank you to **Doug Preble** for his ongoing dedication to assisting us with our website.

HEARD FROM RAFTERS...

"I had the best time! Thank you all so much for the experience. One of the best days of my life!"

JOY ROBINSON

Orientation Membership Coordinator, UTEC after her **whitewater rafting** experience

*"I survived my white water rafting experience *and* had a great time! Good crew and great guides. It is definitely a great plus for Lowell!"*

JUDY BLACKBURN

President, Lowell Garden Club

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 \$ _____

Notecards: # _____ sets (\$20/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 new e-news!) EMAIL: _____

Would you like to make a special donation?

We have established separate funds to support these projects, *above and beyond* membership dues:

- LP&CT Endowment Fund
 Spalding House Maintenance Fund
 Jollene Dubner Park Maintenance Fund

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

----- ✂ ----- ✂ ----- ✂ ----- Spring 2009 -----

Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust
PO Box 7162
Lowell, MA 01852

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Spring 2009 NEWSLETTER

Printed on recycled paper

Special Places Notecards & Prints



Now available! Make a great gift!
\$20/set or print

Our new Special Places Notecards include prints of oil paintings by LP&CT Director, Dr. Mark Romanowsky. Order above, **call LP&CT (978) 934-0030** or see the order form at www.lowelllandtrust.org

Upcoming Events

Please RSVP (978)934-0030

Whitewater Rafting

Weekends through May, 9 am & 1pm

Great American Cleanup

Saturday, May 2, 2009 (9am-12pm)

Spalding House Open House

Saturday, May 16, 2009 (3-6pm)

Urban Land Protection Forum

May 19, 2009 (8:30 am — 4 pm)

Riverfest on the Concord!

Saturday, June 13, 2009 (10am-2pm)

Summer Solstice Soiree

Saturday, June 13, 2009

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www.lowelllandtrust.org