



June 2018 Newsletter

Grafton Land Trust

Board of Directors for 2018

President:	Robert Aberg	Karen Eisenhauer	Paul Grady
Vice President:	Dawn Geoffroy	Troy Gipps	Ed Fritz
Treasurer:	Todd Berry	Chris Lemay	Ann Morgan
Secretary:	Kathryn Egnaczak	Kenneth Holberger	Steven Lemoine

Administrative Assistant: Marie Berardi

New Property Dedication

On Sunday, May 6th, 2018 four generations of the Nicholson Family were present for the dedication of the Nicholson Family Preserve on Meadowbrook Rd. Over 14 acres in total were donated to preserve and maintain open space in Grafton. *(Photos: Sue Nicholson)*



Trail News: Spring cleanup

Gebelein children George, Louisa, Anna, and spouses enjoyed the morning on the Gebelein Sanctuary at 54 Brigham Hill Rd. They cleared the trail with chain saw, lopper, and rake all the way back to Lake Ripple in short order, then finished it off with a leaf blower. The property was ready to usher in Spring with some blooms. Great job with trail cleanup!





June 2018 Newsletter

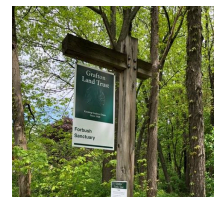
Janet & Steve Burgess tackled the Webber CR property behind North Grafton Elementary School: trash removed, trails cleared - beautiful! Go check out the old dam, mill pond, fields, and forest trails.



Trails volunteer Carolyn Weeks performs the disappearing roadblock trick at the upper blue trail at the stream crossing on the Parker Preserve, with help from her Alligator Lopper. Another trail open for business after our 4 nor'easters this winter - thanks Carolyn! True Sanctuary at Forbush.



Thanks to the North Street Neighborhood Crew the trails at Forbush have been re-cut and re-established with new blaze offering an opportunity for a quiet walk in the woods. Why take the same old Merriam when you can wander a peaceful wooded path?



Wildlife Tracking



On March 25th, GLT volunteer Pat Haggerty led a hardy group onto the town's Hennessey open space at 46 Adams Rd today for a wildlife tracking hike. Highlights include a LIVE BEAVER, plus tracks for a fisher cat, coyote (or possibly red fox), a bunny, deer, vole tunnels, a possible owl/hawk catch point for voles, and others. And poop: intrepid explorers looked into the finer points of discerning deer scat from bunny scat. The sun came out and warmed everyone up - thanks again Pat.





June 2018 Newsletter

Education Grants Program



Every fall, the Grafton Land Trust awards grants to the teachers of Grafton Public Schools for projects and programs for conservation, ecology, wildlife preservation or environmental education, or implementing a project on GLT land or investigating and learning about its property. These grants help teachers carry on the land trust's mission to preserve, maintain, and advocate for open space and to promote environmental education and stewardship.



One of the 2017 grants was awarded to Jason Cote, a science teacher at Grafton High. He used the money to purchase two trail cameras and supporting equipment for his environmental science class for outdoor observations along Lake Ripple. The cameras have allowed students to extend the scope of their observations and has enriched the overall field study experience. So far the students have been able to observe activities of many animals that they were not able to see before including mallard ducks, raccoons, striped skunk, the Eastern cottontail rabbit, and the North American beaver.

In this program, interested teachers can apply for a grant indicating the project objective, the expense (up to \$300) and the project's learning outcome. For questions, visit the Grafton Land Trust website at graftonland.org, or email info@graftonland.org.

Hassanamesit History Walk

This March, GLT offered a kid-friendly 1.6 mile hike to learn about the rich history of local town conservation land on Keith Hill by walking the history loop trail in Hassanamesit Woods narrated by Rob Aberg of the Grafton Historical Society and Land Trust. The Nipmuc tribe is known in Grafton for matriarchal land ownership and the multi-generation woman-owned Sarah Boston homestead, among many notable historical events. There are several active archaeological sites in Hassanamesit Woods, a town-owned open space with a conservation restriction to help ensure it is preserved for generations to come. *(Photos: Bob Quevillon)*





June 2018 Newsletter

Save the Date! - Annual Meeting & Dinner

5:00 p.m. Friday, **November 2, 2018**

Highfields Golf & Country Club

Popular Hike: Williams Preserve CR

Looking for an entry-level hiking trail? Look no further than Williams Preserve. This beautiful property has a very family friendly trail system. Follow the blue blazes and travel along the “Storybook Trail”, reading the story as you travel around the 1.1 mile loop that starts and ends at the parking lot at 137 Brigham Hill Road. Along the trail you’ll find stone benches and trail cairns. Thanks to the Williams for preserving this wonderful open space!



Kestrel News

We are pleased to announce that 5 American Kestrel Falcon eggs have hatched in one of our 10 nest boxes.



This is the 4th year in a row that we have had an active kestrel nest. All fuzzy little kestrels are in good health and were banded on June 29, 2018. (Photos: © Troy Gipps)



About Us:

The Grafton Land Trust is a private, non-profit, member-supported organization that preserves, maintains, and advocates for open space in Grafton. Your contributions help us in our mission - many thanks for your support!

Grafton Land Trust, Inc., P.O. Box 114, Grafton, MA 01519

<https://www.facebook.com/GraftonLandTrust/>

