



Grafton Land Trust

Spring 2022 Newsletter - Catch Up

IMPORTANT: click "View Entire Message" in your email program / browser if you can't see "THE END!" in a pink band at the bottom of this newsletter

Board of Directors for 2022:

Rob Aberg ~ President
Pat Haggerty ~ Vice President
Todd Berry ~ Treasurer
Karen Eisenhauer ~ Secretary
Paul Grady
Kenneth Holberger
Steven Lemoine
Chris Lemay
Michael O'Farrell
Brandon Peterson
...and please join us in welcoming
our newest board members:
Justin Compton & Jennifer Thomas

GLT Office Manager: Marie Berardi

?? GLT True or False ??

Does GLT own an island?

****See answer below****

Girl Scout News!!

CONGRATULATIONS

to Madison Berardi, a 2020 Grafton High School graduate. She has received her Gold Award, a Grafton Land Trust reference guide for children and families. With her

NEW GLT PHONE NUMBER

**Please note that we have a
new phone number:
#508-839-7402 ext. 2**

ANNUAL MEETING

Our Annual Meeting was held on Saturday, November 13th, 2021. We had a Covid style picnic in the picnic grove at the



Community Barn. Guest speaker was new GLT Board Member, Justin Compton (photo above). Justin gave an informative talk about wildlife populations and conservation trends. President Rob Aberg (photo below) presented last years Highlights and Accomplishments!

fundraising money she was able to purchase 5 books which were donated to the Grafton Public Library and 4 of the Grafton Elementary Schools (Millbury Street, North Grafton, North Street and South Grafton). The Gold Award is the highest award a girl can receive. Madison is currently a sophomore in the Honors College at Umass Amherst studying Biomedical Engineering.

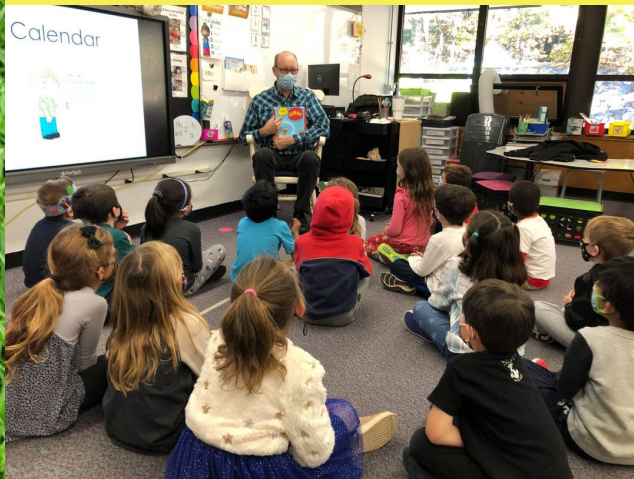


CONGRATULATIONS

to our 2 raffle tickets winners (picture below): Linda Hutchins & Shirley Williams. They won \$50 gift cards to LL Bean and Dick's Sporting Goods, respectively, and each also received \$50 gift card to the new GLT merchandise shop at Red Bubble.



Community Reading Day



On Nov 5, 2021, N. Grafton Elementary School hosted GLT & other community folks who came to read to all the classrooms and promote reading. GLT President Rob Aberg read "The Lorax" by Dr. Seuss to Mrs. Bergström's Kindergarten class. Then on March 2, 2022 at NSES, Rob read "The Ransom of Red Chief" by O. Henry to Mrs. Sugrue's 4th grade class.



NEW LAND ACQUISITION:

Grafton Land Trust worked with Wheelrock Development LLC at 21 Wheeler Rd. to conserve the open space just to the south of the development. Instead of becoming private land with a building restriction, the land was converted into a separate 4.11 acre parcel and donated as open space per the Planning Board requirements for the development. Grafton Land Trust agreed to hold, manage, and conserve the property for conservation and public benefit. This 4.11 acre meadowland abuts



Thank you to all who came out to support GLT at the Annual Meeting :)

GRANT NEWS

CONGRATULATION

S

to the November 2021 educator grant winners. Each recipient was awarded \$300 toward their projects:

Laura Deschenes, GMS for Teaching with Trout program

Tara Gibbs, GHS for her bat building boxes

Justin Compton, Springfield College for a mammal population study using trail cameras

Juanita Roth, MSES to expand her pollinator garden

Deborah White & Dawn Martel, NGES for nature walks by Mass Audubon Society

GLT's Marsters Preserve, so it is a natural addition to Grafton's outdoor open space - GLT had to pay legal and filing fees for due diligence work ... but didn't cost taxpayers a penny. Want more results like this? Support your Land Trust!

<http://graftonland.org/join.joi.nglt.php>



**** Answer to GLT's True or False Question ****

Yes, we in fact do own an island, and it's called Fletcher Reserve. It is a 1.75 acre island and consists of upland mixed deciduous forest. An intermittent stream called George Brook, in the deed, enters the parcel from the east and splits into two tributaries, both emptying into Silver Lake. The island

STORYBOOK TRAIL



Please stay tuned!!
The storybook trail at the Williams Preserve CR is getting a new story! Grafton's own Mat Often has replaced and repaired the broken ones (thanks Mat!) and now we are laminating a the new story to mount on them.

Shopping on Amazon ?

Please shop Grafton businesses first!
Then later, if you are on Amazon for any leftovers, try AmazonSmile. It's Amazon, with the same products, prices, and shopping features. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice.



THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS & CLEAN UP CREWS

Hillside Meadows Equestrian Team...who did some heavy

rises 15 to 20 feet above the lake and consists entirely of a mature pine forest. The forest floor is wide open and is covered in most places by a deep layer of pine needles. It is accessible by water and has a natural landing for canoes, kayaks, or other small boats on its southwestern shore. Fletcher Island is the only Grafton Land Trust property that features swimming. The property was dedicated to the memory of Helen Fletcher, a former naturalist and a Grafton Forest Association (a previous name for GLT) member and was named the Fletcher Reserve. It was acquired in 1970.

MORE ACRES PRESERVED !

The conservation restriction for the Great Meadow Gateway property was signed by MA State EEA Secretary Theoharides, after the Select Board and Land Trust officers signed it the week prior. On August 27, 2020, Grafton Land Trust registered the fully executed conservation restriction (an easement) at the Worcester County Registry of Deeds. It is now in Deed Book 63117 at Page 205. GLT has a responsibility to monitor the property and enforce its conservation into the future. This is a permanent conservation easement on 5.3 acres of trails and open space that are part of the town's Great Meadow Conservation Area in the Merriam District.

Work continues to

lifting on Sunday October 25, 2020 clearing the trails on GLT's new Jeanne Johnson Preserve. The trail blockages are almost all gone - just a couple more projects and they'll be fully cleared!



Students in the Grafton High School's "School-to-Work" program helped out by putting tree-safe standard blaze markings on the trees under the supervision of GLT Director Dawn Geoffroy on



ready the Jeanne Johnson Preserve:

Check out the drone video of the forest mulcher clearing oriental bittersweet vines on our website:

www.graftonland.org
(video by Ken Holberger)

VINE CLEANUP:

we've removed bittersweet vine from the old apple orchard area of the Jeanne Johnson Preserve located at 34 Brown's Road. This is part of a state-approved forestry plan to give the native trees and plants room to thrive. The machine in the pictures is called a forest mulcher. It can turn brush and vines up to 8" diameter into mulch. We will need to plant in a season or two to prevent the seed bed of vine berries from sprouting and taking hold. (photos by Ken Holberger)



Oct 15th,2020. The trails should be easier to learn now without having to use the Trailforks app now! (photos: Kelli Derosiers)



ROB HAVASY:

for clearing the massive blockage on the Brigham Mainline trail on the Gummere / Marsters trail system - a ton of work! Looks great now. See the pictures as reported in Trailforks using your web browser directly: <https://www.trailforks.com/report/1259296/>

BRANDON PETERSON:

for clearing the trails on Potter Hill - all clear, all year!
<https://www.trailforks.com/report/1259263/>





PLANNING YOUR HIKE WITH TRAILFORKS

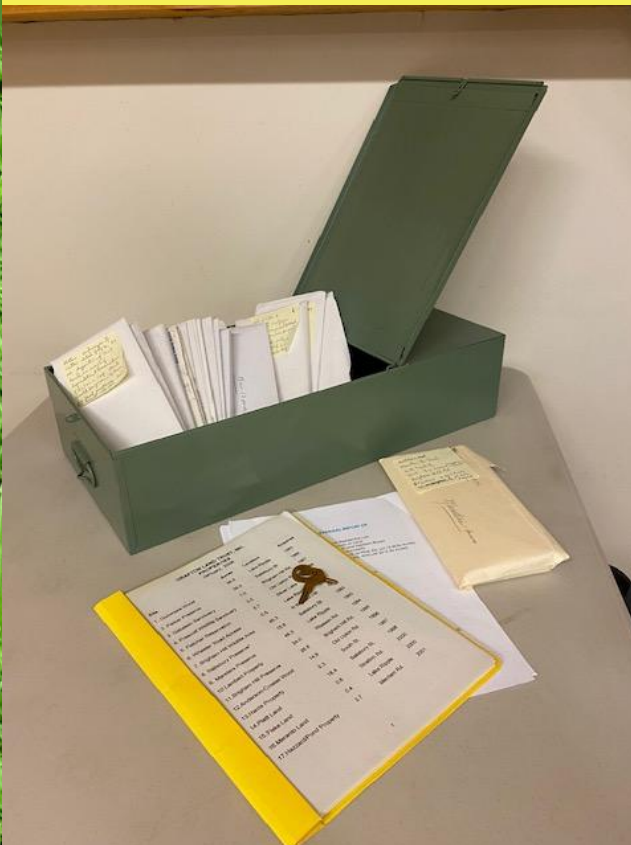
Kricky Remillard
Grafton Land Trust

Summer, 2020

Back in the fall, Santander Bank closed their Grafton office, and gave us our safety deposit box. The box stored many of our essential records & documentation (titles & deeds) for the past 64 years!! Board Member and GLT Secretary Karen Eisenhauer along with Office Manager Marie Berardi spent a few months last fall digitizing our essential records for land acquisitions - we're going digital!

LEARN YOUR TRAILS:

Learn how to use the free Trailforks app with a PowerPoint deck created by volunteer Kricky Remillard. It is available from the GLT website from the front page, <http://graftonland.org> - click the link to download the PowerPoint file to your computer. A PDF option is also available.



SUPPORT LOCAL TRAILS

radex donated 4 times! Earning 9 trail.karma!

donated \$5 to Nelson Cycling Club in support of Nelson

donated \$5 to PVMBA in support of Veeder Mountain

donated \$1 to RCA in support of Ravelstone

donated \$5 to TORCA in support of Tucson

7 hours ago

TRAILFORKS DONATE DIRECTLY TO LOCAL TRAIL ASSOCIATIONS

BENEFITS OF NATURE TO MENTAL HEALTH

Discover how being with nature improves our mental health and reduces stress.



REDUCES ANXIETY

Our bodies release less cortisol and more natural endorphins, which promote happy thoughts and good feelings.



MORE FOCUSED

There is fresh air, and less noise pollution while being with nature.



IMPROVES CREATIVITY

Less stress and anxiousness makes our minds more clear and open to creativity.



CHANGE OF MOOD

Being with nature makes us more calm and balanced. There is less mood change triggers.



ALLOW TO DISCONNECT

Distractions are reduced by forcing us to put down the phones and computers and to slow down.



REDUCES BLOOD PRESSURE

The muscles are not tensed when relaxed. Heart rate also normalises.



REFERENCES:

<http://www.businessinsider.com/scientific-benefits-of-nature-outdoors-2016-4>
<https://www.stanford.edu/2013/06/20/finding-mental-health-062013/>
https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/how_nature_makes_you_happier_more_creative
<https://www.livestrong.com/article/346646-how-nature-affects-your-mental-health/>
<https://www.nature.com/news/nature-impact-our-wellbeing>
<https://www.healthline.com/health/about-10-research-projects-reveals-projects-beyond-blue-to-green-the-health-benefits-of-contact-with-nature-in-a-park-context-literature-review>

www.pathtomobility.com

GLT BUSINESS INFO

The Grafton Land Trust is a private, non-profit, member-supported organization that preserves, maintains, and advocates for open space in Grafton.

Company Overview

Founded in 1958, the Grafton Forest Association was established by residents of Grafton, Massachusetts who had the foresight to see the long term benefits of land conservation.

We are now known as the Grafton Land Trust (GLT for short), and we continue to work closely with landowners, federal, state, and local governments, and other conservation groups to both advocate for and directly preserve open space and natural ecosystems in Grafton, Mass. Six hundred and twenty acres are now directly protected, with another 300 acres protected with Conservation Restriction easements held by GLT. Despite this great accomplishment, we must all continue our work and ensure that precious land is preserved for future generations.

Mission

The MISSION of the Grafton Land Trust is to:

ACQUIRE and maintain open space in the town of Grafton....

INFORM landowners of conservation options for their properties.

ADVOCATE for open space in all appropriate forums.

WORK in partnership with town officials and others on conservation projects.

CREATE and maintain trails on select properties for public use.

HOST programs and events for public education and enjoyment.

GRANT funds to local educators to assist in nature education.
PARTICIPATE in local and regional planning efforts for open space.
ACCEPT and hold conservation restrictions on private and public properties.

JOINING THE GRAFTON LAND TRUST: ([link](#))

Since 1958 we have worked to conserve our precious ecological inheritance in the face of unbridled development. Please help! Membership dues help to pay for the operating expenses of the Trust. These include the cost of land surveys, environmental assessments, preparation of deeds for transactions and recording of deeds as well as for general office supplies, fund raising and educational events.

If you'd like to join with us to protect and preserve the places that make Grafton, Mass. special, please send in the membership application today. You'll receive event notices, alerts on town issues relating to open space, and opportunities to help make a difference for Grafton's future.

Visit <http://graftonland.org/join.joinglt.php> to join online or to download our mail-in membership application.

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Connect with us



THE END!