



Trees, Toads and Butterflies!

Monarch Meadow? Papillon Pavilion? Do these terms sound much too fanciful for a place just down the road in Charlton? Perhaps so. But, they are among several names flitting through the mind of one Charltonian. After all, they are more picturesque than boggy field or the milkweed swamp, aren't they?

The Charlton Heritage Preservation Trust now holds title to, and is responsible for the stewardship of a parcel of land abutting Manor Ridge Estates. One of their members has a recurring dream of wildflowers visited by butterflies gathering nectar in that field. She can imagine dragonflies basking in the sunlight. She envisions our grandchildren marveling at how an odd looking caterpillar becomes a beautiful butterfly.

How many readers are able to share in that vision? According to latest statistics, this town, as others in our area loses about forty acres each day to development. If you are a newcomer to Charlton, perhaps you were attracted here by the woods and the rural character of our town. If you are an old timer, you can probably remember seeing cows in nearby pastures. You probably drank their milk, too. Delivered by another neighbor. Sad to say, but, we recognize the changes. "The Trust", CHPT, is one avenue available to people in town to help preserve and protect some of those fields, pastures and woods.

At present, some members of that trust group are working diligently to eradicate a particularly invasive alien plant. Others are discussing the best ways to help land remain open for walking, watching birds, exploring the woodland for mushrooms, or toads. We are a very mixed group, with several common interests. Each new member brings another perspective for us to share.

So, if I have stirred you into thinking about trees, toads, butterflies, or butternuts; consider those thoughts as your personal invitation to join with us. To learn more, check out; www.charltontrust.org or Write to CHPT, P.O. Box 92, Charlton Depot, MA 01509.

Lois Fay, Trustee
December 2006