

CHARLTON HERITAGE PRESERVATION TRUST

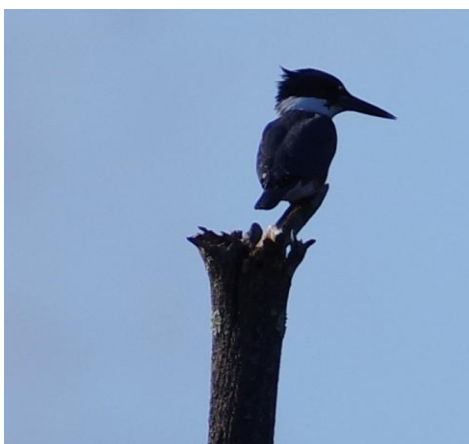


January 2023

FOLIAGE, MILL HISTORY AND HIKE

Little River Property, Fulling Mill Drive, Charlton, MA
October 15, 2022

CHPT and the Charlton Historical Society offered a history lesson and tour of the mill foundation ruins on the Little River. This was our second Little River event of the year.



Belted Kingfisher at Lamb's Pond

NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Current (1/22/2023) Board of Trustees

Lisa Westwell – President

Janet Blasius – Vice President

Sandy Dam – Treasurer

Bill Blasius – Clerk

Colin Novick (Executive Director of the GWLT)

We would like to thank Ed Hood for his years of service on the board and wish him the best as he focuses on directing the operations of the Norcross Wildlife Foundation and keeping his hometown open and wild.

WHAT HAPPENED IN 2022?

CHPT started the year by exhibiting on the Charlton Commons at Charlton's Earth Day Event that took place April 30th. We had a constant flow of people curious about our properties. Many visitors were generous with interesting bits of knowledge about the history around some of the properties. Almost everyone was surprised at the number (19) and acreage (200+) of the land we steward. We contributed four annual memberships to the Earth Day raffle.

Our first collaboration with the Charlton Historical Society of the year was at our Little River Property on Fulling Mill Drive on May 7th. Frank Morrill, President of the CHS led the group through the history of Charlton's early water powered history. The group of 58 attendees was then led on a short hike to the mill foundation ruins at the north end of the property. It took a few weekends of maintenance to get the trail in shape for a large group but it was well worth the effort, as many people who had no idea what was hidden along the river at the top of Buffumville Reservoir, were amazed at the size of the ruins and that they still existed. It's a great place to let your imagination run wild and think about the effort that it took to move those huge rocks and the how the early settlers had to deal with water levels from raging floods to a trickle while trying to scratch out a living.



Autumn at Owl Swamp

Contact Us

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The first CHS collaboration was followed in the fall on October 15th, and was a repeat of the first event, but with nicer weather, no bugs and peak foliage as a backdrop. There were 28 attendees for this edition and a few of us took the opportunity to take a walk around the north half of Buffumville.

STEWARDSHIP

Forest Management Plans and Bird Habitat Assessments have been completed for our properties at Cranberry Meadow, Great Blue Heron Cove, Hammond Woods, Jennings Road and Lindsey Lane. Access for equipment to thin out overgrown areas is a continuing issue.

PLANS FOR 2023

To start the year, we plan on exhibiting at Charlton's Earth Day Event in April to help promote an event with Mass Audubon, on a weekday evening, in May at the Charlton Public Library's Dexter Hall.

With any luck, we will be working on connecting the Mid-State trail to our Hammond Woods property (site of the sweetest abandoned farm pond). This will be our second adjacent connection after Little River and an important continuation of a conservation corridor.

MEMBERS MAKE IT HAPPEN!

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Recipient Name
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