



# NEWSLETTER

PO Box 400, Leicester MA 01524 | 774.371.0156 | [commongroundlt.org](http://commongroundlt.org)

## President's Message

Dear CGLT Members,

Our board and membership have been very active this spring and summer! Thank you to each of our dedicated volunteers for helping out with various work projects, often at short notice!

On Labor Day weekend, CGLT organized an attack on the invasive water chestnut pond weeds that have grown exponentially over the past 10 years, almost totally choking out Greenville Pond. A major effort over 2 days brought volunteers from the land trust joining members of the community of Rochdale armed with canoes, kayaks, waders, buckets and laundry baskets to pull the chestnuts and milfoil (another aquatic invasive) out of the pond. The Town of Leicester owns the pond, and supplied a town dump truck and transportation of the weeds to the town composting site. A FULL dump truck plus half a trailer of weeds were removed from the pond, but even this major effort barely made a dent in the mat of water chestnut covering most of the pond. I have shared our evaluation of this effort with the Leicester Select Board, advising that the town needs to seek and allocate grant funding to have the invasive plants removed from Greenville Pond by a professional firm specializing in aquatic plant control. A volunteer effort is no longer sufficient (or even possible) to control its continued spread. If you live in Leicester or Rochdale, please let your Select Board know that you support the town allocating funding to aquatic weed control before we lose Greenville Pond completely!



*Many hands make light(er) work! Thank you to all the CGLT members and Rochdale residents who helped pull a full dump truck and trailer load of invasive water chestnut and milfoil pond weeds from Greenville Pond in Rochdale.*





CGLT's project to control another invasive plant (Japanese Knotweed) on our properties at Kettle Brook Path and Greenville Pond has completed year 2 of the 3-year treatment plan. So far, the treatment by Land Stewardship Inc. has been visibly successful, and you can now see the pond from River Street! After next year's treatments, we will begin to replant the open spaces with native plants.

CGLT held its 2022 Annual Meeting on Sunday, Oct 27th at the Sioux tepee behind Thibault's Country & Feed Store in Spencer. The rain held off til the end, we enjoyed refreshments served up by host Jim Ingalls, and after the business meeting, we enjoyed an entertaining presentation by Gwen Pratt and Lee Brusa who talked about their adventures photographing wildlife around the world. Thank you to both of these talented local photographers for sharing their beautiful photographic art and stories!

We have recently been resolving issues with CGLT's email system. If you are *not* receiving monthly emails from CGLT, please email [info@commongroundlt.org](mailto:info@commongroundlt.org) or text 774-371-0156 to be included on our membership email list!

*Jan Parke, President*



*Thank you to Jim Ingalls of Thibault's Feed and Country Store for hosting the '22 CGLT Annual Meeting at his beautiful meeting space on the banks of the Sevenmile River in Spencer.*

## 2022-23 CGLT Interns and Derby Farm American Chestnut Trees

Members of the CGLT Board are partnering with David Prouty High School's Environmental Science program taught by James Barnett. We welcome our new interns Dylan and Will, who so far have been helping clear invasive plants at Derby Farm, in preparation for a project to plant a number of pure blight-resistant American Chestnut trees on the property.

Thank you to CGLT members Lois Breault-Melican, Denis Melican and Ellen Sousa for growing and donating American Chestnut seedlings and seeds for this project!

### Welcome New Members:

David Maher

Rod O'Connor

Brian Cormier



Board members Ellen Sousa and Jan Parke with new interns, Will and Dylan at Derby Farm Woods, scoping out planting sites for American Chestnut trees. Also shown is Dan Reeve, new owner of Derby Farm hay fields.

### Message from a CGLT Intern

Students of David Prouty High School's Environmental Science program have been making their presence known in the community. In particular, they have been involved with local organizations to further their education outside of the classroom. Internships are an excellent way to gain job experience and education in the Environmental Science field; students are actively engaging in practical work with surrounding land trusts and town departments.

For example, David Prouty students Dylan Stanley and Ivelisse Rodriguez are working diligently with the Conservation Commission of Spencer, gaining experience for when they seek employment as an environmental scientist or engineer. Cody Chen finds himself interning with the Spencer Water Department, where he inventories detention basins around Spencer for the purpose of Operation and Maintenance procedures. Other esteemed students such as Marcos and David are working in tandem with Greater Worcester Land Trust to monitor the Sibley Farm property, manage trails, and document any significant and recent changes on a weekly basis.

Common Ground Land Trust (GWLT's sister organization) is outstanding for students seeking field experience. At CGLT, interns oversee trails, help control invasive species, and help monitor properties. This hands-on work is beneficial for a future career in the Environmental Science field. I know this because I, myself, am an intern at Common Ground Land Trust. It has been a privilege to gain the knowledge and experience that I have at this organization.

*William Anderson*



## Common Ground Land Trust INC.

PO Box 400  
Leicester, MA 01524  
(774) 371-0156  
Info@CommonGroundLT.org



[COMMONGROUNDLT.ORG](http://COMMONGROUNDLT.ORG)



### *Sign Grants Received*

Thanks to the Leicester Savings Bank Fund (administered by Greater Worcester Community Foundation) for grants funding new signs for Kettle Brook Path (Cherry Valley) and at the Common Ground at Greenville Pond boat launch on River St in Rochdale.

Thank you also to Aucoin's Press in Spencer for making our new signage!